EXMOOR NEWS

Bringing community news across southern Exmoor since 1985 FREE September/October 2021





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EXMOOR NEWS COVERING SOUTHERN EXMOOR

Welcome to our latest edition.

We are so pleased, as we are sure you are, to see so many events coming up. Whilst keeping safe as much as possible, let's get out there and support local groups, businesses and charities.

Our cover photo features cormorants, taken by Tony Keene up at Wimbleball Lake. 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.

Bizarrely, again, no one got Spot The Dog right again. See the answer for last time and the new competition on page 65.

Our next issue will cover Christmas - let's hope there will be the usual rush of fairs and parties again by then - get your events to us by the deadline, we look forward to seeing them all.



Best wishes, Ceri Keene and Claire Savill

E: exmoornews@gmail.com T: 07497 914441 W: www.exmoornews.co.uk Post: The Old Stores, Brushford, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9AH We take our responsibility to maintain high editorial standards seriously. Should an error occur please do not hesitate to contact us.

Cover image 2021: © Tony Keene



The deadline for the November/December issue of the Exmoor News is

Thursday 7th October 2021



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16th September

SUE FISHER "CREATING A WILDLIFE GARDEN"

Sue will be making a welcomed return to Dulverton. Sue is the author of many gardening books as well as articles in the

Gardening Magazines. Her garden in the Tamar Valley has provided the location for a number of projects on a diverse range of subjects for Gardeners World Magazine. Her approach to gardening has always been very sustainable and wildlife friendly.

21st October

JOHN ADDISON

"PRUNING FRUIT TREES, ORNAMENTAL TREES AND SHRUBS"

John is also making a return visit to us. He has been in horticulture for over 50 years during which he has been a judge at the Chelsea flower show and a part time lecturer at Cannington College.

Talks take place in the Dulverton Town Hall. Doors open at 6.45pm.

Talks to start promptly at 7.30pm. Refreshments available.

Times and arrangements for trips to be confirmed once numbers are known. Please contact Jenny Boyce to confirm if you would like to go on any trips, 01398 323463.



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MOOR MOVIES in Winsford 2021

Tuesday 14th Sept: NOMADLAND

A woman in her sixties who after losing everything in the Great Recession, embarks on a journey across the American West living as a van-dwelling modern-day nomad. Starring Frances McDormand.

Tuesday 12th October: The Last Bus

An old man whose wife has just died uses his free bus pass to travel from John O'Groats to Lands' end using only local buses. Inside his case he carries his wife's ashes. Starring Timothy Spall.

Tuesday 2nd November: Sound of Metal

Riz Ahmed plays an American drummer whose life is turned upside down by the onset of deafness. He enters a retreat to attempt to live with his deafness, but can he adapt to his new life?

23rd November: Limbo

A young Syrian musician and other refugees seek asylum on a remote Scottish Island in this melancholic comedy. They must fill in their days dealing with the quirky locals. Starring Amir El-Masry

Tuesday 7th December: Dream Horse

Dream Alliance is an unlikely racehorse bred by small town Welsh bartender Jan Volks (Toni Collette). She convinces her neighbours to chip in their meagre earnings to help raise Dream in the hope he can compete. Starring Toni Collette and Damian Lewis.

WINSFORD VILLAGE HALL 7.30PM.

Details can be checked on the Winsford Village website www.winsfordvillage.info

Membership form can be found on the village website to print.

BRUSHFORDPARISH HALL

To celebrate the completion of the works and the start of our return to normality we would like to invite you all to the following event, enjoy the entertainment, have a drink and something to eat and have a look at the new facilities.

28th August 2021 – Grand Community Open Day BBQ for All the Family starting at 3:00pm BBQ, Entertainments and Live music into the evening. FREE ENTRY

11th September 2021 -

Last Night of the Proms Highlights televised with licensed bar, flag waving and a good old fashioned sing along.

27th November 2021 – Brushford Christmas Fayre

Please email -<u>enquiries@brushfordparishhall.org.uk</u> for more details

VINTAGE FILM CLUB

Wed 8th September

THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE starring Julie Andrews & Mary Tyler Moore (1967)

Wed 13th October

LOCAL HERO

starring Burt Lancaster & Peter Riegert (1983)

2.30 pm al Fishers Mead Community Centre

DULVERTON ACTION GROUP Litter-picking (3rd Sunday)

Sunday 19th September Sunday 17th October

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





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Boxercise - Bootcamp - Kettlercise - Fitness Pilates

Monday – 9.30am Body Conditioning, 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

Fitness Pilates, block booking only 6 week course All other classes pay as you go **Booking is essential** Jackie Kelly Fitness, Parish Rooms, Rosemary Lane.

> Dulverton TA22 9DP Email: jackiekelly416@gmail.com Tel: 01398 323959 Mob: 07487 711445

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with Linda London Booking is essential

> Mon 5 30pm Dulverton Toten Hall Over 50's - Use it or Lose it (for keeping active)

Wed 9.J0am Brushford Pensh Hall Move, Tone, Chat & Go (for keeping active)

Wed 11.00am 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)

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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

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

Wednesday 4th September 2019 7.00pm – 9.00pm

The Bats of Horner Wood

Fifteen of the seventeen known species of bat can be found in Horner Wood. On this walk, learn more about bats from an expert ecologist and take a fascinating evening stroll beside the Horner Water, watching for emerging bats as they forage in and around the tree canopy. With the aid of sophisticated bat detectors, you will also get the chance to hear them as they hunt for flying insects. Bring a torch. No dogs. 1.5 miles.

Meet 7pm NT car park Horner village TA24 8HY / SS 898 456.

Thursday 12th September 11.00am – 2.30pm

East Lyn, Watersmeet and Hoar Oak Water

This circular walk starts at the lovely Combe Park NP car park. The walk climbs steadily to Myrtleberry Cleave before quickly losing height through an old settlement to reach Watersmeet. We then follow the East Lyn River upstream to Ash Bridge before returning the other side back to the Hoar Oak Water to the start. We will stop at Watersmeet for refreshments. 3.5 miles.

Meet 11am Combe Park NT car park (donation payable) EX35 6LF / SS 739 477.

Tuesday 17th September 2019 10.00am - 1.00pm

Gallox Hill and Bury Castle, Dunster

This walk will take us up through Dunster Deer Park to Withycombe Hill Gate. We will continue over Bat's Castle Iron Age hill fort settlement before going down to see England's tallest tree in Nutcombe Bottom and returning over Gallox Bridge to Dunster. 5 miles

Meet 10am Dunster Castle NT car park (fee payable) TA24 6SL / SS 993 436.

Thursday 3rd October 2019 10.00am – 12.30pm

The Headwaters of the Exe

A walk within the South West Water Headwaters of the Exe project catchment area to look at the work farmers are doing on Exmoor to protect water quality in the River Exe. Likely to be wet underfoot. 3 miles

Meet 10am Winsford village car park TA24 7JQ / SS 906 349.

Saturday 12th October 2019 10.00am – 1.00pm

Yellowcombe and Winsford

A fairly challenging 5-mile walk around Winsford Hill taking in the Caratacus Stone and the Punchbowl. Stunning views with some steep inclines which are stony and slippery if wet, and muddy fields. The Royal Oak in Winsford is available for lunch afterwards.

Meet 10am Winsford village car park TA24 7JQ / SS 905 348.



Meet at Fishers Mead Community Centre (adjacent to Exmoor Medical Centre) commencing 10 am for 10.30 start

> Wednesday 29th September A talk by Roger Browne on '**New Orleans to New York**'

Wednesday 27th October A talk by Felicity Goodall on **'Lost Devon'** Non members welcome at £2

EXMOOR



SEPTEMBER EVENTS IN DULVERTON Not to miss!



Don't miss all the fun of the Dulverton Vintage Fair on Sunday 5 September and the Dulverton Trail Fun Run on Sunday 19 September!

Both events will take place on the town's Exmoor Lawns beside the River Barle.

For more information, visit the Visit Dulverton Facebook page or email hello@visitdulverton.com.











WEEKLY BUS SERVICE 678 DULVERTON TO MINEHEAD STARTS AGAIN ON THURSDAYS FROM SEPTEMBER 2ND

This service leaves Dulverton at 09:15. It travels around the local villages of Brushford, Exebridge, Bury, Skilgate, Upton, Brompton Regis, Heath Poult Cross, Timberscombe. The bus leaves Minehead at 13.00, retracing the route and arrives in Dulverton at 14.30. Free of charge for passengers with Somerset County Council Concessionary Bus Pass. Route and times <u>http://www. exmoorcommunitybus.co.uk/thursday-</u> service.html

It is essential to book a seat – phone 07925 044262 by 5pm on the previous day.

The delightful small market town of Dulverton, on the south east corner of Exmoor, has recently instigated a marketing initiative to encourage more visitors to the town to reignite the visitor economy, particularly post the Covid lockdowns. Dulverton Town Council initially began this project in 2019 and has secured further funding from SW&T Council to support it. Fresh new branding has been designed for the town, featuring an abstract Exmoor stag and all the colours of the moor, and the 'Visit Dulverton' Faceboook and Instagram pages have been relaunched – do follow them and share the love if you can!

New events in the town are also being organised which will appeal both to visitors and the local community – the first being the Dulverton Vintage Fair on Sunday 5 September – a festival of vintage for all the family on the Exmoor Lawns beside the River Barle with singing, dancing, vintage shopping and more. This event will be closely followed by the Dulverton Trail Fun Run on Sunday 19 September – again commencing on the Exmoor Lawns with a choice of 2k, 5k and 10k routes; and prizes for every finisher! For more information contact hello@visitdulverton.com

A new website is also being planned – visitdulverton.com – featuring pages showing where to shop, where to stay and where to eat/drink in the immediate vicinity of Dulverton; with a blog page and details of local events, attractions and activities. Keep your eyes peeled for this online!

VINTAGE FAIR COMMUNITY BUS ROUTE

A. Pick up: Brompton Regis, Upton, Skilgate, Morebath (or Bury?), Exebridge, Brushford.

Return in reverse order.

B. Pick up: Exford, Winsford, Exton, Bridgetown.

Return in reverse order. Booking essential.



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The Harness Maker's Tale

One of the most popular sights at country shows is the traditional heavy horse display, with the horses sporting their distinctive leather and brass collars and harnesses. Traditional collar and harness making is, however, on the UK's red list of endangered crafts but, as one of the country's few remaining practitioners, Dulverton-based Kate Hetherington is doing her best to keep these precious skills alive.

Kate grew up in Taunton, has always enjoyed being around horses, and has been riding since she was six. As a teenager contemplating possible careers, she followed up a suggestion about learning a craft that would reflect her love of horses and equip her with valuable skills. So, at 16, Kate embarked on a fouryear apprenticeship with collar and harness maker, John McDonald, and has never looked back. After completing her apprenticeship, she worked for a saddlery but realised that making traditional collars and harnesses was her first love. She eventually returned to work alongside John and now has more than 20 years' experience.

A show harness with full collar takes about 150 hours to make and each of the various stages involved requires total concentration. 'I really enjoy working with leather and having something to see at the end of the process,' says Kate. The leather she uses is of the finest quality and the most durable; it comes from J and F J Baker in Colyton, the only remaining oak bark tannery in the country. The traditional leather collars are stuffed with straw and are attached to brass– covered hames that are also made in the workshop that Kate still shares with John McDonald.

Customers come from around the UK and include not only heavy horse owners but also people who enjoy carriage driving, and owners of coaches and traditional farm and country vehicles, such as pony traps. Each collar and harness is made to measure for the individual horse or pony and the design depends on the load being pulled.

Although collar and harness making forms the major part of Kate's output, she also teaches and



has worked internationally for World Horse Welfare. More recently she has started producing handstitched leatherwork for Border Country Belts. 'And I now make leather straps for Blackdown Shepherds' Huts,' she says. (The straps are used to pull out the beds that are stored within the hut wall.)

In May of this year, life changed in another way when Kate's son Ruben arrived; she was working until a few days before his birth and is currently on maternity leave but plans to return early in 2022. Exmoor News was fortunate enough to meet Kate at the workshop, with its heady smell of leather, and where Ruben was sleeping peacefully in his rocker, with Juno, the family's Jack Russell-miniature schnauzer cross close by. The work of highly-skilled artisans like Kate Hetherington is a powerful reminder that in a digital world, traditional crafts matter more than ever.

Watch Kate at work here: https://www.qest.org.uk/ alumni/kate-hetherington/

https://www.katehetheringtoncollarandharness. co.uk/

Diane Trembath



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'WALKING DULVERTON AND AREA'

A new book of walks from and around Dulverton has recently been published. Walking Dulverton and area has 14 main walk descriptions, with short-cuts and alternatives making

30 routes in all. Walks range from a $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile stroll around the town to a nearly 15 mile day hike over to Wimbleball Lake, with plenty in the 5 to 10 mile range. Most of the walks start and finish in Dulverton, while others use buses to head out to local villages and return on foot.

Author Stan Lester lives in Dulverton and runs the web site Walking on Exmoor and the Quantock Hills (http://exmoorwalker. uk). He says "I started writing up walks in the area six or seven years ago, I have an extensive collection of photos of Exmoor, and I enjoy making maps – and out of that came the web site. Some of my favourite walks are around Dulverton, although apart from the paths along the river and up on to Court Down not many of them are well known. I wrote the book to bring some of these walks together and make them more accessible, as well as encouraging walkers to use the buses".

As well as exploring Dulverton, the book takes the walker out to the Ansteys, Hawkridge, Tarr Steps, Withypool, Exford, Wheddon Cross, Winsford, Bridgetown, Wimbleball Lake, Bury, Bampton and Brushford. The book is available from outlets in Dulverton and Withypool, or it can be ordered from exmoorwalker.uk.

Details: Walking Dulverton and area, Avista Press 2021, ISBN 978-0-9555441-2-5. 64pp, price £6.50.



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Final preparations are being made for the 10 Parishes Festival that returns next month.

A mixture of individual artist's open studios and collective exhibitions form the central offer to visitors over the nine days, with a number of interspersed performances and community events.

Market Day takes place on Sunday 12th September in Wiveliscombe from 10am-4pm with the Carnival Procession at 3pm.

Performance is always an integral part of the Festival. Two performances on the of 11th and 19th September at Wellhayes Vineyard, Clayhanger Devon Baroque include (two violins, 'cello and harpsichord) and acclaimed violinist Florence Cooke joined by pianist Laetitia Fédérici in a programme including Beethoven, Clara Schumann Poulenc. and Ravel. Booking: www.wellhayes.uk/ concerts-2021.

St Andrew's Church in Wiveliscombe hosts performances spread over both weekends of the Festival. Folksinger Fay Hield will be performing songs from her latest album "Wrackline" accompanied by Sam Sweeney (fiddle) and Rob Harbron (concertina) on the 11th, Festal Evensong will be performed by Ecclesia on 12th and five members of the extraordinarily talented Kanneh-Masons family appear on Friday 17th.

The Festival concludes with a unique performance on Sunday 19th September. Hildegard Transfigured: A medieval trance for the 21st Century will be performed by Voice, a female a cappella trio performing repertoire spanning both ages and continents. A stunning one hour show of music, light and visuals will explore the world of medieval Abbess St Hildegard of Bingen and how her legacy continues to inspire.



'Voice'

Tickets are £15 from www. ticketsource.co.uk/10-parishes-artsfestival

The 10 Parishes Festival runs from Saturday 11th until Sunday 19th September. For a full list of participants, venues and events see www.10parishesfestival.org.uk or consult the festival brochure which can be found at many outlets locally.

Milverton Concert Society at St Andrew's church, Wiveliscombe



5 Kanneh-Masons - Friday 17 September The Kanneh-Masons are seven brothers and sisters ranging in age from 24 to 11 years old all of whom play violin, piano or cello. They have won many prizes and awards and appeared in numerous television shows; the five eldest performed at the Bafta awards in 2018 and all seven appeared in the December 2019 Royal Variety Show. In October 2020, they released their first album Carnival on Decca Classics to great critical acclaim and in May 2021 received the Global Award for Best Classical Artist. The concert at Wiveliscombe involves 5 of this extraordinary family, Braimah, Konya, Jeneba, Aminata and Mariatu and includes works by Liszt, Bartok, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Elgar, Grieg and Rachmaninov.

Red Priest - Saturday 16 October

Four-piece baroque super-group Red Priest is the only early music group in the world to have been compared in the press to the Rolling Stones, Jackson Pollock, the Marx Brothers, Spike Jones and the Cirque du Soleil. They have become an international phenomenon, period instrument turnina the movement on its head with its thrilling, no-holds-barred approach to the genre. These musicians have redefined the art of period performance, creating a virtual orchestra through their creative arrangements, performing from memory with swashbuckling virtuosity,

'For sheer technical wizardry, charismatic showmanship, and expressive devilment, Red Priest is in an exhilarating class of its own.' (BBC Music Magazine)

This extraordinary acoustic foursome has been described by music critics as 'visionary and heretical', 'outrageous yet compulsive', 'completely wild and deeply imaginative'.

The programme at Wiveliscombe includes Bach, Vivaldi, Albinoni and Tartini.



St Andrew's Church Wiveliscombe at 4.30 and 7.30pm. Tickets <u>www.milvertonconcerts.org</u> Phone 0333 666 3366

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Dulverton Town Hall



Friday September 10th

Director: Chloe Zhao

Multi Oscar award winner. Following the economic collapse of a company town in rural Nevada, Fern (Frances McDormand) packs her van and sets off on the road exploring a life outside of conventional society as a modern-day nomad. The film features real nomads Linda May, Swankie and Bob Wells as Fern's mentors and comrades in her exploration through the vast landscape of the American West. 'A poetic character study on the forgotten and downtrodden, Nomadland beautifully captures the restlessness left in the wake of the Great Recession.'

Friday September 24th

(Cert PG) 113 mins

(Cert 12A)

107 mins

Director: Euros Lyn

The true story of Dream Alliance, an unlikely racehorse bred by small-town bartender Jan Vokes. With very little money and no experience, Jan convinces her neighbors to chip in their meager earnings to help raise Dream and compete with the racing elites. Their investment pays off as Dream rises through the ranks and becomes a beacon of hope for their struggling community. Stars Toni Collette, Damian Lewis, Katherine Jenkins. We screened the documentary 'Dark Horse' in 2015 and enjoyed pre-film talk by local trainer Johnson White who trained the horse at Philip Hobbs Stables near Minehead.

Friday October 8th

SUPERNOVA

Director: Harry Macqueen

Sam and Tusker, partners of 20 years, are traveling across England in their old RV visiting friends, family and places from their past. Since Tusker was diagnosed with early-onset dementia two years ago, their time together is the most important thing they have. Stars Colin Firth, Stanley Tucci, Pippa Haywood

Friday October 22nd

THE FATHER

Director: Florian Zeller

Anthony (Academy Award Winner, Anthony Hopkins) is 80, mischievous, living defiantly alone and rejecting the carers that his daughter, Anne (Academy Award and Golden Globe Winner, Olivia Colman), encouragingly introduces. Yet help is also becoming a necessity for Anne; she can't make daily visits anymore and Anthony's grip on reality is unraveling. As we experience the ebb and flow of his memory, how much of his own identity and past can Anthony cling to? How does Anne cope as she grieves the loss of her father, while he still lives and breathes before her? The film warmly embraces real life, through loving reflection upon the vibrant human condition; heart-breaking and uncompromisingly poignant, a film that nestles in the truth of our own lives.

Tickets limited to allow for social distancing–Dulverton Films members £3, non-members £4.50, students, accompanied by an adult, £2.50. Book in advance at Dulverton Post Office (Tel: 01398 323474) or email janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk. Bar open from 7pm.

DREAM HORSE Alliance, an unlikely racehorse bred by si money and no experience. Jan convin

(**Cert 15**) 93 mins

(**Cert 12A**) 97 mins







DEDICATE A TREE ON EXMOOR AND SHOW YOU 'CAREMOOR'

It's now possible to dedicate a tree on Exmoor towards the creation of a major new woodland in the National Park at Bye Hill near Winsford – the largest of its kind for 15 years.

Donors can pay £15 to dedicate a tree and send a personalised card of a painting by local artist Leo Davey depicting what 'Bye Wood' might look like in the future. A two-day tree planting event is also being held on site this November so the local community and anyone keen to help with the planting can come along. Although to keep the environment as natural as possible there will be no ownership of individual trees or commemorative plaques in this wood.



An artist's impression of what Bye Wood might look like by Leo Davey

The Exmoor Natural History Society (ENHS) is the latest group to back the campaign with a substantial donation. It follows a pledge by the Exmoor Charitable Trust to match fund the first \pm 5,000 raised, meaning initially every \pm 1 donated will count as \pm 2.

ENHS Chairman Ruth Hyett said: "We're very pleased to be able to make a donation to this worthwhile project thanks to a legacy received from the estate of John Ruppersbury, who had been a member of our Society for many years. The creation of this wood would have meant so much to him and we hope will contribute to enhanced biodiversity and of course more wildlife to enjoy and record. It will also help with the mitigation of climate change and the creation of more resilient habitats for the future."

Each tree dedication will count towards the National Park's new CareMoor Woods and Trees appeal as part of a drive to increase tree cover across Exmoor from around 13.5% to at least 17% by 2050 – the amount recommended by the government's independent Climate Change Committee.

Bye Wood is the first project to receive funding through the scheme and will see 13,000 mixedbroadleaf trees planted this winter along the steepsided valley bordering the river Exe, to create a stunning new woodland with multiple benefits for people and nature. The new saplings will over time store carbon and help to stabilise the soil, reducing the risk of downstream flooding and benefitting biodiversity, aquatic life and water quality. It will also be a space for people to enjoy, with open areas maintained for community use and to enable different species to flourish.

Katrina Munro, Sustainable Economy Officer for Exmoor National Park, said: "As we reflect on the events of the past months and the difficulties many of us have shared, there is a sense of wanting to do something positive for the future. Dedicating a tree is a way to be able to say thank you or celebrate someone you love. By making a donation to this appeal, you'll be leaving a lasting legacy that people in the future will one day treasure, just as we cherish and benefit from the mighty ancients planted for us hundreds of years ago."

Find out more about the CareMoor Woods and Trees appeal and tree dedications at www.exmoornationalpark.gov.uk/caremoor.

Or enquire at National Park Centres in Dulverton, Lynmouth or Dunster.



We welcome your community information. You can be added to our contributors email list asking for copy (we send a reminder email prior to deadlines). Just email us to be added.

If you see something which needs changing in the directory at the back of our magazine please do let us know. Email exmoornews@gmail. com.

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A Country Property Diary

The importance of updating the value of your home in a fast moving market!

In a normal market, the potential increase in property values over say a 12 month period can be between 2% and 4.5% (in average monthly terms say 0.16% to 0.375%) and as a result, if an agent values your home in say March, its likely increase in value by say July could be between 0.64% and 1.5% for example. In real terms not a huge difference and whilst as agents we would take this on board before marketing your home, the figures don't seem that far apart as far as the seller is concerned.

However, in the present market, many properties have increased in value by 10% (national average 9%) over the past 12 months and indeed we have seen some properties increase in value by 15/20% from where they may have been a year ago (which in real terms can be increases in price of £40,000 to £200,000 depending on the

value of the home) and as a result it is all too easy for the home owner to forget that the figure placed on the property 6/12 months ago was reflective of the market then and not necessarily in anyway reflective of where the market now is and to assume that the agents valuation was wrong.

I really can't stress enough how important it is in today's market to ensure that if your home was valued by an agent 3 or more months ago, that if you are thinking of selling that you should ask for a revised figure to take into account the change in the market (in truth, in today's market, I would probably recommend that even a valuation given 1 month ago should be checked to see that it hasn't increased since, before you decide to sell).

The property market in the UK is extreme at present, The West Country and in particular the area we live in is no exception to this at all and it is critical that any home owner takes advantage of receiving the very best and latest advice on the market, prices, market conditions and indeed the premiums that can and are being paid for all types of local homes at present by local, regional and national buyers (We would rather update you on multiple occasions than you rely on a figure that has in effect now become "out of date"). Whilst the market overall is driven by national forces, the number of sales to local home owners has been incredible and far higher than most years, with many local buyers outbidding away buyers to secure the

home and location that they really want.

Whether you wish to sell openly or even discreetly (minimising the hassle of hordes of viewings etc) at Webbers and Webbers Fine & Country we offer our clients a range of services that can be bespoke to them and their home. Always ensuring that our clients have the very latest market intelligence on what is happening, so that premium prices are always achieved.

If you would like an updated valuation, then do give us a call, with no obligation on your part. If you want to sell (open market or discreetly) then put us to the test. We are always happy to accept the challenge and to make sure that your sale is successful and professionally dealt with, so that you always feel comfortable that when you have sold, that you have found the best buyer and achieved the best price at the same time.

Myself, Ginny, Rebecca and Louise would be delighted to assist you with any property related matter.

With our very best wishes as always

Napoleon



Napoleon Wilcox – Director of Webbers Exmoor/Dulverton and Mid Devon office at Dulverton Head of Webbers Fine & Country Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, London.





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SEPTEMBER 2021 VILLAGE AGENT NEWS

So, what IS a Village Agent?

The Village Agent service is part of the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) and offers free, confidential, practical support to **anyone** in need, including community groups. We have unrivalled local knowledge, and are problemsolving solution finders!

I'm Jane, your local Village Agent - I love the challenge of making a positive impact in my local community for people who need it most. It is very rewarding when a plan comes together, and a person's life is enhanced by the work I have done. I also love to chat! If needed, I work closely with your local GP surgery and the Adult Social Care team, so you have well rounded support.

<u>Sounds Interesting, but WHO can a</u> <u>Village Agent help?</u>

A Village Agent can help if....

- You are an unpaid carer or looking after someone else informally and need a little help and support – for you and the person you care for.
- You are struggling with a problem that can be fixed or improved by accessing the right people or services in the local community, but don't know where to turn.
- You live alone and are feeling lonely and isolated.
- You are part of a community with a

collective problem and need a kick start to solve.

It doesn't matter how big or small the problem, we are here to help.

<u>OK that's great – but HOW exactly can</u> <u>a Village Agent help?</u>

It would almost be easier to list the things Agents CAN'T do! The range of help we give is huge and it's impossible to pin down exactly how an Agent can help, as each person's situation is unique. Our aim is to help improve someone's everyday life with the right connections, access to food, emergency funding or practical community-based solutions. A few recent examples are:

- Supported clients to access transport so that they can attend their vaccination appointments.
- Delivered food to families and individuals who are shielding/ isolating and set up an arrangement with the local food bank to supply food to clients.
- Source and arrange delivery of white goods, furniture and household items to people in need.
- Made sure that the clients are supported to get the financial help they need.
- Arranged translations for clients who don't speak fluent English but need our support.
- Supported people who need help collecting prescriptions.
- Conducted welfare calls on behalf of local GP's to ensure clients are safe and well.
- Gave emotional support to people who are feeling isolated and lonely.
- Supported people, and particularly

unpaid carers, by brokering a microprovider who can help with daily living tasks to alleviate some pressure & provided respite meals for Carers.

- Supported elderly Somerset residents to 'survive winter' by making sure that they have sufficient heating and cooking facilities. Distribute Surviving Winter grants.
- Gifted refurbished mobiles to people who are cut off from their family and friends.

 Helped people to get home from hospital or temporary accommodation.

- Helping people to stay independent in their homes.
- Found and made connections between clients and the right community-based support.

If you think I could help you in any way please give me a call or drop me an email – contact details are below.

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.

JANE LILLIS Tel: 07958 415270 Email: janel@somersetrcc.org.uk

Please visit:

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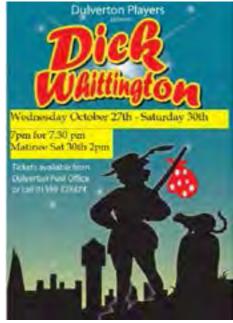


"Never Say Never!" is the watchword for the Dulverton Players this autumn. Exmoor's popular theatre company is still hoping to stage its long-delayed production of "Dick Whittington" from October 27th to 30th.

The ever-changing state of the Covid19 pandemic, however, is making it very difficult for director Olga Owen to finalise her arrangements. "Nothing is certain either way," she lamented. "The safety of the cast and the audience is our paramount concern."

The Players may have to decide to postpone the pantomime with its large cast yet again. They might substitute another play with a smaller cast for their autumn dates at the Town Hall.

In the meantime follow the Players on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ DulvertonPlayers. They can't wait to get back on the Town Hall stage one way or another.

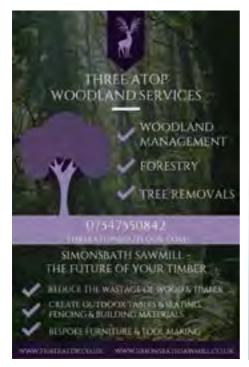


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THE EXMOOR SOCIETY **PINNACLE AWARD**

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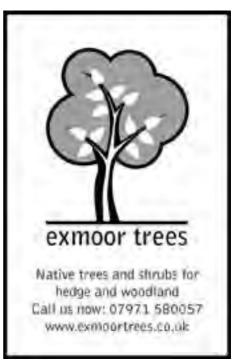
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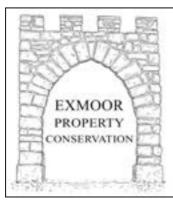
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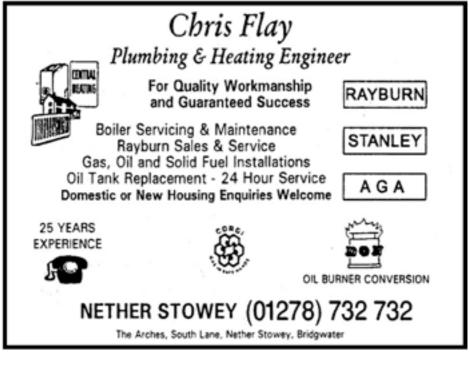
If I want to be rich I should be the director of a company controlling salaries and pensions, or a politician playing with Treasury strings, or a rising star whom everyone loves on a par with an opera singer and a voice to rival Pavarotti. or a football player with sponsor deals vying for my thoughts, my photo, my permission to pander perfume in a visually perfect bottle or an entrepreneur or a pilot or just simply play the computer but - whatever I should be. if I want to be rich I should never simply be a poet.

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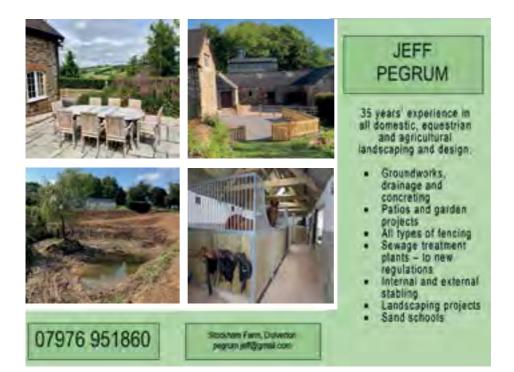
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The Symphony Steppers Strode Out for the Compassionate Friends!

Saturday 10 July dawned a typical, mizzly, Exmoor morning. However, the weather didn't dampen the spirits of the team of 20+ (and dogs Harvey and Molly) who gathered at Exmoor Medical Centre, for our walk from Dulverton to Withypool, via Tarr Steps. Leading the group were Dr Daniel Bunce, (Exmoor Search and Rescue trained) and our Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Stephen Moakes. The rest of us from Exmoor Medical Centre and Lynton Health Centre represented all sectors of busy GP practices: doctors, practice managers, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, nurses, dispensary team, admin and reception. We were also celebrating the new addition of the Lynton team into our umbrella organisation, Symphony Health Services, cheerfully represented on our walk by MD Kerry White. We were walking to support the charity The Compassionate Friends, an organisation which offers peer support to anyone who has lost a child, grandchild or sibling. (More information at www.tcf.org.uk)

Prior to our walk, some of us had been training and we all felt ready for the challenge. There was no pressure on anyone to do the whole 12 or so miles and there were pre-arranged stops where we had a courtesy vehicle pickup, (thanks to Keith Jones, admin team Linda's husband).

We set off just after 9am and followed the steep, leafy route through Burridge woods, dropping down the occasionally vertiginous path alongside the river, to Marsh Bridge. Here a few of us, myself included, begged a lift to Hawkridge, high above Tarr Steps. The rest of the group tackled the long, steep gradient. As we waited in Hawkridge, we encountered a fine example of Exmoor generosity. Not only were we given tea and biscuits by a local resident, but he also kindly donated to our charity!

The group arrived at Hawkridge and off we went again. A 20% gradient descent to Tarr Steps followed. It is arguable whether uphill is better than downhill! At Tarr Steps we took a welcome refreshment and comfort break. The generosity of the Tarr Farm Inn, our largest sponsor,



knows

no bounds, as we were provided with free tea, coffee, soft drinks and ice creams from the trailer down by the river Barle. How very kind!

The next part of our walk was challenging. Trailing mainly upwards from Tarr Steps, the river and rain has washed away some of the pathways. This meant that the going was alternately slippery, rocky, muddy, uneven and generally treacherous underfoot.

The teamwork at this point was fantastic. Dan Bunce's calm instructions and support were gratefully received, and the more able Exmoor and Lynton team members helped and supported those who were struggling. Dr Glen Allaway introduced me to a new term. "We've been bouldering!", he said, as we clambered across the rocks. We all made it across the tricky bits with a sense of relief!

It was not over yet, though, as we then had a steep, grassy hill to climb that brought us up above Withypool. Here the going was quite up and down again, until we eventually emerged on the road that took us down to the Royal Oak. How good those cold drinks tasted! The pub did us proud with food and drink and we all relaxed in the afternoon sunshine; sitting at appropriately socially distanced tables.

Whilst we were walking, I had a conversation with Stephen as he and his friend Abbie gamely supported me down the steepest hill. He said, "When I joined a running club, I was left behind on a run, and when I got back, everyone had gone home. That was a horrible feeling, and I never want anyone else to experience that. So, I am more than happy to bring up the rear on walks and runs." Stephen's words struck a chord with me as they illustrate the team feeling of our workplace. I am sure I speak for both practices when I say that no one gets left behind; everyone is supported, treated with respect and, above all, kindness.

Our walk was a fantastic event. Dr Kelsey Boddington said, "How lovely to see everyone's faces after so long, as we are used to being masked at work. What a great, sociable and supportive atmosphere!"

We easily exceeded our initial funding target of \pm 500 and at the time of writing we have raised in excess of \pm 1,000 for TCF. Thank you everyone! - for your generosity, particularly at such a difficult time for everyone.

Andrea Corrie Medical Secretary/Editor, Exmoor Medical Centre



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Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton TA22 9QE

Wow! What a busy summer we have had here at the Exmoor Pony Centre. It is great to see that whilst Exmoor became a staycation hotspot many of these visitors were keen to find out more about our lovely local Exmoor pony breed. Our amazing staff and volunteers spent many hours in the changeable weather, from blistering heat to torrential downpours, but they did it always with a smile and we are incredibly grateful. We are always keen for more enthusiastic people to join our volunteering team, if you're interested, please get in touch.

Through July and August, it was wonderful to see our pony ambassadors hard at work, and for some this was their first real experience of a busy summer. Ponies such as Borage and Bluebell had been prepared to start their careers in 2020, for obvious reasons this didn't quite happen. However, 2021 has been their year and both ponies have been looking after riders of all ages and abilities over the last few months. Borage loving in particular any fuss or grooming he can get, Bluebell always happy for a canter on the moor, and well to tell the truth she needs the exercise as she struggles with an ever-expanding

waistline!

As Autumn approaches, we are starting to think about our October Half Term events and will of course be offering our ever-popular Wildlife at Night event on 27th & 28th October at 5.30pm. Booking is essential. (We need to know how many marshmallows and hot chocolates to prepare!!) Please keep an eye on our website to follow events and our news.

The Autumn months are also a busy time for the Exmoor pony herds, who will be gathering their ponies in, undergoing health checks, weaning and inspecting foals. We are delighted that many herds are undertaking responsible breeding management practices, however even in these environments there can be unwanted youngstock. This is where the Moorland Mousie Trust comes in. If you are interested in taking on an Exmoor pony in the Autumn, please get in touch. We will be holding handling and training workshops throughout the winter months.

Website: www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheExmoorPonyCentre Email: info@exmoorponycentre.org.uk Tel: 01398 323093



The Dulverton Health Walk Group meet each Tuesday morning at 10am. The walks are completely free, last approx' 11/2 hours & are not particularly strenuous. The group is very friendly & the walks end with a drink & sometimes homemade cake, so why not join us. If you are interested please contact either Richard Clarke on 01398 341141 or richardclarke567@btinternet.com OR Richard Archer on 0777 3160 222 or archerr@hotmail.co.uk



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◊ Malvern Autumn Show Sun 26th Sep £39.00pp including admission

◊ Dartmouth Tue 28th Sep £17.00pp coach only

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◊ Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary & Sidmouth Tue 5th Oct £14.00pp

◊ Westonbirt Arboretum Tue 12th Oct £25.50pp including admission

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Married couple's joy at buying their first home in their 50's

An affordable housing development in Dulverton has brought happiness to one couple's life.

Married couple Jeniffer and Andrew Pooley have expressed their joy at finding happiness in finally owning their own home in their 50's.

Having spent the past 30 years living in private rented accommodation the couple were overjoyed to discover that they were able to get a mortgage on a shared ownership property in rural Dulverton.

Jeniffer Pooley said: "After so many years of renting we didn't think that shared ownership would be available to us, especially not somewhere as beautiful as Dulverton. We feel so lucky to be so near our two grown up sons who live locally, with enough room in our new detached three bed home to have our grandchildren over to stay."

She added: "The whole process of shared ownership was really smooth, it might seem unusual at our age to



be going to the bank for a first mortgage but for us it was the right time and when we could afford it and we are over the moon with taking that leap. We are loving having extra room for our dog who is enjoying the garden, we can walk into the town within 10 minutes but are in such a quiet rural location."

Jeniffer works two jobs, at a local car sales room as a receptionist and as a secretary for a friendly society whilst husband Andrew works for a local removals company. The couple have lived in nearby Crediton for the past 10 years and were quick to find out more information as soon as the LiveWest shared ownership homes were advertised.

Barnes Close Mead is a new scheme which provides 18 affordable homes — six for shared ownership, six for social rent and six for affordable rent. A number have a local occupancy tie, meaning they must be lived in by someone with links to the area.

LiveWest is set to build 758 homes in rural areas across the South West over the next two years.

LiveWest has invested more than £33m in rural homes during the last financial year having built 219 homes in rural areas.

The total is made up of 87 homes built in Cornwall, 67 in Devon, 43 in Somerset and 22 in the West of England.

In the next 12 months, LiveWest is planning to develop 56 homes in Cornwall, 116 in Devon, 180 in Somerset, eight in the West of England and an additional 10 in other areas.

It means around a third of LiveWest's development programme centres around rural housing.

The South West's largest housing association, LiveWest, teamed up with Woofenden Construction to deliver the homes in Dulverton.

Sally Bryant, Senior Development Manager for LiveWest, said: ""We are delighted to have worked with Woofenden Construction for the first time to deliver 18 high quality homes for Shared Ownership and Rent in the rural parish of Dulverton.

"We are extremely pleased to have offered these beautifully presented homes to local people. This development comprises of one, two and three-bedroom homes to accommodate a range of family sizes.

"A few features of this development include Air Source

heating system, contemporary looking exterior all situated within a scenic location, not far from Tarr Steps in Exmoor National Park.

"It has been great to see this stunning scheme come together and we hope the residents moving into these properties will be extremely happy here."

Air Source heat pumps are designed to draw air from outside and convert it into heat which transfers to radiators inside the property.

They are generally cheaper to run, better for the environment and do not need any fuel storage.

The development benefitted from grant-funding from government housing agency Homes England and LiveWest worked closely alongside Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT) and Exmoor National Park Authority to develop the site and support those applying for a home under the National Park's local occupancy tie policy.

Cllr Fran Smith, Executive Member for Housing at SWT, said: "Affordable housing is vital for the survival of our rural communities and forms a key part of our corporate strategy to increase the number of affordable and social homes in our urban towns, rural and coastal communities

"This superb development has enabled local people from Dulverton and surrounding villages to stay in the area in well-built and economical properties that will remain affordable into the future.

"I congratulate LiveWest and Exmoor National Park on this successful development."

Steven Pugsley, Chair of Planning at Exmoor National Park Authority, said: "Congratulations to the occupants of these new homes, who we hope will find much

happiness in being able to stay living locally in one of the country's finest rural landscapes.

"The generally higher cost of housing in national parks can put a squeeze on people being able to live near work and family. To help, our planning policies are geared to ensure new affordable housing is built where we know the need is greatest, with an appropriate amount ringfenced for local people.

"Thanks to grant funding from Somerset West and Taunton Council, we're also fortunate to now have a dedicated rural housing enabler working in the Somerset part of the National Park to achieve a pipeline of new affordable homes and support custom and selfbuilders locally.

"We hope this will lead to more successful partnerships like this one with Live West and Somerset West and Taunton, to help deliver quality, affordable homes exactly where they are needed."

David Coombes, Operations Manager for Woofenden Construction, said: "As a family run business based in a small rural village, we understand the importance of providing both affordable and guality accommodation for families.

"We are delighted to have had the opportunity to work with LiveWest to deliver a project of this nature.

"The idea of providing quality, sustainable & affordable housing in areas such as Dulverton is an excellent example of what can be achieved.

"Working in Exmoor National Park has been a tremendous pleasure and I hope the new residents appreciate the beautiful surrounds as much as we did."

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A Dog's Day Out – Mad Dogs and Englishmen

I can't write a column

today Honey, I'm ill. I've been laying like this on a bed for weeks listening to the world go by. "Have you had your test results back?" Not yet and I've had enough pins and needles stuck in me and tubes shoved up my rear end, it's no wonder I'm deflated. "Poppy's test has come back! She's having babies." Not again! She's only just had four last year. Is it the same father? "She didn't say but she is very happy. Do you think you've been ping'd Buddy? Poppy said everyone is at home because they've been ping'd and our bin men didn't come last week - short of staff they said they're all ping'd." Hmmm, Poppy should come and write my column. What else have I missed? "Mr. Wilson's black lab has been caught taking the tennis balls again from the display stand outside the shop and Mrs. Wilson said that he didn't know he had to pay for them. In any case he doesn't have any money. Oh and Daisy is staying with her neighbour up the road for two weeks as her passport's not valid anymore and she's not allowed to travel abroad without it." Groan - that's a shame. I think I'll go and lie in the sun now..

Buddy Brown (pure Jack Russell) a roving reporter

The DWLCT Arts & Kinetic Sculpture Exhibition concluded successfully this year on 31st July with over 1,000 leaflet guides being picked up by town visitors who could be seen viewing the exhibits whilst at the same time exploring the town.

Plans are in hand to repeat the event next year

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EXMOOR

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EXMOOR VISITORS URGED TO BUY LOCAL

With high levels of visitors travelling to Exmoor this summer, Exmoor National Park Authority and Visit Exmoor are behind a campaign encouraging people to think before they shop, and to spend their holiday cash on locally produced foods and gifts.

Dan James, Rural Enterprise Manager at Exmoor National Park Authority, said: "Even before the pandemic, visitors to Exmoor were spending £42 million on food, drink and shopping every year. Directing more of these purchases towards local produce could be of huge benefit to our rural economy."

Cally Elston, Marketing Manager for Visit Exmoor, said: "This campaign supports our incredible local producers and retailers across greater Exmoor. We want to remind visitors coming to the area this summer of the wonderful products available to them, the merits of shopping local, and how this supports our rural economy.

"Not only can visitors enjoy local produce whilst they are staying here in Exmoor, but they can also stock up and take a taste of Exmoor home with them, as gifts for friends and family or to enjoy themselves as a reminder of their time here!"

Katrina Munro, Sustainable Economy Officer at Exmoor National Park Authority, said: "A series of film clips and social media posts encourage visitors to Buy Local and support our producers. We've supplied posters and display materials to local shops and pubs, to make Exmoor produce easier to identify. You can get a real taste of Exmoor by choosing our grass-fed lamb or beef, or how about our locally produced ice cream, tea or gin? As well as exploring local independent shops, visitors can find a range of Exmoor gift items on sale in our National Park Centres."



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"This summer campaign is part of a larger Eat Exmoor project, which recognises the value of buying local to the rural economy, the reduction in food miles and carbon footprint, as well as benefits to the landscape and animal welfare," added Katrina.

Victoria Eveleigh, whose family has run West Ilkerton Farm near Lynton for three generations, is featured in one of the campaign's short films. "Animal welfare, working with nature and producing good food are our top priorities, and that's why we keep local breeds that are suited to the area," she said. "If you buy beef and lamb from farms on Exmoor you will help to sustain the traditional economy and landscape of the National Park. Also, you really will Eat Exmoor."

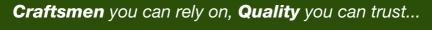
More details on the project can be found at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/eat-exmoor



The Big Cheese in Porlock is one of many businesses displaying the new 'Produced in Exmoor' branding.









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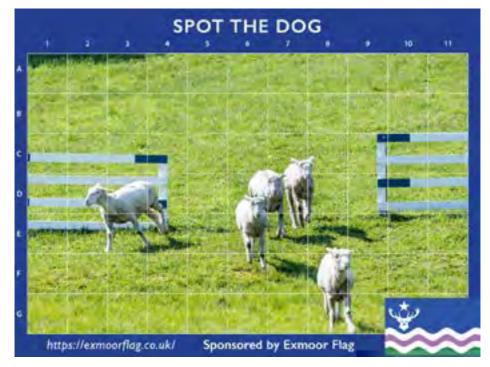
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Details shown in the next issue of the Exmoor News. Good luck.



The competition result from the July/ August issue is shown here. Nobody got it this time but a few were very close, again!



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| 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 | 01884 250417 | | |
| ARTS | | | | |
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| Dulverton Art Group: Sec: Mrs G Rose, 2 Stable Mev | | 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 | | |
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| Bridgetown Cricket: Sec: Mr. D. Sherring, Mid-Wick | et, Bridgetown, Dulverton IA22 9JN admir | - |
| Brushford Short Mat Bowling: Sec: Sam Takle | | 01398 324147 |
| Cutcombe Cricket: Sec: Mrs Maria Adams, 1 The Be | | 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: Carl Hooper | dulvertoncricketclub1858@gmail.com (| 07866 256769/01398 324494 |
| Dulverton Cricket Club, Colts: Mrs Christine Dube | ry | 01398 323474 |
| Dulverton & District Tennis Club: Hazel Richardso | n hazelr@btinternet.com | 07889793571 |
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| Dulverton Sportsfield Management: Adrian Smit | th | 01398 323834 |
| Dulverton Senior Table Tennis: Richard Archer | | 01398 324160 |
| Dulverton Town F.C: Sec: Mr. J. Atkins, 1 Exebridge | e, Dulverton. TA22 9AY | 01398 323787 |
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| Anstey Parent and Toddlers Group: E A School | | 01398 341369 |
| Little Owls Nursery at All Saints C of E School, D | ulverton | 01398 324360 |
| SCHOOLS | | |
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| Dulverton Junior School: Barns Close West, TA22 | | 01398 323223 |
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| Dulverton Family and Toddlers Group: | | 01398 324329 |
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| Dulverton & District Civic Soc: Kathy Currie | |
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