

Bridestowe & Sourton Extra



Community News and Events August 2026 Edition 291

★ SADDLE UP FOR THE ★

FREE ENTRY **FREE ENTRY**

WILD WEST BRIDFEST 26

f Bridfest26

★ LIVE MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND EVENING ★
HOG ROAST • BBQ, CRAFT & FOOD STALLS

THEF THE TOMBSTONE BEER SALOON **DOC HOLIDAY'S LIQUOR BAR**

HEADLINERS:
THE SWAMP STOMP STRING BAND
supported by LONGSHORE DRIFT
The Up, and Local talent on the Open Mic Stage.

RODEO BULL • CROCKERY SMASH • TIN CAN ALLEY • HORSESHOE TOSS
AND MUCH MUCH MORE FAMILY FUN & GAMES!

AUG 1ST 2026 | 1PM - 11PM
BRIDESTOWE SPORTING GREEN EX20 4EL

All enquiries to Bridfest@yahoo.com

Wild West Bridfest 2026

Howdy, Partners — It's finally here!

Get those fancy dress outfits ready — prizes await the best costumes, so bring your Wild West flair!

We've got a fantastic raffle and a whole range of fun-filled family games, including:

- Children's races
- Egg Throwing
- The fiercely competitive Tug of War
- The ever-popular Crockery Smash — perfect for letting off steam
- A bucking bronco

Keep an eye out for our cowboy stilt walker and juggler, performing throughout the afternoon.

Food & Feasting

Fuel up throughout the day with our legendary Hog Roast, followed by an evening BBQ to keep you going right through the dancing.

There will be plenty of vegan, gluten-free chilli on offer.

Live Music All Day

Our lineup is ready to bring the Wild West to Bridestowe:

- The UP
- Longshore Drift
- Headliners: The Swamp Stomp String Band

Bars & Saloon

Don't forget — Doc Holiday's Cocktail Bar will be serving snake oil and other Wild West delights.

The Tombstone Saloon will also be open, serving wine, beer, and lager.

It all kicks off at 1pm and remember it's FREE entry

Round up your friends, saddle up, and join us for the biggest Wild West celebration Bridestowe has ever seen.

Extra parking is available at the village hall. As there is no event being held, the hall's management committee are very happy to offer the car park for additional parking. Please tell your friends travelling by car.

Second-hand books for Bridfest

Next to the tombola stall at Bridfest there will be a table of pre-owned books(!) for you to browse. If you have any you'd like to unload, please bring them along on the day or drop them off at 11 Crandford Close. Children's books are always popular. Any money raised will go to the Bridestowe Village Hall fund.

Thank you



What else could possibly be happening on August 1st?

The new £15 million Okehampton Interchange station will be officially opened this week before welcoming its first passengers, marking another major milestone for the Dartmoor Line. It includes a 200-space car park, a bus interchange, cycle parking, electric vehicle charging points and step-free access via lifts and a footbridge.

Network Rail, Great Western Railway (GWR), Devon County Council and West Devon Borough Council have confirmed that an official opening ceremony will take place on Friday 31 July. A special train carrying invited guests and stakeholders will arrive at the new station from Exeter St Davids, with representatives from Network Rail, GWR, Devon County Council and West Devon Borough Council available for interviews. www.themoorlander.co.uk/news

The Vicar writes....

During the hot weather I have been taking refuge in the cool of the churches. Sitting in the quiet I often think about all the past generations who worshipped there and wonder how much the church itself has remained the same, seeing people come and go over the centuries. When I was a boy the six-week, hot summer holidays seemed to go on forever. Now six weeks seems like six days; I still think 1980 was twenty years ago. A lovely parishioner who had also been thinking about churches and the passage of time, gave me a copy of this quotation from the book *Steeple Chasing* by Peter Ross: "This is my feeling about old churches, that the stones have absorbed the love and sorrow of many generations, so that what we sense when we enter, especially if alone, is the accumulated ache of centuries of human experience. An old church offers, therefore, a strong impression of community and resilience. More than that; solidarity and reassurance, something neighbourly. It is an arm around the shoulder, a murmured word in the ear: everything is going to be alright." The generations before us found comfort and meaning in the rituals of the church, especially Christ's command to 'Do this in remembrance of me' meaning to take the bread and wine of the Holy Communion. Benedictine monk Dom. Gregory made this observation:

"Was ever a command so obeyed? For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country and among every race on earth, this action has been done, in every conceivable circumstance, for every conceivable human need from infancy and before it to extreme old age and after it, from the pinnacles of human greatness to the refuge of fugitives in the caves and dens of the earth. Men have found no better thing than this to do for kings at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold; for armies in triumph or for a bride and bridegroom in a little country church; for the proclamation of a dogma or for a good crop of wheat; for the wisdom of the Parliament of a mighty nation or for a sick old woman

afraid to die; for a schoolboy sitting an examination or for Columbus setting out to discover America; for the famine of whole provinces or for the soul of a dead lover; in thankfulness because my father did not die of pneumonia; for a village headman much tempted to return to fetich because the yams had failed; because the Turk was at the gates of Vienna; for the repentance of Margaret; for the settlement of a strike; for a son for a barren woman; for Captain so-and-so, wounded and prisoner-of-war; while the lions roared in the nearby amphitheatre; on the beach at Dunkirk; while the hiss of scythes in the thick June grass came faintly through the windows of the church; tremulously, by an old monk on the fiftieth anniversary of his vows; furtively, by an exiled bishop who had hewn timber all day in a prison camp near Murmansk; gorgeously, for the canonisation of St. Joan of Arc — one could fill many pages with the reasons why men have done this, and not tell a hundredth part of them. And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays, faithfully, unfailingly, across all the parishes of Christendom, the pastors have done this just to make the plebs sancta Dei — the holy common people of God."

Adrian Brook

Do have an oak tree lawn?

Oak trees pop up all over our garden, probably assisted by magpies hiding acorns, but our experience this year is something else.



Remember last year's mast? We had a huge crop of acorns and beech nuts. Now, below an oak tree, are hundreds of tiny oak trees, so many it is like a lawn. Actually it is a lawn, but they have survived several lawn mowing and are still battling on. Anyone want to rescue some oak trees?

Debbie Pritchard
07837859706

Fact or Fiction by Howard Barkell

Did you read that story in a recent issue of the Okehampton Times titled The Black Witches of Bridestowe? I suppose it is difficult to know just what balance to strike between fact and fiction when writing about events surrounding real people. I would have thought that if you believe the story is true then you need to carefully check the facts wherever that is possible. Perhaps the author was just writing the story as a piece of fun, but there are certainly several factual errors in it, including the spelling of the Squire's name Waldo. One mistake might be a typo, but two?

For those who didn't read the newspaper article it tells the story of how the squire at Leawood told his only child, always known by her second name Sylvia, to beware of 'black witches' in the area who could cast harmful spells on those they took a dislike to. One day, while he was sitting as a magistrate at Lifton court, a Bridestowe woman who was found guilty and sentenced placed a curse on him that he would be dead within three days. Sure enough the following day while out on part of the Leawood estate he died. The Black Witch's curse had worked!

A good story perhaps, but not the only version that might be written concerning those events. Vincent Waldo Calmady Hamlyn was born at Leawood in 1854, the third son of Shilston. As he had two older brothers he would never have expected to inherit the estates at Leawood and Paschoe. He gained a Master of Arts degree at Balliol College, Oxford in 1880 and was Called to the Bar in 1881. He married Emma Josephine Pease, the daughter of a wealthy Member of Parliament at Guisborough in 1880, where they were attended by ten bridesmaids! They began their married life in Kensington although he doesn't seem to have practiced as a Barrister. Emma returned home to Guisborough for the birth of her first child, Mary Sylvia, in late 1881. His oldest brother Shilston, junior, heir to the estates, died in 1885, aged 36. His father, Shilston, senior, died later that year, aged 73 and second brother, Osbert, died in 1887, leaving Vincent Waldo as the new Squire. Unfortunately, Emma became infected with

scarlatina and although she seemed better was sent to Kent on medical advice and died there in June 1888 at the age of 33. Her body was buried in the churchyard at Newton – under - Roseberry, close to the family home at Hutton Hall. The only reminder of her short time at Leawood, where Waldo and Sylvia remained living with his stepmother, is the pulpit at St. Bridget's erected in her memory in 1892 by her husband and daughter. Made of oak by Messrs. Luscombe of Exeter it replaced an earlier one made of pitch pine which had earlier replaced the three-decker. With his legal training Vincent Waldo was well suited to be a Justice of the Peace. He sat on the Bench at Lifton. On 1st July 1897 one of the cases concerned a father and son called Brook who lived on Veale (sic) Down and rented ground near the Fox and Hounds and who were accused of sheep stealing from the moor. The father was committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions at Exeter. His wife was Susanna. Was she the Black Witch? The following morning the Squire left Leawood at about 11 o'clock riding his horse across the Estate ground farmed as part of Great Cranford. On hearing gunshots he dismounted, tied his horse to a gate near the railway and ran to investigate. He fell to the ground. Farmer Lavis and two of his sons who were working in the next field saw what had happened and ran to his assistance but discovered that he was already dead. It transpired that he had already complained to Dr. Young of Okehampton of chest pains who had diagnosed a heart condition. Because of this information an inquest was deemed unnecessary.

Waldo's funeral took place the following week at St. Bride's (as it was often known until comparatively recently) with due ceremony. He was buried in the family vault in the churchyard, the fourth Calmady Hamlyn male buried there in twelve years. He was the last male in the line and the estates passed to Waldo's eldest sister, Fanny Gertrude Sillifant. She died in 1901 and was succeeded by her sister, Susan Emily Holley, widow of the former Rector of Okehampton, who lived at Teignmouth.

Sylvia, now an orphan, went to live with her maternal grandmother at

Hutton Hall. She always thought of Bridestowe as home and returned as soon as she was old enough to be independent at the age of 21. Financially well off, but homeless, she had certainly had Bidlake Vean built by 1904 and was advertising for staff. She was the one who recounted the story late in her life. She appears to have been an intelligent, forthright woman. I wonder if she believed that the story about the Black Witches was true?

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

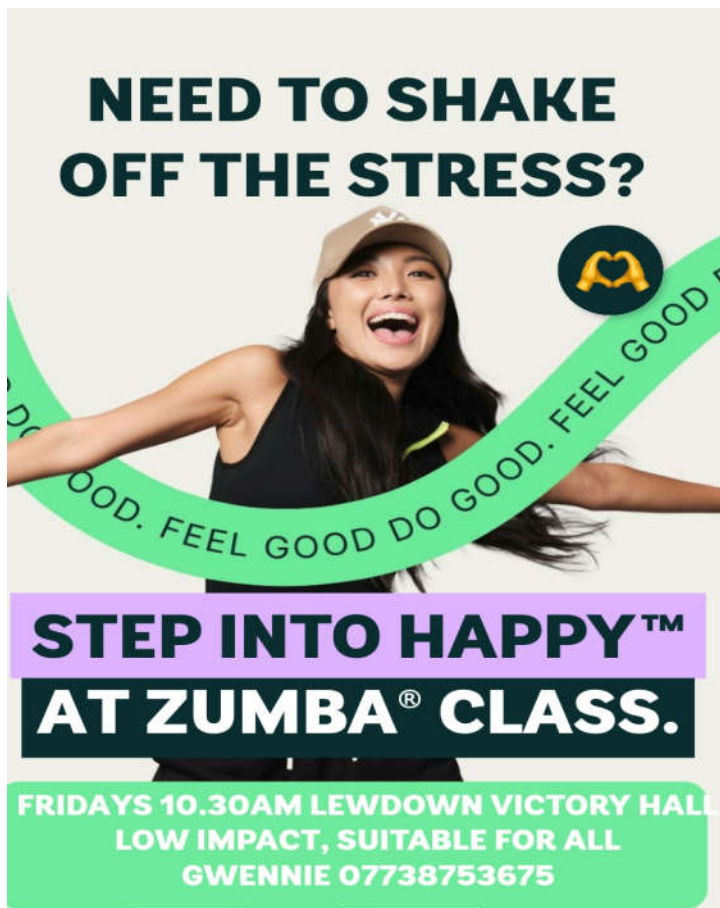
1st Friday: Singing

2nd Thursday : Exercises

3rd Friday: Coffee morning

Last Tuesday: Talk: *Images of Tavistock* - Kevin Dickens on **Tuesday 25th August**.

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



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AT ZUMBA® CLASS.

FRIDAYS 10.30AM LEWDOWN VICTORY HALL
LOW IMPACT, SUITABLE FOR ALL
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The Over 60's Lunch

will be held on

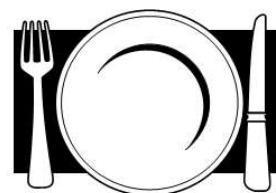
Tuesday 11th

August Meet at 12.15

for lunch at 12.30.

Please let Jennifer know if you cannot attend. (01837 861592)

Thank you



Exhibition

West Dartmoor Art at Peter Tavy Village Hall

Sat 8th - Sat 15th August

10am to 5pm

Cafe - Raffle - Free Entry



Bridestowe's Swifts

No sounds say 'summer' quite like the screams of swifts.

If you have sat outside the White Hart on a warm evening lately, you will have been lucky enough to hear these delightful birds as they fly through Bridestowe.



Swifts are seasonal visitors. They arrive here from Africa in late April and stay for around a hundred days to find nesting sites, breed and raise their chicks before leaving again in early August. By the time you read this, they may already be on their way back to Africa.

Young swifts spend their first few summers searching for a suitable mate and somewhere to nest. These juvenile birds are known as prospectors, or "bangers", because of the way they fly at buildings and bang into walls while investigating potential sites. They will return to this site, and reunite with their mate, every summer for the rest of their lives.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about swifts is that they spend almost their entire lives on the wing. They eat, sleep and even mate in flight, only landing to nest.

Sadly, swift numbers have fallen by around 60% over the last 50 years. This is thought to be due to a combination of factors, including a decline in flying insects caused by changes in farming practices and increased pesticide use.

Their decline is also linked to the loss of suitable nesting sites. Swifts nest in small holes and crevices in buildings, but modern construction methods and the renovation of older buildings have greatly reduced the number of places where they can breed.

What can we do?

Swifts need more nesting sites. One of the best ways to help is by installing a swift nest box ready for next year's visitors. Nest boxes cost between £20 and £80 or, if you're handy with tools, you can make your own. There are

plenty of blueprints online, including on the RSPB website.

If you're building a new house or extension, you could also install a swift brick. These specially designed hollow bricks are built directly into the wall.



Nest boxes and swift bricks should be fitted high up on a building, ideally beneath the eaves and, on south-facing walls, out of direct sunlight. Swifts need a clear flight path to enter and leave their nests, so avoid placing boxes near wires or trees.

When the swifts return next spring, you can play recordings of their calls to encourage them to investigate their new home. They can also find sites organically - while we were putting up a nest box this year, a swift actually "banged" into the back of my dad's head!

If putting up a nest box isn't practical for you, you can still help these wonderful birds by making your garden more insect-friendly. Leave some areas to grow wild, plant a variety of pollinator-friendly flowers and trees, and avoid using pesticides wherever possible.

With your help, Bridestowe should be enjoying the sounds of swifts for many years to come!

Bella Westlake



Here's an example of swift nest box that can fit directly beneath even the narrowest of eaves. AY



In aid of St Luke's Hospice Plymouth

OPEN GARDEN
Wednesday 5th August
12 - 4pm
Lewtrenchard Manor
Lewdown, EX20 4PN



Entry £6 - free entry if under 16. Accessible paths. Refreshments available. Guide dogs only. View the redesigned summer garden, originally designed by Walter Sorel, plus streams, a sunken garden, rustic dovecote, and a profusion of shrubs. Take the Madam's Walk, on the banks of the River Lew and to the woods and beyond.

Folksy Theatre presents:

Outdoor Theatre - 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

RHS Rosemoor Torrington EX38 8PH
Tuesday 11th August at 7pm

This summer, join us for a breathtaking open-air performance of William Shakespeare's beloved comedy, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

In the heart of an enchanted forest, four young lovers flee the constraints of society and stumble into a realm ruled by mischievous fairies, feuding royalty, and a troupe of would-be actors with more enthusiasm than talent.

What follows is a wild night of mistaken identities, magical transformations, and love

gone deliciously wrong - enjoy Shakespeare's dazzling verse and Folksy's twist of live music, audience interaction and impressive multi-rolling!

All performances are approximately 2 hours including a 20-minute interval unless otherwise stated

- Bring low-backed seating, blankets, and weather-appropriate clothing
- There will be a cash raffle at each event
- Tickets £18.00 in advance. £14.00 under 18

RHS Rosemoor Gardens will be closed to the general public from 6pm. Access is to the performance area only from this time onwards and the cafes will not be open refreshments, so please feel free to bring your own picnic!

www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/rosemoor/viewevent

118th Okehampton Show **Thursday 13th August** ***Dartmoor's largest Agricultural Show***

All day entertainment from 9am to 5.00pm
(Horse classes start at 8am)

Join us on the northern edge of the beautiful Dartmoor National Park for a traditional agricultural show with a wide range of prize winning animals, delicious local food & drink, plenty of shopping, displays, childrens' entertainment and much more.

Gates open at 9am. Dogs welcome. Free car parking.

Free Shuttle Bus from Okehampton Station and the town centre. Ticket information

Children 16 and under with accompanying adult go free

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ONLINE TICKETS

Adults £17

Children 16 and Under Go Free

**News from Lydford
Gorge, National Trust**
*Rose Cooke, Visitor Experience
Officer*
From July's article



When you visit Lydford Gorge or Dartmoor please remember to be tick aware.

- Stick to clearly defined paths and avoid long grass
- Wear long trousers
- Use insect repellent
- Regularly check for ticks

Ticks are small biting mites that live in grassland and woodland habitats. When feeding on blood they can pass on diseases like Lyme disease to humans and animals. If you are bitten by a tick, they should be carefully removed as soon as possible using a tick removal tool or fine tipped tweezers. If you've been bitten or have recently spent time outdoors and develop an unusual rash or start to feel unwell, please contact your GP.

And a reminder that we ask you not to swim, however tempting, as it's not safe. If something were to go wrong the area is very inaccessible. Please avoid disturbing the wildlife and special habitats of the gorge and don't go in.

If you hadn't already heard, Lydford Gorge, in partnership with Plantlife, took home the first ever George Mist Award for Woodland Magic. The trophy is currently on display in the welcome area at the Devil's Cauldron entrance, and we'll hand it back to be passed on to a new winner at the end of the year. We won the award for our work to strengthen biodiversity, boost ecological resilience and safeguard one of Dartmoor's precious rainforest fragments.

The temperate rainforest in the gorge, dripping with mosses, lichens and bryophytes, has long been under threat from invasive species, but over the previous year, the team made extraordinary progress in restoring its ecological balance. They removed invasive, non-native rhododendron and cherry laurel, plus improved diversity and created pockets of sunlight in the canopy of the even-aged woodland. They will continue this work as we head into winter 2026.

August's bulletin

I'm writing this in the third heatwave of the year in as many months. Although, as the school summer holidays will have started by the time you read this, I'm sure it's turned cooler and wetter already! The gorge has been drier than usual but is thankfully still being kept moist by the River Lyd and Whitelady Waterfall releasing water droplets into the air as they tumble through the gorge. The Lyd Link path will again stay open all year, the path to Tucker's Pool has closed for summer. We plan to reopen it from Monday 7 September.

The bank below the picnic area, outside the Devil's Cauldron tea-room, has been a sea of colour this summer. There have been several different species appearing since the rangers cleared it and seeded it with a wildflower mix. Blue cornflowers have been most prolific, and the yellow rattle has done really well too, although most of that has now gone to seed. Beautiful pink corncockle has popped up now and again and a large clump of corn marigold took pride of place through July. There were also a couple of red poppies at the start of the season. We're already looking forward to seeing what appears next year.

Lichens of Lydford Gorge summer trail

continues until Sunday 6 September, 10am-4pm

Follow the free trail around the orchard, answering questions and playing games, to learn about the plants that aren't plants that fill the temperate rainforest at Lydford Gorge.

Opening Times to 4 October 2025

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

Email: lydfordgorge@nationaltrust.org.uk Tel: 01822 820320

Facebook: LydfordGorge Instagram: [lydford.gorge.nt](https://www.instagram.com/lydford.gorge.nt)

Registered Charity Number 205846

Lunar cycle for August

New moon **12th**
First quarter **20th**
Full moon **28th**
Last quarter **6th**



On 12th August skywatchers across the U.K. will experience a rare astronomical double-header: a deep partial solar eclipse before sunset followed, hours later, by the peak of the annual Perseid meteor shower.

This will be the U.K.'s deepest partial solar eclipse since 2015, and timing will be everything. Around 90% of the Sun will be covered by the Moon.



The eclipse reaches its peak around 7:00-7:16 p.m. BST, with the sun hanging low above the west-northwest horizon as a narrowing crescent shortly before sunset. Because the sun will be relatively low, choosing the right location will matter far more than travelling huge distances. Coastal viewpoints, hilltops and open landscapes with unobstructed western horizons will offer guaranteed views — if the sky is clear.

The locations below prioritize another crucial factor: dark skies. While the eclipse will be visible almost everywhere in the U.K. and most will be happy to see it from close to where they live, the real reward comes after darkness falls, when the Perseids begin flashing across the sky. Find somewhere remote, stay overnight — ideally camp — and this could become one of the most memorable observing sessions of the year.

During the eclipse it is NEVER safe to look directly at the sun without solar eclipse glasses designed for solar viewing.

BRIDESTOWE READING GROUP

Our next meeting will be on
Thursday 6th August at
7.30pm at Wheatley Park
Barn, Lewdown, EX20 4OW
We will be discussing *I am, I am I am* by Maggie O'Farrell



About the book ... *I Am, I Am, I Am* is novelist Maggie O'Farrell's memoir is a life told in near-death experiences. A childhood illness she was not expected to survive. A terrifying encounter on a remote path. A mismanaged labour in an understaffed hospital. An ongoing struggle to protect a child from a condition that leaves her daily vulnerable.

Insightful, inspirational, gorgeously written, it is a book to devour at a sitting - a story you finish newly conscious of life's fragility, determined to make every heartbeat count.

About the author

Maggie O'Farrell is one of the most loved writers in the English language. Her debut, *After You'd Gone*, marked the start of a career which has established Maggie as one of the great storytellers of our times. From that point onwards, Maggie has enjoyed critical acclaim and received numerous literary awards. *The Hand that First Held Mine* won the 2010 Costa Novel Award. *Hamnet*, which imagined the untold story of Shakespeare's son, won the 2020 Women's Prize for Fiction and was Waterstones' Book of the Year, and was also a no. 1 bestseller. Her most recent novel, *The Marriage Portrait*, was shortlisted for the Women's Prize.

Maggie co-wrote, the screenplay for *Hamnet* with Chloé Zhao, *Hamnet* has previously been adapted for the stage by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Maggie is also the author of three books for children, *Where Snow Angels Go*, *The Boy who Lost his Spark* and *When the Stutter Came to Stay*. She was born in Coleraine in Northern Ireland and grew up in Wales and Scotland. Currently, she lives in Edinburgh.

01566 783529
email: neil@neiledgson.com



St Thomas à Becket Church, Sourton August

From the registers:

Funeral of Laura Marie Stanbury neé Marshall aged 32 of Highwayman's Grove at 2 p.m. on July 6th

We send our heartfelt condolences and prayers for her family.

Future Dates

Cream Teas on August 9th, 16th and 23rd 1.30 -4.30 p.m. in the Hall.

Also available : Savouries, including sandwiches, sausage rolls, quiches and an assortment of delicious cakes.

With the assistance of our friends we are raising funds for **the Church and Parish Hall, SO PLEASE SUPPORT THIS COMMUNITY EFFORT**

If you would like to lend a hand, please get in touch with Ruth: 07967 357505 or Jenny: 07879 253903. We would be glad of any help offered.

Regular Services for August

August 2nd	Holy Communion at 9.30a.m.
August 9th	Service at Bridestowe
August 16th	Morning Prayer at 9.30 a.m.
August 23rd	Service at Bridestowe.
August 30th	To be arranged

Jenny Batton



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

Facebook - Sourton Village Hall

BRIDESTOWE THURSDAY MORNING GROUP

Thank you to everyone for the delicious food which you brought for our lunch in July. This month's meeting will be a coffee morning and raffle at The Ark on Thursday, August 20th at 10.30. No need to contact anyone, just turn up.

Ann Allan on 861551

Movie Watch - July 2026

Given the glorious weather, a trip to the New Carlton, to take in a 3-hour epic, did not feature prominently on our July 'must do' list, despite glowing reports relating to Christopher Nolan's latest film, **The Odyssey**. Following Nolan's Oscar-winning **Oppenheimer**, which triumphed in seven Academy categories, was never going to be easy, but **The Odyssey** must stand a good chance of repeating that success.

England's exit from the World Cup (more to follow, but not much, I promise) left a hole of roughly that duration in our Sunday evening plans. Kevin Maher, film critic for The Times, provides valuable guidance and left us in no doubt concerning **The Odyssey**. *'Believe the hype. This is landmark cinema.'*

Just to double-check, I looked at the review in the Telegraph which delivered resounding confirmation. *'It's a blockbuster for the ages. The film of the year.'*

So we left Argentina and Spain to scrap it out in New Jersey (not that Argentina appeared terribly interested, having already achieved their main tournament objective of eliminating England), while we made a Sunday evening trip into Okehampton.

Sure enough, **The Odyssey** is a stunning piece of work. Difficult to categorise but broadly an action fantasy, written, directed and produced by Nolan, alongside his wife Emma Thomas, who shares production credits.

The film tells the story of Odysseus and his perilous journey home from the Trojan War, in what appeared a forlorn attempt to reunite with his beloved wife Penelope.

The main roles are filled by Matt Damon (surely the performance of a lifetime as Odysseus, King of Ithaca) and Anne Hathaway (his wife, Penelope). They are supported by an all-star cast including Tom Holland as their son Telemachus, Robert Pattinson as the odious Antinous, a persistent suitor of Penelope and Lupita Nyong'o, in a dual role as Helen of Troy and Clytemnestra, Helen's sister and wife of Agamemnon.

Other notable figures to feature include current Hollywood flavour of the month Zendaya as Goddess of Wisdom, and Charlize Theron as Calypso, a nymph who tries to persuade Odysseus to live as her husband, with the promise of immortality.

With a budget of \$250m, the makers can hardly be accused of cutting corners, with their ambitions at least partly met by box office takings of \$264m, within ten days of launch.

The film runs for three hours and in a massive commendation, I can confirm that I didn't nod off at any stage. Not for a moment. Yup, it's that good.

Putting Odysseus to one side, which is not an easy task, the New Carlton schedule has a distinct School Holidays feel to it, (Minions & Monsters, Moana, PAW Patrol, Shawn the Sheep etc). In fact with the exception of **Spider-Man: Brand New Day** (Tom Holland and Zendaya, again), which will appeal to the usual devotees, the summer schedule looks painfully thin, at least until early-September, when we should get to see **Pressure**.

In the seventy-two hours leading up to D-Day, all the pieces are in place except for one key element - the British weather. Britain's chief meteorological officer is called upon to deliver the most consequential weather forecast in history, locking him into a tense standoff with the entire Allied leadership.

The wrong conditions could devastate the largest-ever nautical invasion, while any delay would risk German intelligence catching on. Haunted by a catastrophic D-Day rehearsal, the final decision rests with Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower. With only hours to go, the fate of the war and the lives of millions hang in the balance.

The always-excellent Andrew Scott and Brendan Fraser star in what should be a welcome return to thought-provoking, adult-targeted material.

Verity (Anne Hathaway, Dakota Johnson) and **The Social Reckoning**, a

companion piece to the acclaimed Social Network, should reach us in the autumn, along with **The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping** which is sure to be heavily promoted.

The Invite sounds interesting ('A dinner party spirals into unexpected places when a couple invite their enigmatic neighbours to join them'), but currently that one's not showing anywhere closer than Plymouth.

Returning to TV output, industry research shows that the top programme of any given week attracts an audience of around 5-6 million. However, the England v Argentina World Cup semi-final, shown live on BBC1, averaged 22 million, peaking at 24 million.

This made it the most watched live television event for more than five years. You can then add another 12m streams on the BBC iPlayer, app and website.

Had Tuchel's squad negotiated the final few minutes of that agonising semi-final, all viewing records would surely have been broken for Sunday's final. As it was, Argentina and Spain delivered a miserable, bad-tempered affair, before the latter deservedly took the big prize. Given their behaviour, particularly after the final whistle, Argentina should now be facing a lengthy ban from FIFA events.

You don't need me to deliver chapter and verse on what I found a protracted but generally enjoyable competition, at least until that dismal conclusion. A few closing thoughts,

Best match: Mexico 2 England 3. **Best player:** Lionel Messi. **Best National Anthem:** La Marseillaise. **Best fans anthem:** Wonderwall. **Best fans:** 'No Scotland, No Party.' **Best kit:** That light green French away strip. **Biggest Embarrassment:** shared by Gianni Infantino and the ludicrous Donald ("I know a great deal about all sports") Trump.

Meanwhile, if the broadcasters had anything special up their sleeves, you can rest assured they wouldn't have launched it during a midsummer heatwave and certainly not up against the World Cup. Sure enough, they didn't.

Nevertheless the show must go on, to some degree at least, with schedules needing to be filled, despite the majority of viewers opting to stay in the garden far longer than usual.

One heavily-promoted BBC programme that won't be returning is **The Claudia Winkleman Show**, leaving Graham Norton to stand alone among chat show hosts.

Just a few recommendations, from various sources.

Legends (Netflix) Steve Coogan stars in an excellent crime thriller

Five-Star Weekend (Sky Atlantic) Based on the Elin Hilderbrand novel

The Crow Girl (C5) Stylish adaptation of a Scandinavian bestseller

Ludwig (BBC3) David Mitchell stars in the returning detective comedy-drama

Faithless (Sky Atlantic) New crime-drama series, also available on BBC iPlayer

Penelope Keith Remembers (BBC4) A disappointing tribute to a much-loved actress

The Piano (C4) A new run of the popular music competition

For sports fans seeking lively cricket action, we have the short-form competition, The Hundred, shown jointly on Sky Sports and BBC. The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow will be shown on TNT Sports, with terrestrial highlights on Channel 5.

And then the new domestic football season starts in August. Shall we leave that for another day?

David Harrison
July 2026

**Okehampton Recycling
Centre**
0345 155 1010



Summer opening times
April - September

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 6pm

Sourton Parish Council Update
www.sourtonpc.org.uk
parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk
07792958675

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has supported our litter picks. These sessions continue to make a noticeable difference around the parish, helping to keep our villages and surrounding areas tidy for residents and visitors alike.

Unfortunately, Sourton Down continues to experience a lot of litter. In an effort to help address this issue, the Parish Council has recently purchased and will be installing a new litter bin at Sourton Down. We hope this will encourage people to dispose of their rubbish responsibly and help keep the area clean.

Our volunteer work does not stop with litter picking. One of the jobs currently on our list is to clean and repaint the bus stop at Sourton Down. If you would like to get involved and lend a hand, we would be delighted to hear from you. Whether you can spare an hour or a whole morning, all help is greatly appreciated.

We are also looking for a suitably qualified person or contractor to provide a quotation for repairs to the bus stop in Sourton, particularly around the windows. If you know of anyone who may be able to assist, please get in touch with the Parish Council.

A short meeting will be held in August to discuss the Dartmoor National Park scoping consultation response and the next full meeting will be in September, when the Council will consider applications for grant funding. Local

groups and organisations wishing to apply for a grant are encouraged to visit the Parish Council website, where details of the scheme and application forms can be found.

The litter picks are open to everyone, and new volunteers are always welcome. Working together, we can continue to improve and care for our parish.

For more information about future litter picks, volunteering opportunities, grant applications, or the bus stop repairs, please contact the Parish Council or visit the Parish Council website.



Boasley Chapel - Happenings in August

Sunday August 2nd 11am **Service** with
Deidre Madders

Sunday August 2nd 2.30-4.30pm

Afternoon Tea

Sunday August 9th **Circuit Service**

6.30pm....our turn to host this monthly event...lively hymn singing with Rev Chris Jackson on the keyboard....tea and biscuits.

Sunday 16th August 11am **Service** with
Bridget Down

Thursday 20th August **Soup and Sweet** 12-2pm
Sunday 30th August **Communion**

Service 9.30am Jerry Cook

Everyone always very welcome to everything!



**SOURTON CHURCH
CREAM TEAS
at Sourton Village Hall**

2 scones, cream and jam only £7.00

Also available: savouries including sandwiches, sausage rolls, quiches and an assortment of cakes

Sundays 9th, 16th and 23rd August

1:30pm - 4.30pm

In aid of St Thomas a Becket Church and Sourton Village Hall



Calendar Girls

Teylu Theatre Company presents their production of

Calendar Girls (a play by Tim Firth) and based on the Miramax motion picture by Juliette Towhidid and Tim Firth.

**Friday 7th August at 7.30pm
Tavistock Town Hall**

Tickets £15/£12.50 plus booking fee available from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/teylu-theatre-company

Also

**Friday 14th August 14 at
7:30 pm Launceston Town Hall**

Teylu Theatre Company is a new, not-for-profit community theatre group, formed in 2025 and based in South East Cornwall. Teylu was created to provide opportunities for adults with an interest in any aspect of theatre. Teylu means 'family' in Cornish and our objective is to be an inclusive, supportive and welcoming organisation that provides quality, affordable entertainment for the local area. We have over 90 active members from across Cornwall and Devon, with many more supporters on our mailing list and following us on social media. 2025 was a hugely successful inaugural year, with a full programme of social and fundraising events. This summer we are bringing *Calendar Girls* to theatres in Liskeard, Launceston, Tavistock and Plymouth.



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LewTrenchard Primary School Fundraiser
Thursday 24th September, Lewdown Cricket Club,
18.30 for 19.00

Basic, Better, Best – which one is best??

Following the success of last 2 years “Call My Bluff” evening, Friends of LewTrenchard Primary School are delighted to announce another evening of “guess the value of the antiques” with auctioneers from Bearnese Hampton & Littlewood Auction House kindly hosting the event.

There will be complimentary cheese and crackers on arrival and a bar serving alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and snacks.

£5 per person, children FREE

We look forward to seeing you on the night!!



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Advertising in BaSE

We are glad to support local businesses in BaSE for no charge. However there's been a spate of new advertisers recently and the challenge is achieving a balance; ensuring there is room for community news, reports, reviews and so on and accommodating the adverts.

We have begun to reduce the size of some and we are also contacting existing advertisers to check that they are still offering the service.

If you are considering submitting an advert then try to keep it succinct. I don't mind an expansive first appearance with a bit of extra information but after that keep it short and sweet please. And what's with all these logos?! AY



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BY E NESBIT, ADAPTED BY DAVE SIMPSON

3rd - 5th
10th - 12th
Sept 2026

Performances 7.30pm. Saturday Matinee 2.30pm. Doors open from 7pm/2pm
Tickets £12 (all adults)/£10 (16 years and under), available online from:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/holsworthytheatre
from Saturday 4th July 2026.

HATS BOX OFFICE OPEN 10am-2pm on the 4th July, 15th Aug, 22nd Aug, 29th Aug
Ticketsource: 0333 666 3366. Mon-Fri 9am 7.30pm and Sat 9am-5pm

HATS Theatre, Bodmin Street, EX22 6BH. 01409 253826
This amateur production of "The Railway Children" is presented by arrangement of Concord Theatre Ltd.
Charity Number: 1110237

Bacon Baps will be served on **Saturday 29th August 10am - 12 noon** **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.

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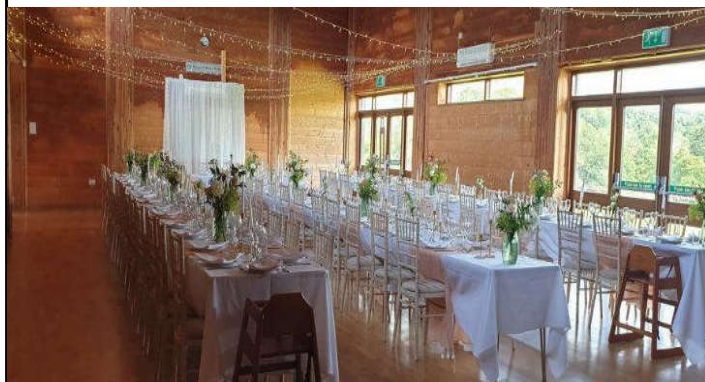
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Bridestowe Village Hall Pool Hill, Bridestowe, EX20 4EW



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

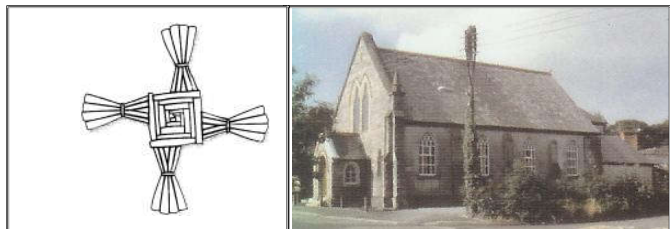
Esther Winter Mob: 07946 992200

Visit the website

www.bridestowe.org.uk/village-hall to see prices and view the calendar for availability.

The **Bridestowe Volunteer Group** met on 25th July and the emphasis was sprucing the village centre up ready for the forthcoming Bridfest. So the gutters were targeted. Grass cutting in the orchard was carried out and more attention to the footpath running from Trescote Way to the village. The next session will be on Saturday 29th August, meeting at the cemetery gates at 9.30am. New faces are always welcome as well as the old.

Bridestowe Church Partnership



Sunday Worship for August 2026

Sunday 2nd

9.30am Service at Sourton

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

Sunday 9th

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's Church

11.00am Service at the Methodist Chapel with Kathryn Timms

Sunday 16th

9.30am United Service at St Bridget's Church

Sunday 23rd

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's

11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist Chapel with Bridget Down

Sunday 30th

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's

11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist Chapel with Rev Jerry Cook. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

All age singing group.

As we previewed last month, we are hoping to start an all age singing group in Bridestowe.

Apart from just being a bit of good fun, singing with a group provides a wide range of mental-health benefits. Singers report that participation helps them feel less lonely.

Singers are also less likely to experience symptoms of depression, and they are more likely to report they are content with their relationships. Nearly three-quarters of singers say participating in a choir boosts their optimism and we all need some of that. We are hoping to get a Pop Quire to come along to the Methodist chapel in September to inspire us as we start this group. If you would be interested please email or text Dean James. 07951227473 .

deanmjames0@gmail.com

Some of the older ones will remember these lyrics from a song by The Carpenters.:

Sing, sing a song, Sing out loud Sing out strong
Sing of good things not bad, Sing of happy not sad.

Sing, sing a song, Let the world sing along
Sing of love there could be, Sing for you and for me.



The Ark

The Coffee Morning on July raised £210 for Farming Community Network. Thanks to all who came and supported this.

The Coffee Morning in August is on **Saturday 8th, 10 to 12.**

Having seen the Facebook item from the Owlet's class and their "wish list" on Amazon, we will donate our funds to their request. Let's support our local primary school!

As usual coffee/tea/biscuits and cake stall. Do come along.

We hope you can cope with this very hot weather. Remember that the ARK is a COOL place.

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



At Okehampton Library

The library offers so much more than books. It's a warm, welcoming space with free WiFi and computer access, people to chat to, groups and activities. Enjoy a natter with other customers or have a go at our community puzzle. Refreshments are available.

Our Reading Well titles are a range of books covering physical and mental health, and include titles aimed at children and teens. And don't forget if you're housebound or struggling to get to the library, our Home Library Service can deliver not just books but a friendly chat too!

As part of the Warm Spaces campaign and thanks to a grant from Okehampton Rotary Club, customers have access to free hot drinks which includes tea, coffee and hot chocolate, as well as soup and biscuits. **We also have snack packs available for children Monday to Friday during school holidays.**

Okehampton Library has also launched a Period Pantry which is available to all who need access to free period products. Just fill in our discreet form and hand it in to a member of staff to receive your products (forms are destroyed after use).

AUGUST EVENTS

Summer Book Quest 'The Mission to Wayfarer Island' 11 July – 12 September

Libraries in Devon are inviting children to join The Summer Book Quest over the summer holidays. The Summer Book Quest: Mission to Wayfarer Island follows a group of friends as they set out to help an explorer on an exciting, transport-themed adventure. Children can participate with a mix of activities and reading and receive a special medal upon completion. The theme of transport is all about engaging children's imaginations, encouraging them to explore traditional and fantastical modes of transport and discover new ways to get outside this summer.

Children aged 4 to 11 can join the quest and set a reading goal. To complete the quest, they collect stickers for reading and participating in activities. From riding a bike, drawing a picture or writing a book review. Children have until Saturday 12th September to complete their

quests.

'The Mission to Wayfarer Island' Library Hunt: During library opening hours

Can you find all the pictures from The Mission to Wayfarer Island, hidden around the library? Free activity, donations welcome. All ages.

Transport Fun: 3-8 August During library opening hours

Tracks, roads and wheels! Have lots of transport fun with Lego, trains and cars. Free activity, donations welcome. Ages 3+

Imagination Station: 10-15 August During library opening hours

Use your imagination to draw things that can help you move and travel. Will it be a train, an aeroplane, a mythical creature, a magic carpet or something else? Free activity, donations welcome. Ages 3+

Boats and Wheels! 17-22 August During library opening hours

Colour in and decorate your own narrowboat or tuk-tuk. Free activity, donations welcome. Ages 3+

Up, Up & Away! Friday 28 August, 10:30-11:30

Come and join us to make your very own 3D hot air balloon model. Age 5+. £1.50 per child bookable through Ticketsource or the library. Check our Facebook and Instagram or posters in the library for our upcoming events.

REGULAR EVENTS - ADULTS

Okehampton Library has two meeting rooms available for you to book, so you can spread your roots and break the work-from-home cycle or deliver training and meetings in a productive and comfortable environment. Book through our website roomhire.librariesunlimited.org.uk.

Okehampton Library Book Bingo: January – December 2026

Collect your NEW 2026 bingo card, browse our display and ask for our recommended reads. After completing a square, have your bingo card stamped by library staff and move onto the next square. Repeat until you have finished your bingo card. Bring your completed bingo card into the library to be signed off - you'll also be entered into our prize draw to win a £50 National Book Token, to be drawn in December 2026 (funded by The Friends of Okehampton Library). Sign up for FREE at Okehampton Library.

Friends of Okehampton Library: Contact the library for next meeting date

Are you interested in becoming a friend of your library? Anyone is welcome to get involved and support the library, organising

or helping with events, encouraging use of the library, and supporting fundraising activities.

Read Easy: First Tuesday of every month, 10:00-12:00

Come and chat with Richard from Read Easy, the charity that helps adults learn to read. Richard would love to talk to you, particularly if you are interested to know more about what Read Easy do and/or if you would like to introduce someone to their free 1:1 and confidential service.

Knit & Natter: Fridays, 10:00-12:00

Bring along your own creative projects and enjoy some optional socialising!

Hot drinks available. Free (donations welcome), drop-in, open to adults.

Recycling for Good Causes: Okehampton Library have taken some inspiration from other Devon Libraries who are doing their bit assisting in tackling the climate crisis and we are proud to say that we have also teamed up with Recycling For Good Causes to offer a recycling point in our library! You can now drop off certain electronics, stamps, currency or jewelry at the recycling point in front of the customer service desk and these items will get sorted and recycled, whilst also raising money for our charity Libraries Unlimited.

Badges for sale

Okehampton Library now have badges for sale! Collect all of the designs to support our library. Suggested donation £1 each, all proceeds will go to Libraries Unlimited, the charity that runs libraries in Devon and Torbay.

Business & IP Centre Devon, Okehampton Hub Book a 1-1 Business Information Session

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REGULAR EVENTS - CHILDREN:

Bookmarked Young Adult Reading Challenge: January – December 2026

Bookmarked is our young adult reading challenge for 11–17-year-olds which has launched for 2026! The challenge is to read any 6 library books of your choice (including eBooks and eAudiobooks from the BorrowBox app, which you can access for free with your library card) at your own pace and earn rewards along the way. Once you've read all 6 books, you'll collect a finisher's badge and be entered into a

prize draw to win some goodies – plus, the first 30 young adults to finish will receive a free cinema ticket to a film of their choice. Sign up for FREE at Okehampton Library.

Read to a Dog: Tuesdays, 15:45 -16:45

To help and encourage children and teenagers to read, book on to a 'Read to a Dog' session with 'Rafa' who has been assessed by and is registered with Pets as Therapy (PAT). All children can benefit from this activity and are welcome, however, it is particularly beneficial to those children who find reading challenging, are worried about reading aloud in front of others or lack self-confidence and self-esteem. Each FREE reading session lasts up to 15 minutes. Booking is essential.

Bounce & Rhyme: Tuesdays, 10:00-10:20 & 11:00-11:20

Suitable for under 5s. FREE, booking essential via the library or Ticketsource.

Baby Weigh: Tuesdays, 9:00-11:30

FREE self-weigh facilities for parents to weigh their babies, are available in a screened area within the library. This is in partnership with Devon Public Health Nursing. No booking necessary.

Lego Builders: Saturdays, 9:30–11:30

Suitable for ages 5+. FREE, just drop in.

Libro's Friends

Join our reading adventure for 0–4-year-olds! Collect a FREE sticker book from the library, receive a sticker featuring one of Libro's animal friends for each visit to the library. Collect all 8 stickers to receive a certificate.

The Secret Book Quest

A completely FREE year-round reading challenge for 5–12-year-olds across Devon. To take part, children sign up in the library, read 50 library books at their own pace, and collect stickers to solve the secret code. Finishers will receive a certificate and a small prize.

Children must be accompanied to all events by a responsible adult

Please see our library website or Facebook page for any additional events and library services

discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk

Opening Hours

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

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



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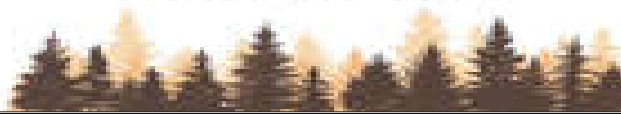
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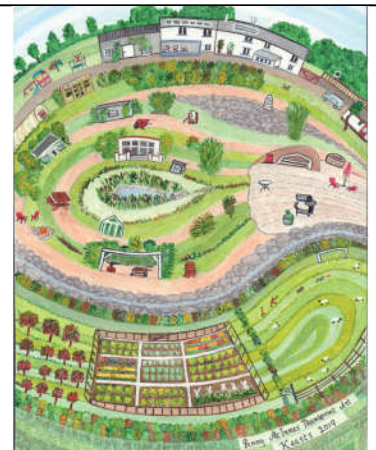
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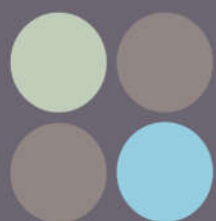
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Forthcoming Events - August 2026

SATURDAY 1ST	1PM, SPORTING GREEN, WILD WEST BRIDFEST 26
Saturday 8th	10am - 5pm, Peter Tavy Village Hall Art exhibition (on until 15th)
Sunday 9th	1.30pm - 4.30pm, Sourton Village Hall, Cream teas
Thursday 6th	7.30pm, Wheatley Park Barn, Lewdown , EX20 4OW Reading Group
saturday 8th	10am - 12 pm, The Ark, Coffee morning in aid of primary school
Tuesday 11th	12.15 for 12.30pm, Over 60's Lunch
Wednesday 12th	8pm, The White Hart, Quiz in aid of Bridestowe Scouts
Sunday 16th	1.30pm - 4.30pm, Sourton Village Hall, Cream teas
Thursday 20th	10.30am, The Ark, Thursday Morning Group
	12-2pm, Boasley Chapel, Soup and Sweet
Sunday 23rd	1.30pm - 4.30pm, Sourton Village Hall, Cream teas
Tuesday 25th	10.30am - 12 noon, The Anchorage Centre, Tavistock, Talk - <i>Images of Tavistock</i>
Saturday 29th	9.30am, Cemetery gates, Volunteer Group
	10am - 12pm, Bridestowe Village Hall, Bacon Baps



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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.