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EXMOOR NEWS

DULVERTON & SOUTHERN EXMOOR

2016 was a year of transformations, from our own Exmoor News to extraordinary changes in world affairs. As a new year starts, how about we all try and change something in our lives as well, but in a smaller way. Pick something from our pages and try something new - a new group, event or advertiser, or even start something new of your own. A New Year, a New You! Let us know how you got on. It's always great to get feedback.

We are always on the lookout for something interesting to put on our pages, our latest is an unusual job. Have you ever heard of a Wool Grader? Find out more about this rare trade on page 22. Do you have a similar story? Let us know.

Please continue to let advertisers know if you found them in our magazine - as it means we can keep providing our magazine free to you.

Best wishes

Ceri Keene and Claire Savill

We take our responsibility to maintain high editorial standards v seriously. Occasionally errors occur under deadline pressure. If you wish to complain or spot an error, please write to...

E: exmoornews@gmail.com T: 07497 914441 W: www.exmoornews.co.uk

Post: The Old Stores, Brushford, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9AH

The deadline for the March/April issue of the Exmoor News is

Thursday 2nd February 2017

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If you would like to see your photo on the cover, send us a low resolution copy and if we like it, we'll ask for a high resolution version and you too could be in print.

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EXMOOR DOES JAZZ 21 JANUARY 2016

What a night you missed on 5 November at Brushford (a different type of fireworks)!! It was the inaugural jazz session, organised by the Rotary Club of Exmoor and held in the village hall. We hope that it will be the forerunner of a regular event!! We do need your support however.

An enthusiastic audience greeted the Black Cat Jazz band, our choice for the night, and a good night it proved to be given the reaction of our audience. The first night's net proceeds are to be devoted to support of Dulverton School. Brushford Parish Hall proved to be a superb venue with excellent acoustics and an ambiance more akin to a night

club with its excellent lighting scheme. Even the group commented that as a village venue, it would be difficult to better.

Looking to the future, our next event will be on January 21 when we shall be entertained by another well-known group, The Dart Valley Stompers, led by the versatile Jeremy Huggett. Jeremy formed The Dart Valley Stompers in July 2005 with the intention of playing lively, exciting music in the New Orleans and Traditional styles of jazz. From personal experience, we know that he succeeds! The band has a six piece line-up, featuring some of the top musicians in the UK, and quickly established a great reputation in their native South Devon. Within the first three months of their existence, they recorded their debut CD entitled 'Down by the Riverside'.

Tickets will be available at the beginning of January in The Tantivy and Dulverton Post Office, and in Bampton at the Fruit and Vegetable shop. As before, advanced tickets will be sale priced at £10.00 and on the night, £12.00 on the door. So, please help us to plan ahead by buying tickets early because numbers are limited and we hate the thought of turning anyone away. A licensed bar and refreshments will be available at modest prices and the net proceeds will go to local charitable causes.

Beat the post-Christmas blues with music to lift your spirits and get you moving; oh yes, we shall make sure that there is space for you to dance.



DART VALLEY STOMPERS

New Orleans style

BRUSHFORD PARISH HALL
on Saturday 21st January
Doors open 6.45 pm
Performance begins 7.00pm

Tickets £10 in advance
Available from early January from
The Tantivy & Post Office, Dulverton
or Bampton Fruit and Veg
or pay £12 at door (numbers limited)
Full Bar Facilities Available

Organised by Exmoor Rotary Club
Help, Charity No: 112608 (all proceeds go to charity)

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present

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February 3 & 4, 2017 at 7.00pm

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THE FINE CHISEL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENT

BENEATH THE BLIZZARD

DULVERTON TOWN HALL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28th, 7.30pm



A new theatrical show for the festive season. Fine Chisel are a multi award-winning company and band based in Bristol.

For a long time, no-one has ventured above ground. An icy wind screams and drifts of snowmen haunt the streets. But down in a secret bolthole, the music beats on. A band of survivors and misfits, chancers and outcasts, dance in the dark. Fine Chisel breathe life into a fantastical troupe of rogues and rebels on the eve of an extraordinary adventure. Expect fast paced instrument swapping, and faster paced character swapping, as they burrow underground with their customary blend of playful storytelling and rousing festive folk tunes with soaring harmonies.

'An engaging company of boundless potential' Guardian

'Brilliantly produced and devised shows' Three Weeks

Suitable for children aged 8+ and brave adults.

*Tickets £9.50, students in full time education £6 from Dulverton Post Office or
phone Jan Ross, 01398 323818 or email janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk*

*Organised by Dulverton Development Forum in partnership with Take Art,
supported by Dulverton's Community Budgeting Fund.*

MOREBATH VILLAGE HALL	Forthcoming	
Registered Charity No. 207013	Events 2017	
Skittles & Social Night. Or cards, chess, dominoes and other board games if Skittles is not for you. Licensed Bar/Snacks/Draw.	Friday 27 January 7.30pm	

Morebath Yoga. Monday 10.20-12 noon Come & join us ! We would love to see you - all abilities welcome. Forward dates: January 9 - 16 - 23 - 30. February 6 - 13 - 20 - 27. For info: 01398 332334 or e.mail: rafton.mail@rockspray.co.uk		



MOOR MOVIES

WINSFORD

Tuesday 10th January

THE EAGLE HUNTRESS (U)

With stunningly beautiful cinematography and awe inspiring landscapes this film follows a Mongolian girl as she becomes the first female in generations of her nomadic family to learn to hunt with eagles.

Tuesday 24 January

I, DANIEL BLAKE (15)

In this heartfelt and emotional Cannes Film Festival winning drama a carpenter who needs state help for the first time in his life has to negotiate the nightmarish impersonal benefits system. Directed by Ken Loach.

Tuesday 14th February

BRIDGET JONES' BABY (15)

The third film in this romantic comedy series and 43 year old Bridget Jones is now single, focused on her career and pregnant - but who is the father? Oscar winning Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth and a star studded cast.

Winsford Village Hall 7.30pm

Dulverton Town Hall

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY JANUARY 14th

9.30am- 12.30pm

Calling all who have never been to Dulverton Films – free coffee and cake if you come along and experience our great state-of-art set up. Regular film-goers most welcome too!

Seating for 120, a 16 x 8 foot screen and films are shown using an NEC HD digital projector with full surround sound. A licensed bar is open before the film and during the interval. Each year Dulverton Films presents a season of selected contemporary, foreign

West Anstey Village Hall

Entertainment & Events

Coffee House Tuesday, 24th January and Tuesday 28th February 10.30 – 12.00.

Every 4th Tuesday of the month.

£1.50 for refreshments and raffle in a friendly atmosphere.

Contact Hazel Morgan 01398 341972 for transport.

VINTAGE FILM CLUB

3 pm at Fishers Mead
Community Centre
2nd Wednesday every month:

Wed 11th January

Dr Zhivago

starring Julie Christie
& Omar Sharif
(1965)

Wed 8th February

A Canterbury Tale

starring Eric Portman,
Sheila Sim &
Dennis Price
(1944)

language, documentary, classic, British and International releases from the UK and around the world with screenings twice a month from September to August.

'Dulverton Films is a great night out – we really enjoy the friendly atmosphere' quote from Tiverton resident in November 2016

Dulverton Films



BRUSHFORDPARISH HALL EVENTS

POP UP BAR Sat 28th Jan, 25th Feb
Bar-Food-Raffle from 7pm Everyone Welcome!

BOOK MART with Café

2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, first Thursday every month
Paperbacks 50p, Hardbacks £1 Tea and cake available

Coming Soon...

Live televised 6 Nations Rugby

Look out for details

For more information contact: 07941 139846 or enquiries@brushfordparishhall.org.uk



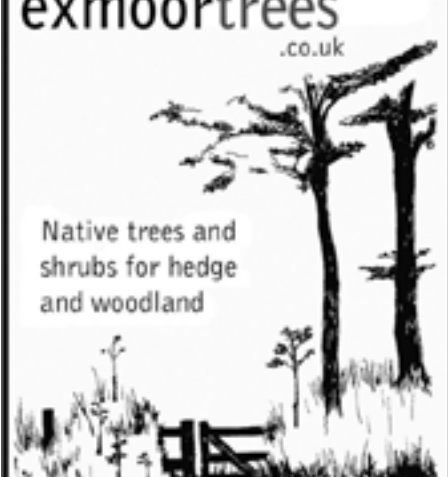
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Dulverton Town Hall

Friday January 6th

I, DANIEL BLAKE (Cert 15)

Director: Ken Loach

UK 2016

100 mins

When a 59 year old carpenter has a heart attack, he finds himself in need of state welfare. He meets a desperate single mother who needs the same thing. Together, the duo discovers that negotiating through the red tape is a challenge. With equal amounts of humour, warmth and despair, Ken Loach crafts a Cathy Come Home for the 21st century that resonates long after you leave. Heartfelt and emotional to the end.

Friday January 27th

EVEREST (Cert 12A)

Director: Baltasar Kormakur

UK 2015

120 mins

On the morning of May 10 1996, climbers from two expeditions start their final ascent toward the summit of Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth. With little warning, a violent storm strikes the mountain, engulfing the adventurers in one of the fiercest blizzards ever encountered by man. Challenged by the harshest conditions imaginable, the teams must endure blistering winds and freezing temperatures in an epic battle to survive against nearly impossible odds. Dizzying cinematography, a sense of awe, with Mother Nature giving a best performance.

Friday February 10th

BRIDGET JONES'S BABY (Cert 15)

Director: Sharon Maguire

UK 2016

123 mins

After breaking up with Mark Darcy (Colin Firth), Bridget Jones's (Renee Zellweger) "happily ever after" hasn't quite gone according to plan. Forty something and single again, she decides to focus on her job as top news producer and surround herself with old friends and new. For once, Bridget has everything completely under control. What could possibly go wrong? Then her love life takes a turn and Bridget meets a dashing American named Jack (Dempsey), the suitor who is everything Mr. Darcy is not. In an unlikely twist she finds herself pregnant, but with one hitch...she can only be fifty percent sure of the identity of her baby's father. A feel-good romcom with just the right amount of refreshing comedy, a sprinkle of slapstick and a whole lot of quirkiness.

Friday February 24th

THE BEATLES: 8 DAYS A WEEK-THE TOURING YEARS (Cert 12A)

Director: Ron Howard

UK 2016

137 mins

In the 1960s, the Beatles exploded on to the public scene. Accompanying new interviews of the remaining Beatles, their associates and fans, as well as archival interviews, this revealing film features footage of the heady concert years of 1963 to 66 when the band became a worldwide cultural phenomena with 166 concerts in 15 countries. A magical film of richness of material and of pace, plus an insight into their brotherhood, pulling together when they became international superstars. The film explores the electricity between performer and audience that turned their music into a movement - a common experience into something sublime

Tickets –Dulverton Films members £3, non-members £4.50, students, accompanied by an adult, £2.50. (Tickets may be available on the door - £4). Book in advance at Dulverton Post Office (Tel: 01398 323474) or email janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk. Bar open from 7pm.

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DULVERTON GARDENING CLUB

19th January 2017

Rebirth of Knightshayes Walled Garden

A Talk at the Town Hall 7.15pm

Refreshments available,

non-Members welcome, admission £3.00

19th February 2017,

Potato Day in conjunction with Pennard

Plants at Dulverton Middle School, Fishers

Mead. 11.00 – 2.00pm, seed potatoes,

tomatoes, onion sets and lots of other

vegetables, fruit and seeds.

Entrance free, refreshments available.

Contact Roger Hammond 01398 323954

**Thursday 9th March
at 7:00 p.m.**

Dulverton Group Exmoor Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Followed at 7:30 p.m. by
"The Lynton-Barnstaple Railway"**



A talk by Ian Cowling.

Non Members very welcome.
(£3 towards expenses would be appreciated)



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West Anstey Village Hall Entertainment & Events

**Tuesday, 10th January
7.30 pm**

Film: 'Me Before You' (12)

Emilia Clarke, Sam Claflin, Jenna Coleman, Charles Dance

A romantic comedy adapted from Jojo Moyes' best-selling novel. In a country town with a castle, we meet "Lou" Clarke who, after losing her job in a tea-shop, takes on a six-month contract to care for a young quadriplegic, who has lost hope. Her cheerful nature and crazy clothes help change his outlook and he finds life is worth living.

Tickets: £3.50 on the door

Light Refreshments available in interval

Enquiries to -1398 341 615

**Sunday, 22nd January
5.00 pm**

'Freya' – a Viking Saga

Children's Puppet Show & Workshop

A welcome return to **Angelheart Theatre**, who, with **Rattlebox Theatre**, perform an enchanting show, a delight for both children and adults. Freya, a Viking girl, is in a pickle about to become a Giant's dinner! She must escape and enlists the help of the Norse Gods. Rivalry between the Gods and the Giants is brought humorously to life.

There will also be a Workshop from 3.00 – 4.15 pm.

ADVANCE BOOKING PLEASE on 01398 341 615

Tickets (including refreshments): £8 adult; £6 child (4+);
£26 family of 4

Workshop (Age 7+): £4 per child

Raffle & Refreshments

**Tuesday, 14th February
7.30 pm**

Film: - 'Bridget Jones' Baby (15)

With Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth, Jim Broadbent, Patrick Dempsey

A dilemma for Bridget, who, having split from Mark Darcy, has a dashing new boyfriend and, when she finds she is pregnant, has to figure out who the father is.

Tickets: £3.50 on the door

Light Refreshments available in Interval.

Enquiries to 01398 341 615

Above events sponsored by Anstey Arts and Beaford Arts

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Dogwood's Production of **No Finer Life** By Graham Harvey

Luxborough resident and for 20 years the Agricultural Story Editor of The Archers, Graham Harvey, brings his new play to Dulverton Town Hall on Thursday 30th March. Graham has written more than 600 episodes of the world's longest running radio drama and his new play tells the true story of an unlikely Cotswold hero and an enduring romance.



It's set in the Oxfordshire countryside and follows a young Somerset land girl as she sets off in search of a best selling author in the darkest days of war. The story moves between the 1940s and the current day, reflecting the love of the countryside and the need to protect it.

Graham Harvey will be taking part in an after-show conversation – included in the ticket price – where he will discuss the issues in the play. . . and all things Ambridge!

The show is performed by actress Roberta Bellekom, who trained at Oxford and East 15 Schools of Drama and has credits include Miranda in The Tempest, Vaughn Williams, for BBC Radio 3, and her acclaimed one-woman show, Last Petal Falling at the Edinburgh Fringe

The show features new live music performed by award winning composer, Alastair Collingwood, composer of numerous West End and TV scores including the music for French and Saunders .

Tickets are available from Dulverton Post Office and are £9 (£7 concessions) and the show starts at 7.30pm.

The show is supported using public funding by Arts Council England

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The Minehead and West Somerset Arts Society is a small concert society which aims to bring top quality classical music and performance to our area and which is run as a charity by a handful of people, all of whom are volunteers who love good music.

Our 53rd season continues with two concerts by world-class performers:- the BSO Strings from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the Dante String Quartet.

BSO Strings from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra On Friday 27th January 2017 at 7.30pm Regal Theatre, Minehead

We are very excited to announce the visit of the BSO Strings, a twenty-four piece string ensemble, made up of members of the world famous Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. They will play well known pieces by Mozart, Elgar, Dvorak, Vaughan Williams and Barber.

Dante String Quartet on Thursday 16th March at 7.30pm Methodist Church, the Avenue, Minehead

Winner of the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Award for chamber music in 2007, the Dante Quartet is known for its imaginative

programming and the emotional intensity of its performances. The group was founded in 1995 at the International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove, Cornwall, and chose the name of Dante to reflect the idea of a great and challenging journey. Music by Haydn, Bartok and Beethoven.

Our concerts are open to all but as a society member you can make fantastic savings on tickets, saving £4 on every ticket purchased before 31 August, so a pair of tickets for each of our four concerts will save you £32! To join costs only £8 single or £12 for a couple and there's a membership form on our website.

Tickets are available only from The Regal Theatre box office in Minehead - in person, by phone at 01643 706430 or at www.regaltheatre.co.uk.

We also organise coach outings to performances of opera, ballet and music at venues such as Bristol Old Vic, Colston Hall Bristol, Exeter Great Hall and Plymouth. Details of upcoming trips and booking are all on our website.

<http://www.mineheadartssociety.org.uk/>

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Explore Exmoor on Equine

Wool Grading on Exmoor

By Brian Boundy, Senior Head Grader in the South Molton branch of the British Wool Marketing Board.

Wool Grading

Wool is graded for its quality, lower quality for insulation, medium quality for carpets and higher for garments, thread and yarn. Exmoor sheep are mainly cross breeds, mules, some exmoor horn, a handful of closewool farmers.

Local producers of the wool book in their wool to the depot, can see it being graded and talk to the grader about the clip and ask if there are any problems and how they can extract the maximum value for their clip.



Once the wool is graded a sample from each bale is taken. This is tested for micron count which is the fineness of the fibre, colour quality any contamination and yield. The grading system is vital to ensure a market for all types of wool. Last year the average price per kilo of UK wool was 85p.

It is then scoured (washed) a process in which it loses about 30pc of its weight.

All sorts of things have been found in the wool including spectacles and an iron cooking pot, knives



Brian grading at the depot (unfortunately), electric extension cables, and tools. There have even been needles and test tubes used for blood testing found in the wool.

Local Shows

Mike Berry, Depot Manager and Brian Boundy both judge fleeces and wool on the hoof at local shows. The wool is marked on quality, colour, presentation, staple strength (the staple is the wool fibre itself) and if the wool is a good representation of its breed. There is a golden fleece competition and all producers are eligible to enter via the depot or at certain shows.



Brian grading wool on the hoof at Mid Somerset Show in the summer

(continued on page 23)

The British Wool Marketing Board

The British Wool Marketing Board (BWMB) represent 45,000 farmers in the U.K. It promotes British wool through the campaign for wool whose patron is HRH Prince Charles. BWMB have 11 depots in the UK, 2 of which are in the Westcountry; South Molton and Liskeard. Last year it sold a total of £35m through auctions. The auctions are held with a click of a mouse on systems similar to flower auctions in Holland. One third of the clip is exported to China and 48pc to mainland Europe, mainly for carpeting. The South Molton depot was created in 1973 because North Molton at the time was the most densely populated area in the country for sheep. There are 3 qualified graders in South Molton and 3 apprentices. The depot handles approx. 2.5m kilos of wool per year.

Grading ensures high quality for British wool that buyers can trust. Without the marketing board many farmers would struggle to sell their fleeces. The average number of sheep per farm in the UK (and the Westcountry) is 350. Some farmers only have 10 or 15 sheep and the larger Westcountry producers have 7-8,000 sheep.

It is interesting to note that GB is home to more breeds of sheep than anywhere in the world with more than 60 varieties, New Zealand (which produces four times the volume of wool than the UK) has four.

Brian Boundy, Senior Head Grader

NB This depot covers 6 counties and the Isle of Wight

MORE GOOD NEWS FROM DULVERTON WEIR & LEAT CONSERVATION TRUST

Paddy and Sally at Woods Restaurant recently hosted a Benefit Dinner in support of the Trust attended by some 40 people which raised over £3000. The Trustees acted as assistant waiters during the dinner and we are given to understand that no plates were dropped and no plates of soup were poured into diners' laps!

None the less in spite of the skill demonstrated by the assistant waiters none of them have been offered the full-time positions for waiter in Woods which have recently been advertised.



Photo taken when Trustees Robin Ashburner and Peter Romain were given the news by Paddy and Jamie in Woods.



It gives us great pleasure to advise you that Westcountry Rivers Trust www.wrt.org.uk has joined our project as a partner. Westcountry Rivers Trust has enormous experience in improving river and riverside habitats and we look forward to receiving their input in the project.

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James Baker

With the horrific Battle of the Somme over, there was a lull in the fighting as both sides took stock.

This gives me time to commemorate some of the soldiers who died earlier in the war.

James (Jim) Baker was born to Charles, who was a farm worker and Jane Baker when they were living at Allerhayes. Later they moved to Keepers Cottage at Morebath and then to Allshires Cottage. Jim was part of a large family having five brothers and four sisters. By 1911 Jim was working as a Waggoner on the farm. He joined the 2nd Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment upon formation in August 1914 and died in the Battle of Ypres on 18th December 1914 just before the Christmas truce.

He is remembered at Le Touret Memorial.

Tony Sloley, Dulverton Heritage Centre



GHOST WRITER REVIEW

This latest production by Dulverton Players was a mystery thriller with a supernatural theme. A writer struggling to write his new play is haunted by his dead wife, determined to find out who gave her a fatal drink the year before.

Edward, the writer, has some funny misunderstandings when he is trying to speak to Ruby, his ex-wife and Glenda, his new girlfriend, neither of whom can hear each other. Ruby "helps" Edward write his play intended to uncover the murderer.

When Edward brings his actors (who are all suspects) together to read his new play, there are some comic moments when people are pushed and drinks are thrown by the invisible Ruby.

The cast obviously relished their brush with the supernatural. The effects - window flying open, gunshots, Ruby secreted under the bed, were excellent and the twist at the end was most unexpected. A ghostly tale indeed much enjoyed by the Players and the audience.

HELP TO VISIT EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK

Exmoor National Park Authority is offering small grants to groups that have not been to Exmoor before or have limited opportunities to enjoy what is special about the National Park due to lack of finances.

Grants of up to £1000 per group are available to support a visit. Groups would be expected to raise a minimum of 20% towards the costs of their trip. Applications are particularly encouraged from youth organisations, disabled users, BME (black and minority ethnic) communities and groups based in urban areas.

Tim Braund, Head of Information & Communication at Exmoor National Park says: "Exmoor is an amazing place and we are aware that not everyone has the opportunity to enjoy a visit so if you know of a group that would benefit from some help do get in touch with us on 01398 323665 or email: tpbraund@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk"

For more information visit:

<http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/living-and-working/grants-and-funding>

HELP US GIVE A DORMOUSE A HOME

Dormouse numbers on Exmoor and in many other parts of the country are in decline, so to help reverse this CareMoor for Exmoor* is launching a Winter Appeal to raise funds for 150 dormouse boxes at three woodland sites in Exmoor National Park.

Philip Kiberd, CareMoor funding officer says: "We already have some dormouse boxes on Exmoor and know that they are being used, but over the years they become damp and we need to replace them and put up many more.

"To supply, install and monitor a dormouse box costs more than £20 and every penny helps, but all donations over £20 will receive an attractive

(continued on page 28)

(continued from page 27)

'thank you' card which could be sent to someone else if you'd like to make it a gift."

The boxes provide shelter and safe nest sites for summer breeding. Most mice have regular broods, but dormice (not actually a mouse, despite the name) live much longer, around 5 years, have smaller broods and usually only one a year. A pair of dormice will usually have a brood of 4 - 6 of which maybe only one or two will survive their first year to breed themselves, making the population very vulnerable.

Patrick Watts-Mabbott, volunteer and outreach officer at Exmoor National Park says: "The boxes also make monitoring the health and population of the dormice much easier, so if you would like to help us please donate what you can and give a dormouse a home this winter."

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Donations will be welcome online via <http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/enjoying/CareMoor-for-Exmoor/dormouse-appeal> or by cheque to CareMoor for Exmoor, Exmoor National Park, Exmoor House, Dulverton, Somerset TA22 9HL or at any National Park Centre.

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(Heroes)

In November during our early morning constitutional, we stopped to pick something up as we often do. This time though she clipped an illuminant plastic disc to our harnesses. She said it was a poppy and we should wear it with pride as it represented all the brave dogs that fought in the wars.

My new buddy said he couldn't see the point until she told him how heroic he looked with it on. Changed his mind then, for a few days anyhow. Anything that adds to his charm he thought alright. He's very proud of his slick looks and his appeal to women. Says he wants to be a hero too now and is considering a career in the film industry. Watch out Rin Tin Tin! First of all she said he would have to have shots taken for a portfolio. All sounds a bit scary to me – I run a mile at the mention of fireworks.

A week later his ego took a bit of a knock when we visited North Yorkshire and he met Mistree for the first time. His usual approach (someone needs to tell him), straight to the wrong end was a big mistake. Without hesitation this big black all-woman had slapped him down in seconds. In fact his little white body was visibly part of her jaw for a moment. To add insult to injury we were told that we would be sharing the boot room with her and in went our beds and the door closed. It all turned out well though and they became great friends. He's just asked me to send her a postcard to thank her for having us and hoping that we didn't leave too much mess for her to clear up afterwards.

So he's decided to wait till after Christmas before he gets his shots taken, and get the partying out of the way. He'd better be careful how much he eats is all I can say; no one wants a fat heart-throb whereas an elderly correspondent can afford to let his harness out another notch or two.

Buster Brown (Jack Russell x-type) Correspondent.

References Jilly Cooper's Animals in War book jillycooper.co.uk
www.poppysshop.org.uk

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Bird Migration

Tuesday 10/01/2017 - 7.30-9.00pm HL

James Packer describes why many species of birds cross the Mediterranean Sea. The Parish Rooms Market Square, Somerton, TA11 7NB. For more information please contact William Murray on email william@hurcottmurrays.co.uk or phone 01458 27007. £2.50 members, £3.00 non-members gerard.keele@btinternet.com or phone 01278 769010. £1.00

British Spiders

Tuesday 10/01/2017 - 7.30-9.30pm TD

Francis Farr-Cox will give an illustrated talk on the many and various British Spiders, explaining where spiders and other British arachnids fit into the animal kingdom. St George's Catholic School, The Mount, Taunton TA1 3NR. For more information please contact Simon Briggs on email simon.briggs@somersetwildlife.org or phone 01823 270529. £3.00

Witham Park Woods

Sunday 15/01/2017 - 10.00am-12.30pm EM

A wintery walk around Witham Park Woods looking for Winter birds and viewing the knock-on effects of Larch disease. Upper Holt, on road south from Witham Friary. Park at the top of the track on the left-hand side, ST757384. For more information please contact Mick Ridgard on email mridgard@aol.com or phone 01373 463875. Adults £2.50, Children & Students £1.00

Knit for Nature and Help Protect Barn Owls Across Somerset

Somerset Wildlife Trust is excited to announce the release of its latest Knit for Nature™ pattern - Boris



the Barn Owl part of a campaign to raise awareness of the decline of much-loved Somerset species and get communities inspired to pick up their knitting needles to raise much needed funds for wildlife conservation in the county. You can get your hands on the wonderful new pattern and others from Somerset Wildlife Trust's website and all proceeds will go directly to the work they do to safeguard vulnerable species in the county. To download the pattern go to:

http://www.somersetwildlife.org/knit_for_nature

Barn Owl numbers have declined by 70% in the UK since the 1930s due to the changes in land use and loss of available nest sites and reduction of the rough grassland areas that support their small mammal prey. We have also lost around 30% of our hedgehog population since 2002 due to the disappearance of our hedgerows and permanent pasture, increase in roads and traffic and the use of pesticides amongst other things.

Share your photos and stories with us using #knitfornature on Twitter (@SomersetWT), Facebook, (@somersetwildlifetrust) Pinterest or email them to wildlifeneeds@somersetwildlife.org and we will feature them on our website.

If you'd like to send some barn owls or hedgehogs back to us, the address is Somerset Wildlife Trust, 34 Wellington Road, Taunton, TA1 5AW

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Venus and Mars put on a show for the new year

During most of January and February, Mars and Venus will be close together in the sky, a phenomenon known as a conjunction. If you look towards the South-West, low in the sky just after sunset you'll see them as two bright stars. The brightest one is Venus and will appear bluish white. The one with a reddish hue is of course Mars. On the evenings of January 31 and February 1 the crescent moon will be right next to them creating quite a spectacular show!

Conjunctions such as this are actually fairly common and it's all to do with how the Solar System formed. Astronomers believe that the planets formed out of a big disc of dust and gas that surrounded the young sun. Because the disc was flattened out by its spinning motion, all the new planets that formed orbit on a more or less flat plane. Rather like athletes running around a track each in their own lane and just like athletes, some run faster than others.

If you imagine standing on the sports field watching the race, sometimes two or three runners will appear together and at other times they'll be spread out in different directions. The planets are just the same, the ones closer to the sun such as Venus "run" faster than the ones further out like Mars. From where we're standing on the Earth, we'll see Venus catch up and overtake Mars on the inside lane.

Regardless of the science behind it, two bright planets and the moon should look amazing in the sky above Exmoor's beautiful landscape. Perhaps a great opportunity for a photo!

You can keep up with astronomy in the Exmoor

(continued on page 42)

Bampton Players Present



Beauty & The Beast

Riverside Hall
16th – 18th February 2017
Tickets available soon

(continued from page 41)

region on the Exmoor Stargazers Facebook page
www.facebook.com/ExmoorStargazers

How the sky should appear on January 31 at Dunkery Beacon looking towards Exford just after sunset. Though you'll be able to see this from any part of Exmoor with a good view of the south-western horizon.



Take your partners...

BARN DANCE

Saturday 11th.March
Dulverton Town Hall

7.30 – 11.30 pm

Dancing to:
THE VILLAGE MINSTRELS
with caller

Tickets £12. Includes hot supper
Obtainable from Dulverton Post Office

Fancy Dress is optional

In aid of:



DOUBLE DICKENS

RIVERSIDE HALL 21st January 8pm

Tickets £10 from Bampton Fruit & Veg

Adaptable Theatre bring their successful Edinburgh Fringe Show to Bampton Riverside Hall with a special celebration of the work of **Charles Dickens**. Tim Knight and Ian Pearce present **DOUBLE DICKENS**. Be prepared for laughter and tears as **DOCTOR MARIGOLD** tells of his life on the road as a Victorian salesman. Enjoy the spectacle of Mr Pickwick trying to survive **THE TRIAL OF PICKWICK**.

'Storytelling at its most wonderful' Broadway Baby Edinburgh (4 star review)

'A must see show' Edinburgh Audience Reviews
'Seduces you with its language, raises your spirits with its humour Rob Johnson for Breathe Out Theatre

Adaptable Theatre travelled throughout the South of England with their acclaimed adaptation of *Three Men in a Boat*. They also appeared in venues in Oxfordshire, Shropshire and London. Tim Knight who gives a virtuoso performance in *The Trial of Pickwick* says: 'I'm really looking forward to this one. I love small and intimate venues'. Ian Pearce who has performed in all of Adaptable's shows says: 'I always feel that we are at our best in small spaces and I'm really excited about performing in Bampton.

Each one man play lasts for approximately 50 minutes. There will be an interval of 20 minutes.



DOUBLE DICKENS WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER ABOUT LIFE!

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

Brompton Regis P.C: Mrs S Buchanan	brpcclerk@gmail.com	01984 641706
Brushford P.C: Clerk: Clive Knight,	cliveknight@me.com	01398 331917
Cutcombe P.C: Clerk: Marlene P Allinson	cutcombeclerk@btinternet.com	01643 708810
Dulverton T.C: Sec: Miss A. Rose	clerk@dulvertontowncouncil.co.uk	01398 324561
East Anstey PC: Clerk: Mrs Jill Larcombe	eastansteypc@yahoo.co.uk	01884 252647
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LOCAL CHURCHES AND CHAPEL CONTACT NUMBERS

All Saints Church, Dulverton: Rector Andrew Thomas	01398 323018
Brompton Regis with Withiel Florey, Upton and Skilgate: Rector Andrew Thomas	01398 323018
Brushford: Rector Andrew Thomas	01398 323018
Exmoor Benefice: The Reverend David Weir, The Rectory, Exford, TA24 7LX	01643 831330
Catholic Church: Priest: Father Michael	01643 702201
Dulverton Congregational Church, Chapel St: Minister:	01398 323744
The Traditional Anglican Church: Loxbear, Priest Reverend Aird	01769 581042
Exmoor Benefice Choir: Mrs B. Staples	01643 851396

ARTS

Dulverton Art Group: Sec: Mrs G Rose, 2 Stable Mews, The Square, Witheridge	01884 860495
Dulverton Camera Club: Sec: Peter Main, 4 Valley View, Morebath, Tiverton, EX16	01398 331556
Dulverton Players: Chair: Les Silverlock	01398 341850

SPORTS CLUBS

Anstey Short Mat Bowls: Chris Dale	01398 341615
Bridgetown Cricket: Sec: Mr. D. Sherring, Mid-Wicket, Bridgetown, Dulverton. TA22 9JN administrator@bridgetowncc.co.uk	
Brushford Short Mat Bowling: Sec: Mr M I Browring, Brushford, Dulverton	01398 324162
Cutcombe Cricket: Sec: Mrs Maria Adams, 1 The Beeches, Wheddon Cross	01643 841036
Dulverton Angling Assn: c/o Pat Veale, 9 High St., Dulverton, TA22 9HB	01398 323409
Dulverton Badminton Club: sec Rachel Gliddon	01398 323831
Dulverton Cricket Club: Robert Dubery	01398 323474
Dulverton Cricket Club, Colts: Mrs Christine Dubery	01398 323474
Dulverton & District Tennis Club: Yvonne Moorfoot, 3 Lamb Back, Dulverton	01398 323529
Dulverton & Exmoor Squash Club: Membership Sec: Chris Winter. chriscwin@aol.com	07710 046107
Dulverton Jnr. F.C: Sec: Mrs Christine Dubery	01398 323474
Dulverton Netball Club: Sec Lindsay Smith, 25, Nicholas Close, Brushford	01398 323834
Dulverton Snooker: Sec: Mr. D. Bodger, 39 Fishers Mead, Dulverton, TA22 9EN	01398 323899
Dulverton Sports and Social: Chair: Carl Hooper	01398 324494
Dulverton Sportsfield Management: Adrian Smith	01398 323834
Dulverton Senior Table Tennis: Richard Archer	01398 324160
Dulverton Town F.C: Sec: Mr. J. Atkins, 1 Exebridge, Dulverton. TA22 9AY	01398 323787
Moorland Hall Sports: info@wheddoncross.org.uk	
Tai Chi: Instr. Andrew Blabey RITCUGB andrewbee@tiscali.co.uk	01398 332104
Wimbleball Fly Fishers: enquiries@fishingthewest.co.uk	

PRE-SCHOOL GROUPS

All Saints School & Nursery: Head: Mr J Weedon	01398 323231 & 01398 323223
Anstey Parent and Toddlers Group: Jodie Thomas	01398 341845

SCHOOLS

All Saints C of E School - Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	01398 323231
Cutcombe C of E First School - Wheddon Cross, TA24 7DZ	01643 841462
Dulverton Junior School - Barns Close West, TA22 9EE	01398 323223
Brompton Regis Toddlers: Mrs. S. Julian, Court Place Farm, Skilgate	01398 331031
Dulverton Children's Centre - All Saints School, Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	01398 324360
Dulverton Family and Toddlers Group: Wendy Gunn	01398 324395
East Anstey Primary School: - East Anstey, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9JP	01398 341369
Little Owls Nursery - All Saints School, Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	01398 324360
Dunkery PreSchool: Supervisor: Mrs. S. Matravets, Shute Close, Cutcombe, Minehead	01643 841008

WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

Anstey W.I. President: Mrs. C Wood	01398 341472
Brompton Regis W.I. Sec: Mrs. P. Beecham, Rose Cottage, Brompton Regis	01398 371407
Cutcombe & District M.U: President, Pam Anson	01643 851616
Cutcombe & District W.I. Mrs. Pam Anson	01643 851616
Dulverton & Brushford M. U.: Mrs A. Gregory, 22 Jury Road, Dulverton, TA22 9DU	01398 323587
Exford Moorhens: Chairman: Mrs. I. Collett	01643 831016

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Bampton Scouts/Cubs/Beaver748s: Tony Weiss	01398 331901
Dulverton & District Young People's Project: Coordinator: Ms Jude Atkins	01398 324169
Dulverton Ballet: Mrs Wightmore, Flat 3, Easter House, St. Andrews St. Tiverton	01884 253999
Exmoor Community Youth Club: Organiser Laura Tasker, Fridays 6 - 8 pm	01643 831125

OTHERS

Abbeyfield House	01398 324136
Brushford Voluntary Lift Scheme: Chair: W. Gillison	07528 326880
Brushford Luncheon Club: Treasurer: Michael Willison	01398 324509
Care Direct for help and advice. www.somerset.gov.uk	0300 1232224
Cutcombe Flower & Produce Show: Sue White	01643 841142
Dulverton Action Group: Magdalena Harding	01398 323 785
Dulverton & Bampton Luncheon Club (Ex-Probuss): Organiser: Terence Dapp terrydapp@aol.com	01398 332252
Dulverton & District Civic Soc: Kathy Currie, Bramble Bank, Ellersdown Lane, Brushford, Dulverton TA22 9BH	07493 518350
Dulverton & Southern. Exmoor Twinning: Chair: Steve Ford, Dulverton	01398 323016
Dulverton Bridge Club: Sec. Brian Hughes, www.Bridgewebs.com/dulverton	01398 331219
Dulverton Dance:	01398 341850
Dulverton Ballroom Dance: Sec: Mrs Christine Dubery	01398 323474
Dulverton Development Forum: Sec: Mrs J. Ross	01398 323818
Dulverton Films: Jan Ross	01398 323818
Dulverton Fellowship for Mental Health: Marion Silverlock	01398 341850
Dulverton Gardening Club: Roger Hammond	01398 323954
Dulverton Group Exmoor Society: Sec: Dr Ken Mills	01398 331482
Dulverton Vintage Films: Magdalena Harding	01398 323785
Exford Croquet Club: Chair: Connie Heywood	01398 341556
Exmoor Patient Group: Chair: Sandra Wilson, W Nightcott, Dulverton TA22 9RT	01398 324687
Exmoor BeeKeepers Association: Sec: Caroline Ralph	01643 851622
Exmoor Community Bus Assn: Sec: Mr. G Knock, 6 Pounds Close, Brushford TA22 9AL	01398 324555
Exmoor Pony Centre: Ashwick, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9QE	01398 323093
Exmoor Pony Society: Sec: Sue McGeever, Woodmans, Brithem Bottom Cullompton, Devon EX15 1NB	01884 839930
Exmoor Rotary Club: Humphrey Berridge (PRO), Station Hse, Luke St, Bampton	01398 332324
Royal British Legion Dulverton: Peter Donnelly	01398 323030
Tiverton Model Aero Club: Sec: Mr. P Veale, 9 High St., Dulverton TA22 9HB	01398 323409
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