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November/December 2020

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Merry Christmas





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Last Christmas I produced a small booklet with “vouchers” in it for family to use... visits to local venues, special treats, things to do, walks to be taken... that sort of thing. The idea was to use these “vouchers” throughout the year to get out more, have more fun and have “quality time”. Well, that didn’t happen! Maybe I should think about similar things to do which are Covid safe and make our lives filled with a few more nice things. There are lots of things to do online but meeting people offers so much more, for example with a walking group see page 34. Maybe make a list of things you and the children could collect on your walks, acorns, cones etc.

We’ve gone a bit bookish. We are promoting our book publishing services and we have put together some info on book production which may be of use to budding authors. We have an article from local author Kate Lord Brown on p5 (thank you Kate) and Bampton Players and Dulverton by Starlight are holding writing competitions (see pages 6 and 7).

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 2020: © Claire Savill.

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 January/February issue of the Exmoor News is

Thursday 3rd December 2020

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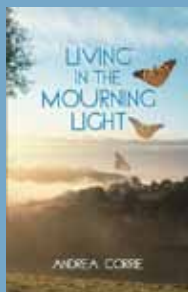
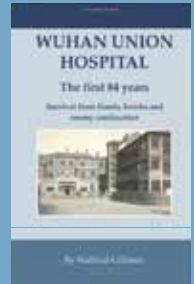
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Published by Exmoor News and available on Amazon

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Living in the Mourning Light

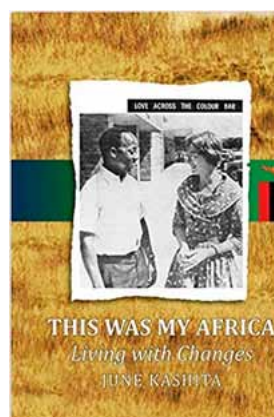
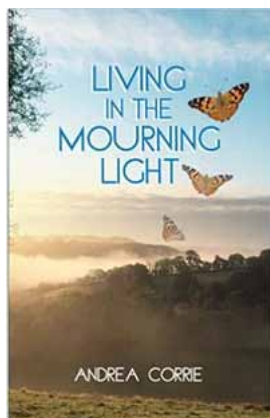
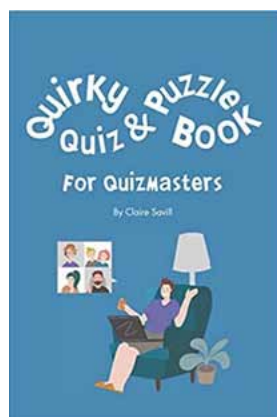
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This Was My Africa: Living with Changes

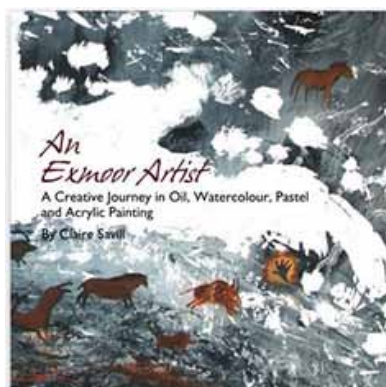
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Books available from Amazon.



Mind Map

A few ideas for books



Shaping Stories



Exmoor has long attracted and inspired writers and poets, from Wordsworth, Coleridge and Shelley, to Marie Corelli and Henry Williamson and, of course, R D Blackmore and Hope Bourne. Today's Exmoor writers include Devon-born novelist, Kate Lord Brown, who now calls Dulverton home.

After living in different parts of the world, most recently the Middle East, Kate and her family - husband, two children, and adopted dogs and cats - returned to England four years ago. 'I had happy childhood memories of Stoodleigh,' says Kate, 'and Dulverton appealed to us as it has so much to offer.' It is also within easy reach of the North Devon coast where the family loves to swim and surf, just as Kate did as a girl.

After reading philosophy at Durham and art history at the Courtauld Institute, Kate worked as an art curator, but writing has always been part of her life. 'I won my first writing prize while I was at school and, much later, completed an MA in creative writing.'

Her breakthrough came in 2009, as a finalist in ITV's *The People's Author* contest; her first novel, *The Beauty Chorus*

came out two years later. In 2014, Kate's second novel, *The Perfume Garden*, was shortlisted for Romantic Novel of the Year; four more followed, the latest, *Silent Music*, in 2019.

Starting points tend to be what Kate calls, 'Little nuggets of history'. *The Beauty Chorus*, for example, was inspired by the obituary of a woman who had been a WWII Spitfire pilot. The novel she is currently working on features wartime Tiverton, where J D Salinger, author of *The Catcher in the Rye*, was stationed for three months.

And now you could have a character in that next novel named after you, as Kate is currently taking part in Children in Read, which is raising money for this year's Children in Need appeal. But hurry, bids close on 12 November! (See Children in Read at www.jumblebee.co.uk)

She keeps to a strict routine, writing between the twice-daily school runs and walking her dogs. 'I write in the mornings and afternoons; evenings are for research or going through what I have written earlier.' Kate is an avid reader too; she particularly enjoys the novels of Ann Patchett, Elizabeth Strout and Anne Tyler but her favourite book is *The Leopard* by Giuseppe di Lampedusa. 'I discover something new each time I read it.'

Discover more about Kate's writing life at www.katelordbrown

Diane Trembath





Dulverton by Starlight events will be a bit different this year - no full event due to Covid.


Lots of fun things to do online.

Watch social media for more information.

From the Starlight Team

www.dulvertonbystarlight.co.uk

Email: info@dulvertonbystarlight.co.uk

 Dulverton by Starlight

**Take part in
our fun online
fundraising
quiz (details on
our website)
and our writing
competition**



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Due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19, it is with sadness that we have taken the decision to cancel the remaining excursions for 2020.

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Dulverton by Starlight writing competition:

“What does Dulverton by Starlight mean to you?”

Guest judge Diane Trembath

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Under 16's entry free 500-word limit

Aged 5-11 – Prizes 1st £20 voucher, 2nd £10 voucher 3rd Prize £5 voucher.

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Aged 12-16 £20 voucher, 2nd £10 voucher 3rd Prize £5 voucher.

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Email your entries to duvertonwritingcomp@yahoo.com or post your entries to:

Starlight writing comp at The Post Office Dulverton 27 Fore Street, Dulverton TA22 9EX

Payment by cheque or bacs to Dulverton by Starlight, details on entry.



**Have you always wanted to write a play
but could never find the time?
Or maybe just getting started is the issue?**

Well, now's your chance to make it happen!

**Bampton Players are holding a
PLAY WRITING COMPETITION.**

Everyone is welcome to submit an entry.
If we think your script has potential we will hold a play reading
online and if the play is our cup of tea we will present a fully
staged production as your prize.

So that's a win, win for the writer and the Players!

We are looking for plays which are 60-90 minutes long
suitable for a supper theatre or outdoor production.
If you have questions or would like to discuss your ideas
contact Avril Saxby at avril.saxby@gmail.com

**The closing date for the competition is 28th Feb 2021
Happy writing!**

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With much love, Maddy & Magdalena

DULVERTON ACTION GROUP

Litter-picking (3rd Sunday)

**Sunday 15th November
Sunday 20th December**

10.30 meet by the Heritage Centre
Everyone welcome and all kit supplied

WHATS HOT IN THE EXMOOR PROPERTY MARKET?

Like most parts of the UK, the property market has been exceptionally busy since agents were allowed back to work on May 13th. Locally it's been no exception. If anything the volume of enquiries coming in compared with a more normal Exmoor property market has been and indeed continues to be, staggering. For weeks and weeks now we have been carrying out an average normal months worth of viewings every 6 days and this has just continued relentlessly particularly throughout July, August and September. (between June and the end of September almost a whole year's worth of viewings carried out in 4 months alone).

Viewings levels are great but has this translated into sales and if so what has seen the greatest activity? In truth, almost every property type that you can think of and almost at every price range has been in demand. So many properties selling close to, at or indeed above their guide prices in recent weeks as multiple buyers have battled it out to secure their perfect home. The most extreme sector of the property market though having been particularly properties with land (5/10/20/30 acres) where the vast majority of landed properties have seen 10/20 or more viewings in the first few weeks, followed by multiple offers (sometimes 3/5 or even 8 different buyers) all chasing the same property. As a result, a very high percentage of these properties have sold at or above their Guide Price (some by 5/10% or even extreme cases of 14%).

But what of the market ahead? For now,

the market continues unabated despite COVID, despite BREXIT negotiations and despite the undoubted issues in the economy at large. However, moving forward, up to the minute advice when selling your home on market conditions, nuances in the local property market where premium prices can still be secured will be essential for any home owner to feel comfortable that they are maximising both the interest in their home and, of course, the price. Timing will always be important as any potential change in the market can come about quickly and therefore having a close and trusting relationship with your agent, the advice that they give and their knowledge not only of the local market but the broader UK market as a whole (where so many of our buyers come from) will be more important now than almost ever before.

I have been selling in the Exmoor area for over 36 years and offers an unrivalled breadth of experience during this time of the local market. For more details, advice on the value and potential sale of your home, then do contact Webbers/Fine & Country at the Dulverton office on 01398 323271.



Napoleon Wilcox

Head of Webbers Fine & Country
Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, London.
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An al fresco socially distanced rehearsal!

Tiverton Town Band still exists!

We have kept a low profile recently due to the Covid-19 pandemic but rest assured we are raring to get going again when conditions and regulations allow. We are stringently following advice from BBE (Brass Bands England) and the government and have not met in person to play together, like so many organisations, since March. Current advice from BBE is that brass bands should not meet to rehearse as brass instruments would appear to disperse moisture droplets extremely efficiently and over a wide area. However, much research is being carried out in this area and we await the results with enthusiasm and baited breath.

All our summer engagements, which of course we love performing at, were necessarily cancelled or at best postponed according to the lockdown. There is something undeniably British about the sound of a Brass Band at a village fete, bandstand or parade and we long to return to that and bring that atmosphere back for our audiences. In addition to performing we will also look at bringing back our very popular monthly car boot sale at Tiverton Rugby Club – watch this space!

We were supposed to participate at the West of

England Brass Band Contest in March but with just a week to go decided as a band that it was not a good idea to potentially expose members to the possibility of contracting or passing on the disease. Although we had prepared hard for the contest it was undoubtedly the correct decision.

Although we have not been able to meet in person we have held weekly Zoom social sessions for the band at which we have kept in touch with each other as well as having fun quizzes and bingo. The committee have also been very busy meeting regularly to discuss and plan how the band can move forward and develop post Covid. Exciting times ahead!

For businesses around the area there is also the chance to join us in a mutually beneficial partnership as one of our band sponsors. If you would like more information about the various possibilities of sponsorship please contact tivybandmaster@gmail.com

If you are looking to start and develop a new skill for life as a brass player we are always keen to welcome new members to the training band or players with previous experience to the senior band. For full details please visit our website www.tivertontownband.co.uk or email the bandmaster at tivybandmaster@gmail.com

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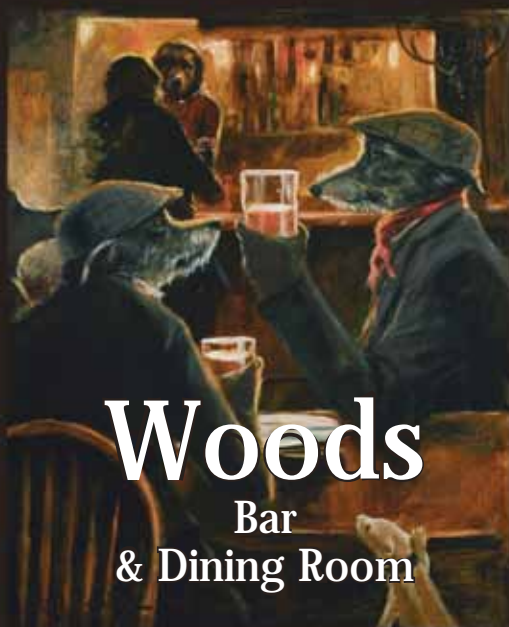
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POPPY APPEAL 2020 - October 22nd to November 8th

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the committee of the Dulverton Branch will work hard to try to make sure that the Appeal is as successful locally as always. Last year the branch collected a massive total of £5,561.60 thanks to the support of local people and visitors.

This year, boxes of poppies, along with wristbands, badges and other merchandise, will be placed in local shops and businesses as usual, but, sadly, we will not be able to stand outside the Coop store in Dulverton as social distancing will be impossible. Last year,

our volunteers helping with the street collection raised £2,294.50. Door to door collections will also not take place this year.

We hope you will continue to support the Poppy Appeal and wear your poppy with pride to make sure the national appeal is as successful as always.

If you would like to make a donation direct to the Dulverton Branch funds which will then be sent as part of the national appeal, you can send a cheque made out to RBL Poppy Appeal to our Poppy Appeal organiser Mr Hugh Maund, Littlebrook House, Exebridge, Dulverton, TA22 9AY or make an online bank transfer to Sort Code is 30-11-75, Account No 01937121 with reference BR2485 which is the Dulverton reference number.

Jan Ross, Dulverton RBL Branch, committee member.



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6.30pm Kettlercise

Wednesday – 9.30am Fitness Pilates
12pm Body Conditioning

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

Friday - 6am Bootcamp

9.30am Boxercise, 10.30am Fitness Pilates

Saturday - 8am Circuits/Legs, Bums & Tums

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NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE AGENT

Autumn is here and the winter flu vaccination programme is in full swing – it's especially important this year to get your flu vaccine if you are eligible for the free treatment, and maybe consider paying for one if you aren't. This year the flu vaccine is being offered on the NHS to:

- * adults 65 and over
- * people with certain medical conditions (including children in at-risk groups from 6 months of age)
- * pregnant women
- * people living with someone who's at high risk from coronavirus (on the NHS shielded patient list)
- * children aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2020, children in primary school & year 7 pupils
- * frontline health or social care workers.

You can have your NHS flu vaccine at:

- * your GP surgery or local Hospital
- * a local pharmacy offering the service
- * your midwifery service if they offer it for pregnant women.

All this year's Exmoor Medical Centre flu vaccination clinics will take place at Exmoor Medical Centre in Dulverton. All clinics are appointment based only – please do not just turn up. Appointments are available to book through Patient Access or the Reception Team on 01398 323333. Flu vaccinations for those aged 50 – 64 will not be started until November unless you are in at an risk group when you will receive an invite to the Saturday, 17th October clinic.

- ☐ Saturday, 26th September:
9 am – 1 pm (Over 65's only)
- ☐ Saturday, 3rd October:
9 am – 1 pm (Over 65's only)
- ☐ Saturday, 17th October:
9 am – 1 pm

Somerset CCG are also looking at one-stop shop type locations where people can get Covid testing, flu vaccinations, Covid vaccinations & anti-body testing. If you have your flu vaccine at a pharmacy, you do not have to inform a GP. It's up to the pharmacist to do that.

Further information on flu vaccination can be found on

the NHS website at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

COVID-19

As I write, the rule of six has just come into force but it is likely that as cases continue to rise more changes, and possibly restrictions, will be in place by the time of this article's publication.

CCS and the Village Agent Team are here to help make sense and support everyone as information changes at a rapid pace. We are continuing to look at ways to meet face-to-face as soon as is safely possible, but in the meantime your local Village Agent continues to work from home and is available to give help and advice by email and phone.

TALKING CAFE LIVE

You can also catch up with the Somerset Village Agents at 11 am every weekday on our Talking Café Live sessions on Facebook – www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/live.

If you're not able to join us while we are streaming live, you can watch the recorded videos at any time on catch up.

Since launching Talking Café Live in May we have covered a huge variety of subjects including but not limited to the Somerset Micro-provider Network, hydration, recycling, domestic abuse, services from our libraries, energy bills and healthy eating.

YOUR VILLAGE AGENTS

CCS 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.

Please do contact your local Village Agent if you have any questions or need support. Your West Somerset Village Agent team are here to help.

Your Village Agents:

Jane Lillis Village Agent West Somerset

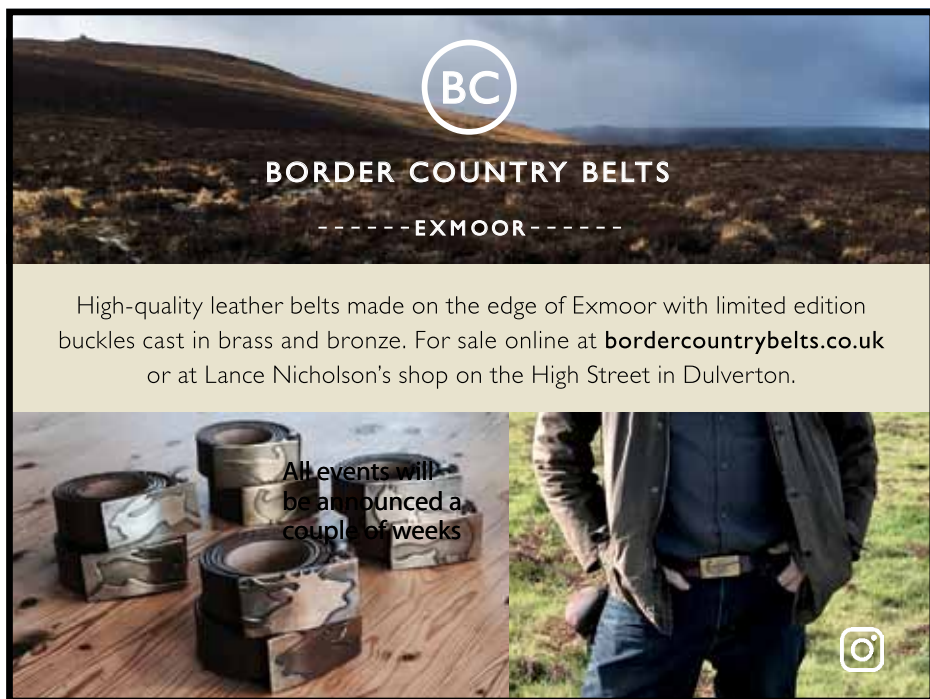
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All events will be announced a couple of weeks




Exmoor Studios

We are delighted that we have completed our lease on the former bank in Dulverton. Work is now starting to turn the building into a studio complex. Exestream Radio, our community radio station serving the Upper Exe valleys will relocate there very soon and we will be able to start live broadcasting in addition to our recorded service. Rehearsal rooms will be available very soon and a professional recording studio facility will follow. The live performance area will be used for this and as a studio theatre. Further updates will be available on www.exestream.com and www.exmoorstudios.com

Steve Hall



Regal Theatre welcomes back audiences

All events will be announced. For information join their mailing list by emailing mail@regaltheatre.co.uk.



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The Virtual Bucket Collection is St Margaret's Hospice Care's answer to the collections that have been cancelled over the last few months due to Coronavirus. Celebrating their 40th anniversary this year, the charity's team of volunteers and staff are usually seen working hard at collections in the local community throughout the year. Sadly, this year, the buckets have remained empty.

Last year from these collections alone the kindness and generosity of the Somerset community raised over £8000. This important part of the hospice's fundraising efforts is being sorely missed. To bridge the gap in funds the charity have created a virtual bucket collection, which they hope the community will donate to. The donation bucket will be open throughout the month of September with regular progress updates on social media.

All money raised from this collection will go towards the care of patients and their families across Somerset. Throughout the pandemic the charity's care and

Donate your spare change from the comfort of your home...



support has not wavered. The work of clinical teams remains ongoing; staff are visiting patients in your community, supporting families and caring 24/7 in the in-patient unit. The 24-hour advice line has increasingly become a 'lifeline' to patients and families as face to face contact has not been possible.

Kara Frampton, Area Fundraising Manager at St Margaret's Hospice Care, said: "So many of you support the hospice by donating your change whilst out and about, it is such an important part of our fundraising efforts. Perhaps you could donate the cost of a cup of coffee, or could you donate some of the money you've saved on lunch while working from home. As it's our 40th year, we are hoping to raise £4,000, which will start to bridge the gap from not being able to hold bucket collections. Whether it's £2 or £20 your donation will help us continue to care for and support patients and their families across Somerset."

For more information and how to donate to the Virtual Bucket Collection visit: www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/virtualbucketcollection



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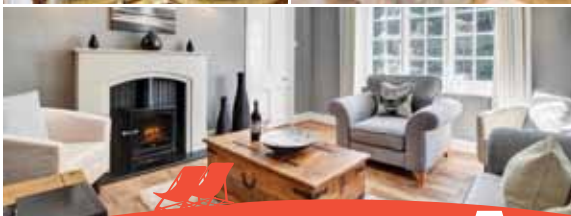
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Reminding people that Christmas is coming, too early, is often a little unpopular. However this year that is exactly what we should be doing.

Remember the packed shops and supermarkets in the lead up to Christmas (in normal years) as we all try to prepare a wonderful Christmas for our friends and family. How packed to the rafters they are with queues (not socially distanced queues either!) reaching way back into the depths of the stores.

I know you can't necessarily 'buy' a great Christmas and things can be honed down and maybe simplified but we will all want to make things as normal as possible in this strange year.

The answer you say, to some degree correctly, is to shop online but there are a couple of problems here. The first is the usual - that you can't always find what you want without seeing the item in the 'flesh'. Secondly I suspect that as we get closer to Christmas the delivery companies and suppliers will be way overstretched.

So what's the answer? Shop local of course and shop early. Don't drive for an hour only to be stressed and disappointed. And if you do need anything online get it really early.

Support your local shops and businesses this Christmas



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

Wow, we just can't thank everyone enough for their ongoing support over the last few months. After a difficult lockdown, it has been amazing to welcome people back to the Exmoor Pony Centre throughout July, August and September. The positive response to our new ways of working and booking system has been a real boost and we hope to see lots of people throughout October before we close for the Winter.

However this year our door will not be completely closed and will be left ajar so that on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons 1-3pm people can drop by to have a look at our shop and hopefully stock up on Christmas cards, gifts and our 2021 Calendar. Usually we are able to attend several Festive events to sell our charitable items which are a vital part of our annual income, of course this year there are no such events being held so we are hoping people will support us by popping up to the Centre or visiting our website and purchasing items online.

On 1st October the law changed, and all equines of any age must be microchipped. Our team has been busily catching up with some old pony pals who needed to be chipped in readiness. Linzi and Lauren visited some of our ponies who graze the Quantocks to help with the process. They were able to headcollar and successfully micro-chip 3 ponies who had not been handled for 7 years!

By the time you read this, the round up of the moorland foals will be well underway and we will be awaiting the arrival of some to the Centre for handling through the Winter months. This is always an exciting time as we never know quite how many we will get! Government restrictions allowing we shall be holding our Youngstock Handling Courses this winter, please contact the Centre for more information.

The autumn and winter months see our ridden team getting the chance for a few months holiday which allows our team to work with the younger and less experienced ponies, so

we are always kept very busy. Our fundraising efforts also continue, and we will be holding an Online Auction in November to help raise funds towards our work with the unwanted foals. Please check out our website and social media channels to view our awesome auction lots.

And don't forget, it won't be long now until Christmas and we have cards and calendars for sale in our online shop via our website. Cards are £4 (pack of ten) and the 2021 Calendar is a bargain at £7.50 all featuring Exmoor Pony photographs taken at the Centre, on the Moor and on conservation grazing sites throughout the UK. Every penny goes to help our ponies.

Website: www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk

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Keen to try it? Contact Chris Winter, Secretary chriswin@aol.com Tel. 07710 046107 / 01398 351561

The Dulverton Health Walk

Our very friendly group meet each Tuesday morning at 10am at various locations. We spend an hour or so walking our glorious countryside. The walks are not difficult and we stop frequently to 'catch up' and to admire the beautiful terrain and, sometimes, wildlife.

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'Lets Get West Somerset Moving Again' Car Appeal

Somerset charity CCS (The Community Council for Somerset) is calling on the generosity of Somerset's people to donate their second-hand cars, that are in working order but that they no longer need, to help get West Somerset moving.

The innovative scheme is supported by the West Somerset Opportunity Area. Outcomes for disadvantaged children and young people in West Somerset are well below the national average. The West Somerset Opportunity Area, one of 12 Opportunity Areas in England, aims to overcome these challenges through working in partnership with local organisations, businesses, schools, nurseries and colleges.

CCS is appealing to potential donors who have cars they no longer want – they may have already purchased another vehicle or perhaps they are giving up driving. Suitable cars are those that are in working order and are economical to run, ideally smaller-size cars that use less fuel and are cheaper to insure than larger vehicles.

Following a very successful appeal for donations of bikes earlier this year, this new campaign aims to further improve access to employment and education for local people who may need to travel longer distances to take up opportunities.

Minor mechanical problems and no MOT are not a barrier as qualified mechanics, working at local not-for-profit social enterprise Rusty Road 2 Recovery, will carry out a full service and safety check before handing the

vehicles over. Any vehicles that are beyond repair will be sold for parts, with all the profits put back into the project.

Katherine Armstrong, CCS Community Involvement Officer, says:

"Please donate your unneeded cars to provide transport for lower-income people to get back into work and education.

First, we will service the vehicle and undertake any minor repairs to gain a 12-month MOT. At the time of being given the vehicle, the recipient will be shown how to undertake basic checks to maintain the vehicle in working condition. On top of that, our partners at West Somerset Advice and Rusty Road 2 Recovery will support recipients with financial advice and a free vehicle check within the first 6 months of ownership."

Raj Singh, CCS Deputy Chief Executive, says:

"Your generosity will make a huge difference to those unable to access work or education because they have no affordable means of getting there. We urge you to consider donating your unwanted car to offer a life-changing opportunity to someone in your local community."

If you have a car to donate please get in touch with CCS Community Involvement Officer Katherine via email katherine@Somersetccc.org.uk with your name and phone number and a brief description of the car, or call 07985 744623, to discuss the donation further.

Get West Somerset Moving!

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TONY TAKLE (1935 – 2020)

Tony Takle was well-known and much-loved throughout Exmoor. Originally from Wheddon Cross (where he went to work at Thorne Farm as soon as he could leave school), he later settled at Kendle Farm, Exton, where he raised his family and stayed until retirement. He once told me that he had two ambitions as a young man – to own his own farm, and to marry the prettiest girl on Exmoor, and told me proudly: 'I managed both by the time I was 24!' (He married Hilda Stevens in 1957, two years before moving to Kendle.) Tony loved farming, and loved showing his livestock at local shows, but he was a man of energy and drive, and enjoyed many interests outside the farm. He was a born entertainer, with a fine voice and a love of singing, as well as a great talent for storytelling. The years he spent with The Village Minstrels brought pleasure to him as much as to the audiences they entertained, and many on Exmoor will remember him in this way. Cutcombe Young Farmers Club benefited from Tony's gifts, as he brought his talents to bear in directing productions for the drama competition, taking a production all the way to the national finals in the early nineteen-eighties.

He had a well-developed sense of humour, and

perhaps also a keen sense of mischief: asked once by a visitor to Bridgetown if he was 'local' he replied 'no, I used to live at Wheddon Cross'. Tony's Christian faith went deep, and his record of service to the church on Exmoor is hard to equal: he served St Peter's, Exton, as Churchwarden for 51 years, and as Tower Captain for nearly as many, as well as singing in the Benefice Choir.

It is hard to avoid clichés when talking of such a simple, straightforward, and utterly extraordinary man, but clichés would hardly do him justice. When Peter and I moved to Exmoor he was warm and sincere in his welcome, and I can only say that I feel privileged to have known Tony Takle. My prayers are for his family at this time, and will be for time to come.

He lies next to his beloved Hilda (who died in the spring) in the spot that he chose, at the foot of the bank between the 'old' and 'new' graveyards, where there was once a hedge which he dug out by hand to create the 'new' graveyard. It is a good spot, with a wonderful view of Exmoor hills and fields, and a fitting resting-place for a true Exmoor farmer and a storyteller of whom stories will now be told.

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A Dog's Day Out – Thank you very much Mr. President

Ouch! Ger..roff Honey your elbow - Ouch, is digging in my shoulder. Move over, you weigh a ton!

Have you put on a bit of weight? "It's all those extra lunches we had at the pub. Do you remember, the smoked salmon?" And the poached chicken. I remember. What was going on? It was wonderful. All seems to have stopped now. "She said it was a gift from Ritchie Su Knack for being good." I don't think we know him, do we? He's extremely generous. "She calls him the PPP. President of the Public's Purse". Well thank you very much Mr. President. Still, your girth is looking a bit tight Honey and Christmas is coming.

"Christmas has been cancelled". What? Don't be daft, I've already written to Santa. I'm hoping that he'll send me a quad bike this time. "The whippets up the road told me. No Christmas parties because they were going

to have one and invite us. In any case, how is Santa going to get a quad bike down our chimney, Can't you make life simple and just stick to the flying helmet and goggles?" I'm gob-smacked. Why can't we have a party? She's got the shiny paper out and already wrapping things up.

I've watched her. "It's something to do with President Su Knack, no more than 6 dogs at a party and they've all got to be from the same family." Does that mean we can't go back to the pub and have some more of their lovely food? She promised us after all those lunches. She said we'll come back here again and sit round the fire at Christmas time for their raspberry panacotta with exotic fruit salad and lime sorbet. She promised. "I'm only repeating what the whippets told me, only 6 from the same family unless something has died, then you can have 30 guests". That's okay then, that old spider behind the wardrobe is on his last legs. Sorted, we can have our party, I'll let the whippets know Christmas is back on!

Buddy Brown (pure Jack Russell) a roving reporter

Reference: The Crown Hotel, Exford.

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Book lovers back browsing at Dulverton Library

Dulverton Library has welcomed back local book lovers to browse the shelves and access key services.

Somerset County Council has been rolling out a phased opening of libraries by offering an order-and-collect service. Dulverton Library is now allowing the public in to browse their shelves – all done with strict social distancing and infection control measures in place.

Councillor David Hall, Somerset County Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Libraries, said: "We are very pleased to be able to invite visitors back to the library to browse our shelves and make use of our other community services.

"I'd like to thank our staff in Dulverton for all their hard work in adapting the library, so that the community can return in a safe and socially distanced way."

On entering the library visitors are being asked to use the hand sanitiser provided and wear a face covering if they are able to – staff are also wearing visors or masks.

Once inside there is a one-way system with two-metre social distancing marked out along the aisles. Books can be checked out using the self-service machines.

The popular public computers are also available at the library. Computers need to be pre-booked and are available for one-hour slots, with time built in for cleaning.

Somerset libraries have been running a host of online events and activities for families, which have been available every day and have proved very popular – including story-times, performances and activities as part of the 2020 Summer Reading Challenge – delivered this year by 'The Silly Squad'. Visit <http://www.somersetlibraries.co.uk> for information or find 'Somerset Libraries UK' on Facebook.

Library staff have been busy creating a range of videos for grown-ups too; such as nature walks, a gardening club, cookery tips and tips to help with health and wellbeing.

What's more, anyone who is a member of Somerset Libraries can also download audiobooks, magazines, books, comics and access other online services such as Ancestry UK all free of charge!

You can keep up-to-date with what is happening at Wellington Library by going to www.facebook.com/Wellingtonlibrary/, via the Somerset Libraries website – www.somersetlibraries.co.uk or by contacting librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk. Somerset Libraries are also contactable by telephone on 0300 123 2224.

Correct at time of receiving copy, please check online for current situation - Ed

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LEO'S JOURNEY

Leo Braukmann-Pugsley from East Liscombe has just completed an enormous bike ride in support of MADRE, a charity that strengthens grassroots women's organizations in war, disaster and their aftermath.

He aimed to cycle 1000m around England and raise £500. After 19 days of cycling and carrying 31kg, he has now done closer to 1500m, raising nearly £1000.

The trip was undertaken alone, with a mixture of wild camping and staying in the fields and gardens of generous strangers.

He couldn't have done it without the support of Peggy, his vintage steel-frame road bicycle.

See Leo's journey on 'Just Giving':

<https://bit.ly/2RBEAKY>



DULVERTON PLAYERS



The Dulverton Players have postponed their "Dick Whittington" for a second time because of the Covid 19 epidemic.

The Exmoor theatre company now hopes that the production will go ahead in April 2021.

"Decisions will be made around November time when we know a little more about a possible Covid second wave," cautioned director, Olga Owen. "The Town Hall is all ready for us when we restart. Scenery and costumes are as we left them. It's disappointing news but it will be such a good community boost when it is safe to go ahead."

In the meantime follow the Players' "Salute Our Stars" on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DulvertonPlayers>, a weekly feature on one of our local actors.

They can't wait to get back on the Town Hall stage.



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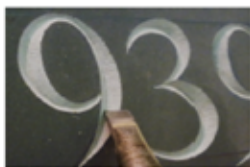
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NEW WATER CAM AT DULVERTON WEIR

Fishermen, Canoeists, Statutory Authorities and others interested can now monitor river levels at Dulverton Weir via the Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust Water Cam which has placed at the head of the weir to give a clear view of the whole weir structure.

The Water Cam was supplied by Farson Digital the largest commercial provider of high definition Water Cams in the UK with over 160 cameras sited at waterside locations in the UK and Ireland.

Philip Hull Trustee of Dulverton Weir & Leat Trust says "We are grateful to Farson for technical support and expertise, to have a Water Cam of such high specification is a great asset to our project. It would be the icing on the cake if we manage to capture images of wildlife activity such as Otters or Kingfishers. We can't of course monitor the camera all the time so if anybody is watching and sees something of interest they should let us know



via the DWLCT website so that we can look back in the camera files"

Glyn Howells Managing Director of Farson Digital comments "We are delighted to be involved with such a great local project"

The WaterCam on Dulverton Weir can be accessed via the DWLCT website at www.dulvertonweir.org.uk. All of Farson Digital's 160 Water Cams can be accessed via their website at www.farsondigitalwatercams.com.



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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
Dunkery PreSchool: Supervisor: Mrs. S. Matravers, Shute Close, Cutcombe, Minehead		01643 841008
East Anstey Primary School: East Anstey, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9JP		01398 341369
Little Owls Nursery: All Saints School, Fishers Mead TA22 9EN		01398 324360
WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS		
Anstey W.I.: President: Mrs. C Wood		01398 341472
Brompton Regis W.I.: Sec: Mrs. P. Beecham, Rose Cottage, Brompton Regis		01398 371407
Cutcombe & District M.U.: President, Pam Anson		01643 851616
Cutcombe & District W.I.: Mrs. Pam Anson		01643 851616
Dulverton & Brushford M. U.: Mrs A. Gregory, 22 Jury Road, Dulverton, TA22 9DU		01398 323587
Exford Moorhens: Chairman: Mrs. I. Collett		01643 831016
Oakford Moorland Ladies Club: Chair: Patsy Phillips Patsyphili@aol.com		01398 351648
YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES		
Bampton Scouts/Cubs/Beaver748s: Tony Weiss		01398 331901
Dulverton & District Young People's Project: Chair: John Preston		01398 323862
Dulverton Ballet: Mrs Wightmore, Flat 3, Easter House, St. Andrews St. Tiverton		01884 253999
Exmoor Community Youth Club: Organiser Laura Tasker, Fridays 6 – 8 pm		01643 831125
OTHERS		
Abbeyfield House		01398 324136
Bampton Library and Resource Centre, Station Road		01398 332466
Brushford Parish Hall: Bookings enquiries@brushfordparishhall.org.uk		07941 139846
Brushford Luncheon Club: Treasurer: Margaret Albery		01398 324587
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	01398 323 785
Dulverton & District Civic Soc: Kathy Currie	07493 518350
Dulverton & Southern Exmoor Twinning: Chair: Steve Ford, Dulverton	01398 323016
Dulverton Bridge Club: Sec: Brian Hughes, www.Bridgewebs.com/dulverton	01398 331219
Dulverton Dance:	01398 341850
Dulverton Ballroom Dance: Sec: Mrs Christine Dubery	01398 323474
Dulverton Development Forum: Sec: Mrs J. Ross	01398 323818
Dulverton Films: Jan Ross	01398 323818
Dulverton Fellowship for Mental Health: Marion Silverlock	01398 341850
Dulverton Gardening Club: Roger Hammond	01398 323954
Dulverton Group Exmoor Society: Sec: Dr Ken Mills	01398 331482
Dulverton Vets	01398 323285
Dulverton Vintage Films: Magdalena Harding	01398 323785
Dulverton Voluntary Drivers: Mike Beale	07743 885115
Exe Valley Market Bus: Chairman: Colin Radford, cjrbutterdale@gmail.com	
Bookings (To include private use) Jennie Chappell smilerjenniec@hotmail.com	01398 351666
Exmoor Patient Group: Chair: Sandra Wilson, W Nightcott, Dulverton TA22 9RT	01398 324687
Exmoor Beekeepers Association: Sec: Caroline Ralph exmoorhoneysow@gmail.com	01984 656240
Exmoor Community Bus Assn: Sec: Mr. G Knock, 6 Pounds Close, Brushford TA22 9AL	01398 324555
Exmoor Pony Centre: Ashwick, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9QE	01398 323093
Exmoor Pony Society: Sec: Sue McGeever, Woodmans, Brithem Bottom Cullompton, Devon EX15 1NB	01884 839930
Exmoor Rotary Club: Humphrey Berridge (PRO), Station Hse, Luke St, Bampton	01398 332324
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
Royal British Legion Dulverton: Peter Donnelly	01398 323030
TA22 Voluntary Lift Scheme (formerly Brushford Voluntary Lifts): Chair: T. Wilson	07528 326880
Tiverton Model Aero Club: Sec: Mr. P Veale, 9 High St., Dulverton TA22 9HB	01398 323409
U3A Exmoor: Yvonne Moorfoot, 3 Lamb Back, Dulverton	01398 323529
Village Agent Jane Lillis janel@somersettrcc.org.uk	07958 415270
West Somerset Advice Bureau:	01643 704624

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