

# EXMOOR NEWS

FREE

SEPT/ OCT 2016



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# EXMOOR NEWS

## DULVERTON & SOUTHERN EXMOOR

The country year is jam packed with fairs, fetes, flower shows, live music, steam rallies, markets and a myriad other quirky events - none of which would exist without the goodwill of volunteers. Exmoor News would like to celebrate these 'Unsung Heroes' who elevate our lives from the ordinary, by publishing some of their background stories. We hope that by highlighting what they do, we can inspire the next generation of volunteers, so to that end, if you have a story to tell or would like to write about someone you know, email us!

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.

If you have any other stories you would like to share, please email us.

Best wishes

Ceri Keene and Claire Savill

Contact Details E: [exmoornews@gmail.com](mailto:exmoornews@gmail.com) T: 07497 914441 W: [www.exmoornews.co.uk](http://www.exmoornews.co.uk)

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

The deadline for the November/December issue of the Exmoor News is

**Thursday 6th October 2016**

Printed by Brightsea, Exeter



Cover photo: Holtball Herd 11 Exmoor ponies © Dawn Westcott, author of *Wild Pony Whispering* and *Wild Stallion Whispering* who runs the Moorland Exmoor Foal Project.  
[www.wildponywhispering.co.uk](http://www.wildponywhispering.co.uk)

**LOCAL WEATHER** Thanks to John Gregory and Ann Le Bas

**June** Total Rainfall ... Dulverton 83.8mm .. Winsford 135.5mm

Wettest Day ..... Winsford 24.1mm on 19<sup>th</sup>

Max Temp ..... Dulverton 26°

**July** Total Rainfall ... Dulverton 68.6 ..... Winsford 31.9mm

Wettest Day ..... Winsford 7.6mm on 10<sup>th</sup>

Max Temp ..... Dulverton 32°

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**JAZZ ON THE MOOR 2016**  
**Friday 2nd September**  
**All Saints Church, Dulverton**  
**7.30pm**

# LE JAZZ

Andrew Daldorph  
 Chris Gradwell  
 Mike Thorn  
 Andrew Barrett

Tickets £12

Advance Bookings: 01398 323462

On sale from 25 August: Dulverton Post Office and The Tantivy



**webbers W**

In aid of All Saints Church funds

## BRUSHFORD PARISH HALL

presents live televised BBC

# LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

**Saturday 10th September 2016**

2 course Dinner, Bar and Raffle



Tickets from Dulverton PO & The Tantivy  
 £12.50 per person. Booking Essential.  
 Book Your Table for 6 Persons, Call  
 Barbara Wilson 01398 323212



## Casino Night

**7.30 Saturday 17 September**

**Luxborough Village Hall**

**£12.50 to include gaming chips**



**and hot supper**

**Licensed Bar**



**Thursday 13th October**  
**at 7:30 p.m.**

## "OTTERS"



**Pauline Kidner,**  
**founder of Secret World Wildlife Rescue**  
**talks to Dulverton Group Exmoor Society**  
**about Otters.**

**Non Members very welcome.**  
 (£3 please to help with expenses)

Congregational Church Hall,  
 Chapel Street, Dulverton.

Refreshments provided.



West Anstey  
**COFFEE HOUSE**

Village Hall - Yeo Mill  
Every 4th Tuesday of the Month  
10.30 until 12.00

entry £1.50 includes raffle.

**SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup> and OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup>**  
SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup> Coffee House is from  
10.30 until 2 pm.

As well as the usual great Refreshments  
we will have stalls :

BRIC a BRAC - Home produce/Plants -  
Cakes - Handcrafted Gifts - Cards and more.

*Please support this event in aid of  
MACMILLAN Cancer Support*

*To book a table call  
Hazel Morgan 01398 341972*

**Dulverton Action Group** - Litter-picking  
3rd Sunday every month:  
Sun 18th Sept and 16th Oct  
10.30 meet by the Heritage Centre  
Everyone welcome!

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**West Anstey Village Hall**  
Entertainment & Events

Friday, 7th October 7.00 pm  
**BARBARELLA'S BANG BANG**

An exciting Musical Evening with a  
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Actor/Dancer/Singer Barbarella Pugliese,  
with her team of 4 classically trained  
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world of European Gypsy music, a cajon-  
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**ADVANCE BOOKING PLEASE**  
on 01398 341 615

Tickets (including supper): £14 adult; £10  
child; £45 family of 4  
Raffle & Pay Bar

Tuesday, 11th October 7.30 p.m.

FILM: - 'THE DANISH GIRL (15)

Eddie Redmayne, Alicia Markova

Award-winning Film: Director - Tom  
Hooper

Set in the mid-1920s, this is a beautiful  
and remarkable love story inspired by  
the lives of a Danish couple, both artists,  
and his realisation that he is a woman in  
a male body. With the support of his wife  
he begins a groundbreaking journey as a  
transgender pioneer.

**Tickets: £3.50 on the door**

Light Refreshments available in interval.

**Enquiries to 01398 341 615**

*Both events sponsored by Anstey Arts and  
Beaford Arts*



**The Royal British Legion**

Dulverton and District Branch BR2485  
Registered Charity No. 219279 President: Maj. H V Glyn Chairman Mr P Donnelly

**COFFEE AND CAKE MORNING**  
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**DULVERTON TOWN HALL**  
**9.30am – 1pm**  
**ALL WELCOME**



## GUILDHALL HERITAGE AND ARTS CENTRE, DULVERTON

Open from March 21st to end of October  
Mondays - Fridays, 10.30- 4.30,  
Saturdays, 10.30- 1, Sundays 2-4.30  
[www.dulvertonheritagecentre.org.uk](http://www.dulvertonheritagecentre.org.uk)

**Sunday 4th September 3pm Town Tour** A guide through Dulverton's historic past; listen to stories and learn of some secrets of Dulverton from days gone by. £2.50pp

**EXCITING NEW EVENT!!!! Thursday 8th September Heritage Open Days** - Experience a unique guided tour around one of the most prestigious private country homes in Dulverton by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Nicholson. Start with light refreshments at Marsh Bridge and enjoy a walk through the woods before ascending to Northmoor House, which was once home to HG Wills (of tobacco fame). Cost £5 per person to include light refreshments; all money raised will go towards funding the Heritage Centre and the Model Railway project. Please allow 2.5 hours and wear walking boots or stout shoes. Booking essential, please call 07969243887 or email [manager@dulvertonheritagecentre.org.uk](mailto:manager@dulvertonheritagecentre.org.uk) to book your place.



**8th – 11th Sept Holistic Art Exhibition** by local artist in the Heritage Centre Gallery. Free admission!

**Tuesday 13th September 4pm Town Tour** A guide through Dulverton's historic past; listen to stories and learn of some secrets of Dulverton from days gone by. £2.50pp

**Sunday 18th September 3pm Town Tour** A guide through Dulverton's historic past; listen to stories and learn of some secrets of Dulverton from days gone by. £2.50pp

**Wednesday 28th September at 3pm - A Devon & Somerset Railway Ramble** Meet at Brushford Village Bus Shelter for a stroll along the route to the viaduct at Exebridge encompassing The Old Goods Shed, the Old Station, Goodlands, and the Carnarvon Arms Hotel. Special permission has been sought – ordinarily no public access. Walking boots or substantial shoes needed. Duration approx 2 hours and £2.50 pp.

**Sunday 25th Sept – Saturday 1st Oct Autumn Art Exhibition – Dulverton Art Group**

**Friday 30th September 10.30am – 4pm Book Sale** for Railway and Heritage Centre Funds at Dulverton Heritage Centre (weather permitting)

**Sunday 9th October 3pm Town Tour** A guide through Dulverton's historic past; listen to stories and learn of some secrets of Dulverton from days gone by. £2.50pp

**Wednesday 12th October 3.30pm Talk** by Richard Eales – ENPA Ranger on The Red Deer of Exmoor.



**Thursday 22nd September  
at 7:30 p.m.**

### ***"Mining and Mystery of Wheal Eliza"***

**Rob Wilson-North, Conservation  
Manager Exmoor National Park,  
talks to Dulverton Group Exmoor Society  
about the 19th century copper mine  
by the River Barle near Simonsbath.**

**Non Members very welcome.**  
(£3 please to help with expenses)

Congregational Church Hall,  
Chapel Street, Dulverton.

Refreshments provided.



# BRUSHFORD PARISH HALL INDEPENDENT MARKET

## Local Produce & Craft Fair

**Saturday 1st October**  
**11am - 2pm**  
**Free Entry**  
**Light Refreshments**

To book a table contact: 07941 139846 or  
enquiries@brushfordparishhall.org.uk

### THE DEVON AND SOMERSET RAILWAY The Taunton to Barnstaple Line



A detailed history to be published in 2 volumes  
**By Freddie Huxtable**

Volume 1 to be published in October 2016  
Events 1st October 2016

10.30-12 noon South Molton Museum  
1-3pm Brushford Village Hall

3.30-5pm Dulverton Heritage Centre -TBC  
7pm Talk and questions at Brushford Village Hall.

For more information about the book launch or  
other enquiries please go to  
[www.devonandsomerset railway.co.uk](http://www.devonandsomerset railway.co.uk)  
or call 07768838173

# MOOR MOVIES

WINSFORD

Tuesday 13th September

## FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS (PG)

During WW2 this New York heiress dreams of being an opera singer, despite having a truly terrible singing voice! Comedy/light drama starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant.

Tuesday 11th October

## OUR KIND OF TRAITOR (15)

Thriller based on John Le Carre's novel about a couple on holiday who find themselves lured into a Russian Oligarch's plans to defect. Starring Ewan McGregor, Naomi Harris and Damian Lewis.

Winsford Village Hall 7.30 p.m

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## Unsung Heroes

### Brushford Volunteer Drivers

For many years now Brushford has been very active in organising lifts for those residents who find it difficult to manage their own transport needs. The major use of the service is for medical appointments either locally or to hospitals in Taunton, Exeter or Minehead, although we will consider any request which benefits our clients. Drivers, who all operate on an entirely voluntary basis, are managed by a coordinator. Although the cost of fuel is re-imbursed to drivers their time is 'donated'. Somerset County Council helps towards the funding of fuel by contributing up to 50% of the cost for return journeys not exceeding 50 miles (providing the passenger holds a concessionary bus pass).

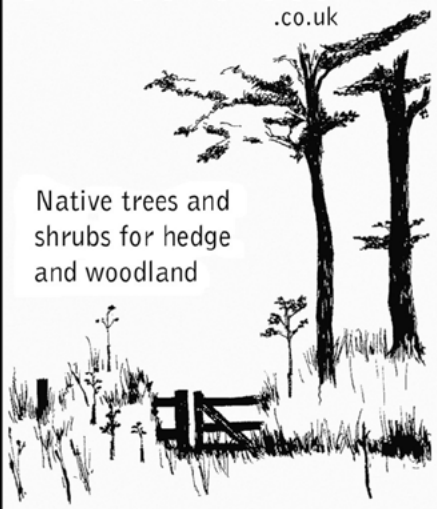
As a volunteer driver you will be contacted by the co-ordinator, usually by email, with requests from 'customers' to go a specific location on a specific date and time. There is no pressure to do any specific number of journeys - just offer to do the trips you feel able to do.

We rely heavily on attracting volunteer drivers from the Brushford / Dulverton areas so if you feel you are able to help by donating a little time each month then please leave your contact details on [07528 326880](tel:07528326880) or by emailing on [sandw@gillison.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:sandw@gillison.eclipse.co.uk). The only requirements are having your own transport and being willing to have a DBS check carried out.

As volunteer drivers of many years we can honestly say it is not arduous and it is good to meet up with like-minded people and contribute to the wider community.


*On behalf of Brushford Voluntary Drivers*

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**EXMOOR**



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Meets on the last Wednesday of the month  
at Fishers Mead Community Centre,  
Dulverton  
(adjacent to Exmoor Medical Centre)  
10.15 to 10.30 am

Meeting Wednesday 28th September  
**'Dulverton Characters'**  
**a talk by Paul Haslam**

Meeting Wednesday 26th October  
**'History of Stratton Powder Compacts'**  
**A talk by Linda Hammond**

*Non Members welcome £2.00*  
*Further details : Yvonne Moorfoot 01398 323529*

**Hear about 'Exmoor's Moorland – Where Next?' at the Exmoor Society Annual General Meeting 2016**



It is now twelve years since The Exmoor Society published the 'Moorlands at a Crossroads' report which it had commissioned to support the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the designation of Exmoor National Park. The report identified that the special qualities of the moorland, which had been the primary reason for the designation, were undervalued and in a fragile condition; and it highlighted that appropriate agricultural management by grazing and burning faced an uncertain future.

The same author, Robert Deane, has just completed a new report Exmoor's Moorland – Where Next? to determine what has been achieved twelve years on and what challenges are still to be faced.

It shows that there have been many successes and, although the moorland faces significant changes, it sets out a clear ten-year agenda for dealing with issues arising as there is much good practice, new opportunities and a passion to secure Exmoor's future.

The Exmoor Society is holding its 2016

Annual General Meeting on Saturday 17th September at Porlock Village Hall where the speaker will be Robert Deane presenting his updated report.

You can download the full report at [exmoorsociety.com](http://exmoorsociety.com), or contact the Society at 34 High Street, Dulverton TA22 9HQ 01398 323822 [info@exmoorsociety.com](mailto:info@exmoorsociety.com) to order a hard copy, price £10 inc p&p.



**15th September Grafting and pruning.**

A talk by Alan Leaman on when and how to prune a variety of plants. A detailed leaflet will be available to take away.

**19th October (Wednesday) Stourhead.**

A visit to this National Trust property to see the stunning autumnal colours. An informative guided tour around the garden has been arranged.

**20th October. Wildlife Gardening.**

A welcome return by Paul Fonnereau of Cove Nursery who will talk on plants that attract bees and wildlife into the garden. A selection of plants will be available for sale on the night.

Contact Roger Hammond 01398 323954

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## Dulverton Town Hall

**Friday September 9th****YOUTH 15 (Cert 15)****Director: Paulo Sorrentino****UK 2016****124 mins**

Two old friends are on holiday in an elegant hotel in the Swiss Alps. Oscar-winning actor Michael Caine plays Fred, an acclaimed composer and conductor, who brings along his daughter (Rachel Weisz) and best friend Mick (Harvey Keitel), a renowned filmmaker. While Mick scrambles to finish the screenplay for what he imagines will be his last important film, Fred has no intention of resuming his musical career, but he receives an invitation from the Queen to conduct again. The two men reflect on their past, each finding that some of the most important experiences can come later in life. A visual delight, beautifully acted.

**Friday September 23rd****SUNSET SONG (Cert 15)****Director: Terence Davies****UK 2015****135 mins**

An intimate epic of hope, tragedy and love at the dawning of the Great War. A young woman's endurance against the hardships of rural Scottish life with the conflicts and choices a young woman experiences reflecting the struggle between tradition and change; a struggle that continues to resonate today. Set in a rural community, the young heroine Chris has an intense passion for life, for the unsettling Ewan and for the unforgiving land. The First World War reaches out from afar, bringing the modern world to bear on the community in the harshest possible way, yet in a final moment of grace, Chris lives on, now a woman of remarkable strength, and is able to draw from the ancient land in looking to the future.

**Friday October 14th****MACBETH (Cert 15)****Director: Justin Kurzel****UK 2015****113 mins**

Faithful to the source material without sacrificing its own cinematic flair, with a mesmerising performance by Michael Fassbender as the fearless warrior and inspiring leader brought low by ambition and desire. A story of all-consuming passion and ambition set in war torn Scotland.

**Friday October 28th****FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS (Cert PG)****Director: Stephen Frears****UK 2016****110 mins**

In the 1940s, New York socialite Florence Foster Jenkins (Meryl Streep) dreams of becoming a great opera singer. Unfortunately, her ambition far exceeds her talent. The voice Florence hears in her head is beautiful, but to everyone else it is quite lousy. Her husband St. Clair goes to extreme lengths to make sure his wife never finds out how awful she truly is. When Florence announces her plans for a concert at Carnegie Hall, St. Clair soon realizes that he is facing his greatest challenge yet.

*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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## WORLD WAR 1 CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS

### Cecil Tee

Cecil was born in 1890 at Lady Street Dulverton to Edmund, who was a Groom, and Mary Ann with brothers Edmund and Herbert and sisters Ada and Mabel. By 1901 his father had died, the family had moved to Rosemary Lane Dulverton and his mother was working as an Ironer at the Laundry.

By 1911 he was working as a Barman and living at



the top of High Street with his mother, sister Ada and brother Herbert together with three lodgers, William James who was a 'Motor Driver', Charles Burton, a tailor and William Arnold a grocer.

Cecil joined the Kings Royal Rifle Corps in April 1915 and then became a Lance Corporal with the London Regiment. He was posted to France in July 1916 and saw action in the battle of the Somme until died in action on 29th September 1916. He is buried at the Theipval Memorial.

*Tony Sloley, Dulverton Heritage Centre*

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## Gone Fishing

River fishing on Exmoor has been rather unpredictable this year, its all connected to the weather... The rain that we have had has kept the river fresh and clean which has been good for the trout angler. Dulverton Angling Association members have had good catches with Brown Trout up to 14". Salmon anglers haven't been so lucky as the rain hasn't been heavy enough to raise the river levels high enough, for long enough. To date we have only heard of 4-5 salmon caught in the

Exe and none above Tiverton. However this isn't unusual as I can well remember catches at the Carnarvon Arms Hotel, and Tarr Steps Hotel, all depending on the last two weeks of September before the season closed. Wimbleball Lake and Clatworthy Reservoir have had a good season with both lakes catching some big fish with good rod averages.

*Patrick Veale*

## South West Fishing For Life

SWFFL meet at Wimbleball Lake on the first Sunday of the month, from 9.30 with a buffet lunch provided at 12.30. We cater for anyone who has, or has had, Breast Cancer (Male and Female) and provide coaching in fly fishing on the lake and a relaxed environment to chat with other people in similar situations for support and comfort. There is no charge but if you bring along a companion who stays for lunch a small charge will be made. For further information see <http://www.southwestfishingforlife.org.uk/> or phone Gillian on 01398371244.

## BRUSHFORD PARISH HALL

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct

from 7pm

Bar \* Food \* Raffle  
Everyone Welcome!

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## MALUMBY'S



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The Minehead and West Somerset Arts Society is a small 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.

We are now entering our 53rd season with four concerts by world-class performers including BSO Strings from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the Dante String Quartet. We begin this year with:

**Friday 7 October, 7.30, Minehead Methodist Church**

ENDYMION CLARINET QUINTET playing Schubert, Mozart and Brahms.

**Friday 18 November, 7.30, Minehead Methodist Church**

JAMIE WALTON (cello) and DANIEL TONG (piano) playing Beethoven, Debussy, Janacek, and Shostakovich.

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](http://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.

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## The Exmoor Pony Centre

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We have reached a milestone! The Exmoor Pony Centre is 10 years old this year and we celebrated our birthday at Dunster Country Fair with champagne and birthday cakes. Exmoor pony, Tom, thoroughly enjoyed all the attention from the children and behaved beautifully – apart from trying to eat the candles on the cake!

We were joined by author and Exmoor pony lover, Victoria Eveleigh, and Devon horse trainer, freerider and TV presenter, Emma Massingale. Author Tracey Gemmell is generously donating a percentage of the proceeds from her new book about an Exmoor pony called Dunster, Dunster's Calling, to the Moorland Mousie Trust.

August was 'Cream Tea' month at the Centre and on 27 October we will be celebrating Halloween from 12 to 3pm. There will be all the usual activities including pony rides (for 4 years and over) and pony grooming. Entry is free with a small charge for activities.

For competent riders, trekking across the Moor is

available most days. For nonriders or beginners, a taster session in our covered arena offers the opportunity to groom, saddle and ride an Exmoor pony under skilled supervision. All riding must be booked in advance.

The Exmoor Pony Centre is open to visitors between 10:00 and 4:00 on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday throughout the summer.

Website: [www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk](http://www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk)

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Last Friday of the month - Dulverton Library Knit and Natter Group meet in the library at 2pm

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## Dulverton Weir - where art meets history

With the renewed focus on the historic Weir and Leat by the Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Group (DWLCG), comes a unique art initiative - an annual kinetic sculpture exhibition to raise awareness of their cause. This year, you may have already seen the first ever exhibit standing in the leat behind the Guildhall car park. A fascinating array of moving parts, fittingly driven by the water and slowly, very slowly opening and closing an open-framed flower atop the piece. Artist Luke Tupper said: "My sculpture, titled 'Transforming Movement', is an amalgamation of my interests in renewable energy, industrial heritage and a childhood love of old machines. My aim was to capture the essence of the Leat, both historically and atmospherically. Using the raw hydrokinetic energy of the water to power an abstract mechanism - it references the mills that once used the Leat and mimics the nature that powers it."

The DWLCG are quick to point out that Dulverton would not have grown to be the town it is today without the waterpower provided by the weir and leat for industry and commerce and it still has potential today as an attraction for the town if correctly preserved. With the backing of Historic England, Leicester University, The Environment



Agency, Westcountry Rivers Trust and the Wild Trout Trust, the DWLCG have embarked on a journey to save this historic 'Urban Watermill Landscape' for the benefit of the town. The message from the Weir and Leat Conservation Group is clear. 'We see the weir and leat as being a dynamic focal point for talented artists to show their work, as well as a source of inspiration. To have artists creating site specific pieces of art for the weir and leat will add a new dimension to the town and help the weir and leat come to life. We shall shortly be sending out invitations for the 2017 exhibition to arts schools and other interested parties. We would welcome enquiries from anybody interested in participating next year.'

Above: Luke Tupper in Dulverton Leat

Left: Philip Hull with the Sculptor Luke Tupper at Bath University  
Dulverton Leat Kinetic Sculpture YouTube Link:

<<https://youtu.be/wx4pgllfGxo>>



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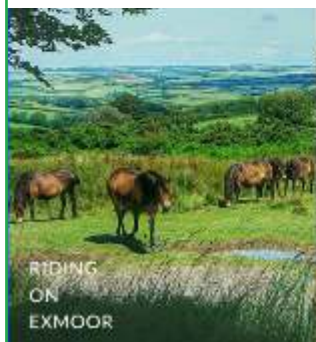
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## It's official - Exmoor is the darkest National Park in southern England

The most detailed ever satellite maps of England's light pollution and dark skies have been released by the Campaign to Protect rural England (CPRE) and show that Exmoor National Park is the darkest National Park in southern England, having 92% pristine dark skies.

This research comes as at time of increasing awareness of the harmful effects light pollution can have on the health of people and wildlife and important benefits of dark skies. Dark skies have been a source of fascination for centuries, yet many children will grow up never seeing the Milky Way because of the impact of artificial light.

Exmoor National Park became an International Dark Sky Reserve in 2011, the first in Europe. The core area of the Reserve covers some 83 square kilometres of mostly moorland, surrounded by a bigger zone of 98 square kilometres, mainly farmed landscape and small settlements. The National Park Authority has for some years had a strong lighting policy to ensure that no light pollution affects the Dark Sky Reserve designation.

The new maps were produced by LUC from data gathered by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in America. The NOAA satellite captured visible and infrared imagery to determine levels of light spilling into British skies. CPRE is sending lesson plans to primary schools in order to promote the enjoyment of dark skies.

Sarah Bryan, Head of Conservation and access at Exmoor National Park said: "We welcome the production of these important maps and are delighted that National Parks and protected areas are recognised as 'holding guard against light pollution'.

"We worked hard with our local communities and West Somerset and North Devon Councils to achieve the dark sky designation and it is important to maintain and improve this wonderful resource. Hopefully we can continue to work together to see what can be done about the light spillage in coastal towns such as Minehead and Porlock. In addition to enabling more people to enjoy this important resource it will also save money by reducing energy wastage."

Chris Lewis, Chair of CPRE Somerset said "Dark skies are a key characteristic of what makes the countryside so different from urban areas and they offer a sense of awe and wonder to local people and to visitors who are lucky enough to experience them. We are really proud that Exmoor National Park is leading the way in protecting its dark skies through strong lighting policies.

"We hope that the new mapping will enable other areas of Somerset, including those adjoining the National Park, to make their skies as dark as possible. Obviously this is more of a challenge in more populated areas, but there are steps that all Councils can take to reduce light levels through demanding better design of new developments along with investment in the right street lighting."

Dr David Brabban who volunteers for Exmoor National Park and worked on the successful bid to achieve the International Dark Sky Reserve designation commented "Our annual surveys show that the Exmoor sky remains as dark as ever so, on moon and cloud free nights, we can all be treated to superb, spine tingling views of the heavens.

"The important thing is that the work done by the National Park continues to give amateur astronomers the chance to get some good observing done.

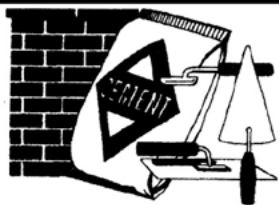
## Crowdfunding Campaign Raises Cash For Path Repair

More than £7,000 has been raised for Exmoor as a result of the recent 'Mend our Mountains' crowdfunding campaign which was set up by the British Mountaineering Council to raise money for urgent path repair projects in the most spectacular places in Britain.

The 'Mend Exmoor' project to repair a remote and ancient trading route through the heart of Exmoor in the Long Chains Combe was put forward by Exmoor National Park as it has become a boggy quagmire and difficult to use. Sue Applegate, rights of way officer at the National Park Authority says: "We are so grateful to everyone who donated to our project which will improve access in this beautiful part of Exmoor.

"Having set ourselves a rather ambitious target for the funding, we were delighted to have raised so much and thanks must go to the British Mountaineering Council for letting us have a share of the extra donations

*(continued on page 27)*



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(continued from page 26)

collected and to local businesses XMAN Events and Encounter Walking Holidays who donated rewards."

Raquel Snyder, from the United States, who was one of the many generous donors, commented: "I am so happy to have helped and look forward to contributing more in the future."

National Park Ranger Richard Eales added: "It's great to be able to get on with the work now that we can pay to get the local stone airlifted to this remote site which is part of the Two Moors Way, particularly as it is the 40th anniversary of this well-known trail."

### **Woodlands, businesses and people benefit as Exmoor National Park secures the first Grown in Britain Group license scheme in the UK.**

"Grown in Britain on Exmoor" is the first group license scheme in the UK and was recently awarded to Exmoor National Park Authority. The certification mark has been granted after a rigorous audit assessment, which recognised the Authority's own management system to administer a group license for woodland owners and timber processors joining the scheme from the local area.

Graeme McVittie of Exmoor National Park Authority said: "We're very proud that ours is the first Group license to have passed the Grown in Britain audit assessment. The Grown in Britain badge is an important symbol, which enables businesses and the public to easily identify timber, fuel and other forest products from woodlands that have been well managed. This is critical in supporting the local economy, tackling climate change and enhancing landscape and biodiversity."

"Grown in Britain seems to have had immediate resonance with woodland owners, processors and suppliers on Exmoor since it was launched. Our development of a local scheme to reinforce the benefits of a stronger woodland enterprise culture was a natural progression and we are delighted with the support we have received since floating the idea of Grown in Britain on Exmoor."

William Theed, Owner of the Theed Forestry Estate based at Combe Sydenham and winner of Royal Forestry Society (RFS) Duke of Cornwall Multipurpose Woodlands Award in 2012 added: "I am very pleased to become the first Member of the first Grown in Britain Group scheme in the country. Grown in Britain on Exmoor reflects our long term commitment to the production of high quality, home grown timber."

The scheme is administered through the Exmoor WoodLinks Initiative based at Exmoor National Park Authority - James Mason development officer said: "Being in a group scheme reduces auditing costs as the auditors fees are shared between those in the group. We are in the process of signing up new members and would welcome more. If you are interested in discovering more about the scheme and its benefits to you, your woodland or business please do get in touch."

Andrew Harvey Board member Grown in Britain added: "The licence is a vital part of feeding the new demand we have created - consumers want to know where their products are coming from and many want to buy local and now they can look for the Grown in Britain assurance marking on timber and wood products from their country and even their local area such as Exmoor."

"By choosing Grown in Britain products, either as a business or as a member of the general public; your choice will have a direct impact on the creation, management and protection of woodland, which is great for people, wildlife and local jobs."

### **John Muir award success**

Pupils from Dulverton Middle School recently achieved a John Muir Award for connecting and caring for wild places.

In this case Exmoor's rare dormouse was the focus with the children following plans to build nest boxes and then given the opportunity to make each box individual. The boxes were constructed over the winter and teacher Sophie Hansen, said; "The children worked hard and got a genuine understanding of the rarity of dormice and actually got to decide where they were placed in the trees."

(continued on page 28)



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(continued from page 27)

"The 'Exmoor Curriculum' is now over 20 years old and this year's leavers had the bonus of a John Muir Award as well as working in the newly developed forest school area of hazel and ash that was originally planted by their predecessors. We would like to thank all the volunteers that have helped us over the years, we couldn't have done it 'without you'" commented Dave Gurnett Exmoor National Park's learning and outreach officer.



With the school changing from Middle to Junior status the Exmoor Curriculum will evolve to include weekly Forest School sessions for all classes and a teacher training day is being planned for the autumn term to train staff to deliver The John Muir Award.

### **Extra funding approved by Members of Exmoor National Park Authority**

Farming, volunteering and the natural environment are set to benefit from extra funding approved for projects over the next 3 years at the recent annual meeting of Exmoor National Park Authority. The funding is part of the response from the Authority to Defra's (Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs) 8 point National Park Plan which was considered at a workshop for Members in June this year.

Creating thriving natural environments

Members of the National Park Authority approved one-off funding of £100,000 for the Headwaters of the Exe project which will a range of works to improve water quality, including restoration of footpaths and bridleways near water, to help ensure the continued importance of Exmoor's rivers.

The project also supports the control of non-native invasive species through existing partnership projects such as the Exmoor Knotweed Control Partnership (consisting of the Environment Agency, Exmoor National Park, Natural England, the National Trust and local landowners) which works to control a number of non-native invasive knotweed species within the catchment area. The importance of controlling non-native invasive species within the catchment and the National Park as a whole was recognised through an award of £80,000 over 3 years for this work.

Getting involved on Exmoor

The Get Involved programme has successfully increased volunteering in the National Park and will receive one-off funding of £75,000 to extend the project for a further three years to enable the project to fully embed new ways of working with partner organisations, work to broaden the appeal of what is on offer to potential volunteers and secure additional funding for projects and programme.

Welcoming New Audiences

A bid to allocate a further £30,000 to the New Audience Fund was also successful. The Fund offers small grants to support and enable 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 £1,000 per group will be available to support a visit and groups would be expected to raise a minimum of 20% towards the costs of their trip.

Funding to connect young people with nature and expand tourism work was also approved with details of how the money will be spent being worked up.

Andrea Davis, chairman of Exmoor National Park said "We are very pleased to be able to support these and other important programmes which will help ensure that the special qualities of Exmoor National Park continue to be enhanced for the benefit of local residents, businesses and visitors alike."

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**DULVERTON PLAYERS PRESENT**  
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**SATURDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER AT 7.00 PM**  
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**Also “GHOST WRITER”, a comedy by David Tristram**  
**Dulverton Town Hall**

**Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

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“To be or not to be?” It’s not the only question puzzling Edward, a playwright struggling with writer’s block in David Tristram’s intriguing comedy, “Ghost Writer”, which the Dulverton Players will be staging at the Town Hall from November 16th to 19th.

Through the window of his sordid garret floats the ghost of his beautiful actress wife, Ruby, on the anniversary of her supposed suicide. If that shock wasn’t bad enough for Edward, Ruby brings news that she was murdered by persons unknown.

Ryun Smallbone plays the luckless Edward while Suzy Wall dons the diaphanous shroud of his late wife. Tamsin Blackmore appears as Edward’s new girl friend who finds that three definitely isn’t company when one is invisible and bent on revenge.

To discover the murderer, Edward gathers together some unusual suspects from the cast of Ruby’s last performance, with Banger Milton, Richard Lethbridge, and Charlie Blanning playing the possibly lethal luvvies.



Since the sad departure of my two old mates, my owner has been obsessed with the idea that I am lonely. Having spent weeks looking at mug shots on a screen to find me something suitable, "suitable" finally arrived. My new mate, a Jack Russell, ex-Plymouth

City, with a wardrobe of coats I wouldn't be seen dead in (they don't fit me anyway!), turns out to have a huge appetite for game-playing. Not being one to ever have complained, shouting in my ear every 10 minutes because he'd seen a squirrel can be a bit wearing. We decided that urgent need to occupy his mind was essential and promised to find him some fun days out and days he'd remember.

An opportunity was spotted on the way to work in June where a sign on the side of the road on Winsford Hill had been erected. It read that the annual Fell and Moorland Working Terrier Club show was to take place there. It was a lovely show. We sat in the sun and made new friends who told us that the Club was originally founded by working terrier enthusiasts. Its aim was to provide a much needed organized rescue service for trapped terriers lost to ground in the course of their natural working activities, (a bit like Mountain Rescue for people I suppose) and we were at one of their social events. The Exmoor area organisers, Sara and Rob Taylor, are always pleased to welcome new members. Contact 01643 831099. ([www.fellandmoorlandwtceastmids.com](http://www.fellandmoorlandwtceastmids.com)).

Then in July a note dropped through the door announcing a new Night Club for dogs. 'Suzy's' was to open its doors in Winsford on Mondays. Joy, thought our owner! Just what we need...somewhere/someone else to satisfy this dog's mind skills...and without hesitation we were signed up as members. After four sessions our owner is hooked, as is my lead to a leg of the receptionist's table. From here it looks like they have a lot of fun. Owners take to the floor and wave their hands about in various motions whilst their canine partners cock their heads and make a note of their next move. Once performed, their owners are very pleased and out comes some party food and off they go again. All sorts of games are played and all sorts of prizes. Even I seem to be in Suzy's good books and the occasional sausage arrives under the table. Perhaps she's heard of my skills with a pen. Contact [www.suzyandcanines.co.uk](http://www.suzyandcanines.co.uk) 01643 851281  
*Buster Brown (Jack Russell x-type) Correspondent.*

Canine Partners is a charity providing dogs to help disabled people in the most astonishing and life-changing ways. A talk will be given by Malcolm Wells MBE in Brushford Parish Hall on Tuesday 8th November at 11am. Malcolm has been to speak in this area before, and he is an entertaining and exciting speaker with

quite a story to tell; particularly anyone who owns a dog will be amazed. The event is organised by Exmoor Rotary Club and coffee and cake will be provided. Admission is free, and all donations will go to Canine Partners.



## The Winsford Dog School

Opened Monday July 4th

Mondays from:

6pm - puppies: 12 weeks to 12 months

7pm - young adults: 12 months to 24 months

8pm - older dogs and geriatrics who want to have a go.

The courses run for six weeks at a time.

**All are welcome!**

**To book a place: please contact Suzy**

**[www.suzyandcanines.co.uk](http://www.suzyandcanines.co.uk)**

**Or telephone; 01643 851281**

1:1 is always available for behavioural issues or training to get ahead.



## St Nicholas Church Christmas Fair

The St Nicholas Church Christmas Fair will be held on 19th NOVEMBER 2016, at the Parish Hall, Brushford.

The Christmas event will include Father Christmas, seasonal music, brass band, stalls, tea and cakes and bacon rolls.

As the fair has become more successful we are looking for additional helpers to assist us and would like to hear from you.

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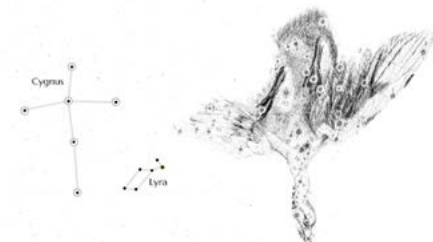
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Summer isn't the best time for stargazing because it gets dark so late, but if you are out and about after 10 there are still lots of things to see. One is Cygnus (the swan) which is one of the great constellations of the northern sky. If you look straight up towards the middle of the sky above you, you'll see the bright star Vega in the constellation Lyra. It's hard to miss because it's very bright and during Autumn nights, it's pretty much directly above you. Slightly to the east of Vega you should be able to see the great swan. It's a large crucifix shape formed by six bright stars.

Although the stars in Cygnus look like they're all sitting together in the sky, they're actually not. They just happen to all be in our line of sight from the Earth. The brightest star in Cygnus, Deneb, is actually 20 times further away from us than the star Gienah that makes up the left hand arm of the cross, so they only look

like they're related from our view point. Just like currants suspended in a teacake, stars are spread through three dimensions of space so the patterns they form depend entirely on which angle you're looking from. The Earth and all the stars are also in constant motion but space is very, very big and human lives are quite short, so the patterns as we see them don't appear to change much over the years – which is why we can create useful star maps :)

Exmoor StarGazers is a friendly astronomy society that holds regular meetings and observing sessions across Exmoor. See our website <http://www.exmoorstargazers.co.uk/> or search for ExmoorStargazers on Facebook to find out more.



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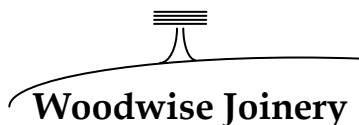
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Catholic Church: Priest: Father Michael	01643 702201
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Dulverton Middle School - Barns Close West, TA22 9EE	01398 323223
Brompton Regis Toddlers: Mrs. S. Julian, Court Place Farm, Skilgate	01398 331031
Dulverton Children's Centre - All Saints School, Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	01643 700030
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
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Brompton Regis W.I. Sec: Mrs. P. Beecham, Rose Cottage, Brompton Regis	01398 371407
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Cutcombe & District W.I. Mrs. Pam Anson	01643 851616
Dulverton & Brushford M. U.: Mrs A. Gregory, 22 Jury Road, Dulverton, TA22 9DU	01398 323587
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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**

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Brushford Luncheon Club: Treasurer: Michael Willison	01398 324509
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Dulverton & Bampton Luncheon Club (Ex-Probuss): Organiser: Terence Dapp terrydapp@aol.com	01398 332252
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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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