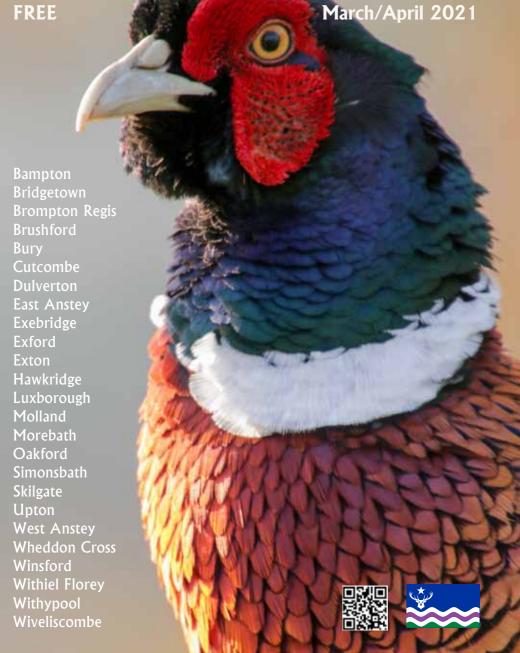
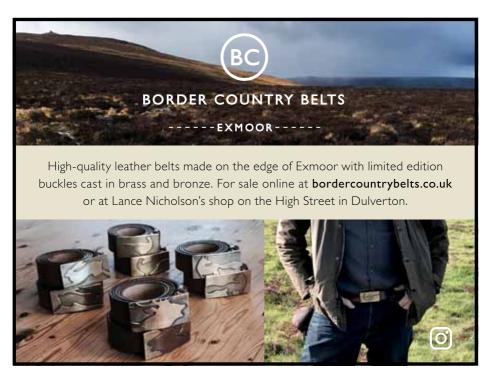
EXMOOR NEWS

Bringing community news across southern Exmoor since 1985









EXMOOR NEWS

EWS COVERING SOUTHERN EXMOOR

We would like to thank our advertisers and contributors for everything they do to make Exmoor News a success. In this issue we would also like to thank our very important furry friends.



We feel a special menton should be made to our favourite four legged reporter Buddy Brown (see page 43). He has been with us since we started. He never fails to send in his Day Out copy, on time, and it's not covered in paw prints! And it makes you smile. Talking of dogs,

see our popular "Spot the Dog" competition on page 57. Good luck and happy Easter from all at Exmoor News.



Best wishes, Ceri Keene and Claire Savill

E: exmoornews@amail.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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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 1st April 2021

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Easte in Exfod



Join us for a **Guided Walk** up The Hidden Valley (circular under 2 miles) Meet Exford Village Green 2.30 pm Saturday 17th April Contact info@wildaboutexmoor.com

Entry by donation (for Devon Air Ambulance and The Smile Train)



Friends of Exford First School

TREASURE HUNT, 1st to 19th APRIL Solve the clues around the village. HAMPER TO BE WON Contact Tracey Webb 077271 68817



Exford Cricket Club (affiliated to Somerset Cricket Board) invite you to join them on the QEII Field on Sunday 4 April at 2 pm for the first training session of the season. All abilities welcome

Contact Paul 07811 600694

Exmoor Croquet Club invite you to join them on Tuesdays 2 - 4 on the Queen Elizabeth II field in Exford. Season begins in April, weather and Covid permitting. Contacts Connie 01398 341566 or Ines 01643 831016



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U3A

EXMOOR U3A

A brief note to wish all our members well, and hoping

as many as possible have had their Covid 'jabs' by now!

Let us all hope we can resume with our talks and/or groups by Summer. It will be good to see everyone again. Meanwhile, keep safe!

DULVERTON ACTION GROUP

Litter-picking (3rd Sunday)

Sunday 21st March Sunday 18th April

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

VINTAGE FILM CLUB

Dear Film Family

We do hope you're well and hanging in there, ready for our film shows to start again at Fishers Mead as soon as the centre re-opens!

When this happens ~ LOOK OUT FOR POSTERS! ~

With much love, Magdalena & Maddy

Chasing Sunbeams A book by Sarah Puttock and the community of Dulverton.

"A collection of positive thoughts and a record of a community working together."

Chasing Sunbeams is a community project showing how our wonderful community pulled together when initially faced with the Covid pandemic. Over 20 people and organisations contributed to this book and all the positive initiatives started in such a terrible time are still thriving today due to the hard work and kindness of our little town.

The book was published as a not-for-profit

project; all the profits made will be donated to some of the wonderful small causes

Dulverton. Although the book has sold many copies, both in Dulverton and online, we still have some copies available at the Tantivy and Dulverton Post Office or via myself at sarahputtock1@hotmail.com. Priced at £8 each with all profits being donated to local good causes.





The Regal Theatre, Minehead a year in review 2020 has certainly been eventful for us

The Regal Theatre now has a new roof which doesn't leak, as well as a new heating and ventilation system; and the project to renovate and extend the dressing room area is nearing completion and looking fabulous. In June 2020 Regal volunteers were honoured to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK and equivalent to the MBE. Throughout lockdown, but always within covid-safety guidelines, volunteers have worked hard on many jobs which it's often difficult to find time for when the Theatre is busy, like updating Regal governance and policy documents, finishing off internal decorating and creating a muchneeded volunteer database.

In September 2020 a small team of volunteers also started work to meet stringent and time-consuming requirements to organise socially-distanced films and other screening, to which audiences responded positively and

Financially, the Regal is 'hanging-on in there', thanks to donations from the community, Regal Friends, charitable trusts, government and council grants, helped by prudent management of funds which has provided us with reserves to cushion us from just such a crisis as this.

Regal volunteers are now looking forward rearoupina, preparing to pick up where they left off, restoring our unique theatre to full operation at the heart of the community - once again putting on shows like the last Panto pictured.



And if your New Year resolution includes volunteering, do get in touch - mail@ regaltheatre.co.uk or 01643 703921.

Tiverton Film Club News

The Tiverton Film Club is now entering its 22nd year and it uses the tiered theatre in Petroc College in Tiverton for its monthly meetings. However, the Club has not been able to present its planned programme of films during the Covid outbreak. It is planned to start the meetings again as soon as Covid health and safety regulations allow, and they will advise new dates in due course.

During the recent lockdowns and restrictions many people have been using streaming services to view films at home. One less well known service is MUBI, an international streaming service that introduces a new film every day of the month. So, there are lots of films available - mainly international independent prize winning films, some of which we have shown at our Club meetings. To learn more about MUBI the link is mubi. com.

The Club will keep Exmoor News readers upto-date on our film programme once things are clearer in Spring 2021.



Pleasure Dome Theatre - Exmoor Studio

Pleasure Dome Theatre reviews: uniquely provocative and hugely enjoyable-LEAR Britishtheatre.com is overjoyed to be returning to the stage in collaboration with brilliant emerging company Betwixt-and-Between.

Together they are bringing J.M.Barrie's little known comedy, The Twelve Pound Look; "one of the most nearly perfect one-act plays of contemporary drama," to Steve and Pamela Hall's newly appointed Exmoor Studio Theatre in Dulverton. With direction by Scott

Le Crass (ROSE on Sky Arts) this four hander promises to enchant and enthral audiences with a wholesome, tender and human story brought to life with Pleasure Dome's personal brand of theatrical magic, just the tonic for dull and dark days. Look out for details of specific times, and tickets all available at www. pleasuredometheatrecompany.com. Updates and announcements will be made on our social media channels Facebook and Twitter: @PleasureDomeTC. We will be following government guidelines regarding Covid-19 in order to safeguard our team and audience. We look forward to welcoming you back to live theatre and to a new venture for Exmoor when safe and possible!

DULVERTON STARLIGHT

Thanking the Volunteers

Dulverton by Starlight is an event that takes place one day a year normally the first Sunday in December and was started by a few traders who wanted to promote the town and their businesses at this special time of the year. From then on has gone from strength to strength.

Our 2020 event couldn't happen in its normal format, but we were able to still make the town look as sparkly as we could, with beautiful twinkling lights on all the trees erected in town. We received many comments saying the lights were wonderful and cheery.

We are hoping that our 2021 event will take place in its usual format. The committee will carry on organising and planning the massive list of tasks that take place behind the scenes to enable Starlight to go ahead. From road closure licences to ordering Christmas trees to Santa's Grotto to picking up rubbish on the day - to name but a few.

We are a very small committee of volunteers, without their dedication and volunteering on the day (and throughout

the year) this popular event would not happen. Thankyou (you know who you are).

We would like to thank the few people who give up so much of their time to help, Carl Hooper, Sean Dale, Mike Whittaker, Mick Orton, Mick Wright and Tom Edworthy.

Also, a massive thank you to: John and Joan Akins, Winsford for supplying the trees, Copper Kettle, Crafters - High Street, Diane Trembath, Dulverton Post Office, Dulverton Town Council, Exmoor News, ISIS Wellbeing and Beauty, Lance Nicholson, Masons Kings Exebridge, Moor Motors, Printing at the Vicarage, Rob Punder- Charlie the Elf, Somerset & West Taunton Council and Webbers.

Thank you to those who gave to our justgiving page at https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/starlightdulverton

If you think you could or would like to help behind the scenes please get in contact dulvertonbystarlight2000@ gmail.com or 01398 324434 leave and answer phone message

Thanks for reading

Volunteer Committee Member



10 parishesfestival visual and performing arts

Tel: 01398 323959 Mob: 07487 711445

Arts Festival Turns New Leaf for 2021

Organisers have launched the biennial 10 Parishes Festival which will return to Wiveliscombe and surrounding villages this autumn. The visual and performing arts festival stretches over nine days from 11th-19th September and comprises artist open studios along with performance and community events.

Festival Director Pauline Homeshaw commented, "The Festival achieves so many things, not only developing awareness and revenue for participating artists, but bringing the whole community together in a celebration of local talent and our way of life. The theme for this year's Festival is New Leaf which moves neatly on from the 2019 focus on re-use and recycle. The Festival committee feel that for

FITNESS CLASSES FOR ALL

with Linda London

Booking is essential Numbers In
Corul 19

Numbers limited during the Covid-19 restrictions

Mon 5.30pm Dulverton Town Hall Over 50's - Use it or Lose it (for keeping active)

Wed 9.30am Brushford Parish Hall Move, Tone, Chat & Go (for keeping active)

Wed 11.15am Brushford Parish Hall Easy Exercise for the Older & Wiser (for the less active)

Thurs 5.00pm Brushford Parish Hall Over 50's - Toning Legs, Core and Arms (for a toned body)

> Fri 8.30am Brushford Parish Hall Step, Tone, Sweat & Stretch (for the very active)

All classes £5.00 (psysble by RACS monthly preferred)
Tel: 01398 323393 Mob: 07866 937654
Eznail: linda@lindalondon.plus.com

2021 everyone really is ready for a new beginning and are using their experiences over the last 12 months as a base for looking at life differently."

Local artists are invited to register their involvement now and have the option to incorporate the New

Leaf theme into their work, should they so choose. A new addition to the team this year is an artist who has exhibited previously at the Festival. Fiona Holmes teaches pottery from her studio at Waterrow and has taken over management of the website. Fiona will work in close conjunction with Bathealton artist Aga Karmol who oversees the creative representation of the Festival and promotional Guide.

Artists can register via www.10parishesfestival.org.uk

Facebook.com or by email; info@10parishesfestival.org.uk.





STOP PRESS! The Exmoor Community Bus may be able to provide free transport to vaccine centres for people living in our area who have no other transport to reach a vaccine centre. To find out if we can help, please phone 07925 044262. We understand that housebound people may be offered a vaccine in their own homes. GP surgeries can advise on this and other vaccine arrangements.

EXMOOR COMMUNITY BUS NEEDS NEW VOLUNTEERS AND NOT JUST DRIVERS!

The Exmoor Community Bus Association (ECBA) was created over 30 year ago to offer transport solutions for our remote, rurally isolated southern Exmoor area. Somerset County Council provide the 16 seater fully accessible minibus and all drivers are volunteers. They provide the weekly scheduled service 678 to Minehead and back, providing an important opportunity to residents of communities which have no other public transport service, ie Brompton Regis, Upton, Skilgate, and everywhere in between. This is a lifeline for the passengers who use it who have no private transport and use the trip to attend College, visit friends in Minehead, do their regular bank and shopping trips or library visit.

The minibus is also booked by many local groups for trips such as monthly trips to special open gardens by the Dulverton Gardening Club, theatre trips, Exmoor Society walks, the annual two Exmoor Challenge events, the Exmoor Perambulation. The ECBA also organises and advertises locally special day excursions such as trips across Exmoor, to Barnstaple and Clarks Village. Many of these trips are the highlight of the lives of our more elderly and lonely residents.

The bus has been out of action during the last months because of the pandemic but we will be back and running in due course. Now we have been asked if the bus can be used to take people who have no transport to have their Covid 19 vaccinations and some of our volunteer drivers are stepping up to help with this. Over the year ahead we will need more drivers: if you are interested we would love to hear from you.

For some years volunteer Godfrey Knock undertook the administration of the bus. He has been a cornerstone of the bus activities but has now stood down and we urgently need a volunteer to help us with our admin. Several of the volunteer drivers have agreed to undertake some of the jobs. But we need more help.

Could you help us with some or all of the following-

- 1 Organise Drivers' rota and arrange drivers for bookings, answer booking questions
- 2 Take and respond to phone calls about the bus and pass information to others as required
- 3 Take seat bookings for 678 service and advise the designated driver of these
- 4 Organise information / guidance / induction and training for drivers, ensure all driver checks are current and correct, which includes DBS and driving licences, and with our media volunteer undertake driver recruitment as required. SCC provide guidance and support on all driver checks
- 5 Link person with SCC and the Somerset Community Transport Forum (emails and occasional meetings)

If you think you can help with any of these jobs, we would love to hear from you and can give you any further information needed. A laptop and dedicated mobile phone for the bus are available. Please contact me - Jan Ross, 01398 323818, janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk



Exmoor News can help!

5 things to do every day

- Doodle (see the page grow every day)
- Write a sentence in a journal or plain book pad
- Take a photo- each day a colour of the rainbow
- Breathe in through your nose out through your mouth counting to 3 for each x 5
- Walk/jog/stomp/dance On the spot to your favourite tune at least once every day)

PreSchool Play

- Put a bit of food dye frozen In your Ice cube tray and turn out onto a tray.
- Make your own play dough (see Clowns Facebook page)
- Take a pot and spoon outside and make mud pies or potions
- Put down newspaper and have a messy play session with food like beans, spaghetti or jelly
- · Make towers with the recycling
- Go outside with a paintbrush

and water and 'paint' everything, (please don't leave your child alone with these activities)

Draw an Egg face. Post on the Clowns page.

For more ideas and things to make you laugh:

@C.l.o.w.n.s @wildwellies @whatsonkids!minehead

Pinterest is a great resource for everything, literally.

10 thing to do when the Crazies hit!

- Turn everything electronic off except the music turn it up and dance like no ones watching
- House alphabet scavenger hunt
- Play shark attack- when someone shouts get off the floor
- Blindfold art- draw what is being described to you
- Learn to do keepy upies
- With others? Make up a story but each player says one word at a time
- Make a den Inside or out, have your lunch in it
- Make a bedroom door sign as if you ruled the world
- Make a joke/forfeit advent calendar out of envelopes or just folded paper but for now, Its not just for Christmas!
- Play balloon football/netball/golf but not rugby as it's a bit explosive and short!



Have fun!

Look after yourself and the people around you.

Ema 🤎



Extra Ideas

Write a Song, Paper plate ring toss, Indoor hopscotch, Make sock puppets, Make a time capsule, Plant some seeds, Make a Bucket List.

Poetry Corner

Upton Coaches Upton Coaches

Theatre Excursions

Theatre Excursions
Sat 21 Aug 2021 Disney's Beauty
& the Beast Adult Band B £82.00
or Band C £72.00 or Child Band B
£75.00 or Band C £65.00
Thu 30 Dec 2021 Snow White
Adult £44.50 or Child £40.00
Sat 7 May 2022 My Best Friend's

Wedding the Musical Band A

£67.50 or premium seats £80.00

Sat 14 May 2022 Strictly

Ballroom the Musical £59.50

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Exmoor's essential workers

And did those feet in ancient time walk these cobbled roads of mine, and in the mud and debris slip that broke old mother's cronky hip, then on her bed she groaning lay until the winter passed away, 'till she could limp and milk the cow, wi' bucket and stool as she do now, then churn the butter for the farmer's knife, aye, she is a gamely farmer's wife.

And all their boys were out on quads to save the sheep from moorland bogs as in the streaming rain they worked 'til rain and dung seeped through their shirts, then to the house they trudged for tea, with mucky boots, and tiredly.

They watched the news on their old TV; talk of Covid - and incapacity and the NHS - all essential workers – without which the virus would hurt us. There were scenes of delivery and bakeries, workers on buses and factories, people in masks who manned the shops, chemists and schools and good old cops. Thursday clappings became essential for these essentially working people.

The farmers got up and fed their cows, calves and sheep, as they do now, collect the eggs and feed the hens, drive the tractor, mend the fence; exactly what they did before Covid came knocking and shut the door, and with their dogs they tend the sheep then fall in bed, dog-tired, to sleep.

© Fran Bridger

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St Margaret's Hospice Care

Your year, your challenge, your hospice.

St Margaret's Hospice Care has launched its Your year, your challenge, your hospice fundraising Campaign. The Somerset charity has created a catalogue of online challenges for you to choose from that can all be completed no matter what restrictions are in place. From walking 21 miles, a flexible yoga challenge, giving up chocolate for a month or even the staircase mountain step challenge - there is something for everyone! Each month pick your challenge, or you can even make up your very own. Once you have selected your challenge, start telling your friends and family about it! Each challenge is free to register, to support the hospice they are asking supporters to raise a minimum sponsorship of £21 for each challenge.

Any sponsorship raised from family, friends and colleagues goes towards the care and support St Margaret's nurses, therapists and doctors provide for our patients and their families. £21

could pay towards the cost of an hours support over the phone to a patient and their family during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Marisa Lovell-Fox, Head of Fundraising Partnerships said: "You can complete your challenge at a time, place and pace to suit your busy lifestyle and fitness level. By taking part in Your year, your challenge, your hospice and raising sponsorship, you can help to make sure over 4,900 people facing a life-limiting illness across Somerset receive the care and support they need this year." By signing up you will receive a monthly newsletter, with hints and tips on how to meet your challenge as well as raise sponsorship and you may even feature as the hospices Friday Fundraiser on social media! So, what are you waiting for, sign up today and join Team St Margaret's, making 2021 your year! Please note: Restrictions could change so please do ensure that you are always up to date with and follow the latest Government guidelines by visiting www.gov.uk/coronavirus. For more details and to register for free to take part in 'Your year, your challenge, your hospice simply visit: www.st-margarets-hospice.org.

uk/2021isyouryear

The Wool Grader's Tale

Would it surprise you to learn that, here in the UK, we spend just five years working for an employer before moving on? Whether through choice or circumstance, we have become used to a working world where changing jobs or employers every few years has become the norm. So it comes as a refreshing change to find someone who has stayed with the same organisation that they joined as a teenager almost half a century ago. Meet Brian Boundy, wool grader.

Born into a farming family in Brompton Regis, Brian was encouraged by his father to think about a different line of work and. in 1974 aged 17, he became an apprentice at British Wool's (then the British Wool Marketing Board) South Molton depot. Now a senior wool grader, Brian is still at South Molton and with 47 years of grading under his belt, there is not much that he does not know about fleeces and wool and. above all, the sheep farming community that the depot serves. It is always a proud moment for him when a local farmer is recognised for the quality of the fleeces they produce. In 2017, for example, Ricky Atkins, farm manager at Wellshead Farm, Exford, received British Wool's prestigious Golden Fleece award for a magnificent 3 ka Exmoor Horn fleece.

I've grown up knowing these farmers and their families,' says Brian, and the ties of these working relationships are clearly very strong. But, while some things remain unchanged, wool production and marketing are now very different. 'Over the years, sheep numbers have dropped and we've faced increased competition from countries like Ireland,' he explains. When he joined British Wool, there were five depots across the South West; by the beginning of 2021 there were just two – South Molton and Liskeard, with the latter due to close this March. At the same time, British Wool's



South West area has expanded: it now stretches to Gloucestershire and the Isle of Wight.

The market has changed too; almost half of UK wool is now exported to China, much of it for carpet manufacture, mainly for the global hospitality industry, including hotels, casinos and cruise ships. 'Hospitality has been particularly hard hit by Covid-19 worldwide and this has led to an inevitable drop in demand for wool,' says Brian. Back at South Molton, Covid-19 has affected working lives at the depot too. 'Reduced demand and social distancing mean that everyone now works a two-week-on, two-week-off rota system,' he explains.

In such an uncertain climate, hobbies and outside interests offer a welcome distraction and Brian, who lives with his wife, Claire, in Brushford, has always been a keen sportsman. When he's not thinking about or handling fleeces, you'll find him playing skittles, badminton or cricket (with the Morebath team). And, like many of us, he and Claire are looking forward to a time when they can get away from it all and enjoy a long overdue holiday.

Discover more about wool grading here: https://www.britishwool.org.uk/grading

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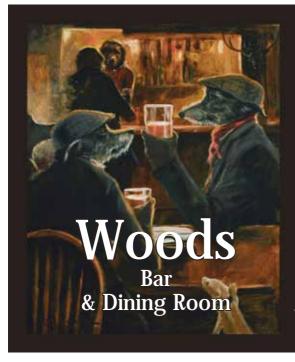
Richard Smith — Agricultural Engineer North Molton, Devon



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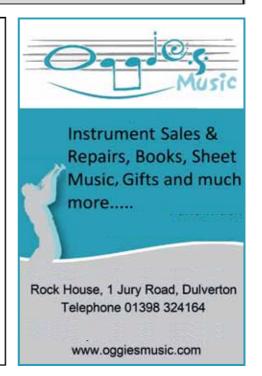
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www.exmoordistillery.co.uk 01398 323 488 **Exmoor Distillery** is a family run business based in Barle Enterprise Centre in Dulverton. Lead by John and Nicola they established the business in 2018 and have been serving the local pubs, restaurants, farm shops and delicatessens, with Northmoor Gin becoming a well known local tipple. Winning double gold at the San Francisco World Spirits competition, our gins aren't just favoured amongst the locals but have world class recognition too!

Giving tasters in our distillery shop, we recently launched our new Navy Reserve Gin. Going down a treat, this Barrel Rested gin is also on our website for nationwide delivery. Gin from the Moor delivered to your door! With these weird times still looming over us all and loved ones unable to visit Exmoor, we've had many requests from locals to send a bottle to their relatives or friends further afield to give them a taste of Exmoor when they can't visit themselves.

Hand Sanitiser

In an aim to help during the pandemic, at the request of the council, we reconfigured part of our distillery to produce Exmoor Hand Sanitiser for the local community. Distributed right across, not only Exmoor but the whole of Somerset, we're proud to have helped in some way.

Investing in local talent to expand our team, we have big hopes for the year ahead with exciting new spirits on the horizon and great plans for the growth of the company. Keep an eye out for what we do next.

Dulverton Weir & Leat

Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust to participate in Oxford University Archaeology Project Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust is delighted to tell its supporters that it has joined Oxford University School of Archaeology in their public engagement with their research project.THE RIPPLE EFFECT -NOTICING RIVERS PAST AND PRESENT which will take place later this year in collaboration with the School of Archaeology's Artist-in-Residence Miranda Creswell. This public engagement project is connected to the School's Leverhulme Trust-funded research project: EBB & FLOW - EXPLORING RIVERS IN LATER PREHISTORIC BRITAIN and will bring small bursts of unexpected culture and knowledge directly to people at specific sites in the landscape both on location and through online engagement.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT will take archaeological places near rivers and turn them into Outdoor Culture Hubs. It will create a series of artworks, learning materials and short films all accessible online, to reach people both indoors and out, to enhance their experience of Riverine Landscapes and expand their sense of time and depth.

In Dulverton the project will take place between 1st July and 31st July 2021 and will run in parallel with The Annual Kinetic Sculpture Exhibition and the planned, limited evaluation trenches which will be dug by North Devon Archaeological Society, all of which will be taking place in, or alongside Dulverton Leat.

Somerset West & Taunton Council Cllr Marcus Kravis, Member with responsibility for assets said: "The council values this historic waterway and recognises its importance both locally and nationally. This is a tangible example of the on-going co-operation between the council and Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust to restore the iconic weir & leat to its rightful place as part of Dulverton's heritage."

Richard Partington, Trustee of Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust says: "We look forward to working with Oxford University in this exciting project which will help us spread the message about Dulverton Weir & Leat and its importance as a heritage asset."

Dr Courtney Nimura FSA, Research Fellow at Wolfson College Oxford comments: "we are really pleased that the Trust is collaborating with us on this public engagement project to highlight the importance of rivers to our communities, from prehistory to the present day".

Chris Preece, MA, Chairman North Devon Archaeology Society, comments: "This interdisciplinary approach will undoubtedly enhance our knowledge of this fascinating archaeological landscape."



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Spring Plants

After such a long and rather difficult winter I think every one is looking forward to the spring and its promise of new life and a fresh start.

Spring is the time when our small courtyard at Browns really comes alive with lots of new plants budding up ready to burst into life. New stoneware from our local Devon supplier will arrive, no doubt with some interesting and quirky additions. Our garden ware suppliers will of course be trying to entice us all with lots of new garden displays, arches, planters and much more.

I think all of us will again be making the most of our gardens this year as a tonic against all of the staying at home. But I also suspect that, once all of the lockdowns and restrictions have lifted, many will be taking holidays in the UK again.

I know that we look forward to welcoming back all of the visitors to Dulverton. They are like the life blood of the town and an integral part of its soul these days. The novelty of the town being so quiet quickly wore off for us and we can't wait to welcome everyone back.

So here's to Spring and the promise of a brighter future.

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Sheep Farming

Winter is a time of waiting and preparation for sheep farmers. By the time you read this in the spring, the snow and ice will (hopefully) have disappeared, the days will be longer and warmer, and the light levels will be greatly increased.

After Christmas, we scan the ewes in our flock of Exmoor Horns so that we know how many lambs they are expecting, and can feed them appropriately. Following that, we dock them (shear around the backside) for better lambing vision, and to help new born lambs find a proper teat rather than a lock of wool. At late pregnancy stages, routine gathering and handling jobs such as vaccinating, which must be done quietly with minimum stress, are quite a challenge for our new trainee collie dog who is full of teenage bravado and impatience.

By the time we've disinfected the sheep shed, the ewe's eagerness to come in is very strong. Their goal is the luxury of feed and forage on tap, without the necessity of trudging through mud. Although light valley-bottom woodland provides them with shelter during inclement weather, nothing beats a clean straw bed under a roof.

While the ewes enjoy their 5-star antenatal R&R indoors for six weeks, we prepare for their return outdoors. In between lambing duties, we embark on regular maintenance jobs such as repairing fallen fencing, and improving muddy gateways with copious quantities of builders' rubble. Wet land makes mud, to the detriment of sheep and shepherd, and it won't be ideal for shearing either, as Exmoor Horn Wool needs clean fleeces!

At turnout, the ewes will be as keen for the new green outdoors as they were to come in. And so the cycle of life with sheep continues.

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Can I sign a Will or a Power of Attorney in Lockdown? How can I get them witnessed?

This is a good question and perhaps a reason to put off seeking advice. A problem - just when the importance of making a Wills and registering powers of attorney has become so clear.

There are strict rules for signing a will - provided by the Wills Act 1837. If a Will is not signed correctly, it can be invalid. The Act says a Will must be in writing and signed by the testator in the presence of two witnesses. Importantly, a witness to a will cannot benefit from the will – therefore probably ruling out your family bubble.

In usual times, clients come to the office to sign their wills so we act as witnesses and make sure it is signed properly. If a client cannot come to us, we come to them. However, live client meetings must mostly now be avoided and most law firms are physically closed to clients.

How can we best to help clients sign their will? Can we witness via video call or through a closed window?? The problem is that the Wills Act requires the physical presence of the witness. Following lockdown 1, temporary legislation has been passed to enable the witnessing of wills via video for a temporary period but there are risks and it does not work for everyone – many people do not have facilities for video calls.

So what have we been doing? For the most part. the easiest and most obvious solution is the best. Clear information and communication is kev. Where clients are confident to do so, we send their wills to them with clear guidance as to how to sign. We guide each client to find what works best for them. Some clients invite neighbours to their garden to witness, others have met in corridors outside neighbour's flats. Sometimes a client cannot sign themselves as they cannot find witnesses or they are not confident enough to do so and sometimes, clients cannot give instruction for their wills or LPAs over the phone. Where client needs dictate, we can open our office or visit the client. PPE is worn and social distancing maintained for safety. With good communication and a flexible approach, we can work around this problem and it is of course important to do so!

If you would like to take further advice on this please contact:

e. <u>Anna.neil@maitlandwalker.com</u> <u>James.ashby@maitlandwalker.com</u> t.01823 745 777



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Stephanie appreciates that every case is unique and as such provides bespoke and practical advice, tailored to each client's needs. Your first meeting with Stephanie is always free. To find out more and to arrange a free initial consultation visit www.amicuslaw.co.uk or call 01278 664060.



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Exmoor Medical Centre Staff provide Emergency Support to Local Community alongside their daytime surgery roles

Dr Dan Bunce and **Stephen Moakes** have joined Exmoor Medical Centre recently and some patients will already have spoken to them on the phone or seen them in person. Outside of the 'day job' however they share a love of Exmoor and hiking; as such they both have close associations with this beautiful part of the world and enjoy spending time exploring it. They were both keen to combine their love and enjoyment of walking on Exmoor with their Clinical Skills and are regular supporters of Exmoor Search & Rescue Team and the South Western Ambulance Service.

Exmoor Search and Rescue is a voluntary organisation and charity that is part of Mountain Rescue England & Wales. The team regularly responds to those who are missing or injured on the Moors and surrounding areas (covering the Quantocks, South Somerset, and assisting the Dartmoor Rescue Group in addition to Exmoor). As a voluntary organisation the team is reliant on donations to remain operational. The team is comprised of volunteers from all walks of life, with all volunteers on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Stephen Moakes was a Team Member in the early 1990s prior to commencing his career in the NHS. He says, "The team has advanced a great deal since then, and now has incredibly high standards of training to enable members to respond to a number of different emergency situations". He goes on to say, "I am very happy to support them as a Charity and help promote the work they do; if I can provide support with Medical Training then I am happy to do so." Stephen is also an Advanced Paramedic with the Ambulance Service in addition to his Advanced Nurse Practitioner Role at Exmoor Medical Centre and regularly responds for the Ambulance Service to 999 emergencies in the local area and provides emergency care and support to

those whom are critical ill or seriously injured.

Dan Bunce is a member of the Exmoor Search and Rescue Team and completed his Mountain Rescue Training in October 2020. Recent team callouts he has assisted with have included searching for missing individuals and being on standby to assist local residents in the January snow. He regularly takes part in exercises and training on Exmoor and also nationally. He brings his clinical experience to the team, assisting not only with unwell casualties on call outs but also with training of the Medical Section and the wider team. Outside of volunteering, Dan uses the Mountain Rescue experience he has gained as an expedition doctor, something he says "is a story for another time."

Both Stephen and Dan are keen to support and promote the work of the Exmoor Search and Rescue Team, and help raise awareness and fundraise whenever possible. Dan said, "With the increased number of visitors to Exmoor, and it being accessed more and more by locals too, it is vital to have such a service locally. I am proud to utilise my medical training to support this work."

If you would like to find out more about the work of Exmoor Search and Rescue Team, or indeed make a donation to their work, you can visit them at https://www.exmoor-srt.org.uk/. Or follow them on social media via their Facebook page and Instagram. The team is also registered at Amazon Smile, where Amazon give a donation for every purchase made. You can sign up at smile.amazon. co.uk. With COVID restricting the fundraising opportunities available, all donations are greatly appreciated to help with the running of the team.





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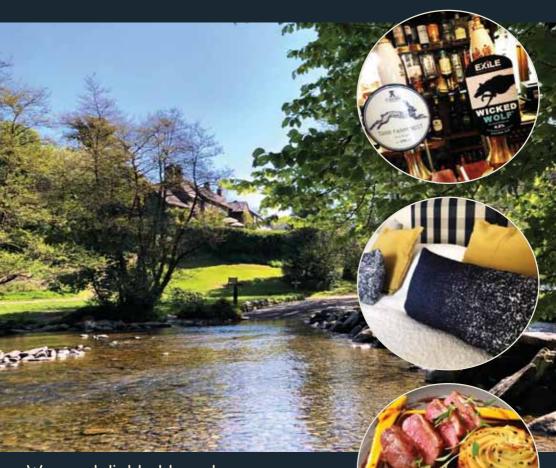






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Health Walk Group

Whilst writing this article, it has just been announced that schools could re-open on 8th March, together with the lifting of certain other social restrictions. I'm really hoping this will include our Health Walk Group, so assuming it is the case then. Walks might well recommence on Tuesday 9th March. The Group meet each Tuesday morning, when permitted.

Walks are not too strenuous and last about 1 1/2 hours, so if you are interested to join our very friendly group please contact either Richard Clarke on 01398 341141 or email richardclarke567@ btinternet.com OR Richard Archer on 0777 3160 222 or you can email archerr@ hotmail.co.uk.



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The Exmoor Society

The Exmoor Society has arranged a programme of walks for 2021, starting in April, which we hope will be allowed,

even though numbers may be restricted.

Current Government regulations do not allow groups to meet for exercise. If these should change and the walks are able to go ahead, BOOKING WILL BE ESSENTIAL, using the form for each walk on the Exmoor Society website. Please see https://www.exmoorsociety.com/content/what-we-do/walks-programme for full details.

8th April 10:00am - 1:00pm

Guided Walk: Wheddon Cross Saxon Harepath A circular walk from Wheddon Cross taking in Hare Path and part of Thorne Lane, thought to be part of the Somerset herepath, a Saxon military road from Bristol on to Exmoor. Most of the walk will be on tracks and lanes, but in wet weather be prepared for some mud and slippery rock. A 'moderate' walk of 5 miles, with some steady climbs. 3hrs/5miles.

24th April 11:00am - 1:30pm

Guided Walk: The Lost Village of Clicket, near Luxborough

150 years ago five families lived in a remote Somerset valley; then, in the space of two years, they vanished. This beautiful streamside walk takes us to the lost village of Clicket, past the quarries and the mill where its inhabitants made their living, to tell the story of life in one of the Exmoor's most remote villages. We will walk through magnificent beech woods, past Croydon House, Exmoor's finest Jacobean house, and then back through the woods to Luxborough. 3mls/2.5hrs.







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Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton TA22 9QE

Well, here we are in Lockdown 3, not that the ponies have a clue what is going on! The staff are all working at the centre handling the foals, exercising the upand-coming trekking team and planning new ways to generate income in these difficult times. Usually, we would open to the public at February half term, but due to the current situation unfortunately we will not be open before April.

Three ponies, Jack, Bodie and Doyle, have ventured to foster homes over the Christmas and New Year period. All have settled into their new surroundings and are enjoying being loved by their fosterers. Our friends and supporters are always curious to know what our naming theme is for the foals each year. This time we have decided to go with names of characters from The Muppets. Currently we have Gonzo, Kermit, Scooter, Fozzie, Bert, Ernie and Elmo.

With the recent cold snap we were very grateful for our supply of hay to keep the ponies happy and filled up. A massive thank you to all those who donated to our Hay Appeal through the Big Give early in December – the ponies were very appreciative.

Do you have an area of 3 acres or more which needs grazing? We are looking for local places where our ponies can graze. They are not fussy eaters and are quite happy on rough or slopey areas as long as there is a good fence to keep them safe. Any offers would be most welcome, even if only for just a short while, to help us get through the next few months. If you think you have anything suitable, please get in touch.

Our online shop is fully stocked with warm clothing for these chilly times – why not take a look at our range of fleeces and hoodies. If you still haven't got your calendar for 2021 ours are now on sale at £4.50 down from £7.50, lots of beautiful pictures of Exmoor ponies.

Very best wishes to all our friends and supporters, please stay safe and in contact with us via our social media platforms, as we want to stay engaged with our followers during these tricky times.

www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk

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I am Clair and own two fabulous Flatcoated Retrievers, Sam and Hamish.

Many dogs don't always get the chance to go for long walks, so the idea for Moor Than Just A Walk came about that they can join us on the Moor. One of our favourite walks is along the Barle at Simonsbath with plenty of room to run free and swim. Short walks can be just as fun, especially if the dog is older or unwell, we just go a bit slower! If you are away we can also come and stay, so your dog feels safe at home, but knowing it is loved and having fun. My first dog Willow was a wonderful labrador, He came to me aged 4 failing to make the grade as a gundog, but was perfect as my companion in my gardening days. Devastated when Willow died, my vet at the time had Flatcoated Retrievers and sent me on my way to see a 4 week old litter in the next village. Finn was my first flattie, followed by Sam and Hamish who now share my life, my days and my sofa! We have an Instagram page @ threegomadonexmoor which show our days filled with daily walks, swims and visiting the numerous tea rooms that we are blessed with. You can't end a good walk without cake!

Ponies in LockdownTiggy is going to be loaned to the NHS as a carer.

Tiggy is a 10 year old chestnut filly. Her nickname is 'BoF' – mad as a 'Box of Frogs'. This is because she does the daftest twists, turns and pirouettes without any apparent reason. Of course, horses, all animals, have plenty of 'reason' for their actions. Their body language is excellent. Tiggy's companion Biffo, a 31-year-old Exmoor, as Jaques might have recited in As You Like It, is "sans teeth, sans hearing, sans eyesight" but definitely not "sans everything" - he can still kick like lightning, and devours equine porridge three times a day, once he has 'biffed' you out of his way. Without Tiggy, Biffo, a.k.a. Tawbitts



William, from the prize-winning Luckwell Bridge herd, would probably stay lost in the mist of the far moor, invisible in the woods, or at the bottom of the hollow combe. She rounds him up, three times a day, and brings him in. She circles around him, performing "come on, it's this way" gymnastics with her head and neck spinning in circles. Often he continues his pointless grazing (grass just drops out after a few minutes chewing, called quidding), so she has to push his bottom or nip his neck.

The ritual can take between 5 and 20 minutes. Biffo will stop to graze en route and Tiggy will start spinning her spells, ignoring the horse flies biting her, until he moves again. Any other horse I've known, especially a 'redhead', with her own feed waiting, would just overtake him and enjoy her breakfast alone. Not Tiggy.

She waits patiently until he is in the stables, has started munching, and then seeks out her own feed nearby. If he gets lost on the way to his bowl and starts eating hers, she shares it with him until he realises, neither pushing him off nor swapping to his. She needs a new nickname to replace BoF, one which reflects her generous care of Biffo: and ideas?

Les Silverlock

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But finding solutions to pet or horse health problems has been difficult. Sometimes a medicine stops one thing, but leads to another. Or often "conventional" medicine didn't make any difference at all. So I looked to nature, and how holistic therapies can help.

Looking at how a holistic approach can help my animals seemed obvious. But I found when my own animals were unwell, that getting clear advice on natural therapies, and where to find a complementary therapist, or a holistic veterinary surgeon was difficult. It can be confusing too. There are dozens of herbal remedies and complementary therapies for animals. Because of this I've developed an award winning website www. taranet.co.uk. I created it to help other horse and pet owners to find clear information on how a holistic approach can help. I aim to cut the confusion. Why is it called this? It's named in honour of my wonderful horse Tara. I had the pleasure of her company for almost 25 years.

I've trained in various therapies to help my own animals, (but don't treat other peoples' though!). I know that many horse or pet owners can do the same, if they know how. Is this something you've ever thought about to help your own horse or dog? So I also provide information on training opportunities on my website, and also for those who want to be professional complementary animal therapists, business coaching for pet care entrepreneurs on how to get clear on setting and achieving their business goals. Forever Animal Care



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A Dog's Day Out – Top Ten

I'm making a list of my Top 10 things a dog can do daily to help them keep their sanity while their

owners latest fad to work from home continues. Every day one of my mates tells me how difficult they are finding it. You never know what to expect next they say. It's very stressful. "Why a top ten Buddy?" Well Honey, that seems to be the norm - ever since some guy called Moses inscribed his in stone. Let me see, we could start with morning stretches before our trot around the block. Begin with standing starts (aka the bleep test). For this you need three sofas preferably covered with old blankets to protect them from any further damage. Begin floor to the red sofa – floor to the blue sofa - floor to the pink sofa. Repeat for 5 minutes, building up for longer when your fitness improves. "I think I prefer quiet meditation Buddy. What about personal hygiene, so easy to let that one slip?"That will be after no. 2 the trot round the block and tip no. 3 to remind your dog walker that if we went in an anti clockwise direction yesterday, we travel in a clockwise motion today. You can do this simply by insistence, it keeps all brains in shape. Tip no. 4 then is for the removal of loose hair and dry mud. Find a bit of carpet rather like that on the stairs – which has a bit more of an abrasive edge to it than pure wool. My special spot is at the top of the stairs on the landing. Perfect for a twice daily back scrub.

My fifth piece of advice will be to owners to give your dogs a little bit of your screen time to enjoy together. The Mabel and Olive podcasts are well worth watching and there are several episodes available now. No. 6 is to take up a new challenge. How's your Teach Yourself Welsh going Honey? "No muy buena." That's Spanish. "That's what I mean. Not very good". Persevere. Try asking the Cardigan Corgi up the road for help. It's very important to stay in touch with friends and it is my 7th tip. Bark and wag to each one as they pass by. It shows that you care.

Finally my three night time tips. As the last exercise period to the pub is still off, encourage your owner to skip their glass of wine behind a good book and to look at the stars together outside with you. Should this fail, give them a prod just before they nod off to remind them that they need to let you out again into the garden. Whilst they wait for you to return, don't forget to give a nod to the fridge in the kitchen as you pass. This should remind them that there's a lovely bit of stinky soft goats cheese in there, that with a bit of biscuit, will settle you down for the night and you'll be no more trouble til the morning.

Buddy Brown (pure Jack Russell) a roving reporter Reference: Olive and Mabel www.youtube.com



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The theme for 2021 is Hope - a theme that may be interpreted as widely as creative muses inspire!

Once short-listed, adult and children's entries will be judged by well-know published authors, whose names will be confirmed shortly. All entries must be received by April 5 th 2021 and results publicised w/b May 3 rd 2021. Further details, including rules and entry forms for children and adults can be found at

https://www.mineheadliteraryfestival.org/shortstory-competition or call Janet at 01643 822097 or for children's entries contact Helen helentompson@ aol.com

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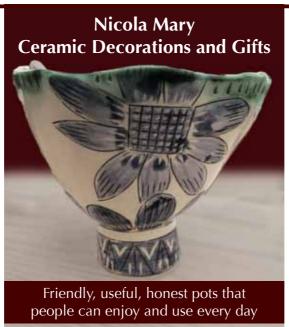


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Day in the life of a Studio Potter –Nicky at Nicola Mary Ceramics

I thought I'd let you in on the wild and crazy world of a studio potter. Well, it's neither wild nor crazy but I love it and it keeps me humming along in these dark damp days when motivation is mostly low.

7 am breakfast with a large mug of tea to check emails and social media. A timer prevents an hour down the rabbit hole of Facebook or Instagram, and then it's time to pack Etsy orders. Studio mates, Splodge and Goose (2 spaniels) are now demanding attention, specifically a walk. This is a sacred time for me to clear my head before work begins in the studio a 1 minute commute from home. If I am throwing, I'll sketch ideas on a chalkboard, I can look at these shapes while I'm on the wheel and it helps keep

me on track. The Covid lockdowns have offered time to learn to throw, previously I only hand built.

Lunch is often a trip to the Post Office to send orders then back to the studio for the afternoon when I decorate or glaze depending on what is required. I use a technique called mishima which allows me to draw on my pots. Podcasts keep me company. I really enjoy developing my work and am always experimenting sometimes this works out mostly not! I leave the studio around 4 pm and spend a couple of hours in the evening on my computer learning about online selling. My strategy for 2021 is to develop the online side of my business.

I like to think I am making friendly, useful, honest pots that people can enjoy and use every day.

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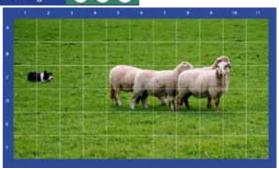
Email us the coordinates of which square you think the dog's head is in (eg F1). Send your answer to exmoornews@gmail.com.

If you are right, at the end of March we will put the winners names in a hat (if more than one) and pick the winner.

Good luck.

Amongst many entries in the January-February issue was Ted aged 2 1/2yrs old, sadly not correct. Better luck next time Ted.

The winner of the January competition was Ed from Wiveliscombe with the correct pick of C2. A prize is on the way to him.







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Brushford Parish Hall: Bookings enquiries@brushfordpari	shhall.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 Fo	ord, Dulverton	01398 323016
Dulverton Bridge Club: Sec. Brian Hughes, www.Bridgew	/ebs.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 Silverlo	ock	01398 341850
Dulverton Gardening Club: Roger Hammmond		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: Jennie Chappell smilerjenniec@ho	otmail.com	01398 351666
Exmoor Patient Group: Chair: Sandra Wilson, W Nightcott	t, Dulverton TA22 9RT	01398 324687
Exmoor BeeKeepers Association: Sec: Caroline Ralph ex		01984 656240
Exmoor Community Bus Assn: Temporary contact -S Buc	hanan	01984 641706
Exmoor Pony Centre: Ashwick, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22	2 9QE	01398 323093
Exmoor Pony Society: Sec: Sue McGeever, Woodmans, Bri		01884 839930
Exmoor Rotary Club: Humphrey Berridge (PRO), Station F		01398 332324
Good Neighbours: Sandra Collett		01398 324211
Oakford Village Hall: Bookings: Mrs Dawn Williams daw	nwilliams1@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
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