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EXMOOR NEWS

EWS COVERING SOUTHERN EXMOOR

Another year draws to a close and we would like to thank you for the very kind comments and support we have received. Our advertisers make it possible for the magazine to be free to our enthusiastic readers. The huge range of events and news sent in by contributors along with the delivery teams across the region make this magazine possible. Shops and outlets that stock Exmoor News are a godsend. The Christmas Fairs and events are on the centre pages.

We thank you and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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.



Cover image 2019: ©Rupert Kirby
See more about the Lynton Goats on page 56.

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.



The deadline for the Jan/Feb issue of the Exmoor News is

Thursday 5th December 2019

Printed by Brightsea, Exeter



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BRUSHFORDPARISH HALL

Friends of BPH Meeting

6pm Monday 11th November in the Carnarvon Room

You helped us complete the car park.

You told us what you wanted to happen at the Hall.

Please come along to see what everyone said and help to shape what happens next.

That could be activities, events, projects...

You can make a difference.

You can have your say.

There will be tea and coffee from 5.45pm

And Cake - definitely Cake!



Yet again the Hall hire charges will be unchanged for calendar year 2020



🔼 🛮 QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 9th November Riverside Hall, Bampton 6:30 for 7pm

Table of 6 for £42
Eat before you come and
we provide dessert, coffee and a quiz!

Tickets from Bampton Fresh Fruit & Veg



All proceeds to be shared between the Riverside Hall and the Bampton Players



Children and Young People's Art

At Brushford Parish Hall on Tuesdays

Experienced teacher of Art, Sandy Schott, offers after school art activities for children and young people from 12 years old upwards. Sign up for half a term:

- Session: 5:30-7:00 (For 12 upwards)
- Good quality art materials provided. Small groups.
 Please bring old clothes as it is bound to get messy!
 For more information, contact Sandy:

e.sandy.f.schott@gmail.com t. 01643 831844

Regular Community Events in Dulverton this Autumn..

REIKI SHARE (Complementary Therapy Group)

Fishers Mead Community Centre, every Friday 1-3pm [except Nov. 29 & Dec. 27]. FREE Entry & Refreshments. (Contact: Angela 07591 414401)

DEATH CAFE (*New monthly event*)

"At a Death Cafe people drink tea, eat cake and discuss death: to increase awareness of it & make the most of their lives." Fishers Mead Community Centre, Wed 27th Nov. 2-4pm - then last Wed every month from Jan 2020. (Contact: Gary



07419 212354)

Community Music Events at All Saints' Church, Dulverton



MOOR MOVIES in Winsford 2019

MOOR MOVIES In Winsford 2019

Tuesday 19th November RED JOAN (12A)

The intriguing story of Joan Stanley, the KGB's longest serving British spy. Starring Judy Dench.

Tuesday 10th December YESTERDAY (12)

When a musician finds himself the only person who remembers The Beatles he becomes famous for writing and performing their songs. Comedy directed by Danny Boyle.

Details can be checked on the Winsford Village Website

www.winsfordexmoor.org.uk
Price: Members £2.50. Guests £5.00
Winsford Village Hall 7.30

New Regular Events..

Saturday Music Club

11am-1pm, Nov 9th & 23rd FREE Entry ALL ages & abilities welcome

Sunday Matinee Concerts

11am-12pm, every Sunday (ends Dec 22nd) FREE Entry

'Rhythm n'Brews'

10.30am-12pm, every Monday (ends Dec 9th)
Songs, Rhythm & Fun for Kids 0-5yrs
£2 (+50p for each additional child)

+

Exmoor Piano Group Concert

Sat 30th Nov, 7.30pm Donations to charity

www.allsaintsdulverton.org.uk



Brompton Regis Village Hall

Saturday 7th December

Doors open 6.30PM

Eyes down 7.30PM

3 prizes for every game

Brilliant Raffle

Tea/ Coffee & biscuits

In aid of Brompton Regis Hall

For more information contact Sylvia on 01398 323289



Route 60+

Helping you drive safer for longer

Route 60+ is a FREE presentation for older drivers, addressing how both vehicles and driving skills have changed over the years and how these can be updated.

When and Where

Date: 3rd December 2019

Time: 10:00-13:00

Location: Town Hall,
Dulverton

The Route 60+ presentation offers coping strategies to take into account the increased amount of vehicles on the road and, as we get older, our ability to adapt our driving skills.



A one hour driving refresher with an approved driving instructor is also available at a time and location convenient to you (a charge of £25 will be made for this service, payable on the day).

Those attending can expect to receive:

- A 'goodie' bag including a hi-vis jacket and a copy of the latest Highway Code
- · Free refreshments

For more information contact Somerset Road Safety on 01823 423430 or roadsafety@somerset.gov.uk.

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DULVERTON LIBRARY MATTERS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

THE FRIENDS OF DULVERTON LIBRARY will meet on December 5th at 2pm

THE LIBRARY BOOK GROUP will meet on November 1st and December 6th at 2pm

THE CRAFTERNOONERS will meet on November 8th at 2pm and again on November 14th at 10.30am. In December we will meet on 13th at 2pm and again on 19th at 10.30am.

TRIVIAL PURSUITS CLUB will meet on November 14th and December19th at 2pm.

LEGO CLUB will meet on November 16th and December 21st at 10.30am.

THE KNIT AND NATTER GROUP will meet on November 29th and December 27th at 2pm.

THE FRIENDS OF DULVERTON LIBRARY WILL BE HOLDING A COFFEE MORNING AND CHRISTMAS FAYRE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26th AT 10.30am.

VINTAGE FILM CLUB

Wed 13th November SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE, starring Dev Patel & Freida Pinto (2008) starting 2.30 pm at Fishers Mead Community Centre

Wed 4th December
(NB: Week earlier than usual)
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!
THE BISHOP'S WIFE, starring Cary Grant,
Loretta Young & David Niven (1947)
starting 1 pm for shared lunch and
bubbly at Fishers Mead Community
Centre

DULVERTON ACTION GROUP

Litter-picking (3rd Sunday): **Sundays 17th Nov** and **15th Dec**10.30 meet by the Heritage Centre - Everyone welcome and all kit supplied



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 on Wednesday 27th November by Jim Patterson **'Two Rivers Paper Mill on the Mineral Line'**Please note, there is no meeting during December.

MOREBATH VILLAGE HALL

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Race Night at The Anchor, Exebridge Repeating the successful evening last year. Basket meals available. Contact

Basket meals available. Contact
Jose Chorley for info. 01398 331370.



Social & Carols Evening

Complimentary mulled wine and mince pies. Christmas Quiz and Draw.
Charitable donation. Not to be missed!

Saturday 9 November 7.00pm

Thursday 12 December 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Morebath Yoga at the Village Hall. Mondays 10.20-12 noon.

Forward session dates: 4th, 18th & 25th Nov. 2nd & 9th Dec.

British Wheel of Yoga Tutor. Temporary and new members always welcome.

For more information please e.mail: rafton.mail@rockspray.co.uk

Pip Utton Theatre presents At Home with Will Shakespeare SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16th 7.30pm DULVERTON TOWN HALL



Actor Pip Utton, an Edinburgh Fringe Festival favourite, has produced numerous spellbinding performances in recent years, including 'Churchill', 'Chaplin' and 'Adolf'.

Now, as the Bard himself, Pip looks back on Shakespeare's loves: the desire, the exhilaration, but also the fear of rejection and grief for lost love. The poetry and the plays are the source of inspiration for this entertaining romp around the life of arguably the greatest playwright of all time.

Pip is an internationally respected solo performer. He adopts the persona of famous people. Come along to spend time with the Bard who loves, laughs, sings, dance and cries, and, in between, is forced to write some plays and poetry! Fun and moving – his life and his 'greatest hits'.

"Pip Utton's performances are always masterclasses in acting"

Tickets £10, £8 students in full time education - available from Dulverton Post Office or contact Jan Ross 01398 323818, janaross20033@yahoo.co.uk or online https://www.wegottickets.com/event/478568

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DULVERTON TOWN HALL

Friday November 9th ROCKETMAN (Cert 15)

Director: Dexter Fletcher 120 mins

Young Reginald Dwight changes his name to Elton John and collaborates with singer-songwriter Bernie Taupin to become one of the most iconic figures in pop history. Set to his most beloved songs, it's the epic musical story of Elton John, his breakthrough years in the 1970s and his fantastical transformation from shy piano prodigy to international superstar.

Friday November 22nd THE WHITE CROW (Cert 12A)

Director: Ralph Fiennes 127 mins

Young Rudolf Nureyev becomes a top ballet dancer in Russia, but a lifechanging visit to Paris soon makes him seek asylum in France. The film captures the raw physicality and brilliance of Rudolf Nureyev, whose escape to the West stunned the world at the height of the Cold War. With his magnetic presence, Nureyev emerged as ballet's most famous star, a wild and beautiful dancer limited by the world of 1950s Leningrad. His flirtation with Western artists and ideas led him into a high-stakes game of cat and mouse with the KGB.

Friday December 6th YESTERDAY (Cert 12A)

Director: Danny Boyle 116 mins

Jack Malik is a struggling singersongwriter in an English seaside town whose dreams of fame are rapidly fading, despite the fierce devotion and support of his childhood best friend, Ellie. After a freak bus accident during a mysterious global blackout, Jack wakes up to discover that The Beatles have never existed. Performing songs by the greatest band in history to a world that has never heard them, Jack becomes an overnight sensation with a little help from his agent.

Friday December 20th THE LION KING (Cert PG)

Director: Jon Favreau 118 mins

Simba idolizes his father, King Mufasa, and takes to heart his own royal destiny on the plains of Africa. But not everyone in the kingdom celebrates the new cub's arrival. Scar, Mufasa's brother and former heir to the throne, has plans of his own. The battle for Pride Rock is soon ravaged with betrayal, tragedy and drama, ultimately resulting in Simba's exile. Now, with help from a curious pair of newfound friends, Simba must figure out how to grow up and take back what is rightfully his. A visually stunning remake of the original film with technological marvels and world class voice cast.

Tickets – Dulverton Films members £3, nonmembers £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.

The Tiverton Film Club

November 20th 'Capernaum', a Lebanese film about life in Beirut slums

December 11th 'Faces Places'

French rural life through the lens of Agnes Varda

Please go to our website for more information tivertonfilmclub.org

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!

Dulverton Gardening Club has been successful in acquiring a prominent name in the gardening world to present our first talk of the year.

We are delighted to announce that garden designer and presenter TOBY BUCKLAND will be coming to the Town Hall on Thursday 16 January 2020 to speak on "Abundance – How to get the best from your produce and flowers".

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Toby he is a relatively local lad coming from just across the border in Devon and is probably best known for being the main presenter of BBC Gardeners' World between 2008 and 2010. He is the author of many gardening books and has designed numerous gardens including the particularly noteworthy 45 Commando Royal Marines Memorial Gardens in Arbroath. In 2008 he won the RHS Gold and Best in Show for his Ethical Garden at BBC Gardeners' World Live.

Nowadays you will associate him with the very popular annual flower festival held at Powderham Castle in Kenton.

Tickets for this event will be on sale from 1 October and will be available from the post office in Dulverton, (tel: 01398 323474); £8 for non-members and £4 for members.

Book early to avoid disappointment!





Dulverton Heritage Centre

WANTED Bric-a-Brac & Books



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A talk by Christine Braine on Wall shrubs and climbers on 21st November At Dulverton Town Hall Doors open 6.45pm, Talk starts promptly at 7.30pm



A TALK BY TOBY BUCKLAND

Dulverton Town Hall 16th January 2020

Doors open 6.45pm - For 7.30 Start
TICKETS FROM DULVERTON POST OFFICE
01398 323474

Members £4 Non Members £8

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Upton Graches Day Excursions and Theatre Trips 2019.

Day Excursions

Bridgwater Carnival – Saturday 2nd November £12.00pp Victorian Xmas Market at Gloucester – Saturday 16th November £15.00pp

Charlestown Christmas Market – Saturday 23rd November £16.00pp

Bath Christmas Market – Friday 29th November £15.00pp

Dyrham Park at Christmas NT – Thursday 5th December Members £15.00 Non-Members £27.70pp

Carols by Candlelight – Friday 13th December £13.00pp Longleat Festival of Lights – Saturday 14th December

Adult £39.50 Senior £37.00 Child £33.00

Clarks Village or Wells - Tuesday 21st January 2010
£13.00pp

Highfield Garden World & Painswick Rococo Gardens Snowdrops Tuesday 11th February 2010 £TBC Gloucester Quays Shopping Outlet – Thurs 20th Feb 2020 £16.00pp

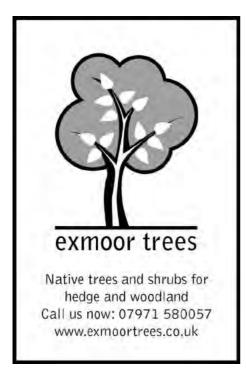
Theatre Excursions

- Dick Whittington Friday 3rd January 2020 2.00pm performance Bristol Adult £35.00pp Child £32.00pp
- We Will Rock You Saturday 21st March 2020
 2.30pm performance Bristol
 £73.00pp/£56.00pp
 - The King and I Thursday 26th March 2020 2.30pm performance £77.00pp
- Mamma Mia Saturday 6th June 2020 2.30pm performance Bristol £75.00pp

Pick up Points Include – Minehead, Watchet, Williton, Bampton, Tiverton, Sampford Peverell, Wellington, and Taunton

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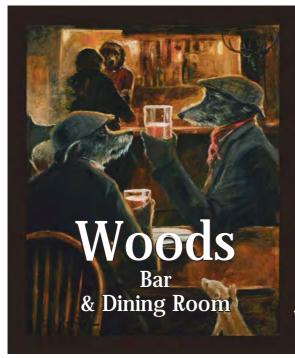


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Booking is essential

Monday 6.00pm Fitness Pilates, 7.00pm Boxercise - Dulverton

Tuesday 6.30pm Kettlercise - squash courts - Dulverton

Wednesday 9.30am Anstey Village Hall - Fitness Pilates

Thursday - Kettlercise - HIIT at 6pm in Dulverton

Thursday 7.00pm - Men on mats - men only pilates

Friday 6.00am - Bootcamp / Circuits - Dulverton

Friday 9.30am - Boxercise Body Blitz - Brushford Parish Hall 10.30am Fitness Pilates

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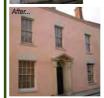












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Milverton Concert Society November 22nd 7.30pm

Leonard Elschenbroich has established himself as one of the most charismatic cellists of his generation, renowned for his passionate and compelling performances. He has been described by the New York Times as "a musician of great technical prowess, intellectual curiosity and expressive depth". He gave his US debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, his Asian debut at Suntory Hall in Tokyo, his Vienna Musikverein debut on a European Tour with the Staatskapelle Dresden, and appears regularly at the Royal Albert Hall for the BBC Proms.

Kiev-born pianist Alexei Grynyuk was performing by the age of six and, as a thirteen-year-old, was already appearing with Ukrainian orchestras playing Chopin

and Mozart piano concertos, as well as winning international prizes, including first prize at the last historic All-Soviet-Union piano competition in Moscow.

At Milverton they are performing Beethoven and Shostakovich.

The season continues with; February 28th The London Bridge Trio March 27th Red Priest



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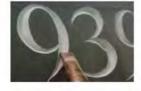




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TOP TEN HIT FOR REGAL FILM SOCIETY

Minehead's Regal Theatre has scored a hit with its live screenings of opera and ballet from the Royal Opera House (ROH) – and gone straight into the top 10 chart of UK venues.

Of more than 250 independent cinemas offering live screenings around the country, the Regal Film Society has come in at No 6 in this year's chart.

Its place – based on ticket sales – comes less than two years after the society began the live screening of performances from the ROH which regularly attract audiences of more than 300 people from all over West Somerset. The society's chair and co-founder, Victoria Thomas, said: "This is very exciting news and vindicates our decision to set up live screenings at the Regal."

"We're very grateful for the positive feedback and support we have from the community for these Royal Opera House events, and to our technical team of volunteers – headed by Martin Smith – which has done a great deal of work to bring them to the Regal."

The 2018/9 ROH Live Cinema Season table has been published by More2Screen which organises distribution of live broadcasting the Opera House's events.

The 2019/20 Royal Opera House live cinema season which began in October at the Regal Theatre, Minehead,

continues with two of the best loved ballets as seasonal treats to celebrate this Christmas.

On Tuesday December 10 at 7.15pm live from The Royal Opera House a classic returns to The Royal Ballet repertory with Ninette de Valois's charming and funny Coppelia - a story of love, mischief and mechanical dolls, with music by Leo Delibes and choreography by Ninette de Valois after Lev Ivanov/Enrico Cecchetti. On Tuesday December 17 at 7.15pm there is a special screening of The Royal Ballet's glorious 2016 production of an all-time ballet favourite The Nutcracker, created by Peter Wright in 1984. It is Christmas Eve and a magician sweeps young Clara away on a fantasy adventure to Tchaikovsky's glittering score. The Royal Ballet's captivating dancing and gorgeous festive stage designs make this Nutcracker the auintessential Christmas experience.

Tickets: Adult: £15.50, Friends of the Regal, film society members and ES40s £13.00. Full time students £10.00.

Minehead's Regal Theatre came sixth in this year's chart of more than 250 independent cinemas in the number of tickets sold for live screenings of opera and ballet from the Royal Opera House. For more details about the current ROH season and the film society programme visit www. regalfilmsociety.org,

email admin@regalfilmsociety.org or telephone 01643 831343



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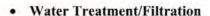
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Space Odyssey Planetarium

Grotto

Craft Market

Fireworks

Sunday 1st December



www.dulvertonbystarlight.co.uk

Email: info@dulvertonbystarlight.co.uk

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Dulverton by Starlight

The town is all set and sparkling to welcome you to celebrate the start of winter with Dulverton by Starlight.

Space Odyssey mobile planetarium was so successful last year that we have invited them back to amaze and educate us about the night sky with a new show and exciting new facts. There will be 20min sessions running throughout the afternoon and evening with advance booking advisable through our website www.dulvertonbystarlight.co.uk. There will be some limited "on the day" tickets available in the Town Hall.

Most of the shops will be open for the day, so be sure to pop in and find a present or two.

The Winter Market has expanded this year with even more locally made crafts throughout the town and All Saints Church will host an afternoon "Church Open House" with tea, cake and tombola.

Entertainment around the town starts at 2pm with the arrival of Father Christmas on his way to his grotto and the festive music of The South Molton Brass Band, followed by a

packed schedule of magicians, choirs, stilt walkers and even a samba band to get your hips a-swaying, carol singing around the big Christmas tree, a super professional fireworks display and finishing with our very own local rock band at 7.30pm. Santa's grotto, face painting, model railway and Davey the Tractor are all at the Heritage Centre.

Parking spaces are limited in the town so Ridlers Coaches will be providing a park & ride service all afternoon. Pick up points will be Masons Kings, The Anchor Inn and Brushford bus stop. Return tickets are a very reasonable £2 per person with under 12s free and can be bought at the stops.

There will be extra disabled parking spaces available at Exmoor House (National Park HQ). More information can be found on the website or email: info@dulvertonbystralight.co.uk.

Come start the festive season with Dulverton by Starlight!

The Dulverton by Starlight Committee www.dulvertonbystarlight.co.uk

MAS FAIRS AND EVENTS



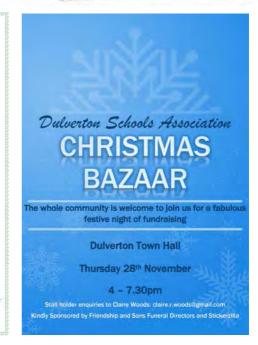
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Westcountry CSI is a growing community of citizen scientists taking a closer look at our local rivers across Somerset. Dorset. Devon and Cornwall.

Its aims are:

- to record as many river and stream surveys as possible in the area,
- · to use the data to flag up persistent, low level pollution problems or areas where habitat can be improved - this will help develop future projects and volunteer events,
- to give people or volunteer groups an easy way of recording their local river or stream including good things (wildlife sightings) and bad (pollution, litter and invasive plants).

Become a Citizen Scientist!

When you sign up you'll take observational surveys, using the Westcountry CSI form. You'll be able to record information on plants, wildlife, river condition and any visible pollution. As long as you record a time and location you can fill in as much or as little of the form as you like, there is also the option to take some water quality measurements too - using some simple equipment provided. At the moment, we are using turbidity tubes to measure how

murky the water is, pocket-sized probes for dissolved solids, and a simple test kit for measuring phosphate.

When you've done your survey by the river add your data on the website and you'll then be able to see it on an interactive map alongside everybody else's surveys. It's totally flexible over how many surveys you do and where you do them and if you need any suggestions of where to do your testing we can give you some pointers.

For more information contact Peter Romain on 01398 323070 or peter.romain@dulvertonweir.org.uk or see our website www.dulvertonweir.org.uk.















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Beautiful Spaces

Did you know that right here on your doorstep are two beautiful indoor, fluorescent lit, heated spaces for local people to use? Jackie Kelly and her fitness classes do. There is plenty of free parking, showers and changing facilities as well.

They are Dulverton's very own smart squash courts available for all sorts of other activities as well as playing squash.

The two spacious courts are still the only publicly available indoor sports facility on Exmoor and they are owned by the community, built by local people. All you need to do to use them is put money in the meters to light the lights, or pay a small, sessional rent. No need to warm them up – the new solar panels do that.

Where are they? Down Milham Lane, opposite Rothwell's Bookshop, on Dulverton's Award Winning Sportsfield.

Your group can hire them morning, afternoon or evening. Or, if you fancy a game of squash, even how to learn the game, come down on a Monday evening at 6 pm and we will teach you. Rackets and balls are available. All you need is non-marking shoes – don't try and play in bare feet if you want to walk the next day! There's also facilities for a game called 'racketball' to get beginners and children started easily.

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News from your Village Agent

With the clocks changing at the end of October and bringing the dark evenings again, it is a good time to think about your home security. Be aware that lights on in the house and curtains open at dusk allow people to see all your belongings, so remember to close the curtains and lock the door. Do remember to take the keys out of the inside of the lock however if you have a care alarm. Keys in the back of locks stop the front of the lock from working. If you try to open it from the outside you can break the lock and it will delay someone reaching you when in need.

On another security note, beware of cold callers and scammers. Cold calls either by phone or at the door are not generally illegal but are usually unwanted and can be frightening and a nuisance. If you haven't asked a tradesman to call you or visit then simply tell them you aren't interested in whatever they are selling and hang up or close the door. Consider registering for the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) to record your preference not to receive marketing or sales calls. The service is free and your Village Agent can help you register if you have difficulty doing so.

Telephone scams are on the increase and older people are often a target for scammers, so it's important to be aware of phone scams and how to handle them. AGE UK gives the following advice on things you can do to protect yourself:

- Don't reveal personal details. Never give out personal or financial information (such as your bank account details or your PIN) over the phone, even if the caller claims to be from your bank.
- Hang up. If you feel harassed or intimidated, or if the caller talks over you without giving you a chance to speak, end the call. It may feel rude to hang up on someone, but you have the right not to be pressurised into anything.
- Ring the organisation. If you're unsure whether the caller is genuine, you can always ring the company or bank they claim to be

from. Make sure you find the number yourself and don't use the one provided by the caller.

• Don't be rushed. Scammers will try to rush you into providing your personal details. They may say they have time-limited offer or claim your bank account is at risk if you don't give them the information they need right away.

Enjoy the beauty of autumn on Exmoor and remember to check your parish and local news magazines for events and groups you can join. Also don't forget to see if you can apply for a warmer homes discount from your electricity or gas provider from 14th October if you are on a means tested benefit. Again, your Village Agent can help with this.

Dulverton Good Neighbours Scheme

The Public Meeting for the launch of the Dulverton Good Neighbours scheme took place on 12th September and the scheme received wonderful support from the community. The scheme Co-ordinator, Sarah Collett, is keen to hear from anyone who might be able to volunteer as a helper so please, if you think you could give a bit of time to help those in need in your community give her a call on 01398 324211.

Dulverton Talking Café

Every Friday from 10.30 am and 12.30 pm at Dulverton Library, the Talking Café is coordinated by your local Village Agent and aims to provide a drop in, free advice service and support to the public. Free tea, coffee and biscuits available. For more information please contact your Village Agent or just come along and talk to us on a Friday morning.

Your Village Agent is:

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A Dog's Day Out – Things to do: Places to go: People to Meet

There's a frog in our water bowl again Honey. That's the second

time this week. She's going to have to close the door to the garden soon otherwise he'll be bringing his entire family in. What is it she's been saying when she goes out in the morning – places to go, people to meet. It used to be Be good. See you lunchtime. "Perhaps the frog thinks this is a nice place to visit. He likes you ." Well he can't stay. There's not enough room. It's not suitable in here for invertebrates.

(Sigh). What does she mean things to do, places to go, people to meet? It must be her new gee-up talk. Tell that to that frog. It's far too dull for the likes of him living in our water bowl. "Aah, he's resting Buddy; I felt just like that for days after she took us to have our teeth cleaned". Frogs don't have teeth, the only thing that bears any resemblance to us is four legs. Go on mate hop it back to where you belong! "I was sick for days; they took my tooth out too". She says it's good to have a day off and do something completely different. "Well I can tell you, I'm not going back to that place again!"

Come to think of it, we didn't get to see many new places in the summer. Didn't she say we were having a staycation as she had a lot of things she needed to do? There's been some really good live entertainment though. What about that gang in the trees looking for squirrels in our back garden? They were up there for hours swinging about on wires and

chopping bits off. I don't think they found much but it was a terrific show to watch. And then the commando brought her new dog to meet us. I liked that place. They had a band there and I won a prize for being happy. "I didn't win anything". The judge was very nice to you though Honey and she looked at you twice but she'd run out of rosettes. "She'd given them all to the commando's new dog that's why. I think I would make a lovely lumberjacks companion. I could sit in their cab and help with the squirrels and look after their lunch boxes". Yep. I'm still waiting for my big break with a movie part but being a bodyquard is quite time consuming. "Look Buddy that frog's jumped back into our water howl"

Buddy Brown (pure Jack Russell) a roving reporter References: Hi Line Contractors SW Ltd Cutcombe Fete and Dog Show





Tania Still sporting prints at The Farmers Den Exford

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EXMOOR NEWS

Focus on Photography

Just about everyone takes photos of family and friends and an increasing number of people enjoy a selfie moment. Recording our memories from holidays and travelling has long been everyone's favourite pastime. We have all been moved to raise a lens to capture a wonderful sunrise or sunset.

The magic of photography has been with us for over 180 years. With digital photography, whether in a camera or

a phone, it has never been easier to 'take' and share pictures. More than ever before it would seem that we are now all photographers.

Yet, as in every other aspect of human endeavour, there is a large and happy band of enthusiasts who strive to develop their skills and push at the boundaries of the art and craft of photography. Alongside the rapid and fundamental

changes in camera and processing technologies, our approaches t photographic art have also seen transformation.

The subjects and purposes inspiring photographers continue to cover all aspects of life but there is an increasing interest in using photographs as a 'canvas' for digital art. The camera, which has long been associated with representation and realism, is but a

starting point for imaginative image making. There is no requirement for visual arts such as drawing or painting to depict reality. They may be impressionist or abstract, symbolic or surreal. Yet all such artwork is comprised of small marks applied with pencils and brushes. The digital camera is a modern and powerful tool for such creativity as it has the ability to record a scene as millions of small marks in a fraction of a heartbeat. The possibilities for manipulating the 'dots' in the raw image, compositing multiple

images and for mixing media are limitless.

There are many groups of enthusiasts on Exmoor producing a wide range of interesting images of our local landscapes, people and wildlife. Exmoor Photographers is one that have the pleasure facilitate. The Facebook Group now has 355 members but there will always be a warm welcome to anyone, of

whatever ability and experience, who wants to join the conversation and share their images. All subjects, all styles and all locations are welcome.

20Twenty Photography is another group of local enthusiasts of which I am a founder member. We are holding local exhibitions this autumn and winter and will give even more exposure to our work next year.

Alan Jones



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We have a large cast list to fill and we are looking for new actors and singers all ages and sizes to join our existing

talented team. There are main character roles to fill as well as lots of fun parts for the chorus which include a team of pirate rats led by King Rat himself.

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MERLIN HELICOPTERS HELP MEND OUR MOUTAINS

Two Merlin MK3 Helicopters from the Commando Helicopter Force (CHF) have been working high up on Exmoor despite challenging weather conditions this week. The trainee pilots and aircrewmen from CHF's 846 Naval Air Squadron and Mobile Air Operations Team (MAOT) have been helping National Park Rangers shift 80 tonnes of crushed stone along a 2km stretch of the Tarka Trail in North Devon that had become badly eroded.

It's part of a training exercise that forms the final stage before these pilots and aircrewmen get their 'wings' and are signed off as fully operational pilots ready for frontline duties. The repair work that will now follow has been made possible through the British Mountaineering Council (BMC)'s Mend Our Mountains: Make One Million campaign, which has been raising money for vital path repair works throughout the family of 15 UK National Parks.

The project will resurface sections of a bridleway that forms part of the Tarka Trail, popular with walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers for its sense of remoteness and panoramic views. The route is naturally very wet and has become eroded, with instances of having to close the path to avoid horses becoming stuck and diverting users onto other fragile routes.

Not far from the site is the National Park's Pinkery Centre for Outdoor Learning, which provides around 9,000 school children a year with a taste of life offgrid in the National Park and frequently



uses the trail. It is also in the heart of its International Dark Sky Reserve amid pristine starry skies.

Dan Barnett, Exmoor National Park's Access and Recreation Manager, said: "The area of 'The Chains' where this work is happening lies above 1,500 feet and, before 846 Naval Air Squadron stepped in, we had no way of getting such a quantity of stone up there. So it's great they have been able to help us as part of their training exercise and that Mend Our Mountains has provided the funding for this project.

"This ancient site has long been home to our iconic Red Deer and ponies, and is littered with signs of Neolithic man, and with the backing of these two partners we're pleased to be able to secure safe passage for another generation."

Commander Ed Vaughan RN, Commanding Officer 846 NAS said: "Injecting real life tasks into flying training and the development of aircrews is invaluable. It cannot be replicated in routine training and the variable, quick changing weather on the moor adds a significant dimension to testing competencies and capabilities. Working with and alongside the National Park is something that the Squadron looks forward to, especially as we are able to contribute something to the region in which we also live and train."



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EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK DECLARES CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Exmoor National Park Authority Members this week declared a climate emergency and agreed to work towards being a carbon neutral Authority by 2030, subject to a detailed action plan now being drawn up.

Members also agreed to sign up to the Devon Climate Declaration, alongside 25 other organisations, and to join forces with both Devon and Somerset County Councils to produce carbon plans covering the National Park to meet or exceed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) targets.

The report to Members noted the 30% reduction in carbon emissions that Exmoor National Park Authority had

already made since it started monitoring its carbon footprint across all its corporate assets in 2008. The measures taken include action to improve energy efficiency within Authority owned buildings and install renewable energy along with a scheme to facilitate installation of 73 new renewable energy systems in local communities, farms and houses across Exmoor.

The Authority has also taken steps to respond through management of its own estate, particularly the woodlands which are managed in-house, and collaboration with other foresters and land owners to support positive woodland planting and management.

Trees play a vital role in combatting climate change, acting not only as a carbon sink, but offering myriad other benefits, like habitat connectivity, biodiversity improvement, help with



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preventing soil erosion, and reducing flood risk. There are estimated to be in excess of 4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide stored in Exmoor's existing woodlands, plus another 1 tonnes stored in hedgerow and freestanding trees, according to a 2013 study commissioned by the National Park Authority.

Active management of woodlands through the felling of carefully selected trees improves resilience towards tree diseases and climate change, while also improving the habitat for a variety of woodland species such as birds, butterflies and fungi. Directing more of the timber sustainably produced in this way towards end uses such timber framed buildings, quality furniture, flooring, doors and windows, including As the planning authority for the area, the distinctive signs, styles and gates found in the National Park, helps lock climate change are included in Exmoor

away a further 26,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, whilst the trees continue to grow sequestering more carbon.

In addition nearly 2,500 hectares of peatland in the National Park have so far been restored through the Exmoor Mires Partnership, with plans to extend this to at least 3,000 hectares.

Peatlands are the UK's single most carbon important terrestrial containing 20 times more carbon than all UK forests. A functioning bog absorbs around 0.87 tons of carbon per hectare year on year. But dry peatland releases it, with degraded peat in England is emitting an estimated 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year, making it even more urgent to restore this vital habitat.

significant further steps to address (Continued overleaf)





National Park Authority's Local Plan including:

- Measures that reduce the need for energy and promote renewable energy.
- Encouraging water conservation through sustainable and efficient supplies.
- Supporting the management of uplands and woodlands to assist in carbon sequestration and storage.

A detailed action plan will now be developed and presented back to Authority Members by early next year. Robin Milton, Chair of Exmoor National Park Authority, said: "It's clear urgent action is needed if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change by keeping global warming below 1.5°C. Good progress is already being made to restore vital natural resources, including thousands of acres of precious peatlands, and to champion nature-friendly farming. "But we cannot afford to let the declines in our natural world carry on and are continuing to work closely with Government, landowners, communities and our partners to ensure National Parks play their full part in addressing the climate emergency."

Rotary Club News

It has been a busy autumn for the club. At the end of September the club helped stewarding the Exmoor Open Waters Swim at Wimbleball Lake in aid of Children's Hospice South West. It was a big event with about 500 competitors taking part, but it was not only they who got wet! – it was an atrocious wet day, and our volunteers got soaked through! However, we were very glad to support this for such a good cause.

In September we also took a coachload of elderly folk from the Bampton and Dulverton area on a day trip to Lynmouth which included a cream tea. This was much appreciated on a fine and sunny day. By the time you read this, the 761st Bampton Fair will have taken place since its Royal Charter, now run by our club in conjunction with Bampton TC.

We raise many thousands of pounds every year for a range of charities – do support our charity collections when our Santa sleigh comes around the streets in this part of Exmoor in December.

For more information, www.exmoor-rotary.org.uk and www.bamptoncharterfair.org.uk

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Lynton Goats

Goats in the Valley were mentioned in the Domesday book, and referred to in subsequent literature. including reference in Lorna Doone, (1869). Before the 60's these were apparently Cashmere Goats, possibly 'let go' from a local land owner tired of looking after them. It is thought had disappeared by 1960. After the sixties I understand there were a handful of goats of Swiss

origin, with a 'Saanen' billy introduced in the 70's.

It is possible that a few other goats were 'dumped' in the valley as one article describes the group as a 'motley crew'. In 1976 three goats described as "Genuine British Primitive Goats" were added to the stock, (also known as Cheviots, from



a herd in Northumberland) and some crossbreeding ensued. Although there was apparently some effort later to manage this group in order to bring the herd more to the Cheviot breed this was disrupted by the Foot and Mouth outbreak at the beginning of this century. Why not join the Facebook Group, share your own photos and join in the discussion! Help the powers that be realise that there many people who appreciate these distinctive

inhabitants of our Valley of the Rocks!

For those that are interested in the Valley of the Rocks, Lynton, North Devon, and its colony of feral goats. Why not join the Facebook Group, share your own photos and join in the discussion. Rupert Kirby



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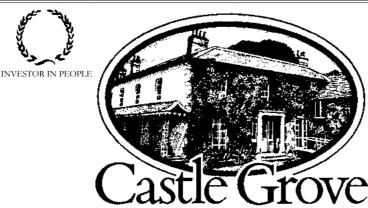
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