

# EXMOOR NEWS

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May/June 2021



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We started our Spot The Dog competition a couple of issues ago. We were worried that last one was too easy... no one got it right! Just in case you were wondering, it's a real photo! We hope it's keeping you entertained, look out for the new one on page 49.

Upcoming events are listed on page 56 and 57 - something to look forward to!

As ever, a huge thank you to all those contribute, advertise and help deliver our magazine.

Keep well one and all.

*Best wishes, Ceri Keene and Claire Savill*

E: [exmoornews@gmail.com](mailto:exmoornews@gmail.com) T: 07497 914441 W: [www.exmoornews.co.uk](http://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 2021: © Ali Pegrum*

*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 July/August issue of the Exmoor News is

**Thursday 3rd June 2021**

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A Zoom Talk by Sally Nex 20th May at 7.30pm

### Behind the scenes at Chelsea

Every year Sally goes to Chelsea working alongside exhibitors, designers and RHS staff, often spending time there outside official opening hours. This gives her a unique insight into life "behind the scenes at Chelsea."

See DGC website for more information,

Contact Christine, [dubery@aol.com](mailto:dubery@aol.com) to receive log in details.

Members free, non members £3.00



A Talk by Katherine Crouch, meeting subject to Covid rules, at the Town Hall 17th June 7.00 for 7.30pm

### The Seeded Garden

Katherine makes a return visit to talk about collecting seeds from your own garden. She was BBC Gardener of the Year 1999 and BBC Gardener of the decade in 2008. She also won Gold at the Chelsea Flower Show with her garden design in 2013. Her talk will cover beautiful self-seeding garden plants.

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## Sonnet: On a world that grows

A babe is a life beginning to grow  
Nurturing and nappies and smiles abounding  
And sickness and worries they come, we know  
With helplessness and questions confounding  
Capture the sparkle of love in their eye  
Flash of innocence in a world untamed  
Catch them to safety as danger pass by  
Struggling to shield them again and again  
These are our children, stretching, taking flight  
These are our fears: do we know what is right?

Fran Bridger

Poetry Corner



*Exmoor Horn lamb taken at  
Wheddon Cross  
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## NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE AGENT – SPRING 2021

Spring is in full swing and so is the COVID-19 vaccine roll out! By mid-April all those in the 9 priority groups will have been invited to have their vaccinations, and many will have had their second dose.

If you are an unpaid Carer, you are eligible to be vaccinated with the person you care for as long as you meet the eligibility criteria. Please do remember to register with your Doctor's surgery letting them know you are an unpaid Carer if you haven't already done so.

Many people will however still be shielding and remaining isolated until restrictions are further eased in the summer. If this is you, have you thought about joining a Befriending Service? There are several options whereby you can talk regularly with someone on the phone – or sometimes even via the internet – and this simple act of communication can be invaluable in relieving loneliness and isolation.

We are delighted to let you know that CCS has launched a NEW project called **CHAT TO CONNECT** for those classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV). We know it's good to talk and share experiences. Chat to Connect is aimed at helping to link you with new people in a similar position, with shared interests. Through the Chat to Connect project we can connect you with another person who is on the CEV list to keep your spirits up. You will need to complete the short online registration form, and we will match you with another person with

similar interests and hobbies.

If you feel you would benefit from some technical support in order to connect with someone, CCS can also offer one-to-one virtual support with using phones, tablets, and laptops, downloading apps, and using Zoom or WhatsApp.

We have people ready to help you get online and talk to others! Go to: <https://ccslovesomerset.org/chat-to-connect/> or contact your Village Agent for assistance.

There are several other telephone befriending services available in Somerset and nationally - your Village Agent can provide information on these.

### **Other ways to connect to people**

If you are on Facebook, local community pages or Covid support groups can keep you in touch with what is going on locally. To find a group or community page close to you use the Facebook search bar, typing in the area you live, and then select, to view groups. This should give you a list of groups where local people share information, ask advice and start conversations with each other – it can be a great way to get to know people in your area!

Since the start of the pandemic many organisations have starting to offer more support via the internet and your Village Agent can provide you with information on a range of these including book clubs, art and creative clubs, support for keeping active, business networking and on-line courses where you can sign up to learn a new skill.

### **The Community Council for Somerset Crisis Fund**

Our Crisis Fund grants are distributed by our Village and Community Agents to help people in crisis situations and for whom a small grant can make a huge difference in their life. At this particular

time of difficulty and hardship for many in our communities, this need is greater than ever. We help when others can't, won't, or don't.

CCS have not previously needed to actively fundraise for the Crisis Fund, but this has been an unprecedented year, and this critical 'pot' of funds has almost depleted due to unprecedented demand arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. We would love to raise £20,021 in 2021 for the Crisis Fund, and are asking YOU to get involved anyway you can with your own fundraising. Some ideas might be sponsored runs, bake sales (after lockdown!) - setting yourself any kind of #CrisisFundChallenge – or by simply and very kindly sending us a donation.

**Recent Crisis Fund grants have been used for a variety of means of support, such as:**

- To buy mattress protectors for a carer supporting their loved one with night time incontinence
- To buy children's clothes for a family who had recently lost Dad to cancer
- To buy oil for a lady with a chronic health condition who was struggling to heat her home
- Paying to PAT test and move a donated

fridge freezer to a family in need

- To buy a washing machine for a carer struggling to keep up with washing demands

You can find out more about our Crisis fund at the following link -

[www.ccslovesomerset.org/somerset-crisis-fund/](http://www.ccslovesomerset.org/somerset-crisis-fund/)

You can donate to the West Somerset Crisis Fund online at the following link:

<https://localgiving.org/charity/somersetcrisisfund/project/westsomersetcrisisfund/>

If you would prefer to donate by cheque then please contact your Village Agent – contact details below.

**Would you benefit from a free food box?**

No one should go hungry in Somerset, and our boxes are not means tested, they are simply for people in need whether you're struggling to cook or obtain food. If you are an unpaid Carer and would benefit from respite from cooking, we can provide some meal packs for you and the person you care for. If you need help with any of this, please do contact your local Village Agent or call our main Switchboard on 01823 331 222 or visit <https://somersetagents.org/help-with-food/>

#### YOUR VILLAGE AGENTS

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

Tel: 07958 415270

Email: [janel@somersetcc.org.uk](mailto:janel@somersetcc.org.uk)

Ellie Bishop, Village Agent West Somerset

Tel: 07985 748910

Email: [ellieb@somersetcc.org.uk](mailto:ellieb@somersetcc.org.uk)

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.

CCS Village & Community Agents are in your communities across Somerset. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. We can offer advice and support to find local groups and activities available in your community and help you with any queries you may have or situations that you need advice and support with.

Please visit: [www.ccslovesomerset.org](http://www.ccslovesomerset.org) / [www.somersetcarers.org](http://www.somersetcarers.org) / [www.somersetagents.org](http://www.somersetagents.org)

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10.30am Fitness Pilates

5pm Fitness Pilates, 6pm Fitness Pilates,  
7pm Boxercise

**Tuesday** - 10am Legs, Bums & Tums,  
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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Thurs 5.00pm Brushford Parish Hall  
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Your marvellous support for the Food Bank has enabled us to keep providing essential food items to those in food poverty over the last 12 months. You have helped to make it possible for us to be there for people in need when they have no one else to turn to. People should not have to decide whether they put food on the table or heat their homes, but regrettably this is still happening in our area, so we are asking for your continuing generosity by giving whatever you can as a donation to help us relieve food poverty locally.

An additional and easy way to help

us to raise funds is at our local Co-op store as all members are asked to vote for an organisation of their choice. By selecting the Food Bank the Co-op will donate their community funds to those organisations that have been voted for. So please, please vote for supporting our Food Bank.

Due to the ongoing need for the Food Bank we have had to change our accounting practices by having a separate bank account from Good Neighbours although we still work closely with them. If you wish to donate please contact Judy on 01398 323313 or send your donation to her at 3 Bath Meadow Drive, Dulverton TA22 9EH Thank you again for your on-going support.

On behalf of Morebath Cricket Club I would like to thank the following for all their invaluable help over the past months: Angus Barnes and Loyton Sporting, Polly Colthorpe and Devon County Council, Mid Devon District Council, Morebath Parish Council, Bampton Town Council, Fraser Anti-Static, Viridor and all our many sponsors. Without their help life would be much harder for us.

The club is entering into a season of West Somerset First Division Cricket this season after gaining promotion. We are always on the lookout for new players of all abilities.

Please come along or contact me on (01398)323067. Or look on our web site:

[www.morebath.play-cricket.com](http://www.morebath.play-cricket.com)

Brian Boundy (Secretary)



**REMINDER - The Exmoor Community Bus is able to provide free transport to vaccination centres for people living in the southern Exmoor area who have no other transport. To find out if we can help, please phone 07925 044262.**

Thanks to our volunteer drivers, we have been providing regular trips for local people to Minehead Hospital. If you would like help getting to a vaccination centre, please try to give us plenty of notice if possible.

From June 1st, TA22 LIFTS, the community car scheme for Dulverton and Brushford, will also be offering help with transport – phone 07528 326880.



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## When is Somerset Day?

Every English County now has a county flag, some counties also have a county day. For us in Somerset the county day is May 11<sup>th</sup>. Thus this is the day on which everyone who loves Somerset should fly the county flag. You can of course fly the flag of Somerset on any day of the year.



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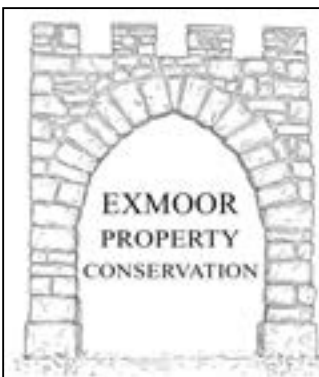
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**www.reddragonflagmakers.co.uk**

Some people have no idea of what the county flag looks like. Basically the Somerset flag is a red dragon rampant on a yellow background.

The dragon is the ancient flag of the Kingdom of Wessex, the white Saxon version of which is seen on the Bayeux Tapestry falling with King Harold at the battle of Hastings (1066).

On a local basis the Red Dragon is the symbol of the Somerset County Council which shows a red dragon holding a blue mace (the symbol of authority) on a white background). There is a Taunton based organisation that promotes our county day as well as our county flag <https://www.somersetday.com> but whether it is a Somerset flag or Somerset bunting, you can contact your local flag maker – Red Dragon Flagmakers at Dulverton 01398 323700 who hold a large stock of flags of many sizes and windsocks etc



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## The Lichenologist's Tale

It was a chance encounter that sparked Lucy Gould's interest in those extraordinary, primeval-looking organisms known as lichens. While walking near the home she shares with her partner, Justin, in Oakford, she met a group of lichenologists. They mentioned a particularly interesting and rare species of lichen that could be seen nearby; Lucy's curiosity was piqued. . .

As a regional manager for an international lifestyle retailer, Lucy would normally be working flat out but with the arrival of Covid-19, lockdown, and her job furloughed, everything changed.

'I found myself in limbo,' says Lucy, 'not knowing when or if I would go back to work. But I was lucky to be furloughed in such a beautiful place, with time to slow down and appreciate what we have.'

Originally from Surrey, Lucy has always loved being outdoors and, during lockdown, was able to spend more time than usual walking in local woodlands and along riverbanks.

'I noticed a lot of fallen branches, covered in great clusters of lichens,' she says, 'Many of the branches were ash, clearly impacted by ash dieback.'

Lucy is fascinated by the history of lichens and the role they play in the health of the planet. 'They are created by a fungus and an algae (or bacteria) that combine to support each other, providing life and oxygen,' she explains.

Lichens first appeared on Earth about 400 million years ago and some species have been around for at least 25 million years. *Rhizocarpus geographicum*, found in the Arctic, is approximately 8,600 years old - one of our oldest living organisms. The UK is home to 1,900 species; Devon has 900, and there are many lichen species in Exmoor's ancient woodlands.

'Most lichens are highly susceptible to air pollution so, if you have them, you know you have very clean air!' says Lucy. 'The West Country is also one of the last remaining UK locations for *Lobaria pulmonaria* but its decline continues due to loss of habitat.' This rare

lichen can still be found in Exmoor's Horner Woods Natural Nature Reserve, as can *Arthonia thoriana*, a new species discovered there in 2016. To date, it has been found nowhere else in the world.

Lucy wants more of us to get involved in protecting lichens and the environments in which they thrive, particularly trees and woodlands. She is a member of the Devon Wildlife Trust, whose Saving Devon Treescapes project provides information, runs school projects, and even donates free trees.

'As many of us found during lockdown, we need these environments not only for the good of the planet but for our own physical and mental well-being too,' she says. 'Looking at lichens is very simple and relatively cheap. You just need some outdoor gear, a field lens for close inspection, and a phone with a camera to log your finds. I'm back at work now but I'll still be walking far and wide, looking for lichens at every opportunity.'

*Find out more about DWT's Saving Devon Treescapes scheme at <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/our-projects/saving-devons-treescapes>*

*Diane Trembath*





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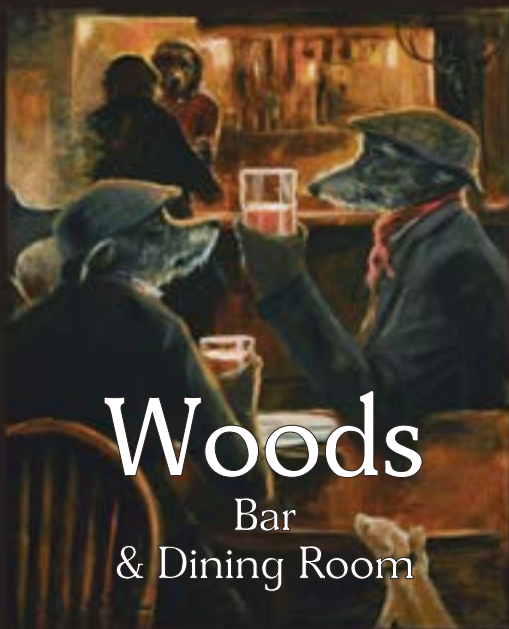
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## 10parishesfestival visual and performing arts

The 10 Parishes Festival of visual and performing arts returns to Wiveliscombe and surrounding villages this September. The biennial event consists of artists' open studios, exhibitions and performances and will be a welcome cultural celebration for the local community.

There is still just time for artists and performers to register, who can take the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the many well-established exhibitors who have participated since the Festival was conceived in 2003. The organisers particularly invite those who may have recently moved into the area and may not have made links and associations so far with the artistic community.

Victoria Ward is one artist who will return to Wiveliscombe Community Centre in a joint exhibition of recent work. Many creative people will doubtless find resonance in her



comment, "The past year has given me lots of lovely time to paint."

Performances include the remarkable family of instrumentalists, The Kanneh-Masons who will bring their unique talent to St Andrew's Church in Wiveliscombe on Friday 17th September, courtesy of the Milverton Concert Society. Festival Director, Pauline Homeshaw commented, "It is such a coup for us to secure such a prestigious group and it delivers such a positive statement that live performance will once again reverberate through our community."

*More updates over coming months at*  
[www.10parishesfestival.org.uk](http://www.10parishesfestival.org.uk)  
*Artists can register via*  
[www.10parishesfestival.org.uk](http://www.10parishesfestival.org.uk)  
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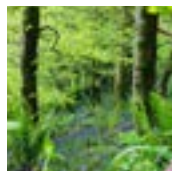
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## EXMOOR SOCIETY GUIDED WALKS 2021

All walks will take place under Government Covid regulations.  
Please check the Exmoor Society website for information relevant at the date of the event. [www.exmoorsociety.com](http://www.exmoorsociety.com)

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL** using the form on the Exmoor Society website page for each walk.

### **Ashley Combe Landscape Restoration in Culbone Wood**

Date: 7th May 2021 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

This walk will follow the South West Coast Path from Ashley Combe to Culbone Church and back, looking at the work to restore some of the surviving features of the Ada Lovelace era designed landscape. We will also discover some of the earlier history and management of these fascinating coastal woodlands. The grounds of Ashley Combe are private so we will not be accessing this area but we will be able to get a good impression from the SW Coast Path and land the ENPA owns.

3mils/4hrs. Dogs on leads

Meet 10.00am Worthy Combe Toll Gate car park (£2 fee) TA24 8PG

### **Molland Church and Moor**

Date: 14th May 2021 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Hugh Harrison, an internationally known expert in the conservation of historic structural and decorative woodwork, who lives locally, will provide a short insight into the medieval church of St Mary, Molland, following which there will be a 2 hour, circular walk to Molland Moor (optional). Hugh will also be speaking about his work on Wednesday 12th May during Simonsbath Festival.

Meet 11am at St Mary's Church, Molland EX36 3NG. Parking at the church / in village hall car park.

Lunch can be booked at the London Inn, next to the church, Covid restrictions permitting.

### **Porlock's Coastal Wildlife - May**

Date: 26th May 2021 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

A spectacular circling walk starting in the picturesque village of Bossington, via the dramatic cliffs at Hurlstone Point, continuing around the sweeping shingle ridge and across the ever-changing saltmarsh. The walk will provide many opportunities to discover coastal and marine wildlife, historic landscape features and the dynamic morphology of this nationally important coastline.

3mils/3hrs. No dogs.

Meet 10.00am at the National Trust car park in Bossington village TA24 8H

Refreshments available at Kitnor's Tearoom, Bossington, subject to Covid restrictions.

### **Crofts and Castles - Exploring John Knight's forgotten buildings**

Date: 27th May 2021 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Exmoor's moorland landscape is not associated with buildings, but in 1819 John Knight began erecting little 'Scottish' crofts across his Exmoor estate. Join Rob Wilson-North and Tom Thurlow for this exploration, which is linked to a Simonsbath Festival event the evening before (26th May). It begins with a tour of the recently conserved White Rock Cottage in Simonsbath and then ventures out through Ashcombe Gardens to consider the landscape John Knight was set on creating and to discover the traces of another 'croft' in a remote moorland valley.

4mils/4hrs. Dogs on leads.

Meet 11am at Ashcombe Car Park, Simonsbath TA24 7SH. Bring a packed lunch.

### **Knights and knights on Exmoor**

Date: 5th Jun 2021 11:30 am - 3:30 pm

Starting near Alderman's Barrow, on this walk we will find evidence of knights from the Bronze, Mesolithic, Medieval, Victorian and 20th Century ages. At Larkbarrow we will hear about the Knights who tried to reclaim the moor and we will find evidence of World War Two's impact on Exmoor. We will have a picnic lunch at Three Coombes foot, which is a good place to see red deer.

5mils/3hrs + lunch stop. Dogs on leads. Bring your picnic. Meet 11.30am Alderman's Barrow CATTLE GRID SS 835 422 (TA24 7NL approx.)

### **Historic Lynton and the Valley of Rocks**

A fascinating 2.5-hour walk from the Valley of Rocks into Lynton and back, to look from a different angle at how the Victorians influenced what we see today and how they were drawn to this majestic coastline and the splendour of the Valley of Rocks.

## Hope Bourne in Withypool

Date: 23rd Jun 2021 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

A walk around the Withypool area in the footsteps of Exmoor artist and author, Hope Bourne, taking in some of her favourite views from her writings. A moderate walk with some parts rough underfoot and steep in places; possible extension onto Withypool Hill. Followed by optional refreshments in Withypool tea rooms (Covid restrictions permitting) or bring a picnic.

3mils/2.5hrs.

Meet 10.30am Withypool car park TA24 7RA

*Participants take part in events at their own risk.*

*BOOKING IS REQUIRED on the Exmoor Society website page for each walk - [www.exmoorsociety.com/events/category/events](http://www.exmoorsociety.com/events/category/events).*

*Our guided walks are free to members and non-members alike but donations are welcomed to cover administration and printing costs.*

*The Exmoor Society*

*01398 323335*

*[info@exmoorsociety.com](mailto:info@exmoorsociety.com)*

## ANSTEY WI PLANNED MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**MAY 13th - AGM OUTDOOR PICNIC** Noon Dunster Beach or Partridge Arms Farm if wet

**JUNE 3rd - TALK:** Exmoor National Park Noon at Tarr Farm Inn Noon

**JULY 5th - TEA PARTY** 3pm to celebrate NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers Day. A community tea party 3.30 – 5.30pm in Anstey Village Hall. Plenty of tea/coffee and cake! Stalls and a raffle.

**AUGUST 5th - ANNUAL OUTING.** Venue tbc\*. Lots of fun guaranteed!

**SEPTEMBER 2nd – CHEESE & WINE EVENING** with Tracy Brock. Wine tasting and an opportunity to buy your favourites from Moorwine.

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## **GOLD STRUCK AT EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK CENTRE, LYNMOUTH PAVILLION**

Exmoor National Park has volunteered staff to help prepare the college farm at Minehead ready for government-funded Staff at the Exmoor National Park Centre at Lynmouth Pavilion are celebrating having won the Gold Award for Visitor Information Service of the Year at this year's prestigious Devon Tourism Awards held virtually yesterday (Thursday, 11 March 2021).

The Centre provides inspiration and information to nearly 100,000 people a year. As well as having professional staff to provide expert information the centre includes an immersive multimedia introduction to Exmoor in a custom built film theatre, and hands on interactive displays to help share the story of the unique and special qualities of the National Park.



The online awards ceremony saw over 60 finalists gather virtually throughout the day receiving Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, having beaten off stiff competition from over 120 entrants to the annual awards.

Exmoor National Park Authority's Rural Enterprise Manager, Dan James, who oversees the National Park's Centres, said: "This year has been like none other. We are fortunate across all three of our National Park Centres on Exmoor to have committed, passionate and knowledgeable staff. For much of the past 12 months they have been unable to do the job they love – meeting and greeting visitors to the National Park with an exceptional welcome and quality advice. Despite this they have continued to go above and beyond to provide an outstanding service virtually and in person. I am immensely grateful for their efforts and congratulate the entire team on this award, which recognises their first-class service to the

people and place of Exmoor".

The Award judges commented: "2020 was a challenging year for us all which made the efforts of the award winners all the more amazing. I have nothing but admiration for the resourceful way in which our tourism businesses provided high quality service for locals and tourist visitors alike in a safe and responsible manner. Having shown skill and innovation during a national crisis, they have firm foundations on which to build for the future and they fully deserve the accolades."

Dave Wilde, co-manager of the Centre said:

"Sharing our love and passion for Exmoor is what we do here. We didn't expect to win, and just to have reached the finals was a great accolade for our fantastic team here. To have achieved the Gold Award is the icing on the cake. The whole team is committed to our 'no question is a stupid question' policy and we all share the same attitude that if we don't know the answer, we will find it."

Rebecca Jackson, co-manager of the Centre said: "Winning this award is a real joy, but the greatest joy is inspiring people to enjoy Exmoor. When guests who have come in for information come back the next day gushing about their experiences it really makes me happy to think they have been inspired by nature and the great outdoors here on Exmoor. We are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to open our doors again, to build on the success of this award and to continue offering the best service we possibly can to all those that love Exmoor."

The National Park Centre was not the only Exmoor winner. Other finalists operating within the National Park included the Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway (Silver, Visitor Attraction of the Year), Highcliffe House (Gold, Guesthouse of the Year), The Old Rectory Hotel, Martinhoe (Bronze, Small Hotel of the Year) and Surfside Kayak in Combe Martin (Silver, Experience of the Year).

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It's been many a year since I last ran a "Country Property Diary" when it was at that time a bi weekly feature within the West Somerset Free Press. At the time it received some wonderful feedback (and also the odd criticism which is fair enough and encourages open and healthy debate), so I welcome you all to this my first and now regular bi monthly update on all things property in the area.

Lots of things have changed in property since my last feature (probably about 15 or more years ago) and indeed, looking ahead, how the property market, our daily lives, transport and jobs will change in the next 15 plus years are going to be both incredible and daunting at the same time. I hope to touch on many of these things in the months ahead but for now this first review is an update on what is happening in the local market just to get us started.

As we all know, last year was a very busy year in property across the whole of the UK and to those of us in the industry it did and indeed still does, feel somewhat surreal that certain professions were allowed to keep working, others not and the undoubted impact that has unfortunately had. One could have been forgiven for thinking that the property market should have crashed last year (many expected it, many still predict it) but in truth the very latest national predictions are that the property market across the whole of the UK will continue to be busy with between 1 and 1.25 million transactions each year for the next 4/5 years (taken from industry data and reports as well as predictions from nationally recognised "Behavioural Economists" who at Webbers and Fine & Country we work with closely to help us gauge and advise our clients on the market ahead).

Locally, that national trend looks to be as relevant for us on Exmoor and the close surrounding area. The interesting balance last year for us locally was the number of people who were buying local homes that were already local, had lived locally (moved away for jobs or relationships) but now moving home, those who lived within 30 miles to those that have never lived locally but have family living locally so wanted to move to be close. That collectively



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equated to about 69% of all of our local property sales right across the whole spectrum of the property market (from properties under £200,000 to multi million pound homes). With only 30/31% of sales going to people that had no such connection with the area other than perhaps having visited at some stage for holidays etc.

At the moment that trend of sales to people with a local connection seems to be continuing but it is difficult to say how long for and by how much that may revert back to the more typical historical balance of 50/70% of away buyers. It is however great to see for now.

As we enter the spring and summer months and with slowly lockdown measures being eased as appropriate, I'm sure all of us will start to feel more positive about the year ahead. Certainly a nice sunny day, with Exmoor as your backdrop, then it's pretty hard to beat in anyone's book and as a result our local property market always gets a spring in its step as a direct result with both new buyers and indeed local home owners making the most of the better time of year.

Whilst moving forward I have a number of property related topics to work on, I am happy to have feedback from anyone if there are property related topics that you feel you would like covered and that I feel capable of answering for you. Feel free to email me direct below and I will see if I can cover whatever the topic is in a meaningful way (I can't guarantee that every request will be covered).

With best wishes as always

*Napoleon*



Napoleon Wilcox – Director of Webbers Exmoor/Dulverton and Mid Devon office at Dulverton  
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## 6 - 10 October Horse of the Year Show



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Great News, the first walk after the recent 'Lockdown' took place on Tuesday 30th March when the group walked through Burr ridge Woods. Although a maximum of thirty walkers are allowed to walk in one group we walked in groups of six and also maintained social distancing. We love to welcome new faces, walks are not too strenuous and last about 1 1/2 hours. They are also free of charge. Normally people take their own drinks and home made cake is quite often on the menu at the end!

Please contact either Richard Clarke on 01398 341141 or email [richardclarke567@btinternet.com](mailto:richardclarke567@btinternet.com) or Richard Archer on 0777 3160 222 or email [archerr@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:archerr@hotmail.co.uk)

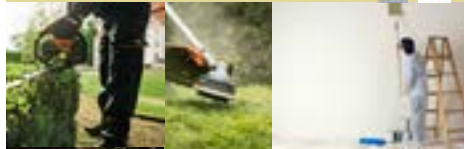


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## Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton TA22 9QE

The daffodils are blooming, and the warmer weather has been a blessing – the ponies are rapidly shedding their winter coats and WE ARE ABLE TO RE-OPEN THE PUBLIC ON APRIL 12TH!

If you would like to visit, we are operating a booking system so please email or call the office to book in. Visits are free and we are running 4 sessions through out the days we are open. (Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri, Sun) There is now the opportunity to have a grooming session during your visit which must be arranged and booked in alongside your visit. Those of you who wish to ride, must be experienced riders at the moment – please keep an eye on our website because as rules change, we hopefully will be able to offer more. With the good news of reopening, the riding ponies are all back from their holidays getting ready and fit to greet visitors and go out for rides. Our volunteers are also back in the swing of things. They've been gardening, poo picking, cleaning the yards and painting our beautiful new stable doors. There has been

a bit of a facelift on the back stable yard, and we have new fencing in the back fields ready to host our forthcoming 'Ponies Helping People' initiative. If you think you would like to help volunteer either at The Centre or with any fundraising ideas, please do get in touch.

With Spring arriving, the four foals Gonzo, Kermit, Scooter and Fozzie Bear have travelled to their new home on the 800 acre grazing site in Suffolk. They all behaved impeccably on the journey and arrived totally stress free. What a great life they will have living in such a lovely place – doing what Exmoor ponies do best – eating!

We look forward to seeing some of our friends and supporters soon, the ponies are ready and waiting. Please keep up to date with us via our website and online platforms.

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Saunton Beach, Devon is the latest location to join the 'BAN CHEAP BODYBOARDS' wave...

Both 'Saunton Beach Shop' and Saunton Surf Hire will not be stocking cheap polystyrene bodyboards this coming summer.

Luckily for us, this was an easy win, these guys have been on side for a while..

Lucie Tamlyn, Director - Saunton Beach Enterprises Ltd said "Seeing the amount of broken polystyrene bodyboards either discarded or washed up on the beach, we knew it was an issue that we had to do something about so we decided to stop selling them in 2019 once our stock had ran out. We can only imagine the difference if there were none available to be bought in the local community - there would be no choice but to find longer lasting alternatives,

with limited or no coastal environment impact, which would be fantastic."

"The decision to not sell these in demand items carries a financial cost to us as business" stated Matt John, partner at Saunton Surf hire. "We firmly believe in helping customers opt for more sustainable options. Since working with Plastic Free North Devon on their 'Protect our Playground' pilot wooden bellyboard hire project we have seen a huge interest in the wooden alternatives. We are confident we will see interest in this scheme grow"

For the full story go to <http://bit.ly/3keoVOU>

If you're interested in signing up as a Protect our Playground hire partner or interested in stocking some in your holiday accommodation please get in touch [plasticfreenorthdevon@gmail.com](mailto:plasticfreenorthdevon@gmail.com)

To help us encourage parliament to ban the sale of cheap polystyrene bodyboards across the country, sign our national parliamentary petition [www.bancheapbodyboards.co.uk](http://www.bancheapbodyboards.co.uk)



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When I left the 'rat race' 17 years ago to teach dressage full-time, I never envisaged training as an equine bodyworker or saddle-fitter. But I found that lessons so often turned into 'trouble-shooting'. I qualified in Pilates to help riders with their stability and symmetry, but still I was frequently asking 'are you sure your horse is ok?' or 'are you really comfortable in that saddle?' No amount of teaching skill can make it comfortable for a horse that's contracted down the right-hand side of his body to bend left – and kicking harder is not the answer! Nor can a rider do a comfortable rising trot if their saddle is placing their legs too far in front of them. It's easy to think that the answer to everything is to get shouted out and to 'ride the horse through it', but that is just a cop-out.

Horses like a quiet life and are generally eager to please, to fit in and to comply with our demands. Body language is the horse's means of communication, and unwanted behaviour or poor

performance usually stem from a lack of understanding or physical pain (and there is good scientific evidence to back this up).

For bodywork I use the wonderful Masterson Method®, in which the horse is very much part of the process, plus acupressure, myofascial release and laser therapy. Bodyworkers are not vets and do not diagnose problems, but regular maintenance can help to prevent, or flag up early, problems which might become veterinary issues down the line. It is wonderful to help horses release the tightness and restrictions which prevent their performing happily and comfortably, and I feel very privileged to do this as a job! I am now partway through an Animal Physiotherapy Diploma –and I'm looking forward to getting more involved in post-injury rehabilitation (yes I'm a course junkie!)

*Jane Penfold*

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## A Dog's Day Out – Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be

This new car seems to be permanent Honey. I can't look out the window and when I jump up to see where we are, it's where we've just been not where we're going. "That's because our seat is rear facing Buddy." But I liked being upfront with the driver. Did you see that pick up truck drive past us yesterday with a big brute of a dog stood up in the back that saw us too. I managed to get a bark at him before he disappeared and he cocked his leg all over the back window. (Editor's note: it was hilarious!) Now that's what I call room to manoeuvre. He could stand up sideways and had windows all round with a panoramic view. I don't know what's going on in her new car, I liked things the way they used to be.

D'you know it feels like two years since we've been out for a whole day somewhere different. We haven't even been shopping at the supermarket. It's all this home delivery service now with smiley people. I miss seeing

other dogs waiting outside Tesco's in their cars. We used to pull some great faces at each other out of the window. "Don't worry Buddy I heard her order a riser pad with a waterproof liner covered in a navy and red stripe to match the car's interior for us to sit on. You'll soon be able to pull faces at the car driver behind you instead when we go out." She even said herself only yesterday she's worn a track through the surfaces we've trudged, we've done them that often. Did she say we can go camping? What is camping? It's been so long I can't remember. "Aren't they the things full of poor people in the mud? She also said that we're going to a hotel in Hickstead soon and we're £10 a night." Ten pounds? I remember ten pounds, it means we get put in the bath with a special shampoo to make us smell nice before we go. I remember the jams - half a mile thick - stay in the human race, I'm walking.

*Buddy Brown (pure Jack Russell) a roving reporter*

*References: Made to measure dog mats – [dorsetdogtogs.co.uk](http://dorsetdogtogs.co.uk)*

*Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'be – music and lyrics by Lionel Bart*



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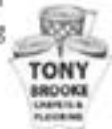
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## SPOT THE DOG



Amongst many entries in the March/April issue was Ted again, now 4 months old (apologies for getting his age wrong last time), sadly not correct and Martha (8 years old) wasn't right either. Better luck next time Ted and Martha. No one got the March competition right, see photo on page 1.

At the end of May we will put the correct answers in a hat (if more than one) and pick the winner. Email us the coordinates of which square you think the dog's head is in (eg F1). Send your answer to [exmoornews@gmail.com](mailto:exmoornews@gmail.com) Good luck!

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The image shows a business card for Tj Landscape Services. The top half has a green background with a large white 'T' logo. To the right of the logo, the text 'landscape services' is written in white. Below the logo, the website 'www.tjlandscape.co.uk' is printed in white. The bottom half of the card has a light green background with a grass texture. It lists the services 'Garden Design & Landscape Construction' followed by a bulleted list: '• Fencing • Patios • Paths • Ponds • Decking • Stone Walls • Turfing'. Below this, the name 'Tim Jackson' is printed, followed by the address '31 Lower Meadow Road, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 8AW'. At the bottom, the mobile number 'mob. 07748644376' and email 'email. tim@tjlandscape.co.uk' are listed.

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& Landscape Construction**  
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• Decking • Stone Walls • Turfing

**Tim Jackson**  
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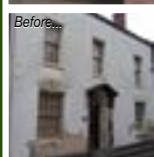
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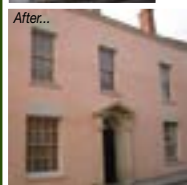
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## SAVE THE DATES!



### SIMONSBATH FESTIVAL REVISED DATES

This year being the tenth anniversary of Simonsbath Festival the management committee was looking forward to welcoming audiences who want to enjoy world class Music, Art, Poetry and first-rate Speakers from around the world, more especially since 2020 festival had to be cancelled.

Unfortunately with the publication of the government's 'roadmap' on relaxing COVID restrictions the schools involvement and inside performance parts of the 2021

festival could not take place at the usual time of year.

However, work is progressing to rearrange some performances on later dates this year - the Albion Quartet have kindly offered to perform on 25th June in St Lukes Church Simonsbath, Gary Cooper will introduce and then premier his new piano work 'The Solar System' in Dulverton Church on 17th July. The Military Ladies (formerly Military Wives) will perform on 24th July and the Corvus Consort and Music on the Edge will perform on 23rd October (both in St Lukes Church Simonsbath).

Simonsbath Festival collaborative outside activities including Exmoor Society walks and Exmoor Running & Walking Festival events will continue as normal, more details and ticket booking can be found on the festival website at [www.simonsbathfestival.org.uk](http://www.simonsbathfestival.org.uk). Or email [tickets@simonsbathfestival.org.uk](mailto:tickets@simonsbathfestival.org.uk)

### Preparations are underway for a bumper EXFORD HORSE & PONY SHOW

to be held on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

All plans are subject to any changes the Government may make with regard to COVID-19 guidelines and vaccinations, and we will be keeping the situation under review and once a decision has been made, we will write to all Members with details.

Entrance: £10 per person or £15 per car on the gate.

Exmoor Ponies, Horse & Sheep on show, extensive craft, produce and local trade stands. Family Dog Show, Stag Horn Competition, Inter-Hunt Relay, Pony Club, Falconry Display, Parade of Hounds, Refreshments.

If anyone wishes to support the Show and become a Member please get in touch with Pat Bawden via e-mail ([secretary@exfordshow.com](mailto:secretary@exfordshow.com)).

Anyone with interest in having a Craft or Trade stand

please get in touch with Si Tedstone via e-mail ([sian.tedstone@btinternet.com](mailto:sian.tedstone@btinternet.com)).

We hope to publish a show schedule in April and it would be super to see the classes full of Exmoor hunters in summer condition!

For those who won cups in the distant days of 2019, please dust them off and return them to either Pat Bawden or Si Tedstone ahead of the show.

We look forward to seeing you all once again and let us make this a very special show.

Schedule, Entries & Enquiries, please contact: [secretary@exfordshow.com](mailto:secretary@exfordshow.com).  
[www.exfordshow.com](http://www.exfordshow.com).

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**Friday, July 23rd** Cygnet Theatre present *She Ventures and He Wins*, an hilarious Restoration romp jam-packed with gags and innuendo, fuelled by cross-dressing and deceit, as two smart young women take control of their romantic lives.



**Friday, July 30th** A double bill in partnership with Take Art – TorTheatre present *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and *The Bluebirds Theatre Company*, supported by Arts Council England, in a beautiful mobile pop-up theatre space, The Popera House present *The Reduced Ring Cycle* - a comic Poperatic version of the entire Ring Cycle by Wagner.

**Saturday, 7th August**  
Up Close Theatre present  
HG Wells' *War of the Worlds*.



#### LE JAZZ WITH MUSIC DECO

**17th September**, All Saints Church, Dulverton at 7.30pm

We are delighted to announce plans for a return visit by the group following the very successful concert here in 2019.

On that occasion the members of Le Jazz: Andrew Daldorph, Chris Gradwell and Mike Thorn, making their 8th annual appearance here, were joined by Kate Walker for a highly entertaining evening of jazz and deco.

Sadly, the concert in 2020 had to be cancelled because of the pandemic. We hope we will be able to overcome that problem this year.

Further details will be given nearer the time



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## **PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**

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[clerk@bamptontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bamptontowncouncil.gov.uk)

01647 253066

**Brompton Regis P.C.:** S Buchanan

[brpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brpcclerk@gmail.com)

01984 641706

**Brushford P.C.:** Clerk: Clive Knight

[cliveknight@me.com](mailto:cliveknight@me.com)

01398 324140

**Cutcombe P.C.:** Clerk: Nic Kemp

[cutcombeclerk@gmail.com](mailto:cutcombeclerk@gmail.com)

07852 813983

**Dulverton T.C.:** Sec: Miss A. Rose

[clerk@dulvertontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@dulvertontowncouncil.co.uk)

01398 324561

**East Anstey P.C.:** Clerk: Mrs Jill Larcombe

[eastansteypc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eastansteypc@yahoo.co.uk)

01884 252647

**Exford P.C.:** Clerk: Nic Kemp

[clerk@exfordparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@exfordparishcouncil.org)

07852 813983

**Exmoor P.C.:** Clerk: Charlotte Hornsby

[exmoorparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:exmoorparishcouncil@gmail.com)

01643 831535

**Exton P.C.:** Clerk: Andrew Moore

[clerk@extonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@extonparishcouncil.co.uk)

01984 641539

**Oakford Parish Council:** Chair: Mr Richard Brain

[clrrbrain.oakfordpc@gmail.com](mailto:clrrbrain.oakfordpc@gmail.com)

07583 146498

**Upton P.C.:** Clerk: Mrs P Purvis

[uptonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:uptonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

01398 371548

**Winsford P.C.:** Clerk: Nic Kemp

[winsfordparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:winsfordparishcouncil@gmail.com)

07852 813983

**Withypool & Hawkrigge P.C.:** Clerk: Charlotte Hornsby

[withypoolhawkriggeparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:withypoolhawkriggeparishclerk@gmail.com)

01643 831535

**Wiveliscombe T.C.:** Clerk: Sarah Towells

[townclerk@wiveliscombe.com](mailto:townclerk@wiveliscombe.com)

01984 631914

## **LOCAL CHURCHES AND CHAPEL CONTACT NUMBERS**

**All Saints Church, Dulverton:** The Rev. Martin Collett, Assistant Curate

01398 324211

**Dulverton Benefice/All Saints/Community choirs:** Gary Cooper

07419 212354

**All Saints Church, Dulverton, Bell Tower:** Anne Markwick

01398 323823

**Brushford:** The Rev. Martin Collett, Assistant Curate

01398 324211

**Exmoor Benefice:** The Rev. David Weir, The Rectory, Exford, TA24 7LX

01643 831330

**Catholic Church:** Priest: Father Michael

01643 702201

**Dulverton Congregational Church, Chapel Street:** Mr P Donnelly

01398 324010

**The Traditional Anglican Church:** Loxbeare, Priest Reverend Aird

01769 581042

**Exmoor Benefice Choir:** Mrs B. Staples

01643 851396

**St Peter's Church Oakford:** Rev'd Stephanie Gordon-Jeffs      [office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org](mailto:office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org)

01884 250417

## **ARTS**

**The Arts Society Exmoor:** Mrs Penny Pulver (Chair)      [www.theartsocietyexmoor.oreg.uk](http://www.theartsocietyexmoor.oreg.uk)

01398 331007

**Community Music Events:** Gary Cooper [www.allsaintsdulverton.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsdulverton.org.uk)

07419 212354

**Dulverton Art Group:** Sec: Mrs G Rose, 2 Stable Mews, The Square, Witheridge

01884 860495

Dulverton Camera Club: Sec: Peter Main, 4 Valley View, Morebath, Tiverton, EX16	01398 331556
Dulverton Players: Chair: Les Silverlock	01398 341850
Oakford Players, Chair: Chair Mr Tony Holmes      tholmes556@btinternet.com	01398 351665
<b>SPORTS CLUBS</b>	
Anstey Short Mat Bowls: Chris Dale	01398 341615
Bridgetown Cricket: Sec: Mr. D. Sherring, Mid-Wicket, Bridgetown, Dulverton TA22 9JN administrator@bridgetownwcc.co.uk	
Brushford Short Mat Bowling: Sec: Sam Takle	01398 324147
Cutcombe Cricket: Sec: Mrs Maria Adams, 1 The Beeches, Wheddon Cross	01643 841036
Dulverton Angling Assn: c/o Pat Veale, 9 High St., Dulverton, TA22 9HB	01398 323409
Dulverton Badminton Club: Sec Judy Smith	01398 324353
Dulverton Cricket Club: Robert Dubery	01398 323474
Dulverton Cricket Club, Colts: Mrs Christine Dubery	01398 323474
Dulverton & District Tennis Club: Orla Jones	07783 930700
Dulverton & Exmoor Squash Club: Membership Sec: Chris Winter. chriswin@aol.com	07710 046107
Dulverton Jnr. F.C: Sec: Mrs Christine Dubery	01398 323474
Dulverton Netball Club: Sec Lindsay Smith, 25, Nicholas Close, Brushford	01398 323834
Dulverton Snooker: Sec: Mr. D. Bodger, 39 Fishers Mead, Dulverton, TA22 9EN	01398 323899
Dulverton Sports and Social: Chair: Carl Hooper	01398 324494
Dulverton Sportsfield Management: Adrian Smith	01398 323834
Dulverton Senior Table Tennis: Richard Archer	01398 324160
Dulverton Town F.C: Sec: Mr. J. Atkins, 1 Exebridge, Dulverton. TA22 9AY	01398 323787
Exmoor Croquet Club: Chair: Connie Heywood	01398 341556
Moorland Hall Sports:	info@wheddoncross.org.uk
Wimbleball Fly Fishers:	enquiries@fishingthewest.co.uk
<b>PRE-SCHOOL GROUPS</b>	
All Saints School & Nursery:	01398 323231 & 01398 323223
Anstey Parent and Toddlers Group: E A School	01398 341369
Little Owls Nursery at All Saints C of E School, Dulverton	01398 324360
Rhythm n'Brews Toddler Group: Sabine Cooper	07419 212354
<b>SCHOOLS</b>	
All Saints C of E School: Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	01398 323231
Brompton Regis Toddlers: Mrs.S. Julian, Court Place Farm, Skilgate	01398 331031
Cutcombe C of E First School: Wheddon Cross, TA24 7DZ	01643 841462
Dulverton Junior School: Barns Close West, TA22 9EE	01398 323223
Dulverton Children's Centre: All Saints School, Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	01398 324360
Dulverton Family and Toddlers Group:	01398 324329
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
<b>WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS</b>	
Anstey W.I.: Cynthia Butcher	01398 341445
Brompton Regis W.I.: disbanded	
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: Mrs Jennie Chappell    smilerjenniec@hotmail.com	01398 351666
<b>YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES</b>	
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
<b>OTHERS</b>	
Abbeyfield House	01398 324136
Bampton Library and Resource Centre, Station Road	01398 332466

Brushford Parish Hall: Bookings enquiries@brushfordparishhall.org.uk

Brushford Luncheon Club: Treasurer: Margaret Albery

Care Direct for help and advice: www.somerset.gov.uk

Cutcombe Flower & Produce Show: Sue White

Dulverton Action Group: Magdalena Harding

Dulverton & District Civic Soc: Kathy Currie

Dulverton & Southern Exmoor Twinning: Chair: Steve Ford, Dulverton

Dulverton Bridge Club: Sec: Brian Hughes, www.Bridgewebs.com/dulverton

Dulverton Dance:

Dulverton Ballroom Dance: Sec: Mrs Christine Dubery

Dulverton Development Forum: Sec: Mrs J. Ross

Dulverton Films: Jan Ross

Dulverton Fellowship for Mental Health: Marion Silverlock

Dulverton Gardening Club: Roger Hammond

Dulverton Group Exmoor Society: Sec: Dr Ken Mills

Dulverton Vets

Dulverton Vintage Films: Magdalena Harding

Dulverton Voluntary Drivers: Mike Beale

Exe Valley Market Bus: Jennie Chappell smilerjenniec@hotmail.com

Exmoor Patient Group: Chair: Sandra Wilson, W Nightcott, Dulverton TA22 9RT

Exmoor Beekeepers Association: Sec: Caroline Ralph exmoorhoneyshow@gmail.com

Exmoor Community Bus Assn: Temporary contact - S Buchanan

Exmoor Pony Centre: Ashwick, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9QE

Exmoor Pony Society: Sec: Sue McGeever, Woodmans, Brithem Bottom Cullompton, Devon EX15 1NB

Exmoor Rotary Club: Humphrey Berridge (PRO), Station Hse, Luke St, Bampton

Good Neighbours: Sandra Collett

Oakford Village Hall: Bookings: Mrs Dawn Williams dawnwilliams1@gmail.com

Royal British Legion Dulverton: Peter Donnelly

TA22 Voluntary Lift Scheme (formerly Brushford Voluntary Lifts): Chair: T. Wilson

Tiverton Model Aero Club: Sec: Mr. P Veale, 9 High St., Dulverton TA22 9HB

U3A Exmoor: Yvonne Moorfoot, 3 Lamb Back, Dulverton

Village Agent Jane Lillis janel@somersetcc.org.uk

West Somerset Advice Bureau:

07941 139846  
01398 324587  
0300 1232224  
01643 841142  
01398 323 785  
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