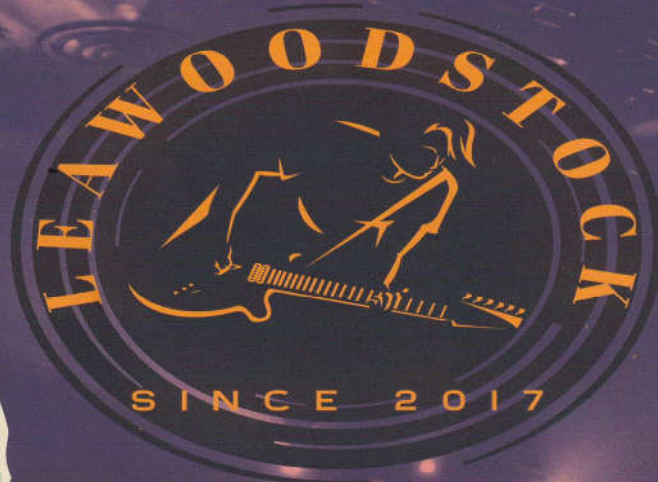


Bridestowe & Sourton Extra



Community News and Events September 2026 Edition 292



19TH SEPTEMBER 2026
4:00PM



ONLINE TICKETS £15PP
£20PP FROM 06/09/26
+BOOKING FEE



LEA WOOD HOUSE
EX204ET



IN AID OF:
MEN IN SHEDS OKEHAMPTON
AND CHEMOTIVATION

AN EVENING OF LIVE
MUSIC, FOOD AND DRINK

FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Facebook: @LeaWoodstock

Contact :01837 861203

Ticket Source: LeaWoodstock

ATTENTION !

CLEAN UP DAY ST BRIDGET'S CHURCH Saturday 12 September
9.30 to 12.00. The more the merrier! See page 5 for full details

The Vicar writes....

The summer seems to have ended no sooner than it began. It made me reflect on the passing of time, it only seems like last week I was 18 years old reading about cars and now I'm reading pension forecasts. Shakespeare's 'seven ages of man' comes to mind. It's repeated here in bold type – I've added a modern interpretation:

All the world's a stage,

And all the men and women merely players

Who forgot their lines, lost the plot, and still demand a standing ovation.

**They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages...** mostly spent complaining.

First, the infant,

mewling and puking in the nurse's arms—

Except now it's the parents who do the mewling. While the infant judges them silently from its high chair, having already developed stronger opinions on sleep schedules than most adults have on religion.

Then the whining schoolboy,

**With his satchel and shining morning face,
Creeping like snail unwillingly to school...**

Only now the satchel is a backpack the size of a small car, the shining face is lit by a phone screen at 6 a.m., and "unwillingly" means full dramatic collapse because someone dared suggest he put the iPhone down.

And then the lover,

**Sighing like a furnace, with a woeful ballad
Made to his mistress' eyebrow...**

Except the ballad is a 47-message text thread that begins with "u up?" and ends in mutual blocking. While the eyebrow in question is raised in a selfie, air brushed so heavily it no longer belongs to a human.

Then a soldier,

**Full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard,
Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel...**

Nowadays the oaths are mostly about Wi-Fi strength, The beard is carefully curated for his

Facebook profile,

And the quarrels happen in the comments section where he valiantly defends his take on jam or cream first as if the fate of nations depended on it.

And then the justice,

**In fair round belly with good capon lined,
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern instances...**

Mostly repeating things he half-heard on a podcast, while the "fair round belly" is carefully hidden behind an "Old Guys Rule" T-shirt, and his severest judgment is reserved for people who drive over 30mph.

The sixth age shifts

**Into the lean and slippered pantaloon,
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side...**

Except the pouch is a bum bag worn ironically, the spectacles are varifocal lenses he refuses to admit he needs, and he spends most of his time explaining to younger generations that music was better when it was on cassette, while secretly Googling how to open a PDF. **Last scene of all,**

**That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion -
Sans* teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything...**

Except the remote control, which he guards like a dragon, sans the ability to hear anyone under 40, sans the desire to try new restaurants, and full of the quiet certainty that everything was, in fact, better in his day - even if he can no longer quite remember why.

And so we exit, stage left, muttering about the NHS.

(*Sans is old English and means 'without')

Adrian Brook

SAVE THE DATE

St Bridget's Church

Christmas Fayre &

Coffee Morning.

Saturday 28th November

This and That

by Howard Barkell

The following are rough transcripts of an email conversation I had recently. They cover a variety of topics, the answers to which may cover new ground for some or remind others of things that had slipped their minds.

Question – Every time I walk from the Fox and Hounds down Station Road towards the Granite Way I look at the beech trees and wonder whether there was a different road in place. Towards the station there would appear to be two rows of beech trees on either side of the road as though there was a track between them before thinning down to one row on each of the field hedges. I'm led to believe that ammunition and lorries were hidden beneath these trees during WW2. They look wonderful and presumably are quite old now as branches occasionally succumb to the wind and weather.

Answer – Yes, there was a realignment, but mostly on the lower side of the bridge. When the railway was built across the road c. 1880 presumably it would have been inconvenient to have a level crossing there so it was decided to build a bridge instead. To get enough headroom for a train to pass underneath the bridge involved constructing a sloping embankment from the bend near Blackabroom gate, across the track to just about where the Granite Way now crosses the road. The old road can be seen on the right of the present road if coming from Bridestowe. You will have noticed that there are no mature beech trees along one side of the road suggesting that the Avenue pre dates the railway.

Huntin' and shootin', if not fishin' quite so much, were an important part of an estate's ability to offer suitable sport to visitors and to supply that delicacy of well-hung pheasant to the kitchen. When my mother was cook at Great Bidlake for the Drielsmas in the nineteen twenties the pheasants were hung until the maggots started to crawl! Most estates employed a gamekeeper to hatch and raise the pheasants and to control the vermin. The first house on the right while walking from Crooked Oak to Damford, once called Bramblemoor, was the keeper's tied cottage, the last one being called William Johns. His

dedicated area for raising the young birds was in the field below Cocks Heath. When he retired by the time war broke out, all his cages and runs and other essentials were abandoned in an open shed and survived for several years after. I have always understood that the double rows of trees were planted deliberately to provide cover for the pheasants once they were released.

At the beginning of WW2 a huttred army camp was built in the field below the station. The entrance gate and ramp into the field can still be seen in the new fencing recently erected. Both the British Army and from 1943 the Americans used the area from the Fox and Hounds right down to Cocks Heath and then towards Watergate, as well as the lane up from Crooked Oak as a huge ammunition dump. The double lines of trees were invaluable in hiding the piles of ammunition stored on duckboards and covered by galvanised shelters from being seen from the air. Regular gaps in the hedges are where the shelters were sited. Latterly the dumps were guarded by black American soldiers. All of the ammunition was cleared before D Day, the camp became redundant and was eventually returned to agricultural use.

Question – What question to ask first! All this is fascinating, but I'm not sure where the Crooked Oak and Damford are, let alone Cocks Heath. There is a metal plate on one of the beech trees near the station which has almost disappeared into the tree trunk it has been there so long. I have often wondered what it said.

Answer – That was the kind of response I had hoped for! If you walk along the bottom of Fernworthy Down and then continue up Yellaways Lane to station road, just across the road was a crooked oak tree, known as Crooked Oak, sometimes called Shilston's Oak after the squire at Leawood. Perhaps he planted it on some auspicious occasion. It was felled comparatively recently, probably something to do with health and safety. Incidentally, during WW2 there was a sentry box at the end of the lane, manned 24/7. The lane continues past the ruined engine house of Wheal Fanny on the left, then Bramblemoor on the right before reaching Little Cranford which was a working farm well

into the twentieth century. The lane crosses the Cranford Brook at Damford, where there is a granite clapper footbridge as well as the ford. Just below is the start of the leat, water from which was used to power the waterwheel at Leawood Mill. A weir of some sort would have diverted the river water into the leat, hence the name of the cottage there called Damford. When travelling to the village from Bridestowe Station that short, steep climb, always called Canslade Hill, maybe a corruption of somewhere Head leads to a junction signposted to Coryton and the road leading to Watergate. The letterbox which used to be on that corner was called Cocks Heath, named after the field behind it. The sign you mention marked the beginning of the ammunition dump so may have said something like NO SMOKING or Danger Keep Out.

FOSB's PHOTO COMPETITION

The five winners this year are;
Nick Hart
Wine tasting & Vinyard Tour
Kelly Green
Coffee & Cake for two
Chester Emson
2 Cinema Tickets
Marnie Douglas-Short
Family ticket for Castle Drogo
Cath Scrivener
£25 Country Lanes voucher

Anyone who would like to know whether you got them right or to find out the ones you missed, all the pictures and answers can be found in the porch of the church.
Thank you for taking part and supporting this event.

Also, a big thank you to everyone who donated the prizes for this competition.

Riverside Stores & Post Office
Bridestowe,
Okehampton,
Devon, EX20 4EG
01837 861321
riversidestores@hotmail.com



Our own Local Venison is back in stock – Riverside Game

4 x Venison Burgers (with caramelised onion)
6 x Venison Sausages (either Cumberland or Black pepper)
Minimum 2 Haunch, Sirloin or Fillet Steaks
Venison Mince
Venison Diced

Venison Roasting Joint or Hock Joint

Riverside Game is privileged to have permissions on local farmland within 3 miles of Bridestowe.

We process and freeze for freshness on day of packing within our own 5 star FSA approved larder and is available to purchase from Riverside Stores.

A healthy and sustainable alternative.

Spend over £20.00 and receive 10% discount.

Thank you for your continued support.

Michaela & Colin

Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm, Saturday 9am – 12 noon,
Sunday Closed

Jeannette Sanders died peacefully at Springfield on Thursday 27 August at the age of 95. Hers was a long, eventful life and she will be very much missed by family and friends.



CLEAN UP DAY ST BRIDGET'S CHURCH
Saturday 12 September
9.30 to 12.00

FOSB organised on behalf of the PCC
All welcome

Cake and coffee on offer

Please bring tools, gloves, garden waste
collecting bags/baskets if possible and don't
forget your coffee mug!

Hedge trimmers, strimmers will be used
during the morning.

First Aid will be available but hopefully not
needed!!

Bridfest 2026

Thank you to everyone who came to Bridfest 26 - it was a fantastic day and the support we received was incredible. The committee will be holding a wrap-up meeting shortly to confirm the charities we will be donating to this year. A full report, including the final fundraising total and chosen charities, will be published in the October BASE. Lisa and the team

A fabulous day!

The weather, the stalls, the entertainment, the whole day. Well done the organisers who worked so hard to arrange everything. We, the cake/tea ladies had a good day, raising money for the Devon Air Ambulance and Bridfest.

We sent £390 to DAAT and gave £365 to Bridfest.

Thanks to all those who baked and contributed in any way.



Tombola stall

The tombola stall did very well raising over £200 for Bridfest. Thank you, everyone, for your generous donations. The second hand book stall next door raised £88 for Bridestowe village hall funds



Our September speaker is Pamela Vass

Tuesday 15 September

2.30pm at Fairplace Church

The story of Thomas Fowler

"Local Man invents Computer"

One of the original pioneers of the computer was born over 200 years ago in Great Torrington. Thomas Fowler was a mathematical genius who had the potential to turn the history of computing upside down. Modern assessments have even claimed that computers could have been invented a century earlier because of his work.

So why are so few people aware of this humble, self-taught genius from a small market town in Devon? Tragically bad fortune and prejudice dogged his footsteps and his ground-breaking work lapsed into obscurity. Until now.

This multi media presentation includes Pamela's original research into Fowler's life and work, using video, illustrations and readings from documents of the time. This talk reveals the pride and

passion of a charismatic, self-taught inventor who was determined to succeed despite his humble origins and unorthodox path to mathematical brilliance.

It is a story of stunning resilience and ingenuity in the face of professional prejudice, betrayal and heart-breaking twists of fate.

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

Belstone Car Boot Sale Saturday 5 September

Rew Meadow, Belstone from 8.30am
The final summer sale with refreshments
Sellers £5 per car or £6 per van, buyers £2 before 10am, then 31p per car or 50p on foot or by bike.

Cream Tea In Aid of Cancer

Lymphoma
action 

At Sourton Village Hall

20th September 2026

1.30pm-4.30pm



**2 Scones, Cream
and Jam
Tea or Coffee
£7.00**

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

Fancy lending a hand?

Ring Ali Ewen 07990981826, Jenny Batten
07879253903, Ruth Humphry 07967357505

Together, we can make sure no one faces lymphoma alone.

The Grass Snake

Natrix helvetica

The grass snake is our longest snake, but don't worry if you find one in the compost heap - it's harmless! Look out for this green and yellow beauty in grasslands and wetlands, too.

When to see

April to October

Statistics

Length: 90-150cm Weight: 240g

Average lifespan: 15-25 years

Conservation status

Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981

Habitats

Grassland, heathland and moorland, farmland, wetlands and woodland.

Our largest snake, the grass snake, is particularly fond of wetland habitats, but can also be found in dry grasslands and in gardens, especially those with a pond nearby. During the summer, grass snakes can be spotted basking in the sun near their favourite ponds or swimming in the water.

They hunt amphibians, fish, small mammals and birds. Females lay 10 to 40 eggs in rotting vegetation, such as compost heaps, incubating them until they hatch in early Autumn. Like all reptiles, grass snake hibernate, usually from October to April.

The British population of grass snake belongs to the distinct subspecies *natrix helvetica*, but new research published in August 2017 proposed that it should be elevated to full species status, with the name barred grass snake, *natrix helvetica*

How to identify

The grass snake is usually greenish in colour, with a yellow and black collar, pale belly, and dark markings down the sides. Females are bigger than males.

Distribution

Widespread in England and Wales, but absent from Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isles of Scilly and most of the Channel Islands (they are found on Jersey).

Did you know?

When threatened by one of its many predators, the grass snake often 'plays dead', perhaps making itself less appealing to eat. Predators include badgers, red foxes, domestic cats, hedgehogs and a number of birds; when caught, grass snakes hiss and release a foul-smelling substance from their anal gland. **Although they may also strike with the head, they do not bite and are harmless to humans.**

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/reptiles/grass-snake>

From Oke Links magazine, Issue 56, page 31
At Andrews Corner September often provides us with a reptilian delight in the form of baby grass snakes, pencil like about 15cm long looking like miniature adults....they love the pond where they will remain motionless waiting for unsuspecting prey such as frogs newts and tadpoles; they are excellent swimmers, hunting with stealth and speed....
The large compost heaps are where they lay clutches of 10 - 30 eggs or more in July. These compost heaps are not turned, providing the ideal temperature for incubation and therefore proving a safe undisturbed habitat for these lovely, perfectly harmless, non-venomous creatures.

BEARNES
&
HAMPTON
LITTLEWOOD

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!!



LEW TRENCHARD
C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

**News from Lydford
Gorge, National Trust
Rose Cooke, Visitor Experience
Officer**



At the end of July, a National Trust photographer came to the gorge with a drone, to capture some views not usually seen. So, look out for a few of these appearing on our social media and website. He also captured some lovely shots of nature, with a standard camera, and photographed the rangers doing path maintenance and rope access work to thin out self-seeded beech trees, which can hinder the regeneration of oak trees.

I shared a lovely video of a pair of river skaters back in August, captured by our work experience students Ben and Theo. When I researched river skater mating, I found it wasn't as loving and peaceful as the footage suggests. Females can choose to block males from mating with them, so to coerce the female into mating the male taps out intricate patterns on the surface of the water thought to attract the predatory backswimmer. As the female is on the bottom of the pair, she is more vulnerable to attack from below, so usually submits fairly quickly if the male starts tapping. There is always something new to learn about the natural world, which is why I love it.

A huge thank you to everyone who has bought or donated books. We have so far raised over £13,000 which will all be used to help look after Lydford Gorge. If you have any books to donate please bring them down when we're open or get in touch as we can also arrange to collect. We're especially looking for novels and children's books, but all books, and puzzles, are welcome.

Free entry for all with Heritage Open Days in September

Finch Foundry – Saturday 12, tours at 11am, 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. Please book to guarantee entry

nationaltrust.org.uk/finch-foundry

Cotehele – Monday 14 to Sunday 20, 10am-5pm

Buckland Abbey – Monday 14 to Sunday 20, 10am-5pm
Castle Drogo – Thursday 17, 10am-5pm
Lydford Gorge – Friday 18 and Saturday 19, 10am-4.30pm
Castle Drogo's Hydro Turbine – Sunday 20, 11am-3pm

Apple day

Saturday 26 September, 11am-2pm. Come along to help us press the apples from the orchard and taste the tart juice.

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

Live music at The Wharf...

Focus

Sunday 13th September at 7:30pm

The band from the 1960/70's that just keeps giving.

Featuring Thijs Van Leer, Pierre Van Der Linden, Menno Gootjes and Udo Pannekeet,

Each song breath takingly unique, and each performance different to the one before. We have had 50 years of this amazingly spectacular show, and Focus have achieved so much in this time span.

Prog Rock | Seated+Standing

Tickets

From 6pm on the night £26.00
Adult in Advance £24.00

Lunar cycle for September

New moon **11th**
First quarter **18th**
Full moon **26th**
Last quarter **4th**



Autumnal equinox

The autumnal equinox will occur on 26 September at 1.06am BST. On this day the Sun will illuminate the northern and southern hemispheres equally, and day and night will be roughly the same length.

The full Moon closest to the autumnal equinox, which usually falls in September, is popularly called the Harvest Moon. It is thought that this name was used by historic Europeans because the light of the Moon helped farmers work late into the night harvesting crops.

Okehampton Recycling Centre

0345 155 1010



Summer opening times

April - September

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 6pm

Okehampton and District Local History Society

Wednesday 9 September at 7.30pm

Stone rows of Dartmoor

A talk by Peter Knight, exploring Dartmoor's stone rows.

Did you know that Dartmoor contains the highest concentration of prehistoric stone rows in Britain, with over 70 documented sites? Visitors £4



(photo: Merrivale Stone Row)

BRIDESTOWE

READING GROUP

Our next meeting will be on
Thursday 3rd September
at 7.30pm at Belle Vue,
Station Road, Bridestowe.



We will be discussing *Stay With Me* by Ayobami Adebayo

About the book ... *There are things even love can't do ...If the burden is too much and stays too long, even love bends, cracks, comes close to breaking and sometimes does break. But even when it's in a thousand pieces around your feet, that doesn't mean it's no longer love ... Yejide is hoping for a miracle, for a child. It is all her husband wants, all her mother-in-law wants, and she has tried everything - arduous pilgrimages, medical consultations, dances with prophets, appeals to God. But when her in-laws insist upon a new wife, it is too much for Yejide to bear. It will lead to jealousy, betrayal and despair. Unravelling against the social and political turbulence of 80s Nigeria, Stay With Me sings with the voices, colours, joys and fears of its surroundings. Ayobami Adebayo weaves a devastating story of the fragility of married love, the undoing of family, the wretchedness of grief, and the all-consuming bonds of motherhood. It is a tale about our desperate attempts to save ourselves and those we love from heartbreak.*
www.waterstones.com

About the author

Ayobámi Adébáyo` is the author of *Stay with Me*, her debut novel published in 2017 and *A Spell of Good Things* (2021)

She holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Literature in English from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife, (Nigeria), and an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia (UK) where she was awarded an international bursary for creative writing.

A Spell of Good Things was longlisted for the Booker prize. Ayobámi has written for the New York Times, Harper's Bazaar, The Financial Times, BBC, The Guardian (UK), ELLE and others. Ayobámi served as a judge for the 2024 Women's Prize for Fiction. She is married to Emmanuel Iduma, a Nigerian writer and art critic.

New members always welcome.

01566 783529

email: neil@neiledgson.com



St Thomas à Becket Church, Sourton September

From the registers:

Sunday 23rd August 3.00p.m.
Christening of Peggy Olive Heard

We welcome Peggy into the family of the Church and send every blessing on her family and godparents,

Cream Teas

Thanks to everyone who supported our cream teas and to all the helpers and bakers who made this community effort such a success for our church and village hall.

Future Dates

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

October 4th at 11 a.m.

Followed by a **BRING and SHARE lunch** in the Church afterwards

We will be decorating the church on the Saturday morning. Any gifts of flowers or produce would be welcome.

Services for September

September 6th Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

September 13th Service at Bridestowe

September 20th Morning Prayer at 9.30 a.m.

September 27th Service at Bridestowe

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

Facebook - Sourton Village Hall

BRIDESTOWE THURSDAY MORNING GROUP

will be meeting for coffee at Strawberry Fields on **Thursday, September 17th** at 10.30. The restaurant will require a final number nearer the time, so please let me know if you can come, and also if you need a lift or can offer one.

Many thanks, Ann Allan on 861551

At the Butchers' Hall, Tavistock



ALL WELCOME

RESPECT

FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL DAY 20.09.26

AND A WEEK OF EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS 12TH-20TH

ALL FREE AND EVERYBODY WELCOME!

FULL PROGRAMME HERE
+ BOOKING LINKS!



EVERYONE DIFFERENT EVERYONE EQUAL

Get involved! Get in touch!
respectfest26@gmail.com

Chat with Sian about accessibility options
Call 07773 193 704 or email sianaubrey57@gmail.com



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: on **30 September**,
talk by Jo on Tavistock Street
Pastors.

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

Bridestowe Parish Council

There will be a full parish
council meeting on
Wednesday 16 September at
7.30pm in The Ark(Methodist
Church).

The Council has a full
complement of councillors
now as Stuart Casey has been
recently co-opted.

Members of the public are
always welcome to attend the
meetings.

Ballet, Jazz and Contemporary Dance Classes

Ellodie Stott
School
For
Dance



Classes for adults & children aged 3 years +
Bridestowe- Hatherleigh - Okehampton

All abilities welcome

Also available for one-one tuition, workshops
and birthday parties

To book or find out more:

Email e_stott@hotmail.co.uk Call 07890 420493

Visit www.estott.wix.com/ellodiestottdance



RAD DOTS
BA(Hons) in Ballet and Contemporary Dance

Dance Wherever You Can

Movie Watch - August 2026

Last August we had **The Naked Gun** and not much else. This summer things have been little better. In July we had **The Odyssey**, an exceptional film we covered last month and which hopefully some readers will have taken the opportunity to catch.

But otherwise, next to nothing.

The biggest title to reach Okehampton in August will have been **Spider-Man: Brand New Day**, starring the ubiquitous pairing of Tom Holland and Zendaya.

The promotional blurb tells us that Peter Parker, a street-level hero, devotes his life to protecting New York City as a full-time Spider-Man. But as the demands on him intensify, the pressure sparks a surprising physical evolution that threatens his existence, even as a strange new pattern of crimes gives rise to one of the most powerful threats he's ever faced.

Sadly I'm ill-equipped to offer any more than that, leaving me to turn to Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian's excellent Film Reviewer. His opinion is that Zendaya saves the film and rescues it from silliness.

Nevertheless Bradshaw rates this 'an entertaining spectacle, but without the novelty of the more experimental Spider-Verse animations. A more radical reboot is needed.'

With the possible exception of **The End of Oak Street** (Anne Hathaway, Ewan McGregor), I can't spot anything worthy of note until 9th September, when the general release of **Pressure** is scheduled. Early indications suggest this one, which stars Andrew Scott, outstanding as the mischievous priest in *Fleabag*, should be good.

I briefly mentioned **Pressure** last month but to recap.....in the 72 hours leading up to D-Day, all the pieces were in place except for the usual uncertainty surrounding the British weather.

Britain's chief meteorological officer is called upon to deliver the most significant weather forecast in history, locking him into a tense

standoff with the Allied leadership. The wrong conditions could devastate the largest ever seaborne 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. Brendan Fraser and Kerry Condon also feature.

For the sake of balance, I should also mention **Practical Magic 2** (Sandra Bullock, Nicole Kidman), **The Dog Stars** (Josh Brolin), **Heart of the Beast** (Brad Pitt) and **Digger** (Tom Cruise), all of which should be shown locally during September but none of which particularly appeal to me. Check the New Carlton website for details.

One title unlikely to reach Okehampton is **Lady**, which stars Sian Clifford, brilliant as Phoebe Waller-Bridge's unhinged sister Claire, in *Fleabag*. I'd really hoped that when the superbly-appointed 40-seater Screen 4 opened upstairs at the New Carlton last year, it would lead to a more adventurous screening policy. Sadly not however as to date it's merely been used for more of the same. A wasted opportunity, I'd suggest.

The quality of television output should improve markedly as we approach the autumn. Top of that list will be the sixth season of **Slow Horses**, available on Prime Video and due to return on 16th September.

Gary Oldman, Kristin Scott Thomas and Jack Lowden star in a British spy thriller based on the acclaimed *Slough House* novels by Mick Herron. It follows an MI5 unit where disgraced or failed agents are consigned, under the supervision of Gary Oldman's compellingly awful Jackson Lamb. I make it, by some distance, the best drama currently on UK television.

I hesitate to draw attention to channels some readers may be unable to access, but would make an exception in the case of Netflix and Prime Video. Netflix is now available in over 18 million UK households, while

Prime is now viewed regularly in 14m homes. Both continue to increase in household penetration and are not far behind the old terrestrial channels, with BBC claiming 23m licence fee payers, representing a year-on-year decline of over half a million.

Meanwhile we've watched a few full-length feature films on TV this month. **Loch Ness** (Ted Danson, Joely Richardson) was shown on BBC2 and is a classic 1996 family film in which Danson's character, an American scientist, is sent to Scotland to disprove the existence of the Loch Ness Monster. Light as a feather and nothing special, this would nevertheless represent the epitome of wholesome viewing for all the family.

Following a strong recommendation, we took in a 1984 title, **The Natural**, which boasted a tremendous cast including Robert Redford, Glenn Close and Kim Basinger. A struggling 1930's baseball team soars to the top of the league when joined by Roy Hobbs, a player with a mysterious past and a bat made out of a tree struck by lightning. Certainly not Field of Dreams but perfectly pleasant, family viewing, available on Prime.

Finally, we tried **Normal**, a 2025 American action comedy in which the new sheriff of a small Minnesota town uncovers a dark secret while investigating a botched bank robbery. Starring Bob (Breaking Bad, Better Call Saul) Odenkirk and Henry (The Fonz) Winkler, this one, available on Sky Cinema, also promised rather more than it delivered.

As I write, a couple of sport documentaries have been released, covering two of football's more intriguing characters. **Mourinho** is a 3-part Netflix production, filmed over a two-year period and, as with Normal, promising more than it delivers.

'You are pushing me to speak about myself,' says Jose, towards the end of the final part. 'And I don't want to.' Which begs a rather obvious question.

On the other hand, I find Pep Guardiola a considerably more appealing character than Mourinho and **A Beautiful Obsession** (Prime), which covers the final two years of his hugely

successful time at Manchester City, alongside the break-up of his marriage, makes for a painfully honest portrayal of a driven but decent man.

A handful of tentative viewing suggestions, from various sources and in no order whatsoever.....

Widow's Bay (Apple TV)

My Brilliant Career (Netflix)

The Undeclared War (C4)

Professor T (ITV)

Last One Laughing (Prime)

Two Weeks in August (iPlayer)

The Four Seasons (Netflix)

Ludwig (BBC1)

And finally, just a gentle reminder of the existence of the wonderful Talking Pictures TV. Freeview channel 82, Freesat 306, Freely (whatever that is) 36, Sky 324 or Virgin Media 445. However you can receive it, make sure you do. It's a constant delight.

David Harrison

August 2026

Possible traffic disruption due to replacement of pole

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF
THROUGH TRAFFIC

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give
NOTICE that:

On **THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER**
(Anticipated Finish THURSDAY 17
SEPTEMBER)

Between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00

Roads affected -

STATION ROAD, BRIDESTOWE
FROM ASHLEIGH FARM TO ASHELIGH
COTTAGE

The alternative, signed, route for vehicles
will be via - STATION ROAD, FORE
STREET,

POOL HILL, ROAD FROM CROSSLANES
TO MOOR VIEW, ROAD FROM MOOR
VIEW TO SOURTON DOWN, A386,
STATION ROAD

Building a Castle

English Heritage

Saturday, 19 September

10:00 am to 3:30 pm

at Okehampton Castle

(Castle Lane, Okehampton,



North Dartmoor Garden Club

Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years – Anon

About the event - Building a Castle

Ever wondered how castles were built? Come along for this exciting workshop to find out how!

As part of the 2026 Heritage Open Days Festival, English Heritage are offering free workshops which will demonstrate, using replica models, how castles are built. From lime making and mixing of mortars, to preparation of timber, and making of floors, roofs, and doors. You will then get the chance to have a go at building an arch and section of wall with bricks and miniature trowels! These workshops are suitable for children aged 6 plus (under 16's must be accompanied by an adult) and adults.

The ruins of Okehampton Castle cover a wooded ridge above the swift-flowing West Okement river.



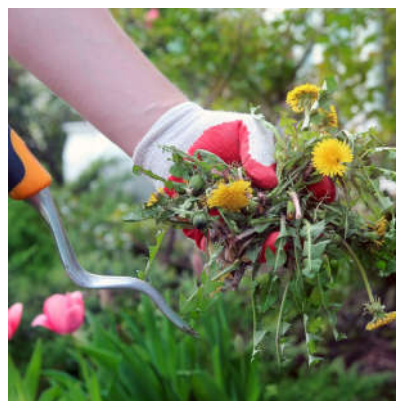
In the 14th century, Hugh Courtenay developed it into a palatial home. You can still explore the remains of his buildings, which stretch from the keep mound to the tall gatehouse. The last owner fell foul of Henry VIII and the castle was abandoned. Later its picturesque ruins became an inspiration for Turner and other Romantic painters.

To find out more about the castle, directions and parking please go to <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/okehampton-castle>

This friendly group of garden lovers – but not necessarily gardeners – starts its autumn season this September. Regular monthly meetings are held from September to April on the fourth Thursday of each month, 7.30pm, in Belstone Village Hall and we have a wide range of speakers on a variety of topics.

Members come from a wide area including Okehampton, Hatherleigh, North Tawton, Chagford and, of course, all the local Villages. The club welcomes new members, guests and visitors so why not come along? At £15 membership for the year, it is very good value for money. Visitors £4 for an evening.

The season starts on **Thursday 24 September** when we welcome back Dr Ken Thompson with a talk entitled 'Plants Behaving Badly'. Basically he'll be talking about weeds. What is a weed, why are some weeds successful and should we worry about them?



Ken is an experienced ecologist and author who spent most of his career at Sheffield University and has now retired to Devon. In 2016, he was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Veitch Memorial Medal for his contribution to the advancement and improvement of the science and practice of horticulture.

For further details contact Robin Hill 01837 840332 edwinarobinhill@outlook.com

**Tuesday 22
September at 7pm
A talk by Bill
Murray on the
subject of Eden
Phillpotts.**

Tickets are
available from the
Museum



Eden Phillpotts (1862-1960) was a prolific writer of fiction in a Dartmoor setting. He spent most of his adult life in Devon, and was a close friend of another of the county's famous literary icons, Agatha Christie, who claimed to be influenced by Eden in her early years as a writer. Phillpotts wrote 132 novels, including crime, thriller, fantasy and science fiction; 25 volumes of short fiction; 24 books of poetry; 27 plays; 14 non-fiction books; and five omnibus editions of collected plays or novel trilogies, including a series set within various industries. He published some of his mystery novels under the pseudonym Harrington Hext.

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

The Parish Council is looking for someone who would be interested in providing a quote for repairing and repainting the stone based bus stop at Sourton. If you are a local tradesperson or know someone who may be able to help, please get in touch with the Parish Council.

We are also still looking for new parish councillors. If you live in the parish and would like to get involved in helping shape the future of our community, we would be very pleased to hear from you. You don't

need to have previous council experience — just an interest in Sourton and a willingness to get involved.

Grant applications will be considered at the Parish Council's September meeting. Please note that the Council currently has only £300 in its grants budget, so unfortunately we will not be able to support every application with a lot of funding but we try and help as many as we can.

If you would like more information about becoming a councillor, submitting a grant application, or providing a quote for the bus stop repairs, please contact the Parish Council.



Boasley Chapel - Happenings in September

Sunday 6th September

Afternoon Tea 2.30-4.30pm

Cakes, Cream Teas, Company and Chat

Saturday 12th September

GARAGE SALE and COFFEE MORNING

10-12 at the chapel

Sunday 13th September 11am

Service with Peter Webb

Sunday 13th September 2pm

Forest Church with Angela Banfield at Witherdon Woods (Meet at Evergreen Farm Shop Car park).

Short Walk, with reflection, prayer and refreshments. Everyone very welcome.

Thursday 17th September Soup and Sweet 12-2pm

Slow Flow Hatha Yoga

FOR BODY, MIND & SOUL

Rolling short courses with Paul Beard (est. 14 yrs)

All abilities
welcome
including
beginners



£9 drop-in rate
£32 (block rate)
for course of 5
classes if paid at
start/in advance

Includes mindfulness and guided relaxation

A NEW 5-week course starts on Thursdays

8th September - 6th October

6.00 - 7.30pm at Sourton Village Hall

Please book your place
with Paul on 07587 226122
paul@paulbeard-smw.co.uk

paulbeard-smw.co.uk
and soulwarriors.net

"Paul is an outstanding yoga teacher whose classes have significantly enhanced my overall well-being. He creates a welcoming, non-judgemental space where you can simply do what's right for you. His gentle guidance, combined with mindfulness and breathing techniques makes the practice deeply relaxing and uplifting. I always leave his classes feeling relaxed and refreshed and highly recommend giving it a try"

All Ewen

Bacon Baps will be served on **Saturday 19 September ***
10am - 12 noon
Bridestowe Village Hall.* PLEASE NOTE ONE WEEK EARLY



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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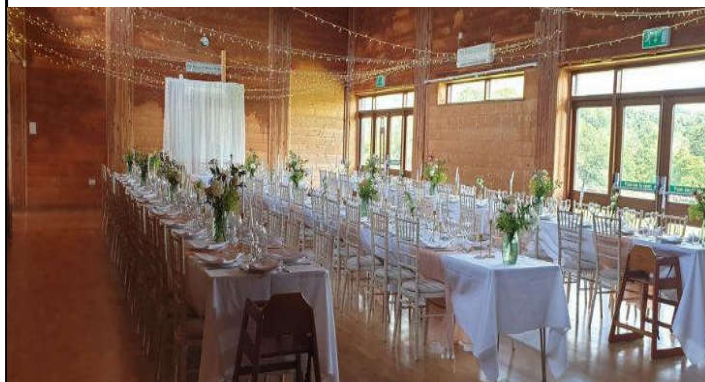
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01837 861114



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

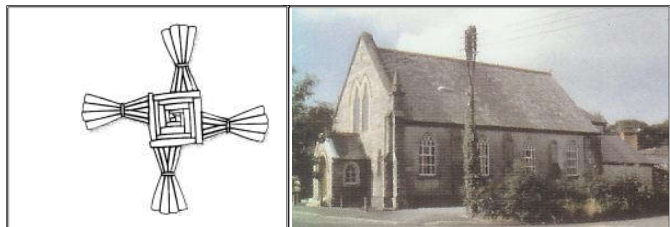
www.bridestowe.org.uk/village-hall to see prices and view the calendar for availability.

The **Bridestowe Volunteer Group** will be meeting on Saturday 29th August - too late for a report in this BaSE - and then again on **Saturday 19 September**, to tie in with refreshments at the Bacon Baps session.

As usual volunteers will meet at the cemetery gates at 9.30am.

New faces are always welcome.

Bridestowe Church Partnership



Sunday Worship for September 2026

Sunday 6th

9.30am Service at Sourton

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

9.00pm St Bridget's Church – Compline: An
Order for Night Prayer

Sunday 13th

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's
Church

6.30pm Service at the Methodist Chapel
led by BWG

Sunday 20th

9.30am Harvest Service at St Bridget's
Church

11.00am Morning service led by Rev Philip
Wagstaff Inc Sacrament

5.00pm Confirmation Service at St Bridget's
attended by the Bishop of Plymouth

Sunday 27th

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's
11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist
Chapel led by Melvin Cooke

Sunday 4th October

11.00am Harvest Service at the Methodist
Chapel led by Angela Banfield

Come and sing:

We have seven people who have expressed an interest in joining an all age singing group/choir in the village. If possible, could those who are interested come along to the Coffee morning 10-12 on Saturday 12th to work out the best day and time for everyone and how often we would like to meet. If you would like to be involved but can't come along on the 12th please message or email me. Message 07951227473 email deanmjames0@gmail.com



The Ark

The Coffee Morning in August raised £250 for the Owllet's Wish list at the Primary School. Thanks to all who supported us.

The Coffee Morning in September will be held on **Saturday 12 September**. Coffee/tea/ biscuits and a cake stall.

The charity this month will be Macmillan Cancer Support.

There will be lots of coffee mornings for Macmillan in September so come and support them with us. 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

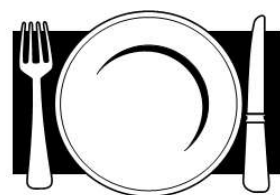
Tuesdays 10 - 12 with coffee, cake and a friendly chat, and 2 - 4, when you can play whist.

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

The Over 60's Lunch
will be held on
Tuesday 8 September
at The Ark(Methodist
Church) Meet at 12.15
for lunch at 12.30.
Please let Jennifer know if you cannot
attend. (01837 861592) Thank you





At Okehampton Library

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Summer Book Quest 'The Mission to Wayfarer Island' until 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.

'Entertainingly Different' storytime with Major Lee Wild : Saturday 12 September, 10:30- 11:30

Join Entertainingly Different's Major Lee Wild for a special interactive storytime where he'll share some picture books around the theme of journeys and exploration. Expect the unexpected and prepare yourself for some surprises and silliness as we celebrate the completion of this year's Book Quest. Free event, donations welcome.

Author Talk & Q&A with Jo Jakeman: Thursday 3 September, 19:00 for 19:15 start

Join us for an author talk & Q&A with internationally acclaimed Cornish thriller author Jo Jakeman. Tickets £5 for library members and £7.50 for non-library members (don't forget it's free to join the library!) 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 29 September, 19:00 for 19:15 start.

Join us for our rescheduled 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.

NHS Speech & Language Drop-in Session: Call the library for the date of the next session

Would you like any advice and support for your child's speech, language and communication skills? Visit this easy access drop-in session with your pre-school child to see an NHS Speech and Language therapist to get advice, support and strategies from the team.

Children must be accompanied to all events by a responsible adult

Check our Facebook and Instagram or posters in the library for our upcoming and regular events.

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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12th August at 8pm in
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12-2pm, OAPs Fish &
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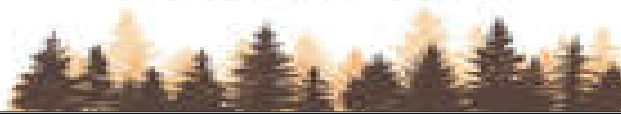
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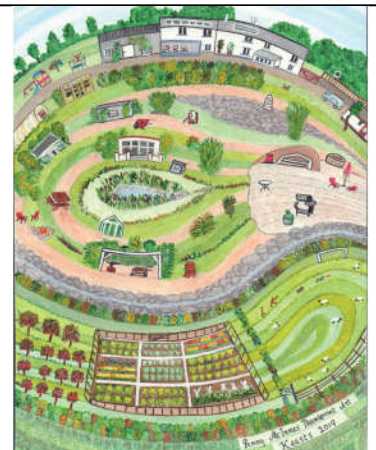
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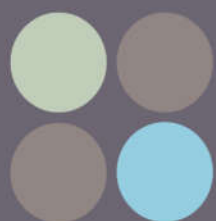
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Forthcoming Events - September 2026

Thursday 3rd	7.30pm, Belle Vue, Station Road, Reading Group
Tuesday 8th	12.15 for 12.30pm, Over 60's Lunch, The Ark, Methodist Chapel
Wednesday 9th	8pm, The White Hart, Quiz in aid of Bridestowe Scouts*
	7.30pm, Ockment Centre, Oke Local History Society talk
Saturday 12th	9.30 - 12noon, St Bridget's Clean Up Day
	10am - 12 pm, The Ark, Coffee morning - Macmillan Cancer Care
	10am - 12noon, Boasley Chapel, Garage Sale & Coffee morning
Sunday 13th	7.30pm, The Wharf, Tavistock, <i>Focus</i>
Tuesday 15th	2.30pm, Fairplace Church, u3a talk
Wednesday 16th	7.30pm, The Ark(Methodist Church) PC meeting
Thursday 17th	10.30am, Strawberry Fields, Thursday Morning Group
	12-2pm, Boasley Chapel, Soup and Sweet
Saturday 19th	9.30am, Cemetery gates, Volunteer Group
	10am - 12pm, Bridestowe Village Hall, Bacon Baps
	10am - 3.30pm, Okehampton Castle, Workshop
	4pm, Leawood House, LEAWOODSTOCK
Sunday 20th	Sourton Village Hall, Cream tea in aid of Lymphoma Action
Tuesday 22nd	7pm, Museum of Dartmoor Life, Talk on Eden Phillpotts
Thursday 24th	6.30pm for 7pm start, Lewdown Cricket Club, <i>Basic, Better, Best</i>
	7.30pm, Belstone Village Hall, N. Dartmoor Garden Club talk
Tuesday 30th	10.30am - 12 noon, The Anchorage Centre, Tavistock, Talk: Street

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* The quiz really is for Bridestowe Scouts. Apologies for wrongly listing it for last month. AY



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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.