



PHOTO: MARK WILSHIRE/INECOLOGIST

### A PERFECT PERCH

Two young ospreys made a final stopover on the Otter Estuary in East Devon on their way to wintering grounds in Africa – almost exactly a year after a pioneering restoration project reconnected the River Otter to its flood plain.

The arrival of the juvenile ospreys reflects the huge success of the Lower Otter Restoration Project, which has significantly increased the size of the intertidal area of the estuary, providing perfect hunting grounds for these fish-eating birds of prey.

# REASONS *to be* CHEERFUL

Our monthly antidote to depressing news – a celebration of the good things happening across our county.

### EQUINE SUPPORT

A very generous donation from **Sue and Keith Hollings** from Totnes has helped The Mare and Foal Sanctuary buy a new horsebox. The charity needed £35,000 and an online appeal brought a flurry of funding – but there was still a £14,000 shortfall.

Riding to the rescue came Mr and Mrs Hollings. Sue says: ‘Keith and I got married about two years ago and we both love animals and support local charities. When we read about The Mare and Foal Sanctuary’s appeal for a horsebox, we realised how critical it was. We dropped everything, drove to our local sanctuary at Coombe Park that day, and made the donation.’

### OUR LIFE SAVERS

If taking a dip in the sea off Devon makes you nervous, head for the golden sands of Woolacombe where the **Woolacombe Surf Life Saving Club** has been awarded the accolade of Super Life Saving Club of 2024. It follows a year of success at competitions in the swimming pool and on the beach. Club members are aged from seven up. If you want to get involved check out [woolacombesurflifesavingclub.org](http://woolacombesurflifesavingclub.org)

### SCISSOR SISTERS

Two sisters who haven’t had the best start in life are being given new hope from Hair in the Community, an Exeter social enterprise which runs the free Community School of Barbering. **Abigail**, 22, and sister **Anastasia**, 21, have faced challenging circumstances throughout their lives and were separated for 11 years before recently reuniting. Supported by Exeter charity St Petrocks they are now on the way to becoming fully trained barbers.

### PLYMOUTH POET

Young poet and writer **Frankie Baldry** has been named the Plymouth Young City Laureate for 2024-25. During her Laureateship, Frankie will undertake writing commissions and will perform at events across the city. She says: ‘As a born and bred Janner, my writing is endlessly inspired by my family, my love of astronomy from nights stargazing on the moors and our shared ancient myths and legends. My aim in this role is to uplift marginalised voices within our city, in particular to champion queer and disabled youth to know the power of their words and have agency over their own stories.’



Poet Frankie Baldry. Photo: Literature Works

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