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November/December 2021





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It's that time of year when it's a bit frosty and glorious walks beckon us. If you don't fancy that why not think about a keepsake book. We have been publishing them for authors and it's a delight to read their life stories - and what a fascinating and busy lot you all are. The books cover a range of subjects, from farming to life through WW2, from London's East End to history in the landscape. Get in touch if you want to find out more.



At *Exmoor News* we very much appreciate the people who deliver our magazine and those shops, garages, post offices and pubs etc. who take copies for us. A big THANK YOU. And of course thank you to our advertisers who make *Exmoor News* happen.

Ceri designed the cover, I think we thought of everything but if anything is missing it's her call! Thanks for reading and here is to a good 2022.

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: © Ceri Keene



The deadline for the January/February 2022 issue of the Exmoor News is

Thursday 2nd December 2021

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Meet at Fishers Mead Community Centre
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commencing 10 am for 10.30 start
Wednesday 24th November
'MASTER THATCHER' A talk by Keith Payne
There is no meeting in December
Non members welcome at £2

VINTAGE FILM CLUB

Wed 10th November
COCO BEFORE CHANEL
starring Audrey Tautou (2009)

Wed 8th December
HOLIDAY INN
starring Bing Crosby & Fred Astaire (1942)

2.30 pm at Fishers Mead Community Centre

DULVERTON ACTION GROUP

Litter-picking (3rd Sunday)

Sunday 21st November
Sunday 19th December

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

Exmoor Piano Group

The Exmoor Piano Group will be holding another of their popular concerts at All Saints Church on Saturday 27th November at 7.30.-9.30pm. Short pieces, both well known and unfamiliar, a few surprises and a very large number of performers!

Entrance is free with the opportunity to donate to St Margaret's Hospice, this year's chosen charity. Refreshment bar as usual.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 14th November, 10.45am
at All Saints Church Dulverton

Representatives of the local branch of the Royal British Legion will lay wreaths at the Dulverton war memorial during a private ceremony on Thursday 15th November at 11am.



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The Regal Theatre, Minehead

It is truly 'open for business' once again, with a busy programme of live theatre, concerts, films and live screenings booked, and new events being added to the Programme almost daily, including plans for virtual Gallery Tours and Talks from some high profile speakers.

Forthcoming events include two screenings of the *Cliff Richard Great 80 Tour* (6th Nov) and the excitement of 007 in *No Time To Die* on Nov 26th, with various films, plays and concerts in-between.

For details of what's on, do visit the Theatre website at www.regaltheatre.co.uk.

Tickets can once again be booked on line, or via the Box Office 01643 706430, open Monday to Saturday 9.30 -12 noon; the Box Office can also be contacted by phone only from 1.30 – 4pm Monday to Saturday.

It's wonderful to be reconnecting with audiences – old and new! – after so many months of lockdown. And to be welcoming new volunteers bringing skills and enthusiasm to the Regal Theatre. But we do need to find a new treasurer as our current Treasurer gets ready to stand down after many years of managing our finances quite brilliantly.

If you're interested in any aspect of volunteering with the Theatre, do drop a line to volunteer@regaltheatre.co.uk or call 01643 706430 or 01643 703921.



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How property programmes have changed who now buys properties for restoration

When I first started back in 1984, we used to work on the basis that, on average, once a month, a derelict property or home requiring major restoration would come up for sale. In those days, programmes such as *To Buy or Not to Buy* (BBC1), *Location, Location, Location* (Channel 4), *Escape to the Country* (BBC 1 and 2) and *Homes under the Hammer* (UK TV Style) amongst many others just didn't exist and, as a result, many properties requiring modernisation or restoration were more often than not sold to a developer who had the skills and experience to modernise and then re-sell the property. The major difference meant, that a developer needed to make a profit and as a result, had to offer accordingly when purchasing the property in the first place.

36/37 years later so much has changed and, in truth for the better for the owner selling any property that requires such extensive work. 20 plus years of property restoration programmes have created their own dynamic within the property world, to the extent that when a single property comes up for sale requiring either general modernisation or even full blown historical restoration a developer almost never has the chance to buy the property, with private buyers seriously out bidding any developer by many tens of thousands of pounds as a bare minimum.

So why is this? Buyers these days feel far more comfortable about taking on a project to do up, in part facilitated by the past few decades of TV programmes giving them confidence that modernising properties is no longer the sole prevail of builders and developers.

So what does this mean to you the seller? In a nutshell it means that the price that you achieve for your property is no longer at a reduced rate to accommodate for the developer needing to (not unreasonably) make a profit for their efforts. Buyers now are not only paying full price but also, in many cases, paying an enhanced premium to secure the property that they want to live in and then spend the next 2/5/10 years restoring and as a result pay prices that

would historically have been completely unachievable.

Three recent examples marketed by our Dulverton office include Bungslad Farm, a derelict Grade II* Listed home set in 58 acres. 13 genuine buyers viewed, multiple private buyers bid by Informal Tender, eventual agreed price substantially in excess of the Guide Price. Hawtree House - 19 genuine buyers viewed, multiple sealed bids received and at the time of writing this article offers substantially in excess of the asking price received. Finally "Bullseye", a well known landmark also offered for sale by Informal Tender with 12 genuine buyers viewing and a sale agreed in excess of the Guide price.

If you have a property that requires modernisation or even total restoration, then do give our local Dulverton office a call on 01398 323271 as we would be delighted to show you how to achieve the very best price possible for your home.



Bungslad



Hawtree

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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Wednesday – 9.30am Fitness Pilates
12pm Body Conditioning

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The market is also on the lookout for quality local musicians, performers and groups who are keen to share their talents.

For more details, call market manager Jim Bray on 07815 791191 or e-mail him at jbray@middevon.gov.uk. Alternatively, follow the market on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TivertonMarket.

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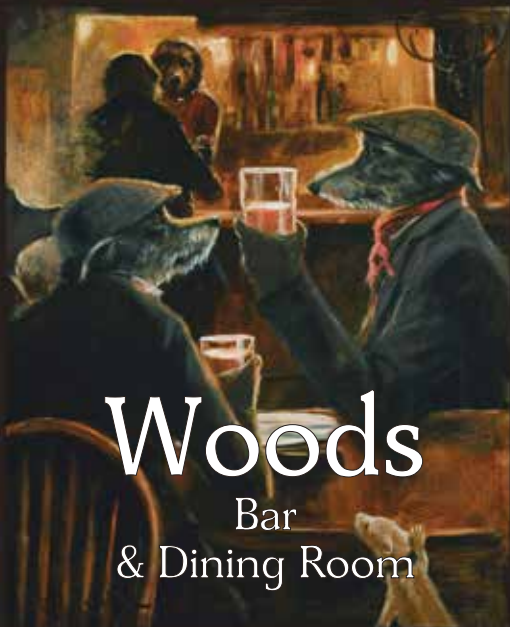
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The Wine Merchant's Tale

You might be forgiven for thinking that opening a shop during a pandemic, and just before the country's second Covid-19 lockdown, was something of a gamble. But, according to Nick Payne, the owner of Corks and Cru, it was a risk worth taking. His Bampton shop, which sells fine wines, craft beers, ciders, spirits, a non-alcoholic range, and gifts, has now been open for just over a year and has exceeded all expectations.

Deep local roots – Nick grew up near Morebath – have helped, as has his knowledge of retailing; his family owned Bampton's popular bakery, Bawden's, for almost 75 years from 1939. Nick worked in the bakery when he was at school and in 2011, aged just 21, took over the business. 'Running a bakery is a very demanding, 23-hour a day operation,' explains Nick. 'The shop lease was due to expire in 2018 and I was beginning to think about changing direction.' So he took a couple of years out, working in other jobs, while planning a different future.

Nick had always been interested in wine and he and his wife, Vikki, enjoyed going to vineyards and wine shops while on holiday. A visit to a Cornish wine merchant proved particularly inspiring. Bampton, thought Nick, would be the ideal location for something similar. 'People drive for miles to shop here,' he said. 'Our independent retailers – butcher, baker, greengrocer – are a real draw. I'd always loved running a shop, so why not become a wine merchant?' It was a smart move: in the past decade, Bampton has also become something of a foodie destination for local people and visitors, with excellent restaurants, whose customers appreciate good wine (unlike the guests at *Fawlty Towers*, according to Basil...)

'Fine wine has a story, a history; there's a family behind it and a passion,' says Nick, who developed his existing knowledge by attending courses run by wine expert and consultant sommelier, Rebecca Mitchell. 'There is always something new to learn,' he says. It is one of the things he loves most about the world of wine.



Nick Payne of Corks and Cru

Despite the success of Corks and Cru, including online sales, the past year has not been without its challenges: Covid-19, changes in border regulations, a shortage of HGV drivers, and interruptions to fuel supplies. Deliveries from Europe that once took four weeks now take 12; forward planning means constant adjustments to ensure well-stocked shelves.

Customer service is a priority: welcoming people, getting to know individual preferences, and helping with recommendations. So we asked Nick what wines he would serve with a traditional Christmas Day dinner? 'Start with a sparkling Burgundy Crémant, it goes with everything,' he suggests. 'Then, depending on your main course, either a Californian Chardonnay if you want white or, if red, a young Burgundy or an aged Rioja or Barolo. And to accompany a rich pudding, a Spanish Moscatel or a 6 Puttonyos Tokaji.'

As Robert Louis Stevenson once remarked, 'Wine is bottled poetry.'

Corks and Cru, 19 Fore Street, Bampton, Devon EX16 9ND <https://corksandcru.co.uk/>

Diane Trembath

Identical 'toe' stones are clearly visible in a section of the weir in the open air which can be viewed from Northmoor Road if standing next to the sluice gates.

Archaeological Dig on Dulverton Weir

DWLCT volunteers recently joined North Devon Archaeological Society in a 4 day archaeological dig on Dulverton Weir, uncovering a large number of artefacts which will need further study.



Trench two revealed nothing of the weir structure, although a lot of other items (mainly fragments of Victorian pottery and glass were found) this is something of a mystery and further investigation will be necessary.

Two trenches were dug to learn more about the weir structure buried under the island adjacent to the sluice gates in Northmoor Road (at the southernmost end of the visible weir structure).

Trench one confirmed the position of the built structure complete with a 'toe' stone at the base of the weir.



North Devon Archaeological Society will, in due course, be publishing a full report and later this year the Trust plans to hold an 'Open Day' event in Dulverton Library to share the report and show artefacts found.

The Trust thanks you for your continued support

DULVERTON HEALTH WALKS



Our very friendly Group meet each Tuesday morning at 10am at various locations. The photo shows the Group on a warm sunny day at Selworthy.

We spend an hour or so walking our glorious countryside. The walks are not particularly difficult and we stop frequently to 'catch up' and to admire the beautiful terrain, and occasionally - wildlife.

If you would like to join us, please contact either:

Richard Clarke on
01398 341141 or -
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Exmoor Young Voices Update Summer '21.

Self Build Project. EYV has started a pilot project for 6 young couples to self build quality homes. Property prices and rents have soared even further beyond young people's reach during C19. Financial help is vital to sustain essential, young, Exmoor knowledge, skills and experience. EYV can access self build land, loans and



grants, training, an experienced Exmoor self builder as project leader, a pro bono lawyer to advise on loan arrangements, and planning support from the National Park. A team approach ensures economies of scale for the self builders, especially in sharing skills and purchasing materials. <https://www.exmooryoungvoices.org/eyv-self-build.html>

Finance. EYV has established a partnership with Lendology who are able to source grants and loans from local authorities for local needs housing. EYV also has a private Foundation grant of £20,000, starting a small loan fund for deposits on land, purchase of materials, architects' drawings, planning negotiations etc. The target for this fund is £100,000. The self build project commences September 2021.

Exmoor Summit. Young people's housing needs are urgent. Councils and Housing Associations must make young people a priority if they want them to stay and work. This is the most aged district in England already. EYV invited all 9 of Exmoor's County, District, Park, and Housing Authorities, before C19 struck, to explore what pledges they could make to secure a future for young workers on Exmoor. The postponed recall of that event, a groundbreaking partnership including local charities and young EYV Members, will take place this autumn if C19 subsidies sufficiently for an effective Summit to take place.

Problems. EYV has helped 15 young families recently to overcome (apparently) insurmountable blocks and barriers to their housing needs. The system for housing young people on Exmoor needs urgent attention. Two local families, who all agencies agree have vital housing need right now, are still blocked a year later. The costs in time, money and advisors is disproportionate.

Homefinder, the Local Authority/National Park registration process, and website, have both been improved, with EYV members' advice. It is much better but still difficult for many. EYV supports applicants to register, while also monitoring less visible housing needs.

Effective Broadband. EYV Members have been championing vital improvements. This is a slow, cumbersome process, inhibiting business and public life in the National Park.

CPRE. EYV Chair advises on rural, and especially National Park, needs.

Support. EYV Members have also addressed Parliament, BBC, Countryfile, radio, ITV, all of Exmoor's 56 public Authorities, and secured the professional services of nine professional advisors in housing, planning, self building, IT, travel, training, enterprise, employment, charity law, and funding. All are long term, local residents themselves steeped in the issues young people face on Exmoor.

Exmoor is the only National Park with an advisory Charity of young residents and workers. EYV has received the Exmoor National Park's Partnership Award for its 10 years work.

EYV Chair: William Lock exmooryoungvoices@hotmail.com

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Dulverton Town Hall

Friday November 5th
Director: Paul Morrison

23 WALKS (Cert 12A)

102mins

A complex, tender and heart-warming comedy drama about finding love later in life. Dave (Dave Johns) and Fern (Alison Steadman), two older strangers, have been bruised by their individual circumstances. They meet walking their dogs in a London park, and over the course of twenty-three walks together the romance begins to blossom. But Dave and Fern haven't been completely honest with one another and their future together may be threatened by the secrets they have withheld. Set against the dramatic background of the changing seasons of one year.

Friday November 19th
Director: Gillies MacKinnin

HE LAST BUS (Cert 12A)

86 mins

A heart-warming tale of Tom (Timothy Spall), a pensioner whose wife, Mary (Phyllis Logan), has just passed away, who travels from Britain's most Northerly point, John O'Groats, to his original home town at its most Southerly point, Land's End, using his free local bus pass. He carries with him his wife's ashes in a small suitcase, travelling the length of the country to take her back home. Along the way, his adventures are recorded by the people he meets and helps, and by the end of his trip he has unwittingly become a social media celebrity.

Friday December 3rd A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD (Cert PG)

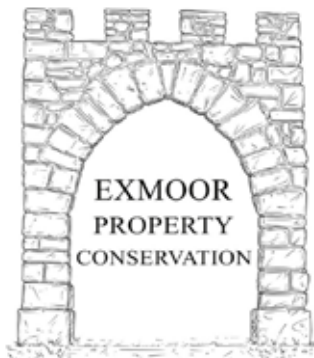
Director: Marielle Heller

108 mins

Tom Hanks portrays Mr Rogers in a timely story of kindness triumphing over cynicism, based on the true story of a real-life friendship. Lloyd Vogel, a cynical investigative journalist, receives an assignment to profile him. He approaches the interview with scepticism, as he finds it hard to believe that anyone can have such a good nature.

But Roger's empathy, kindness and decency soon chips away at Vogel's jaded outlook on life, forcing the reporter to reconcile with his own painful past. With time, the two strike an unlikely friendship.

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.



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Protecting Hedgehogs

Lisa Chapman- Hedgehog & Bird Rescue on Exmoor.

Hedgehogs are mostly insect eaters and their natural diet consists of beetles, caterpillars and earthworms, hence being known as the Gardener's Friend. Most people will often put out a bowl of food for them, either wet pet food or kitten biscuits to supplement their own natural diet which they will always accept and enjoy. Always remember though that the traditional bowl of milk that we used to put out when we were children is now a definite No No as they are intolerant to lactose and of course I must point out that Mealworms do a great deal of damage to their bones, so always be careful and check if you are not sure on what is good or bad for them. Ensure there is always a good supply of water for them to drink, no matter what the weather.

You can make your garden Hedgehog friendly by ensuring they can access all areas, a hedgehog highway between gardens is an excellent start. They like to hibernate and shelter in dry areas, such as leaf piles, or under sheds and in hedgerows. If you are cutting grass, strimming or generally tidying up areas of your garden, please make sure you check before you start as they can be easy to miss, especially take care if you intend to burn any garden material as they may be in the pile you are about to light. Slug Pellets are poisonous and should not be used. If absolutely necessary, pellets should be placed in a pipe or under a slate that hedgehogs cannot get to. Dead slugs removed daily. It will be illegal to use metaldehyde slug pellets in the UK from April 2022 and it is already illegal to sell them. Be aware of any water such as ponds or pools as if they fall in they may not be able to get back out without a little ramp or slope. Keep an eye on rubbish that may be accumulating as they can easily get caught up in nets, bags and more often plastic rings from can/tin packs. You can easily make a Hedgehog house for hibernation, there are plenty of ideas online, even an upside down plastic container with a small cut out door, some hay and food will attract them to set up

camp. Hibernation usually occurs between November and mid-March. Hedgehogs can give birth to their young later in the year, this leaves the little ones with not a lot of time to build up to their optimum weight before they hibernate. A good weight for hibernation is around 450-600gms or more. If you ever come across a lone Hedgehog, or one that is small or underweight or is out during the day, then we need to make sure that they are brought to a rescue as soon as possible as they are more than likely unwell or need some extra assistance. I can do this by ensuring their weights are checked, they have the correct medication if needed and giving them the right diet and any other help that they need. I will then release back to the wild when I am absolutely certain they are ready.

I am absolutely passionate and determined in my role to rescue, rehabilitate and release as many Hedgehogs that are brought to me, back to where they came from. We are close to losing these beautiful, placid, wonderful creatures and I feel everyone seems to be more aware of not only the issues these little guys face everyday, be it environmental or otherwise, but are wanting to be able to help and look after them. We have a great opportunity, through making little changes here and there, keeping an eye on them when they are in our gardens and generally being more aware of their presence, to ensure that they not only survive, but begin to thrive again in our beautiful natural world.

If you would like to support the rescue or the work that we do, donations are always welcome and you can do this by visiting our facebook group; Spikes and Feathers Rescue.

For more information you can contact the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. I can be contacted on: 07980 956636 or through my Facebook group.



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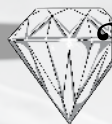


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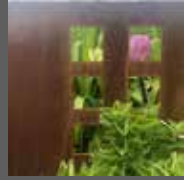
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THE RETURN OF THE DULVERTON PLAYERS!

Weds 10th to Sat 13th November 7.30 pm at Dulverton Town Hall.

Although *Dick Whittington* is postponed until April, the Players are returning very soon to perform two hilarious one act comedies written by David Tristram *Last Tango in Little Grimley* and *Lockdown in Little Grimley*.

The hugely popular Grimley series follows the antics of a hapless Amateur Dramatic Society desperate for audiences. 'There's only one thing that sells tickets these days,' argues Gordon the Chairman. 'Sex.' Thus begins the chaotic and hugely funny build up to an evening of extraordinary drama. In "Lockdown" Gordon calls an emergency meeting to discuss his idea for their next production when restrictions ease - a touching love story set in a hospital, with all profits destined for the NHS.

But based on their previous efforts will the NHS actually end up worse off?

You can be sure of a good evening's entertainment which brings many of our well known favourite actors back to the stage.

Tickets are on sale at Dulverton Post Office. 01398 323474



The 5th Exmoor Open Water Swim took place this year on 26/09/21.

Exmoor Open Water Swim has become one of the most popular swims in the South West. Taking place on the edge of Exmoor, in the stunning Wimbleball Lake, it attracts top athletes from all of the UK, the more recreational swimmer, and a massive amount of "newbies" to open water swimming. There were 920 participants, the most that have ever participated, who enjoyed the relatively warm air and water temperature. They were able to choose between the Elite 6km, the 4km, 2km and 1km distance.

We welcomed 10 year olds to 81 year olds, seasoned athletes to first timers. Due to the pandemic it was a socially distanced event where everyone could enjoy their race in a safe environment. Entries for 2022 are now open at www.exmoorswim.co.uk taking place on 25/09/22, so don't miss out, get involved, and if you want to marshal, please contact mike : mike@exmoorswim.co.uk



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OCEAN EXPLORERS SUMMER SUCCESS FOR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHARITY

PLASTIC FREE NORTH DEVON TAKE OVER 2500 PEOPLE ON A VIRTUAL DIVING EXPERIENCE WITH SEALS AT LUNDY ISLAND THIS SUMMER THROUGH THEIR OCEAN EXPLORER PROJECT

Local charity Plastic Free North Devon (PFND) aims to connect people with their natural surroundings through conversations, education and events, to inspire locals and visitors alike to protect what our very existence depends on. The charity's Ocean Explorer educational outreach project sits right at the heart of their mission to increase care and stewardship over the natural world by using education alongside real-life experiences, an approach summed up by Sir David Attenborough: "No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced".

Setting the foundations in July, the charity took 16 carefully selected Year 9 students from across North Devon to Lundy Island to experience first hand the nature on our doorstep. Half of them went on a snorkeling safari, and the other half went on a sea safari around the island. The assistant Lundy ranger joined both groups of children, providing an insight into the work that goes on and her route into the conservation sector. As part of the programme, all students were then asked to be part of the charity's Ocean Explorer summer outreach and present back to their school about their experience, giving them a deeper understanding of the work of the charity and empowering them to act within their own lives.

After these successful trips, the Ocean Explorer Ambassadors and volunteers took the message out into the community using virtual reality diving experiences, storytelling, rockpool ID, citizen science research, story time, face painting, Ocean Explorer caricatures, beach and park cleans, dry aquarium, seaside yoga, and arts and crafts. A range of locations across North Devon and Torridge welcomed the Ocean Explorer interactive experience over the summer, including: Birdman Festival Ilfracombe, On The Road music festival, Clovelly Maritime Festival, Lynmouth Visitor Centre, Torrington Commons, Milky Way, and various local parks and beaches, with over £800 raised through donations and raffle tickets, enabling the charity to continue their vital work in the local community.

Chloe Lovelass, Ocean Explorer Ambassador, explained the importance of the project:

"There are so many threats to our marine environment, from the clearly visible plastic pollution to the growing climate emergency. We have really enjoyed inspiring people to look after the fragile ecosystems that support us all and show people just how amazing the nature on our doorstep is, how it supports us and how we can all do things to look after it."

The virtual reality underwater adventures, featuring a dive off the coast of Lundy and encountering the local grey seal population, were experienced by around 2500 visitors and locals, eliciting numerous 'wows' and 'gasps'. Visitors were then signposted to many of the different ways that they can get involved with protecting our environment; from careers, to volunteering, relevant petitions and campaigns, extra learning, and local organisations doing amazing things.

Anne-Marie Eveleigh, Operations Manager summed up the last six weeks:

“We are really pleased with how the Ocean Explorers project has played out this summer. After over a year of hiccups due to Covid 19 it was fantastic to be back out talking and inspiring people to protect what we all love. We were able to recruit a new cohort of Ocean Explorer volunteers who were invaluable in assisting the ambassadors and we will be building on how well the summer went by heading to community groups across North Devon to reach everyone with our messaging.”

Volunteering formed a significant and valuable part of the summer’s activities, empowering students and other Ocean Explorer volunteers to help run the project, learning new skills and advocating for the environment. 65% of the Year 9 students volunteered with the project contributing nearly 100 hours and 12 Ocean Explorer Volunteers contributed over 150 hours to the project.

Plastic Free North Devon and their Ocean Explorers are now looking to connect with local community groups, youth clubs, scouts, guides and brownies etc to continue to deliver their outreach into the Autumn and beyond through structured workshops, drop-in sessions, and talks. Any local groups interested in taking part in this new phase of the project, or local businesses able to support it, please email plasticfreenorthdevon@gmail.com.

This project is made possible thanks to the following generous funders: The North Devon Coast AONB Sustainable Development Fund, Badur Foundation, Fullabrook CIC, holidaycottages.co.uk, Pickwell Foundation, Turnstyle Designs, and Garfield Weston Foundation.

Plastic Free North Devon is a registered charity (Reg No: 1182464) and local environmental movement started by volunteers who want to reduce the impact of plastic pollution on the environment in North Devon and beyond. Working with local councils, community groups, businesses, schools, residents and visitors we aim to raise awareness of the issue, reduce the amount of plastic consumed, clear waste plastic from the environment and ensure that it is recycled or disposed of appropriately.

PFND Ocean Explorer Project Overview:

The Ocean Explorer project for 2021 was divided into two parts: a virtual reality experience in our interactive hub and an exciting Lundy experience for a selected group of year 9 students from schools across North Devon. The project sought to deliver an engaging and informative education programme to local communities that:

- Improves understanding of the natural ocean environment and its importance by encouraging a life-long love of nature
- Introduces the main impacts of human activity on the planet
- Inspires further self-learning about nature and encourages more sustainable lifestyle choices
- Encourages volunteering in northern Devon and beyond
- Encourages everyone to feel that they can be part of environmental conversation

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Ocean Explorer Project Summer 2021



Blister Winds Come Christmas

(one for the children to enjoy – and you to enjoy reading aloud)

From the bell-bottomed blister winds of the north heat-eating wild
to the freshly fallen snow on the carapace slug;
from the fresh friendly face of the little pink snail
to the white winter flight of the butterfly moth
lay the weather-beaten path where the jibberbird flew
and the jibberbird searched for its jibberbird babe
blown from its jibberbird nest
by the bell-bottomed winds of the heat-eating wild.

The jibberbird flew through the heat of the East
where the sun crisped the days and the beasts of the field
shook flies from their eyes in the shadow green shade
and the jibberbird flew through the months of the spring
and the months of year 'til one day it sat
and wished in its breast that one day -
perhaps just one day, it would be reunited
with its jibberbird babe.

Each sad day it sat and each sad night it sat
until all the sad weeks had passed
and all the sad months had passed
and the world grew white and the world grew cold
and the frost of the north rolled over the land
and suddenly saw how the jibberbird mourned
for its babe.

Then the frozen north and the frozen south
sent for the wailing wondrous winds
and along came a spider from its dusty spider's web
crawling slowly 'neath the richly carved branch of the great forest oak
and he carried the red of a magic man's cloak
and he brought the wondrous white of the magic man's hat
and told of the deer as they flew through the night
with a whisk and a spin of their wind whipping tails
and the magical flash that happened to pass on the tip of their horns.

For this was the night when the wishes of the good could be granted
and tonight all agreed that the greatest in need
was the plight of the good jibberbird
who had sought its tiny babe in the heat of the East -
and so on Christmas night, they would make it all come right
and it would be found
'neath the rich twinkled light of a fairy's young breath.

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Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton TA22 9QE

After a busy end to our visitor season at the Exmoor Pony Centre, we are refocusing our workload to foals and fundraising! Throughout the Autumn, mostly in October, the moorland herds of Exmoor ponies have been gathered in and the ponies checked over. The herd owners then decide which foals they may keep for future breeding and which foals need to find new homes. In an ideal world all the foals would find new homes with buyers who are looking forward to the fun and rewarding experience of handling and training a young Exmoor pony. Sadly, not all of the annual foal crop find a buyer and that is where the work of the Moorland Mousie Trust and Exmoor Pony Centre comes in. Our charity takes these unsold foals who are mostly colts (boys) and we handle and neuter them, preparing them for future lives away from the moor. You may wonder why these unsold ponies cannot merely return to their herd, well as many of the unsold ponies are boys they cannot return to the herd as that may allow inbreeding between the young boys and their female relatives.

Foal Handling time at the Exmoor Pony Centre is an amazing experience and we encourage people to get in touch and book an appointment to visit us and of course to join in on our Foal Handling Course during November/ December. It's always a day to remember so call quick to see if there are any spaces still available.

The Autumn months are always a good time to catch up with our MMT ponies all over the country to undertake a formal health check before Winter and to ensure all is well around the various foster and grazing sites. Linzi headed up to the North-East of England back in September to see some of our grazing herds and what a fabulous place it is for our ponies to live. Linzi was pleased to report that all the ponies were happy and healthy, with our Exmoor based ponies in comparison definitely looking a little more winter ready than their northern counterparts!

Luckily becoming winter ready is an important part of our ridden ponies' yearly routine, with many of our hard working visitor centre team heading off to kick up their heels and have a well-earned break. Don't worry if Almond is your favourite or maybe Winston is, they will be back in the Spring to say hello to everyone once we re-open.

Don't forget you can support us by buying gifts from our shop. Throughout the Winter we will be onsite at the centre so give us a call and either arrange a time to collect your shopping or we can post it to you. We also have an online shop on our website so have a look at our lovely Exmoor pony themed items. We have 2022 Calendars and all your last-minute Christmas cards and gifts. Our Adopt a Pony scheme is always a big hit when given as a pressie!

Wishing everyone a wonderful festive season.

Website: www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk

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A Dog's Day Out – Granny Takes a Trip

Heh up, we're off again Honey. She's getting her big bags out and lining them up. Look, it's definite, those are our dinner bowls in that one. Has she said anything to you? 'Ni una palabra.' Another mystery tour then. What is she putting in that one on the bed? 'Best clothes and matching underwear.' Cripes! We're going to a hotel again. Do you remember the last place we stayed in? What did she call it? *Fawltly Towers*. People were kind to us there and the gravy on the Sunday roast was the best I've ever tasted. Perhaps she liked it too and we are going back for more.

What's over there in that one? 'Egg boxes; empty ones.' Aha! We're stopping to see cousin Percy and Millie on the way. I got on really well with Percy last time, he let me roll on his best carpet and share his left over barbecue sausages. So we're definitely going on a long ride in the car. 'There's shiny boxes and coloured ribbons in that bag too.' Oh my, it can't be Christmas! It's too early! I haven't posted my letter to Santa yet! Have you seen her wrap anything up? 'Perhaps she's going Christmas shopping and she's taking us with her.' We did that once before, do you remember? We bought some things in a cathedral and W.H. Smith. We should take our smart leather harnesses again and they'll let us in. I'll go and fetch them. Put them in with our dinner bowls Honey.

Buddy Brown (pure Jack Russell) a roving reporter



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Emerald Seddon

Daughter of Nick Seddon, Emerald has quite literally grown up in the industry and has inherited a wealth of knowledge along the way. Starting off her career 17 years ago leaflet dropping and stuffing envelopes, Emerald has since set up the very successful Lettings division, become a partner of the firm, and now runs the office in the beloved town where she grew up. Being born in Bampton, and grown up in the area, Emerald knows the region considerably well.



Jo Dare

After many years working for a leading estate agent in Oxford, and several years working for a commercial Agency in London, Jo has a wealth of estate agency experience and is now approaching her 10th year with Seddons. She has never regretted her decision to move to Devon and loves all that our beautiful county has to offer.



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Laura Stanbury

Laura is a key member of the Bampton sales team having worked for Seddons for 7 years. When not in the office you will find Laura on the family farm where she lives with her husband and son, George. Her farming background brings invaluable agricultural experience to the office.



Carol Hughes

Carol is one of Seddons longest serving staff members having worked for the company for over 23 YEARS, you could say that Carol has seen it all, or at least seen every house in Bampton & Dulverton! She has unrivalled knowledge of the local area. She is a keen horticulturalist and has a passion for the great outdoors.



Sue Howe

Sue is a real asset to our Bampton Sales team, with 20 years experience in estate agency. Sue oversees all sales progression, constantly liaising with solicitors and agents to ensure the smooth transition through to completion. As a keen runner, Sue has taken part in multiple half and full marathons.



Steph Blackmore

Stephanie is an experienced negotiator who grew up within the industry - her mum was also an estate agent! Having worked in London and overseas for over 20 years, Steph returned to the area in which she is happiest. She is a keen rider and has 2 horses of her own, and loves nothing more than riding out through the Exmoor countryside.

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The West Country is Stags Country

An update from Stags' Dulverton office



Alexandra Carter has recently joined Stags as the Office and Property Sales Manager of their Dulverton Office. She has invaluable experience of dealing with Country House sales and, prior to joining Stags, she worked for a national estate agency selling properties in West Berkshire and, previously to that, Prime Central London. She holds a reputation with former clients as a highly effective and innovative

negotiator who excels at client relations. She is an enthusiastic resident in Tiverton, Devon, having moved to the South West with her partner who is a History Teacher and resident tutor at Blundell's School. Therefore, Alexandra has an extensive knowledge of the local and national housing market, as well as the lifestyle and schools we can offer buyers here. Originally from rural Wiltshire, she enjoys country sports and exploring the countryside on her horse Paddy.

Market Update

The demand for housing in Dulverton, Exmoor and the surrounding villages is outstripping supply. We have a wide demographic of buyers looking for property; they range from buyers who are looking to re-locate from London to rural areas in the South West, to buyers wanting to downsize or upsize locally. Demand from buyers is not showing any sign

of abating. Pricing of housing stock is key to attract the interest and excitement; competitive pricing always achieves the best result, with many sales being agreed at over Guide Price. The Autumn market is a busy market and a traditional time to sell so we are expecting more choice in the market in order to feed current demand.



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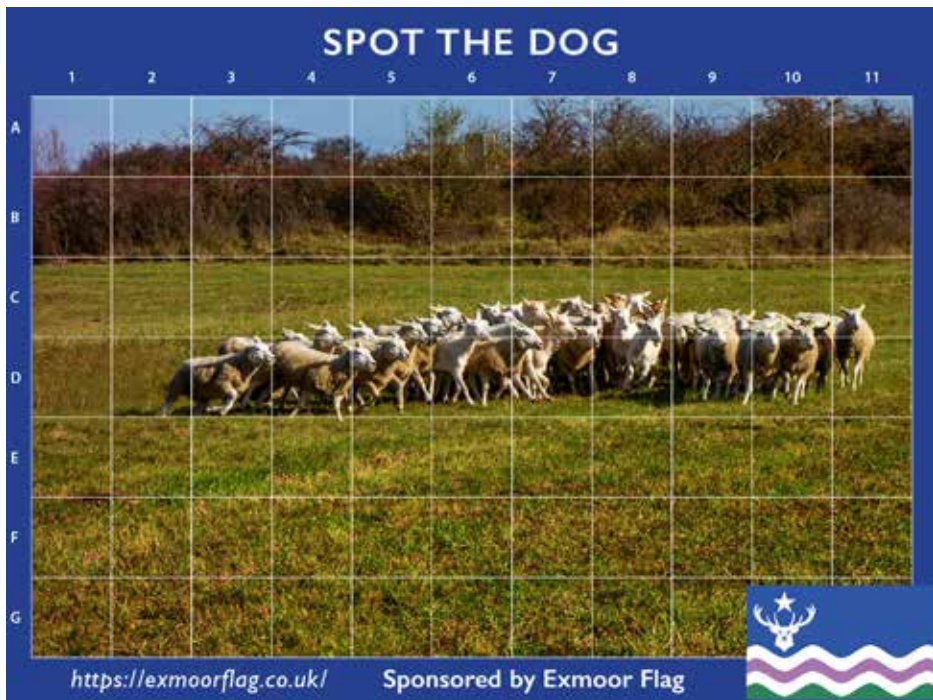
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Details shown in the next issue of the Exmoor News. Good luck.

Thank you to Exmoor Flag.



The competition result from the Sept/Oct issue is shown here. Nobody got it this time but one was so close!



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Wiveliscombe T.C.: Clerk: Sarah Towells	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	01884 250417

ARTS

The Arts Society Exmoor: Mrs Penny Pulver (Chair)	www.theartssocietyexmoor.oreg.uk	01398 331007
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

SPORTS CLUBS

Anstey Short Mat Bowls: Chris Dale 01398 341615
 Bridgetown Cricket: Sec: Mr. D. Sherring, Mid-Wicket, Bridgetown, Dulverton TA22 9JN administrator@bridgetowncc.co.uk 01398 324147
 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: Carl Hooper dulvertoncricketclub1858@gmail.com 07866 256769/01398 324494
 Dulverton Cricket Club, Colts: Mrs Christine Dubery 01398 323474
 Dulverton & District Tennis Club: Hazel Richardson hazelr@btinternet.com 07889793571
 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
 Wimblesball Fly Fishers: enquiries@fishingthewest.co.uk

PRE-SCHOOL GROUPS

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

SCHOOLS

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
 Exford CoFe VC First School: 01643 831365
 Little Berries Pre School at Exford First School 01643 831365
 Little Owls Nursery: All Saints School, Fishers Mead TA22 9EN 01398 324360

WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

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

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Bampton Scouts/Cubs/Beaver748s: Tony Weiss 01398 331901
 Dulverton & District Young People's Project: Chair: John Preston 01398 323862
 Dulverton Ballet: Mrs Wightmore, Flat 3, Easter House, St. Andrews St. Tiverton 01884 253999
 Exmoor Community Youth Club: Organiser Laura Tasker, Fridays 6 – 8 pm 01643 831125

OTHERS

Abbeyfield House 01398 324136
 Bampton Heritage and Visitor Centre (inside St Michael and All Angels Church, Bampton) -
 www.bamptonheritage.org.uk - email bamptonheritage@btinternet.com
 Bampton Library and Resource Centre, Station Road 01398 332466
 Brushford Parish Hall: Bookings enquiries@brushfordparishhall.org.uk 07941 139846

Brushford Luncheon Club: Treasurer: Margaret Albery	01398 324587
Care Direct for help and advice: www.somerset.gov.uk	0300 1232224
Cutcombe Flower & Produce Show: Tracy Beviss	01643 841257
Dulverton Action Group: Magdalena Harding	01398 323 785
Dulverton & District Civic Soc: Kathy Currie	07493 518350
Dulverton & Southern Exmoor Twinning: Chair: Steve Ford, Dulverton	01398 323016
Dulverton Bridge Club: Sec. Brian Hughes, www.Bridgewebs.com/dulverton	01398 331219
Dulverton Dance:	01398 341850
Dulverton Ballroom Dance: Sec: Mrs Christine Dubery	01398 323474
Dulverton Development Forum: Sec: Mrs J. Ross	01398 323818
Dulverton Films: Jan Ross	01398 323818
Dulverton Fellowship for Mental Health: Marion Silverlock	01398 341850
Dulverton Gardening Club: Roger Hammond	01398 323954
Dulverton Group Exmoor Society: Sec: Dr Ken Mills	01398 331482
Dulverton Vets	01398 323285
Dulverton Vintage Films: Magdalena Harding	01398 323785
Dulverton Voluntary Drivers: Mike Beale	07743 885115
Exe Valley Market Bus: Jennie Chappell smilerjenniec@hotmail.com	01398 351666
Exmoor Patient Group: Chair: Sandra Wilson, W Nightcott, Dulverton TA22 9RT	01398 324687
Exmoor BeeKeepers Association: Sec: Caroline Ralph exmoorhoneyshow@gmail.com	01984 656240
Exmoor Community Bus Assn: Temporary contact -S Buchanan	01984 641706
Exmoor National Park Centre	01398 323841
Exmoor Pony Centre: Ashwick, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9QE	01398 323093
Exmoor Pony Society: Sec: Sue McGeever, Woodmans, Brithem Bottom Cullompton, Devon EX15 1NB	01884 839930
Exmoor Rotary Club: Humphrey Berridge (PRO), Station Hse, Luke St, Bampton	01398 332324
Good Neighbours: Sandra Collett	01398 324211
Oakford Village Hall: Bookings: Mrs Dawn Williams dawnwilliams1@gmail.com	01398 324035
Royal British Legion Dulverton: Peter Donnelly	01398 323030
TA22 Voluntary Lift Scheme (formerly Brushford Voluntary Lifts): Chair: T. Wilson	07528 326880
Tiverton Model Aero Club: Sec: Mr. P Veale, 9 High St., Dulverton TA22 9HB	01398 323409
U3A Exmoor: Yvonne Moorfoot, 3 Lamb Back, Dulverton	01398 323529
Village Agent Jane Lillis janel@somersetcc.org.uk	07958 415270
West Somerset Advice Bureau:	01643 704624

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