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EXMOOR NEWS

COVERING SOUTHERN EXMOOR

Welcome to a new year and to our new magazine!

We decided we needed a different format since we were running out of space, the type was getting smaller and the magazine was getting very fat! We joked at some point we might need to give away magnifying glasses with the magazine, so here we are. What do you think?

Guess what - we have a winner for Spot The Dog - it's been ages since someone got it right! If you don't enter, you can't win, have a go, page 54.

As ever, we are incredibly grateful to all those who support us in their various ways, whether it is sending in copy, delivering or just being an ear to bend. Thank you.

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.





Exmoor News Magazine Advert Sizes & Rates - 3,000 printed copies, estimated readership 9,000

Size 1 60wide x 92hiah £18.50 Mon £25 Col Old ¼ page

Size 2 124w x 92h mm £37 Mono £50 Col Old ½ page

The deadline for the

March/April 2022 issue of

the Exmoor News is

Thursday 3rd Feb 2022

Printed by Brightsea, Exeter

Mon = Mono, black and white. Col = Colour.

High resolution 300 dpi PDF or image is required. Any query please email exmoornews@gmail.com

Size 3 188w x 60h mm £50 Col Size 4 188w x 92h £75 Col

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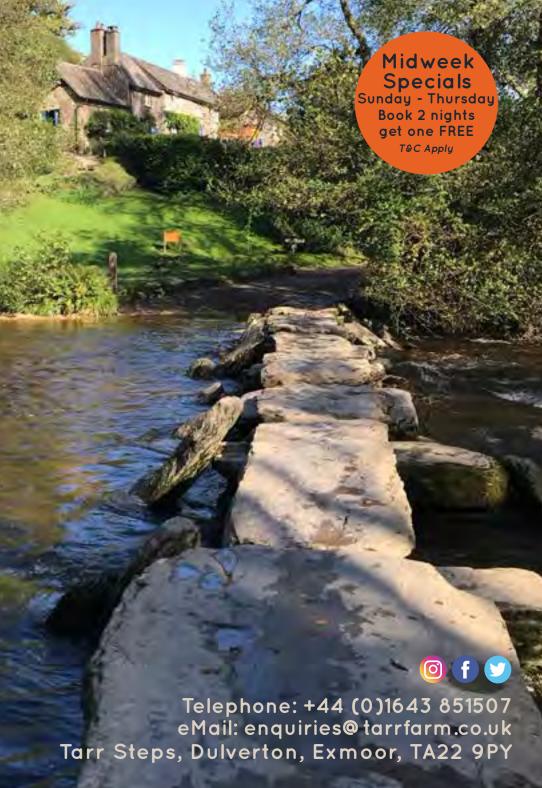
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Winsford Moor Movies for 2022

Tuesday 18th January

The Courier (2020)

12A Drama/Thriller

The true story of British businessman Greville Wynne (Benedict Cumberbatch) unwittingly recruited into one of the greatest international conflicts in history. Forming an unlikely partnership in the hope of preventing a nuclear confrontation, Wynne and Soviet Officer Oleg Penkovsky work together to provide the crucial intelligence used to defuse the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Tuesday 15th February

Nowhere Special (2020)

12A Drama

Inspired by a true story, the film features James Norton as 35yr old window cleaner John, who has dedicated his life to bringing up his son after the child's mother left them soon after his birth. When John is given only a few months to live, he attempts to find a new perfect family for his 4yr old son determined to shield him from the terrible reality of the situation.

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DULVERTON VINTAGE FILMS

Wed 12th January

JULIE & JULIA

starring Meryl Streep & Amy Adams (2009)

Wed 911 February

SOUTH PACIFIC

starring Rossano Brazzi & Mitzi Gaynor (1958)

2.30 pm of Fishers Mead Community Centre

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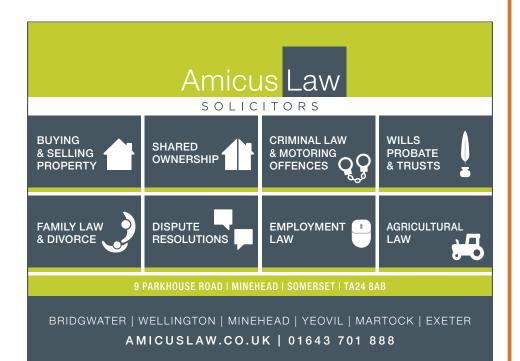
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07528 326880

48 hours notice is required





Dulverton Town Hall



Friday January 14th

CRUELLA (Cert 12A)

Director: Craig Gillespie 134 mins

Before she becomes Cruella de Vil, teenage Estella (Emma Stone) has a dream. She wishes to become a fashion designer, having been gifted with talent, innovation and ambition all in equal measures. But life seems intent on making sure her dreams never come true. When a chance encounter vaults Estella into the world of the young, rich and famous, she begins to question the existence she's built for herself in London and wonders whether she might, indeed, be destined for more after all. With a great performance also by Emma Thompson and breathtaking costume design, set in 1970s London, here is a fast moving comedy.

Friday January 18th

RESPECT (Cert 12A)

Director: Liesl Tommy 145 mins

Following the rise of Aretha Franklin's career, from a child singing in her father's church choir to her international superstardom, it's the remarkable true story of the music icon's journey to find her voice.

Jennifer Hudson transforms into the Queen of Soul and sings her absolute heart out in a dazzling performance.

Friday February 11th

LIMBO (Cert PG)

Director: Ben Sharrock 104 mins

Limbo is a wry and poignant observation of the refugee experience, set on a fictional remote Scottish island where a group of new arrivals await the results of their asylum claims. It centers on Omar (Amir El-Masry), a young Syrian musician who is burdened by his grandfather's oud, an Arab music instrument, which he has carried all the way from his homeland. Infused with sadness yet a remarkably funny film, a gentle, empathic kind of humour derived from the men's bleak existences, without mocking them.

Friday February 25th

NOWHERE SPECIAL (Cert 12A)

Director: Uberto Pasolini 96 mins

Starring James Norton, a 35-year-old window cleaner has dedicated his life to raising his young son on his own but now searches for the perfect replacement family when he learns he only has months left to live. An uplifting film, beautifully acted.

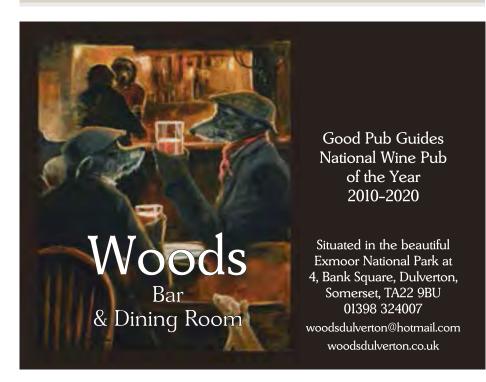
Tickets limited to allow for social distancing
Dulverton Films members £3, non-members £4.50, students, accompanied by an adult, £2.50.
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FULL TARTAN JACKET AN EVENING OF LAUGHTER WITH ELVIS McGONAGALL SATURDAY JANUARY 22nd, 8pm DULVERTON TOWN HALL



Stand-up poet, comedian and broadcaster, armchair revolutionary and walking shortbread tin, Elvis McGonagall resides at the Graceland Caravan Park somewhere in the back of beyond, where he scribbles poetry while drinking malt whisky and listening to Johnny Cash.

His live shows feature biting and savagely funny satire in a blend of provocative verse and politically savvy stand-up comedy, all imbued with searing wit, wordplay and anarchic invective. Pulling no punches but not afraid to be plain daft, Elvis directs his scurrilous diatribes at the powers-that-be from Westminster to Waitrose, taking aim at the injustices of our septic isle and beyond. Stockpiling cat food,

celebrity branding, the nature of truth, some bloke called Trump, the Prime Minister and Mr Benn, the pernicious effects of the patriarchy, **Piers** Morgan, disappearing rainforests, Brexit milkshakes and a pandemic - yes, all his feel-good hits are there. There's even a love poem. *Full Tartan Jacket* presents the prime cuts from the work of a comic poet at the top of his game. Join this World Poetry Slam Champion and Radio 4 regular as he bellows into the void of our diseased, burning planet and we all trundle along the primrose path to Beelzebub's bottomless pit.

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We continue to have the safety of our audience at the front of our minds and will continue to follow



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all government guidance and regulations. As we go to press, we will continue to offer a reduced number of tickets to ensure social distancing, good ventilation and recommend face masks. All actors and accompanying technical staff will have had a negative lateral flow test result before the production. If we have to cancel, we will offer a rescheduled event or reimburse your ticket.

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Committed to her community

When Benjamin Franklin wisely observed, 'If you want something doing, ask a busy person, 'he probably had someone like Christine Dubery in mind. Christine – better known as Chris - has been at the heart of community life since she and her husband (also Chris...) moved to Dulverton in 2003 to run the town's post office. Although her husband is the official sub-postmaster, Chris has worked alongside him throughout that time, putting her energy into ensuring that the post office continues to play its essential role in Dulverton life. The arrival of Covid-19 underlined this, as the post office was one of the few shops permitted to open during lockdowns.

The post office is only part of the story, of course, as the Fore Street building also houses the Duberys' popular gift shop. Meanwhile, as *Exmoor News* discovered, behind the scenes there is a busy sorting office, and beyond that is the couple's home. Then there's the team who work with Chris and her husband, the familiar faces of the counter assistants, and seven postmen who, between them, look after five postal rounds.

Before moving to Exmoor, Chris and her husband lived in Coulsdon in Surrey, and had both worked for a leading bank. When their son, Robert, was young, Chris retrained

as a florist and also worked parttime at the local Job Centre. But the couple were beginning to rethink their working lives. 'Did we want to stay in the corporate world or did we want to do something different?' says Chris. Something different took the form of running their own business. 'We wanted to be based within a community and a post office seemed the ideal solution.' After searching as far afield as Norfolk and Cornwall, it was the friendliness of Dulverton that won them over.

While the post office takes up a major part of Chris's busy days, there are other elements to her steadfast commitment to the local community. A passion for netball, for example, prompted her to found Dulverton Netball Club.'I had played since I was seven,' says Chris, 'and had been an umpire and coach back in Surrey.'The club is well supported and now fields two teams, who play in Taunton and Exeter.

Then there's cricket - Chris is treasurer of Dulverton Cricket Club - and gardening: she chairs the town's Gardening Club. She also chairs Dulverton Town Hall Committee and Dulverton Town Council, and is a former chair of Dulverton by Starlight; Chris is still involved in this much-loved annual event, as she is in Dulverton Farmers' Market. She is



also a member of Dulverton Players. Benjamin Franklin was right.

Despite juggling the demands of post office life with all her community-based activities, Chris does her best to carve out some spare time. I enjoy cooking, golf, socialising with friends, and going out for dinner.' And when the Duberys do manage to get away on a holiday, it's more likely to involve golfing than sun loungers...

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Exmoor Pony Society launches its own Exmoor inspired gin

You can now enjoy a taste of Exmoor, literally, with a new gin that is inspired by Exmoor botanicals.

As part of its centenary celebrations in 2021, The Exmoor Pony Society (EPS) has commissioned a special limited edition gin which will raise funds to help the Society's work.

The gin is distilled at The Distillery, Notting Hill, where EPS Trustee Sue Burger's son, Jake, is a director and Master Distiller. Sue has a long connection with Exmoor ponies, having bred, shown and ridden them for 35 years as well as being a judge, foal inspector and past president of the EPS.

Jake was very keen for The Distillery to be involved with raising money for the ponies and spent time researching botanicals with a connection to Exmoor. His research has culminated in a unique Exmoor inspired gin.

Jake says: "The Distillery is proud to be contributing towards one of Britain's rarest and most beautiful native equine breeds.

"The gin we have created is a classic London Dry style of gin with a strong juniper character. Its unique flavour is inspired by the ecosystem of Exmoor. Alongside the more traditional botanicals, local whortleberry, heather flower, honey and samphire are in its botanical ingredients." He goes on to describe the gin as "having

a subtle floral aroma, and a notably dry slightly coastal finish."

The gin is on sale for home delivery at friendsofexmoorponies.ltd.uk and a £5 donation towards the Exmoor Pony Society is made for every bottle sold.

Sue Burger says: "We are really excited to be able to offer our members, supporters and the wider public the opportunity to purchase a high quality gin from a well-known distillery. We hope it will help to raise the profile of Exmoor ponies as well as providing some income to further the Society's work."



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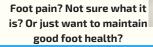
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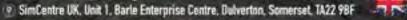
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Exmoor Rotary Club - Pub Quiz 2021

In an exciting and entertaining evening the George Inn, Brompton Regis quiz team correctly answered 192 questions of a possible 195 to beat six other pubs and so become the "Brainiest Pub Team" in the local area.

Due to various limitations imposed by the pandemic the Rotary Club of Exmoor was obliged to limit the number of pubs participating. This was the Club's first indoor event for over eighteen months and it was necessary to be cautious.

In a closely fought contest the George triumphed over the Red Lion at Oakford by just 2 points.

Each team was "at home" in its own pub and Quizmasters from the Rotary Club read the questions simultaneously in each venue.

In each of three categories, "The Millennium to Date", "Art and Entertainment" and "General Knowledge" there were 65 questions. The scores for each category were reported to a central base and positions in the contest passed to all the teams by phone.

Rotarian Derek and Rhonda Webster, quizmaster and timekeeper at the George Inn said they thoroughly enjoyed the good-natured spirit of all who took part and thanked them for their warm welcome. New owners, Trudi and Mark Underhill, and their staff enthusiastically continued the George Inn's tradition of support for the event over several years.

The Inter-Pub Quiz was a charity fund raising event in support of the Rotary

Club's ongoing commitment to the Calvert Trust, Exmoor which runs an invaluable activity centre near Barnstaple for those living with disabilities of all sorts.

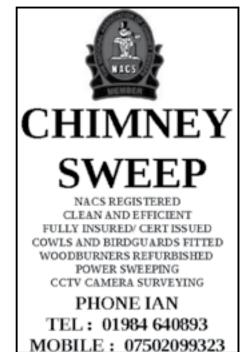
The Quiz Trophy, duly engraved was presented to the winning team two days after the event. Other than the George Inn the pubs taking part were the Red Lion, the Bark House at Oakfordbridge, the Stoodleigh Inn the "Anchor Inn at Exebridge, the Bridge Inn at Dulverton and the Quarryman's Rest in Bampton.

The George Inn, Brompton Regis 192

The Red Lion, Oakford 190
The Bark House, OakfordB 182
The Stoodleigh Inn 181
The Anchor Inn, Exbridge 180
The Bridge Inn, Dulverton 177
The Quarryman's Rest, Bampton 174
Rotary Club president Daniel
Stephenson extended his heartfelt
thanks to all the teams for their
participation and generosity.

A member of the George Inn team was also lucky enough to win the raffle for a one-off prize of £50.00.

The total amount raised during the evening was £868.00.





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RUM, PONIES, RUM!

you ever been a spectator on the route of an Olympic cycle race? It's an exciting experience! There's a sense of anticipation as the peloton approaches, heralded by support vehicles and police motorcycles. Then the moment you have been waiting for arrives and the body of riders speeds past you, in a blur of noise and colour. The main event is over in moments, but it doesn't disappoint.

Along similar lines, but in my view far more thrilling, is the opportunity for those of us who are local to Exmoor to attend annual Exmoor pony gatherings, which are done to health check the ponies, separate youngsters from the mares when they are ready to go to new homes, and to ensure their welfare. This was the second time we had attended the roundup of the Anchor herd which live around the Winsford Hill area of the moor.

October fog and rain on the day did nothing to dispel the enjoyment of following the convoy across the moor as the ponies were chivvied from points A to B; it is so exciting to photograph them galloping into the field at the end! The roundup is well organised, with instruction given to keep everyone safe and observant of Covid distancing, too.

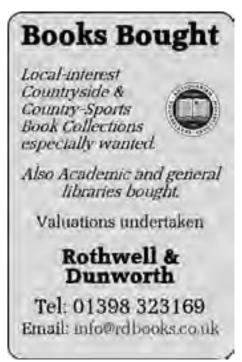
An added bonus this time was the presence of Adam Henson and a BBC camera crew filming for an upcoming episode of *Countryfile*. He was

pleasant and friendly to everyone and at one point was carrying the cameraman's equipment for him.

Given the rain and poor light, the images hardly do justice to the splendour of this ancient, hardy breed of pony with its stamina, strength, and equine beauty.

Whilst anyone can go along as a bystander, as the moor is open to all, I feel it is courteous to contact the herd owners and ask permission; details of the various free-living herds on the moor can be found via the Exmoor Pony Society or individual herd owners' posts on social media.

You can keep your Lycra, helmets, and bikes; I would rather watch Exmoor ponies any day of the week! *Andrea Corrie*







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DULVERTON PLAYERS

Bow Bells are ringing out again for the Dulverton Players' long-postponed production of *Dick Whittington* The Exmoor theatre company was just a month away from putting it on the Dulverton Town Hall stage when Covid struck in March 2019.

The colourful pantomime is now rescheduled for Wednesday, April 6th 2022, to Saturday, April 9th 2022. Olga Owen directs a traditional version of the famous story in which poor boy Dick Whittington comes to London to make his fortune.

Ben Crocker's hilarious script features all your favourite characters, including Idle Jack, the beautiful Alice Fitzwarren, Sarah the Cook, and, of course, Tommy, Dick's famous cat. Queen Rat and her verminous pack provide the villains of the piece.

Director Olga Owen commented, "We have room for more actors in the chorus." Interested? Contact director Olga Owen on 01398 or olga@ olgaowen.co.uk.

The stage of the Town Hall was ablaze with light again in November when the Dulverton Players presented a hilarious programme of one-act comedies. Last Tango in Little Grimley, Lockdown in Little Grimley, and Joining The Club, and had audiences roaring with laughter for the first time in two years after the Covid pandemic had forced the popular theatre company to close its doors.





Clemency Wall and Jamie Hissey get a shock in the Dulverton Players' **Joining The Club**

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PLANTING TO GET UNDERWAY AT MAJOR NEW EXMOOR WOODLAND

As UN climate talks continued in Glasgow, work started on 'Bye Wood' – a major new Exmoor woodland being created as part of a drive to increase woodland cover in the National Park from 13.5% towards the recommended 17% by 2050.

At a 'breaking ground' event, the first 300 of 13,000 trees were planted at the Exmoor National Park Authority-owned site, near Winsford. Volunteers, families from the local school, members of the community and those who have so far donated to a special CareMoor Woods & Trees Appeal were all on hand to help with the tree planting effort.

Among the new saplings will be a special grove of 70 English oaks sourced locally and planted for the Queen's Green Canopy – a nationwide tree planting campaign leading up to Her Majesty's jubilee year in 2022.

More than half of the oaks have been donated by the Exmoor Pony Project and grown using Exmoor Compost's 'Exmoor Pony Poo Multi-Purpose Compost' - set up in lockdown and now supplying gardeners and growers from West Somerset to North Devon with a sustainable peat free alternative.

The Jubilee grove is a key design feature of the new wood intended to

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provide an open nature-rich glade for people to enjoy and connect with the landscape around them. But with climate resilience now a major consideration for all woodland creation schemes, not all of the tree species chosen will be native varieties.

Exmoor National Park Authority Woodlands Assistant, Jack Hunt, who has played a key role in the design

process, explains: "We wanted Bye Wood to have multiple objectives: habitat creation, carbon storage, increasing landscape connectivity wildlife, creating a space for local communities, and adding to the local sustainable economy by providing future generations with all the ecosystem services of woodland, including timber and coppice products. Of course, to achieve all these objectives we must think about what the area will be like when the trees we plant are mature.

Find out how to dedicate a tree in Bye Wood or donate to the CareMoor Woods & Trees appeal at www.exmoor-nationalpark. gov.uk/caremoor.



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collaboration with Exmoor National Park we have got together with Bruce and Claire at the Exford Bridge Tearooms so we can cater for larger groups, stargazing parties and corporate events. Every Tuesday night at 7.00pm summer, (6.00pm start in winter), we will be open for an indoor planetarium presentation with delicious food and a "No question is a silly question" sociable chat session. The indoor event is followed by an optional shortish walk out into the dark sky reserve to try out tablet and phone apps and to watch the stars come out, depending on the time of year. This is suitable for all ages, individuals and small groups, and a good option if you are less keen on walking, or the weather is not good! Otherwise please make contact and we can chat about any sort of starry event that you can dream up! We have 3 telescopes, a laser pointer for constellations, binoculars and loads of information about local stargazing. Endless enthusiasm plus the tearooms are fully licenced and happy to cater for your "Do", from cream teas through barbecues to a "just desserts" evening. Once the evenings draw in we can head out for a spot of stargazing or a night hike as well.

Enquiries to:

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More information: wildaboutexmoor. com/exmoor-stargazing-and-nighthikes

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A Country Property Diary



"How to get ahead of the rush when it comes to selling your home"

Spring is almost here and after a cold and wet winter, it's a time where all of us look forward to the days getting longer, the fresh colour within the gardens, the wonderful bright green starting to come through on the trees. What's not to like about the spring and the thought of the summer ahead?

Of course, it is also a time of year, where many home owners are preparing their homes for the property market to sell, trying to judge the timing as to when best to market their home, to maximise its price and also, as importantly, trying to be first in the queue if a suitable home to move into becomes available.

Timing in the property market is everything, particularly when there has been a shortage of properties to purchase and a horde of other buyers trying to be first to purchase the home that you may be after. Placing yourself, where you are in a better position to not only sell your home but to secure an onward purchase is probably as critical now as it has ever been.

One of the greatest concerns that many sellers have is "what happens if I can't find a home to purchase?" and as a result, many property owners refrain from marketing their homes until such time a suitable property becomes available or enough properties start to come to the market to give them

confidence that if they do find a buyer for their own home, that the chance of securing a new home is much greater.

This causes its own issues, i.e. if a suitable property suddenly becomes available, can you then get your own home on the market as quickly as possible to avoid losing out.

Here is where we have a tried and trusted solution that helps home owners in such a predicament. Our "Market Ready Service", allows clients to get their home ready for the market so that when they have found a suitable property, we can place their home up for sale within hours or a few days to avoid any unnecessary delay. It's a service that is free, comes with no strings attached and ensures that our clients have the best chance possible.

So what happens?

- We arrange a suitable time to visit your property, we prepare floor plans, details, internal and external photos, virtual tours, elevated photography (but will redo images if when you are ready to sell, the seasons, gardens etc have all moved on)
- When it comes to selling, lots of things may have changed since you purchased and we can use the time assisting you with making sure your home is compliant





with the latest electrical or drainage legislation, private water tests, compiling the documents that you will require in advance of a buyer being found, to minimise the stress and time taken later, when there may be greater pressure and stress to turn such documents around.

- We send through a draft of the marketing for you to check that you are happy with it, advise on the potential pricing at that time and once approved, then sit on the file for however long it takes (weeks or months) until you are ready to go full steam ahead.
- All you then have to do is call us when you are ready and we refine the price with your agreement (depending on what has happened in the market in the meantime), check that we are all happy with the images (or redo if they need updating) and your home can be up and running on the open market for sale at either the click of a button or within 24/48 hours if new images need taking.
- We will also place you on our **VIP** list of potential buyers so that you get to hear about suitable properties as soon

as they become available, minimising the chance of you losing out.

Of course, your onward purchase is as critical (if not more so) as there is little point selling if you can't find anything more suitable to move into. This "Market Ready Service" places you in a far better position to pounce the moment a home of your dreams becomes available.

Rest assured, we can help guide you through this process, so that when you are wanting to move, most of the leg work on documentation and getting your home ready is already done in advance, saving lots of stress at a later date. Likewise, we give our promise and guarantee that we will always pop back to update the imagery and the price to make sure that when your home is offered for sale that it's at the very best price and with the very best up-to-date imagery. After all, you only get the one chance to make that first impression with any buyer and to secure the best buyer and price on the day.

If you would like to know more about this service (no obligation on your part), to receive an update on the market and the pricing of your home, then do give us a call here at our Dulverton office, as we would be delighted to help you with your home move and planning for the future.

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Young Somerset Joins The Dulverton Weir Restoration Project

Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust is delighted to announce that Young Somerset has become a Trust Partner in the important project to restore Dulverton's ancient weir and mill leat.

Young Somerset is the largest youth work charity in Somerset and their mission is to put young people first. Their vision is delivered through three strands of work: Youth Work; Alternative Learning Provision and Enterprise; Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Support. As part of their youth work strand, Young Somerset runs Dulverton Youth Club and has also recently opened a shop in Taunton called Bold & Brave.

Bold & Brave is an exciting new social enterprise shop, bringing together young people and the community. At Bold & Brave you'll discover unique handmade goods and locally sourced products, all made by young people or to support young people. It's also a community hub, a social enterprise space and a place that provides young people with the opportunity to have visible roles within Bold & Brave, whilst gaining work experience and life skills training. Find Bold & Brave at 14 Riverside Place, TA1 1JH.

Philip Hull, Trustee Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust comments "A key part of the project is the preservation of the weir and leat for future generations. Young Somerset will play an important part in ensuring that younger parts of the community appreciate, value and develop a sense of ownership of this

key historical asset."

Nik Harwood, Chief Executive Young Somerset, said "Young Somerset are delighted to become a Trust Partner to support young people's engagement with the heritage and history of their community. We know that this partnership will enhance our work with young people in Dulverton, on Exmoor and further afield."





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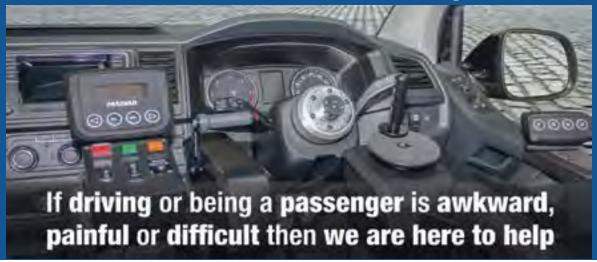
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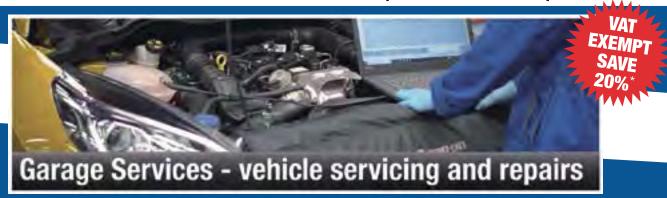
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Exmoor Medical Centre in Dulverton, Somerset, one of Symphony Healthcare Services NHS Practices, wins national award for providing outstanding palliative and end of life care

Exmoor Medical Centre has been awarded a national Gold Standards Framework (GSF) Quality Hallmark Award at Platinum level for its delivery of end of life care at the practice.

The Award was given as part of the Gold Standards Framework (GSF) Virtual Awards, which recognises health and social care providers delivering quality care in the final year of life.

Exmoor Medical Centre was one of 59 GP practices (less than 1% off all practices within England), care homes, retirement villages, and hospital wards, which received the prestigious GSF quality hallmark across the country during the virtual ceremony.

The Gold Standards Framework Centre, in association with Hospice UK, provides expert training for frontline staff in health and social care, to enable a 'gold standard' of care for people nearing end of life.

Before the pandemic hit, GSF provided face-to-face workshops, but have successfully adapted and moved online to adhere to COVID-19 regulations. The training has been a huge success, and has supported both families and patients to discuss end of life care planning and what matters to them



at the end of life.

Dr Kelsey Boddington said, "We are very proud of all members of our team who contribute to ensuring the best possible communication and availability of resources for our patients and families when they are facing these most difficult times".

Practice Manager, Lindsay Smith added, "A great deal of hard work and commitment has gone into ensuring we are offering the best care possible within the parameters of the GSF.

Our regular Palliative Care meetings monitor carefully the outcome of our actions so that we can evaluate and tailor the framework to best fit the needs of our patients. We are incredibly proud to have been award the Platinum GSF Quality Hallmark Award."

Julie Armstrong-Wilson, Lead Nurse for GSF said: "Congratulations to all organisations that have successfully achieved accreditation and reaccreditation. The last year has been an incredibly difficult time for all health and social care providers and taking the time to complete their GSF accreditation is to be commended. Good quality end of life care has never been more important, especially due to the impact of the pandemic we have all faced. Witnessing so many centres signing up to learn more and gain GSF accreditation so they too can support people at the end of life is fantastic to see."

To find out more about the Gold Standards Framework, visit https://www.goldstandardsframework.org.uk/

Hospice UK is the national charity working for those experiencing dying, death and bereavement. We work for the benefit of people affected by death and dying, collaborating with our hospice members and other partners who work in end of life care. Our hospice members influence and guide our work to put people at the centre of all we do.

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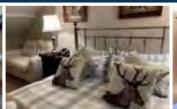
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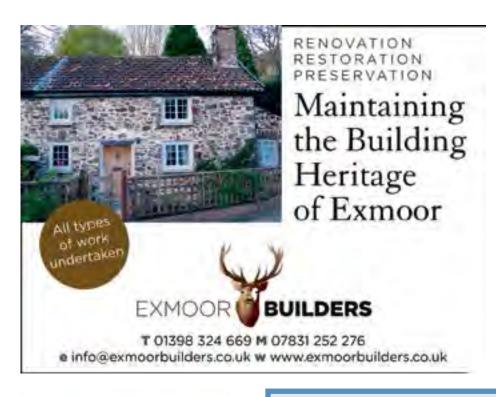
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EXMOOR'S RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTAINED IN PEAK CONDITION

98 per cent of public paths on Exmoor were judged through a nationally recognised methodology to be 'open and easy to use' this year, according to the National Park Authority's latest annual rights of way report.

The top result comes despite increased use in and out of the lockdowns and the warmer wetter summers contributing to an increased growing season. It is 8 per cent higher than the previous year's score, making it the highest on record.

Ranger and Field Services teams together cut back a record 215km of vegetation (compared to 159km the previous year), cleared 187 fallen trees, and made and installed 507 signs, 213 signposts, 134 gates and 6 footbridges. They successfully resolved 950 faults and surveyed 34 per cent of Exmoor's 1000km rights of way network. Volunteers generously donated 348 hours of their time to support rangers with path surveys.

The report includes work by the National Park to propose changes to the South West Coast Path on Exmoor at six separate sites, as part of a nationwide effort to establish the 'England Coast Path' as the longest unbroken coastal path in the world.

Notable major works last year, those requiring more than 15 individual workdays, also included:

- The reinstatement of Woodside Bridge near Lynmouth, fundraised for by the community.
- Extensive repairs to the Tarka Trial funded through the BMC's Men Our Mountains appeal.
- Major works to either widen, enhance drainage or improve accessibility of eight other public rights of way.

Walking in the countryside has surged in popularity since the pandemic, with more than 40 per cent of people







claiming nature, wildlife and visiting local green spaces are now even more important to their wellbeing, according to Natural England figures. Local resident, Tim Taylor, previously Leader of West Somerset Council. spent six months of lockdown walking almost all of Exmoor's rights of way network. He completed the distance in daily circuits totalling some 1100 miles, also taking in some of the surrounding area. Commenting on what inspired him to do it, he said: "Over the years I have walked many parts of Exmoor, so during lockdown I challenged myself to cover the National Park systematically and thoroughly. At such a time when the outdoors was one of few freedoms left, it was a huge privilege to have Exmoor on my doorstep and to be able to cover

such a magnificent landscape in its entirety. The teams which work to maintain the footpaths, gates, styles and signs in such great condition are to be highly commended."

Dan Barnett, Exmoor National Park Authority's Access & Recreation said: "It's been a Manager, challenging year and it's not just down to Covid - the outdoors has always been a place to escape from the stresses of daily life and now people are relying on that more than ever. It's thanks to the whole team here, as well as landowners and the community, that we've been able to step up and deliver a superb rights of way network under such conditions and I'm immensely proud of all that's been achieved."





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Review of Bikepacking England by Emma Kingston, 2021

Most of us have ridden a bike at some time in our lives; many are regular cyclists; but few, I suspect, have any idea of the remote and beautiful places that can be explored by combining these simple machines with the incredible potential of the human body. Whether you ride to the shop or as a seasoned touring cyclist, for those who like the way the world looks from a bike, Emma Kingston's book *Bikepacking England* is an inspiration.

The book begins with the modest admission that she had turned down her first opportunity to go bikepacking, imagining either the ultra-endurance athlete, cycling selfsupported across entire continents or the heavily laden cycle tourer exploring parts of the world at their leisure. She was already an experienced mountain biker and wondered what could possibly be gained from lugging around all that extra weight. She later discovered what bikepackers - and every touring cyclist – already knew, that by packing light, cycling can still be as much fun and, best of all, the trails just keep going, the adventure doesn't have to end and the giddy excitement of discovering new routes and places are mixed with wonderful moments of stillness and wonder.

This is a book about riding and discovering the varied, beautiful and wild places of England.

Amongst the 20 routes in the book, including *Exmoor*, all of them are on predominately off-road rights of way, many are multi-day tours requiring overnight stops and most include climbs and descents that require a good level of fitness and confidence. Some routes could, however, be accomplished in a weekend or with one overnight stay.

distinguishes The that thina bikepacking from day rides or cycle touring is that it requires a bike, equipment and mindset suited to relatively rough terrain, wild open air washing/ camping, toiletry and wild swimming. Emma Kingston provides some very practical and reliable advice on kit, packing, environmental stewardship, the legalities of rights of way, 'wild' camping, health and safety and emergencies. I am tempted to say that the routes could be approached in stages, by choosing easier terrain and/or more tarmac and by using B&B facilities but this rather defeats the purpose. This will not be everyone's billy can of tea but it has something for every bike owner who has ever wondered what it would be like to pedal off into the sunset. You cannot fail to be impressed with Emma's intrepid adventures, cycling, compiling and documenting these routes. They are well chosen, accurate and clearly described.

After more than 18 months of Covid restrictions it is a joy to be reminded that there are many countries to discover right here in England. The unmistakable and inspirational theme running through the book, understood by touring cyclists of all kinds, is the sense of unbound freedom, serendipity and adventure that comes with moving through the landscape on a bike.

Alan Jones, November 2021



The book is available @ £16.00 (a 20% off retail price discount) with free UK postage.

https://www.v-publishing.co.uk/

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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.

Covering the whole area of picturesque Exmoor, West Somerset and Mid Devon, Seddons have mastered the combination of expert **customer care, local knowledge** and complete **professionalism**, when buying, selling or letting your home.





N. H. Hopkins

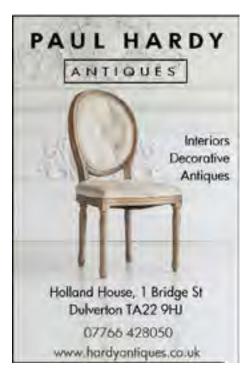
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SCHOOLBOY RAISES £3626 WITH DOG WALK CHALLENGE FOR CANCER RESEARCH UK

A young lad took on Walk Your Dog 60 miles in a bid to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

Ollie Routley, 13 from East Anstey, initially hoped to raise £200 for Cancer Research UK by walking with his Mum and their two Jack Russell Terriers, Luna and Scooby, 60 miles throughout the month of June and easily smashed his target!

The South Molton Community College pupil decided to attempt the challenge after his dad Stuart Routley aka "Smokey" was diagnosed with bowel cancer.

Sharon Routley, Ollie's Mum said: "Initially we thought Stuart had appendicitis. He was given antibiotics but after a routine colonoscopy,

we were given the bowel cancer diagnosis. This was a total shock to us as Stuart was otherwise fit and healthy. Within 8 weeks of diagnosis, Stuart had an operation to remove his cancer.

Ollie wanted to do something to support his Dad, and we saw on Facebook the Walk your Dog 60 miles challenge for Cancer Research UK.

Ollie walked before school on week days and then at weekends we would meet with friends and family to walk." Ollie said, "It was hard some days, especially in the rain but as the donations kept coming in, I knew I had to keep going! 2 miles doesn't sound a lot but when you to do it every day for a month it really is! It



was so motivating to know that the money I raised will be helping my Dad and Cancer Research UK."

Ollie hoped to raise around £200 for life-saving research to help more men, women and children in the South West and across the UK survive the disease. As the news of Ollie's challenge spread amongst the community, friends, family and



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local people all donated and offered encouragement. South Molton Community College, where Ollie attends held a non-uniform day at the end of the summer term and donated the funds to Ollie's fundraising. Also the Exmoor Horn Sheep Breeders Group (who the family are members of) had an open day and the proceeds of this day were also given to Ollie's fundraising.

In the South West around 35,000 people are diagnosed with cancer every year.

Kim Hammerton, Cancer Research UK's relationship manager for Devon, said: "We are absolutely delighted that Ollie decided to attempt such a great challenge to raise vital funds for Cancer Research UK.

"The community rallied to support him with his challenge and fundraise and we think he is amazing. We can't thank Ollie and his family enough for their support and everyone who donated."

Kim added: "Cancer Research UK has made enormous progress in the fight against cancer. However, we have only been able to do this thanks to the dedication and commitment of our volunteers and supporters without whom we would not be able to fund our research."

For further information about Cancer Research UK's work or to find out how to support the charity, please call 0300 123 1022 or visit cruk.org



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Exmoor Farmers encouraged to use new Health Hub

Farmers, agricultural workers and their families are now able to access free, confidential health checks at the recently launched Exmoor Rural Health Hub (ERHH). No appointments necessary.

The Exmoor Rural Health Hub (ERHH) charity was registered with the Charity Commission in March 2021, with the aim of addressing the physical and mental health needs of the farming and wider rural community of Greater Exmoor. The first clinic was held on Wednesday 13th October, with volunteers from the Farm Community Network (FCN) and Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) attending the livestock market at Wheddon Cross to explain what the ERHH can offer.

The free 'drop-in' clinic takes place at the Moorland village hall, located close to

the Exmoor Farmers Livestock Auction site at Wheddon Cross on specific dates; it offers basic health screening with referrals back to GPs or to other health professionals as necessary. Importantly, the nurses selected to deliver this service are highly tuned to the needs of the farming communities they serve, adept at recognising signs of either physical or mental wellbeing issues and intervening before conditions worsen

The initiative is supported and run by the NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning group and NHS Somerset Foundation Trust, with sponsorship from the NFU Mutual, Shearwell Data Ltd and Avon & Somerset Constabulary.

The Exmoor Rural Health Hub is a great example of collaboration between the statutory and voluntary sectors. The work outlined above demonstrates the strength of support at a local level for rural farming communities in all parts of Somerset

More information about dates of forthcoming ERHH clinics can be found by visiting www.erhh.co.uk or calling 03000 111 999.









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A Dog's Day Out -**Communication Breakdown**

We loaded up with so many bags and shiny boxes my head was squashed into the roof of the car. "You were lucky Buddy, I was stuffed in with our bed and our dinner bowls in the back and couldn't stand up to look out the window, had to lie in the bed all the way." I know we were heading north because we stopped at Cousin Percy's for lunch. I just knew we were off to see Santa.

I like Perc, he's so cool. Did you meet

his mate, the black and white farm positive. It's a very popular game dog next door? He told me he goes at the moment. You have to stay at over there a lot to play and gets given home in isolation for 5 days or go to ginger biscuits. "I stayed with Millie, his jail. So we did a U-turn and came Mum it was polite to. She's getting on a back home. She says we will have to bit now and she showed me their new use the Royal Mail instead." Oh No. toy. It massages your back and legs Over there Honey, on the table, it's and everyone can use it to improve my letter to Santa. She's forgotten to their blood flow. We're going to get post it. So there's still no chance I'm one for Christmas."

Do you know what happened next then Honey? We were squeezed back into the car again and look where we are, we're not at Pixie's up north, we're home again! I can't believe it. We're putting all the bags and shiny boxes back in our house! What's going on! "Tested positive." What? What's tested positive? "Little girl Pixie lives with. She didn't feel very well and tested

going to get a guad bike. Everyone's got a quad bike even Percy's got a quad bike. "Never mind Buddy we've got a keep fit toy instead that'll make you feel better." Thanks. I'm going to need it after this trip.

Buddy Brown (pure Jack Russell) a roving reporter

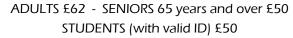
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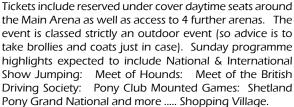


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Please send an email over to info@exmoorflag.co.uk with the coordinates of which square you think the dog's head is in (eg F1).

Details shown in the next issue of the Exmoor News.

We have a winner!

Congratulations to Loraine Stevens from Oakford for the correct answer (D2) to the Exmoor Flag/Exmoor News Spot the Dog competition. An Exmoor Flag mug is on its way to you.

Thank you to everyone who took part, better luck next time.

The competition result from the Nov/Dec issue is shown here.
Good luck.

Thank you to Exmoor Flag.









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Milverton Concert Society

We have been busy planning our Spring Season 2022 and have some fabulous concerts lined up for you.

4 March Onyx Brass

1 April Metamorphoses trio

14 May Voces8 11 June Ariel Lanvi

Onyx Brass' performances have been described as 'some of the most thrilling chamber brass quintet playing of its kind.' One of the classiest brass ensembles in the country.

Metamorphoses Trio is a new ensemble of world class musicians, comprising clarinet, viola and piano. A lovely combination of instruments and a fabulous programme.

Voces8 are described as the 'Rolls-Royce of a capella ensembles'. They have toured all over the world. Not to be missed!

Ariel Lanyi was a finalist in the Leeds piano competition in 2021. He has a long and prosperous career ahead of him and we are thrilled to welcome him to Milverton as he begins this journey.

Details are on our website: www.milvertonconcerts.org

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Cutcombe P.C.: Clerk: Jeanna Greville	cutcombeclerk@gmail.com	07852 813983
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Exford P.C: Clerk: Jennifer Yates	clerk@exfordparishcouncil.org	
Exmoor PC.: Clerk: Charlotte Hornsby	exmoorparishcouncil@gmail.com	
Exton P.C.: Clerk: Andrew Moore	clerk@extonparishcouncil.co.uk	01984 641539
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Dulverton Benefice/All Saints/Community choirs: Gary Cooper		
All Saints Church, Dulverton, Bell Tower: Anne Markwick		
Brushford: Revd Dowell Conning		
Exmoor Benefice: The Rev. David Weir, The Rectory, Exford, TA24 7LX		
Catholic Church: Priest: Father Michael		
Dulverton Congregational Church: Chapel Street: Mr P Donnelly		
The Traditional Anglican Church: Loxbeare, Priest Reverend Aird		
Exmoor Benefice Choir: Mrs B. Staples.		
St Peter's Church Oakford: Rev'd Stephanie Gordon-Jeffs		
ARTS	omee@exerume/missioneommume/.org	
	www.theartssocietyexmoor.oreg.uk	01398 331007
Dulverton Art Group: Sec: Mrs G Rose, 2 Stable Mews, The Square, Witheridge		
Dulverton Camera Club: Sec: Peter Main, 4 Valley View, Morebath, Tiverton, E		
Dulverton Players: Chair: Les Silverlock		
Oakford Players, Chair: Chair Mr Tony Holmes		
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Anstey Short Mat Bowls: Chris Dale		01398 341615
Bridgetown Cricket: Sec: Mr. D. Sherring, Mid-Wicket, Bridgetown, Dulverton TA		
Brushford Short Mat Bowling: Sec: Sam Takle	g .	01398 324147
Cutcombe Cricket: Sec: Mrs Maria Adams, 1 The Beeches, Wheddon Cross		
Dulverton Angling Assn: c/o Pat Veale, 9 High St., Dulverton, TA22 9HB		
Dulverton Badminton Club: Sec Judy Smith		
Dulverton Cricket Club: Carl Hooper		
Dulverton Cricket Club, Colts: Mrs Christine Dubery		
Dulverton & District Tennis Club: Hazel Richardson		
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Dulverton Netball Club : Sec Lindsay Smith, 25, Nicholas Close, Brushford		01398 323834
Dulverton Snooker: Sec: Mr. D. Bodger, 39 Fishers Mead, Dulverton, TA2	22 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 9A	Υ	01398 323787
Exmoor Croquet Club: Chair: Connie Heywood		01398 341556
Moorland Hall Sports:		info@wheddoncross.org.uk
Wimbleball Fly Fishers:		.enquiries@fishingthewest.co.uk
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Little Owls Nursery at All Saints C of E School, Dulverton		01398 324360
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Cutcombe C of E First School: Wheddon Cross, TA24 7DZ		01643 841462
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Dulverton Family and Toddlers Group:		01398 324329
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Little Owls Nursery: All Saints School, Fishers Mead TA22 9EN		
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Cutcombe & District W.I.: Mrs. Pam Anson		
Dulverton & Brushford M.U.: Mrs A. Gregory, 22 Jury Road, Dulverton,	TA22 9DU	01398 323587
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Oakford Moorland Ladies Club: Chair: Mrs Jennie Chappell	smilerjenniec@hotmail.com	01398 351666
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Brushford Luncheon Club: Treasurer: Margaret Albery		01398 324587

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Dulverton & District Civic Soc. Nathy Cullet		
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Dulverton Dance:	3	
Dulverton Ballroom Dance: Sec: Mrs Christine Dubery		
Dulverton Development Forum: Sec: Mrs J. Ross		
Dulverton Films: Jan Ross		
Dulverton Fellowship for Mental Health: Marion Silverlock		
Dulverton Gardening Club: Roger Hammmond.		
Dulverton Group Exmoor Society: Sec: Dr Ken Mills		
Dulverton Vets		
Dulverton Vintage Films: Magdalena Harding		
Dulverton Voluntary Drivers: Mike Beale		
Exe Valley Market Bus: Jennie Chappell		
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Exmoor BeeKeepers Association: Sec: Caroline Ralph		
Exmoor Community Bus Assn: Temporary contact – S Buchanan		
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Exmoor Pony Centre: Ashwick, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9QE		
Exmoor Pony Society: Sec: Sue McGeever, Woodmans, Brithem Bottom Cullor	mpton, Devon EX15 1NB	01884 839930
Exmoor Rotary Club : Humphrey Berridge (PRO), Station Hse, Luke St, Bampt	on	01398 332324
Good Neighbours: Sandra Collett		
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Royal British Legion Dulverton: Peter Donnelly		01398 323030
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U3A Exmoor: Yvonne Moorfoot, 3 Lamb Back, Dulverton		01398 323529
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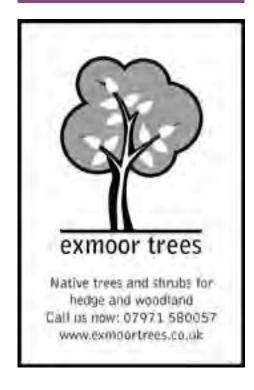
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