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A word of caution - at this moment, putting the magazine together at the beginning of April, it's impossible to know how the world will have changed by the time this gets to you. Please be aware that some information will not be correct, businesses may be temporarily closed, or their opening hours may have changed - always check for yourselves before travelling.

Obviously all events have been cancelled but we have lots of advice and places to get help. There are also several things to keep your mind ticking over, various quizzes and puzzles, and even a poem about our current situation - hope you enjoy them.

At this particularly difficult time, we cannot emphasise how much we all appreciate the local shops who are staying open and working to help supply and keep this community of ours together with a smile on their face, we may not always say it, or show it, but we are very grateful.

Don't forget to like our Facebook page - "Exmoor News" as we will be sending out some good stuff to inform you, to cheer you and to inspire you... do follow us and share our page.



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.

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The deadline for the July/August issue of the Exmoor News is

Thursday 4th June 2020 Printed by Brightsea, Exeter



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BRUSHFORDPARISH HALL

Brushford Parish Hall will re-open for regular users and special events when the restrictions are lifted. Meanwhile you can join us on Facebook as Friends of Brushford Parish Hall. We have a mix of local information, your thoughts, ideas and tips for making the most of our time at home, and things that make you smile or laugh. And we ask you to share essential information by phone with people who don't use Facebook.

Registered Friends will also receive our occasional newsletter.

We are adding a series of articles to our website to inform and entertain you – a "blog" with contributions from our regular hirers. Guest articles will be very welcome. You will be able to comment on the articles in the Facebook Group. If you are finding it tricky using social media contact sarah@brushfordparishhall.org. uk for some sympathetic assistance.

Brushford is Beautiful: We will be running our Photographic and Art Competition again this summer – more details to follow.

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News from your Village Agent

At the time of writing our news is dominated with the issue of Coronavirus – Covid 19 - and the information provided through official channels is changing almost hourly. Up to date advice and news can be found on-line at the NHS website (www.nhs.co.uk) or the UK government site (www.gov.uk) as well as various news channels including the BBC news website (www.bbc.co.uk/news).

As we all know, the key advice is to STAY AT HOME. The Government's website summary states:

You should only go outside for food or health reasons or travelling to and from work but only where you cannot work from home. When outside, stay 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people. Wash your hands as soon as you get home. Anyone can spread coronavirus.

The Community Council for Somerset want to assure local communities that the Somerset Village Agents continue to be available to support you and as we are set up to work remotely from home we will continue to be on hand to give advice by phone or email. In line with the Government's advice, our Talking Cafés have been suspended until further notice.

Across the area a range of local support groups are being set up, some through social media channels – primarily Facebook. The Dulverton

Area Coronavirus Support Group is working closely with the Dulverton Good Neighbours group and has a large number of volunteers available to help those in need due to self-isolation, shielding and social distancing.

If you are having difficulties getting food, prescriptions or medications please call the Dulverton Good Neighbours group or contact your Village Agent who is working closely with communities in many parishes across Exmoor and West Somerset to facilitate support for those in need. If you have concerns about a vulnerable person please call your Village Agent.

If you are a Facebook user, the link to the Dulverton Area Coronavirus Support Group is: https://www.facebook.com/ groups/648575902573880/

Your Village Agents: Jane Lillis Village Agent West Somerset Tel: 07958 415270 Email: janel@somersetrcc.org.uk Ellie Bishop Village Agent West Somerset Tel: 07985 748910 Email: ellieb@somersetrcc.org.uk

Community Council for Somerset

Distressed? Anxious? Feeling overwhelmed?

The Mindline #Somerset emotional support helpline is now available 7 evenings a week. Set up by Mind in Somerset, Mindline is a service you can call (local call rate) to talk to someone about your anxieties and worries. Support is available every day by calling 01823 276 892.

Social-distancing and self-isolation can take a toll on our mental health. NHS - Every Mind Matters offers expert advice and practical tips to help you manage staying at home during the #COVID19 emergency. www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters

Self-employed?

Somerset County Council has put together a webpage giving you all the current information on the help that's available with useful links to more details on each scheme:

www.somerset.gov.uk/c.../coronavirus-support-for-self-employed



The Appeal is supporting food projects, older people, mental health and more!





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Food Bank in Dulverton

A Food Bank has been set up in Dulverton as a branch of the West Somerset Food Cupboard, for the period of the Coronavirus outbreak. It is based at the school in Dulverton. The Food Bank is being managed by Jenny Barker with 4 volunteers from the Dulverton Good Neighbours scheme. Referrals to the Food Bank can be made through Good Neighbours on their Helpline 07395 171409 or the Village Agent, Jane Lillis on 07958 415270.

Food donations have decreased over the past couple of weeks so we have had to resort to buying in food which also has proved difficult as wholesalers as well as retailers are short of a number of the staples that we need.

We have been very fortunate to have

received a number of significant financial donations which are helping towards the purchase of food items.

If you would like to donate food or money then please leave food donations at either of Dulverton school's receptions, the porch at Bilboa house in Dulverton – (opposite the Pet shop) or in the Food donation box in the Co-op in Dulverton.

If you would like to make a financial donation then please make cheques payable to Dulverton Good Neighbours and send to Sandra Collett at 5 Musgraves, Dulverton, TA22 9EB.

If you have more food items in your cupboards than you need, please ring Jenny on 07890 559961 and we will come and collect them from you.

Many thanks

Jenny



The Royal Voluntary Service is currently looking to recruit volunteers for a variety of roles within the Home Library Service in Wiveliscombe and the surrounding parishes.

The Home library service exists to ensure people who cannot get to the library due to poor health or mobility or caring responsibilities but still enjoy reading can receive library books free of charge by a Royal Voluntary Service volunteer who will choose, deliver and befriend an individual in their own home.

Due to Corona Virus, the service is suspended but we will be restarting it as soon as it is safe to do so. Please do get in touch to join the waiting list.

If you would like to know more about volunteering for the Home Library Service please contact kirsty.jenssen@ royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk or tel: 07920 250834.



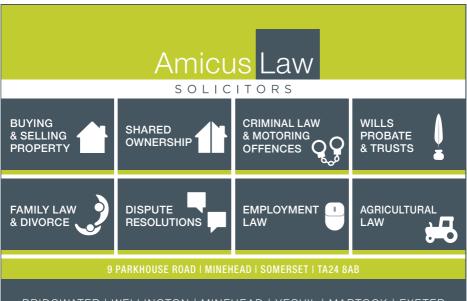
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Self Help

We are all facing a variety of challenges in these uncertain times. These challenges may test our resilience. We may need to ask for help or support in a way we haven't needed to before. We may possibly experience a range of emotions which are not familiar to us. This could feel uncomfortable.

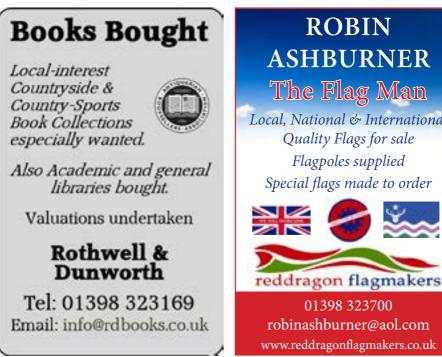
We may be feeling a sense of loss, perhaps missing loved ones, or grieving certain aspects of our lives that have altered. Acceptance of loss can be difficult.

Listening to ourselves and acknowledging how we feel, observing our responses to those feelings can go a long way to looking after out emotional wellbeing. It's a bonus if we can safely express how we feel out loud to someone close to us, either face to face, or by phone or video link. Speaking to someone, rather than bottling everything up can offer valuable perspective, comfort and reassurance. Revealing our vulnerability to another person can sometimes be helpful in encouraging them to open up too, to become more comfortable in expressing how they feel.

We are so fortunate here to have access to fresh air and the beautiful local countryside. It is a wonderful resource available to us. Exercise of any type is known to boost not only our physical wellbeing, but also our mental health too.

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Join in a Dulverton Chamber music group

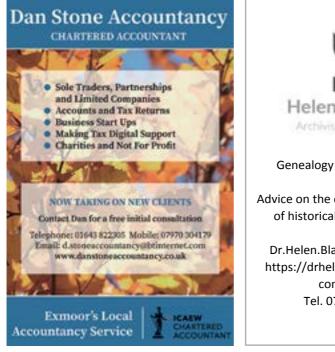
Here is an opportunity to play music in a small group – under the direction of a world-class professional string player each week and for a very reasonable cost. This direction will include a group music lesson – on technique, tonality and musicality in classical and popular music. Each session costs £8 per player for two hours instruction and playing.

'Duluerton Chamber Group' can include strings, woodwind and keyboard. The group is limited to octet size and prospective new members are invited to 'try us out' for two or three sessions to assess whether we are all compatible. Bring your own music stand.

A standard of about Grade 6 Board Associated or more is expected. Suggestions as to what we play are welcome from players/ students although the choice is made by our Director, Mrs Sabine Dziewior, formerly a member of several wellknown international ensembles. The group meets in a private house in Hollam Drive and is ready to include two or three more players. The sessions run promptly from 10am-12midday.

If you are interested and would like to give us a go, email gmcraigmore@ outlook.com or text or call 07525 811534.







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We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers and supporters. You are our motivation. Changing, adapting and keeping the business thriving while providing people with what they need would have been very difficult without the amazing support that we have received since the coronavirus outbreak.

We know that we won't be the only people on Exmoor facing these challenges, but we believe it's important that we all work together to support local businesses as much as we can.

We wanted to support you in return and here is what we are doing. We have removed all delivery fees across our entire site and shifted production to make hand sanitiser as well as our gins.

So from all of us here at the distillery, thank you!

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Beloved brothers and sisters of Southern Exmoor

I wondered what I could write in the Exmoor News which would be of service and support at this time and I realised that it was not writing which was needed, but a loving, calming, steadying, unafraid voice at the end of a telephone which may perhaps serve a more useful purpose.

This marvellous and long-awaited time of renewal and transformation only surprised me by its miraculous egalitarian means – a virus capable of catching the attention of every single human being on our beloved planet earth – apart from, of course, those few tribes who have against all odds kept themselves utterly apart from 'modern' life.

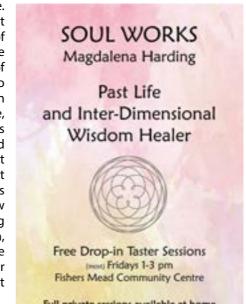
We are in a time like no other, a time of deep transformation and a reemergence of the Divine Feminine after many thousands of years in abeyance. Every one of us has played our perfect part in bringing us to this moment of transformation, whether we are those withdrawn into the guiet (or bedlam!) of our own life, or those stepping out into the intensity of serving all those caught in time in the one place. Within either role, many are afraid - afraid for themselves or their families, communities, loved ones; possibly trying to make the best of what seems like a challenging test of endurance. For some of us there is no fear, only a deep stillness and a view on the miracles that are happening everywhere - to the waters, to the earth, the air, to the people in their rising care and compassion, their humour, their creativity, their making something great of 'What Is'.

We westerners aren't used to uncertainty. It's been a very long time since we lived in such profound uncertainty – possibly since the declaration of war in 1939 and even then, it probably didn't limit our freedoms quite so quickly or so totally. Times of uncertainty, and the seeming to be looking into the jaws of death in that uncertainty, will make most normal people fearful or anxious.

If, at any time of the day or night, you find yourself gripped by an unbearable level of fear or anxiety about what is going on in the world, please do pick up the phone and call me. I'm here at home and free of any other demands but to offer a gentle, calming shoulder to lean on, or a voice to rant at, if anger and frustration are uppermost.

I will be available for 5 hours a day or night, changing every day, so call 01398 323 785 and leave me a message if I am not answering and I will get back to you.

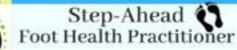
With very warmest love and blessings, Magdalena



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Floriography

(language of flowers)

Ah ha... the communication through the use have meanings - yellow friendship, or arrangement of flowers. This white truth, red love, pink lust/ has been attributed to flowers for romance. thousands of years & some form I would like to thank all my lovely of floriography has been practice customers for their tremendous throughout the world for centuries. support over the last few months. In However, some meanings have changed over time (& they might again) maybe due to availability, popularity & cultures.

Here are couple...

Lily of the valley (Convallaria) –May birth flower - symbolising sweetness & humility & you have made my life complete/return of happiness

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Rose – June birth flower. symbolises cryptological love & good fortune. The colours

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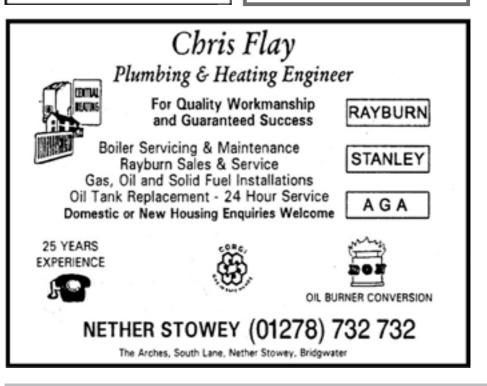


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PERVERTS!



"Pervert!" accused the two old ladies. "We will never consult you again."

The prominent Dulverton solicitor was left reeling under the harridans' outraged assault. They refused to believe that the seedy character he had been playing in a Dulverton Players' production of "The Anniversary" was not his real self.

The stage obviously convinces with a magic all of its own. Since 1927 the Dulverton Players have brought live theatre to Exmoor. Even in the age of streaming, audiences still flock to the Town Hall to see everything from Shakespeare to the "Sound of Music".

The Dulverton Players never shrink from a challenge. So many people wanted to see their recent production of "Calendar Girls" that tickets had to be sold for the dress rehearsal to fit everyone in.

That's not surprising perhaps in a play in which most of the cast take off their clothes. Much of the fun of this kind of theatre, of course, is seeing your friends and neighbours in unlikely situations.



A rector wooed in "Earnest".

The Reverend John Thorogood, when he was rector of Dulverton, jumped at the chance to appear in "The Importance of Being Earnest". An appearance in a classic comedy might not appear that daring,

except that it was an innovative crossdressed production in which he played the lovely Gwendolen to Banger Milton's Jack Worthing.

The "Importance" was the first ever production in Steve and Pam Hall's beautiful garden theatre at Knackershole. It was a joyous summer event, with picnics and Pimms, except when the cast on one night had to project over the drumming of the Exmoor rain on audience umbrellas.

The Dulverton Players are not risqué averse. "I can get away with things in Dulverton that the West End wouldn't dream of," considers one of the company's serial directors.

Productions of Alan Bennett's outrageous farce "Habeas Corpus" and the television classic "Allo Allo" delighted Dulverton audiences without a flicker of disapproval. One actor calculated that he had lost his trousers on stage more often than he had remain fully-clothed, and then he was in drag.



The cast of "Calendar Girls" at a dress-ed rehearsal.

The Players can be serious too. The final moments of "Oh What a Lovely War", as the cast sang "They'll never believe me" with the names of the Dulverton fallen projected behind it, moved many to tears. Dulverton Players sometimes suffer of visual and sound effects. No one who for their art. The cast of "Murder at the Wedding" almost died from hypothermia when playing a society stag night in a freezing country house one January. The fat fee, however, was irresistible.

The actors, of course, are only the tip of the company's iceberg. The Town Hall stage is not exactly Drury Lane, but Christine Dubery's set builders, lighting



crew, and loval costumieres pull off miracles to create spellbinding worlds for the imagination. Recently Gerry Lewis and Ken Warren have created an astounding raft again.

Measuring up for "Habeas Corpus"



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saw "Peter Pan" will forget the Darling children appearing to fly over the roofs of Dulverton, or the Forth Bridge scenes in "The 39 Steps".

For the moment our stage is dark but in the autumn Olga Owen will be back with "Dick Whittington" to make us laugh



Hanging about. Moving the set can be dangerous.

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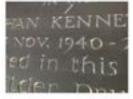
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Qui	z - for a bit of fun. Answers on page 57	
1.	In what year did the Exmoor Pony Centre Open?	
2.	In what year did Bridgtown Cricket Club become champions of the West Somerset Cricket League for the first time.	
3.	How many pins are there when playing Skittles	
4.	Hope Bourne wrote 'A village on the Moor". What village?	
5.	What two breeds of sheep make an Exmoor Mule?	
6.	How many points on a stags 'royal' head?	
7.	What is the highest point on Exmoor	
8.	On what day in the year is Bampton Fair held?	
9.	When did Dulverton Railway Station close?	
10.	What was sold in 'Woods' before it became a Pub and Restaurant	
11.	When was Exmoor News started?	
12.	What was unveiled by Dulverton Weir and Leat Conservation Group in 2016 and what was it called?	
13.	What is the name of the pubs in Winsford and Simonsbath?	
14.	What event is held in Dulverton on the first Sunday in December?	
15.	What is the name of Exmoor News' Roving Reporter?	
16.	In what year was Wimbleball lake completed and what appears if the water drops?	
17.	What village is divided into the hamlets of Churchtown, Kingsbridge and Pooltown	
18.	Who advertised in the centre pages of the Exmoor News in March/April 2020?	
19.	What is a whort?	
20.	Who wrote Lorna Doone?	

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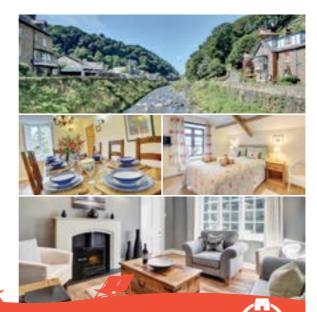






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Frustrated Sports Fans Quiz

To help everyone remain sane during the Covid 19 lockdown, we have decided to do one of our famous quizzes to keep you and your friends occupied, so please share widely and have fun with our Ultimate Home Sporting Challenge! Sports Past and Present - the clues give the answers to the second name and the letter in the box is the initial for the first name - have fun! **EXAMPLE** Many trees T Answer: Tiger Woods



1	Many trees	Т	Tiger Woods
2	Scottish academics	L	
3	Favourite mint	А	
4	Makes up the fire	В	
5	Scottish Captain is a pig	S	
6	He has dark hair	F	
7	Source of many problems	J	
8	Used to cull foxes	J	
9	Makes barrels	Н	
10	Could be after spouse number 2	D	
11	One of the Scottish Clans	J	
12	The grade of Silver	R	
13	Helps to get upstairs	R	
14	Borders the Red Sea	М	
15	Shortened is an American Beer	D	
16	Used to reload the gun	U	
17	Happens to the kitchen when the kids cook	L	
18	Not attached to this Rolling Stone	S	
19	Formula 1 team	S	
20	Police (slang)	Т	
21	Result of touching something hot	F	
22	Town in Somerset	С	
23	The hand of god	D	
24	After April showers	F	
25	Less than a mountain	D	
26	Tree sung by you too	А	
27	Noise a horse makes second	J	
28	Make yourself less visible	Р	
29	Result of pumping iron	L	
30	A tale well told	S	
31	Choose to opt out in protest	G	
32	Use this sword to shave	J	
33	Could be rising or sitting	L	
34	German cobbler	М	
35	Anglo Saxon who grew flax	G	
36	Shout to get attention	С	

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27	Angny comple do this	N4	
37	Angry camels do this	M N	
38	Using your head as a weapon		
39	7 Days a week	T	
40	On top of the pile	G	
41	Oliver wanted this	В	
42	You cannot be serious	J	
43	German castle	B	
44	Centre of Excellence abbreviated	S	
45	Brother's and sister's children	R	
46	Was favourite for holidays	D	
47	Provides ground water	A	
48	Walk through water	V	
49	Look after others' children	В	
50	Edible seaweed	R	
51	Sailor's favourite	R	
52	More noise	Ν	
53	Tried to soar and came last	E	
54	Skippered Britannia to try and conquer America	В	
55	British beef all round	1	
56	England's symbol	J	
57	Where we live	К	
58	Male ruler	М	
59	The French world	G	
60	Stings like a bee	М	
61	Swat for exams	S	
62	Welsh peninsular	D	
63	This biblical story is a book	В	
64	Could be a miner	J	
65	German count	S	
66	More he practiced the luckier he became	G	
67	Little master	S	
68	Makes suits	Р	
69	Gang master	G	
70	Beautiful French hill	В	
71	Cathedral's head cleric	С	
72	Tallest mountain - shortened	С	
73	Chief manservant	J	
74	Package of hay or straw	G	
75	The great bear	J	
76	South coast town	К	
77	Hot plates on the cooker	J	
78	Used for beating	Н	
79	US state	J	
80	Does it humbly or godly	WG	
81	Wild of violent anger	T	
82	Prepare food	A	
83	American military leader	E	
84	SE Cathedral City	F	
		1. 1	

85	Transform from one to chickon	В	
	Transform from egg to chicken	P	
86	Top university hospital to study medicine	-	
87	Water flower	D	
88	Our current leader	M	
89	Red tractors second	Α	
90	Upset Adolf's Olympics	J	
91	Alcohol made from pears	F	
92	Owners of a guaranteed good night's sleep	F	
93	Could be London square, broker or hotels	М	
94	This barber could kill you	М	
95	Retail discounter	E	
96	A harsh critic	К	
97	White person	S	
98	This one's a winner	В	
99	Recovers after drinking	G	
100	Tennis, law or squash	М	
101	Not found guilty	С	
102	Gives sheep a haircut	А	
103	Completely naked	1	
104	Used to fasten your jacket	J	
105	Where we keep our savings	G	
106	Farm buildings	J	
107	Chicken farmer	Т	
108	Used by superheroes	G	
109	Have feathers can fly	D	
110	Live music sessions	R	
111	Who's a pretty boy	J	
112	Ready folders	Р	
113	A rule in the country	D	
114	Surfer perhaps	С	
115	Fires arrows	J	
116	September baby	J	
117	Merchant of the ocean	D	
118	Honest male	F	
119	Done in a hurry	I	
120	Struts his stuff	J	
121	Norfolk waterway	S	
122	Sacred ground	Е	
123	Was an old king	А	
124	John & Tom's boys	К	
125	Wolverine	G/K	
126	Human acid	S	
127	Taken in 2020/Black Mamba	К	
128	Marcia, Jan and Cindy	Т	
129	Losing hair	С	
130	Surf brand	S	
131	Bloody burial	S	
1			

132	Noisy dog	S	
133	Hoover, friend of Hettie	Т	
134	Ridge cut crisps	Т	
135	Amusement park	Ι	

Answers to be emailed on Easter Monday. Please email fran@thebigsheep.co.uk to be added to the answer email list. Printed with kind permission from The Big Sheep.



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Emma



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EXMOOR NEWS

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A Dog's Day Out -Bow-wow woes

I think there should be an international dogs day when all the dogs

all over the world unite. "What for?" To lighten our knowledge and have some fun. Start making notes Honey. They just had one for women. "Perhaps there should be a day just for the bitches then." Don't be silly that would mean I can't join in and it's my idea. I'm going to write to Dillyn in Downing Street. He'll know what to do. He's had plenty of experience in publicity recently.

"I've heard a rumour Dillyn won't be there for much longer. He's relocating to their relatives with more suitable accommodation." What! You're being silly again. "No seriously. He can't get from the top floor flat where he lives down to St. James' Park in time." Hev. do you remember Pee Wee Wright at the Everyone was warned when kennels? they arrived not to leave their bag on the floor when they came in. We could invite him to speak, he's very worldly.

Did you know that three quarters of pet dogs like us have anxieties. We pick them up from our human owners. Dogs need to become more influential in their thinking to help our owners with modern concerns; gently persuade them to take up more hill walking for longer periods and improve their home cooking skills.

"Have you looked closely at Dillyn, Buddy? He's an odd looking character." The poor fellow has an undershot jaw which makes for eating from his dinner bowl difficult. I expect he's on a special diet of scrambled eggs - doesn't affect his linguistic ability though. What do you think of the new grain free mixer she's giving us? She says it has all the ingredients to make dogs happy - rosehip, peppermint, milk thistle,

liquorice root and devil's claw. "I'd eat anything I can sniff out in a hedge or in a pile of straw, I'm not that fussed really as long as it's tasty." I know. She shouldn't have gone to all that trouble for us.

So what have we got so far on the international dogs day agenda Honey? "Incontinence: mental health and eating disorders." Hmmmm. Back to chasing squirrels and quad bikes then.



Buddy Brown (pure Jack Russell) a roving reporter

Reference: Laughing Dog grain free baked mixer meal.



Prism Equine Laundry has donated £196.00 to the Exmoor Pony Centre. I give 50p from every rug I wash to charity so everyone who has used Prism Equine Laundry for their rug washing between April 2019 and March 2020 has contributed to this amazing total. Last years total was £184.00

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Corona

The Corona van came round When I was a girl to bring Delicious pop soda; Raspberryade Dandelion and burdock Orange and lemon fizz In bottles of thick glass with tops of wire, rubber and ceramic that leapt open when pressured they were so dynamic!

Now the name Corona brings A deadly virus with it. So we all stay at home And hope to avoid it by wishing each other shalom. The conversation on tv Has rapidly changed from Brexit To stop the over 70s' exit. The mantra now is well defined as 'wash your hands and stay inside'.

Out in the woods the herd of deer Is clearly on the move. Wildlife is back, hedgerows alive. The skies resound with song and we all believe we are strong. In Dulverton supplies depend on chevron-standing in a line And waving hello instead of touch. Shop-keepers trying to be fair And shoppers limited as such. Who knows how long this can go on Hiding away from the Plague. For that's the language of biblical truth Which in science becomes less vague. Coffins in rows tell a different story. The death toll is rising in England. Our family copes with texts and calls Supporting each other in hope. Each lives within their chosen walls And washes themselves with soap.

Death is away in the future. Not yet we say to ourselves Too much to do, our lives look ahead And life in the hedgerows will spread. Spring has come round To rid us of gloom and we are a powerful nation. This renewal of vows is timely And will lead us out of frustration.

Liz Crean 26 March 2020



DULVERTON WEIR & LEAT CONSERVATION TRUST

Volunteers cleared undergrowth on 'the Island' adjacent to Dulverton Weir in preparation of the archaeological dig which is planned for July. Volunteers worked in the rain for 5 hours.

Photo (right) shows L to R volunteers Tim, Clive, Peter, Patrick Watts-Mabbott Volunteer & Outreach Officer Exmoor National Park Authority and Philip Hull Trustee Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust.

Patrick Watts-Mabbott said "we had a great day splashing across the leat to get to the back of the weir where we were working. Definitely a day to remember. If anyone is interested in getting involved in this and wider projects on Exmoor why not take a look at the National Park website at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/ getinvolved"

Philip Hull Trustee comments: "community involvement is a key part of the project and we are most grateful to ENPA and their 'get involved initiative volunteers. There are further volunteering opportunities directly with the Trust arising shortly and we welcome contact from anyone who wants to join in on this fantastic project to understand and preserve Dulverton's medieval history".

On the same day as the work was being carried out on 'the Island', Dulverton local resident John Dunscombe had a surprise when walking his dog. Just in front of the Old Bakehouse in Chapel Street, close to the centre of town he



Photo (below) shows an otter of the type seen by John



John says: "I always look over the wall into the leat as one can often see a Dipper but imagine my surprise and delight to see an Otter pop its head above the vegetation. But as soon as it saw me, it quickly ducked out of sight"

This is not the first time Otters have been sighted on the Dulverton Weir & Leat system. Seeing an elusive Otter (they are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) is one of the most rewarding wildlife experiences in Britain. They feed on fish and eels and work by the Trust and its partners have led to more eels being sighted in this area of the leat. Richard Partington Trustee of DWLCT comments: "we hope that the work of the Trust and its partners will lead to more sightings like this"

Marcus Kravis, Executive Member for Assets at Somerset West and Taunton Council, said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Trust on this exciting project to restore the iconic weir and leat to its rightful place as part of Dulverton's heritage. It is wonderful to see that volunteers have started preparation work already. Their commitment makes all the difference and I would encourage anyone who recognises the importance of this waterway to get involved in the joint effort to restore and safeguard this medieval leat and weir system".

Somerset West & Taunton Council has completed repairs to Dulverton Leat approximately 100 yds of the leat bank has been repaired and

DULVERTON WEIR & LEAT CONSERVATION TRUST

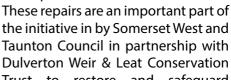
Our partners











the footpath alongside it has been

upgraded allowing easier access for

those wishing to view this beautiful

part of Dulverton. The footpath is

now open and accessible to all.

Trust to restore and safeguard Dulverton's medieval weir & leat system for the whole community.

Philip Hull Trustee of DWLCT says;

"The Trust are most grateful to the council for their hard work and pleased that this project is beginning to make progress. We want everyone in the community to be able to enjoy and appreciate this valuable ancient monument which is recognised by academics as one of the best preserved medieval weir & leat systems in England".



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Hello, I'm lan a chimney sweep living and working on Exmoor and my first thoughts go out to all living on Exmoor, I hope you are all keeping well and safe in these testing times.

I have had some customers contacting me asking if I can sweep their chimneys or woodburners. At present chimney sweeps are not classified as key workers so I am following government guidelines and what Nacs and Hetas organisations recommend by staying at home.

Also a lot of my customers fall into the "at risk category" and I do not wish to cause them any harm or put them in any danger from the risk of infection at the moment.

Because we live in a rural area we tend use our fires and woodburners as part of our heating and cooking systems, so if a customer has a real problem which means they can't use it, I will make the effort to get to them and solve their problem and get them up and running again, following the guidelines on social distancing. We are nearing the end of our burning season, but as a lot of us are staying home and using our fires more frequently and for longer periods we need to be a little more careful, so if you haven't had your fire/woodburner swept recently, care should be taken not to overfire ie (burning to hot or letting it roar), as this could cause a chimney fire. Also ensure you are burning the best fuel you can afford, and with wood that it is dry and well seasoned, I know this can be hard to find at this time of the year.

Once restrictions have been lifted I recommend you get you fires/woodburners swept as soon as possible by a fully qualified and insured sweep who should provide a proper invoice and a recognised certificate.

In some ways we are lucky that we live in such a beautiful area to self isolate. Stay safe lan the sweep

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



Update Covid-19 – Information for take care and stay safe. Visitors and Supporters

IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVES, THE PONY CENTRE IS NOW CLOSED.

We would like to send all our supporters our very best wishes at this difficult time and assure everyone that our ponies are receiving the best of care.

We are operating with just one member of staff plus our manager on site at any one time to ensure social distancing and staff safety, and our volunteers have been told to remain at home.

We will be using enhanced social media and fundraising notifications to try and maintain contact and enable people to keep in touch with us and our work. We hope to continue bringing you news and some 'light hearted' relief from the current situation with updates and stories of our ponies.

We hope the charity will come out of this situation with the funds to continue and that we will be able to welcome visitors to the Exmoor Pony Centre again in the future. Thank you for your understanding. Please take care and stay safe.

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EXMOOR NEWS

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Milverton Concert Society has had a really successful season starting with a concert from pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason, the oldest member of the astoundingly musical family whose fame is now worldwide thanks to the success of 'cellist Sheku, winner of the BBC Young Musician Competition (and soloist at the wedding of Harry and Meghan!). She is one of SEVEN highly talented children ranging from age 9 to 23 - all very proficient on their chosen instruments and all, it seems, destined to make an impact on the world musical scene AND Milverton in 2021 (see next season).

This was followed by a visit from Leonard Elschenbroich, one of the most charismatic cellists of his generation, and The London Bridge Trio, one of Britain's most exciting and brilliant chamber groups.

The ambience at these concerts is always a joy to experience – hundreds of candles

providing a warming glow, enthusiastic and welcoming front of house staff, the promise of a cheering glass of wine at the interval and a general buzz of expectation.

Unfortunately the 'sell out' concert with Red Priest had to be postponed, but they will definitely be visiting us at a later date.

Our proposed next season is ; October 23rd 2020 Martin James Bartlett Piano November 20th 2020 Metamorphoses Trio Clarinet/Viola/Piano February 26th 2021 Onyx Brass quintet March 26th 2021 Kanneh-Masons 5 Rising Stars Follow us on Facebook and on www. milvertonconcerts.org

"The Dulverton Health Group Walkers at Wimbleball Lake last month despite the inclement weather!

The Walks have now been suspended until further notice but will resume as soon as possible."



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Exmoor society

'Following government advice on group events, The Exmoor Society is cancelling all walks before 1 August and will keep the situation under review. The Society would like to encourage as many as possible to enjoy Exmoor National Park's natural beauty safely and promote physical and mental wellbeing. We will try to publish on our website the planned routes of the cancelled walks in the online events calendar. Please keep yourselves and others safe by following government guidelines for COVID-19.'

Thank you very much for all your past support in promoting our walks. We will be working both at the office and at home as required and will continue to respond to all enquiries as promptly as possible. We hope it will not be too long before we are able to return to normality and wish you good health in the meantime.

Anne Parham

Administrator

The Exmoor Society

34 High Street, DULVERTON, Somerset TA22 9DJ Telephone: 01398 323335

Email: info@exmoorsociety.com Website: www.exmoorsociety.com

DULVERTON GROUP, EXMOOR SOCIETY

The Dulverton Group has cancelled the talks due to be held in April and May – we thank those who attended the March AGM and fascinating slide show by David Currie covering his trip to New Zealand.

We hope to resume our programme on Thursday, 10th September with a talk

Answers to quiz on page 23

- 1. The Exmoor Pony Centre, owned by the Moorland Mousie Trust, was opened to the public in the year 2006
- 2. Bridgetown Cricket Club became champions of the West Somerset Cricket League for the first time in the club's 90-year history in 2014.
- 3. 9
- Author, artist and naturalist Hope Bourne, who lived a life of self sufficiency on the moor for more than 60 years, wrote 'A Village of the Moor' about Withypool
- 5. Exmoor Horn ewe and a Bluefaced Leicester ram.
- 6. 6 points on each side.
- 7. Dunkery Beacon
- 8. Last Thursday in October
- 9. The station was closed in 1966
- 10. Bakery products
- 11. The Exmoor News started in 1985.
- 12. A Kinetic sculpture called "Transforming Movement" was unveiled by Dulverton Weir and Leat Conservation Group at Leat Bridge in Dulverton in July 2016.
- 13. The Royal Oak and Exmoor Forest Inn
- 14. Dulverton by Starlight
- 15. Buddy Brown (pure Jack Russell)
- 16. Wimbleball Lake was constructed in the 1970s and completed in 1979. If the water drops dramatically Bessom Bridge appears.
- 17. Luxborough
- 18. Tarr Farm Inn
- 19. Whortleberry
- 20. Lorna Doone was written by R D Blackmore

by the Woodland Trust about Exmoor's trees. In October and November we will hear about the Headwaters of the Exe project and the Two Rivers Paper Mill, who manufacture rag based paper using restored machinery over a century old. We expect to run the three cancelled 2020 talks in 2021.

Dr Ken J. Mills, Chairman & Secretary kenmills222@gmail.com

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Dulverton Benefice/All Saints/Community choirs: Gary Cooper		07419 212354
All Saints Church, Dulverton, Bell Tower: Anne Markwick		01398 323823
Brompton Regis with Withiel Florey, Upton and Skilgate: The Rev. Martin Collett, Assistant Curate		01398 324211
Brushford: The Rev. Collett, Assistant Curate		01398 324211
Exmoor Benefice: The Rev. David Weir, The Rectory, Exford, TA24 7LX		01643 831330
Catholic Church: Priest: Father Michael		01643 702201
Dulverton Congregational Church, Chapel St: Minister:		01398 323943
The Traditional Anglican Church: Loxbear, Priest Reverend Aird		01769 581042
Exmoor Benefice Choir: Mrs B. Staples		01643 851396
St Peter's Church Oakford: Rev'd Stephanie Gordon-	Jeffs office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org	01884 250417
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Community Music Events: Gary Cooper www.allsaintsdulverton.org.uk		07419 212354
Dulverton Art Group: Sec: Mrs G Rose, 2 Stable Mew	vs, The Square, Witheridge	01884 860495

Dulverton Camera Club: Sec: Peter Main, 4 Valley View, Morebath, Tiverton, EX16	
	01398 331556
Dulverton Players: Chair: Les Silverlock	01398 341850
Oakford Players, Chair: Mr A Holmes tholmes556@btinternet.com	01398 351665
SPORTS CLUBS	
Anstey Short Mat Bowls: Chris Dale	01398 341615
Bridgetown Cricket: Sec: Mr. D. Sherring, Mid-Wicket, Bridgetown, Dulverton TA22 9JN ac	
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
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Dulverton Cricket Club: Robert Dubery	01398 323474
Dulverton Cricket Club, Colts: Mrs Christine Dubery	01398 323474
Dulverton & District Tennis Club: Orla Jones	07783 930700
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
Exmoor Croquet Club: Chair: Connie Heywood	01398 341556
Moorland Hall Sports: info@wheddoncross.org.uk	
Wimbleball Fly Fishers: enquiries@fishingthewest.co.uk	
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Anstey Parent and Toddlers Group: E A School	01398 341369
Little Owls Nursery at All Saints C of E School, Dulverton	01398 324360
Rhythm n'Brews Toddler Group: Sabine Cooper	07419 212354
SCHOOLS	01200 222221
All Saints C of E School: Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	01398 323231
Brompton Regis Toddlers: Mrs.S. Julian, Court Place Farm, Skilgate	01398 331031
Cutcombe C of E First School: Wheddon Cross, TA24 7DZ	01643 841462
Dulverton Junior School: Barns Close West, TA22 9EE	01398 323223
Dulverton Children's Centre: All Saints School, Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	01398 324360
Dulverton Family and Toddlers Group:	
	01398 324329
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EXMOOR NEWS

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Care Direct for help and advice: www.somerset.gov.uk	0300 1232224
Cutcombe Flower & Produce Show: Sue White	01643 841142
Dulverton Action Group: Magdalena Harding	
Dulverton & District Civic Soc: Kathy Currie	
Dulverton & Southern Exmoor Twinning: Chair: Steve Ford, Dulverton	
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Dulverton Dance:	
Dulverton Ballroom Dance: Sec: Mrs Christine Dubery	
Dulverton Development Forum: Sec: Mrs J. Ross	
Dulverton Films: Jan Ross	
Dulverton Fellowship for Mental Health: Marion Silverlock	
Dulverton Gardening Club: Roger Hammmond	
Dulverton Group Exmoor Society: Sec: Dr Ken Mills	
Dulverton Vets	
Dulverton Vintage Films: Magdalena Harding	
Dulverton Voluntary Drivers: Mike Beale	
Exe Valley Market Bus: Chairman: Colin Radford, cjrbutterdale@gmail.com	
Bookings (To include private use) Jennie Chappell smilerjenniec@hotmail.com	
Exmoor Patient Group: Chair: Sandra Wilson, W Nightcott, Dulverton TA22 9RT	
Exmoor BeeKeepers Association: Sec: Caroline Ralph exmoorhoneyshow@gmail.com	
Exmoor Community Bus Assn: Sec: Mr. G Knock, 6 Pounds Close, Brushford TA22 9AL	
Exmoor Pony Centre: Ashwick, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9QE	
Exmoor Pony Society: Sec: Sue McGeever, Woodmans, Brithem Bottom Cullompton, Devon EX15 1NB	
Exmoor Rotary Club: Humphrey Berridge (PRO), Station Hse, Luke St, Bampton	
Good Neighbours: Sandra Collett	01398 324211
Oakford Village Hall: Chair: Mr D Bannister davidbannister10@hotmail.com	01398 351135
Bookings: Mrs Dawn Williams dawnwilliams1@gmail.com	01398 324035 01398 323030
Royal British Legion Dulverton: Peter Donnelly	
TA22 Voluntary Lift Scheme (formerly Brushford Voluntary Lifts): Chair: T. Wilson	
Tiverton Model Aero Club: Sec: Mr. P Veale, 9 High St., Dulverton TA22 9HB	
U3A Exmoor: Yvonne Moorfoot, 3 Lamb Back, Dulverton	
Village Agent Jane Lillis janel@somersetrcc.org.uk	07958 415270
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