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EXMOOR NEWS

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Where does the time go? We took over Exmoor News in early 2016 with a print run of 2,200 copies. We now distribute 2,700 (a 20% increase in print run); we go further afield including Bampton and Wiveliscombe. In outlets, the magazines regularly run out within a week of drop off. With the added colour, increase in the number of pages and its longer shelf life, we believe it is doing a very good job.

We have consistently had excellent feedback from both advertisers and readers - thank you. New advertising comes into our inbox, thanks again, and we get more offers of new and interesting contributions which make the magazine a better read. We also promote advertisers online through both our website which carries previous copies of the magazine and Facebook. This takes the count up to well over 3,000.

From March/April 2018 issue, (after 2 years of running the magazine) we plan to increase the prices slightly as print run and other expenses rise. However, if you would like to continue to advertise with us and pay for up to 6 issues up front, we will charge you the present rate if you pay for your adverts before we implement the price rise in January 2018. We charge £25 per hour for professional graphic artwork and keep these costs to a minimum.

Running a small business? Check out Claire Bentons piece on p22 with some useful information and tips. Lastly please do let advertisers know if you found them in our magazine as it means we can keep providing our magazine free to you. Please do keep on sending in your stories.

Best wishes, Ceri Keene and Claire Savill

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

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

We take our responsibility to maintain high editorial standards seriously. Should an error occur please do not hesitate to contact us.

The deadline for the September/October issue of the Exmoor News is

Thursday 3rd August 2017

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Cover photo: ©Alan Jones

If you would like to see your photo on the cover, send us a low resolution copy for our library. If used we will ask for a high resolution version and you too could be in print.

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An open air Theatre near Dulverton

It might come as a surprise that there is an outdoor theatre near Dulverton. Pamela and Steve Hall who live in West Knowle two miles south west of the town and self confessed "theatre nuts" have indeed such a facility in their garden.

Essentially Greek in style, Knackershole Garden Theatre is a series of grass terraces in a semi-circle around a brick paved stage area. Constructed by local landscape expert, Dave Thomas, in 2004, there are five levels above the stage where the audience set up their deck chairs or picnic blankets to enjoy a performance. Dave incorporated a complex drainage scheme into the terraces which ensures that the ground is normally dry. Pamela admits that the idea came from a magazine. Looking for a way to complete the garden and, in particular, how to tidy up a scruffy, wet, low lying area she showed a photograph of a small version to Dave and asked what he thought. The now famous, at least in the Hall family, quote was "I'll give it a go". After a month with digger and dumper, a laser level, a wooden fence post and a long length of blue polypropylene rope, the project was finished.

The first performance in the theatre was in 2013. Local choir Voices of Exmoor, led by April Golding, performed a Summer charity event raising money for MacMillan Cancer Support. An afternoon Strawberry tea was served in the sunshine and, much to everybody's relief, the acoustics were complimented by April.

Later that week, The Dulverton Players gave three performances of "The Importance of Being Earnest". The weather remained kind until the final night when first act rain tried to dampen

enthusiasm. Despite this, the run of this cross-dressed version of Oscar Wilde's most memorable play was considered a success with over 300 people in the audiences.

In 2014, Steve and Pamela were asked by Anthony Richards of The Uncommon Players if he could bring his production of "Jerusalem", Jez Butterworth's award winning play to Knackershole. This touring music and festival event raised passions wherever it went. Loved or hated, everybody had an opinion and over 200 people witnessed an army truck, a burning caravan and a couple of free range chickens which thankfully were ignored by the resident cats.

This year, Exeter Northcott Theatre is reviving the well-loved tradition of outdoor summer Shakespeare in Rougemont Gardens in a new production of Comedy of Errors set within a Victorian circus. Directed by Poppy Burton-Morgan with music by Matt Devereaux and clown direction from Exeter Northcott Associates Le Navet Bete, this will be a fast paced, physical and joyous new production of Shakespeare's farce of mistaken identity. There will be three performances at Knackershole on 5th and 6th August. Tickets are available on line or from Dulverton Post Office.

EXMOOR **U3A**

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

Talk by Nick Friendship
'ANECDOTES OF A FUNERAL DIRECTOR'

Please note there is no meeting in August.



Its Murder at the Conference...

Spend a night of the long knives with the Dulverton Players on Saturday, 1st July, when

the popular Exmoor theatre company stages "Murder at the Party Conference" at Dulverton Town Hall.

Doors will open at 7.00pm for the next in the Players' series of original murder mysteries. The audience will be invited



to solve the dastardly plot at the same time as enjoying a delicious two-course supper. There will also be a licensed bar. Tickets at £12, including supper, are available from Dulverton Post Office Tel 01398 323474.

In April, the Players performed "Daisy Pulls It Off" to packed houses (see pic below).

Their autumn production will be a revival of "Allo 'Allo", the hilarious comedy about life in a cafe in Occupied France during the Second World War, and will run from 15th - 18th November.



Sean Conway at Lynton Town Hall

15th July 2017 at 7.30

Endurance Athlete and Explorer Sean Conway will be giving a talk at Lynton Town Hall as an event opener for this years Xmoor Sportive Ride.

Sean received huge media coverage last year when he completed around Britain self supported Triathlon. He was also the first person to cycle, run and even swim Lands End to John O'Groats!

After the talk the evening will continue with a bar and cycling based fun and games with the team from Carb Cycles. Bar opens 6.30 for real ale and nibbles. Tickets £15 on sale at Carb Cycles, Barnstaple or email will@muddyred.co.uk.

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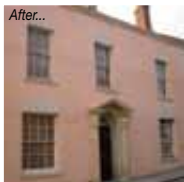
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All Saints Concert

Lovely summer concert at All Saints Church, Dulverton, on Sunday 9th July at 8pm. Classical guitar, piano, piano duets and organ in a mixed programme of light and serious music.

Conall McKay (guitar) and Ian Lovegrove (organ and piano), who teach music in Aberdeen, are on tour in the SW that week, and are joined by a local pianist for duets. Donations only. All profits to All Saints.

Exmoor Society Launches Alfred Vowles PhotoCompetition 2018

Inviting amateur photographers to submit entries for the Competition, now open until the 31st December 2017. Three categories of photographs taken on Exmoor during the last two years – Wildlife, Heritage and Landscape. There is a cash prize for the winner in each category plus the Alfred Vowles Trophy for the overall winner. For more details see exmoorsociety.com

BROMPTON REGIS

Show & Gymkhana

Saturday 19th August

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and other attractions from 10.00am

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Dulverton Town Hall

Friday July 7th

HIDDEN FIGURES

(Cert PG)

Director: Theodore Melfi

127 mins

Three brilliant African-American women at NASA serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn (Glen Powell) into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race and galvanized the world. A heartwarming story about this little known aspect of the space race.

Friday July 28th

THE LEVELLING

(Cert 15)

Director: Hope Dickson Leach

83 mins

Trainee vet Clover returns to the Somerset family farm following the tragic death of her brother in what appears to be suicide. The family home is in a state of disrepair following the 2014 floods. Clover confronts her father and her discoveries send her on an emotional journey of reckoning.

Friday August 11th

VICEROY'S HOUSE

(Cert 12A)

Director: Gurinder Chadha

106 mins

Viceroy's House in Delhi was the home of the British rulers of India. After 300 years, that rule was coming to an end. For 6 months in 1947, Lord Mountbatten was charged with handing India back to its people. The film's story unfolds within that great house. Upstairs lived Mountbatten together with his wife and daughter; downstairs lived their 500 Hindu, Muslim and Sikh servants. As the political elite, Nehru, Jinnah and Gandhi converged on the House to wrangle over the birth of independent India, conflict erupted. A decision was taken to divide the country and create a new Muslim homeland Pakistan. It was a decision whose consequences reverberate to this day.

Friday August 25th

THEIR FINEST

(Cert 12A)

Director: Lone Scherfig

117 mins

1940, London, with the nation bowed down by war, the British ministry turns to propaganda films to boost morale at home. Realizing their films could use "a woman's touch," the ministry hires Catrin Cole (Gemma Arterton) as a scriptwriter in charge of writing the female dialogue. Although her artist husband looks down on her job, Catrin's natural flair quickly gets her noticed by cynical, witty lead scriptwriter Buckley (Sam Claflin). Catrin and Buckley set out to make an epic feature film based on the Dunkirk rescue starring the gloriously vain, former matinee idol Ambrose Hilliard (Bill Nighy). As bombs are dropping all around them, Catrin, Buckley and their colorful cast and crew work furiously to make a film that will warm the hearts of the nation. The film combines comedy and wartime drama

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.

72nd HawkrIDGE Revel & Gymkhana Bank Holiday Monday August 28th 2017

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We would like to thank Alan Jones for his images.

Alan is a cyclist and a keen photographer. His website is www.alanjonesimages.com. He also facilitates the Exmoor Photographers Facebook Group and runs the website - www.exmoorphotographers.org.uk. Photographers, local or otherwise, skilled or beginners, are welcome to join the Facebook Group.



(c) Alan Jones

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Dulverton Gardening Club - Junior Gardeners

There is much activity at Dulverton Junior School and All Saints School each week, as the gardens have been taking shape. Members of the Gardening Club, who put in a great deal of preparatory work, and enthusiastic children, have been transforming outdoor spaces into productive areas. Raised beds, potato planters, greenhouse care are all part of the programme of sowing and growing this term.

This year, one of our ladies introduced the Schools to the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and has already had success. All Saints School have reached Level Two, which involved the children being able to recognise garden tools, understand garden terms, sow seeds and plant out seedlings. They are now working towards Level Three where the children have to complete a project related to compost and recycling, which sees the children turning used milk bottles into birds, (to use as scarers), plant containers, scoops and watering vessels. The Junior School has also managed to achieve Level Two even after a late start. They now will go on to a project on Healthy Eating to gain their Level Three.

All this has been achieved with the help of donated tools and seeds from members of the garden club and the support from the RHS campaign for school gardening.

With luck and helpful weather, there will be plenty to put on the bench at this year's Junior Show, which is on July 8th at All Saints School, in conjunction with the Strawberry Fair.

More importantly, the young people are being introduced to the joys of producing crops and flowers and the care needed at every stage of the plants' growth by our two dedicated ladies who have every reason to be proud of the enthusiasm and interest shown by the children and school staff in their gardens.

Dulverton Flower and Produce Show

Dulverton Town Hall Saturday 19th August

There is still time to pick up a schedule from the Post Office or M & H Vegetable Shop and prepare some entries for flowers, fruit, vegetables, art and craft, home produce (there are Junior Classes as well). All this and afternoon tea.

Whether you're entering or visiting, this is a Saturday afternoon to enjoy in Dulverton.

Tiverton Film Club

Commence their new season in September

Vintage Film Club – 2.30 pm at Fishers Mead Community Centre:
Wed 12th July – Ghandi – starring Ben Kingsley – 1982

Wed 9th August – An Inspector Calls – starring Alastair Sim & Bryan Forbes – 1954

Dulverton Action Group

Litter-picking:
Sun 16th July – 10.30 meet by the Heritage Centre - Everyone welcome and all kit supplied
Sun 20th August – 10.30 as usual

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James Gunney

Born in 1884 at 2 Bridge Tenements (Carnarvon Arms Cottages) Brushford to William and Mary with his brother Frank and his sisters Mary and Emily.

He married Emma Lewis in 1908 and by 1911 they had a little girl, Hilda Mary, with James working as a Coachman/Gardener in Whitchurch Cardiff.

His parents were now living near the

bridge in Dulverton, his dad being 'a yard man' and his brother Frank a Tailor.

He joined the Army Service Corps in September 1914 and went to France in December 1915.

He was killed in the Battle of Arras on 7th April 1917, in action with the 283rd Mechanical Transport Company and is buried at the Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery Saulty.

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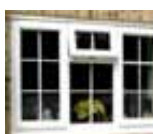
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Exmoor Policing News

As we head into Spring, the Exmoor Policing Team are keen to encourage people to take some simple but effective steps to spruce up their security.

Don't leave keys in the ignition of your Landrover, quad bike or other vehicles. If more than one person needs to use it, please use a combination lock box. Make sure doors and windows are locked when you go out or at night. One quarter of all burglaries are due to insecure homes and opportunist thieves. For

more crime prevention advice visit www.aspolicestaysafe.co.uk

We are also encouraging people to join their local Farm, Horse and Neighbourhood Watch schemes – you can find more information on our website www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

We are trying to combat poaching and rural crime across Exmoor. You can help us by being our eyes and ears and using your local knowledge. Please report any suspicious people or vehicles by calling us on 999 if you think a crime is in progress or using the 101 number or the website if you have information about suspected crime in your area.

Finally, you can help us and your community by looking out for vulnerable relatives, neighbours and friends. Distraction burglars and con-artists particularly target the elderly, who can be vulnerable to cons and fraud, doorstep crime and online/telephone scams.

Unscrupulous criminals exploit their reluctance to appear rude to unsolicited callers or their lack of confidence with technology. We can all make a difference by just saying hello and keeping an eye on people in our community. Not only will it reduce loneliness but it can reduce the likelihood of people becoming victims of crime. If older people, particularly those who live alone, have someone nearby they can trust they might be more likely to question something, perhaps saving themselves from becoming a victim.

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Business Accounting

Running a small business means you wear a lot of hats. If you are the boss, some of those hats can only be worn by you, some can be delegated to others.

Small businesses on Exmoor have their own challenges, the rural area, the transport system, the communications problems (mobile and broadband signals are slow or sometimes non-existent).

Many accounts and payroll systems are carried out online and if you are considering setting up these systems opening balances are something you need to be aware of.

A few words of advice

If a small business, consider joining the Federation of Small Businesses as they offer help and support in many areas including Tax Investigation protection and Employment tribunal insurance policy which cover up to £50,000 for solicitors and barristers that represent

you at a tribunal. Plus, great rates on insurance, banking, energy to name just a few.

Keep good records (you need to keep records for 7 years), put in your tax return in good time.

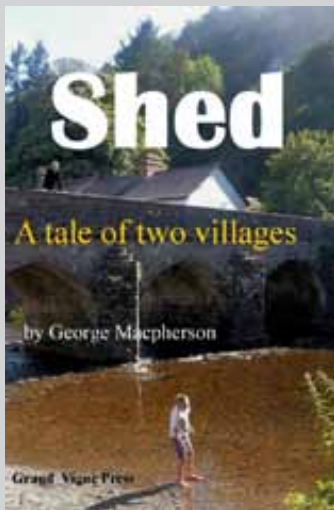
How to remember what is a debit or a credit? Just splits PEARLS down the middle. (Purchases, expenses, assets, on the debit side then revenue, liabilities, sales on the credit side).

Auto Enrolment

With auto enrolment being forced onto all employees earning over £10,000 many employers get worried about it. People who have a nanny, gardener, housekeeper etc. all have to offer a pension for their employee if they pay them over £192.31 a week or £833.33 a month.

Claire Benton Accounting 07754 577691
email cjbenton123@gmail.com

A new novel by a Dulverton Author



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Concern too, over Lord Oswald Kitchener's spaniels—last seen in the bracken?

Available as paperback, or on Kindle from www.Amazon.co.uk

Macmillan Cancer Support, Exmoor

It is with regret we must report that, after almost thirty years, the Exmoor Macmillan Cancer Support Committee is folding. It was in September 1987 that a committee was started on Exmoor. We recently received a message of thanks from headquarters confirming that, since 1992, an amount in excess of £63,500 has been raised. We were delighted about this. Many of the committee have been serving for almost twenty years and one or two from the start.

May we take this opportunity to thank all the many people who have served on the Committee over so many years, everyone who has so kindly offered venues for so many, many events, and all those who have donated so generously both in kind and financially. It has all been very much appreciated.

We hope that many of you who are interested will continue to support this very worthwhile great charity. With the very grateful thanks of the Committee
Jean Frost (Retiring Chairman)



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Visits and talks for July and August 2017

4th July

Visit to Fursdon House, Bickleigh
House and Garden tour and Cream Tea. Times to be confirmed.

8th July

Junior Show. Dulverton Junior School. 12.00 noon – 2.30pm

1st August

Visit to:- Elworthy Cottage Garden, Elworthy.
Morning visit
Tea and biscuits
Nynehead Court, Taunton.
Afternoon visit
Times to be confirmed.

19th August

Dulverton and District Flower and
Produce Show.
Dulverton Town Hall.
Doors open 2.00pm

If you would like to join one of the visits or book a
place on the bus please contact
Jenny Boyce 01398 323463.

**All talks are at Dulverton Town Hall from 7.00pm,
non members welcome admission £3.00, refreshments available.**

**For any further information please visit the Dulverton Gardening
Club website www.dulvertongardeningclub.co.uk and
www.facebook.com/Dulverton-Gardening-Club**



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EXMOOR CROQUET CLUB

From April to October the Exmoor Croquet Club will be playing on the QE 2 Playing Field behind the church at Exford every Tuesday at 2pm.

We are a friendly club who play for fun and companionship. You don't need to be 'sporty' or 'athletic', so why not come and enjoy a game?

We'd love to see you. For more details contact:

Diana 01643 831439 ; Ines 01643 831016; Connie 01398 341566

DULVERTON & DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB

Have you thought it would be lovely to play tennis again ? The usual answer is "I haven't played tennis for years" or "I was never very good at tennis at school".

We are a very friendly and happy group of people (sometimes six, sometimes seven or eight, and very occasionally twelve !) who enjoy one or two hours of exercise once or twice a week, or indeed sometimes more. Some of us are not very good at all, some quite good and others are 'pretty good' ! But none Wimbledon standard! Much good humour and banter accompanies all our sessions, and once a month we even enjoy a home-made cake with a cup of tea.

So why not 'give it a go', and take advantage of our current 15% discount for new members joining before 15th July this year. You do not need to be very good and you do not need 'whites' – just smart sporty clothes and tennis shoes.

We meet for 'social tennis' on Tuesday evenings from 6.30 pm and Saturdays from 2 pm. Plus any other times of the week when members can make up their own singles or doubles.

Contact Yvonne on 01398 323529 or Richard on 01398 324160 / 07773 160222.

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A DOG'S DAY OUT – The Name Game

How do we get our names? Who was responsible for taking one look at me and declaring he's just so cute let's call him Buster? Maybe they were thinking of a famous World War II fighter pilot in his cockpit with his ears blowing in the wind and a scarf wrapped round his neck (or was that Biggles). The truth of the matter is that I've become a very powerful drain and pipe unblocker, I've seen it on the tele. No wonder I've recently dropped from first to tenth place in the U.K as the most popular name for a dog. My friend Buddy, of course, has moved up to fourth in the name stakes game. I can't bear it.

She tries to cheer me up and calls me blustery or bustie bear to make me feel cute again. In this house though we're both classified as 'rehomes' so there's not a lot of choice in the matter – we are already computerised on health records and all those other systems. No getting away with it. I'm stuck with Buster. No ..Buster Brown!

She told me people name their dogs after the famous. "Years ago I shared a flat with a man who had a little white terrier called Whitehouse, after Mary". So why didn't he call her Mary then, surely that's much easier to bark I said. "Not necessarily so" she replied. "I once had a collie dog and his name was Ben. We used to walk in Richmond Park every lunchtime and when I called him, he would turn up plus another six Bens from every

direction. So much better to have a name with at least a double syllable and a sharp sounding consonant on the end." (She's been watching too much Countdown).

I've got a plastic bucket on my head at the moment. Doc put it there. It's really annoying. Not only that, it's got a Buster Clic label. Yep, just another product with a popular name. I've been promised a bath this afternoon so I can take it off and get shampoo'd behind the ears. Can someone please invent a brush for those parts other brushes can't reach and call it a Buddy.

*Buster Brown (Jack Russell x-type)
correspondent*

Reference: dogtime.com/top-100-dog-names

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ALIENS

I have a thing about Alien invaders. I really wanted to get involved in the 'River Barle Signal Crayfish Project' as they pass disease to our native species and eat the eggs and fry of our local fish. Having missed the training sessions in the spring I thought that was it, but "on the job training" is always possible for Exmoor National Park volunteers.

I turned up by the river, introduced myself to Nicky the project leader, was put in a group of experienced crayfishers and off I went. The River Barle valley is stunning. You can volunteer to be IN the river with waders (some provided) or stay on the bank navigating bogs, brambles and muddy slopes. You can handle and process the crayfish, or choose to do the paperwork (in WATERPROOF notebooks if raining!). I have seen female crayfish with eggs (berried), seen females with hundreds of tiny babies attached (and we count them all), males with huge pincers, and tasted the freshest crayfish tails (not

really my thing, but each to his own). Nicky collects and analyses all the data, and each Christmas shares the results with us (just an excuse for a party really, but interesting just the same).

Are we making a difference? It is too early to say, but surely anything is worth a try to protect our native species. Watch out Himalayan balsam!

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering on Exmoor, please contact the Get Involved team on 01398 323665 or email getinvolved@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk



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WATER SAFETY TRAINING AT DULVERTON SCHOOL AS PART OF THE DULVERTON WEIR PROJECT

Pupils from years 5 & 6 in Dulverton School recently received water safety training from Linda Steer, Swimming Lesson Manager, Mid Devon Leisure.

The children participated in a lively exchange of ideas about potential dangers in and around water including swimming pools, canals, rivers, beaches and around the home. In a lively and instructive lesson, Linda was able to get the children to spot potential hazards around the different areas and learn safe behaviours when they are near water. Linda Steer comments "the children responded really well and interacted in the discussion, some bringing their own stories.

We want all children to be able to go out and enjoy the water; they need to be aware of the potential dangers around water to stay safe".

Dulverton Junior School Head Teacher Sally Fulford states "the pupils are very excited about taking part in the Dulverton Weir project and learning more about the ancient weir and its history. This is an important part of their heritage and it is a key part of the school's mission for pupils to become involved in opportunities which link to the local community. The study of the weir and leat will provide the basis of year's 5 and 6 topic work for the summer term allowing the pupils to apply practical and real life experiences to their work across various subjects such as art and science."

Mid Devon Leisure, offer a range of water safety courses and Linda Steer can be contacted by email: lsteer@middevon.gov.uk

More information about Dulverton weir can be found on the Trust website www.dulvertonweir.org.uk



Accessing from a wheelchair to a car

To ensure that independence of those that have to use a wheelchair, there are a number of options for accessing a car. The options depend on the ability of the individual, whether they need some aid to getting in, or whether they need a fully supporting adaption to access the car.

The simplest adaption is a Handybar, used by fitting it in to the catch of the door lock, and giving a handle allowing the user to have extra support when they enter or exit the car. This has the advantage that it is transferable to any car or even for use in a taxi on an evening out.

The next type of adaption is a transfer plate. This is a plate which is positioned next to either the passenger or driver's seat, giving a bridge over the sill of the car, and allowing the user to transfer from a wheelchair on to the plate, and then slide across on the seat. The transfer plate then folds up, or lifts off, to allow the door to be closed. There are a few options of transfer plates available, most being a simple plate, with some more advanced models with power lifting and folding.

For those less able a swivel seat may be a suitable option. This is fitted to replace either the passenger or driver's seat, and the seat is able to swivel out of the door opening to allow the user to transfer from their wheelchair on to the seat, which then swivels back in to the car. There are 3 main types. A basic manual swivel seat allows the seat to swivel so the front of the seat is just out of the car. The user needs to have the ability to turn the seat with them seated, and get from the level of their wheelchair seat, up to the car seat level. The second option is an electric swivel seat, which has a powered swivel and travel. This type of seat can be powered to turn it out of the doorway, and then the seat powered outwards until about half of the seat protrudes out from the car. This option is an idea from those unable to manually turn the seat, but they still need to be able to transfer from their wheelchair to a seat in the car at a different level, dependant on the car. The final option is the fully electric seat, which as

well as being powered to swivel, also travels out from the car and lowers the seat to the level of the wheelchair. This type of seat has the travel programmed so the user only has to press a single button for the seat to swivel, extend from the car, and then lower to the wheelchair level.

For those wheelchair users with minimal ability a person lift may be the suitable option. A bracket is fitted in to the car, on to which a lifting arm is fitted. The user is fitted in to a sling and lifted in to the existing car seat. These are normally fitted to the front passenger seat as this has the widest doorway. The advantages with this system is that the person helping the wheelchair user in to the car does not have to do any lifting, only guiding the user in through the doorway and lowering them down in to the seat.

As with all of these adaptations, it is important to get the best solution for you, and so speaking to a specialist should be the first stage in looking at the options listed above. Adaptacar are the local specialist for North Devon, who have been supplying mobility adaptations for 45 years from their South Molton workshops.



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**Where:** The Bridge, Dulverton.

**When:** Friday 19 th May 2017, dinner time.

**What did you have?:** We both had the Moo Dog Pie, with chips and vegetables.

**How much did it cost?:** £32

**Atmosphere:** Gently bubbling conversation of locals and tourists enjoying the evening.

What did you think? The Bridge at Dulverton is our 'local', and so on the spur of the moment the 'Other Half' and I decided that a quick pint before dinner would be a nice thing to do. When we got there, we were greeted by the usual friendly welcome from Beth and her colleagues behind the bar. I had my usual Exmoor Ale, and the 'Other Half' had the new beer on tap. All very nice. The new beer had a very continental taste to it that reminded us both of

Hoegarden, he seemed to like it if the speed of consumption is anything to go by. It didn't take us long to decide that we couldn't be bothered to go home and cook dinner, so we asked Beth for some menus. It also didn't take us long to see that the Moo Dog Pie was back on the menu, and so two were ordered.

Very very good meals. Fresh vegetables, crispy salty chips, and the gravy that came for the pies in little individual jugs was superb. Enough food for a decent evening meal.

The menu in the Bridge is quite long and covers a lot of choices; something for everyone. They sometimes have specials which are on a blackboard by the bar; always worth a perusal.

Would you go again? Absolutely!

Would you recommend it to others? Absolutely.

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## Ofsted Results

The Dulverton Infant and Junior Schools and Exford First School have all now achieved good Ofsted results, and deservedly so. We are looking for some additional governors to join their governing body, the Exmoor Federation. We need skilled, committed people who are passionate about the education of children in our local area. In particular, we are looking for a governor who has some financial expertise to help support our governors in navigating the school budget process. We are also looking for two governors who have a connection with any of the local Churches to help our church schools in their focus on Christian values.

If you are interested in any of the above please get in touch with the clerk to the governing body and she can discuss what the role involves. We look forward to hearing from you!  
*Donna Lyndsay, Chair of the Exmoor Federation*

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# Village Halls need young volunteers

Village halls are facing a bleak future because a new generation of young volunteers are failing to step forward to help run them. Once the cornerstone of local communities, Britain's 10,000 halls are under threat as an ageing group of 80,000 volunteers continues to dwindle. Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) said halls have struggled to recruit the next generation to keep the community spaces going and are calling for drastic action. ACRE Village Halls Manager Deborah Clarke said: "Village halls are vital for the survival of rural communities. People want to use them but they don't want to commit to running them. It's understandable - there are a raft of duties to deal with, from licensing legislation to health and safety - but communities are in danger of taking their volunteers for granted. Younger people are especially hard to attract as they often work long hours away from village in order to live in them - while the newly retired often don't want to commit."

Alan West, 69, vice chairman of the now disbanded National Village Halls Forum, said: "The crunch has finally come. We need young people to step forward and get involved in the future of village halls. The traditional village hall is the hub of a community. It means people can meet face to face. Younger generations sit in front of their screens and communicate via social media these days but in the hall they can actually talk and interact."

England's 10,000 village halls rely on more than 12 million hours of volunteering each year, according to a national survey by ACRE. But more than half of the halls who responded to the survey said they were struggling to find new recruits to help manage the buildings - with people saying they were too busy, too old or simply not interested.

Alastair McPherson, 43, has adopted a different approach to encourage young people to get involved with his local community centre The Woodside, near Hayward's Heath, saying "One of the issues with the traditional village hall is that people my age and down see them as drafty old buildings run by older people. But ours is amazing - it's a really modern building with big windows and lots of light. It's a hub of activity. We held a beer festival, which attracted younger people and we have a Facebook page and we are working on more social media strategies. My mantra is you can't complain about local facilities if you don't get involved. People take these spaces for granted but if you put time and effort in, there's no end of wonderful things to gain."

Meanwhile, supporters of village halls are doing everything they can to keep the community spaces alive.

The recently launched National Village Hall & Community Network now has 300 hall committees signed up, contributing to discussions and advising on how to move forward.

*By Lexi Finnigan, printed in The Telegraph, January 2017*

## Tiverton Model Aero Club

This club meets most Sunday mornings at Five Cross Ways weather permitting. With the summer coming we hope this will be more often than we have been able to meet over the winter.

We welcome beginners and experienced flyers and have a club trainer to teach anyone who is new to flying. All children must be accompanied by an adult. We only fly fixed wing not helicopters but we are happy to see heli flyers.

For further information contact - Patrick Veale 01398 323409 or S8119399jtveale@gmail.com

# Riverside Hall, Bampton, Charity Event

We are holding a charity bingo / raffle evening on Friday 28th July at 7:30pm. This is to raise money for a specialist piece of equipment called a ReTurn.

This is being held at the Riverside Hall (public) Bampton.

The ReTurn is to assist with movement and standing around the home with out having to get in and out of a powered wheelchair which is currently being used. This is to help transfer from the bedroom to the bathroom and will also help with standing practice , as part of the daily Physio routine .

Our son Kristian Harrison can be seen using the ReTurn in the photo to help him stand from a sitting position, this allows our son to stand unaided safely and with ease on his own. This also lowers the risk of anyone hurting themselves while helping Kristian to transfer from bed to chair.

Kristian attends a specialist college for the disabled and is making great progress in becoming more independent and directing his own care. This piece of equipment will also help this to continue as it will allow Kristian to be transferred and moved by one person.

Due to this Kristian has decided to help raise money himself by doing a cake stall at his college.

Please feel free to come along and support this event to help this young man aim for more independence. There will be plenty of prizes and refreshment available. Doors open 7:30pm for eyes down at 8:00pm.

*Copy from A Harrison*



**Saturday July 22**

**Dulverton Summer Fete**

**12 Noon-4.30pm**  
**All Saints CofE School**

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# Rare find... one lucky bird!

As an editor, one gets used to interesting, weird and wonderful stories coming into the magazine, but for a change, something amazing happened to me. I found a small sparrow-sized bird under my sofa recently. Not that unusual, I have cats. This bird was alive with quite aggressive and unusual

behaviour. A little research (thanks to my sister-in-law Fiona Keene) revealed it to be a Wryneck Woodpecker and extremely rare. They generally breed in Asia and Europe and spend the winter in Africa. Occasionally these birds are seen in the UK in the autumn and less commonly in the spring so this was a very fortunate rescue. The wrynecks are a small but distinctive group of small Old World woodpeckers. Its Latin name is *Jynx torquilla*. They eat ants and less than 300 birds pass through southern UK annually. To see its weird snake-like defensive behaviour, have a look at my clip on You Tube.

<https://youtu.be/Z7A0pDDGIAY>

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News from the Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton TA22 9QE

Well it's certainly been a month to remember! Our Crowdfunder campaign has been even more successful than we dreamed it would be, attracting 882 supporters who between them have donated £35,000. Thanks to them, we will not be closing in September after all but now have a real chance of securing our long term future.

As a result of all this wonderful publicity, we have seen a huge increase in visitors at the Pony Centre which is marvellous and our volunteers and staff are being kept busy meeting and greeting people and organising rides and taster sessions. This has really brought it home to us how desperately we need more volunteers to talk to visitors and generally help around the Centre. If you could be interested in volunteering for us, do please get in touch. You will be welcomed with open arms.

We currently have ponies grazing at various sites around Exmoor including Exford (photo), Simonsbath, Withypool, Nettlecombe and Hawkridge. All these ponies have to be checked regularly and much of this is currently done by Linzi in addition to all her other tasks. Do you live near one of these sites? Perhaps you walk your dog there or drive past on your way to work? If so, would you like to join our group of pony checkers? Access to the sites varies from land that is privately owned to land with a public footpath and open access land. Some sites (Simonsbath, Hawkridge & Nettlecombe) require more extensive walks to find the ponies if they are not near the gate. Checkers would not be expected to undertake any handling tasks, just to report any problems. Full information and support will be given.

We will shortly be looking for a part-time

pony person to fill our usual seasonal vacancy to help Linzi and Lydia with the ponies, and with tasters and trekking. If you are a rider and would like to join us for the summer season, please contact us or look on our website for the job spec and send a CV and cover letter to the Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick TA22 9QE

We are hoping this will be a really good summer. We are open every day except Tuesdays and Saturdays. All riding must be booked in advance. Every Thursday throughout August we have our usual Activity Afternoons from 12-3pm. Why not come along and meet the ponies, enjoy crafts, pony grooming and rides, then round off your visit with a cream tea and cakes?

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

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Sunday 9th July 3pm  
Town Tour -Why not join us on a guided walk exploring the history of Dulverton. Discover some

secret places and hear tales of old from local guides. All £3pp.

15July to 22rd July - Dulverton Town Football Club – "A Story in Pictures"

An exhibition of old photographs (some of which are over 100 years old) plus memorabilia to celebrate the Football Club's 130 year anniversary. To include a reunion of ex-players.

Sunday July 23rd – Saturday July 29th – NEW The Colin Harrow Art Exhibition

Wednesday 19th July 3pm Town Tour Why not join us on a guided walk exploring the history of Dulverton. Discover some secret places and hear tales of old from local guides. All £3pp.

Thursday 27th July 3pm Town Tour Why not join us on a guided walk exploring the history of Dulverton. Discover some secret places and hear tales of old from local guides. All £3pp.

Saturday 29th July Book Sale A traditional book sale all day at Dulverton Heritage Centre (weather permitting). Why not bring along your unwanted books for recycling?

Thursday 3rd August 3pm Town Tour Why not join us on a guided walk exploring the history of Dulverton. Discover some secret places and hear tales of old from local guides. All £3pp.

Sunday Aug 13th – Saturday Aug 19th – Artworks in the Gallery. Valerie Duckworth - Jewellery, painting and sculpture and pottery in Dulverton Heritage Centre Gallery.

Sunday 13th August 3pm Town Tour Why not join us on a guided walk exploring the history of Dulverton. Discover some secret places and hear tales of old from local guides. All £3pp.

Sunday Aug 20th – Saturday Aug 26th – NEW Artworks in the Gallery by Mark Dedman and Keri Manning-Dedman

More info:

[www.dulvertonheritagecentre.org.uk/](http://www.dulvertonheritagecentre.org.uk/)

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As well as a programme of workshops the team from Somerset Film, the charity which manages The Engine Room, will be creating a digital work to reflect what Dulverton means to local people to be shown later in the year.

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| 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 |

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| Dulverton Camera Club: Sec: Peter Main, 4 Valley View, Morebath, Tiverton, EX16 | 01398 331556 |
| Dulverton Players: Chair: Les Silverlock                                        | 01398 341850 |

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| Brushford Short Mat Bowling: Sec: Sam Takle                                                                               | 01398 324147 |
| 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 |
| Exford Croquet Club: Chair: Connie Heywood                                                                                | 01398 341556 |
| 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:                               | 01398 323231 & 01398 323223 |
| Anstey Parent and Toddlers Group: Jodie Thomas             | 01398 341845                |
| Little Owls Nursery at All Saints C of E School, Dulverton | 01398 324360                |

**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:                                              | tba          |
| 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. Matravers, 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: Judy Ernest           | 01398 323313 |
| 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: T. Wilson                                                                               | 07528 326880  |
| Brushford Luncheon Club: Treasurer: Margaret Albery                                                                             | 01398 324587  |
| Care Direct for help and advice. <a href="http://www.somerset.gov.uk">www.somerset.gov.uk</a>                                   | 0300 1232224  |
| Cutcombe Flower & Produce Show: Sue White                                                                                       | 01643 841142  |
| Dulverton Action Group: Magdalena Harding                                                                                       | 01398 323 785 |
| Dulverton & Bampton Luncheon Club (Ex-Probus): Organiser: Terence Dapp <a href="mailto:terrydapp@aol.com">terrydapp@aol.com</a> | 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, <a href="http://www.Bridgewebs.com/dulverton">www.Bridgewebs.com/dulverton</a>        | 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 Vets                                                                                                                  | 01398 323285  |
| Dulverton Vintage Films: Magdalena Harding                                                                                      | 01398 323785  |
| Dulverton Voluntary Drivers: Mike Beale                                                                                         | 07743 885115  |
| 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  |
| U3A Exmoor: Yvonne Moorfoot, 3 Lamb Back, Dulverton                                                                             | 01398 323529  |
| West Somerset Advice Bureau: Dulverton Medical Centre, Tues 10-12                                                               | 01643 704624  |



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