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Cover image 2022: © Tony Keene Red Kites gathered on Exmoor

If you'd like to see your photo on the cover, send us a low resolution image and if we can use it, we'll ask for a high resolution version.









EXMOOR NEWS

COVERING SOUTHERN EXMOOR

You can tell that spring is slowly moving towards summer. There are a lot of garden related activities going on - places to visit, shows and sales. We hope you find plenty to read in this issue. Please do send us local interest stories and if we can fit them in, we will.

In case you're wondering, the cover photo is real, Tony Keene saw them near North Radworthy in October last year. Although they're fairly rare across Exmoor, they're definitely moving into the area.

I'm sure we speak for all of you who knew Napoleon Wilcox in saying that his passing was a huge shock and we send our most sincere condolences to his family and all who worked closely with him. Our centre pages are a tribute to him from his colleagues.

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.

The deadline for the July/August 2022 issue of the Exmoor News is Thursday 2nd June 2022 Printed by Brightsea, Exeter

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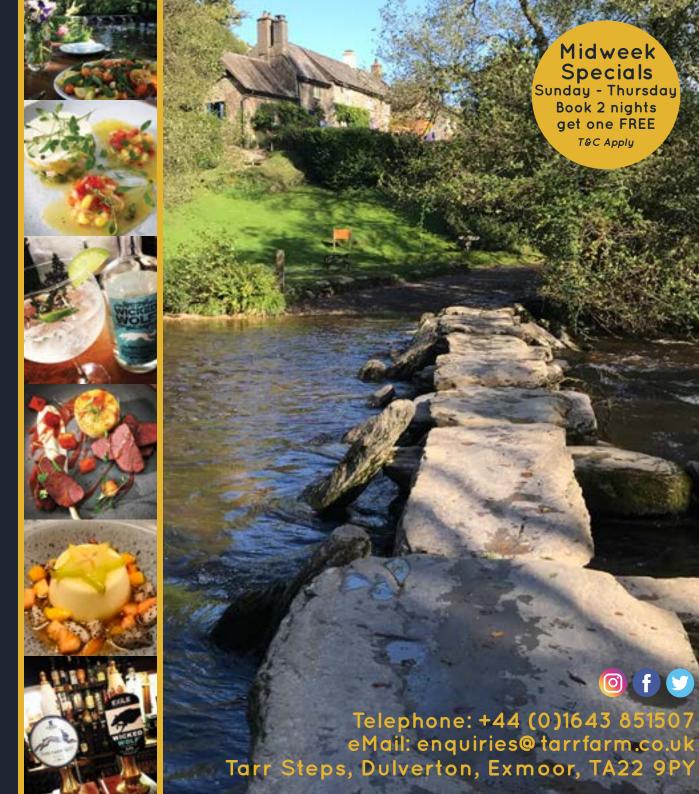
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Produce, raffle, cakes etc

Parking at Parish Hall



DULVERTON VINTAGE FILMS

Wed 11th May

LOVE in the TIME of CHOLERA

starring Javier Bardem & Giovanna Mezzogiorno (2007)

Wed 8th June

The GRAPES of WRATH

starring Henry Fonda (1940)

2.30 pm at Fishers Mead Community Centre

DULVERTON ACTION GROUP

Litter-picking (3rd Sunday)

Sunday 15th May Sunday 19th June

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

Dulverton Farmers Market



10.00 - 14.30 Last Saturday of the month

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To the second

forebook



DULVERTON GARDENING CLUB

19th May Talk, **Katherine Crouch**, "The Hardy Exotic Garden" 7pm for 7.30pm

Talk, **Francis Burroughs**,
"Tales from the Potting Shed"
7pm for 7.30pm

At Dulverton Town Hall
Join us for pre-talk refreshments
Tickets for non-members on the door £4



Brushford Parish Hall



Platinum Party at the Palace showing on Saturday, June 4th Bar and Food available

The Brushford Parish Big Jubilee Tea Party

Sunday June 5th
Bar Opens at 2:00pm
Cake & Sandwiches 2:30pm
Punch & Judy Show and Magician
Come and Join Us
www.brushfordparishhall.org.uk
for times and further details.



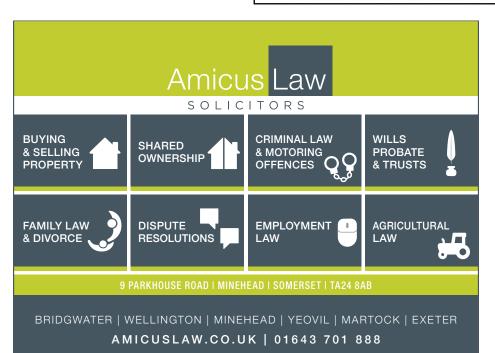
Wednesday 25 May My Way to Jerusalem - a 6,500 kilometres pilgrimage on foot through 11 countries. A talk by David Jury.

Wednesday 29 June
The Wit and Songs of Noel Coward
(tbc)
A talk by Peter Gill.

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



Dulverton
Gardening Club
Annual Plant Sale
4th June
Dulverton Town
Hall
10.00am-1.00pm



A flower festival of CELEBRATION

Plus other exhibitions including wedding dresses, photographs, children's crafts and music.

To be held at St Mary Magdalene Church, Exford

Sunday 29th Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st May 2022

Church open daily With teas served from 2pm until 5pm.

In aid of Alzheimer's society and Exford church



Dulverton Town Hall



Friday 13 May

WEST SIDE STORY (Cert 12A)

Director: Steven Spielberg 156 mins

Steven Spielberg's West Side Story presents a new look at the classic musical that lives up to its beloved forebear and in some respects might even surpass it. Love at first sight strikes when young Tony spots Maria at a high school dance in 1957 New York City. Their burgeoning romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks, two rival gangs vying for control of the streets. Ariana DeBose won the Academy Award's Best Actress in a Supporting Role. Superb acting, dancing and singing.

Friday 27 May BELFAST (Cert PG13)

Director: Kenneth Branagh 98 mins

A nine-year-old boy must chart a path towards adulthood through a world that has suddenly turned upside down, during the tumult of the late 1960s. His stable and loving community and everything he thought he understood about life is changed forever but joy, laughter, music and the formative magic of the movies remain. The film received seven nominations at the 94th Academy Awards, including Best Picture, winning Best Original Screenplay. *Belfast* is uplifting in spite of the story's tragic details.

Friday 10 June

DEATH ON THE NILE (Cert 12A)

Director: Kenneth Branagh 127 mins

Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot's Egyptian vacation aboard a glamorous river steamer turns into a terrifying search for a murderer when a picture-perfect couple's idyllic honeymoon is tragically cut short. Set against an epic landscape of sweeping desert vistas and the majestic Giza pyramids, this tale of unbridled passion and incapacitating jealousy features a cosmopolitan group of impeccably dressed travellers, and enough wicked twists and turns to leave audiences guessing until the final, shocking denouement.

Friday 24 June KING RICHARD (Cert 12A)

Director: Reinaldo Marcus Green 144 mins

Armed with a clear vision and a brazen 78-page plan, Richard Williams is determined to write his daughters, Venus and Serena, into history. Training on Compton, California's neglected tennis courts, rain or shine, the girls are shaped by their father's unyielding commitment and their mother's balanced perspective and keen intuition, defying the seemingly insurmountable odds and prevailing expectations laid before them. Based on the true story that will inspire the world, *King Richard* follows the uplifting journey of a family whose unwavering resolve and unconditional belief ultimately delivers two of the world's greatest sports legends.

Tickets: 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 janaross 2003@yahoo.co.uk Bar open from 7pm.



Dulverton Town Council Invites you to

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Friday 3rd June 2022

Tea party on the Exmoor Lawns, Dulverton 2.30 pm With

Timescale, Deane Big Band, Exmoor Voices, Hounds of Oblivion See main poster around Dulverton for further details

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{BBQ}}$ and $\ensuremath{\mathsf{BAR}}$ Available

Sunday 5th June 2022

Music on the Exmoor Lawns,

Dulverton 2pm

With

Blooming Flutes, 3 x Two Moors Soloists, Take Note Community Choir

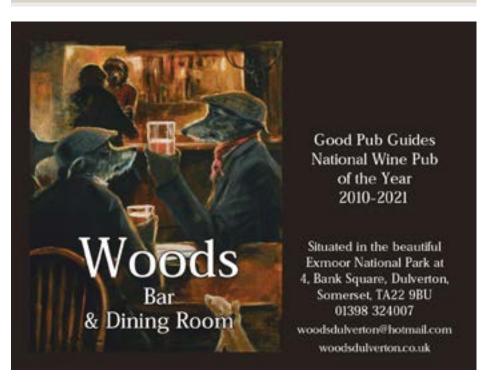
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The Forest School Leader's Tale

According to the Scottish-American naturalist, John Muir: "Going to the woods is going home..." Ema Rowe, who runs Wild Wellies, a forest school set in woodlands near Timberscombe, would agree. It also reflects what Ema experienced when she and her husband moved to Exmoor 17 years ago.

"I grew up in South London," says Ema. "I was a city child and didn't think about nature. But coming to Exmoor changed all that; I just wanted to embrace nature." The road to Exmoor had numerous twists and turns and took Ema down various career paths before she decided to set up a forest school.

"After A-levels, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, so I went to Australia for a year, and then started my working life in the City. I was the first female money broker to come from a non-banking background," she explains. But she realised that, long-term, the financial world was not for her.

Ema spent several years in the hospitality industry, before enrolling on an interior design course. She set up a decorating and design practice, working in London and then in Budapest, but a major upheaval in her personal life triggered a deep depression. Therapy helped, as did meeting and marrying Steve, and doing something she loved - working with animals, first at a kennels and then as a veterinary nurse. Meanwhile,

the couple moved to an idyllically located hillside house in Exton, where they still live, with son Henri, 15, daughter, Lulu, 13, and lurcher, Maggie-Moon.

"I fell in love with Exmoor." she says. "I felt I had come home and wanted to do something with my children outdoors, in nature." This was the starting point for Wild Wellies, Ema's forest school, launched 10 years ago. Initially for pre-school children, Wild Wellies now offers sessions for older children and young people too, and has become a full-time occupation. Enthusiastic feedback from parents and carers has reinforced Ema's belief that regularly spending time outdoors, in woodlands, with structured and free play, is vital for young children. "They grow in confidence and resilience and many improve, including language. Lockdown had a profound effect on pre-school children: they missed out on the opportunity to learn how to play without adult intervention."

Ema works closely with local schools, where she has been busy promoting My Favourite Tree, a children's competition run jointly with Luxborough-based, Three Atop Woodland Services. (Look out for winners' details in late April.) The response has exceeded all expectations and an exhibition of the entries is being planned. She is also working with a children's charity on her second book. Her first,



Ema Rowe

My Favourite Tree & The Tree's Story, published in 2019, proved a hit with parents, teachers, and children alike. Sir Tim Smit, of the Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan, described it as a "...wonderful book that has all the makings of a classic... Everyone should have a copy."

Could that young City broker have imagined life turning out as it has? "I don't look back," says Ema, "but all the diverse experiences I've had make me appreciate what I do now even more."

Discover more about Wild Wellies on Facebook and Instagram.

My Favourite Tree & The Tree's Story is available from Amazon.

Diane Trembath



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June time rejoicings for our Queen

Though flowers bloom on the Tower Green And flood the moat where many a queen Was sacrificed in youth and beauty Yet our Queen reigns in love and duty Reigns supreme in longevity And Jane Grey (who was she?) Reigned in reluctant brevity Our Queen is the rock on which we stand The truest 'mother' of our fair land She travelled our isles and continents Spreading unity wherever she went And with Prince Philip at her side Their faces glowing with British pride They showed us what we all could be Loving and giving, bound faithfully She set the standard for our nobility To be true to others in honest humility We are her nation and she our Queen Long life to her, she reigns supreme.

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Dates: 3, 17 and 31 May, 21 June (instead of 14 June), 5 and 19 July.

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Please contact Andrea via email or telephone to register.

andrea.corrie@outlook.com tel: 07862 286479

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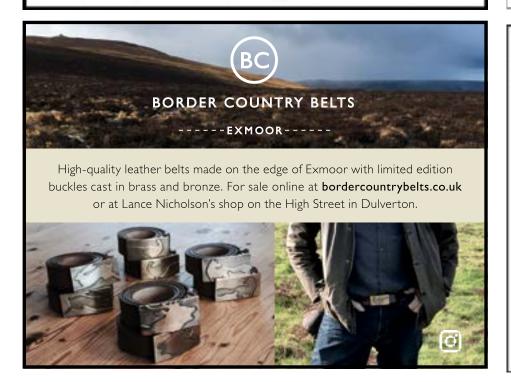
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VILLAGE AGENT NEWS – MAY/JUNE 2022

So, what IS a Village Agent?

The Village Agent service is part of the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) and offers free, confidential, practical support to **anyone** in need, including community groups. The range of help we give is huge and it's impossible to pin down exactly how an Agent can help, as each person's situation is unique. Our aim is to help improve someone's everyday life with the right connections, access to food, emergency funding or practical community-based solutions. If needed, Village Agents work closely with your local

GP surgery and the Adult Social Care team, so you have well rounded support. My name is Jane and I am your local Village Agent covering Dulverton, Brushford, Exford, Winsford, Brompton Regis and across Exmoor. If you think we can help you in anyway, please give me a call or drop me an email - my contact details are given below. I also host the **Dulverton Talking Café** which takes place every Thursday morning at the Fishers Mead Community Centre between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm and everyone is welcome to drop in for a chat. Tea/coffee and biscuits available we would love to see you.

Could you REHOME your old phone?

By donating an unused mobile phone to us, you could help reduce loneliness and isolation for people in West Somerset, as well as help them in their everyday lives to be able to do things such as shopping online, apply for work and stay connected to friends and family. Could you REHOME your old phone?

With each phone donated, the Community Council for Somerset will:

refurbish the phone

remove any personal data

provide the new owner with a SIM card

support with video tutorials and install apps helping them keep in touch with their loved ones

Please check your 'bits and bobs' drawer where old devices may be lurking waiting to be of use again!

To donate a phone, please contact your local Village Agent.

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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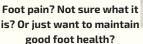
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Moor Movies Extra Meet The Producer: Nick Ryle



Dettori is the exhilarating, tubthumping celebration of inspirational jockey, Frankie Dettori, the rock star of racing and one of the most decorated sportsmen of all time.

A warm welcome to our guest visitor - the film's producer NICK RYLE who will take a Q&A session after the film.

Winsford Village Hall: Tuesday 10 May 7.30pm.

Members £3 Non-Members £5 Tea, coffee & cake available.



Summer Arts at All Saints Church, Dulverton

Two concerts for your diary, showcasing local artists and talent: Sunday 29 May, 11.30am.

Marion Silverlock: matinee piano recital music to include
Beethoven's Pathétique Sonata.
Sunday July 10th, 7.30pm.

Arwen Lewis with recorder group and woodwind soloists: an evening concert of woodwind music.

FREE entry to both. Donations

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National Garden Scheme Yellow Book Open Gardens



There is a wonderful selection of private gardens opening in our area to welcome visitors in the coming months, some of which are listed here. There are refreshments and plants for sale at many of the gardens and some allow dogs on leads. A look around a beautiful garden, a cup of tea and cake, and the proceeds going to help great nursing charities, who will have helped so many of us - what could be better?

Originally set up in 1927 to support district nurses, the National Garden Scheme (NGS) now raises millions of pounds from the garden entrances for nursing and health charities each year. It also supports charities doing amazing work in gardens and health, grants bursaries to help community gardening projects, and supports gardeners at the start of their career.

In 2021, over £3 million was donated, and despite the challenges of the year, 90p in every £1 raised at the open gardens went straight to the beneficiaries.



1 May & 5 June, 2.30-5.30pm | Chevithorne Barton, Tiverton EX16 7QB 12 -13 May, 9.30am-5pm | Quince Honey Farm, South Molton EX36 3RD NEW GARDEN

21-22 May, 12pm-5pm | The Old Vicarage, West Anstey EX36 3PE 21-22 May, 1pm-4pm | Blundell's School Gardening Project, Blundell's Rd., Tiverton EX16 4DN

21-22 May, 1.30pm-5pm | Bradford Tracey House, Tiverton EX16 8QG
2 June, 11am-4.30pm | Ashley Court, Tiverton EX16 5PD NEW GARDEN
26 June, 10am-6pm | Dunkery View, Allerford, Minehead TA24 8HR NEW GARDEN
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The Therapist Collection: allergies and intolerances

A hypersensitive function in our immune system causes allergies and intolerances, leading to histamine release and inflammation: itching skin, hives, wheezing, running and itching nose and eyes, sore throat, and digestive problems. They can be extremely serious, leading to lifethreatening anaphylaxis. Common triggers are dust mites, pollens, moulds, foodstuffs, insect stings and drugs. True allergic reactions, including food intolerances. histamine and salicylate intolerance, happen within minutes, but other hypersensitivity reactions occur days after exposure, making it hard to identify the cause. Allergy is western Europe's most common chronic disease. Respiratory allergies (hav fever, asthma etc) rose in the 1980s-'90s. A more recent wave of digestive allergy followed, leading to allergies effecting 44% of today's population.

Lis Jorgensen – Medical Herbalist

I use many herbs to dampen down overreactions of immune cells and their chemical messengers, reducing histamine and the resulting damage along the reaction chain. This is an area of intense scientific research, as drugs such as antihistamines can have side effects. I work to relieve inflammation and ease symptoms, simultaneously reducing reactivity over time. Herbal treatment works best over an extended time. For hayfever, we start in winter. For dietary problems, we eliminate triggers and any cofactors, then work to heal the

inflamed gut mucosa. This takes time and effort, but results can be very rewarding. Commonly used herbs for hayfever are nettle, elderflower and eyebright.

Claire Fisher – Reflexologist

Reflexology does not treat the allergy but the reason why the body has developed it. With allergies, the immune system overreacts to specific substances; reflexology helps to strengthen and balance it to lessen the allergic reaction. Reflexology encourages deep relaxation, helping to ease inflammation and reducing symptoms. Stress can increase allergic reactions; anything you can do to reduce stress levels may help.

Kate Pegram - Homeopath

With allergies, the body's immune response overproduces histamine to defend itself from normally harmless substances, such as food, pollen and pets. Unlike antihistamines and steroids that block the body's response, a microdose of an appropriate homeopathic medicine can help your body regulate histamine production, without side effects such as drowsiness, and continuous dosing. Homeopathy focuses on your particular symptoms and 'like cures like'. So, if you have hay fever symptoms such as watery eyes and a clear nasal discharge irritating the top lip (like cutting an onion) and you feel better outside, allium cepa (onion) will help. Homeopathy can also help if you have allergies to milk, eggs, wheat or shellfish, for example.



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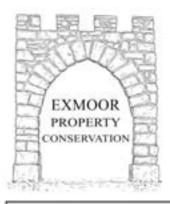
The British vocal group VOCES8 is coming to Somerset.

This a capella vocal ensemble tours globally and performs an extensive repertoire both in a capella concerts and in collaboration with leading orchestras, conductors and soloists.

Voces8 has performed at many notable venues in its 15-year career, including Wigmore Hall, Tokyo Opera City, Sydney Opera House and now for Milverton Concert Society in Wiveliscombe! Voces8 is passionate about music education and will be running a Singing workshop during the afternoon. Open to all singers. Come on your own, with a friend or as a group or choir.

Saturday 14 May 2022 St Andrew's Church, Wiveliscombe
Workshop 2- 3.30pm £10
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Dulverton Health Group Walk

Every Tuesday morning at 10am, our friendly group meet at some wonderful locations. The recent photos show the *Last of the Summer Wine* and the group at Horner.

An hour or two is spent walking our beautiful countryside. The walks are not particularly difficult and we stop now and again to catch up and also to admire the gorgeous terrain and, sometimes, wildlife.

If you would like to join us, please contact either Richard Clarke on 01398 341141 or: richardclarke567@ btinternet.com or Richard Archer on 0777 3160 222 or: archerr@hotmail. co.uk

We very much look forward to seeing any new walker on a Tuesday.



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Meetings take place every other Wednesday and alternate between the Hartnoll Hotel at Bolham and Downes Crediton Golf Club. The cost per meeting is just £12, including breakfast. Membership costs £20. Guests are always assured a warm welcome!

Please visit www.middevonnetwork. co.uk/ or call Honorary Secretary Richard Pym on 01363 775511.



The Exmoor Federation







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- All Saints' Church of England Infant School children aged 4 to 7 years
 - o Tel 01398 323231 or Email sch.139@educ.somerset.gov.uk
- Dulverton Junior School children aged 8 to 11 years
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The 'Voice of Somerset' to become a Somerset Day Patron



One of Somerset's best-known figures Clinton Rogers, the voice of Somerset for the BBC for over 40 years, is to become a Patron of Somerset Day. Clinton has been a journalist since the age of 16 and has covered almost every conceivable story in Somerset and further afield. Never afraid to challenge and probe, he has always been a passionate advocate for his home county Somerset.

"I was deeply honoured to be asked to be a Patron of Somerset Day," said Clinton. "I've always felt it was an inspired idea to promote our beautiful county which, in my opinion, is



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too often under-sold. Somerset truly is a great county in which to live, work and play, and anything I can do to shout about that, I will!"

Clinton joins existing Somerset Day Patrons Mrs Anne Maw, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset; His Grace the Duke of Somerset DL; The Rt Revd Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton; Michael Eavis CBE, and Edward Bayntun-Coward DL.

Founder of Somerset Day, Nigel Muers-Raby, said, "We're absolutely delighted to welcome Clinton as a Patron. He shares our belief in his desire to support Somerset's communities, organisations and independent businesses. We are confident his passion for his home county will inspire others to celebrate all we have to offer in Somerset".

Somerset Day takes place on and around the weekend nearest 11 May each year. Full details at: http://www.somersetday.com.



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A Tribute





Many of you may have been turning the pages of this edition of Exmoor News to read the latest property market and Webbers Dulverton office news from Napoleon Wilcox. Sadly, as I'm sure many of you are already aware, Napoleon passed away suddenly but peacefully on Thursday 31th March while doing something he loved on Exmoor.

Napoleon and his family moved to Dulverton when he was nine years old and, with both parents being estate agents, Napoleon began his career at a very early age. Napoleon would often recount how he was frequently dragged out on appointments with his parents and told to say nothing but listen! I think it actually put him off becoming an estate agent but, several years later, when his mother asked if he would help out in the office, he said yes and that's where and how his career began.

Napoleon joined Webbers in 1987 after Webbers had acquired his family business, Kathy Wilcox & Co, a very strong Exmoor country house estate agency. Napoleon worked in Dulverton for many years, as well as in the Porlock office. He began his long and successful career as a sales negotiator and rose through the ranks from Senior Negotiator to Assistant Manager, Local Manager and then became a Director of Webbers (Exmoor Ltd). It was during this period that Napoleon demonstrated such skill and professionalism at growing the Exmoor business that he was promoted to the main board of Webbers Property Services Ltd.

Napoleon possessed an outstanding, natural ability in managing the sale of country homes, estates and properties with land, and he very quickly built up a reputation of being the agent to use on Exmoor, such was the success of his office - an office that he loved. His constant dedication and commitment was admirable, as was his attention to detail; he knew only one way to do things and that was the right way. Indeed it was this detailed approach that has contributed so heavily to the success of Webbers Fine & Country. As Head of Fine & Country, Napoleon developed a service and a quality of presentation that is second to none through sales brochures and adverts, as well as many magazines.

Napoleon was the youngest of eight brothers and sisters and leaves behind two wonderful children, Warwick and Ella. Napoleon always wore a huge grin that lit up his entire face when he spoke of his children, of whom he was immensely proud. He delighted in watching them mature and flourish and marvelled at how independent they had become... They are a true testament to him.







Napoleon was an integral and very popular member of the Dulverton and wider Exmoor community, having been involved with the Rotary Club and, in more recent years, Exmoor Young Voices. He was a true gentlemen as well as caring, supportive and understanding. Nothing, either as a colleague or friend, was too much to ask of him. We will sorely miss Napoleon's sense of humour as he made all of us in the office laugh every day.

A loyal friend, colleague, boss and father. A very special, irreplaceable person who will be sadly and greatly missed by us all. Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

Ginny, Lou & Rebecca.

PS. Below is a text message I received from Napoleon and as I've written the above, I can almost hear him saying it as a comment on what I've written. So Napoleon, as always, you have the last word: "Thanks Ginny. Now go and have another gin!".







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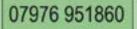
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LOCAL VINEYARD ANNOUNCES 2022 CONCERT SERIES

After a difficult couple of years, Wellhayes Vineyard has announced their latest programme of concerts for 2022.



Wellhayes Vineyard is located south of Exmoor between Bampton and Wiveliscombe and produces quality sparkling wine from grapes grown on site. The concerts that they put on once a month over the summer have grown over the last few years

couple of to an impressive programme of classical music concerts, with professional largely young, musicians. Many of the musicians for this year's programme have rescheduled from concerts that were unable to go ahead over the last two years. This includes Australian soprano, Alexandra Flood, who won the Wellhayes recital prize in the Grange Festival International Singing Competition in 2019 and was first due to perform at Wellhayes in 2020. Other highlights from this year's programme include the Corvus Consort, who will be known to many on Exmoor, Latvian pianist, Reinis Zarins, who performed at the Wigmore Hall in London in February, and the Brodsky

Quartet, who are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, and will be joined by renowned 'cellist Richard Tunnicliffe to perform Schubert's elegiac String Quintet in C. The season opens on 14 May with French musicians Trio Sōra performing Brahms Piano Trio in B major and the Schubert Piano Trio in Bb.

For full details of the concerts, and ticketing information visit: www.wellhayes.uk/2022-concerts/









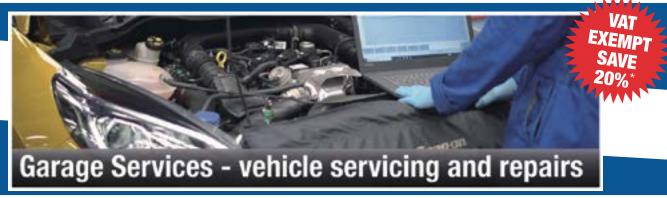
Trio Sōra

Alexandra Flood

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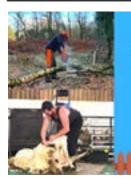
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SIMONSBATH FESTIVAL IS BACK!

- well, we never really went away, but it still feels good to be saying it!

This year we are continuing 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 most 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 or email tickets@simonsbathfestival.org.uk

Event	Date/time		
The Albion Quartet - Tamsin Waley-Cohen & Emma Parker on violin,			
Anne Belby on viola & Nathaniel Boyd on cello.	6 May, 7.30pm		
An evening with Charles Blanning - From Snobs to Yobs -			
how the Greyhound went to the dogs; an anti-social history	y. 11 May, 7.30pm		
Redmond Sanders – Baritone	14 May, 7.30pm		
Simonsbath Festival Church Service 15 May, 11.30am			
Exmoor Society Walk: Molland Church & Moor	17 May, 10.30am		
An evening with Robin Ashburner – Flags and what they mean			
– particularly during the Platinum Jubilee.	18 May, 7.30pm		
Under Milk Wood – a one-man performance by Guy Masterson			
(Richard Burton's nephew).	21 May, 7.30pm		
An evening with Tessa Traeger & Mark Haworth-Booth			
– journeys with a camera	1 June, 7.30pm		
Exmoor Society Walk: Farm Walk at Westermill, Exford	7 June, 2pm		
Professor Susan Oosthuizen & Rob Wilson-North			
 Landscape & Archaeology in Exmoor 	8 June, 7.30pm		
Corvus Consort & Music on the Edge vocal ensemble	10 June, 7.30pm		
Exmoor Society Walk: Ley Hill Medieval Settlement	15 June, 10.30am		
An evening with Hugh Harrison – Those dang'd furriners'	(those damned		
foreigners) - our debt to European craftspeople for our favor	ourite ancient		
buildings.	15 June, 7.30pm		
Exmoor Running & Walking Festival	17 – 19 June		
Busi Mhlanga & Shoholoza Zulu Choir	18 June, 7.30pm		
Exmoor Society Walk: Hope Bourne in Withypool	23 June, 10.30am		

AN EVENING WITH - WHO?

An evening with Charles Blanning is promised by the Simonsbath Festival on Wednesday 11 May, at 7.30 pm at St Luke's Church, Simonsbath. Well, he doesn't have the celebrity profile of the Duchess of Cambridge, Meghan Markle, or even Dame Edna Everage for that matter, so what's it's all about? Charlie subtitles his colourful talk, From Snobs to Yobs - how the greyhound went to the dogs; an anti-social history. Acknowledged as one of the world's leading experts on the greyhound, Charlie will be recounting the story of this charming breed, which has changed little for thousands of years. It's a story with a cast of thousands dukes and dodgers, generals and gangsters, millionaires and miners, film stars and farm boys. And there are the wonderful greyhound themselves - like Master M'Grath and the legendary Mick The Miller. For anyone interested in dogs, country sports, social history, or a good story, it's just a fiver. Tickets from the festival website

or:

https://www.simonsbathfestival. org.uk/contact-us#



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St Margaret's Hospice Care – Glorious Gardens 2022

More than 30 stunning gardens are opening to visitors this summer in aid of St Margaret's Hospice Care. From April to August, our green-fingered supporters across Somerset and West Dorset will kindly open their gates to the local community and showcase their own beautiful gardens. From charming courtyard and walled gardens, to steep woodlands and country estates with beautiful views, there will be something to interest everyone.

At St Margaret's Hospice Care, we appreciate how important our gardens are to the health and wellbeing of our patients and their families, providing

places of relaxation and reflection. St Margaret's Hospice has been at the heart of the Somerset Community for over 40 years, delivering high-quality, compassionate, and responsive care to patients and their families facing a lifelimiting illness. One hundred per cent of the care and support we provide is free of charge, and to continue to deliver this exceptional level of care we must raise just under £14m each year. St Margaret's 2021 Glorious Gardens campaign raised over £11,000 for the hospice last year and every donation made this year will again go straight to caring and supporting the people of Somerset, who need to access our care, often during their final months of life.

Full details of locations, opening dates and admission prices can be found in the Glorious Gardens 2022 brochure, available from St Margaret's Hospice shops, selected local garden centres and tourist information centres.

For more information, please get in touch with Kerry at fundraising@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk or call 01935 709496.

You can also visit our website at: www. st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/gloriousgardens.



Hollam House, Dulverton

Address: Hollam House, Dulverton, TA22 9JH Open: Tuesday 3 May Time: 1pm - 5pm Admission: £5 Garden has limited access for wheelchairs/pushchairs. Toilets available. Parking available. Refreshments available. The five acres of garden at Hollam House are on a southfacing slope on the south east edge of Exmoor National Park. The multi-level garden will be a riot of colour in May when the rhododendrons and thousands of bulbs are at their height. As well as many unusual trees and shrubs, there is a water garden, ponds, meadow areas, summerhouse, and rill.



Doverhay Lodge, Porlock

Address: 12 Hawkcombe View, Porlock, TA24 8NB

Open: Sunday 3 July Time: 12am - 6pm

Admission: £3
Front drive with grasses,
cistis, lavenders and
heathers. Back garden wraps
around the house with
pergola and water feature,
vegetable garden, cordon
fruit trees, greenhouse and
gazebo. Oak door leads to
a secret garden with newly
planted fruit trees, birch
copse, large wildflower area
with beehives and wildlife

pond.



Address: Woodborough House, Porlock Weir, TA24 8NZ Open: Sunday 22 May Time: 12pm - 4pm

Admission: £5

Limited Parking available. Refreshments available. A steep woodland garden overlooking the sea. Specialising in spring flowering shrubs, including rhododendrons, azalea, acers, and camellias, all at their best in mid-May. With its unique location, it has magnificent views over Porlock Bay.



Swifts of Exmoor

Swifts need our help. This year, with numbers down by 58% between 1969 and 2018, swifts were added to the UK conservation red list of bird species. There are several Exmoor colonies, (see www.swiftmapper.org.uk). Swifts are particularly at risk where buildings with old nest sites are renovated. If swifts are shut out from where they may have nested for generations, whole colonies can be lost. If you can see an obvious nest, it's not a swift.

In late July 2020, we added nest boxes to our house and started to play a call to attract swifts, to what sounds like an established colony and a lone swift did a few 'fly bys'. We were thrilled and hopeful for the following year- it is a long-term project!

Once swifts fledge, they don't land for two or three years until they reach breeding age. Aged one, they return to the UK for a short stay, much later than breeding birds. At two, they look for a nest site for the following year.

In June 2021, after playing calls since May, my partner spotted swifts looking at the nest boxes. When young birds search for a site, they approach and 'bang' with their wings and utter their characteristic scream to see if the hole is occupied; any residents scream back. Playing calls is essential to attract swifts to new boxes, they are colony nesters and need 'telling' where new sites are. New residents normally spend that year making nests from feathers, caught in flight. Our birds appeared to have one bird in the box and possibly

brooding chicks. A few weeks later we heard babies! These were our first breeders, hopefully the start of a colony at North Combe. During last year's hot spell, a young bird was found on the ground, near Tiverton; he had probably fallen trying to get some cooler air. I have some wildlife experience so took him on, followed by another two - all successfully released.

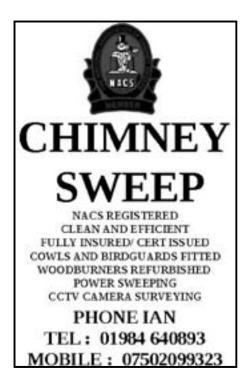
Our swifts started breeding later in the season, so stayed later.

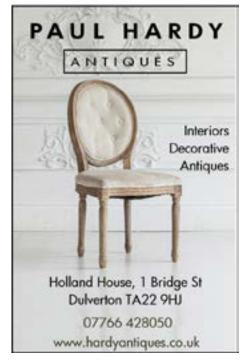
This year, there is a nest box camera and we are hoping for another pair. We had five birds flying and screaming around the house - hearing the woosh of their wings is very special. Some people wait years for swifts to find their boxes; we are so lucky.

Find out more at: www.swift-conservation.org

Leila Goss www.facebook.com/leila.goss







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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.

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Taking you under our wing

News from the Exmoor Pony Centre

The daffodils are blooming, and the warmer weather has been a blessing as it has dried up all the mud! The ponies are rapidly shedding their winter coats. The riding ponies are all back from their holidays, getting ready to greet visitors and go out for rides.

If you would like to visit, there is no need to book this year. Visits are free



and we are open from 10am-4pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday. Those of you who wish to ride can choose from our variety of sessions. We can accommodate all abilities as long as you are four years old or over and weigh less than 12 stone. All rides must be booked in advance so please either call or email the office to check our availability.

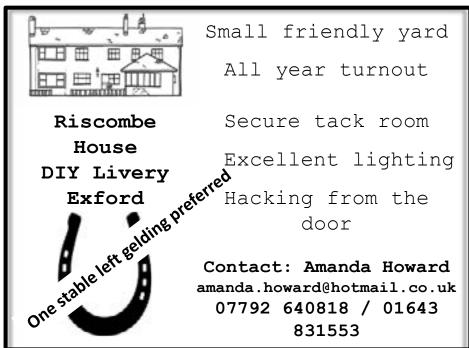
Our popular Activity Afternoons are back after a 2-year absence. We will be holding them on 14 and 21

April, from 12noon-3pm. There is no need to book, just come to enjoy the ponies and activities on offer for a small charge. You can have a pony ride, groom, try crafts and enjoy the refreshments.

Our volunteers have been a tremendous help over the winter with all the regular pony jobs, as well as revamping and giving our shop a facelift. There are lots of new items to tempt our visitors too. If you think you would like to help volunteer either at the centre or with any fundraising ideas, please do get in touch.

With spring arriving, many of the

foals have now headed off to their new homes. Tyrell, Pringle, Disco and McCoy journeyed to a delightful private farm in Dorset, whereas the four ponies from the Haddon herd have stayed closer to home, on the Quantocks in a wonderful partnership project between Quantock AONB, Exmoor National Park Authority and MMT. We know that many homes who bought ponies from the autumn sales will be looking to get out and about this spring, if any extra training or guidance is needed, please do get in touch with us we are here to help. We look forward to seeing some of



our friends and supporters soon, the ponies are ready and waiting. Please keep up to date with us via our website and online platforms.

In advance of the Exmoor Pony Festival, which is running throughout August, there will be a Beetle Drive on Saturday 14 May at Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross. We hope to see lots of people there to support the ponies.

Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton TA22 9QE

Website:

www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/ TheExmoorPonyCentre

Email:

info@exmoorponycentre.org.uk

Tel: 01398 323093

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

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

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The London and Country Property Show

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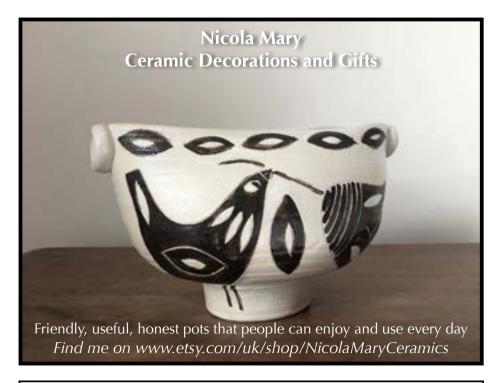
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New website for Dulverton

The pretty Exmoor market town of Dulverton is delighted to announce the launch of its new website. dedicated to the visitor to Dulverton - visitdulverton.com. Following the upheaval and uncertainty of the pandemic, Dulverton Town Council was keen to attract visitors back to the town to reignite its tourism economy and it was agreed that a website featuring local businesses within the TA22 postcode would be a great way to start. The Visit Dulverton Facebook and Instagram pages have already proved very popular, and the website was created to give further details and information about the town and its businesses.

The website has been specifically designed with the visitor in mind - with pages suggesting places to stay, places to eat and drink, places to shop, useful information and, of course, things to do! An events calendar is already filling up with the many events planned for the year ahead - including the celebrations for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, the return of the popular Vintage Fair, the second Dulverton Fun Run & Canicross and – new for 2022 – the Dulverton Artisan Food, Drink and Crafts Festival and the Dulverton Literary Festival.

Initial feedback for the website has been very favourable from local businesses, tourism organisations and visitors alike. Paul Hardy, who runs Hardy Antiques in Dulverton, said, "The site looks fantastic. It'll be a massive help to boosting trade in our lovely town." Beverley Brown from Dorset described it as a "...wonderful, online, pocket sized guidebook to Dulverton that's very easy to navigate."

The website was designed by local Devon company, Marketing Chameleon, with the town's traders providing images and descriptions of their own businesses.

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Exmoor National Park Authority is looking for aspiring and passionate young cooks to enter the brand new Exmoor Young Chef Competition, open now for applications.

Ten finalists will be selected to cook a three-course meal, showcasing local produce, on competition day, Saturday 2 July 2022, at West Somerset College, Minehead. Top professional

chefs from Exmoor will coach finalists in planning their menu.

Chefs Mollie Foster, from Minehead Rotary Club, and Werner Hartholt, from Butlin's, are running the competition, together with Exmoor National Park Authority. Chef Mollie said: "I feel passionately about supporting young people and inspiring them to a enter a career in this exciting and fast-paced industry. There is a lot of talent out there and the coaching and prizes available to our winners will give them just the right

inspiration and contacts to pursue their

dreams."

Butlin's Group Development Chef Werner Hartholt, who runs a new chef academy training 50 students a year, said: "We are hoping to inspire young people and ignite the passion for cooking that can lead into a rewarding career within the hospitality industry. Top local chefs are supporting us by offering advice and tips and we will be sharing their stories, and those of some young Exmoor chefs who are now climbing

the ladder in top restaurants and even carving out their own businesses. With the abundance of fantastic local produce, award-winning restaurants and exciting training and upskilling opportunities available on Exmoor, we hope young people will be inspired to take part."

The winner and runner up will receive invaluable work experience opportunities including a day's work experience in Michelin star restaurant Masons Arms at Knowstone, and inspirational sessions within the professional kitchen at Butlins Minehead, where thousands of meals are served every day.

There will also be the opportunity for personal appearances with top chefs assisting on the Chef's Stage at the North Devon FOODfest on 23 October and important introductions at Eat Festival: Minehead on 7 August. One finalist will be awarded the chance to appear on a YouTube video with popular Chef Chin from Ziangs at Porlock.

> Katrina Munro, Sustainable Economy Officer at Exmoor National Park Authority, said: "The competition is open to young people, aged 14-18, who live or go to school within the Greater Exmoor area. We welcome support and encouragement from parents and guardians, schools, colleges and groups to help young people enter the competition.

> "We will be filming the event and using it to inspire young people to consider careers within the local hospitality industry. Every year the National Park welcomes over 2 million visitors and eating out and enjoying local food and drink is an important part of their experience. It's estimated that tourism on Exmoor brings in almost £135 million to the rural economy and creates the equivalent of over 2,000 full-time jobs - there is huge potential for an exciting and varied career within Exmoor.

> "We're very grateful to West Somerset Opportunity Area and North Devon Council

for funding, and support from partners such as Somerset West and Taunton Council who will be helping to share details of apprenticeships and career opportunities with the area's young people. And thanks to the generosity and support of local businesses such as H2 Catering Equipment, Lakeland and Exmoor producers - Exmoor Tea, DJ Miles, and Selworthy Pantry - we will also be awarding plenty of other fantastic prizes."

Full details at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/eat-exmoor



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A Dog's Day Out – Good Companions

What makes a dog happy? In the old days, apparently,

Old Mother Hubbard would have gone to the cupboard to give a poor dog a bone. A simple gesture like that would have sent any dog off wagging its tail, Honey.

"And spoiling for a fight if big Fido next door tried to nick it, Buddy."

That's it Honey! My legs are nine inches from the ground to my shoulder. I need to grow more and then I could be much happier. Now I know why Fido and his mates all call me Shorty. I just gaze into their knees and it's given me an inferiority complex.

"There are those handbag dogs, Buddy – they're shorter than us."

I thought they were legless. Isn't that why they live in Gucci bags and spend all their time in beauty parlours looking at homes for other legless dogs in Hello magazine to keep themselves happy? Who is Mother Hubbard, anyway?

"I don't know; I think she just rhymes with cupboard."

And then there's my voice – it's soprano. Proper dogs should be born with deep resonant chords like Fido and Dave to ward off bone snatchers. "You'd look pretty silly nine inches from the ground with a baritone bark, Buddy."

I could be the first singing dog to win Britain's Got Talent with Ol' Man River. "You would make a fortune in a touring freak show. I think the motto here is you should be happy with what you've got."

You're right, Honey; if I grew any bigger, I wouldn't get through the gap in my shed and if I was inaudible you'd never know where to find me next time I got stuck down the back of the sofa. I'm happier now.

"No problem Buddy, that's what good friends are for."

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





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carolecwoods@aol.com or
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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.

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

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

Good luck.

Thank you to Exmoor Flag.





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Dulverton Heritage Centre

Interested in local history...want to get out of the house? Then why not join us? Dulverton Heritage Centre Model Railway is seeking volunteers to operate the railway and to tell the story of Dulverton Station - full training given. For more details contact Sue on 07969 243887 or email: manager@dulvertonheritagecentre.org.uk Can you spare a few hours a week?



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Volunteers needed to steward at Dulverton Heritage Centre. Regular and casual positions available - full training given. Please call Sue on 07969 243887 for a chat or email: manager@dulvertonheritagecentre.org.uk

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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		01643 702201
Dulverton Congregational Church: Chapel Street: Mr P Donnelly		01398 324010
The Traditional Anglican Church: Loxbeare, Priest Reverend Aird		01769 581042
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Dulverton Players: Chair: Les Silverlock		
Oakford Players, Chair: Chair Mr Tony Holmes	tholmes556@btinternet.com	01398 351665
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Cutcombe Cricket: Sec: Mrs Maria Adams, 1 The Beeches, Wheddon Cross		
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Dulverton & District Tennis Club: Hazel Richardson	=	
Dulverton & Exmoor Squash Club: Membership Sec: Chris Winter	chriscwin@aol.com	07710 046107

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Dulverton Children's Centre: All Saints School, Fishers Mead T	A22 9EN	
Dulverton Family and Toddlers Group:		
Dunkery PreSchool : Supervisor: Mrs. S. Matravers, Shute Close	e, Cutcombe, Minehead	
East Anstey Primary School: East Anstey, Tiverton, Devon, EX	16 9JP	
Exford CofE VC First School:		
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Exford Moorhens: Chairman: Mrs. I. Collett		
Oakford Moorland Ladies Club: Chair: Mrs Jennie Chappell	smilerjenniec@hotmail.com	01398 351666
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Dulverton & District Young People's Project: Chair: John Pres	ston	
Dulverton Ballet: Mrs Wightmore, Flat 3, Easter House, St. And	drews St. Tiverton	
Exmoor Community Youth Club: Organiser Laura Tasker, Frida		
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Care Direct for help and advice: www.somerset.gov.uk	0300 1232224
Cutcombe Flower & Produce Show: Tracy Beviss	01643 841257
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Dulverton & Southern Exmoor Twinning: Chair: Steve Ford, Dulverton	01398 323016
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Dulverton Vintage Films: Magdalena Harding	
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Exmoor BeeKeepers Association: Sec: Caroline Ralphexmoorhoneyshow@gmail.com	
Exmoor Community Bus Assn: Temporary contact -S Buchanan	
Exmoor National Park Centre	
Exmoor Pony Centre: Ashwick, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9QE	
Exmoor Pony Society: Sec: Sue McGeever, Woodmans, Brithem Bottom Cullompton, Devon EX15 1NB	
Exmoor Rotary Club: Humphrey Berridge (PRO), Station Hse, Luke St, Bampton.	
Good Neighbours: Sandra Collett	01398 324211
Oakford Village Hall: Bookings: Mrs Dawn Williams	
Royal British Legion Dulverton: Peter Donnelly	
TA22 Voluntary Lift Scheme (formerly Brushford Voluntary Lifts): Chair: T. Wilson.	
Tiverton Model Aero Club: Sec: Mr. P Veale, 9 High St., Dulverton TA22 9HB	
U3A Exmoor: Yvonne Moorfoot, 3 Lamb Back, Dulverton.	
Village Agent Jane Lillisjanel@somersetrcc.org.ukjanel	
West Somerset Advice Bureau:	



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