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April  
2022

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The image shows the interior of the Tongdam Thai Restaurant. It features wooden tables and chairs, a large window with a view of the street, and a decorative ceiling. The restaurant is well-lit and has a warm atmosphere.



# EXMOOR NEWS

## COVERING SOUTHERN EXMOOR



The deadline for the  
May/June 2022 issue of  
the *Exmoor News* is

**Thursday 7th April 2022**

Printed by Brightsea, Exeter



We changed the layout for the last issue to a larger square one. We had such a lovely response from you all regarding the new layout. Thank you.

Keep sending in your community copy. If you would like to be added to our reminder email (goes out about 10 days before the deadline) then please drop us an email to [exmoornews@gmail.com](mailto:exmoornews@gmail.com) and ask to be added to the list.

On Friday 7th January 2022 at 10.30am, Ceri and Claire were interviewed on the 10Radio Community Show with Pauline Homeshaw and Andrew Norris. Listen to the interview here: <https://exmoornews.co.uk/our-story/> As ever, we are incredibly grateful to all those who support us.



Best wishes, Ceri Keene and Claire Savill

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

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We take our responsibility to maintain high editorial standards seriously.

Should an error occur please do not hesitate to contact us.

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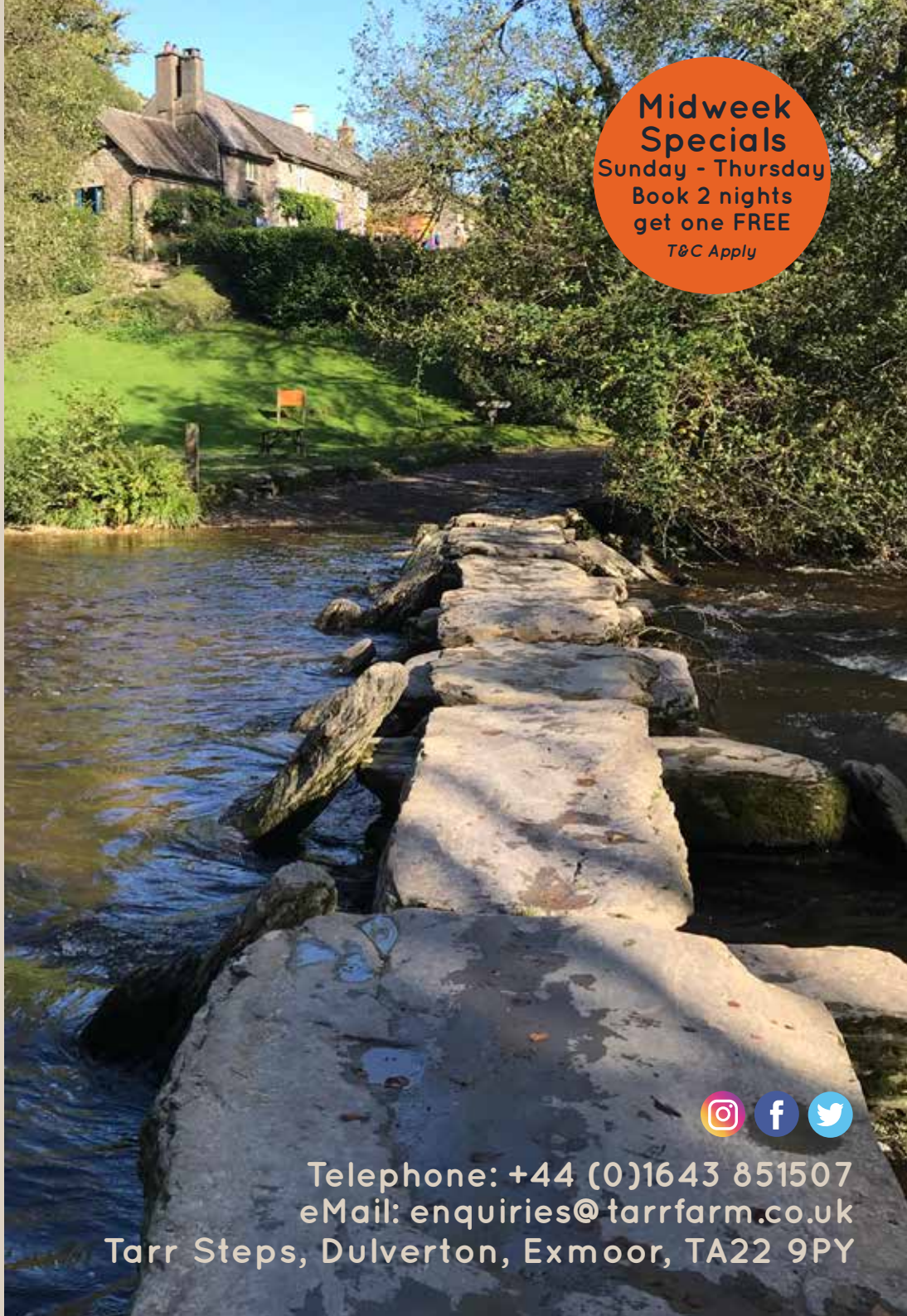
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## Milverton Concert Society

### Metamorphoses Trio 1 April 7.30pm Milverton Church

Milverton Concert society continues its Spring Season 2022 with a new ensemble, Metamorphoses, comprising clarinet, viola and piano. This is a lovely combination of instruments and the programme at Milverton includes two of the landmark pieces written for this ensemble, Mozart's beautiful Kegelstatt Trio and the witty and fiendishly difficult trio by Jean Francaix.

The Trio have been commended for their outstanding artistry and their performances have been described as 'sincere, imaginative and fresh as paint'.

The musicians come from three different countries and cultures and have been waiting to come to Milverton since 2020. We are delighted to, finally, be able to welcome them on 1 April 2022.

Tickets and details:

[www.milvertonconcerts.org](http://www.milvertonconcerts.org)



## DULVERTON GARDENING CLUB

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Thursday 17th March 7pm for 7.30pm

### ANDREW HUGHES

"HOW WE CAN HELP OUR SOIL  
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Thursday 21st April 7pm for 7.30pm

At Dulverton Town Hall

Join us for pre-talk refreshments

Tickets for non-members on the door £4



## DULVERTON VINTAGE FILMS

**Wed 9<sup>th</sup> March**

### THE BOOK THIEF

starring Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson  
& Sophie Nélisse (2013)

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> April**

### SWING TIME

starring Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers (1936)

**2.30 pm at Fishers Mead Community Centre**

## DULVERTON ACTION GROUP

Litter-picking (3rd Sunday)

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)**

**10.30 meet by the Heritage Centre**  
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## MULTI STORY THEATRE COMPANY

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FRIDAY MARCH 4<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm

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The stories of those who live in the countryside are rarely heard or heeded; this play opens the door for those stories to be shared.

"A powerful, intense and gripping production that transformed our village hall into a window onto our landscape." "You could almost smell it - of course you couldn't, but you could, if you know what I mean." "I was so engrossed that I nearly leapt up and joined in - and I've never been on stage in my life!"

Written by the wonderful South West based playwright David Lane, who understands our region, and performed by Devon theatre company, Multi Story, this highly recommended production is rooted in our rural culture and times.

We continue to have the safety of our audience at the front of our minds and will continue to follow 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 encourage face masks to reassure the more vulnerable people in our community. 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.

Organised by Dulverton Development Forum in partnership with Take Art – quality guaranteed!

Tickets £10 available from Dulverton Post Office, online <https://takeart.org/event/multi-story-theatre-company-hefted> or contact Jan Ross 01398 323818, [janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk)

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## Dulverton Town Hall

### Friday March 11<sup>th</sup>

Director: Pablo Larrain

### SPENCER (Cert 12A)

107mins

The marriage between Princess Diana and Prince Charles has long since grown cold. Though rumours of affairs and divorce abound, peace is ordained for the Christmas festivities at The Queen's Sandringham estate. There's eating and drinking, shooting and hunting. Diana knows the game, but, this year, things will be profoundly different. The film imagines what might have happened during those few fateful days.

### Friday March 25<sup>th</sup>

Director: Rian Johnson

### KNIVES OUT (Cert 12A)

130 mins

The circumstances surrounding the death of crime novelist Harlan Thrombey are mysterious, but there's one thing that renowned detective Benoit Blanc knows for sure - everyone in the wildly dysfunctional Thrombey family is a suspect. Now, Blanc must sift through a web of lies and red herrings to uncover the truth.

### Friday April 15<sup>th</sup>

Director: Ridley Scott

### HOUSE OF GUCCI (Cert 15)

158 mins

*House of Gucci* is inspired by the family empire behind the Italian fashion house of Gucci. When Patrizia Reggiani (Lady Gaga), an outsider from humble beginnings, marries into the Gucci family, her unbridled ambition begins to unravel the family legacy and triggers a reckless spiral of betrayal, decadence, revenge, and, ultimately, murder.

### Friday April 29<sup>th</sup>

Director: Phyllida Lloyd

### HERSELF (Cert 15)

96 mins

Single mother Sandra (Clare Dunne) escapes her abusive partner with her two young children, only to find herself trapped in temporary accommodation. After months of struggling, she draws inspiration from one of her daughter's bedtime stories and hits upon the idea of self-building an affordable home. She finds an architect who provides her with plans and is offered land by Peggy (Harriet Walter), a woman she cleans for. Aido (Conleth Hill), a building contractor, appears willing to help, too. But her past rears its head in the form of Gary (Ian Lloyd Anderson), her possessive ex, and bureaucrats fight back against her. An inspiring story filled with moments of grace about a mother determined to build a safe home for her children.

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](mailto:janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk). Bar open from 7pm.



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# The Vexillologist's Tale\*

That headline is a first for *Exmoor News* as it's not every day that we feature someone who has been passionate about flags for over half a century. Dulverton resident, Robin Ashburner, is founder and chairman of Red Dragon Flagmakers the world's only social mission flagmaker, which produces and sells custom flags, banners and bunting, and more.

Robin, now in his 80s, believes that everyone has a story to tell, but few have as many stories as he has, from working as a cowhand, aged 17, in the Canadian Rockies, to sharing a flag-related joke with HM The Queen, and being awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for "meritorious civil service".

Born into a military family in Windsor - his father was based at the castle - Robin developed an early taste for adventure. From Canada, he went on to work as a shepherd in New Zealand and Australia, and spent a brief but challenging time in South Africa, before ending up in Kenya. On returning to the UK, he enrolled at agricultural college, and eventually bought a 400-acre hill farm in Wales, where he lived for many years and raised a family.

In 1969, he was one of the team tasked with creating a new Welsh flag to mark the investiture of HRH The Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle but sourcing flags proved a stumbling block. Turning a problem into an opportunity, Robin converted one of his farm buildings into a factory and took on a team of local machinists. The rest is vexillological history...

Over the years, that company has evolved into Red Dragon Flagmakers, a successful custom flagmaker and consultancy, now headed by Robin's daughter, Joanna, and with clients worldwide.

Robin's knowledge of flags and flag history is exceptional and he was President of the prestigious Flag Institute for eight years. When film companies commission Red Dragon Flagmakers to consult on flag design authenticity and protocol, Robin's expertise comes to the fore. This has included in-depth research into the sea and land battles of the 1800s for Ridley Scott's 2020 blockbuster, *Napoleon*. Robin signed off the distinctive county flag for Devon and was involved in creating the flag for Somerset. "We've already sold hundreds of county flags for this year's Somerset Day on 11 May," he says, "so if you want to order any, don't delay!"

In 1999, Robin and his wife, Sue, relocated to a smallholding in Exford where, as in Wales, he was determined from the outset to support the local community. In 2018, his efforts on behalf of St Luke's Church, Simonsbath and Exmoor Community Youth Club, and the realisation of affordable local housing, were recognised when he received the BEM from The Queen.

Since moving to Dulverton some years ago, Robin has championed another vital local cause, as a trustee of Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust, which works closely with Exmoor National Park and the Rivers Authority. The trust promotes the weir and leat's extraordinary



*Robin Ashburner*

history and is committed to saving the medieval system from collapse. "The leat is absolutely essential for the future of Dulverton," he says, "without it, the town could flood." Robin and the trust team are determined that this is not allowed to happen.

\*Vexillology: the study of the history, symbolism and usage of flags

[www.reddragonflagmakers.co.uk](http://www.reddragonflagmakers.co.uk)

[www.dulvertonweir.org.uk](http://www.dulvertonweir.org.uk)

*Diane Trembath*



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## A welcome celebration

Welcome the Spring  
with its stream of sunlight  
as its glances on the roof of our  
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touching each gravestone,  
bursting  
through grasses  
while the land loving  
bridegroom, late  
for his wedding  
sings in excitement,  
trembling fingers upon the lych  
frozen dew on his polished shoes  
crushes the snowdrops in a  
scatter of footprints  
the white virgin cups all gently  
scrunched  
safely bound by beauty.

© Fran Bridger



### Looking forward to spring! The Regal Theatre is with our wonderful spring programme.

On **1<sup>st</sup> March** we start our spring program with the film *The Lost Daughter* starring Olivia Coleman.

**The ZOOTS** bring the sounds of the sixties to the Regal on **4<sup>th</sup> March**. On the **6<sup>th</sup> March** we have a matinee showing of the animated film *Sing 2* with spectacular hit songs.

**8<sup>th</sup> March, Exhibition on Screen** brings **Frida Kahlo** back to the cinema. Discover her art and uncover the truth behind her own turbulent life. Somerset Opera perform **Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe*** on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

We are delighted to welcome back the **PELLÉAS ENSEMBLE**. They will be performing at the Methodist Church on **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March**. On the **1<sup>st</sup> April** we bring you *Broadway and Beyond*. This is a thrilling and entertaining mix of musical wit from the most popular musicals of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

We are pleased to bring a live performance of *La Traviata* from the Royal Opera House on **13<sup>th</sup> April**. Sung in Italian with English subtitles. Panto returns to the Regal stage **16<sup>th</sup> April and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022** "Oh Yes It does"....with *Aladdin*.

Writer **John Preston** will be discussing the **JEREMY THORPE STORY**, the subject of his non-fiction book *A Very English Scandal* on **30<sup>th</sup> April**.

For our full March and April programme please visit [www.regaltheatre.co.uk](http://www.regaltheatre.co.uk)

*Tickets for all events may be booked in advance online at <https://regaltheatre.co.uk/whatson> or from the Box Office (Tel 01643 706430) between 9.30am and 12.00pm Monday - Saturday; or by telephone only from 1.30pm to 4pm.*

*Some Covid restrictions are in place to ensure audiences and volunteers are protected. Everyone is asked to use the hand sanitiser provided and wear a face covering at all times, except when eating or drinking.*

PS - The Regal Theatre is run entirely by volunteers - why not join us?

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## GET OUTSIDE!

It can be tough in the cold and dark months to get motivated to exercise, so if you feel in need of a little inspiration take a look at the website for the Get Outside in Somerset project:

[www.getoutsideinsomerset.co.uk](http://www.getoutsideinsomerset.co.uk)

The Get Outside in Somerset project is a joint initiative from Somerset Activity and Sport Partnership (SASP), The Community Council for Somerset (CCS), Spark Somerset, and Somerset Wildlife Trust, funded by Public Health. The project aims to empower people to get outside more and enjoy our beautiful county. The website is packed with activities

and ideas to help you to get outside and they also have a Facebook group where people from across Somerset share local tips and ideas!

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/531875827909722> and take part in the chat!

If you don't have access to the internet, if you struggle to get outside, or to find activities to engage in, then do contact your local Village Agent who could find a community solution to help you.

now and we welcome unpaid carers who feel in need of support, or simply the opportunity to take time out and talk with other carers. Dulverton Carers Group meets every first Tuesday of the month from 2.30pm to 4pm at the Exmoor Medical Centre. Numbers at each meeting are still limited due to Covid so you do need to book your place – please contact Jane Lillis, Village Agent if you would like to join us.

Contact details below.

## CARERS GROUPS MAKE A WELCOME RETURN

Carers in Somerset will be delighted to hear that many of the Carer groups are reopening across the county. The Dulverton Carers Group has been back up and running for several months

## DULVERTON TALKING CAFE

Finally, don't forget that our Dulverton Talking Café is running again now – our new venue is the Fishers Mead Community Room (on the corner of the turn into the Exmoor Medical Centre) and we are there on Thursday mornings between 10.30 am and 12.30pm.

We can offer help with a wide range of issues so if you are in need of support, please call your Village Agent to make an appointment.


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## YOUR VILLAGE AGENT - DULVERTON AND EXMOOR

Please don't hesitate to call or email your local Village Agent if you have any questions or need support. Your West Somerset Village Agent team are here to help.

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are here, why not also visit the wonderful array of independent shops Dulverton has to offer, and enjoy lunch at one of the many charming hospitality venues nearby? SIM Centre UK is also quite literally a stone's throw away from Exmoor Distillery.

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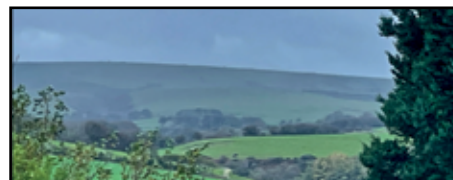
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## VOICES of EXMOOR

**VOICES OF EXMOOR CHOIR TO BE  
PAIRED WITH MUSIC CREATOR TO  
CREATE NEW MUSIC**

Voices of Exmoor choir are delighted to have been chosen by Making Music, the UK's membership organisation for leisure-time music, as one of just six choirs across the country to work with a composer over the next year, to culminate in a premier performance of a new piece of work, plus a recording and radio broadcast.

Hannah Fredsgaard-Jones, mentored by Lynne Plowman, will be working with Voices of Exmoor. She is a composer, vocalist, songwriter and audio producer. Her work spans Scandinavian folk music, alternative pop music, sound art and audio documentary. Recent projects include a new commission for Love Music and Freedom of Mind Community Choir; a residency with Oxford Contemporary Music exploring moving, site-specific performance; and a collaborative songwriting project 'Missed Connections' with songs based on Craigslist classifieds.

Voices of Exmoor is a mixed-voice community choir open to all regardless of ability, experience or whether they can read music or not. The choir normally presents two main concerts each year, one in the summer and one before Christmas, but has also enjoyed singing at weddings and other celebrations. After covering concert costs, the choir makes a donation to a chosen charity for each year. Over 16 years the choir has been singing together, thousands of pounds have been donated to many local charities. Adopt a Music Creator is run by Making Music in conjunction with Sound and Music, the national organisation for new music, and funded by the PRS Foundation and Philip and Dorothy Green Trust. New members will be most welcome to join Voices of Exmoor – contact the Musical Director, Amanda Taylor on 01598 428005 or 07966 555782.



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## Somerset County Cricket Club bats for Somerset Day



One of Somerset's best-known organisations, Somerset County Cricket Club, which has played in every top-level domestic cricket competition in England since 1891, has joined Somerset Day as an official partner.

Gordon Hollins, Somerset County Cricket Club CEO said, "We are delighted to be supporting Somerset Day 2022. The campaign actively celebrates everything that is special about this great County, and that is something that we are always keen to give our backing to. We take great pride in supporting our local community and doing everything that we can to ensure that Somerset continues to be an attractive, vibrant and thriving place to live, work and visit."

The club will be working closely with the team at Somerset Day said founder of Somerset Day, Nigel Muers-Raby, "We're absolutely delighted to welcome Somerset County Cricket Club as official partners. They share our passion for Somerset and we look forward to working with them on our 2022 campaign to Fly the Flag for Somerset".

They join a diverse range of businesses and organisations working with Somerset Day including existing club partners Thatchers Cider and others including Somerset Larder, Haynes International Somerset Motor Museum and Godminster Cheese.

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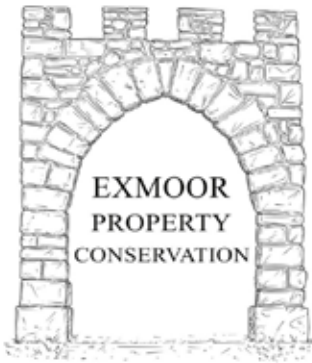
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## ANSTEY COMMUNITY HALL (PREVIOUSLY WEST ANSTEY VILLAGE HALL)

The Hall Committee are pleased to announce that the Charity Commission has approved our request to change the name of the hall from West Anstey Village Hall to Anstey Community Hall with immediate effect.

This request was made as a result of East Anstey no longer having a social meeting place available to them in their parish following the sale of the Methodist Hall, so in collaboration with East Anstey Parish Council, West Anstey Parish Meeting, the Hall Committee and last but not least consultation with parishioners, a long journey ensued to apply to change the name, which supported amendments to the Constitution to increase the area of benefit for the hall to both East and West Anstey as well as the surrounding areas.

The Hall already hosts the following regular weekly/monthly events:

Monday - Anstey Playgroup

Monday - Outreach Post Office from Dulverton, between 12.45pm – 3.45pm

Monday - Anstey Short Mat Bowls Club

Tuesday - Happy Feet Dance Club

Wednesday - Pilates

Wednesday - Craft Club

On the first Tuesday of the month Coffee Break Club is held between 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to join and meet up with old friends or make new ones whilst partaking in a hot beverage and some delicious homemade cakes, biscuits and savouries.

The WI currently meet on the first

Thursday of the month and Anstey Arts are hoping to arrange some events again soon.

We now have a new website, [www.ansteycommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.ansteycommunityhall.co.uk), which is in its infancy (so please bear with us). There is more information about the regular weekly clubs to include contact details and times of events. It also has the ability to allow online bookings for the spaces in the hall for hire.

These last two years have shown, more than ever, that local communities are so important and we really want the hall to be the hub of that focus so we are always interested in new ideas for clubs or regular events for locals to hold or take part in so please take the opportunity to visit our website to make any suggestions or comments or you can email [secretary.ansteyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.ansteyvillagehall@gmail.com) or telephone Helen Pearce on 07506 128216.

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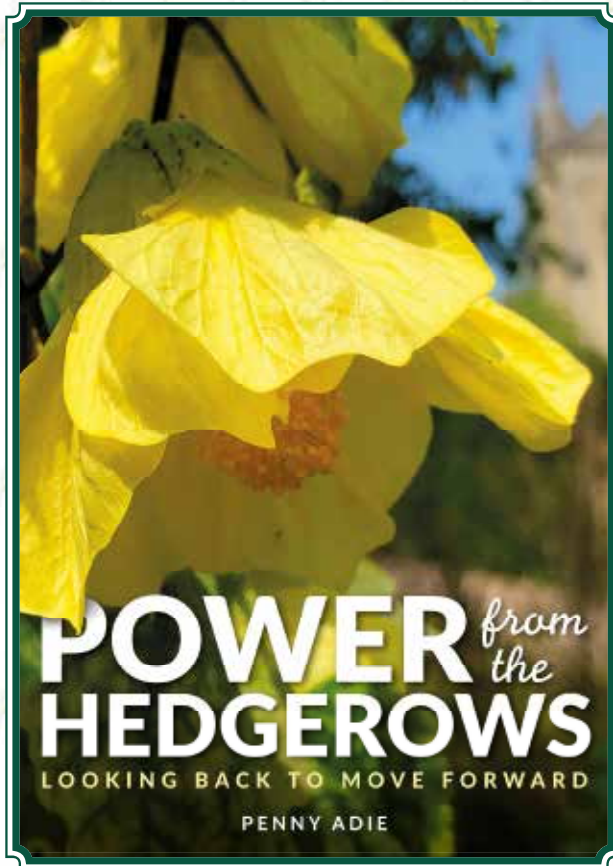
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... 'An evocative read'... Country Life

Through a wide spectrum of floral images as well as inspiring literary contributions from members of the public, including children, Penny Adie's latest book provides a fascinating insight into the positive aspects of the pandemic.

The undoubted message in this very readable book is designed to give future generations the confidence to pursue fulfilling lives.

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Contact Penny Adie

e: [adie.exmoor@btinternet.com](mailto:adie.exmoor@btinternet.com) t: 01398 331492

[www.powerfromthehedgerows.co.uk](http://www.powerfromthehedgerows.co.uk)

***Funds raised through sales will be donated to  
Exeter Cathedral Music Foundation Trust***

## **Power from the Hedgerows Looking Back to Look Forward ... 'An evocative read'... Country Life**

Never having produced a book before, Penny Adie had no idea how to go about it nor had she any expectation of the outcome. What would people think? Would it be good enough? Would it sell?

Imagine her astonishment when her first book (*Hope in the Hedgerows*) not only found favour with the many people who read it but raised, through sales, an astonishing £7000+ for Help Musicians. Inspired by this and always prepared to take on a challenge, she embarked upon a sequel. This has resulted in '*Power from the Hedgerows*' – destined to raise money for Exeter Cathedral Music Foundation Trust. This wonderful foundation supports 50% of the annual £360,000 cost to run the Choir. The money is spent on professional salaries - Director of Music, Choral Scholars and organist - bursaries for the choristers, sheet music, commissions, organ tuning, robes, outreach work and much else besides. This surprises everyone! In a cathedral the choir, sung services, concerts etc. are all taken for granted. And yet you would soon notice their absence. Without the Choir the music would die; it's as simple as that. This would result in loss of sung services, likewise concerts, Christmas carols and live broadcasts culminating in a drop in income that the many visitors bring not only to the Cathedral itself, but the city in its entirety. When you add in the valuable work the Choir does by visiting schools, their contribution to life

in Devon is considerable. In fact its part of the UK's heritage.

There are important occasions within the Cathedral that necessitates the presence of the choir. HRH The Prince of Wales has paid several visits and in particular, as Patron of the appeal that launched the Foundation Trust in the 1980s. Many years ago Nelson Mandela dropped in as did Rayne Spencer – although what the occasion was, the author has no idea!

To return Adie's latest book -what is *Power from the Hedgerows* about?

This is a hard question to answer! Both books came about by accident. Having discovered quite by chance that her iPhone 8 took rather good shots of hedgerow flowers, Penny built up a collection. What to do with them? That was the question. No one wanted yet another book on wild flowers. So she hit upon the idea of asking random members of the public to put their thoughts on paper on how the pandemic had affected their lives. These were so fascinating as well as diverse to read that she decided to compile a book comprising floral images on the right hand side of a page, with an individual's text to complement it on the left. The result was *Hope in the Hedgerows* that sold so many copies it needed a reprint.

*Power from the Hedgerows* mirrors the format of Adie's first literary offering whereby the text goes hand in hand with beautiful images of flowers seen in country lanes. She has allowed herself a snippet of poet license however by including shots such as the front cover that was taken in the Bishop's Palace garden.

Contributors comprise an eclectic bunch of people! Exeter's MP, The Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw, actor and writer, John Nettles, a chorister, two homeless people and journalist, Rachel Johnson are just a few of the twenty eight names that appear. Their insight into the positive aspects of the pandemic are quite revealing. Downright honest and in some cases, most amusing.

Adie discovered an interesting thing when she came to sell the first book. Purchases through Amazon and PayPal seemed to be the obvious route to go down until it came to cost. Why pay money when trying to raise funds for charity? So she decided to take on sales herself. What a revelation! A number of people don't use either system and there are those in the older age bracket who don't do online banking. But the major advantage of taking on personal sales is that she got to know a lot of people. Through email she has 'met' and made a lot of friends; there were conversations on topics such as gardening, choral singing, the effect of the pandemic on musicians, and the random things like the downward turn of the economy and the rising price of fuel. There were some fascinating phone conversations, some so lengthy that she wondered if the incoming caller was ever going to place an order!

There is always the cost of production to take into account too. If Penny hadn't decided to go down the self-publishing route, the amount spent on printing would have been prohibitive. As it was, donations came flooding in to cover all the expenses. This has meant that all profits from sales can go to the Trust and right now, it needs every pound to sustain the Choir. There is a strong message attached to this fascinating book. Its aim from the outset has been to give future generations the confidence needed to pursue fulfilling lives and buoy, does it do that in spade-loads.

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# CLEANSED AND CLEANED, AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

**Day of Action highlights both plastic problem and the community spirit that came together to tackle it across North Devon and Torridge**

Plastic Free North Devon's (PFND's) Cleanse and Clean Day of Action on Saturday 29 January 2022 was a huge success, bringing together individuals, families, and community groups to enjoy the benefits of nature at the same time as giving a little back by cleaning up. The day was a highlight of the month-long Cleanse and Clean campaign by local environmental charity Plastic Free North Devon, who are on a mission to protect and improve our environment through community-led action.

Five hundred and eighty-three kgs of rubbish were collected, 10 organised community cleans took place, and at least 157 volunteers across northern Devon

took part.

Some of the stranger finds included a Christmas slipper, a mophead hanging in a tree, and a seal's jawbone, complete with tooth. Some of the more common finds included the usual suspects of food packaging, disposable facemasks, microplastics, cigarette butts, and 'ghost gear' such as fishing rope and nets.

Some of these items are single use, and some are even effectively zero use - the little plastic pellets you often find washed up along the tideline are called 'nurdles', and are raw, unused plastic that got washed down the drain before it even had a chance to be used once.

Anne-Marie Eveleigh, PFND Director of Operations, summed up the day:

"First off we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who joined us at

various locations and on their own cleans on Saturday and throughout the whole month. It's been so inspiring to see so many people getting involved and we already have groups pledging to continue with their own community cleans throughout the year or joining in with our regular cleans, which is amazing.

What all the items we found have in common (apart from the seal's jawbone) is that they will be with us for a very long time, polluting our environment and posing a threat to wildlife. Amongst Saturday's haul was a plastic Playmobil® character from 1981, and at previous beach cleans we've found crisp and sweet wrappers dating as far back as the 1960s.

"So it's always a bit of a wake up call in terms of how we need to adapt our behaviour and move away from disposable culture. We don't just need to do better as individuals, we need to ask for better from businesses, big corporations, and governments. Why is plastic production set to quadruple by 2050 when we know how detrimental it is? The answers are complex but that won't stop us fighting against it. sociallll"

Feedback on the day included words like 'exhilarated', 'inspired', 'happy', and 'proud', but with participants also noting sadness at seeing the volume of rubbish they were finding. And this is part of the point of the campaign, to galvanise the local community into taking action to protect our environment by encouraging them to reconnect with nature - benefitting from the positive effects that spending time in green spaces like parks, or 'blue' spaces by water like rivers or oceans, can have on our physical, mental, and emotional health, and taking pride in looking after those spaces. The more we connect with nature, the more we're inspired to want to protect it.



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PFND Cleanse and Clean Ambassador and local advocate for blue health through her Social Swim Group, Danielle Ash shares her reflections:

"It's brilliant that we were able to make such a visible difference on the day, but as a regular volunteer I see so much rubbish appearing on a regular basis, often in the same areas. It really makes you start to wonder where it comes from, and how we can change some of our habits to create less of it in the first place. Simple swaps like using refillable bottles and not buying packaged fruit and veg can really add up over time, but it's not just individuals' responsibility - the ultimate responsibility lies with industry, government, and big business."

The annual campaign was supported this year by local companies dryrobe®, who donated three of their dryrobe® Advance robes as prizes for the Cleanse and Clean competition (winners to be announced soon), and Coast and Moor Coffee.

Although this year's Cleanse and Clean campaign is finished, there are loads of ways that you can get involved with the charity's work, whether that's by volunteering or by taking small steps in your personal life and businesses, with the wider implications of climate change and climate justice in mind - head over to [www.plasticfreenorthdevon.org](http://www.plasticfreenorthdevon.org) to find out more and get involved.

One action you can take today is to contact your local shops and supermarkets asking them to reduce unnecessary packaging and sign this petition from Greenpeace asking the larger supermarkets to step up their game too:

<https://action.greenpeace.org.uk/plastic-free-supermarkets>.

Check out the charity's latest blog post on their website for more actions you can take.



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When I started the Country Property Diary it seemed that preparing one every two months would be easy. How quickly two months passes when you are really busy, it seems as though you only have to blink and it's that time again.

Having said that lots has happened in the past few months which is great as January is normally a quieter month for the more rural property market (whereas the larger town market seem to get busy after about the second week of every New Year).

This year is however an exception, the pent up overflow of buyers from 2021 has rolled over into the New Year (whilst this is the March/April issue we have to prepare this in early February) and as a result almost every property is under offer and anything coming to the market has lots of enquiries, viewings and offers as a result. Whilst that may seem to be a good thing for an agent selling property, it does cause its own dilemma when trying to help and advise clients what to do when it comes to selling their homes, particularly if they want to stay locally and can't see any property that may suit them to help with making a decision to market their own property.

I'm aware that last issue of my *Country Property Diary* focused

very heavily on this point and the Market Ready Service that we offer our clients to help ease the pressure when it comes to selling. The article actually created quite a healthy response from local property owners and as a result we have been asked to prepare many local properties for sale by using this service (properties vary from bungalows, to town houses, country cottages and larger country homes with land etc).

One such client instructed us to prepare their property for marketing just in case a suitable home became available in the weeks and months ahead.... We found a potential property for them actually the next day!

Moving forward, we still see there being a shortage of available properties in the months ahead and whilst this may ease at some stage, those property owners that have either sold, are under offer or have their property ready to hit the market straight away when something becomes suitable for sale are the ones most likely to make the very best of the property market right now. For more advice on this special service for local clients (Market Ready Service), then do contact us without obligation on 01398 323271 or [dulverton@webbers.co.uk](mailto:dulverton@webbers.co.uk) as we would be pleased to explain how this works and how it could help you make a successful move.

### Rapid rise for a rising star!

Napoleon Wilcox, Main Board Director of Webbers and Head of Webbers Fine & Country for the South West (based at Dulverton) is pleased to announce that Ginny Saunders, The Dulverton office's Assistant Manager, is now promoted to Office Manager.

Whilst Napoleon will still be based in Dulverton and heading up the successful Exmoor Office, Ginny will be taking over an ever greater role of the day to day running of the branch along with developing her skills as a valuer whilst Webbers/Fine & Country expand their presence yet further across the area.

"Ginny was originally based at another local agent's office, where perhaps career development at that time was very limited. We spotted the potential that she had as a direct competitor of ours at the time and very soon persuaded her to join our incredibly strong and experienced team here at our office.

Ginny has proven during the past four years that our faith in her abilities, her remarkable customer care and utmost professionalism at all times were well founded. (Ginny is recognised as one of our finest staff for customer care across all offices and departments across the West Country.)"

Napoleon went on to comment, "during my 37 years' experience of working locally but employing staff across a wide part of our business, this is in my view, one of the most worthy promotions that I can think of and I am truly delighted to be the one to assist Ginny in taking the next step in what we have no doubt will be a very promising career."

Ginny commented, "I am so grateful to Webbers/Fine & Country for giving me the opportunities to develop my career which in turn has enabled my wealth of knowledge and experience grow too. Exmoor and the surrounding area is such a beautiful part of the world to live and work and I'm so lucky to be able to call Exmoor my office."



Ginny Saunders

### Napoleon

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



Napoleon Wilcox -  
Director



Ginny Saunders –  
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Louise Garner –  
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Rebecca Whitehead  
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## North Devon UNESCO Biosphere wins £1.37m to boost blue and green economy in the S W

North Devon UNESCO Biosphere has won the largest green economy award nationally from the HM Government's Community Renewal Fund (CRF). This will promote green growth and investment in the area while raising well-being for local communities through nature based solutions.

The £1.37m bid, the 6<sup>th</sup> largest award overall, will enable a new programme of work to create great jobs for local people in northern Devon at the same time as addressing the climate and ecological emergency. The CRF fund will be a big step forward in meeting this aim and will help our biosphere work towards its mission to stimulate the South West's natural-based economy > 20% GDP by 2030.

"This award recognises the unique Natural Capital assets that are within the biosphere designation. These include part of our treasured National Parks, some of the most important agricultural assets within Devon and a huge marine area which includes the Isle of Lundy. Within this, there is a population of nearly 200,000 people all of whom have a relationship with the Biosphere but deserve to participate in this opportunity to improve their economic and social wellbeing," added Tim Jones, Chairman, North Devon Biosphere Foundation.

'This award is the result of an inspired contribution from the project team. In recognition of the quality of the proposition, the funding secured is the largest grant to have been awarded in the country for a "Green Programme". It is our biosphere's ambition to be the lead for Natural Capital activity, regionally, nationally and internationally, this award is a significant step forward in this journey.'

The North Devon UNESCO Biosphere's CRF programme has two linked elements - the Green Biosphere, focused on woodland, regenerative agriculture and agritech; and the Blue Biosphere focused on offshore wind, aquaculture, marine biodiversity and 'blue carbon'. Both elements have strong skills development and job creation elements as well as plans to redirect private investment into the area. The programme will offer solutions for economic development and raising wellbeing for local communities through innovation projects in nature – on land and at sea. With 70% of Devon's graduates leaving the county to find better employment elsewhere, the CRF money will offer young people exciting job opportunities which will in turn help protect the local rural and coastal way of life AND address regions net zero ambition.

Devon's richness is being translated in to economic prosperity that addresses the climate emergency - including the incredible place we live. "It is excellent news that northern Devon's £1.3 million Community Renewal Fund bid for the Blue & Green Biosphere Natural Capital Accelerator Bid was successful," added Selaine Saxby, MP for North Devon, "This project will seek to enable a further £50 million of private sector investment into our environment and potentially create up to 1300 new jobs by 2026. I am confident that we can back up this positive announcement with further investment in North Devon in the future."

To find out more about the work of North Devon UNESCO Biosphere and its trading arm the Biosphere Foundation head to: <https://www.biospherefoundation.co.uk/>



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The Trust recently became aware of a cache of photographs taken inside Dulverton Laundry in the early 1990s. DWLCT contacted the photographer Carlotta Luke who has kindly made her portfolio available to view.

Carlotta comments, "I moved to the UK from New England in December 1990 as an aspiring young photographer, using my camera to help me understand the culture of my adopted home. Although we were based in London, my husband comes from Dulverton, so I was getting to know Somerset as well as London. My father-in-law was the one who first told me about the Dulverton Laundry as he knew of my interest in photographing

industrial settings. (My mother-in-law was Jean Luke, a teacher at Dulverton Middle School). The laundry owner was happy for me to document the business and I ended up visiting the laundry three times over the spring and summer of 1991. I was made to feel very welcome and got a real sense of the camaraderie amongst the staff. I printed about a dozen photographs at the time, but it was not until I was contacted by the Weir

Trust that I looked in depth at what I had. I am glad to have captured a time and place that is now gone, both the laundry itself and the people whose day to day lives were an integral part of it."

Robert Jones Community Engagement Lead and Hon. Trustee of DWLCT says, "I'm sure Dulverton people are going to find this work of immense interest, especially if they worked in the laundry, or knew somebody who worked there, or were a laundry customer."

The Trust is exploring the possibility of organising an exhibition of the photographs later in the year. In the meantime the photographs can be viewed now via the Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust website - [www.dulvertonweir.org.uk](http://www.dulvertonweir.org.uk).



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# Exmoor Character Cottages Award

The prestigious Bristol, Bath and Somerset Tourism Awards have confirmed Exmoor Character Cottages as a Resilience and Innovation Award finalist.



The 2022 awards come hot on the heels of the most challenging period in the hospitality industry. Sponsored by Quality in Tourism, judges assessed how finalists adapted and overcame COVID-19 challenges and supported their local communities during the pandemic.

“Finding our way through this was a top priority,” says Lucy Green, owner of the luxury holiday cottage business, who, along with her team of housekeepers, gardeners, maintenance crew and marketing staff, worked tirelessly to ensure that the overall experience for guests was first class.

“Everything about the pandemic posed a challenge; from the initial lockdown to managing the disappointment of our valued guests prevented from travelling, as well as keeping our local teams on board and paid. We did everything we could to ensure happy holidays here on Exmoor once the pandemic was over.”

As a result, Exmoor Character Cottages welcomed a record number of guests to their four luxury self-catering holiday cottages in Minehead and Dunster during 2021 and celebrated their busiest ever season.

The 80%+ occupancy rate was a first for the business. Lucy attributes this to the unwavering commitment and continuing vision for the holiday cottage enterprise during the uncertainty of the pandemic. The Exmoor Character Cottages team now looks forward to the prestigious Awards Evening and the chance to raise a well-earned glass or two during the online ceremony next month.

“We are all so pleased to be in the final of the Bristol, Bath and Somerset Tourism Awards. It is a real group effort, and we look forward to joining all the other finalists next month and hearing of their success stories.”

---

## ***eat:Festivals***

Local food and drink festival organisers, eat:Festivals, are celebrating today after hearing that they are Finalists in the Dog Friendly Business of the Year category at the 2022 Bristol, Bath & Somerset Tourism Awards. Head of Sparkle, Sarah Milner Simonds, told us, “We think this is a paw-fect start to the new year and really wag-ficient news. We work really hard to make our one-day food and drink festivals welcoming for the whole family and that includes four-legged members too.”

Co-organiser, Bev Milner Simonds continued, “We have always made sure we are dog friendly but this year we enhanced experience by having a Dog Concierge on hand to welcome pets,

publishing local dog walks, working in partnership with local dog businesses to increase our number of water bowl spots and having Pooch Paws-Points dotted throughout the festival with seating for owners to take a breather.”

eat:Festivals find out if they have won Gold, Silver or Bronze on 17 February and until then they are working hard on the plans for the 2022 season of events - including enhancements for everyone and their dog!

### **2022 dates:**

eat:Minehead 02 April  
eat:Weston-super-Mare 9 April  
eat:Yeovil 23 April

eat:Castle Cary 30 April  
eat:Lyme Regis 07 May  
eat:Taunton 14 May  
eat:Clevedon 21 May  
eat:Burnham-on-Sea 28 May

eat:Teignmouth 06 August  
eat:Minehead 07 August  
eat:Portishead 13 August  
Honiton Gate to Plate 20 August  
eat:Wellington 03 September  
eat:Chipping Sodbury 10 Sept  
eat:Yeovil - part of Super 17 September  
eat:Weston-super-Mare 24 September



eat:Tiverton Sunday 25 September  
 eat:Bedminster 01 October  
 eat:Nailsea 08 October  
 eat:Teignmouth 15 October  
 eat:Burnham-on-Sea 22 October  
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# Exmoor Young Voices - Self-Build Scheme



## Voices' Self-Build Scheme - Can you help?

There's no denying the acute shortage of affordable housing on Exmoor. As a result, young people live with their parents longer than ever before, and others have no choice but to move away from the area. In response to the rural housing crisis, Exmoor Young Voices has launched an innovative Supported Self-Build Scheme, and it's already making fantastic progress.

The scheme, led by experienced self-builder, Justin Tyers, aims to help people with a local tie, who are in housing need, build themselves a beautiful home of their own design at a price they can afford to pay.

Right now, two of the eight self-builders taking part in the scheme are beginning the practical steps of building a home by clearing the site on which they will build in the spring.

One family is working on their house design, and the other has planning permission already in place. Amongst the other self-builders, two have sought pre-planning advice to discover whether a planning application would be supported on land they already own.

Pre-planning advice is a really useful, free service offered by Exmoor National Park's Planning Department. It allows potential self-builders to get some feedback and certainty about their plans to build without using up precious initial finance. Of course, it's not always good news, but even disappointing news regarding one plot helps them 'move on' to find another and try again.

As Justin says, "Achieving your own home, like achieving anything worthwhile, involves setbacks.

However, success always comes to those who refuse to give in!"

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If you would like to learn more about this service which is available to all ages, or to arrange for us to deliver books to you please ask about the Home Library Service at your local library or contact Kirsty Jenssen: **tel: 07814 079831**  
**email [kjenssen@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:kjenssen@somerset.gov.uk)**



### How can you help?

Exmoor Young Voices are currently looking for potential building plots on the west side of the moor.

Please email [exmooryoungvoices@hotmail.com](mailto:exmooryoungvoices@hotmail.com) if you know anyone who has land suitable for self-building who may wish to help the next generation live and stand on Exmoor.

Also, if you or someone you know is interested in building a home in response to housing needs, the EYV Self-Build Scheme is continuous.

Get in touch. Exmoor Young Voices look forward to offering help and support as you build your forever home.

# Just Curious?

Whether you are thinking of moving or not, we would be delighted to provide you with a **Free Valuation** of your property.



**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.

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01398 323174 or [dulverton@stags.co.uk](mailto:dulverton@stags.co.uk)

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## News from the Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton TA22 9QE

Everyone at the Exmoor Pony Centre and Moorland Mousie Trust is busy working through the winter months at our base up on Exmoor at Ashwick. The festive season was soon upon us, and it was great to catch up with supporters old and new. The ponies are given a rare treat of carrots at Christmas which was a welcome sight in the torrential rain!

The majority of our resident ridden ponies are still on their holidays enjoying coastal views, wooded valleys and plenty of grass. They will return in the Spring, old favourites such as Tom, Fleeter and Winston are looking great, and they will no doubt be delighted to meet lots of visitors when we re-open on the 1st April 2022.

This year we are handling the 2021 born moorland foals in preparation for their future lives. Our Foal Handling courses have been popular and it's been fabulous to see participants getting hands on with the likes of Twiglet, McCoy, Wotsit and Niknak to name a few. In 2022 we are hoping to run further courses from the Exmoor Pony Centre, keep an eye on our website and Facebook.

Over the coming months, we shall be preparing for welcoming visitors back to the Centre, we always strive to make some modest improvements over the winter months whilst undertaking lots of pony tasks too. No matter what the day or time we are always here for our MMT ponies and whilst we always have our fingers crossed for every pony to be always happy and healthy, there are occasions when we need to assist some of our ponies who live elsewhere. Recently we have had Sherbert and Valentino return to the Centre for a week of treatment for a foot abscess. Sherbert was the pony we know and love, cheeky and always up to mischief and once he was feeling a little better Valentino too joined in with the fun trying to find a way to chat to

all the other ponies!

It has also been our pleasure to help local Exmoor pony owners with their own four-legged friends.

Anything we can do to make the lives of people and ponies any easier and happier we will do our best.

Keep in touch with us by calling, emailing or checking our website and social media.

Website: [www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk](http://www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/TheExmoorPonyCentre](http://www.facebook.com/TheExmoorPonyCentre)

Email: [info@exmoorponycentre.org.uk](mailto:info@exmoorponycentre.org.uk)

Tel: 01398 323093



Foals



Tom, Fleeter, Robbie and Winston



# N. H. Hopkins

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## BERNARD SLADE'S SAME TIME, NEXT YEAR

Directed by Michael Cabot Set and Costume Design by Bek Palmer

Doris and George meet in 1951, a chance encounter in a Californian hotel that leads to a passionate one-night stand. Both are married to other people but, soon aware that this might be the start of something, they promise to meet 12 months later. So begins a romantic love affair that lasts 25 years.

The play charts their lives through the ups and downs of parenthood, career highs and lows as well as the shifting fashions and morals of the passing decades.

Bernard Slade paints a bittersweet, nostalgic and very funny portrait of two likeable protagonists who find themselves in the most unusual of long-term relationships.

One of the world's most widely staged plays, *Same Time, Next Year* was originally produced on Broadway in 1975. It ran for four years, winning a Tony Award for lead actress, Ellen Burstyn, who later recreated her role in the successful film of the same title opposite Alan Alda.

"Genuinely funny and genuinely romantic" *New York Post*

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## Exmoor Rotary Club

We are really sorry that we had to cancel our popular Charity Sunday Lunch in aid of Shelterbox in January. As you will appreciate, decisions had to be made before the Omicron variant raised its ugly head. We do hope to re-schedule the event later in the year, especially as there are so many people in the world suffering from conflicts and natural events who desperately need the relief help of Shelterbox.

A huge thanks to all who contributed to the Rotary Christmas Collections so generously. Although we were not able to bring Santa and his sleigh around the houses this time, we raised nearly £500 from our two Saturday collections at Dulverton and Bampton. It is much appreciated, and the money will go to local good causes.

The annual Exmoor Rotary Challenge, a charity walk for adults, is scheduled for Sunday 10th April.

Also details have now been sent to schools and other youth organisations for the Rotary Exmoor Youth Challenge on Saturday 30th April. This has had to be cancelled for the last two years. The teams who take part in this (over 400 children in all) have found the event great fun but hard work, and it has been much praised by our participating local schools for the physical and mental challenges, and team-building involved. Details of both of these on our website.

[www.exmoor-rotary.org.uk](http://www.exmoor-rotary.org.uk)

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[www.exevalleyelectrical.co.uk](http://www.exevalleyelectrical.co.uk)



Find us on

**SAVE THE DATE**

## Dulverton by Starlight 2022

Would you like to join our friendly team organising this magical event? Come along to our public open meeting on Wednesday 27th April at 7pm in the Lower Town Hall, Dulverton or express your interest by emailing [dulvertonbystarlight2000@gmail.com](mailto:dulvertonbystarlight2000@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you there.

Kindly sponsored by Webbers.



## DULVERTON HERITAGE CENTRE GUIDED WALKS

30th April. Why not join us for a guided walk around Dulverton? Learn of Dulverton's history and visit some of its special and unique places. Cost £5.00 per person. Meet outside the Heritage Centre at 3pm.

## CELEBRATIONS



Friday 3rd June **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street Party Exmoor Lawns**

Sunday 5th June **The Queen's platinum Jubilee Music on the lawns**

Further details to follow.

Anyone willing to help email [dulvertonjubileecelebrations@gmail.com](mailto:dulvertonjubileecelebrations@gmail.com)

## Jurassic Coast Challenge 2022

by Carl Hooper, Dulverton Cricket.

In 2020 I signed up to do the Coast to Coast, Ultra challenge but due to Covid it was cancelled.

In 2021 I saw my friends Steve and Amy Hadley take on the challenge and supported them all the way. This then inspired me to take on the walk myself. I've chosen the hardest option of 100k continuous challenge, walking through the night. I hope to finish the challenge in around 26 hours.

I am raising money for Cancer Research and would be grateful for any donation to this fantastic charity. Go to [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and search for Carl Hooper Jurassic Coast Challenge 2022.

**SAVE THE DATE**

## Watercolour Classes

Chris Howe is continuing his friendly, relaxed watercolour classes in the National Park Centres at Dulverton and Lynmouth. Also at Holworthy Farm on the banks of Wimbleball Lake. Those who have come along to the classes in the past have commented on how the step by step tuition has really helped them to get to grips with new watercolour techniques.

Beginners have been really pleased with how quickly they have been able to produce lovely watercolour paintings.

All materials are provided, no need to take anything.

Dates coming up are:

Dulverton National Park Centre, Monday 10.30-12.30, £18 on Feb 7, March 7, April 11 and May 9

Lynmouth National Park Centre, Thursday 2.00-4.00, £18 on Feb 10, March 10, April 14 and May 12

Holworthy Farm, Wimbleball Lake, Wednesday 10.00-12.30 or 2.00-4.30, £20 March 9, April 13 and May 11

(Plus an all day session on Saturday March 5, 10.00-4.30, £55 including lunch

Contact Chris on 07969388815 or [chriswivey@hotmail.com](mailto:chriswivey@hotmail.com) to book and for further information.

## Music in Bank Square

Friday 2nd April sees the first of what it is hoped will be a series of classical music concerts at Exmoor Studios, Bank Square, Dulverton.

Pianist Caroline Clipsham will play a selection of classical pieces specially selected to reflect the intimate atmosphere of the unique performance space. Tickets £10.

See Exmoor Studios website for more details, nearer the date.

### Wednesday 6th April 2022, 2pm – 5pm | Lichens and mosses at Heddon Valley

A circular walk exploring the woods and paths along the Heddon Valley, looking at the moss and lichen flora found here.

3-3.5 mls/3hrs. No dogs. Bring a picnic.

Meet: Heddon Valley National Trust Car Park (fee payable by non-members), EX31 4PY. SS 655 480.

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

### Wednesday 13th April 2022, 10am – 1pm | Dulverton - Barle River, Weir and Leat

A walk around Dulverton, taking in the old mills, the mill leat, the weir, and the River Barle as far as Marsh Bridge.

3.5mls/3hrs walk. Dogs on leads. Older children welcome. Refreshments locally.

Meet: outside the Information Centre in Dulverton TA22 9EX, SS 914 279.

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

### Saturday 23rd April 2022, 11am – 1.30pm | Lost Village of Clicket

Beautiful stream-side walk to the lost village of Clicket, past the quarries and the mill where its inhabitants made their living.

3mls/2.5hrs walk. Dogs on leads. Great for families. Bring a picnic.

Meet: Nurcott Farm, Luxborough TA23 0SU, SS 96848 38689.

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

### Monday 25th April 2022, 10am – 3.30pm | Cutcombe and the Saxon Herepath

Start at Wheddon Cross and continue to Cutcombe, Coleridge Way and join the route of the Saxon Herepath.

6mls/5.5hrs walk. Dogs on leads. Bring a picnic.

Meet: Wheddon Cross car park by Rest and Be Thankful Inn. TA24 7DR.

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

## Dulverton Health Group Walk

Each Tuesday morning at 10am, our very friendly group meet at various locations. The photo shows the group at Charget Wood in extremely wintery weather in early January.

We spend an hour or two walking our beautiful countryside. The walks are not particularly difficult and we stop frequently to 'catch up' and also to admire the wonderful terrain and occasional wildlife.

If you would like to join us, please contact either: Richard Clarke on 01398 341 141 or [richardclarke567@btinternet.com](mailto:richardclarke567@btinternet.com) OR Richard Archer on 0777 3160 222 or [archerr@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:archerr@hotmail.co.uk)

We look forward very much to seeing you soon.





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## The Wild West

There ain't much news here to tell you. I hear they been a working short handed over there pretty much all the time, I guess

it's hard to get hold of good men, they are just getting scarce everywhere. Ol' Rawhide the bartender was born in a cow country an' raised with a hoss under 'im, an' he sure savvies makin' folks comfortable now. With the use of a can

opener they can feed more cowpunchers an' sheepherders than any other cook's in the West. There's never no complaint about the meat either, for this cooks as good with a gun as he is with the use of a can opener. Once I'm runnin' a feed and livery stable he says. Now I get a blaze started in the fireplace an' it's comfortable.

"Where are you Buddy? You've nodded off." This fire's sure warm Hun. Is the wind still howling?

"Come on, we're off home now they've finished their drinks and it's just a short

walk to our gate." You sure the hosses ain't hitched to the rack? "Have you been dreaming about cowboys and Indians again? I keep telling you, this is the west country Buddy not the wild west." Humpf. I'm gonna up on that moor in the mornin' and check on them range hosses. Some of them sure as wild as buffalo.

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

*Reference to all the nice bartenders on Exmoor for keeping their doors open!*

## WIPE THE SPIDER WEBS OFF THE FOLDING PICNIC TABLE AND CHAIRS! IT'S TIME FOR POINT TO POINT RACING AGAIN.

"Thirty-eight years ago we had horses at Edgcott in Exford. Vivian, my husband, and I, and our son, Linley hunted regularly. Then one day Linley said to his father, 'I would like to race ride'. My late husband was over the moon, he loved his horses and immediately set off to find Linley a schooled horse from Ascot Bloodstock Sales", Mary Aldrich recalls. This passion has never left Exmoor and the stories continue to abound. You will find families everywhere who are involved in the sport one way or another. Mary continued, "The next day a lovely grey gelding, Wondernot, was driven into our yard by the Ascot transporter. Vivian and Linley were so keen they got themselves into a training programme and a month later Linley was in his first race at Holnicote on the National Trust Estate near Porlock. I was the girl groom – usual glamorous duties – mucking out, making sure everything was intact. Every night before a race I checked the chest to see that everything was present and our racing colours, emerald and black were hung up ready for him to put on. Linley did win a race on Wondernot at Bratton Down and had quite a few seconds."

"Gone are the days when everyone rode in pullovers on their own horses," says John Pearn, pictured here with Andrew Hawkins at Bratton Down in 1984. "I know I didn't win that race, maybe Andrew did. I think Linley was in the race too! He used to ride horses for Stockleigh Joe in Exford as well sometimes. Back then one person was responsible for building a fence. A lot more hard work goes into the building of the courses now."

Mike Harding, fence builder for the new South Hill course near Dulverton explains. "A call out is made to volunteers every year to help build the courses. Older sections need refurbishment with fresh birch and the new sections need birch throughout. All the birch used on the Holnicote course, I cut on the National Trust ground within a couple of miles where we made up the fences. Very handy for us. There wasn't going to be enough birch available at South Hill to do the work that needed to be done before May. So I had to look for some birch nearer to South Hill that we could cut and collect. We needed a lot to make a good job of the fences for the first point-to-point on the new course. Anyone who had birch or knew of any that we were able to cut was approached and I went to have a look to see if it was suitable for the job."

To hear more yarns visit one of the point-to-point courses near you: Sunday 1st May South Hill Dulverton: Saturday 7th May Holnicote: Sundays 15th, 22nd May & 5 June Bratton Down. Not many courses have facilities for card payments so be sure to take enough cash to cover cost of admission and a race card, any bets you wish to place, etc. For further info on these race days visit [www.pointingdc.co.uk](http://www.pointingdc.co.uk). Enjoy your picnics!



*Linley Williams on Wondernot*



*Bratton Down 1984, left John Pearn and Champagne Bar, right Andrew Hawkins on Bad Job.*




Please send an email over to [info@exmoorflag.co.uk](mailto: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.

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

The competition result from the Jan/ Feb issue is shown here.

Good luck.

Thank you to Exmoor Flag.

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## SIMONSBATH FESTIVAL 2022

This year is the eleventh anniversary of Simonsbath Festival where audiences will be treated to world class music and first-rate speakers between Friday 6th May and Saturday 25th June. We look forward to welcoming you back after the Covid hiatus.

Since we can't be sure that we will be completely done with Covid, the 2022 festival will be more reflective, more thoughtful, and less crowded, to give us all time and space to reconnect with what we lost during the lockdowns.

We will, of course, as a minimum comply with any Covid regulations in place at the time of the festival.

All events are held in the intimate St. Luke's Church in Simonsbath with its excellent acoustics. The festival's collaborative activities, including the Exmoor Society walks and the Exmoor Running and Walking Festival, will be taking place as usual.

We are particularly proud of our Affordable Tickets Policy with £10 tickets, or £15 to reserve a seat, at musical events and £5 tickets, or £10 to reserve a seat at speaker events. We give free entry to all our events to those 16 years old or under.

More details and ticket booking can be found on the festival website at [www.simonsbathfestival.org.uk](http://www.simonsbathfestival.org.uk). Or email [tickets@simonsbathfestival.org.uk](mailto:tickets@simonsbathfestival.org.uk).



*Busi Mhlanga – appearing in the festival this year*



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# THE LOCAL DIRECTORY

## PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

Bampton T.C.: Clerk: Penny Clapham	clerk@bamptontowncouncil.gov.uk	01647 253066
Brompton Regis P.C.: S Buchanan	brpcclerk@gmail.com	01984 641706
Brushford P.C.: Clerk: Clive Knight	cliveknight@me.com	01398 324140
Cutcombe P.C.: Clerk: Jeanna Greville	cutcombeclerk@gmail.com	07852 813983
Dulverton T.C.: Sec: Miss A. Rose	clerk@dulvertontowncouncil.co.uk	01398 324561
East Anstey P.C.: Clerk: Mrs Jill Larcombe	eastansteypc@yahoo.co.uk	01884 252647
Exford P.C.: Clerk: Jennifer Yates	clerk@exfordparishcouncil.org	07919 001801
Exmoor P.C.: Clerk: Rebecca Tomalin	exmoorparishcouncil@gmail.com	01643 831638
Exton P.C.: Clerk: Andrew Moore	clerk@extonparishcouncil.co.uk	01984 641539
Oakford Parish Council: Chair: Mr Geoff Baylis	cllr.GBaylis.OakfordPC@gmail.com	00398 351266
Upton P.C.: Clerk: Mrs P Purvis	uptonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk	01398 371548
Winsford P.C.: Clerk: Jennifer Yates	winsfordparishcouncil@gmail.com	07919 001801
Withypool & Hawkrigde P.C.: Clerk: Rebecca Tomalin	withypoolhawkrigdeparishclerk@gmail.com	01643 831638
Wiveliscombe T.C.: Clerk: Sarah Towells	townclerk@wiveliscombe.com	01984 631914

## LOCAL CHURCHES AND CHAPEL CONTACT NUMBERS

All Saints Church, Dulverton: Revd Dowell Conning	revdconning@gmail.com	01398 322867
Dulverton Benefice/All Saints/Community choirs: Gary Cooper		07419 212354
All Saints Church, Dulverton, Bell Tower: Anne Markwick		01398 323823
Brushford: Revd Dowell Conning	revdconning@gmail.com	01398 322867
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.theartsocietyexmoor.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	
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
Wimbleball Fly Fishers:	enquiries@fishingthewest.co.uk
<b>PRE-SCHOOL GROUPS</b>	
All Saints School & Nursery:	01398 323231 & 01398 323223
Anstey Parent and Toddlers Group: E A School	01398 341369
Little Owls Nursery at All Saints C of E School, Dulverton	01398 324360
<b>SCHOOLS</b>	
All Saints C of E School: Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	01398 323231
Brompton Regis Toddlers: Mrs.S. Julian, Court Place Farm, Skilgate	01398 331031
Cutcombe C of E First School: Wheddon Cross, TA24 7DZ	01643 841462
Dulverton Junior School: Barns Close West, TA22 9EE	01398 323223
Dulverton Children's Centre: All Saints School, Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	01398 324360
Dulverton Family and Toddlers Group:	01398 324329
Dunkery PreSchool: Supervisor: Mrs. S. Matravers, Shute Close, Cutcombe, Minehead	01643 841008
East Anstey Primary School: East Anstey, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9JP	01398 341369
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
<b>WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS</b>	
Anstey W.I.: Cynthia Butcher	01398 341445
Bampton Ladies Group. Mrs. Diane Holland	01398 332755
Bampton Patchwork and Quilting Group. Mrs. Diane Holland	01398 332755
Cutcombe & District M.U.: President, Pam Anson	01643 851616
Cutcombe & District W.I.: Mrs. Pam Anson	01643 851616
Dulverton & Brushford M.U.: Mrs A. Gregory, 22 Jury Road, Dulverton, TA22 9DU	01398 323587
Exford Moorhens: Chairman: Mrs. I. Collett	01643 831016
Oakford Moorland Ladies Club: Chair: Mrs Jennie Chappell	smilerjenniec@hotmail.com 01398 351666
<b>YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES</b>	
Bampton Scouts/Cubs/Beaver748s: Tony Weiss	01398 331901
Dulverton & District Young People's Project: Chair: John Preston	01398 323862
Dulverton Ballet: Mrs Wightmore, Flat 3, Easter House, St. Andrews St. Tiverton	01884 253999
Exmoor Community Youth Club: Organiser Laura Tasker, Fridays 6 – 8 pm	1643 831125
<b>OTHERS</b>	
Abbeyfield House	01398 324136
Bampton Heritage and Visitor Centre (inside St Michael and All Angels Church, Bampton)	www.bamptonheritage.org.uk or bamptonheritage@btinternet.com
Bampton Library and Resource Centre, Station Road	01398 332466

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Email [exmoornews@gmail.com](mailto:exmoornews@gmail.com)



Brushford Parish Hall: Bookings enquiries@brushfordparishhall.org.uk	07941 139846
Brushford Luncheon Club: Treasurer: Margaret Alberly	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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