

Bridestowe & Sourton Extra



Community News and Events October 2026 Edition 293



The White Hart Bridestowe



Charity Duck Race & Raffle
Sat 24th Oct 2026 from 1.30pm



Full Afternoon Race Card
6 Races with Commentator
Only £2 per Duck Minimum
Cash Prize for First across the line in each race

Don't drive yourself Quackers!!
Get yourself along for a fun day of
Alternative Sport and Charity Raffle
in support of
Bridfest 2027
&
Southwest Blood Bikes

Kindly sponsored by businesses and individuals from The local community

Bacon Baps!

At Sourton Village Hall
17th October
10am-12pm
Helping to Raise Funds
for Our Hall!



Fancy lending a hand?
Come and meet the
'Sourton Volunteer
Group' who help keep
our village clean and
tidy.
We would love to
welcome you!

CLEAN UP DAY - ST BRIDGET'S CHURCHYARD

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER 9.30 TO 12.00

In preparation for the Remembrance Day service, volunteers are needed to spruce up the churchyard. PCC approved and co-ordinated by the Friends of St Bridget's.

Main focus will be on the hedge (so power tools will be being used) and the gravel path.

Refreshments offered mid morning

All welcome with open arms! Bring tools, gloves and, if possible, garden waste bags.



The Vicar writes....

The A30 is a road I try to avoid in the summer, the one time I had to use it recently was a scary experience. The holiday traffic heading home was mad; really fast, tailgating, impatient. I would have thought after a week or two of holiday relaxation and a slower pace of life, everyone would be in less of a hurry, but no.

There is a saying, "You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy" it suggests that a person's origins and upbringing remain a part of their identity, regardless of where they go. Many of our sayings and folk wisdom acquired over generations of observing human nature, contain valuable understanding.

This saying suggests that upbringing and formative environment leave durable marks on character. Even if someone physically leaves a rural place ("the country"), the habits, values, speech, and instincts shaped there persist—often surfacing in preferences for simplicity, self-reliance, or a particular moral outlook, emphasizing the difference between external relocation and internal identity. As a piece of folk wisdom, it can be affectionate (celebrating rootedness) or gently teasing (implying someone remains provincially minded despite urban surroundings)

I think you could probably also say, "You can take the holiday maker out of the city but you can't take the city out of the holiday maker"

Aesop's fables are another means of passing on wisdom and morals, like this one:

A Villager, one frosty day in the depth of winter, found a Snake under a hedge almost dead with the cold. Having pity on the poor creature, he brought it home, He knew how deadly the Snake could be, and yet he picked it up and put it under his coat and sat by the hearth to warm it back to life.

The Snake soon revived, and when it had enough strength, and resuming its natural instincts, bit the man who had been so kind to it, inflicting on him a mortal wound.

The moral of the story is something like:

"The greatest kindness will not bind the ungrateful." which is similar to a Buddhist saying: "You can be full of kindness and love, but you cannot sleep next to a mad dog."

I find the Bible full of wise sayings too, many of which have found their way into everyday language: "A leopard cannot change its spots" from the Old Testament book of Jeremiah, is one example in a similar vein. It goes on to describe human nature as innately corrupt with a propensity towards sin regardless of our location, upbringing, education or any other advantage we may have in life.

Deep down we all know this to be true, just think about it. If you went to live in a perfect place where everyone lived in perfect harmony, how long would it take you to screw it up?

Adrian Brook

I disagree

Adrian. I don't believe human nature is 'innately corrupt with a propensity towards sin'. Every month as I put the newsletter together I'm struck by people's thoughtfulness, generosity

SAVE THE DATES **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

due to a clash with another event in the village, St. Bridget's Church will now be holding the christmas fayre/coffee morning on Saturday 5th December in the church at 10.00 - 14.30



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St. Bridget's will be holding a Christmas tree festival in the church between 12th - 20th December
More details on how to get involved in the festival will be in next month's BaSE or email me @ georgina.m@hotmail.co.uk

Water, Water, Everywhereby Howard Barkell

....nor any drop to drink. Admittedly Coleridge's Ancient Mariner was becalmed in mid-ocean surrounded by salt water with shipmates dying from thirst when he uttered his despairing cry, but why should the village worthies have spent so many hours discussing water when two rivers flow through the place? While looking into the river by the White Hart recently I remembered the days when we used to paddle there and play with home-made boats or tickle trout from under the banks, but it was not always thus. There was a time when the rivers were used as the village rubbish tip and drains deposited raw sewage into the water. Wednesday mornings was the time when the slaughter house behind the Royal Oak was operating and I have been told that children walking to school sometimes saw the river running red as the floors were washed down straight into the river! So although the rivers were a convenient source of water for human use they were not necessarily the healthiest place to obtain it. There doesn't appear to have ever been a parish pump and most people could not afford their own well, so other sources had to be found. One of the earliest attempts was to bring water by a leat from higher up the river Lew. A brick-built weir some way upstream from the Royal Oak diverted water into an open channel through the fields to the outlet in front of the Reading Room, which is dated 1851. Hinds Howell was the Rector at that time and had just rebuilt the Rectory, so perhaps he was glad to have water running through his ground. It may also have supplied the pond which was part of the view from the drawing room window. Another source was the well above Bridhayes. It was never a well as such but water piped from further up the hill ran into a small holding tank. Both these initiatives were privately funded, but the 1875 Public Health Act made the provision of clean water the responsibility of the local authority. It was not until 1889 that the Rural Sanitary Authority sought to improve the Bridhayes supply. The Landowner was happy to let them tap into a spring in Church Meadow, near Leawood, but the list of conditions he insisted on were not accepted by the council. They

later agreed to him upgrading the system, but insisted that the well belonged to the Okehampton Board of Guardians as custodians of public health. It was another four years before any more progress took place.

This time there were two schemes to consider, the one at Bridhayes and another, which the District Council preferred, at Pool, which was said to be just as cheap to install, but with a better supply. In the event the Bridhayes scheme was implemented. An underground storage tank was built in the field behind the well and a water main laid through the village. At first five standpipes were provided, one at Bridhayes (presently being rebuilt), one at the White Hart (demolished by army vehicles during WW2), one either side of the school playground wall (demolished during various traffic accidents before the by-pass was built) and one at Pool Hill (still in situ). The taps were fixed in arched brick houses, the front protected by a stout wooden door. The work was carried out by Frederick Dawe from Beat Down and other local men. It appears to have been working by May 1896. Once the system was expanded other standpipes were added and private householders could tap into the main at their expense and providing they complied with various regulations.

By the mid-thirties large swathes of the parish were still without running water and raw sewage was still being discharged into the rivers, but the Parish Council was reluctant to go for a joint water supply/sewerage scheme. The previous Pool scheme was resurrected and another on Diggaport land opposite Leawood Mill was mooted, but in the end the District Council won the day and opted for a scheme from Dartmoor. A licence was obtained from the Duchy to extract the water, Lemon and Blizzard of Plymouth were appointed engineers and estimates prepared. At a village meeting it was reported that the water supply would cover Vale Down and all the properties along Station Road down to the village at a cost of £2390 and the village sewerage scheme was estimated to cost £3406. Of course householders and landlords were not compelled to join either scheme. Even before work began it was found that the estimates were less than the

actual work would cost, but eventually the two schemes were sent out to tender. The first was to build an intake chamber at a spring on the unnamed stream on the col between Arms Tor and Brattor, pipe the water down to the Lyd and across and up to Nodden Gate. There a ten thousand gallon reservoir was to be built complete with lime filter. New water mains to be laid as specified. The second was to lay sewer pipes through the village to a settling tank and percolating filter at a new works near the Lime Kilns below Crosslanes. Both systems were completed in time to be officially opened in 1939.

At this time many villages still had no running water and relied on pumps or wells, but progress to alleviate the problem was delayed by the outbreak of the Second World War. Deferred from 1937 the North Devon Water Board was finally set up in 1945 and was tasked with supplying a large part of Devon with clean water. By 1947 a scheme to take water from the West Okement below Black-a-Tor Copse and pipe it to a new treatment works at Prewley was devised. This included excavating a 450 yard long tunnel to enable the water to reach the treatment works by gravity. The bridge at the head of Meldon Reservoir, the track from Vellake Corner uphill to the intake, several concrete marker stones and that long flight of steps from the river to the tunnel all date from this time. While this was taking place miles of new water mains were being laid to distribute the water around much of Devon.

On 17th March 1950 the Chairman of NDWB ceremonially fired the last charge to complete the blasting of the tunnel and once the dust had settled various dignitaries met half way along, 63 feet underground. Miners had been working since 1948 to complete the work. The cost of the tunnel was on the region of £30 000. In due course some locals, including the local Scout troop, were allowed through the tunnel before the pipes were laid and the entrances secured.

The scheme was officially opened by Mary, the Princess Royal, on 28th June 1952. Prewley was to supply 218 parishes, only 50 of which had a supply prior to 1945. Eight hundred and fifty miles of new pipes had been put in. The new main to Bridestowe was laid in the early

fifties. All the local schemes became redundant and were abandoned. The fencing around the intake and the reservoir was eventually removed but there is still plenty of evidence of the scheme's existence from the Lyd to Nodden Gate.

In less than twenty years the water situation was again critical and after prolonged negotiations and sometimes acrimonious objections permission was given to dam the West Okement at Meldon. This was the eighth and probably the last reservoir to be built on Dartmoor. Once the 55ft high concrete dam was completed water began to be impounded in March 1972 and the scheme was officially opened in September of that year. The equipment needed to pump the water to Prewley for treatment is housed in the dam itself. The drought of 1976 tested the system to its limits. Domestic water was rationed and standpipes were again introduced. Fetching water from the street in a bucket after being used to a constant supply in the home soon lost whatever appeal it might ever have had. We have been promised that with the addition of water from Roadford Reservoir in 1989 we shall never be short of water again!

Sourton Church Harvest Festival Sunday October 4th 9.30am

Giving thanks for our food and farmers.



***A warm welcome to
everyone.***

***Followed by a
'Bring and share Brunch!'***

Bridfest 26 – What a Day!

Well... what a day. Once again, Bridfest 26 surpassed all expectations and proved to be a huge success for our wonderful Bridestowe community and the surrounding villages. We welcomed around 1,000 smiling, happy people through the gates — all enjoying everything this year's event had to offer.

A Wild West Triumph

The Wild West theme was a surefire hit, with loads of attendees dressing up and getting into the spirit. From our real Wild West horses and whip-crackers courtesy of Dartmoor Riding Holidays, to the challenge of beating the Rodeo Bull time trial, and duelling with our stilt-walking cowboy, everyone got swept up in the fun.

Food, Drink & Treats

Food and drink were plentiful — and popular enough to eat and drink us dry. Visitors enjoyed:

- The local ladies' cake stall
- Hog Roast, BBQ, and Chilli
- Ice creams, popcorn, and more drinks and cocktails than Colonel Custer's army and Sitting Bull's tribe could manage

Our new Souvenir Stall did a roaring trade too, selling wristbands, balloons, horseshoes, and the obligatory Wild West moustaches and sheriff badges for those who arrived without.

Games, Races & Entertainment

The fun games, races and fancy dress competitions were a huge success once again, with special horseshoe trophies for the winners.

Entertainment was plentiful throughout the day. Our very first Open Mic Stage featured:

- Meander
- Seth Pritchard
- Pablo

They warmed up the crowd perfectly for our main bands, who did not disappoint:

- The Up
- Longshore Drift
- Headliners: The Swamp Stomp String Band — the perfect act to close the event with their romping, stomping hillbilly music and brilliant banter.

Phew. Just thinking about it all is tiring again.

Giving Back to Our Community

Thanks to the fantastic attendees who spent their day at Bridfest, we are proud to announce the local causes and charities you have all helped support. This year, Bridfest committee is delighted to donate a total of £1,000 to the following organisations:

- £500 to Bridestowe Scouts to help purchase new tents
- £200 to Bridestowe Parish Church towards essential roof repairs
- £100 to BASE Magazine to support with publication costs.

• £200 to Devon Community Network
These donations reflect the heart of Bridfest — a community coming together, having fun, and giving back.

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

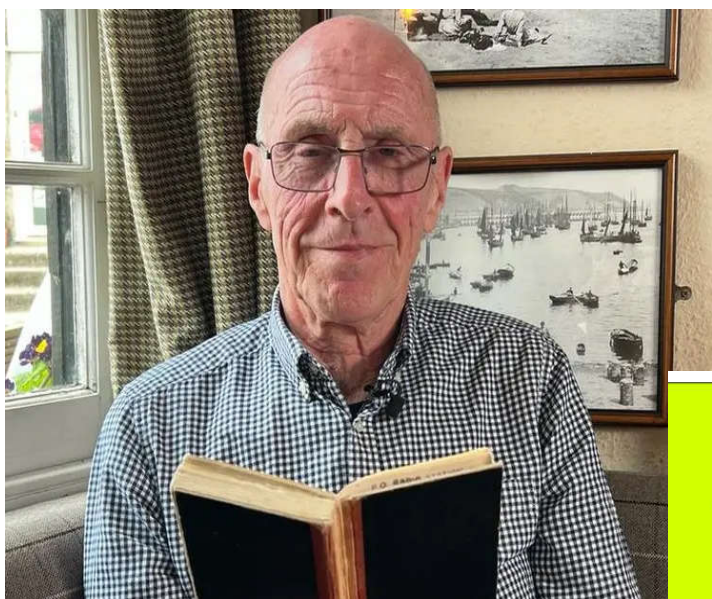
Last Tuesday: on **28 October**, talk on Dartmoor Search and Rescue (TBC)

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

Short Mat Bowls equipment rehomed.

Recently the small mat bowls equipment stored at Bridestowe Village Hall was sold to a club in Kettering. The proceeds from the sale will be used for village hall improvements.

Our October speaker is Mike Griffiths
Tuesday 20 October
2.30pm at Fairplace Church
"Listening to the Enemy"
St Erth Radio Listening Station
the "Ears" of Bletchley Park
during WWII



'Listening to the Enemy' is a book written by Mike Griffiths that was shortlisted for the Holyer An Gof Publishers' Award* in 2023 and is the basis for this talk.

The presentation explores the history of the St Erth Radio Listening Station during WWII detailing its crucial role in intelligence gathering and code breaking efforts linking it to Bletchley Park and the part it played in hunting for the Bismarck and Agent Zig Zag. Admission - £1.00 to help towards the cost of the speaker, hiring the venue and refreshments. Non members welcome

*

The Holyer an Gof Publishers' Awards is an annual competition organized by Gorsedh Kernow to celebrate books written in Cornish, set in Cornwall, or about Cornwall.



At Bridestowe Village Hall...

**BOOK A
TABLE
NOW!**



FRIENDS OF BRIDESTOWE SCHOOL

WINE & WISDOM

£30 A TABLE (TEAMS OF 6)

BOOK VIA - [BOOKWHEN.COM/FOBS](https://www.bookwhen.com/fobs)
OR TEXT/CALL 07401 444746

FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER
DOORS OPEN 7PM, STARTS AT 7:30PM

EACH TABLE INCLUDES A BOTTLE OF WINE (RED OR WHITE) & NIBBLES.
BAR WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE.

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



Our own Local Venison – Riverside Game

Riverside Game is privileged to have permissions on local farmland within 3 miles of Bridestowe, so we are able to provide local, healthy and sustainable venison. 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.

Cuts and options available are:

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

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*

Christian Response to Eastern Europe Shoe Box Appeal 2026

Do you want to donate some precious gifts to disadvantaged children ? If so, by filling a shoebox with simple things you can bring a smile to children in Ukraine or Moldova, this Christmas.

You will need to wrap your box in Christmas paper (please wrap the lid separately so that the lid can be removed without tearing the paper).

Choose a boy or girl from the following age ranges –3-5, 6-8, 9-11,12-14 or boys 15years old. (Please put a sticker on the outside to specify the choices).

Each shoebox should ideally contain:

- A card with a note from you,
- Small new toys: (CE label on soft toys and

no war toys or battery toys),

- Sweets: (no chocolate and dates on sweets March 27),

- Toiletries : Toothbrush and tooth paste, soap and face cloth,

- Stationary: notepads/ opens/ pencils/ sharpeners,

- Warm Clothing: Hats and gloves

Volunteers are co-ordinating transport and distributing boxes regardless of background or religion to children in need. There is no cost for this aspect this year.

If you would like to support this appeal by completing a whole box or donating some items please contact Jenny Batten 01822 820391 widgery23@gmail.com or Alison Ewen 07990981826 ewen.alison@gmail.com

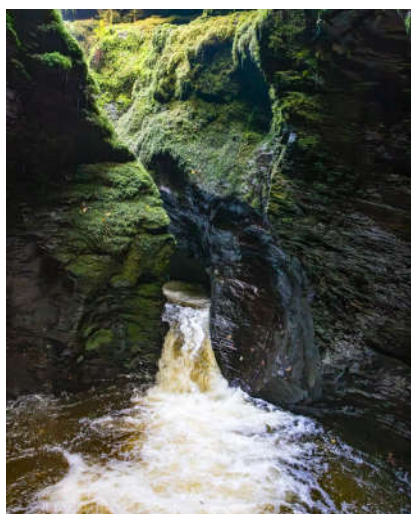
Donations need to be delivered by **October 20th.**

There was some lovely walking weather this September, if you picked the right day, I escaped to Bannau Brycheiniog for a couple of days walking, so it was much appreciated! The leaves began turning early after the hot summer but I'm hopeful that the autumn colour will continue to get better into October.

As always, you've got until the end of the October half

term to hike down to the Devil's Cauldron.

(photo) The Tucker's Pool path will shut from Saturday 24 October. We usually close one hour earlier in October, but we'll not be doing that this year so last entry will remain 4.30pm.



The rangers are recruiting for volunteers to help specifically with the orchard. They've had a few applicants so far and got a couple in for a taster day to meet the team and help pick apples for the recent apple day. They've also been busy all over National Trust Dartmoor, helping move cows at Cadworthy Farm, dormice surveys at Lydford and Drogo, dragonfly and damselfly ID training on South West Dartmoor, plus lots of far less exciting work such as fixing gates, steps, handrails and litter picking!

Stranger Folk at Lydford Gorge

Fri 2 Oct to Sun 1 Nov, 10am-4pm.

This Halloween adventure crackles with old magic. British folklore sneaks into the real world, set against the backdrop of Lydford Gorge.

Download the free Stranger Folk app to start your folklore magic adventure. Your guide, the Crone will direct you to where the stranger

folk are slipping through the cracks to stir up trouble. Gather your team, harness the elements and seal the rift between the spirit and human worlds.

You can also learn about some of the myths and legends linked to Lydford Gorge on your way. Have you heard of the Gubbins? Look out for the ghost of Whitelady Waterfall.

Opening Times to 1 November 2026

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

Second-hand bookshop 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)

~COME AND JOIN US ~



Fairtrade Community Feast

CELEBRATING FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Saturday 3rd October

7- 9 PM

OCKMENT CENTRE HALL –NORTH ROAD

**BRING A DISH TO SHARE
FAIRTRADE TALK WITH GUEST SPEAKER**

**~SHARING FOOD AND CELEBRATING OUR
COMMUNITY TOGETHER~
ALL WELCOME**

Lunar cycle for October

New moon 10th
First quarter 18th
Full moon 26th
Last quarter 3rd



Full Hunter's Moon / Supermoon:

Often occurring in late October, offering a bright, large view as it rises.

Two meteor showers in October

Orionid Meteor Shower: Earth passes through debris from Halley's Comet, producing up to 20 meteors per hour.

Draconid Meteor Shower: A smaller meteor shower that typically peaks early in the month around October 8.

Okehampton Recycling Centre

0345 155 1010



Winter opening times

October - March

Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am - 4.30pm

Quieter visit times are typically between 9-10am and after 4pm.

BRIDESTOWE THURSDAY MORNING GROUP

will be going to Strawberry Fields, Lifton for coffee and cake on Thursday, October 22nd at 10.30. Let us hope this postponed outing will not be affected by any road closures! Please let me know if you can come and if you need a lift or can offer one.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES :As agreed at our September meeting, the group's Christmas lunch this year will be at The White Hart on Thursday, December 10th at 12 for 12.30. I'll circulate the menu at our next two meetings.

Ann Allan on 861551

BRIDESTOWE

READING GROUP

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 1st October** at Sheila's, 15 Trescote Way at 7.30pm. We will be



discussing *None of This is True* by Lisa Jewell
About the book ... Celebrating her forty-fifth birthday at her local pub, popular podcaster Alix Summers crosses paths with an unassuming woman called Josie Fair. Josie, it turns out, is also celebrating her forty-fifth birthday. They are, in fact, birthday twins.

A few days later, Alix and Josie bump into each other again, this time outside Alix's children's school. Josie has been listening to Alix's podcasts and thinks she might be an interesting subject for her series. She is, she tells Alix, on the cusp of great changes in her life.

Josie's life appears to be strange and complicated, and although Alix finds her unsettling, she can't quite resist the temptation to keep making the podcast. Slowly she starts to realise that Josie has been hiding some very dark secrets, and before she knows it, Josie has inveigled her way into Alix's life—and into her home.

But, as quickly as she arrived, Josie disappears. Only then does Alix discover that Josie has left a terrible and terrifying legacy in her wake, and that Alix has become the subject of her own true crime podcast, with her life and her family's lives under mortal threat.

Who is Josie Fair? And what has she done?

About the author

Lisa Jewell's first novel, *Ralph's Party*, was published in 1999 and was the best-selling debut novel of the year. Since then she has published another twenty-three novels, most lately a number of dark psychological thrillers, including *Then She Was Gone*, *The Family Upstairs* and *None of This is True*. Lisa is a number one New York Times and Sunday Times author who has sold over ten million books worldwide and been published in more than thirty languages. She lives in north London with her husband and two daughters.
www.penguin.co.uk/authors/221468/lisa-jewell

New members always welcome.

01566 783529

email: neil@neiledgson.com



St Thomas à Becket Church, Sourton

October

Future Dates

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE with Holy Communion

October 4th at 9.30 a.m..

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

Please note change of time . Everyone WELCOME

We will be decorating the church on Saturday 3rd from 10 am.

Anyone is welcome to come and help or bring gifts of flowers or produce

Apologies to everyone. We have cancelled November Soup lunch for Sourton Church.

The next lunch will be December 6th 12-2pm in the parish hall.

Services for September

October 4th HARVEST THANKSGIVING with Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

October 11th Service at Bridestowe

October 18th Morning Prayer at 9.30 a.m.

October 25th 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





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Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the recent Cream Tea in aid of Lymphoma such a success.



Thanks to your generosity, support and hard work, we raised an amazing £1,266. Whether you baked cakes, scones, or savories, helped serve, washed up, or simply attended to support the event, every contribution was greatly appreciated.

It was a wonderful example of our wonderful community coming together for a cause very close to our hearts.

With grateful thanks,
Alison and family

Live music at the Wharf, Tavistock..

The Roy Orbison Songbook Sunday 11th October

The Roy Orbison songbook is a must see for fans of the iconic musician, as well as anyone who appreciates great music and stunning live performances. Featuring the talented vocal talents of Oliver Harris, and backed by a talented band of musicians, this tribute show captures the essence of Roy Orbison's timeless classics with incredible attention to detail.

From "Oh, Pretty Woman" to "Only the Lonely" and everything in between, the Roy Orbison Tribute Experience will transport you back in time to the golden age of rock and roll.

You'll be swept away by the powerful vocals, the dazzling instrumentation, and the sheer energy of the performance. Whether you're a die-hard Roy Orbison fan or simply looking for a night of incredible live music, this is an event you won't want to miss.

Tickets:

From 6pm on the night £23.00
Adult in Advance £21.00

Movie Watch - September 2026

The rains may have returned, accompanied by the usual autumn roadworks but, from a TV viewpoint at least, things should now be looking up.

For just the third time this year, we can recommend a film of real merit. In our opinion, **Hamnet** and **The Odyssey** were the other two, although you may take a different view. Meanwhile four of us visited a busy New Carlton earlier this month to see **Pressure**, the recently-released war drama starring Andrew Scott as the Scottish meteorologist James Stagg, alongside Brendan Fraser as General Dwight D Eisenhower.

The pair worked closely together, although not without considerable tension, to plan the Normandy landings, generally referred to as Operation Overlord, during World War 2.

That tension was only increased by the catastrophic failure of the D-Day rehearsal, Exercise Tiger, which had resulted in the deaths of over 700 American servicemen on a training exercise in the waters of South Devon. A memorial plaque can be found at Slapton Sands.

It reads, 'Dedicated by the United States of America in honour of the men of the US Army's 1st Engineer Special Brigade, the 4th Infantry Division, and the VII Corps Headquarters; and the US Navy's 11th Amphibious Force who perished in the waters of Lyme Bay during the early hours of April 28th 1944.'

The film tells a compelling story of the 72 hours leading up to D-Day, with accurate forecasts of the prevailing Normandy weather critical to the success or failure of the entire operation. Any delay could risk German intelligence catching wind of the plan. Stagg's initial forecasts suggested low-pressure storms headed for the English Channel, indicating heavy rain, cloudy skies, low visibility and high waves, all sufficient to render the invasion untenable.

However Stagg subsequently received a forecast from an independent Irish observer,

indicating a likely gap in the eye of the approaching storm. In the early hours of 5th June. Stagg briefed Eisenhower and convinced him to launch the invasion on 6th June. Privately, Eisenhower prepared two public statements, to be released contingent upon either the invasion's success or failure.

The closing credits suggest the invasion's success enabled the Allies to defeat Germany within a year. Eisenhower, in a 1961 conversation with JFK, credits Overlord's success to the fact that the Allies 'had better meteorologists than the Germans.'

The film was released in the UK on 11th September. It's a terrific story, underpinned by Andrew Scott's outstanding portrayal of James Stagg. Recommended.

Otherwise September has been generally forgettable, with the possible exception of a film providing a fresh take on Jane Austen's 1811 novel, **Sense and Sensibility**, scheduled to reach Okehampton at the very end of the month.

You know the story.....three sisters experience love and heartbreak after they're forced to leave the family estate with their widowed mother and move to a humble cottage. Daisy Edgar-Jones stars in a film that will probably require advance booking.

Looking into October, **Verity**, starring Anne Hathaway, Dakota Johnson and Josh Hartnett, is an adaptation of the best-selling novel by Colleen Hoover but otherwise I can't see anything to quicken the pulse. I should go and see **Pressure** while you can.

September was strong for returning TV series, led by **Slow Horses** (Apple TV), simply the best drama currently on television. Gary Oldman, Kristin Scott Thomas and Jack Lowden (tipped to be the next James Bond) head a tremendous cast. Occasionally violent but very funny, Oldman's Jackson Lamb is officially my favourite TV character.

We flagged the quirky **Colin From Accounts** (BBC2) when it first appeared. The third and final series of this gentle

Australian comedy-drama launched this month. If you've not caught it yet, you may choose to earmark this one as a potential winter viewing project. Just 24 half-hour episodes, spread over three series and all available on the iPlayer. The two lead performers, Patrick Brammall and Harriet Dyer, are married in real life and, I would suggest, it shows.

Another possibility for when the evenings shorten would be **The Gentlemen**, with the second season currently showing on Netflix. When aristocratic Eddie inherits the family estate, he discovers it's home to an enormous commercial weed operation, with the proprietors having no intention of walking away. A Guy Ritchie creation, with the likes of Hugh Bonneville, Joely Richardson, Ray Winstone and an impressive Vinnie Jones, well cast as the gamekeeper, all filling cameo roles. This one comprises a total of sixteen untaxing, but enjoyable, one-hour episodes.

As ever, we've received a range of diverse viewing suggestions, kindly submitted by readers, all of which should be available to view on the respective catch-up services,

Widow's Bay (Apple TV, Prime Video)
My Brilliant Career (a Netflix 6-part Australian Mini-series)
102 Minutes Inside the Towers (Sky History)
The Great Plague - The Village that Saved Britain (C5)
Saving Lives at Sea (BBC2)
Trigger Point (ITV)
The Grand Tour, with three new presenters (Prime Video)
The Great Devon & Cornwall Floods (BBC2)
Tea with Judi Dench, featuring Sir Ian McKellen (Sky Arts)
The Rainmaker (ITV)
Dolly Parton: Here I Am (BBC iPlayer)
Professor T (ITV)
70 Up (ITV1) - Michael Apted's documentary series, launched in 1964
Zero Dark Thirty - the hunt for Bin Laden. (Prime, Apple TV)
Bookish (U&Alibi)

On the other side of the programming coin, the BBC have revealed the full list of shows to

be cancelled under their on-going cost-cutting drive.

As a result, I'm afraid you'll no longer be able to enjoy the following programmes,

Ru Paul's Drag Race UK
I Kissed a Boy/I Kissed a Girl
Blankety Blank
Celebrity Mastermind
Football Focus
Live at the Apollo
Ski Sunday
The Rap Game
Upstart Crow

I don't know about you, but I think I'll manage without that lot.

David Harrison
September 2026



The family of Jeannette Sanders warmly invites you to join them in a memorial and celebration of her life to be held at Bridestowe Village Hall on Saturday 10th October at 1.30pm. All are welcome.

Tavistock Goose Fair

14 October

9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Tavistock Goose Fair is a much-loved annual event held on the second Wednesday of October. Steeped in history, this vibrant fair dates back to the 12th century and was originally a Michelmas livestock market. Its current date was set in 1752 following the adoption of the Gregorian calendar.

One of only three goose fairs in the UK—alongside Nottingham Goose Fair and Michaelmas Goose Fayre in Colyford—Tavistock's event remains deeply connected to its heritage. The name "Goose Fair" is thought to originate from the tradition of buying geese at the fair to fatten up for Christmas.

While the fair has evolved over time, it still retains its market roots. Traders line Abbey Bridge and Plymouth Road, selling everything from handcrafted goods to delicious local produce. Meanwhile, the town centre is transformed with over 200 stalls, including community groups showcasing their work.

For those seeking thrills, the Wharf and Bedford car parks host an exhilarating funfair, with 70 spaces allocated to the Showman's Guild for high-adrenaline rides and traditional fairground attractions. Visitors can enjoy white-knuckle rides like the Freak Out, classic Waltzers, and Dodgems, as well as fun houses filled with twists and turns. Younger visitors can delight in giant inflatable slides, carousels, and helter-skelters.

Beyond the rides, the fair offers a variety of side shows, where visitors can try their luck at winning prizes or simply soak up the lively atmosphere. With its unique mix of history, tradition, and entertainment, Tavistock Goose Fair remains a highlight of the year, offering something for everyone.



North Dartmoor Garden Club

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

This friendly group of garden lovers – but not necessarily gardeners – starts its autumn season in September. Regular monthly meetings are held through until 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. The Village Hall, in Belstone EX20 1RB, is easily found by following signs for Belstone from the A30 and is situated opposite the large car park as you enter the village. 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.

At our **22nd October** meeting well known naturalist John Walters will be giving a talk '*The Secret World of the Undergrowth*'. From Ivy Bees (*photo*) and Heath Potter Wasps to slug-munching Blue Ground Beetles and insect-eating Sundews, John will bring these incredible mini beasts to life through photos, video clips and field sketches. Other speakers include Yasmin Kerr on '*Hedgerow & Wayside Medicine*' and Mark Wash '*Plant Hunting in South Africa*'.

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



The ivy bee is a harmless, solitary autumn insect that feeds almost exclusively on ivy flowers from late August to early November.

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

At our last PC meeting we were asked what residents get for their precept. The parish receives £11400. For a band D property that equates to £59.57 a year or £4.96 a month.

From this we pay the clerk, maintain assets including the closed churchyard, pay for bins to be emptied, give grants to local groups and comment on planning applications in addition to other statutory requirements.

Unfortunately, due to work commitments Mr Horn has resigned and I would like to encourage you to consider becoming a councillor.

Cllr Southcott and I were appointed to the parish council by West Devon, along with Cllr Edmonds following the resignation of the previous council. This was intended to be temporary to allow the parish time to fill the vacancies. We have now been in post for nearly two years. During that time we have tried to fill the vacancies but unfortunately we have been unable to do so and with every sign that the situation will continue.

It is with regret that if we are unable to appoint enough councillors at the next meeting on **Monday October 5th** I will request that West Devon Borough Council conduct a community governance review of the parish with a view to the parish council being amalgamated with an adjoining parish.

For an application form please email parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk

Buckland Abbey has been opening its doors to visitors since 1951. In 2026, we will mark 75 years of its history, celebrating its ongoing significance within the local community and its impact on the lives of countless individuals over the decades. Through this exhibition, you'll have the opportunity to reflect on what Buckland Abbey has meant to the local community and our

visitors. We invite you to share your memories and stories of Buckland Abbey, celebrating its rich history and the special connections it has fostered over the years.

This event is free, but normal admission charges apply for the venue.

Times 11- 4pm

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/devon/buckland-abbey/events

Buckland Abbey
01822 853607
bucklandabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk



Boasley Chapel - October Happenings

Wednesday October 7th Boasley Fun and Games! 2.30-4.30pm

Come and join us for a couple of hours , with various board games, good company and refreshments... a new idea for the winter!

Thursday 15th October 12-2pm Soup and Sweet If you haven't been before, come and see what you are missing! A bowl of soup (usually 6 or 7 choices), crusty bread, puddings and tea/coffee....a warm welcome awaits. We don't make a charge but donations gratefully accepted. And our 'Showroom' is open during this time , full of secondhand treasures!

Sunday 25th October 11am Harvest Festival with Angela Banfield

Monday 26th October 6.30pm Harvest Supper Please book ahead on 01837871763 or 07841836018 or 01837861347 (Cottage Pie and Puddingswith a vegetarian option)



SAVE THE DATE!!

**Friends of Lea Trenchard School's Annual Christmas Quiz
@The Blue Lion, Lewdown
26th November 2026 - 19.30 for 20.00 start**

In aid of Friends of Lea Trenchard School. £4pp, kids free! Raffle prizes to be won and the Golden Bucket – remember your £1 coins to enter!

Winning team will receive a bottle of wine, kindly donated by The Blue Lion and FLS will receive a cash percentage of food ordered on the night

RHS Garden Rosemoor,

EX38 8PH
Great Torrington,
Rosemoor, Torrington
Ongoing exhibition until
1 November



Inspired by the ancient pathways, passing livestock and the beautiful colours and forms of trees, lichen and fauna where the artist lives, this exhibition follows a theme of Autumn. Each sculptural piece has been carefully selected to reflect this time of year near Katherine's Devon home.

Using willow sourced from Somerset, Katherine also uses foraged items found across the Dartmoor countryside: burnt gorse, dried ivy branches, lichen, and driftwood, for sculptural detailing that helps bring the pieces alive, adding a mystical quality.

Katherine says, "Creating a sculpture is like life-drawing for me, only instead of using a pencil, I draw with willow. It's a meditative process that provides me with a sense of peace and well-being. I feel that each sculpture is

successful when I start to see the character and spirit of the piece starting to come alive."

All of the pieces exhibited are for sale.
Normal garden admission applies

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RABI provides practical, financial and emotional support to farming people across England and Wales.



Our services are designed to respond to individual circumstances, offering structured, professional support when it is needed. We work directly with farming people to understand their situation and provide tailored guidance. This includes advice on benefit entitlements, access to financial support, and referrals to appropriate services, including mental health support.

Our freephone helpline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year on 0800 188 4444, providing a confidential route to access support.

<https://rabi.org.uk>

The monthly coffee morning held in the Ark is in aid of RABI. AY

Bacon Baps will be served on **Saturday 31 October 10am - 12 noon** **Bridestowe Village Hall.**



September's session was a very cheerful affair and £160 was raised for village hall funds. Ian and Dawn will be at the October session with their locally sourced meat and eggs.

If you have any books or jigsaw puzzles you want to unload, please consider donating them to our secondhandbook/puzzle table. 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.

Remember we do have a card machine.

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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

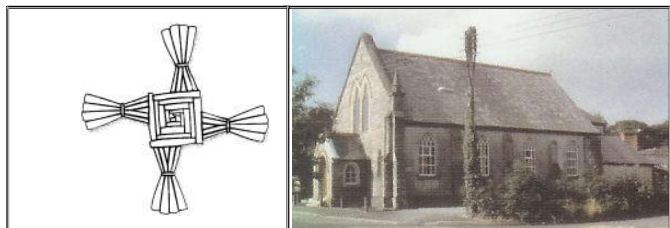
Visit the website

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

The **Bridestowe Volunteer Group** met on Saturday 19 September and despite the light rain volunteers were undeterred and concentrated their effort into tidying the cemetery hedge along the inner edge and the outer edges. Mowing around the fruit trees in the community orchard is one of those tasks that needs to be done regularly.

As usual volunteers will meet on **Saturday 31 October** at the cemetery gates at 9.30am. New faces are always welcome.

Bridestowe Church Partnership



Sunday Worship for October 2026

Sunday 4th

9.30am Service at Sourton

11am Methodist Chapel. Harvest Festival service led by Angela Banfield followed by a bring and share lunch in The Ark- All Welcome

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

Sunday 11th

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's Church

11.00am Morning service at Methodist Chapel

Sunday 18th

9.30am Morning Service at St Bridget's Church – United with Methodist

Sunday 25th

9.30am Holy Communion at St Bridget's

11.00am Morning Service at the Methodist Chapel led by Gerry Yates

Saturday 31st

5pm-7pm Light Quest at The Ark.

October 6th 6.30pm

Let's Sing! A new singing group starting in Bridestowe.

Contact Dean for more details 07951227473 or just come along to The Ark.

Harvest

From the first book in the Bible we have this verse:

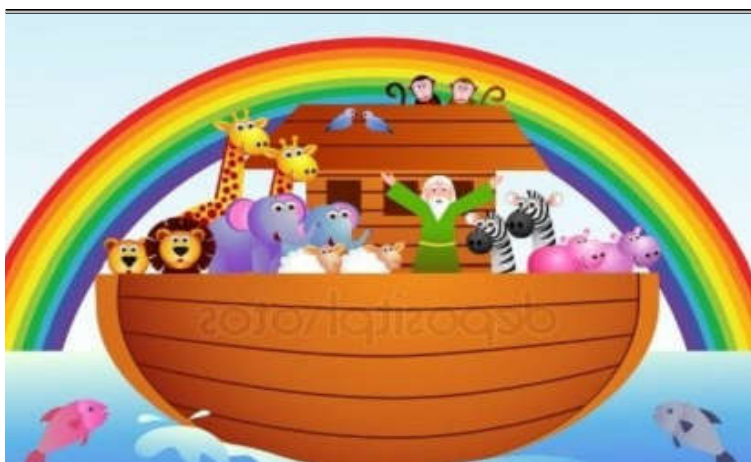
Genesis 8:22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

This verse reminds us of God's unchanging promise of cycles and seasons. Harvest is not just about crops but also about the assurance of God's provision. It highlights that as long as the world exists, God has ordained times of sowing and reaping. This assurance brings hope and stability, teaching us to trust Him in every season of life.

2 Corinthians 9:6 "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

Paul reminds us in these verses from his letter to the Church in Corinth of the principle of

generosity. Harvest is proportionate to sowing: This includes our money kindness and service to others. God promises that those who sow abundantly into His kingdom will reap abundantly from His hand.



The Ark

Sunday 4th October is our church Harvest Festival. Any gifts of dried goods (pasta, rice, cereal etc) or flowers would be welcome as we distribute to those in need.

Please hand them in to the chapel on Saturday 3rd in the morning. Thank you.

The Coffee Morning in September raised £200 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Many thanks to all who supported this.

The Coffee morning in October will be held on

Saturday 10th October 10 - 12.

As we are celebrating Harvest this month our charity is Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution. Do come and join us for Coffee Tea and Cakes.

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

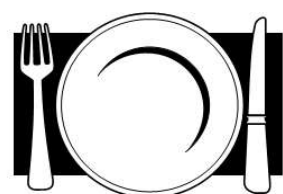
The Over 60's Lunch

will be held on

Tuesday 13 October 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





At Okehampton Library

OCTOBER'S EVENTS

Green Libraries Week Activity: 6 – 12 October
Activities to be confirmed.

**The Treetop Circus: Wednesday 28 October,
14:00 – 16:00**

Roll up! Roll up! Roll up! Count Cuckoo's Treetop Circus is coming to a woodland near you! Watch in wonder at the nimble fingered, nut-cracking escapades of Little Red the Juggler. Prepare to be astounded by the high energy hijinks of Grey-Trix the Magician. Hold your breath in disbelief at the gravity-defying aerial antics of Dartmoor's own marvellous mustelid The Flying Pine Marten...

Set in ancient woodlands, The Treetop Circus is a strange, silly, mad and magical puppet show for families, inspired by the Two Moors Pine Marten project, a conservation project that has reintroduced once native pine martens back to Dartmoor and Exmoor. Stay for a craft workshop and learn how to make your very own dancing pine marten puppet out of paper and card!

This is a relaxed performance: audience members with neurodivergent needs are welcome!

The Treetop Circus (by Flying with Strings Marionette Theatre) is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Suitable for ages 4+. Tickets in advance through Ticketsource or the library - £3 for members, £5 for non-members (each adult and child will require a ticket).

Children must be accompanied to all events by a responsible adult

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

There is not enough space in BaSE to include details of all the regular events held at the library so I intend to include just a selection each month.
AY

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.

**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.

Pickup Point for Informal and Discreet at-home HIV Testing Kits

Pick up a testing kit from a discreet area of the library. There is no criteria for a person to collect them, no forms to complete.

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

Suitable for under 5s and their carers. FREE, no booking necessary.

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.

NHS Healthy Start – Free Vitamins Collection Point

Use your NHS Healthy Start prepaid card to collect vitamins for women, or vitamin drops for babies and young children.

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Thursday	09:00-17:00
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or via email **wendyhannaford@yahoo.co.uk**



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aid of Treetops



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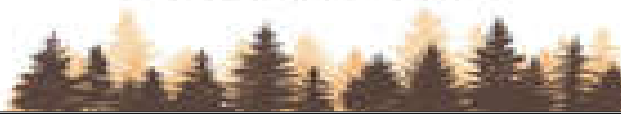
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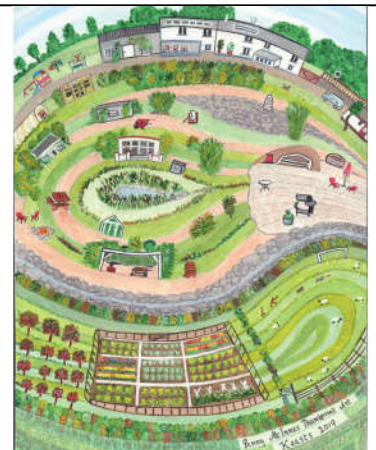
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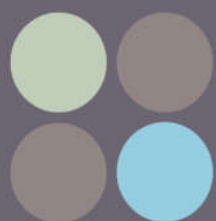
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Forthcoming Events - October 2026

Thursday 1st	7.30pm, 15, Trescote Way, Reading Group
Saturday 3rd	7pm - 9pm, Ockment Centre Hall, Fairtrade Feast
Sunday 4th	9.30am, Sourton Church, Harvest Festival
Monday 5th	7.30pm, Sourton Village Hall, PC meeting
Wednesday 7th	2.30pm - 4.30pm, Boasley Chael, Fun & Games
Friday 9th	7pm(doors open), 7.30pm start, Bridestowe Village Hall, Wine & Wisdom
Saturday 10th	10am - 12 pm, The Ark, Coffee morning in aid of RABI
Sunday 11th	7.30pm, The Wharf, Tavistock, The Roy Orbison Songbook
Tuesday 13th	12.15 for 12.30pm, Over 60's Lunch, The Ark, Methodist Chapel
Wednesday 14th	8pm, The White Hart, Quiz in aid of Treetops
Thursday 15th	12-2pm, Boasley Chapel, Soup and Sweet
Saturday 17th	10am - 12noon, Sourton Village Hall, Bacon Baps
Tuesday 20th	2.30pm, Fairplace Church, u3a talk
Thursday 22nd	10.30am, Strawberry Fields, Thursday Morning Group 7.30pm, Belstone Village Hall, N. Dartmoor Garden Club talk
Saturday 24th	9.30 - 12noon, St Bridget's Clean Up Day 1.30pm onwards, The White Hart, Duck Races
Tuesday 28th	10.30am - 12 noon, The Anchorage Centre, Tavistock, talk
Saturday 31st	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.