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EXMOOR NEWS

EWS COVERING SOUTHERN EXMOOR

There are requests for volunteers in this issue - do you think you can help? If you are unable to get involved, then how about supporting them in their fund raising ventures? Every little thing you do to help is always gratefully received.



Thank you - we're in the finals!!

Thank you to all who nominated us. We are a South West regional finalist for the Countryside Alliance Awards 2020 in the Rural Enterprise Category. It has been a pleasure

to build up Exmoor News and make it what it is today, and most importantly be of service to the communities we cover. As we say on the front of every magazine, "Bringing community news across southern Exmoor"

In this issue we would like to thank the people who get this magazine out, be it delivery, advertising and the team in house. Thank you.

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: ©Tony Keene

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 May/June issue of the Exmoor News is

Thursday 2nd April 2020

Printed by Brightsea, Exeter



EXMOOR NEWS MAGAZINE ADVERT SIZES – Prices may be subject to change. 3,000 copies printed		
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Local Vineyard announces programme of concerts for 2020

Wellhayes Vineyard, just outside Clayhanger, has announced their programme of concerts for 2020. These concerts, which now regularly sell out, provide an opportunity to enjoy classical music concerts with international performers in an intimate setting overlooking the vineyard and, of course, the opportunity to enjoy the quality sparkling wine made on site from grapes grown in the vineyard.

There are nine events in this year's programme, running from April through to September. They provide a mixture of established professional musicians, such as Krysia Osostowicz (Dante Quartet), David Waterman (Endellion Quartet), Devon Baroque and Graham Clark (International Wagnerian tenor), with young up and coming professional musicians, includina Australian soprano Alexandra Flood (pictured), Latvian pianist Reinis Zarins and English violinist Florence Cooke. As well as concerts there are also talks, readings with musical excerpts and a singing masterclass.

Full details of this year's programme can be found at wellhaves.uk/ concerts-2020.



Tuesday 10th March

KNIVES OUT (12A)

Funny and taxing Whodunnit with a modern edge.

Detective Blanc (Daniel Craig) sifts through a web of red herrings and lies to uncover the truth behind an untimely death.

MOOR

MOVIES

In Winsford

2020

Tuesday 7th April

OFFICIAL SECRETS (12A)

Gripping true story of British Intelligence memos being leaked to the press to stop the world rushing into an illegal war in Iraq.

Starring Keira Knightly as Katherine Gun.

WINSFORD VILLAGE HALL 7.30

Details can be checked on the Winsford Village Website www.winsfordexmoor.org.uk

VINTAGE FILM CLUB

Wed 11th March - LOST IN TRANSLATION - starring Bill Murray & Scarlett Johansson (2003)

Wed 8th April - WHISKY GALORE! - starring Basil Radford, Joan Greenwood & James Robertson Justice (1949) starting 2.30 pm at Fishers Mead Community Centre

DULVERTON ACTION GROUP -

Litter-picking (3rd Sunday):

Sundays 15th March & 19th April – 10.30 meet by the Heritage Centre - Everyone welcome and all kit supplied



Hot Supper and Bar Saturday 25th April

Dulverton Town Hall 7.00 for 7.30 pm start Teams of 6 players

Tickets available from the **Dulverton Post Office**

In aid of Dulverton Heritage Centre, Tickets £12.00

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THE FRIENDS OF DULVERTON LIBRARY will meet on Thursdays March 5th and April 2nd at 2pm

THE LIBRARY BOOK GROUP will meet on Fridays March 6th and April 3rd at 2pm

THE CRAFTERNOONERS will meet on Friday March 13th at 2pm and again on Thursday March 19th at 10.30am. There will be no meetings in April

TRIVIAL PURSUITS CLUB will meet on Thursday March 19th at 2pm. There will be no meeting in April

THE KNIT AND NATTER GROUP will meet on Fridays March 27th and April 24th at 2pm

THE FRIENDS OF DULVERTON LIBRARY WILL HOST A COFFEE MORNING ON SATURDAY MARCH 28th at 10.30am

PLEASE CHECK IN THE LIBRARY FOR CHILDREN'S EVENTS HAPPENING DURING THE EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



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.

Wednesday 25th March

10.15 Prompt - Annual General Meeting Followed by a talk with Anthony Poulton-Smith

'WHAT'S IN A NAME? Origins of Place Names'

Wednesday 29th April

A talk by Phillip Bratby 'RENEWABLE ENERGY'

The Royal British Legion, Dulverton and District Branch



Monthly Coffee Mornings

Did you or your spouse serve in the Armed Forces (Regular or National Service)?

If so, you are cordially invited to join us for Coffee in the Dulverton Library on the first Tuesday of each month.

MOREBATH VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity No. 207013 Events 2020





Saturday Breakfast Morning

Also Tea – Coffee – Fruit Juice Other Goodies - Vegetarian Option Bric-a-Brac Stall Saturday 16 May 10-12 noon



Draws took place on the 11 October & 10 November 2019

1st prize £60, 2nd prize £30 and 3rd prize £20

The lucky winners were from Stoodleigh, East Anstey, Exebridge, and Morebath x 3. All winners have been notified.

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

Forward session dates: 10th & 24th February. 9th & 23rd March. 6th & 20th April

** Members Annual Lunch 9th March 2020 **

British Wheel of Yoga Tutor. Temporary and new members always welcome. For more information please e.mail: rafton.mail@rockspray.co.uk



April Fools' Day will be a laugh a minute when the Dulverton Players' production of "Dick Whittington" begins its four day run at the Town Hall. Olga Owen's colourful staging features a host of local actors, young and not so young. This is a traditional pantomime version of the famous story with all its favourite characters. Dick, the poor boy who becomes Lord Mayor of London, with the help of his magic cat, Tommy, battles the evil Queen Rat and wins the love of the beautiful Alice Fitzwarren.



DULVERTON TOWN HALL TALES UNCOMFORTABLE

John Hartock, storyteller and John Harris on guitar and harp SATURDAY, APRIL 18th at 7.30pm



Have you heard the story of the Watchet Sexton? Or of Sir Francis Drake's canon? Or the one about the talking cat, or the ghost who helped her murderer? Greek gods, American big-game hunters, frustrated toffee-makers and patient vultures - they're all part of Tales Uncomfortable

Expertly told with drama and humour by John Hartoch, ex Head of Acting Courses at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, and accompanied and illustrated by the skilful musicianship of John Harris, the stories promise an evening of uncomfortable delight!

Tickets £10, £8 student in full time education, available from Dulverton Post Office or contact Jan Ross 01398 323818, janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk



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BRUSHFORD**PARISH HALL**

Tackling the Tech.

Ever wanted help mastering emails, web searches, FaceTime calls, downloading, saving your pictures, Social Media etc? Come along to an IT Workshop at Brushford Parish Hall. If you have a laptop or tablet you can bring it along, but if you have a desk PC don't worry. The first Workshop will be free, while the trainer gauges the needs of the group. After that it will be £5 per person for the 1 hour group session. If you are interested please email Simon Rous S.rous@ashfords.co.uk or call him on 01398 323508 so he can get an idea of numbers and if there are enough people interested to warrant arranging a date.

Art Group

A small group of beginners and returners to drawing and painting are meeting every Wednesday at 5pm at Brushford Parish Hall. We are led by Jan Woodcock (winner of the Brushford is Beautiful Art Competition in 2019) and it costs £4 per session. Please email her on tigiman44@ qmail.com to join us.

Men Get Cooking and Let's Get Cooking

A 6 week course in basic cooking (with tips on shopping on a budget and nutrition), aimed at men over 55 and supported by the Somerset Fund and Western Power Distribution which has allowed us to keep the price down to an amazing £36 for the whole course. Course Tutor is Debbie Jansen, qualified and experienced in cooking, nutrition and small group teaching. This will be an extension of the small group learning experience to include all ages and sexes. If cooking meals for yourself or family feels daunting, contact Debbie to find our when the next course is available: debbiejansen07@googlemail.com. Let's Get Cooking depends on the support of local people shopping at the Co-op. Go to https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/40598 to support this activity when you shop.

Live Television Coverage - Guinness Six Nations Rugby on the Big Screen at Brushford Parish Hall All events will be shown from the kick off time. Bar with real ale and snacks. Saturday 7 March:

- *14:15 16:45 Ireland vs Italy followed by
- *16:45 19:00 England vs Wales

Saturday 14 March:

- * 14:15 16:45 Wales vs Scotland followed by
- *16:45 20:00 Italy vs England
- * 20:00 22:30 France vs Ireland



Dulverton Town Hall

Friday March 6th THE GOOD LIAR (Cert 15)

Director: Bill Condon 109 mins con artist Roy Courtnay (lan Mcl

Career con artist Roy Courtnay (lan McKellen) can hardly believe his luck when he meets well-to-do widow Betty McLeish (Helen Mirren) online. As Betty opens her life and home to him, Roy is surprised to find himself caring about her, turning what should be a cut-and-dry swindle into the most treacherous tightrope walk of his life.

Friday March 20th ONCE UPON AT TIME...IN HOLLYWOOD (Cert 18)

Director: Quentin Tarantino 161 mins Actor Rick Dalton gained fame and fortune by starring in a 1950s television Western, but is now struggling to find meaningful work in a Hollywood that he doesn't recognize anymore. He spends most of his time drinking and palling around with Cliff Booth, his easygoing best friend and long-time stunt double. Rick also happens to live next door to Roman Polanski and Sharon Tate, the filmmaker and budding actress whose futures will forever be altered by members of the Manson Family. Star studded cast includes Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Al Pacino, Damian Lewis and lots more!

Friday April 10th FORD V FERRARI (Cert 12A)

Director: James Mangold 152 mins American automotive designer Carroll Shelby and fearless British race car driver Ken Miles battle corporate interference, the laws of physics and their own personal demons to build a revolutionary vehicle for the Ford Motor Co. Together, they plan to compete against the race cars of Enzo Ferrari at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France in 1966. A film with poetry, scientific brilliance, hard work, human genius, and great fun all mixed together.

Friday April 24th KNIVES OUT (Cert 12A)

Director: Rian Johnson 118 mins

When renowned crime novelist Harlan Thrombey dies just after his 85th birthday, the inquisitive and debonair Detective Benoit Blanc arrives at his estate to investigate. From Harlan's dysfunctional family to his devoted staff, Blanc sifts through a web of red herrings and self-serving lies to uncover the truth behind Thrombey's untimely demise. A stellar ensemble including Daniel Craig, Christopher Plummer, Michael Shannon and Chris Evans.

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



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DULVERTON GARDENING CLUB

19th March A.G.M.& CHEESE & WINE

Followed by a talk by KATHERINE CROUCH

On

"THE SEEDED GARDEN"

Doors open at 6.15pm for 6.30pm start

16th April A talk by ANNIE PREBENSEN On

"MY CHELSEA GARDEN"

Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start



DULVERTON STARLIGHT

The annual Dulverton by Starlight Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th March at 7pm in the Lower Town Hall, Dulverton.

The meeting is open to all: shop owners, residents, visitors, volunteers, anyone who would like to help or join the committee. We want to hear your ideas: what you like about Dulverton by Starlight and do you have any suggestions to include for future events. Dulverton by Starlight is the town's premier event, a winter celebration signalling the start of the festive season. The present committee are a small but dedicated band of locals and business owners who work throughout the year to put the event together.

Please come along to the meeting if you are able to give a couple of hours a month to join our easy-going committee

to help with the planning or are able to offer help on the day.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to register your interest, please email info@dulvertonbystarlight. co.uk. We look forward to seeing you on 10th March.

The Dulverton by Starlight Committee







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Community Flood Group

As many of you will be aware, Dulverton has in the past suffered from floods, and I'm sure will unfortunately do so at some stage in the future. In the aftermath of the December 2012 floods, a Community Flood Action Group was set up to assist residents when needed. We are asking for more volunteers to join us. What's involved I hear you ask? Well, we help in whatever way we can: moving furniture to higher areas, filling or moving sandbags. buildina sandbag walls, assisting residents where we can - while always ensuring we keep ourselves safe.

If you feel you might be prepared to help, please contact Chris Dubery 01398 323474, or email christine.dubery@ dulvertontowncouncil.co.uk



Gary Cooper 'Music on Exmoor'

Organ Recital on historic T.C. Lewis 1872 instrument

Sunday 29th March, 3pm

Church of St Mary the Virgin, Brompton Regis £10 on the door (Under 30s - free)









'Music on Exmoor': Johanna Harrison - Vocal

Recital
Sun Apr 26th, 3pm
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Day Excursions 2020

Highfield Garden World & Painswick Rococo Gardens Snowdrops - Tuesday 11th February 2010 Adult £23.00pp Senior £22.00pp

Gloucester Quays Shopping Outlet - Thurs 20th Feb 2020 £16.00pp

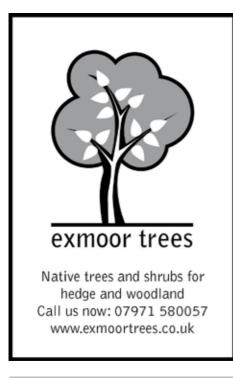
> Please call us or visit our website to request a 2020 brochure!

Theatre Excursions at Bristol Hippodrome

- We Will Rock You Saturday 21st March 2020 2.30pm performance £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
- Dream Girls Saturday 19th September 2020 2.30pm performance £72.00pp
- Strictly Ballroom the Musical Saturday 7th November 2020 7.30pm performance £59.50pp
- Snow White Wednesday 30th December 2020 2.00pm performance Adult £44.50pp Child £40.00pp

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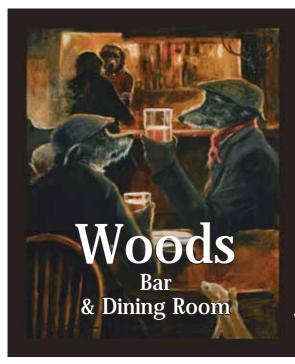


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Wednesday – 9.30am Fitness Pilates 12pm Body Conditioning

Thursday - 6pm Kettlebell HIIT, 7pm Men's Fitness Pilates Friday - 6am Bootcamp

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NEW SCHEME URGES SHOPPERS TO BUY LOCAL

A new initiative to highlight the merits of buying local has been launched in Exmoor National Park. The National Park Authority and Visit Exmoor are working together to support local producers and promote how the fine produce sustainably grown, reared and prepared within Greater Exmoor benefits the landscape and its communities.

Signs making it easier for shoppers to identify local produce are being proudly displayed in stores to shine a light on the region's producers and how buying local benefits the environment, while delivering food that is more tasty, nutritious and sustainable.

Sarah Bryan, Chief Executive of Exmoor National Park Authority, said: "Despite appearance, Exmoor's wild landscapes have been shaped by human interaction with nature over thousands of years. Many local producers here are small-scale farmers championing lowimpact approaches that work with, not against nature. Much of the livestock is grass-fed, making our local lamb and beef tastier and healthier, as well as more sustainable. With fewer food miles and in turn less packaging, switching to local produce can help reduce your carbon and plastic footprint, whilst supporting our rural communities."

The Exmoor Hill Farming Network, Edible Exmoor (www.edibleexmoor.co.uk) plus numerous local shops and retailers have already got behind the campaign, with Wheddon Cross Central Convenience Store and Roadwater Community Shop among the first to display the new branding.

Tony Howard, proprietor of The Village Shop and Tea Rooms at Withypool, said: "We're delighted to be able to support this initiative by the National Park. As well as selling to those visiting the area, we have a strong and loyal customer base who are always pleased to support local producers, but more can be done, and highlighting Exmoor produce in this way is a step in the right direction."

Sarah Campbell at Timberscombe Post Office and Store said: "There's already been a really positive response to the new promotional material in our shop. I'm sure it will make our customers think carefully and more likely to choose local produce."

In December, grass-fed Exmoor lamb was the winner at blind-tasting event at Woods restaurant in Dulverton. Emma Thomasson from Visit Exmoor, who supported the event, said: "When visitors come to the area, experiencing the finest seasonal food and drink can be a big part of their cultural adventure, connecting them with the landscape they see around them and helping create memorable experiences.

"Joining the dots of where our food comes from is an important way of deepening people's understanding and kindling a life-long love of the area sure to keep them returning. With locally-produced meats, fresh, seasonal fruit and veg, artisan breads, sweet treat confectionery and award-winning gin and cider all on offer, it's not hard to see why!"

The 'Produced in Exmoor' campaign is part of the wider #EatExmoor project, which aims to support producers, build strong commercial relationships between producers and local businesses and help boost Exmoor's reputation as a great food destination. Find out more at: www. exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/eat-exmoor



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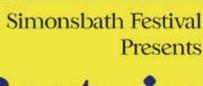
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Two Poets in Performance

Saturday 14th March 2020

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Adults £10 Children under 16 FREE Bar with wine and soft drinks

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2nd March - George Stubbs and the Tyrants of the Jungle with Amina Wright

6th April - English Women and the French Revolution with Karin Fernal

11th May - Beethoven at 250 with Sandy Burnett

1st June - Sunken Treasures of the East with Professor Marie Conte-Helm

All lectures are held in Brushford Parish Hall. They start at 2.30pm and run for an hour, followed by tea, coffee and a catch up with fellow members.

PLUS - Special Interest Day: 23rd March - The Elizabethan and Jacobean Country House with Dr David Bostwick (members £25.00, non-members £30.00) 10.15am - 3.15pm approx. Brushford Parish Hall

Fur further information on membership and to attend any of these events, please call the Membership Secretary on 01398 331587



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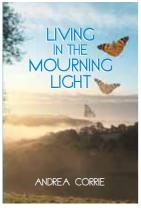


Exmoor News is published every two months, 3,000 copies printed (covering southern Exmoor) and also published online at www.exmoornews.co.uk

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Living in the Mourning Light By Andrea Corrie

What is it like, living in the mourning light?



This is the question asked and answered by Bamptonbased author Andrea Corrie in her second book, Living in the Mourning Liaht. The book, part memoir, part arief resource. further

describes her path after the loss of her 19-year-old son James to accidental drowning in the River Thames at Kingston in 2005. Every bereaved person knows the shock, despair and horror of early grief.

What do you do with your emotions? How do you bear your loss?

Andrea's outlet is to write out her anguish, to put into words the worst of her feelings in an attempt to better understand them and ultimately to move from the darkness into the light, which she terms the mourning light. Initially written for bereavement support forums, Andrea's musings and articles led to the publication of Into the Mourning Light in 2014, which focused on the first eight years of loss. The book came to the notice of the RNLI and she became involved with their Respect the Water campaign, an annual national campaign which focuses on the dangers inherent in water. Andrea continues to support the campaign and she says, "I cannot emphasise enough that any body of water, innocuous looking though it may be, poses a risk to anyone who enters it, particularly if that entry is accidental. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful area that has large bodies of water locally: for example, Wimbleball Lake, the Tiverton canal and the rivers Exe and Barle. They are no less dangerous than the tidal river Thames or the open ocean off the Devon coast. I say this not to be a killjoy, but to raise to the forefront of people's minds that they should always take care and Respect the Water."

Readership of Living in the Mourning Light is not restricted to bereaved parents, but contains much to enlighten anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, or supporting them. The book challenges you to think about your own responses to grief and loss and reassures you that the mourning light offers a safe, optimistic and joyful place in which to live, despite the absence of your loved ones.

Of her writing, Andrea says, "I am proud to have produced two books that are not misery memoirs but aim to uplift, inform and inspire readers with a sense of hope for the future as well as providing a lasting legacy for my dearly loved son James. I decided to self-publish this time round and I'm very grateful for the patient help I received from the Exmoor News in refining the final manuscript ready for printing."

Living in the Mourning Light and Into the Mourning Light are available to purchase at www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1916271804/

Andrea's positive blog on grief and living as a bereaved parent can be found at https://andreacorriesblog.wordpress.com

Respect the Water Campaign:

https://rnli.org/safety/respect-the-water



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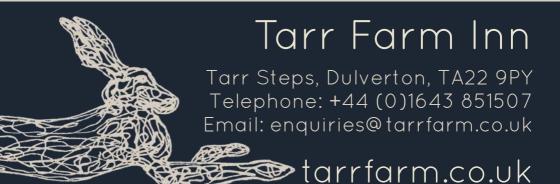






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My Favourite Tree by Ema Rowe

A couple of years ago I was walking with my dog when I had a realisation. We are asking children to look after and protect the nature around them and yet the majority of them would not be able to name a species of tree, let alone their favourite. But they could name a football team, favourite film or game console character. None of which helps to keep them alive.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not one of those 'the children of today...' types. Completely the opposite. I have worked outside with children (Wild Wellies) for nearly ten years and every week the children surprise me with their inquisitiveness and knowledge. My observation leaves me with the question: Why?

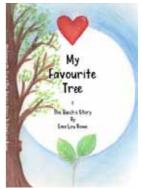
Whatever the reasons, I wanted to help

make that change in a practical way.

And so my interactive book 'My Favourite Tree and the Beech's Story' was created. It is a book that allows you to celebrate your tree - wherever that may be: a wood, a park, your garden or by the road - with photos and activities. Plus a poem story which starts with the Beech and the animals and insects which are part of its life cycle.

Thanks to Exmoor News I am at the compiling and proof reading stage, and looking forward to finding a publisher or agent.





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Exmoor Young Voices Charity

Exmoor Young Voices is a charity that advocates for young people on the moor. An initiative of Exmoor National Park, our organisation was set up to give young people a chance to voice their concerns regarding housing, planning, employment, transport and connectivity.

Currently, we have over 80 members and are supported by several local authorities and housing associations. Our meetings are held quarterly at The Rest and Be Thankful Inn, Wheddon Cross. We have also succeeded in hosting a summit with representatives from the councils, housing associations and Exmoor National Park to discuss how they can help, support and make changes for young people on the moor. We are currently in the process of securing pledges.

EYV is going from strength to strength and our voices are being heard by local councillors here on Exmoor, all the way to MPs in Westminster!

If you are interested in joining EYV, we'd love to see you at our next meeting. Keep an eye out on our brand new website and social media pages for more information. We're also keen to hear from anyone who has experienced difficulties with any of the issues mentioned above and would be happy to help form a case study.

Learn more about EYV and get in touch:

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Bampton Heritage and Visitor Centre is delighted to present its Annual Heritage Lecture 2020- all welcome!

Wednesday 25th March 7.30pm at St Michael and All Angels Church, Bampton

'The Green Man' by speaker: David Bostwick

Enquiries to: bamptonheritage@btinternet.com Phone: 07967 277738

David Bostwick is an Arts Society lecturer and cultural historian of the Medieval, Tudor & Stuart periods. A Green Man is a sculpture or other representation of a face surrounded by or made from leaves. Branches or vines may sprout from the mouth, nostrils, or other parts of the face and these shoots may bear flowers or fruit. Commonly used as a decorative architectural

ornament, Green Men are frequently found in carvings on both secular and ecclesiastical buildings – but why?

Open to all. Entry is free but donations to the Heritage Centre and St Michael & All Angels Church Fabric Fund will be welcomed.

Refreshments will be served from 7pm.



Riverside Youth Centre, Kemps Way, Dulverton at 7:30 p.m.



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Volunteers needed now for Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal in Somerset and North Devon



Marie Curie, the UK's leading charity for people living with a terminal illness and their families, is urgently calling for volunteers across Somerset and North Devon to give just two hours of their time to hand out the charity's iconic daffodil pins, in return for donations.

Volunteers will be supporting the Great Daffodil Appeal – Marie Curie's biggest fundraising campaign, held every March.

In the next 10 years, more than six million people will die in the UK and of this number 75% will need end of life care. The money raised from the Great Daffodil Appeal will help Marie Curie Nurses provide much-needed expert care to people in Somerset and North Devon with terminal illnesses, as well as support for their loved ones.

To volunteer for Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal and give out the charity's daffodils pins in return for donations, please visit mariecurie.org. uk/collect or contact Riona on Riona.houghton@mariecurie.org.uk or call 0117 9420 429.

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know this one, that's good morning you're listening to BBC Radio Four and this one moves my window up and down".

She locks it sometimes when you play with it too much Honey. My favourite is the hooter. You can only use it when she's not in the driving seat. It's there, look in the middle of the steering wheel. I love the hooter, it makes driving more exciting and if you want her to hurry up in the shop, she soon comes running out if I stand on it. Officially of course, police constable Jo says we're not allowed in the front seat, that's why she's taken the back seat out to make more space for us. "Pheasants on the road ahead!"

She'll use the hooter. Listen - look running away now. I love driving in my car. Did you see the pictures of the squirrels in the newspaper last week? They're all over the news; it says there are too many of them and they are damaging our environment. They are going to make some dud males and release them into the wild with the others so that it slows up their breeding programme. "But that means there will be more squirrels not less!" I know it doesn't add up but they think they know what they're doing.

"It would be a shame if there weren't any squirrels left to chase. People will start throwing balls at us again. Fetch the ball is such a stupid game. What's the point in it, we run over and get it and then they throw it away again. I don't know - what's the matter

with them. Much more fun in the woods with the squirrels. And think of the damage to the environment, there'd be abandoned balls littered all over the place, could cause a nasty accident. I don't think we need to worry if the dud squirrel thing works, it will take years - if they've got it right. Plenty for us to chase still. Roll your window up Honey please, it's getting a bit chilly now.

Buddy Brown (pure Jack Russell) a roving reporter

Reference: Research at The Roslin Institute



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Winters around Exmoor can be rather wet! Often a constant daily battle of strong winds and heavy rain, giving no respite. Not only is this difficult for horse owners, contending with constant wet clothes and the muddy boots, but it also puts a strain on horse rugs. Whilst we can come in and change out of our wet clothes, we expect our horse rugs to cope for the whole season, keeping our beloved horses snug and dry even in the harshest of conditions.

As with our winter coats, when we are out time and again in the rain, eventually the water repellency stops and we start to feel the rain seeping through the fabric. It's the same with a horse rug - and then when you factor in how our horses love to roll in the most muddy part of the field - grinding in mud and dirt into the fabric - our rugs have a tough life.

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Exmoor Community Youth Club

Chairman Robin Ashburner has announced that he will retire on May 1, 2020 after ten years as chairman and a founding member of the Exmoor Community Youth Club.

Everyone is invited to celebrate the Youth Club's 10th anniversary and to thank Robin for his long service at a community party at the Pavilion on Saturday May 16th, 12-2pm. Please make a note of the date and be sure to come. There will be a BBQ, music, a Bouncy Castle, old and new friends and plenty more.

The Exmoor Community Youth Club was begun by Jenny Acland, Cathy Nicholls and Robin Ashburner with huge support and input from the Rev. David Weir. It grew out of the ashes of the original Exford Youth Club, started by former rector the

Rev Keith Powell. The Charity Commission was soon applied to for that all-important charitable status. The trustees saw the ECYC as all-inclusive for Exmoor children aged from 6-16.

Thanks to Sue Hayes, who became the fourth trustee, Laura Tasker was appointed as the first youth worker, a post she still holds after ten years along with her deputy, Nicky Hodgkiss.

The first job was the huge renovation of the neglected cricket Pavilion and its adjacent, derelict shed. All this work was done by volunteers.

Now the ECYC has 100 members, seven trustees and many volunteers.

The popular Marmalade Party, organised by Sir Antony and Lady Acland, will once again be held at Staddon Farm on Thursday 26th March, 10AM. Please come to this important fund-raising event.

The Dulverton Health Walking Group

The group meets each Tuesday morning at 9.30am at the Dulverton Surgery Car Park.

Please wear suitable waterproof clothing & also walking boots or wellingtons. The walks are not



very strenuous and last from between 60 - 90 mins generally. At the end of the walk we all patronise one of the local refreshment facilities. We always welcome new walkers so if you are interested in joining us please contact either Richard Clarke on 01398 341141, or 07976 363453 or richardclarke567@btinternet.com. OR Richard Archer on 01398 324160 or 07773 160222 or archerr@hotmail.co.uk



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Early bird tickets now on sale for Minehead Literary Festival 2020

Minehead Literary Festival returns for a second year over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday April 25 and 26 with a fabulous line-up of speakers. The early bird discounted weekend pass for just £30 is available until March 27, 2020, and tickets may be booked online at www.mineheadliteraryfestival.org.

Fact is the New Fiction - writing in a postfiction world

Novelist, biographer and critic Dame Margaret Drabble heads an impressive line-up of speakers, including popular children's author Sam Angus, whose first book Soldier Dog will be released as a movie this year. Sam will give a talk about historical events as inspiration for her writing.

Exmoor writer and harpist Hazel Prior talks about her first two novels Ellie and the Harp Maker and Away with the Penguins, which will be published in March.

Cartoonist Kipper Williams, who has drawn for The Spectator, Private Eye and The Oldie, will give an illustrated talk – with examples of his work and some live drawings – about telling stories through cartoons in Talking Cartoons.

Film maker and television director David Parker gives an illustrated talk about the interviews he recorded in 1994 with Laurie Lee, who notoriously didn't 'do' television, giving a rare insight into the experiences that shaped one of England's great 20th Century writers and author of the much beloved Cider with Rosie.

Hazel Prior will also give a workshop on writing fiction and getting it published. In her workshop Hazel will look at the elements that make a really good story, examine common mistakes made by budding writers and discover some self-editing tips and tricks. The workshop will also explore different pathways to publication. Tickets for the writing workshop are limited, so early booking is essential.

Speakers at last year's festival Tessa Hadley and Pamela Holmes will also be participating in MLF 2020 and, with Margaret Drabble and Kipper Williams, will take part in the closing panel discussion on this year's theme Fact is the New Fiction – writing in a post-fiction world.

A short story competition, with separate classes for adults and children, is being organised in the run-up to the festival, for which the deadline for all entries on March 6, 2020, and further details can be found on the MLF website.

For more information about MLF 2020, please visit the website or call 01643 703921.







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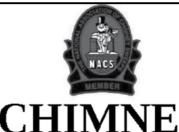
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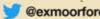
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The Exmoor area is covered from the Wiveliscombe Debt Centre, which is managed by Andrew Kelly.

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The Wivey Debt Centre also provides emergency short-term help for clients in particular difficulty - such as food supplies and/or food bank vouchers, support in court appearances, and dealing with a range of agencies.

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