

# Bridestowe & Sourton

## Extra



Community News and Events May 2026 Edition 288

### **ST BRIDGET'S CHURCH TOWER APPEAL PLANT SALE BRIDESTOWE SPORTING GREEN**

**Saturday 23rd May 2026  
10 am**

**Plant Sale in aid of the St Bridget's Tower Appeal with the support  
of Friends of St Bridget's**

**Refreshments and cake stall**

**\*Tomatoes plants available in advance of the Sale!**

**Multiple varieties, red, orange, green, black, striped, etc**

**Please contact us - can be delivered in the village\***

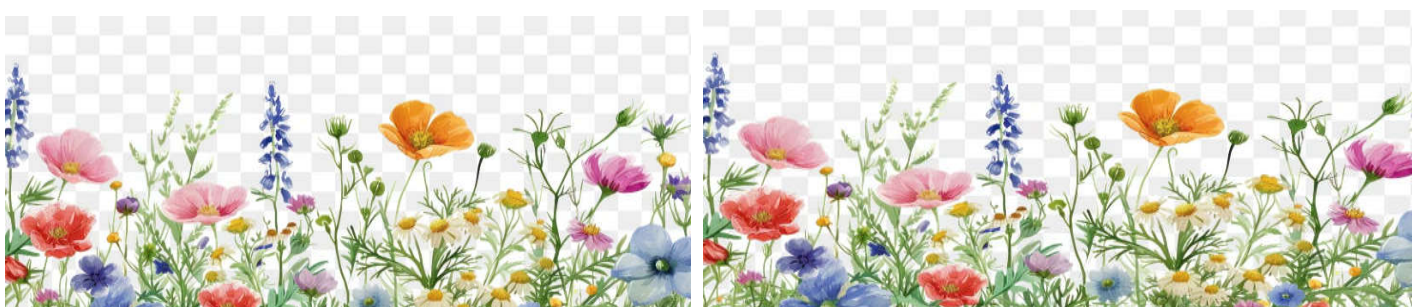
**We would be grateful for any contributions of plants, ornamental or  
vegetable, gardening books or good quality gardening tools (no knives  
please) which can be bought to the Sporting Green on the morning of  
the sale.**

**contact either**

**Deborah Dreyer by email [deborahdreyer@gmail.com](mailto:deborahdreyer@gmail.com) or by text on  
07854613337**

**Or**

**Jo Fleming by email [jofleming59@gmail.com](mailto:jofleming59@gmail.com) or by text on 07976547412  
For collection or to arrange drop off and for tomato plants.**



## *The Vicar writes...*

I am indebted to an American colleague for this piece of wisdom:

### **Go to church.**

If the sermon is boring, take a nap. If the sermon is compelling, well then, you got lucky. Most weeks neither one is going to happen. Most weeks the vicar will preach the same three things he's been preaching for years because they are the three things that still matter, and your kids will scribble on the hymn book, and afterwards there will be tea at the back of the church that has been brewing since 1987.

Go to church anyway.

Go to the small one. The village church. The one with the broken heating that nobody goes to anymore. The one where the widow in the second row remembers your grandfather's name and the churchwarden has the same hairstyle as he did when he was forty.

### **Go.**

Maybe the solitary person in the choir sings a little flat. That is fine. He has been doing it for twenty-six years and he is doing it for Jesus. Maybe the organ hasn't been played since Christmas. Fine too. Maybe the kid in the pew in front of you is building a paper airplane out of the gift aid envelope and his mom is pretending not to see. That is discipleship. Let him build the airplane. Hopefully there will be a notice about a cake sale next week and a lady named Doris will bring a cake made to exactly the same recipe as her mother used for the cakes she used to bring in 1974, and she will tell you about her knee surgery whether you asked or not.

### **Go to church.**

Not to find the perfect one. You won't. You can spend years looking far and wide, and you will never find one that everybody in your house will like at the same time. The whole thing is going to be awkward, and too long, and you are going to wonder if the man two rows up is actually asleep or just really focused. He is asleep.

### **Go anyway.**

Skip the aesthetics. Watch the weirdos. The men with rough hands who say amen in the wrong place. The old lady in the back row who has mouthed every word of every hymn for sixty years and means it. The teenager who thinks the whole thing is fake until one Sunday

it isn't. Your kids are going to remember the windows and the smell of the hymn books and the things you kneel on embroidered with an emblem of an organisation that closed thirty-one years ago. That is a real inheritance. Do not underestimate what stewed tea and cake and a sermon on Romans you will forget by Tuesday is doing to their souls. The perfect-theology people do not need a small church like that. They need another conference. They need a podcast. They need a bigger audience. You need a small church, a bored teenager, and an uncomfortable pew.

**Go to church.** It is going to save you from your own perfectly curated life.

## *Adrian Brook*

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### *A reader responds*

In last month's "A Vicar Writes", Adrian stated that on 18th March 2026 the House of Lords had passed a law making it legal in this country to abort a baby up to birth. This is factually incorrect. It is not legal in this country to abort a baby up to birth, except in clearly defined exceptional circumstances. The law in question is an amendment (to the Crime and Policing Bill) seeking to decriminalise women wishing to have an abortion. It would remain illegal to abort a child beyond 23 weeks and 6 days except in very limited circumstances (for example, to save the mother's life). As stated by Reuters in its Fact Check ([www.reuters.com/fact-check/britains-house-of-lords-has-not-legalised-abortion-up-to-birth-2026-03-20/](http://www.reuters.com/fact-check/britains-house-of-lords-has-not-legalised-abortion-up-to-birth-2026-03-20/)) "... the Lords voted to keep an amendment, inserted last year by MPs in the House of Commons, that would decriminalise abortion for women, not legalise abortion up to birth." Reuters goes on to quote the actual amendment: "It would not change any law regarding the provision of abortion services within a healthcare setting, **including but not limited to the time limit ... or the requirement for two doctors' approval**" (my boldface).

Angela Elkins

## Life in the Twenties by Howard Barkell

Just recently I came across an old newspaper cutting from about a hundred years ago which confirmed one of the tales my father used to tell. It is virtually impossible to imagine what village life was back then even if we try hard in an effort to understand the events and mindsets of those times.

Life was certainly different, no mains water supply, no sewerage disposal system, no electricity for starters. The majority of jobs involved some sort of manual labour. Several men were still working on farms either as owners, self-employed tenants or as labourers, sometimes called cattlemen or shepherds or carters. There were at least six places keeping cattle in the village itself, the top house at Bridhayes, the White Hart, Town Farm, South Ball, the Royal Oak and North Ball (now Hillside). Most homes had a good sized garden where mainly vegetables were grown as an important part of the family food supply. People looked upon anything which interfered with food production as a pest or vermin which needed to be vigorously controlled.

Poultry keeping was a popular pastime and the Bridestowe Fanciers Club held an annual show with dozens of different classes and hundreds of entries. Breeds of all shapes, colours and sizes from Rhode Island Reds to Indian Game and Bantams were catered for. Similarly various kinds of pigeon were shown. My father and his brother kept homing pigeons in the loft at the White Hart. They were very proud of the fact that they sold their prize hen to the Royal Loft at Sandringham.

Rabbit keeping was not so popular, but they were included in the show as well. It is more likely that men would be involved in catching wild rabbits than breeding tame ones. Apart from using a gin trap or a wire which only caught one rabbit three main requisites were needed for a field trip, permission to be on the land, a good supply of nets and a ferret. The most common sort was the white furred albino with pink eyes, although the fitch or fitchy, which looked more like a polecat, was not uncommon.

If an active bury, never called a burrow, was being hunted in a hedge both sides of the hedge needed to be policed. Every hole had to be covered with an individual net before the

ferret was introduced. As soon as the rabbit knew a ferret was around it would flee to the nearest hole to bolt or escape only to get tangled up in the net and be quickly dispatched. As soon as the ferret appeared in pursuit it had to be grabbed by the neck and put back in its box. Rabbits were a useful supplement to a family's meat supply.

My grandfather, who was probably thought of as a village worthy (he seemed to be involved in everything) always kept a dog, usually a fox terrier, as well as a ferret. He took the view that as long as he had permission once he could return as many times as he liked until he was seen. He also took part in the dubious practice of sending live rabbits in a crate to London by railway. A brother-in-law worked as a mason in Finchley. He and his mates kept whippets and they needed live rabbits to course.

I doubt that my grandfather ever sat on a horse, but he was a keen follower of hounds. I'm not sure how he managed with a pub to run, got his housekeeping daughter to stand in for him perhaps. He was well known for travelling miles on his bike, often loading it on the train if that happened to be passing near a meet. Once back home he would write a detailed account of the day's proceedings, including the names of the more illustrious riders and post it off to the local newspaper. It was always published under the name Ringwood, maybe the name of his favourite hound.

It was once thought worth reporting one summer that William Sutton, who farmed at Sprighill, had killed 46 snakes near his house and farm buildings. It didn't state any other details. Maybe some unfortunate slow worms were included.

So, what was that original newspaper cutting all about. An otter had been seen at East Bridge three nights running. It had raided the poultry yard at the Royal Oak and carried off two ducks. This state of affairs couldn't be allowed to continue, so on the third night as it approached the yard it was shot. It was a fully grown dog otter and was estimated to weigh about 25 pounds. My father reckoned that the marksman lived in the Square and it was the last otter ever seen in the village. Wouldn't it be great to think that otters were once again present on the upper parts of the River Lew. Is there any evidence this might be so?

## EASTER CHICKS



A **BIG** thank you to everyone who supported St.Bridget's with knitting chicks, donating money or eggs, selling them and of course, buying them. Some went as far as London!  
What a great community effort.  
The total raised was a fantastic £232.50

Thank you  
Georgina

**Friends of St Bridget's annual subscriptions are due this month.**

Still £6 a year

Major work needed on the tower so we need all the friends we can get!

Contact Georgina Hodgson (07789 146177) or Bill Thirtle (07921 540990) to pay for the year.

Standing orders will continue as always.

# QUIZ

**Wednesday 13th May**  
Quiz at The White Hart for St Bridget's Church.  
Starts at 8.00pm

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## **Bridestowe Village Hall Annual General Meeting Wednesday 27th May 2026 at 7pm\* at the Hall.**

Do consider coming along to find out how your community building is faring.  
\*Please note earlier start time.

*A date for June's diary..*

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## SHEEP TRAIL

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Sheep Trail around the village.



1st Prize was a lovely Easter basket of chocolate goodies.

Won by Georgia Bewes with all the correct answers and the winning name Lady BaBa. Runner up was a large Easter egg which was won by Niamh Amhof also with all the correct answers and a great name of Baa ram ewe!

£25 was raised for St.Bridget's.

Thank you to everyone who hosted a sheep to make the trail possible. I will be collecting them back in in the next few days ready for next year!

Thanks again.



BRIDESTOWE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
**SUMMER FAIR**  
Save the date!  
Saturday 13 June 2026  
Bridestowe School Grounds

**We need you!**  
We're on the lookout for stall-holders and performers on the day - please contact Steff 07969 949177

More details coming soon!

**Okehampton Recycling  
Centre**

0345 155 1010



**Summer opening times**

**April - September**

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 6pm

The **Bridestowe Volunteer Group** met in April and achieved a good deal, despite reduced numbers. The grass was cut around the fruit trees in the community orchard. Do drop in and see the fruit trees in blossom - it will gladden your heart! The inner side of the top hedge of the cemetery was cut back. Volunteers walked the length of Pool Hill picking up litter. The village too was strewn with items from recycling boxes following the recent very strong winds. A total of six bags were filled. The group will meet again on **Saturday 30th May**, congregating at 9.30pm at the cemetery gates.

New faces are always welcome

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***Tavistock Parkinson's Support Group -  
open to surrounding areas***

If you have been diagnosed with or care for someone who has Parkinson's, please join us for support and information.

Four sessions are held a month, all in the mornings at the Anchorage Centre, 10.30 - 12pm

1st Friday: Singing

2nd Thursday : Exercises

3rd Friday: Coffee morning

Last Tuesday: Talk: Update with Community Specialist Nurse - Emma Edwards on

Tuesday 26th May

For further information please contact Pam **01822 614204** or call in at The Anchorage, Chapel Street, PL19 8AG for a leaflet.



**Okehampton u3a**

Established in November 2001

**Our May speaker is Stephen Powles**

**Tuesday 19 May  
2.30pm at Fairplace  
Church  
"The Unbelievable  
Truth"**

**Wildlife stories that  
must be seen to be  
believed**



Formerly a vet, Stephen Powles changed career to pursue a lifelong passion for wildlife, wildlife photography, filming and conservation. Stephen's material has made a number of TV appearances, featured in the national press and won major awards. His photography concentrates on interesting and challenging wildlife subjects.

"Sometimes you have to see something to believe it". Over many years photographing and filming wildlife Stephen has been fortunate enough to observe and capture wildlife antics that he would not have believed possible had he not seen the story unfold in front of his own eyes. Stephen will share some of those antics in his illustrated talk.

Admission - £1.00 to help towards the cost of the speaker, hiring the venue and refreshments.

For further information please contact Dee McVey 01837 658590

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**A Big Thank You to Brian Higbee!**

A heartfelt thank you to Brian Higbee, who so kindly mows the grass at the bottom of Trescote Way every week or two throughout the spring and summer. It is very much appreciated by everyone who lives in the road — thank you, Brian!

**Open Gardens in aid of St Luke's Hospice,  
Plymouth**

**Lewtrenchard Manor  
Wednesday 6th May,  
12 - 4pm**

A chance to visit the recently redesigned spring gardens at Lewtrenchard. The gardens original designed by Walter Sorel extend over several acres with streams, a sunken garden, a profusion of shrubs, a huge rustic dovecote and a recently restored walled vegetable garden. There are timeless walks from the gardens along Madam's Walk, on the banks of the River Lew and to the woods and beyond.

**AND**

**Mary Tavy Village Gardens,  
on Sunday 31st May  
11am - 4pm**

Due to popular demand we are delighted to present the hidden village gardens of Mary Tavy. A wonderful selection of gardens to inspire and delight visitors. Take a stroll around the lanes and meet garden owners and enjoy homemade refreshments. Parking area by Coronation Hall.  
£6 per person - free entry if under 16.

**BRIDESTOWE PARISH COUNCIL**

Dog fouling is becoming an increasing problem...again. It is an issue that never really goes away but recent reports indicate that some owners are being less conscientious. Apparently the old Launceston Road is one of the worst areas.

The Council would urge all dog owners to clear up after their pets. There is an ample number of bins so disposal of bags is not a problem.

With the warmer weather coming children will once again be playing in the Sporting Green, rolling about in the grass and running around in bare feet.

Please remember this is not a dog exercising area so keep your dog on a lead as you walk the footpath.

Thank you

The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 21st May** at 7.30pm in The Ark ( Methodist Church)

Clerk's contact details:

Kayleigh Walker

Little Kellacott Farm, St Giles on the Heath,  
Launceston PL15 9SW

Tel: **07854 275 955**

Email: [clerk@bridestowe.org.uk](mailto:clerk@bridestowe.org.uk)



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POSTCODE?**

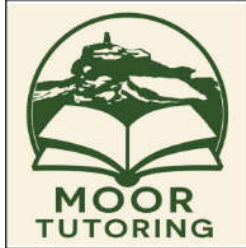
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25% off your 10th visit**

Food, drinks, lunch, dinner... even  
just a cheeky pint.

For full details on how to join and  
redeem your rewards, head to  
[bearslakeinn.com/locals-loyalty](http://bearslakeinn.com/locals-loyalty) or  
just pop in to collect your card



Website: [www.moor-tutoring.co.uk](http://www.moor-tutoring.co.uk)  
Email: [beci@moor-tutoring.co.uk](mailto:beci@moor-tutoring.co.uk)  
Mobile: 07486378007

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Rebecca Smith and I have been a local resident in Bridestowe for at least 13 years. I am a Qualified Primary School Teacher/Head Teacher/SENCO and Level 4 Mindfulness Teacher with 28 years of experience and an Enhanced DBS Check. Recently, I started my own business called Moor Tutoring and am based in the West Devon Area.

My vision is to put "Children and their Families First" and in order to do that, I offer a Bespoke Tutoring and Home Education Service providing tuition to children aged 5 to 11 online and face to face.

With the knowledge and experience gained over the past 28 years, I can also provide:

- SEND Consultation for Parents,
- mindfulness programmes for children and adults,
- beginner's Flute lessons for children and adults and
- activity clubs during the school holidays.

This August, I am running 'Hands - on Adventures in Art, Design and Engineering' with children aged 5 to 11 (STEAM) in various places around the West Devon Area, including

**Bridestowe Village Hall on Wednesday 5th August.**

**Limited places available and 10% off for advance bookings.**

Please book via [beci@moor-tutoring.co.uk](mailto:beci@moor-tutoring.co.uk)

Please spend time looking at my website [www.moor-tutoring.co.uk](http://www.moor-tutoring.co.uk) and I look forward to hearing from you soon



**Rebecca Smith at Moor Tutoring**

**'Putting Children and their Families First'**

**A Bespoke Tutoring and Home Education Service  
for Primary School Aged Children**

**We also provide:** SEND consultation for parents, Mindfulness programmes for children and adults, beginner's flute lessons for children and adults and holiday activity clubs.

**Website:** [www.moor-tutoring.co.uk](http://www.moor-tutoring.co.uk)  
**Email:** [beci@moor-tutoring.co.uk](mailto:beci@moor-tutoring.co.uk)  
**Mobile:** 07486378007





The team from Vertical Technology is currently on site working to make the rock face above the Devil's Cauldron trail safe again. They started on Monday 13 April and are hoping the work will take around two weeks to complete, meaning that we will hopefully have the Devil's Cauldron trail open by May. But as always with the gorge, we can't be certain until it's done, and the work could be delayed by closures for high winds or unforeseen hitches. So please check the website for updates or get in touch.

Two more recent moth surveys in the orchard at Lydford Gorge, one in March and one in April, found between them 42 different species of moth, of which 33 had not been recorded here before. On both surveys the largest number of moths of a single species was the common quaker *Orthosia cruda*. In March, 93 were recorded and in April, 76. Although they can be very variable in colour, they can be recognised by their round-tipped forewings, which have large, pale-outlined oval and kidney shaped markings. We also had good numbers of the small quaker *Orthosia cruda*.

Another fairly common species, and the larvae of both these quaker moths feed on a range of deciduous trees including oaks. Another species whose larvae feed on oak is the frosted green *Polyphoca ridens*. It's much less common than the quakers and the surveyors were excited to see it. Thanks to Andy Trout and Dave Pakes from the Devon Moth Group for carrying out the light trap surveys, and identifying and recording the species. Once the moths were recorded they were safely released. Monitoring is important as it increases our knowledge so we can help conserve these fascinating creatures.

The bluebells should be reaching their peak right about now. The best place to see them here is along the Lyd link path. We also spotted the leaves of the early purple orchid(*photo*) back in March and so these

should now be flowering too. We have a spring flower spotter sheet available in both visitor welcome areas to pick up for free if you want some



more information on some of the species found around the gorge.

We have a new pin badge for this year based on a silver Lydford penny. Silver pennies were minted in Lydford during the Anglo-Saxon period from around 973 to 1050. The one depicted on the badge was minted in the time of Æthelred the Unready (which meant 'badly advised'). The reverse of the coin, with a long cross, is what we chose to show on the pin badge. The text around the edge reads ÆLFSTAN M O LYDA - which tells us this coin was minted by the moneyer Ælfstan in Lydford. The long cross was a guide to cut the coin into halves or quarters, useful as one penny was worth around one day's pay. It's available for a suggested donation of £3 as a memento of your visit. All profits are used to help look after Lydford Gorge for everyone, for ever.

### **Opening Times**

Devil's Cauldron trail, Waterfall trail and Lyd Link path open every day 10am-4.30pm.

Second-hand bookshops 10am-4.30pm.

Devil's Cauldron tea-room 10.30am-4.30pm.

Waterfall tea-room 10am-4pm.

As always, please check the website before travelling in case of closures

- **[nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge)**

Email: [lydfordgorge@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:lydfordgorge@nationaltrust.org.uk)

Tel: 01822 820320

Facebook: LydfordGorge Instagram:

[lydford.gorge.nt](https://lydford.gorge.nt)

Registered Charity Number 205846

## BRIDESTOWE READING GROUP



Our next meeting will be on

**Thursday 7th May** at

Rowdens Barn at 7.30pm.

We will be discussing *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote.

### **About the book..**

*In Cold Blood* is a non-fiction novel[1] by the American author Truman Capote, first published in 1966. It details the 1959 Clutter family murders in the small farming community of Holcomb, Kansas. Capote learned of the quadruple murder before the killers were captured, and he traveled to Kansas to write about the crime. He was accompanied by his childhood friend and fellow author Harper Lee, and they interviewed residents and investigators assigned to the case and took thousands of pages of notes. The killers, Richard Hickock and Perry Smith, were arrested six weeks after the murders and later executed by the state of Kansas. Capote ultimately spent six years working on the book.

*In Cold Blood* was an instant critical and commercial success. Considered by many to be the prototypical true crime novel.

### **About the author..**

Truman Capote was an American writer whose non-fiction, stories, novels and plays are recognised literary classics, including the novella *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1958) and *In Cold Blood* (1965), which he labeled a "non-fiction novel." At least 20 films and TV dramas have been produced from Capote novels, stories and screenplays.

He was born as Truman Streckfus Persons to a salesman Archulus Persons and young Lillie Mae. His parents divorced when he was four and he went to live with his mother's relatives in Monroeville, Alabama. He was a lonely child who learned to read and write by himself before entering school. In 1933, he moved to New York City to live with his mother and her new husband, Joseph Capote, a Cuban-born businessman. Mr. Capote adopted Truman, legally changing his last name to Capote and enrolling him in private school. After graduating from high school in 1942, Truman Capote

began his regular job as a copy boy at *The New Yorker*. During this time, he also began his career as a writer, publishing many short stories which introduced him into a circle of literary critics. His first novel, *Other Voices, Other Rooms*, published in 1948, stayed on *The New York Times* bestseller list for nine weeks and became controversial because of the photograph of Capote used to promote the novel, posing seductively and gazing into the camera.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Capote remained prolific producing both fiction and non-fiction. His masterpiece, *In Cold Blood*, a story about the murder of the Clutter family in Holcomb, Kansas, was published in 1966 in book form by Random House, became a worldwide success and brought Capote much praise from the literary community. After this success he published rarely and suffered from alcohol addiction. He died in 1984 at age 59.

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/431149.Truman\\_Capote](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/431149.Truman_Capote)

01566 783529

email: neil@neiledgson.com

## CREAM TEAS

In aid of St Thomas à Becket Church,  
Sourton AND

Sourton Village Hall



Served at Sourton Village Hall  
on **Sunday May 24th**, 1.30 to 4.30p.m



## **St Thomas à Becket Church, Sourton May**

### **Easter Monday Cream Tea**

Thanks go to all the wonderful people who helped and donated food for our special cream tea in aid of the Paediatric Oncology Ward Exeter Hospital. It was a wonderful result and very many people came to support such a worthy cause.

The next CREAM TEA will be on SUNDAY May 24th from 1.30- 4.30 p.m.

This will be a joint effort with the village Hall to raise funds for the church and village Hall.

We would be very grateful for any offers of help .

Please contact Jenny: 07879 253903  
Or Ruth 07967 357505

There will be a PCC meeting on May 20th at 7 p.m. at the Rectory  
By kind invitation of Adrian and Diane

### **Regular Services for May**

**May 3rd** Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.  
**May 10th** Service at Bridestowe  
**May 17th** Morning Prayer at 9.30 a.m.  
**May 24th** Service at Bridestowe  
**May 31st** To be arranged

**Jenny Batten**



## **Sourton Village Hall - a venue for all occasions**

Sourton Village Hall is a popular venue for special events such as wedding receptions, birthday parties, concerts, family parties and wakes following funerals. It is also an ideal function venue for conferences, meetings, training seminars and exercise classes.

The hall has good facilities; it offers a large hall that can seat 120 and 220 standing comfortably; a well appointed kitchen and a small meeting room . There is a male, female and disabled toilet off the main hall. Outside there is a patio to the right hand side of the hall and this is often used to have a covered bar. The hall has disabled /wheelchair access with ramped entrances. There is a small area to the front of the village hall for parking but often extra parking can be made available for a large function on request.

For prices and to book contact  
Paul Alford 07799 778 779  
Sally 07305 112 586

Visit the website to see prices and view the calendar for availability  
[www.sourtonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.sourtonvillagehall.org.uk)  
Facebook - Sourton Village Hall

## **BRIDESTOWE THURSDAY MORNING GROUP**

This month we shall be meeting for coffee and cake, or breakfast if you prefer, at Alder Vineyard. That will be on **Thursday, May 21st** at 10.30.

Please let me know if you can come.  
Ann Allan on 861551 or  
[annallan1948@gmail.com](mailto:annallan1948@gmail.com)

## Movie Watch - April 2026

March and April are invariably fallow months at the cinema and so it proved once again this year. We managed a couple of visits, but more due to our availability than any great desire to sample the output.

We saw **The Drama**, about which we knew next to nothing. *'An American romantic black comedy' starring Zendaya and Robert Pattinson, neither of whom were familiar to us, making the whole evening something of a journey into the unknown.*

The promotional blurb went with, *'Just days before they say 'I do,' a picture perfect wedding week goes off the rails when an unexpected turn of events puts a happily-engaged couple to the test.'* Needless to say, the reality was far more dramatic.

Charlie, played by Pattinson, is a studious-looking young British art historian who happens upon the beautiful Emma in a Boston coffee shop. They get talking, there's an unmistakable spark and the next thing you know a wedding is on the horizon.

As their big day draws near, Charlie and Emma go for dinner with close friends Rachel and Mike, during which they dare one another to each reveal the worst things they've ever done. At this point, not unreasonably, things begin to slip away, badly.

The first three could only muster lame examples of juvenile misbehaviour, until Emma brought the evening to a shuddering halt by revealing that as a 14-year-old she'd planned, in all seriousness, a high-school shooting. Happily she'd been unable to go through with it but, unsurprisingly, her claim put something of a damper, not only on the evening's proceedings, but on Charlie and Emma's impending marriage.

Emma hoped they would all just accept her assurance that she'd got through it and was now perfectly normal but the damage was irrevocably done. The friends couldn't unhear what they've heard and Charlie sensed their picture-perfect relationship was beginning to unravel.

The wedding went ahead but soon descended into chaos. In fact the closing scenes lie somewhere between the darkest comedy imaginable and pure slapstick.

Fiona hated it, I rather enjoyed it. As ever, the choice is entirely yours.

Just as the BaSE shutters dropped, we squeezed in a second cinema visit. **Project Hail Mary** is a well-reviewed sci-fi thriller starring Ryan Gosling as a 6th Grade science teacher, Ryland Grace. He wakes on a spaceship, light years from home, with no recollection of who he is or how he got there. I know the feeling, mate.

I'll let you know next month if that one was any good. I have my doubts.

We were looking forward to **Glenrothan** which marks the directorial debut of Brian Cox, who also stars in the film. However the reviews were sufficiently awful that we were dissuaded, quite possibly wrongly.

**The Devil Wears Prada 2** launches on 1st May and will be heavily promoted and inevitably popular. I know nothing about **The Sheep Detectives** but it's been well reviewed and stars Hugh Jackman and Emma Thompson so should be good.

**Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu** will appeal to the usual devotees. This one opens on 22nd May. I could faithfully transcribe the publicity blurb but may as well be typing Swahili, so if you're that way inclined, I should check for yourself. The Evil Empire has fallen but imperial warlords remain scattered throughout the galaxy and so on.

Also on the horizon, opening in early-June, we find **Savage House** (Richard E Grant, Claire Foy etc), **Disclosure Day** (Emily Blunt, Colin Firth) and **Toy Story 5** (Tom Hanks and friends). More on those next month by which time hopefully all three will have appeared at the New Carlton.

Meanwhile two April TV programmes jumped off the page. One proved a big disappointment while the other turned out quite the opposite.

We'd hugely enjoyed the spoof BBC documentaries **Twenty Twelve** and **W1A**, so were very much looking forward

to **Twenty Twenty Six**, the follow-up based around this summer's World Cup. Hugh Bonneville and Hugh Skinner star in all three but for some reason the most recent of the trilogy falls horribly flat. The excellent supporting cast originally included the likes of Jessica Hynes, Jason Watkins and Monica Dolan but beyond Bonneville and Skinner the latest incarnation simply isn't funny. I'd steer clear.

On the other side of the coin, if you've not yet seen **The Assembly** (ITV) I'd be inclined to rectify that omission from your viewing repertoire. This is a chat show with a difference.

The interviewers comprise a group of autistic, neurodivergent and learning-disabled individuals for whom no subject is out of bounds. It's a perfect antidote to tiresome interviewees gushing about their latest book/film/tour/fitness video or whatever.

There are any number of great moments. Stephen Fry was quizzed by a young man called Jacob who listed any number of products Fry has endorsed across various TV commercials. "Heineken, Alliance & Leicester, Twinings Tea, Pioneer Hi-Fi, Walkers Crisps, Marks & Spencer, Honda, Virgin Media, Extra Strong Mints, After Eight Mints".....he's possibly still reeling them off but eventually Jacob came to the end. However the fun continued. "Stephen, is there anything you wouldn't do for money?"

The Times covered **The Assembly** under a headline the read, 'Claudia can't save the chat show - but I know who can!'

It's outstanding television and if you've missed it, I suggest you use ITVX to catch up.

The programme actually launched on BBC but they claim not to have had sufficient funding to commission a second series, so ITV gleefully scooped it up.

A few other bits and pieces for you. **The Capture** and **Ambulance** (BBC1) are both worth checking out. **DTF St Louis** (Sky Atlantic) has received strong reviews, as has **The Copenhagen Test** (C4).

We've both really enjoyed the current series of **Race Across the World** (BBC1) while Mrs Harrison has deemed **Grace** (ITV) 'a good ironing programme.' Faint praise.

**The Hotel Inspector** (C5) remains very

watchable, unlike the aforementioned **Claudia Winkleman Show** (BBC1) which serves merely to demonstrate Graham Norton's consummate skill as a chat-show host. Sorry Claudia but it's terrible.

Finally, I know I should start acting my age but **The Cure at the BBC** (BBC4) was just terrific.

## DAVID HARRISON

April 2026

### Lunar cycle for May

<b>New moon</b>	<b>16th</b>
<b>First quarter</b>	<b>23rd</b>
<b>Full moon</b>	<b>1st &amp; 31st</b>
<b>Last quarter</b>	<b>19th</b>



On 1 May we will see the Flower Moon which signifies the blooming of spring flowers and represents a time of abundance.

But in a rare occurrence, there will be two full Moons in May - on 31 May we will see the Blue Moon.

A 'Blue Moon' is the name given to a second full Moon in a calendar month.

We usually get 12 full Moons a year but this doesn't quite match up with the lunar orbit of the Earth.

The Moon makes one revolution every 27.3 days so roughly every two and half years we get an additional full Moon.

As it only happens every few years it is where the expression 'once in a blue Moon' comes from. The Moon will not look any different.





## Boasley Chapel May Happenings

**Sunday 3rd May** 2.30-4.30 Cream Teas

**Sunday 10th May** 11am Service with Rev. Philip Wagstaff

**Thursday 21st May** 12 - 2pm Soup and Sweet Plus Annual Scrap Metal Event (see below)

**Sunday 24th May** 2.30pm Service with Rev Chris Jackson

**Thursday 28th May** 11am Reflection and Refreshments with Angela Banfield  
All are welcome at any time!

Our **Annual Scrap Metal event** will last from **Thursday 21st until Saturday 23rd May** from 10-4.30pm each day during which time we will have a skip on site to collect all unwanted scrap metal you may wish to donate. This is then sold on to help with the upkeep of the chapel. We have been doing this since 2012 and each year has its own story to tell.

The value of scrap metal fluctuates considerably, and the amount of scrap that is brought along to the skip varies too! 2 years ago we ended up filling 3 skips as several people were having a good spring tidy-up. Sometimes things are donated which are too good to throw in the skip, so we invite offers for these things. Consequently we now have a 'Saleroom' with many very interesting items passing through!  
Do come along on any of the days we are open and have a browse, or bring along that old metal bucket and throw it in the skip.

Some items are not permitted into the skip...No fridges, freezers, microwaves, gas cylinders, and any tyres removed if possible.  
Any queries please ring 01837 871763 or 07841 836018.

## Sourton Parish Council Update

[www.sourtonpc.org.uk](http://www.sourtonpc.org.uk)

[parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk)

07792958675

The closure of Lloyds Bank has had a real impact on residents, businesses, and community groups. We are asking anyone affected to send us details of any problems experienced, including dates and times, so that we can report these concerns to Link and challenge the decision not to provide a banking hub for the town.

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Monday 11th May at 6:30pm. Residents are encouraged to attend, ask questions, and share their views.

We are also currently seeking two new councillors to fill existing vacancies. If you are interested in helping shape the future of the community, please get in touch.



**The Great Devon BREAKFAST**

**On Saturday 2nd May 2026**  
**9.00-12.00noon**

**Full English Breakfast - Bacon, Sausage or Egg Baps Available**

**Join the Okehampton District Lions for a Great Devon Breakfast!**

**Church Hall,  
4 Market St,  
Okehampton EX20 1HN**



## **Bridestowe Parish Council Chair's Annual Report**

This year has been one of both practical challenge and steady progress for the Parish Council, with a clear focus on safeguarding our village environment, managing financial pressures responsibly, and strengthening the foundations for future decision-making. Before going into a little more detail I would like to thank Chris for his leadership and commitment to Bridestowe and the council both as a councillor and recently as chair. I would also like to thank my fellow councillors for supporting me in taking on the role as chair following Chris' s resignation.

Of note this year the council has addressed a number of issues raised by residents. Two of these requiring significant work. Concerns were raised regarding trees encroaching on properties in Tanyard Court, as well as the urgent need to fund repairs to the collapsed church wall. These were substantial and unavoidable expenditures, and they have had a direct bearing on the financial planning that followed. Discussions were held in the Autumn regarding the management and planning of the cemetery and a dedicated working group was set-up. This group have worked to formalise and update policies and protocols, map remaining space, and ensure that future management of the cemetery is consistent, respectful, and sustainable. It would be remiss not to acknowledge the two major planning applications for housing development that have been submitted this year. The council objecting to one and taking a neutral stance on the other. While opinions on housing development in the village understandably vary across the parish, the council's role has been to ensure due process, transparency, and fairness. The annual requirement of the Council to set the precept always requires a challenging and robust discussion and this year was no exception. Given the pressures of the past year and the responsibilities we hold, this was an essential step to ensure we

can continue to serve the community effectively and outline clear intentions to future-proof the Parish Council's financial security.

Once again I would like to thank my fellow councillors, as well as our clerk, borough councillors and parishioners for their support and look forward to serving as chair in 2026.

**Jo Pritchard**

### **Sourton Village Hall**

**Annual General Meeting  
Monday 18th May 2026  
7.30pm at the Hall**



Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

If you care about village life and want to help keep an important local space active, your involvement would be greatly appreciated.

Further details on our website [www.sourtonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.sourtonvillagehall.org.uk) or please make contact by emailing [sourtonvh@gmail.com](mailto:sourtonvh@gmail.com)

**Bacon Baps** will be served on **Saturday 30th May 10am - 12 noon in Bridestowe Village Hall.**



Ian and Dawn will be there with their locally sourced meat and eggs. Remember we do have a card machine. If you would like to have a table at a bacon bap session, either as a one-off or on a regular basis, do get in touch.

**01837 861157**

-----

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Sausages	Bacon
Pork packs	Free range eggs
Gammon joints	Oven ready chickens
Pork & apple burgers	Oven ready ducks

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Ian or Dawn Vanstone

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Email: dawnbrake@hotmail.com

**for free local delivery of your food from Devon**

### **Seth's Grass Cutting Services**

Reliable and energetic local young person offering lawn mowing in Bridestowe.

Own mower and tools used.

Can take cutting away for small additional fee.

Competitive rates - please contact for a free quotation visit.

**01837 861114**



### **Bridestowe Village Hall Pool Hill, Bridestowe, EX20 4EW**



The hall is a fantastic facility, that can be used for a wide range of events, from small meetings to large scale wedding receptions and parties. The venue is divided into a number of units, including meeting rooms, kitchen and a large hall which can be hired out separately. Also the venue can be hired in its entirety.

The hire charges are reviewed annually and there is a special discount scheme for local residents (within a 4 mile radius of Bridestowe). Please contact the Bookings Clerk for more information

Esther Winter Mob: 07946 992200

Visit the website

[www.bridestowe.org.uk/village-hall](http://www.bridestowe.org.uk/village-hall) to see prices and view the calendar for availability.

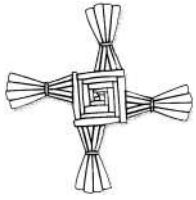
### **For Sale**

Extending aluminium ladder, 4 metres to 7 metres. In good condition

**£50**

**Call 01837 861194**

# Bridestowe Churches Partnership



## Sunday Worship for May 2026

### **Sunday 3rd**

9.30am Service at Sourton

10.30am to 12.30pm Cafe Church at The Ark  
(Worship, Coffee, Tea, Chat, Children's activities)

### **Sunday 10th**

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's Church  
11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist  
Chapel with Cathy Wagstaff

### **Monday 11th**

6.30 for 7.00pm. St Bridget's APCM in the  
church.

### **Wednesday 13th**

8.00pm. Quiz in The White Hart in aid of St  
Bridget's Church. Donations of raffle prizes will  
be greatly appreciated.

### **Sunday 17th**

11.00am United Service at Methodist Chapel  
with Chris Jackson. Sacrament of the Lord's  
Supper

### **Sunday 24th**

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's  
11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist  
Chapel with Barry Searle

### **Sunday 31st**

9.30am Morning Prayer with Christening  
11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist  
Chapel with Helena Haywood

*"Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can."*

These words are attributed to Charles Wesley  
who was an Anglican Vicar and the founder of  
the Methodist Church.

The words have a good message for all of us to  
live by whoever we are and whatever we  
believe. The world is a better place if we all look  
out for and help each other.



## The Ark

The Coffee morning in April raised £225 for  
Cancer Research UK. Many thanks to all who  
supported this.

The Coffee Morning in May will be held on  
**Saturday 9th May**, 10am to 12 noon.

Coffee/ tea, biscuits and the  
usual cake stall. The charity for  
May is RNLI.



Thinking about the safety of our  
families and friends who will visit us and our  
beaches this summer. Do come.

### **The Ark opening times**

Tuesdays 10 - 12 with coffee, cake and a friendly  
chat, and 2 - 4, when you can play whist.

Thursday 10 - 12. Laugh and Craft. You can come  
to the Thursday morning for coffee and a chat  
and there's no need to bring your craft work!

Jennifer Thorne handles bookings.

Phone **01837 861592**

Email: [j.thorne2013@btinternet.com](mailto:j.thorne2013@btinternet.com)

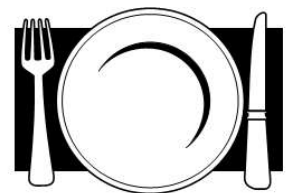
### **The Over 60's**

**Lunch** will be held  
on **Tuesday 12th**

**May**. Meet at 12.15  
for lunch at 12.30.

Please let Jennifer know if you  
cannot attend. (861592)

Thank you



# Friends of ST BRIDGET'S CHURCH BRIDESTOWE

## AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



WEDNESDAY  
24TH JUNE



7.30PM



ST BRIDGET'S  
CHURCH,  
BRIDESTOWE

*You are warmly invited to attend*

St Bridget's Church has been at the heart of our village for centuries – a place of history, community and shared memories.

### WHY COME ALONG?



Hear about the current condition of the church



Understand the proposed plans for repairs and improvements



Find out how we plan to secure funding for essential works



Share your views on the future of this important building



Get involved in supporting the project

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

*Everyone is welcome – you don't need to be a regular churchgoer.*

If you:

- ✓ have a connection to the church
- ✓ value local heritage
- ✓ want to support the village
- ✓ or are simply curious to learn more



### HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE OF ST BRIDGET'S

This is very much a community project, and your support – whether through ideas, time, or simply being informed – makes a real difference.



## MAY EVENTS

### Author Talk & Q&A with Liz Fenwick: Friday 15 May, 19:00 for a 19:15 start

Join us for an Author Talk & Q&A with Cornish author Liz Fenwick to celebrate the launch of her brand-new book, *Flora's Day*. Tickets £5 for library members and £7.50 for non-library members to include refreshments, booking essential via Ticketsource or Okehampton Library. Books will be available for sale after the talk.

### 'Greetings From Okehampton' - A Local History Talk with Paul Rendell: Tuesday 26 May, 19:00 for 19:15 start.

As part of Local & Community History Month, join us for a talk at Okehampton Library on the history of Okehampton with local historian and Dartmoor guide Paul Rendell. Paul's talk, 'Greetings from Okehampton', will look at the history of Okehampton through picture postcards. Paul will examine the history of British picture postcards, started in the 1890's, and the 'tricks of the trade' used over the period of 120 years, as well as many other aspects of postcards. If you own any Okehampton Postcards, please feel free to bring them along to the talk. 19:00 for a 19:15 start, tickets £5 for library members and £7.50 for non-library members (don't forget it's free to join the library!)

Booking essential via Ticketsource or Okehampton Library.

Please see our library website or Facebook page for any additional events and library services discover.[librariesunlimited.org.uk](http://librariesunlimited.org.uk)

### Opening Hours

Monday 09:00-17:00  
Tuesday 09:00-18:00  
Wednesday 09:30-12:30  
Thursday 09:00-17:00  
Friday 09:00-18:00  
Saturday 09:30-12:30

Okehampton Library, 4 North Street, EX20 1AR  
[Okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:Okehampton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk)

## At Tavistock Wharf

### The Playboy of the Western World NT Live

by John Millington Synge  
directed by Caitriona McLaughlin

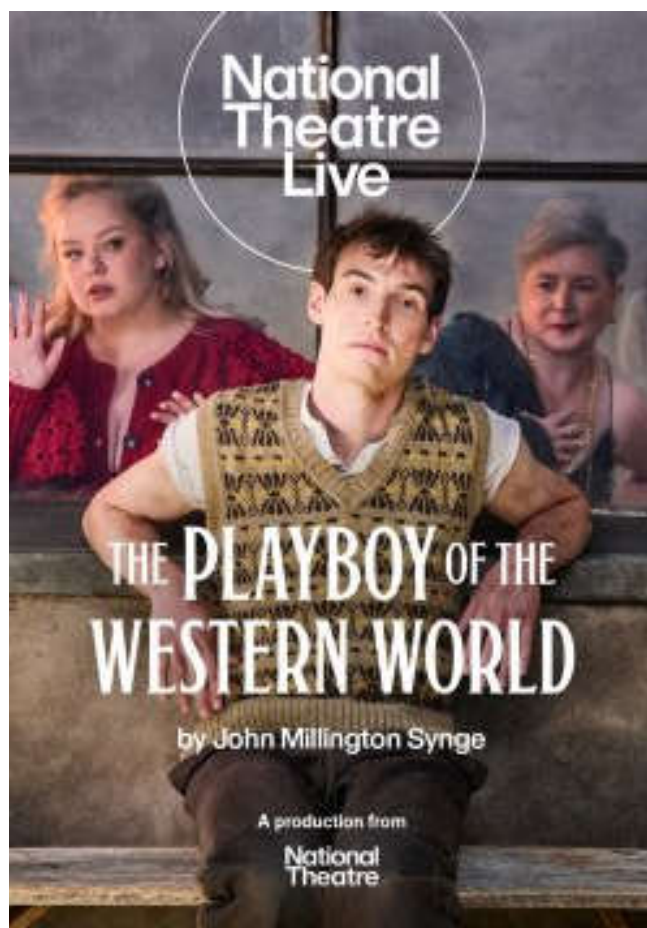
### Thursday 28th May, 2pm & 7pm

Nicola Coughlan (*Bridgerton*) joins Éanna Hardwicke (*The Sixth Commandment*) and Siobhán McSweeney (*Derry Girls*) in John Millington Synge's riveting play of youth and self-discovery.

Pegeen Flaherty's life is turned upside down when a young man walks into her pub claiming that he's killed his father. Instead of being shunned, the killer becomes a local hero and begins to win hearts, that is until a second man unexpectedly arrives on the scene...

Filmed live on stage at the National Theatre, Caitriona McLaughlin directs this darkly funny tale full to the brim with secrets.

<b>Tickets</b> ( matinee & evening)	£13.00
Under 18s (matinee & evening)	£11.00



**BELSTONE'S DAWN CHORUS WALK**  
**Saturday 9th May from 5:30 am to**  
**9:00 am**



This year's annual Dawn Chorus walk, led as usual by Chris Walpole, leaves Belstone Village Hall at 5.30am on Saturday 9th May (six days after International Dawn Chorus Day) and follows a varied route around the parish, through woods, across fields, along lanes and over the open moor. Last year a record turnout of early risers enjoyed a beautiful morning seeing and/or hearing 35 different species, the highlight of which was probably the moment we heard our first cuckoo calling from somewhere near Scarey Tor and at the same time all looked up to see a red kite far above us. This year's summer visitors are arriving – I saw swallows over the cricket ground on 11th April, house martins in the village on 13th April and was told that a cuckoo had been heard at Gidleigh on 7th April.

Wear your walking boots for the rough bits and bring your binoculars and bird-identifying apps, but please leave your four-legged friends at home.

We should be back at the Hall for an 'all-you-can-eat' breakfast of cereals, toast and bacon rolls by 8am. Suggested donations of £6 for the walk, or £12 for the walk and breakfast, will be gratefully received for Hall funds.

Chris Walpole

In Memory of Stephen Rockett

**Charity Tractor Run**

Proceeds to

**Boasley Primary School**  
**Bramble Ward, RDE**

**Sunday 3rd May, 9.30 - 3pm**  
**at Bratton Clovelly Parish Hall**

Tractors meet from 9.30am and move off at 11am.

If you have other vintage vehicles (Landrovers or bikes) and would like to join in, as long as it's roadworthy and insured, we would love to see you.

Tractor entry £10, passenger entry £5 to include a bacon bap.

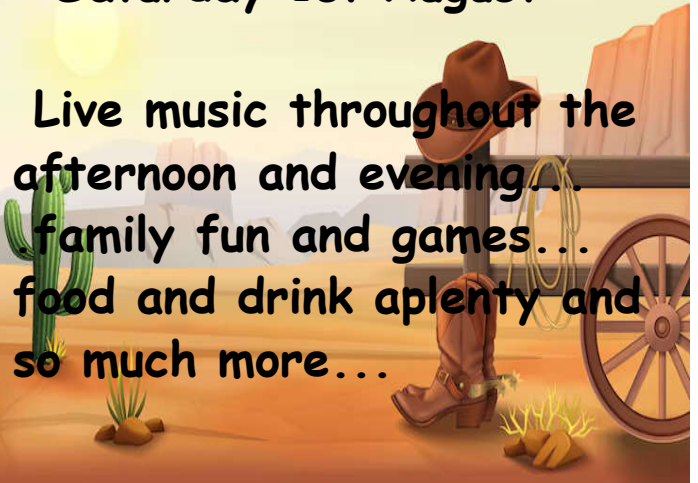
Other refreshments available until 3pm  
Raffle

Advance entries would be appreciated to Amy at [rockettstores@gmail.com](mailto:rockettstores@gmail.com) or 07970 800 454

**'Wild West' Bridfest is only**  
**3 months away...**

**Saturday 1st August**

**Live music throughout the**  
**afternoon and evening...**  
**family fun and games...**  
**food and drink aplenty and**  
**so much more...**



**Would you like a stall on**  
**the day? All enquiries to**  
**[Bridfest@yahoo.com](mailto:Bridfest@yahoo.com)**

# Bridestowe to Okehampton Bus Timetable - weekdays and Saturdays only

## To Okehampton

	Bus number						
	306	118	306	118	306	118	306
Bridestowe White Hart		8.45		11.47		14.47	
Bridestowe Turn	6.58		9.58		13.58		17.58
Okehampton West St	7.10	9.00	10.10	12.00	14.10	15.00	19.10
Okehampton Station	7.17	9.05	10.17		14.17	15.05	18.17

## To Bridestowe

	Bus number						
	306	118	306	118	306	118	306
Okehampton Station	7.30	8.25	10.25		14.25	15.32	18.25
Okehampton West St	7.37	8.30	10.32	12.37	14.32	15.37	18.32
Bridestowe Turn	7.48		10.43		14.43		18.43
Bridestowe White Hart		8.44		12.49		15.49	

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*John and Angie*

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or via email **wendyhannaford@yahoo.co.uk**



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Explorative and Wellbeing workshops starting soon, please see website for further details.

*"Therapy should never add to the distress that someone has experienced, I try and make every session as positive and uplifting as I can."*

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[www.morrisbros.co.uk](http://www.morrisbros.co.uk)

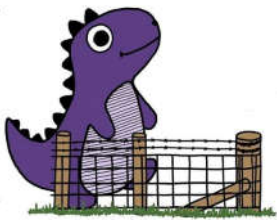


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Based in Okehampton and surrounding area

**Services we offer:** Grass/hedge cutting, turfing, domestic fencing, weeding, landscaping, garden clearance, strimming, pressure washing.

Based in Bridestowe

## ANIMAL MICROCHIPPING

Home visits by arrangement also.

Call or text Jane **07809 747 379**

£16.80p inc. VAT per animal

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Grass cutting & lawncare • Hedge trimming & pruning

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Martin

Sourton - Okehampton

## L Knight Event Catering

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Large and Small events catered for with bespoke menus to suite every catering need.

Full staffed service or Delivery only also available

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[studio@bayleyskinner.com](mailto:studio@bayleyskinner.com)

Tel: 01665 661199



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In the heart of the town, our experienced team of stylists is always pleased to see you. We pride ourselves on offering a high standard of hairdressing in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, so come in and talk through your hair needs.

**To make an appointment, call 01837 658696**

## THE WHITE HART INN, BRIDESTOWE

Tel: 01837 861318

Quiz on Wednesday  
13th May at 8pm in  
aid of St Bridget's  
Church



**Every Wednesday**  
**12-2pm, OAPs Fish &**  
**chips with peas and**  
**bread and butter**  
**£10.95**

### Opening hours:

**Open daily**

12 - 3pm      5pm - close

Open all day Saturday and Sundays and Bank holidays  
from 12 midday. Home-cooked food available

**Sunday food** Roast dinners served 12 - 2pm and from  
6pm. Last orders for food at 7.45pm

Our Sunday roasts  
are as popular as ever.  
Booking is advisable to  
avoid disappointment.  
Mike, Sarah and the  
team

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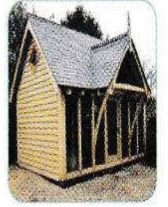


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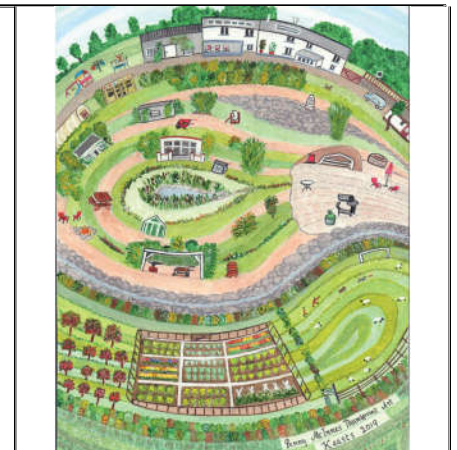
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Wednesday 6th	11- 4pm, Lewtrenchard Manor, Open garden
Thursday 7th	7.30pm, Rowdens Barn, Reading Group
Saturday 9th	10am -12noon, The Ark, Coffee morning in aid of RNLI 5.30am onwards, Belstone Village Hall, dawn chorus walk
Tuesday 12th	12.15 for 12.30pm, Over 60's Lunch
Wednesday 13th	8pm, The White Hart, Quiz in aid of St Bridget's
Monday 18th	7.30pm, Sourton Village Hall, AGM
Tuesday 19th	2.30pm, Fairplace Church, Okehampton u3a, talk
Thursday 21st	10.30am, Thursday Morning Group, Alder Vineyard 12-2pm, Boasley Chapel, Soup and Sweet & Scrap metal event 7.30pm, The Ark, Bridestowe PC meeting
Saturday 23rd	10am, Sporting Green, Plant Sale
Sunday 24th	1.30pm - 4.30pm, Sourton Village Hall, Cream teas
Thursday 28th	2pm & 7pm, Tavistock Wharf, Play
Saturday 30th	9.30am, Cemetery gates, Bridestowe Volunteer Group 10am - 12pm, Bridestowe Village Hall, Bacon Baps
Sunday 31st	11- 4pm, Mary Tavy , Open village garden



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Deadline around 25th of the month but can be flexible. It's always worth getting in contact after the date. The newsletter can be read online via the Bridestowe website, just follow the link for BaSE.