

September October
2023

EXMOOR NEWS



Bringing community news across southern Exmoor since 1985

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EXMOOR NEWS

COVERING SOUTHERN EXMOOR



The deadline for the
Nov/Dec'23 issue of
the Exmoor News is

Thursday 5th October 2023

Printed by Brightsea, Exeter



After the hot June and rain in July, let's hope we can look forward to an Indian summer in September/October. Despite the weather, we have lots going on. On page 16 and 17 there is a very interesting article on rewilding featuring Yolanda Cruwys, project manager at Cove Down Wilding.

Lots of information about the Dulverton Literary Festival (the online/printed programme and online tickets will go live on 1st September); then there's the third Fun Run and Canicross; the second Antiques Valuation Day; and the final Farmers Market of the year. A lot happening just in September! See page 28 and 29 for details.

There is a page of art sessions and events in this issue (see page 40 and 41), along with articles about walking, dark skies, movies and much, much more.

At Exmoor News we are here to share news about community events, upcoming activities, and local stories, and we wish to provide our advertisers the best reach possible, and our magazine is freely distributed. We have widened the area we cover again and are ever grateful to our distributors and establishments who take copies and make them available to all. Thanks also goes to our advertisers who make this magazine possible.

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.

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Dulverton Farmers Market



10.00 - 14.30
Last Saturday of
the month
April - September



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DULVERTON GARDENING CLUB



21 September -Talk,
Francis Burroughs

"Tales from the Potting Shed"

7.00 pm for 7.30pm at Dulverton Town Hall

Tickets for Non members £4.00



19 October -Talk, Howard Wills

"The Beauty of leaves"

DULVERTON VINTAGE FILMS

Wed 13th September

LOVE is a MANY- SPLENORED THING

William Holden & Jennifer Jones
With live introduction from a witness! (1955)

Wed 11th October

CALAMITY JANE

Doris Day & Howard Keel
(1963)

Film starts at 2.30 pm
at Fishers Mead Community Centre

£2 includes tea and biscuits



**Sat 16th
& Sun 17th September**
9am-5pm at Taunton Racecourse

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Can you help the Exe Valley Market Bus?

We are in real danger of losing our Exe Valley Market/Community Bus, which is based in Oakford. It offers twice weekly scheduled route trips from Oakford to Tiverton, serving villages in between. The bus is also available for hire and only driven by volunteer drivers. We desperately need to fill the posts of secretary and treasurer, plus other committee member posts.

The bus has been a lifeline to many people in the community since Oct 1977 and it would be so sad to lose it. We need to keep the bus running but, without a committee, we cannot carry on. So, if anybody feels they could spare some of their time to fill these posts, please contact Jennie Chappell on 01398 351666 or email jennie@chappell.me.uk



All are welcome at the Dulverton and District Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th October 2023

9.00am to 12.30pm

in the Dulverton Town Hall

to mark the launch of this year's Poppy
Appeal

We are looking for new members to help with
our charitable work. If you might be interested,
please let us know at the Coffee Morning



Events at Oakford Village Hall

Friday 22 September 2023

Big Screen Race Night from 7pm (first race starts at 7.30pm)

Drink and canapés on arrival, sharing food platter also included. There are nine fun races shown on the big screen (£1 per bet) with cash prizes. Dress for a day at the races, prize for best dressed/hat. £20 a ticket; all money raised will go towards a new bar at the village hall, for everyone to enjoy.

Please contact Jennie Chappell on 01398 351666 or jennie@chappell.me.uk to book your tickets.

Saturday 30 September 2023

Coffee, Cake AND A Blind Date With A Book—1pm to 4pm

All money raised will go to Macmillan Cancer Support

For more information, please contact Carol on 07837 702083.

Saturday 14 October 2023

Autumn Fair—1pm to 4pm

Lots of lovely stalls, all money raised will go to Balloons (Devon) Charity.

For more information please email Carla at: bob.bancroft@live.co.uk

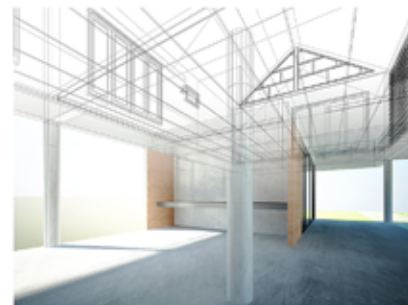
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Milverton Concert Society New Season 2023/24

Saturday 30 September 2023
7.30pm St Andrew's Church,
Wiveliscombe

Chamber Orchestra of the West

Prepare to be blown away with the vitality, musicianship and energy of this orchestra. Their vision is both captivating and inspiring.

Friday 24 November 2023 7.30pm
St Michael's Church, Milverton

Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, Piano

Jeneba first performed for Milverton Concert Society, together with her siblings, in 2021. She is now forging a very successful career for herself as a soloist.

Saturday 24 February 2024
7.30pm St Michael's Church,
Milverton

Elena Urioste, Violin; Tom Poster,
Piano

Husband and wife duo, Elena and Tom, are often described as classical music's "power couple". Elena has given acclaimed performances as a soloist with major orchestras throughout the world, and Tom has been

described as a musician whose skills and passions extend well beyond the conventional role of the concert pianist, "a marvel, who can play anything in any style".

Friday 26 April 2024 7.30pm St Michael's Church, Milverton

Trio Gaspard

Trio Gaspard is one of the most sought-after piano trios of their generation, praised for their unique and fresh approach.

For booking and concert programmes, visit: www.milvertonconcerts.org

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29th September 7.30pm

Dulverton All Saints



BRUSHFORD PARISH HALL

UPCOMING EVENTS

7th September 14:30 to 16:30 – Book Mart & Drop In Café with Home

Made Cake, Let's Get Connected IT and Internet Help

9th September 19:00 to 22:00 – Last Night of the Proms + Bar, bring

your own food/picnic

5th October 14:30 to 16:30 – Book Mart & Drop In Café with Home

Made Cake, Let's Get Connected IT and Internet Help

14th October 18:30 to 22:00 – Charity Quiz Night + Bar (plus food

available 19:00 to 20:30 street food cart) in aid of Cancer Research UK &

Somerset Air Ambulance

For latest details of Our Upcoming Events and Activities

<https://brushfordparishhall.org.uk/bookings-calendar/>

https://www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsBPH/?locale=en_GB

Talking Cafe



MAGNA, Fishers Mead Community Room, Dulverton

When?

Every Thursday



10.30am - 12.30pm



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- feelings of loneliness and isolation
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Meet your local Village Agent and other support services:



www.somersetagents.org/talkingcafes



The House with Chicken Legs

Award-winning theatre company, Les Enfants Terribles, and HOME Manchester is bringing their critically acclaimed co-production, *The House with Chicken Legs* to North Devon this autumn, as part of the show's UK tour. Performances run from 14-18 November at Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple.

Bringing Sophie Anderson's best-selling novel to life, the show transports audiences to a world inspired by Baba Yaga, with puppets, live music and magic. The story follows Marinka, a young girl who dreams of a normal life, where she can stay somewhere long enough to make friends; but there's one problem—her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning. The show is funny, thought-provoking, and full of life as it deftly navigates the complexities of loss from a whole new perspective.

The production had its world premiere at HOME Manchester in 2022, winning an Offies Commemorative for excellence in theatre outside London.

Les Enfants Terribles is dedicated to creating original and engaging theatre that puts the audience at the centre of the story. Known for its striking visual aesthetic and innovative use of props, puppetry and live music, the company explores unique ways of telling stories and immersing audiences in new, weird and wonderful worlds. Founded in 2002 and run by Artistic Director, Oliver Lansley, and Creative Director, James Seager, it has received consistent critical acclaim and renowned industry awards, establishing a large and loyal following.

To find out more visit: www.lesenfantsterribles.co.uk/.

Watch the video trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDYv0LLI63M. #HouseWithChickenLegs

Tickets: www.queenstheatre-barnstaple.com/event/the-house-with-chicken-legs/

Running time: 2 hrs 30 mins (inc. interval). Age recommendation: 9+.

Content warnings: the show contains minimal haze and smoke effects and some flashing lights. The story contains themes of loss.



Reminder! **DULVERTON STARLIGHT**
Sunday 3rd December - pop it in
your diary. Lots to look forward to.



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Welcome to a busy and stimulatingly diverse programme at the Regal Theatre, Minehead, throughout September and October—drama, dance, music, and magic—there really is something for everyone!

And there's comedy too, with our new Comedy Nights at the Regal—join us on Friday 8 September and/or Saturday 7 October. Each Comedy Night features a professional line-up from the cream of the UK comedy circuit. Four acts to enjoy, with each line-up carefully put together to ensure that you have an amazing night—fun, laughter, and something a little bit different!

But the Regal's programmes always offer variety, including shows chosen to attract young families. On Saturday 2 September at 5.00pm: Greg Chapman's *Magic of the Dinosaurs* is an opportunity for adults and families to experience magic, storytelling, puppetry and other skills coming together for an exciting evening—and one where you may learn something too!

And on Sunday 22 October at 2.00pm: children and families keen to play detective really do need to come to *Midnight Mission*. Think you could solve a spooky mystery? Read on...! The show is best suited to those aged 6+; at different points in the show the audience are asked to vote for different outcomes...but the 'culprit' is always found, and the mystery neatly wrapped up!

To see detailed information about these and all other shows, dramas, films, and screening of opera and ballet from the Royal Opera House, that feature in our packed programmes, please visit: www.regaltheatre.co.uk which is full of information including easy-to-buy on-line ticketing.

The Regal Box Office (01643 706430) is open 9.30am to 12 noon, Monday to Saturday.

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FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

REGAL THEATRE, MINEHEAD

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Line up is subject to change, but a top quality night of entertainment is guaranteed!

REGALTHEATRE.CO.UK THE REGAL THEATRE, MINEHEAD @REGAL_THEATRE_MINEHEAD

Dulverton Films



Friday 8 September

BOOK CLUB: THE NEXT CHAPTER (Cert 12A)

Director: Bill Holderman

107 mins

Starring Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburgh, the four best friends take their book club to Italy for the fun girls' trip they never had. When things go off the rails and secrets are revealed, their relaxing vacation turns into a once-in-a-lifetime cross-country adventure. Romantic Italy lends an aura of enchantment to the proceedings.

Friday 22 September

ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME MARGARET (Cert PG)

Director: Kelly Fremon Craig

106 mins

For over fifty years, Judy Blume's classic and groundbreaking novel *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* has impacted generations with its timeless coming of age story, insightful humour and candid exploration of life's biggest questions. It's the 1970s and 11-year-old Margaret (Abby Ryder Fortson) is uprooted from her life in New York City for the suburbs of New Jersey, going through the messy and tumultuous throes of puberty with new friends in a new school. She relies on her mother, Barbara (Rachel McAdams), who is also struggling to adjust to life outside the big city, and her adoring grandmother, Sylvia (Kathy Bates), who isn't happy they moved away and likes to remind them every chance she gets.

Friday 13 October

THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY (Cert 12A)

Director: Hettie Macdonald

108 mins

A seemingly unremarkable man in his 60s named Harold (Jim Broadbent) learns one day that his old friend Queenie is dying. He embarks on a walk, only to keep going for 450 miles until he reaches Queenie's hospice, much to the despair of his wife Maureen (Penelope Wilton). A story about the power of hope and faith, celebrating everyday joys and human connection.

Friday 27 October

AFTERSUN (Cert 12A)

Director: Charlotte Wells

102 mins

Twenty years after their last holiday at a fading vacation resort, Sophie reflects on the rare time spent with her loving and idealistic father, Calum. At 11 years old, as the world of adolescence creeps into Sophie's view, Calum struggles under the weight of life outside of fatherhood. Sophie's recollections become a powerful and heartrending portrait of their relationship, as she tries to reconcile the father she knew with the man she didn't.

Tickets: Dulverton Films members £3, non-members £5, students, accompanied by an adult, £2.50.

Book in advance at Dulverton Post Office (tel: 01398 323474) or email: janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk

Bar open from 7pm.



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Moor Movies at Winsford - New season starts Tuesday 5 September 2023 at Winsford Village Hall

Tuesday 5 September. *Allelujah* Cert 12A. Drama.

Stars Judi Dench and Jennifer Saunders. Based on a play by Alan Bennett. *Allelujah* is a warm and deeply moving story about old age. When the geriatric ward in a small Yorkshire hospital is threatened with closure, the hospital decides to fight back by galvanising the local community: they invite a news crew to film their preparations for a concert in honour of the hospital's most distinguished nurse. What could go wrong? *Allelujah* celebrates the spirit of the elderly patients, while paying tribute to the deep humanity of the medical staff battling with limited resources and ever-growing demand.

Tuesday 3 October 2023. *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* Cert 12A. Drama.

Stars Jim Broadbent, Penelope Wilton. Adapted from her own novel by Rachel Joyce. Learning that his old friend and colleague, Queenie, has terminal cancer, Harold (Jim Broadbent) sets out to post her a letter of condolence, but impulsively decides to visit her in person instead, walking from his home in Devon to Berwick-upon-Tweed, and leaving his wife, Maureen (Penelope Wilton), hurt and confused at home.

Tuesday 7 November 2023. *What's Love Got to Do with It?* Cert 12A. Comedy/Romance.

Stars Lily James, Shazad Latif, Emma Thompson.

How do you find lasting love in today's world? For documentary-maker and dating app addict Zoe (Lily James), swiping right has only delivered an endless stream of Mr Wrongs, to the dismay of her eccentric mother Cath (Emma Thompson). For Zoe's childhood friend and neighbour Kaz (Shazad Latif), the answer is to follow his parents' example and opt for an arranged (or "assisted") marriage to a bright and beautiful bride from Pakistan. As Zoe films his hopeful journey from London to Lahore to marry a stranger chosen by his parents, she begins to wonder if she might have something to learn from a profoundly different approach to finding love.

Tuesday 5 December. *And Then Come the Nightjars* Cert 12A. Drama.

Stars Nigel Hastings, David Fielder.

Adapted for the screen from Bea Roberts's multi-award-winning stage play, *And Then Come the Nightjars* is a heart-warming story of friendship and survival set against the backdrop of the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak. An unlikely friendship develops between a Devon farmer and the vet who is assigned to cull his precious herd.

All welcome, no need to book. Entry: £3 members and £5 non-members. New membership starts September, at the movie night. Any enquiries to Orla Jones 01643 851881.

Oakford Players
Present
**A Variety Show and
A Journey into Space**
6th & 7th October 2023

*Tickets £15 each including a light
supper.*
Licensed Bar
Contact Dawn 01398 324035



The rye grass across the Dulverton cricket ground has been particularly well kept, so croquet balls hit there should always run true. There's enough space for several full-sized croquet lawns and the ground edges the River Exe, with its hanging woods, a scenic background for enthralling croquet. All that is now needed are members ready to play, say, once a week. At last count around thirty have already asked to join. Everyone is welcome.

There are several family croquet lawns on Exmoor, plus two or three clubs; for example, Exford and Timberscombe, which are open to non-members. The latest entry is going to be the Dulverton club, which will cater for young entrants, as well mature players and wily experts. The 2024 season should see play in Dulverton on at least a weekly basis, April through to late September.

The standard international croquet lawn is 35x 28 yds (32x25.6m), although they can be of varying size—to suit age with skills. It can take around an hour of mallet-swinging to complete a match. Then there are the tactics involved; every player should have their own cunning plan, based on the more 'roquet' the better. Some old-fashioned players like to put a foot on their own ball when hitting a 'roquet', (banned by the Croquet Association in 1870).

In short, an afternoon's croquet can be entertaining, with plenty of physical and mental exercise. There's always time afterwards for tea and gossip in clubhouse.

Watch this space. For more info contact: bagus.2@icloud.com

Gently does it on Exmoor

Exmoor National Park Authority has announced the launch of *Exmoor Strolls*, an exciting addition to the array of 'top walks' available on Exmoor. These new step and stile-free strolls aim to make the iconic landscapes of Exmoor more accessible to visitors of all ages and abilities, while showcasing Exmoor's special qualities.

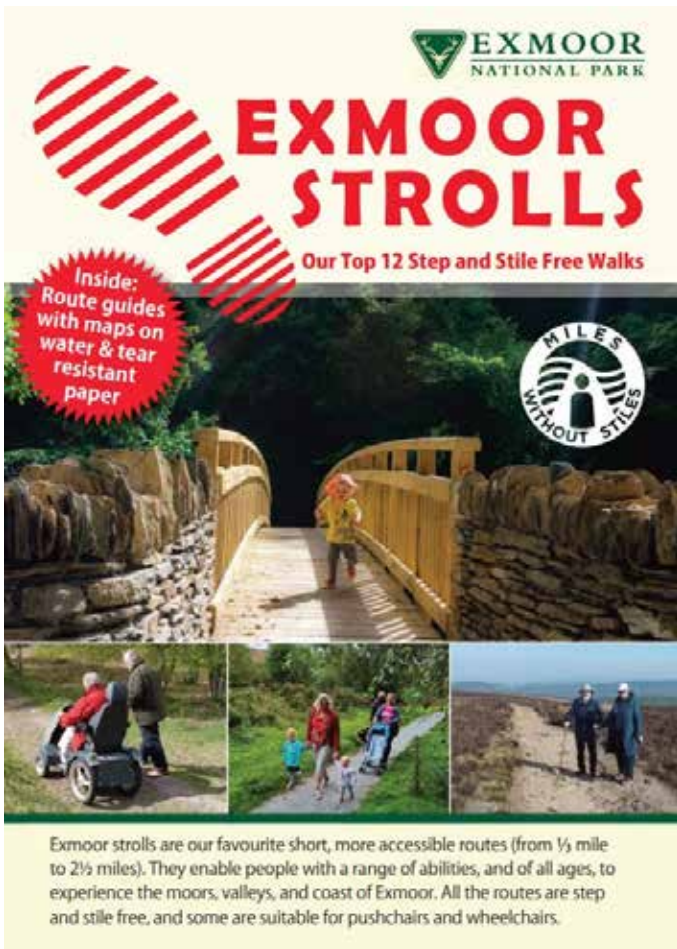
The *Exmoor Strolls* collection is a series of fifteen routes in twelve locations across the National Park, designed to provide gentle walks through the area's breathtaking vistas, picturesque woodlands, and idyllic valleys. The strolls range from a third of a mile to two and a half miles and are graded, using the Miles without Stiles classifications, as suitable for all, many or some, with many suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

The collection is available in a handy water and tear-resistant booklet, costs £3.99, and is available from Exmoor National Park Centres and the Exmoor National Park online shop: www.shop.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Dulverton Health Walks

The Walking Group meet each Tuesday morning at 10am, at various locations and walks last an hour or two. Recent walks have been at Milverton, Bampton Railway & Quarries, Haddon Hill, Roadwater etc.

We would be delighted to see new people so, if you feel you would like to join, please contact either Richard Clarke on: 01398 341141 / email: richardclarke567@btinternet.com or Richard Archer on: 0777 3160 222 / email: archer8r@hotmail.com

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK

EXMOOR STROLLS

Our Top 12 Step and Stile Free Walks

Inside:
Route guides with maps on water & tear resistant paper

Exmoor strolls are our favourite short, more accessible routes (from 1/3 mile to 2 1/2 miles). They enable people with a range of abilities, and of all ages, to experience the moors, valleys, and coast of Exmoor. All the routes are step and stile free, and some are suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Guided Walks October 2023



For information and booking visit exmoorsociety.com



October Walks

1st	Exmoor Scavenge *FAMILY FRIENDLY* 🐾
6th	Ashley Combe Landscape Restoration in Culbone Wood 🐾
15th	West Ilkerton Farm and Ilkerton Ridge *ACCESSIBLE*

🐾 Denotes dog friendly walk

  @exmoorsociety



Guided Walks September 2023



For information and booking please visit www.exmoorsociety.com or ring the office on 01398 323335

September Walks

6th	Hope Bourne in Withypool 🐾
10th	Tractor-drawn Tour of West Ilkerton Farm **ACCESSIBLE**
15th	Larkbarrow Night Walk
17th	Tractor-drawn Tour of West Ilkerton Farm **ACCESSIBLE**
21st	Horner Evening Bat Walk **ACCESSIBLE**
28th	Bossington Evening Bat Walk

  @exmoorsociety



🐾 Denotes dog friendly walk





Celebrating coastal Somerset and Exmoor

The brand new Somerset & Exmoor Coast Festival runs from 23 September to 1 October and spans the entire Somerset coast from Brea to Porlock Weir.

At its heart is a Walking Festival, with walks across the coastal area, as well as the opportunity to follow the entire coast of Somerset on the England Coast Path and South West Coast Path National Trails.

Local businesses are hosting events, ranging from live music to cream teas, town tours to arts trails, and food and drink tastings.

This project has been funded by EDF, commissioned by Somerset Council on behalf of the Hinkley Tourism Action Partnership.

Find out more at www.somersetcoastfestival.co.uk



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Dulverton Charity Shop

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10parishesfestival
 visual and performing arts

10 Parishes Festival

The 10 Parishes Festival returns in September to Wiveliscombe and surrounding villages. The visual and performing arts event runs from Saturday 9 until Sunday 17 September and features artists' open studios, exhibitions and performances.

Open studios give the chance to see artists at work and experience the creative process. Jane Mowat is one such artist who will demonstrate her working process, as well as exhibiting woodcuts and carvings at her Waterrow studio. Nearby can be found Chrys Allen, whose drawings, scrolls and prints suggest a sense of place and presence. Chrys is joined at Hurstone Studios by Louise Baker, who uses a range of materials and techniques to create assemblages, collage and artists books such as *The Broken String*.

Waterrow Village Hall hosts a choice of textiles, ceramics and paintings. Heather Rabbage will demonstrate spinning, among her hand spun and natural plant dyed yarn. Heather will be joined by Tommy Alcock who produces hand-made canvas bags,

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Melanie Walker who makes drum lampshades using fabrics that reflect her interest in animals and nature, Nina Thomas (laser created gifts), Treston

Holmes (ceramics), and Pamela Martin, who will exhibit all types of fabric bags from handbags to make bags, along with fabric handmade toys and 100 per cent cotton crochet animals.

Wiveliscombe Street Market and Carnival take place on Sunday 10 September, with the popular carnival procession at 3pm.

Check www.10parishesfestival.org.uk for venues and performance details or look out for the festival brochure at many local venues.



Visit the 10 Parishes and enjoy everything that is on offer!

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August 30:

Peter Stoddart

Blenheim Palace and the First Churchills

September 27:

Roger Browne

The Great American Song Book

October 25:

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The rewilder's tale

Born in Tiverton and growing up in Bampton, Yolanda Cruwys was always drawn to the beauty of the surrounding landscape. Years later, however, she learned that the landscape was largely the result of monoculture; if nature had its way, it would still be beautiful but in a different way. Now, as project manager of Cove Down Wilding, near Bampton, Yolanda is committed to restoring biodiversity to 300 acres high above the River Exe.

Although pets did not feature in her childhood, Yolanda loved animals but was advised that “working with animals wasn’t a good career choice.” She opted, instead, to study human psychology—until Bailey, her first dog, came into her life. “I had such a bond with him and that reignited my passion,” she says. She changed direction, enrolling on a Plymouth University animal science degree, with practical elements at Bicton College. This included conservation, ecology, nutrition, genetics and anatomy, and volunteering at South Africa’s Shamwari Game Reserve, one of the world’s leading conservation centres.

After graduating, Yolanda spent several years working for a poultry and game vet. “I gained a valuable skillset but, long term, the industry wasn’t really for me,” she says. She resumed her studies on a degree in animal behaviour at Bristol University—where she met her future husband, Ben.

The couple bought a farm at Cove and began to explore different ways of working, which included farming deer. But six years ago, the arrival of daughter, Yohana, gave Yolanda time to think more deeply about how they could best care for their land, which was not ideal for agriculture. Rewilding, in which Ben’s family are heavily involved in Scotland and Europe, seemed to be the way forward...

In 2017, Yolanda and Ben left their original farmhouse, bought the adjoining Cove Down Farm and, initially, continued deer farming. But in 2018, together with one of their neighbours who shared their enthusiasm, they embarked on a major rewilding programme. Two other neighbours have added land to Cove Down Wilding; this provides the space and connectivity that underpins successful rewilding schemes.

There’s a good deal of misunderstanding around the subject, so we asked Yolanda to outline the basic principles of rewilding and how these are applied at Cove Down.

“Fundamentally, it’s about nature recovery and ecological



Yolanda Cruwys, project manager,
Cove Down Wilding

restoration—creating more resilience, so that land becomes self-sustaining and resembles its natural state. We stopped farming deer and topping grass. Devon Wildlife Trust and Devon Birds surveyed the land to give us a baseline of what was already there.”

Finding a balance is also essential. No fertilisers, or chemicals are used on the land; there’s no cutting, and Cove Down is now home to Longhorn cattle, deer, Welsh ponies and Iron Age pigs, domesticated versions of wild ancestors that once roamed and grazed the land. “If we didn’t have these large animals, the forest would eventually take over—nothing else would grow,” Yolanda explains.

“We see it as working *with* nature. At present, 72 per cent of UK land is given over to agriculture and a third of that is used to grow crops for animal feed for livestock that are largely fed indoors. Of course, land that is good for farming should be farmed but land like ours will benefit from a different approach.”

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries, not only in Europe but in the world—we’re in the bottom ten per cent globally. “We need insects and pollinators,” says Yolanda. “Soil and the microbes in it need to be in good condition to support life. Since the 1930s, we’ve lost 97 per cent of our wildlife meadows, ninety per cent of our wetlands, and 73 million birds have disappeared from our skies over the last fifty years. How can we work together to make things better in a nature-friendly way?”

Devon Birds’ latest survey identified more than fifty different avian species; beavers have arrived on the lower pond, and the landscape offers breathtaking natural beauty. The project is also part of a breeding programme to reintroduce White Storks, with a purpose-built, on-site enclosure.

This year saw the opening of three luxury eco-cabins, another way of diversifying, but also bringing people closer to nature. “They are designed for year-round use,” says Yolanda, “so they’re ideal, not only for holidays, but as quiet spaces for creative people, such as writers or artists, who want to work for a time surrounded by nature.”







The project also offers valuable learning opportunities and Yolanda is keen to develop links with schools and colleges. She hopes that



Cove Down will become a model for other landowners, inspiring them to consider rewilding as an option for producing food and income, while allowing space for nature to coexist in a balanced way.

Rewilding is for everyone

Want to encourage more biodiversity in your garden? Yolanda suggests:

-  Add water—a pond, boggy wetland, or water feature.
-  Add pollinator-attracting plants and trees, bird feeders, hedgehog highways, log piles and leaf piles.
-  Leave edges and borders wild, areas of lawn unmown. Mowing a pathway? Make it wavy to attract butterflies.
-  Trim hedges or hedgerows less often.
-  Avoid chemicals or fertilisers.
-  No garden? Install window boxes.

Diane Trembath

www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/rewilding-projects/cove-down-wilding

Follow Cove Down Wilding's story on Instagram: @wildingcove

For Cove Valley eco-cabins, see: www.covevalley.co.uk or Instagram: @covevalley



Photos:
Right, *Sleeping dormouse, Cove Down*

Above, *Iron Age pigs, Cove Down*

Below left, *Beaver, Cove Down*



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Do you find yourself needing a little more help with the day-to-day? asks Carolyn Matravers of Bluebell Financial Management

For many, finances and health remain a private matter and it is difficult to change these habits. You may find managing your paperwork, filling forms and keeping track of accounts has become a little overwhelming or even daunting. You might have a Will in place or a Power of Attorney, but do you know where these documents are? Are they up-to-date and do they reflect your current wishes?

You may be facing health challenges that could instigate a change of circumstance. It can be an uncertain and worrying time for everyone involved when faced with making care decisions, dealing with third parties or having to consider how best to utilise assets.

Families can be complex with dynamics and geography often preventing the important conversations from taking place. We are all busy and it can be difficult to pin point exactly when is 'the right time' to talk. You may have a fantastic support network around you of friends and neighbours, but feel unable to share the extent of your own financial or health matters with them. This is where Bluebell can provide support and guidance, to reduce some of that pressure by providing professional assistance with matters of a private nature.

Bluebell is here to help you 'get your ducks in a row' and can be involved as little or as much as needed. With Bluebell's Concierge Service, you'll remain in control while having us by your side every step of the way. We'll guide you through the twilight years, supporting you to confidently navigate the way ahead.

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Our digestive tract is our interface with the outside world at a chemical level, up close and personal. We don't tend to think of our insides like this, but anything that passes through us in this way is of the outer world. This system is protected by our gut lining and has the most intense concentrations of our immune system anywhere in our body. Being so complex a system, there are many complaints and disorders to deal with. Our therapists have some hints and tips for you.

Lis Jorgensen—Medical Herbalist

Being omnivores, we are extremely adaptable. Because of this our digestion has a huge ability to cope when things start to go wrong. Aside from acute problems, this is why we tend to see digestive problems once they are very chronic and they can seem difficult to treat.

Poor sleep, cravings, even mood issues, such as heightened anxiety, or continuous upward or downward gas, can be signs of digestive problems, alongside the more commonly known bloating, cramping, diarrhoea and constipation. Further down the line, skin rash, brain fog and joint pain may follow.

IBS has been the umbrella term for years. I often meet clients who have spent years trying to find individual foods that might be 'the cause' of the problem. This strategy is usually unhelpful as it is the interplay between the microbiome and the immune system that has broken down in the gut. This requires a broader healing programme to resolve.

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Julia Walder—Aromatherapy & Massage Therapist

When we think of digestion, we tend to think of food entering and leaving our body; However, scientific research has recently identified a strong link between our brain and our gut. This link means that our brain can affect our gut health, and our gut health can affect our brain.

With that in mind, when blending for a client who comes to me due to issues with digestion, we always look at possible stressors that could be contributing to their symptoms. My initial oil suggestion would be something that supports the emotions, then looking at oils that would work with the digestive system. It probably won't come as a surprise that aromatherapists regularly reach for both peppermint and ginger essential oil, also, citrus oils—lemon, orange and grapefruit—and the spicy, balsamic cardamom. There are many ways to use these oils, but please seek advice from a professional aromatherapist, who will guide you. Never ingest or use neat essential oil.

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Interiors: taking the inside out

You've heard of bringing the outside in, but have you embraced taking the inside, out? Outdoor kitchens and entertaining spaces are big news. Not only do they create a haven for entertaining they are also a massive asset and can add value to your property. Exmoor-based interior designer, Abby, gives her top tips on how to maximise your space.

Planning—eating and drinking are always top of the agenda, but consider practicalities such as shade, lighting and, if this summer is anything to go by, shelter and heating! Work with your existing features; for example, if your house is close to a boundary, this helps create the perfect sheltered cooking or dining area.

Power of zones—even small gardens can be zoned and divided to help make your garden feel bigger and give it more purpose. These zones don't have to be separated by hard landscaping—planters and soft furnishings work just as well. Create zones for cooking, dining, and (if space allows) a separate sofa area for lounging.

Outdoor room—treat your garden as you would a room indoors: outdoor mirrors help throw light around and make your garden feel bigger, whilst soft furnishing such as rugs and cushions help soften the space and add texture.

A welcome glow—set the mood with soft lighting and layer at varying heights to highlight key features. Create a focal point with a fire pit to help make your garden feel more enticing. Candles, hurricane lamps, rechargeable portable lamps and solar lighting are an affordable way of adding layers of lighting into your existing garden.

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- * Malvern Autumn Show – Saturday 23rd £42.00pp includes entry
- *Tour of Cardiff Castle & Cardiff-Tuesday 26th £36.50ppAdult/ £33.50pp senior includes entry and tour
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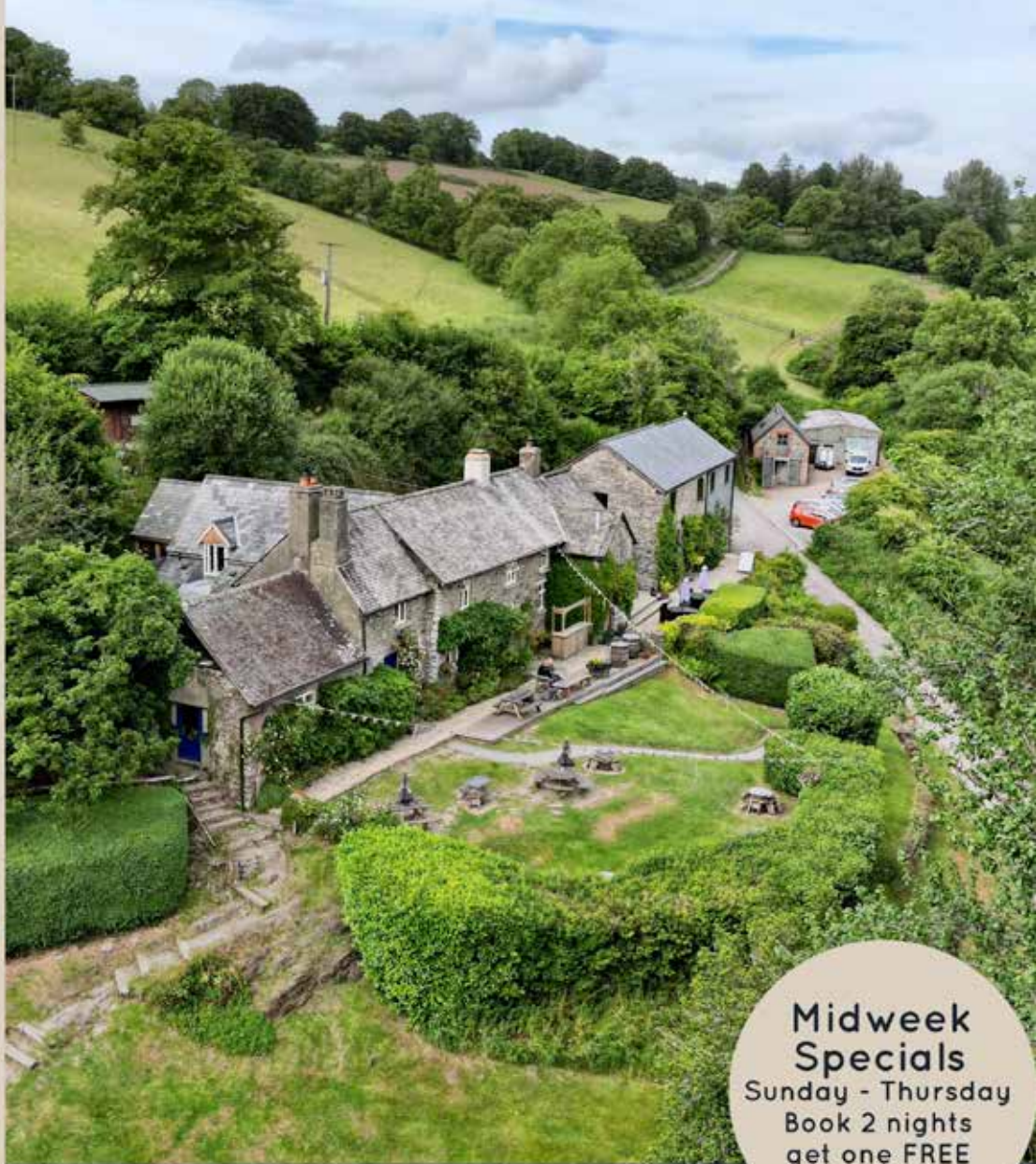
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South West Fishing for Life 15th anniversary



Cake cutting with special guest, Dame Judi Dench, and some of the trustees.

Sunday 4 June was South West Fishing for Life's 15th anniversary celebration day. The organisation, which was founded at Wimbleball Lake on Exmoor, is a fly fishing organisation for people suffering, recovering from and living with breast cancer. Sunday was not just a special celebration but a very special guest arrived to help cut the birthday cake and present the trophy to Karen Hodgson. Dame Judi Dench and her partner, David Mills, who were visiting family in the area, spent the afternoon relaxing and chatting with members, hearing their stories of how SWFFL has helped them move forward with their lives after cancer treatments, and make new friends with likeminded people. The members are taught how to fish by qualified coaches, who all volunteer, as do the ladies, who provided a delicious lunch, and the trustees, who are behind the scenes keeping the nine groups over the country running their monthly sessions smoothly. To find out more about the organisation, visit: www.southwestfishingforlife.org.uk If you are a fly fishing coach and would like to help at any of our venues, please contact Gillian at: Holworthyfarm@aol.com



Photos: Rachel Moffet Photography

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Dunkery and Dark Skies Photo: Keith Truman



Booking has now opened for all events in this year's Exmoor Dark Skies Festival. With over 60 events suitable for all ages spread between 13-29 October, this is one of the largest festivals of its kind in the UK, and makes Exmoor one of the top places to visit to learn about the starry skies above.

There are indoor and outdoor events run by Exmoor National Park Authority, organisations such as the National Trust, and local businesses.

Local astronomy guides, Liz, from Moor Wild Experiences, and Jenny, from Wild about Exmoor, will be on hand to guide you around the night skies at events throughout the festival. Popular astronomer, Jo Richardson, from Space Detectives, is hosting evenings at Exford, Simonsbath, North Molton, Oare and Kentisbury, as well as running children's activities at the Family Astro Party at Horner Farm. Astrophysicist, Professor Roger Davies, from Oxford University, is presenting a lecture at Petroc College, Tiverton, and is also a speaker at a special event at Porlock Weir Hotel. Wildlife experts will be giving talks and experienced walk leaders including National Park Rangers will escort you safely under some of the darkest skies in the country.

This year Planetarium sessions are taking place at Tiverton and Dunster and there's a brand new 'Moonlit Walk for Exmoor' around Wimbleball Lake, raising funds for three Exmoor charities. Local groups are encouraged to take part.

Also new for this year are Yoga under the Stars, E-Bike Night Rides, and a Dark Sky Singalong. The brand-new Exmoor Star Baker Competition is being hosted in Porlock on 21 October and professional and amateur cooks of all ages and from all over Exmoor are invited to bake a cake inspired by Exmoor's dark skies. During the afternoon, the public are invited to view all the cakes, browse some local produce and craft stalls, and hear a few talks about the night sky and nocturnal wildlife.

Visitors might like to book a short stargazing

break at Simonsbath House Hotel or the Yarn Market Hotel at Dunster, or stay in an accredited Dark Sky Friendly business, while exploring Exmoor and attending festival events.

Jo Richardson has written a free guide to some of the best spots to stargaze and the free guide can be downloaded from the stargazing webpage (see below). Dobsonian Sky Watcher telescopes can be hired from the National Park Centre, where Celestron telescopes and binoculars are also on sale. The Dark Sky Discovery Trail is a self-led two-mile walk, under the darkest skies, and is a real adventure at any time of year, with 360-degree views virtually free from light pollution.

Visit: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/stargazing to read more about all of the above including the October festival, sponsored by Airband. The festival programme is available free from National Park Centres at Dulverton, Dunster and Lynmouth.

The poster for 'Stargazing Evenings @ Holworthy Farm' features a night sky background with a bright star. It includes the following text:

- Stargazing Evenings* @ Holworthy Farm**
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- Includes Supper
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- Saturday 21st October 2023 - In the Starry Skies (Exmoor National Park Dark Sky Festival)
- Saturday 18th November 2023 - Jupiter, A Planetary Giant
- Saturday 16th December 2023 - Space Rocks (Geminids Meteors)
- Saturday 20th January 2024 - In the Starry Skies
- Saturday 24th February 2024 - Observing the Moon
- Saturday 16th March 2024 - Deep Space Observation (James Webb Space Telescope)
- From £28 per person
- holworthyfarm.co.uk
- 01398 371244 Wimbleball Lake, TA22 9NY
- * Evening events start at 6.30pm and finish late, unless detailed otherwise



September in Dulverton

What's happening in Dulverton in September? The short answer is...a lot!

On **1 September**, the programme for the second exciting **Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival** is released and online booking opens. The festival takes place in Dulverton Town Hall on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 November, with five author talks/discussions on both days. Signed copies of the speakers' books will be on sale in a popup bookshop after each talk.

Top names are attending in 2023, including former Children's Laureate, Michael Morpurgo, in conversation with writer, Alice Thomson. Dulverton's own historical novelist, Kate Lord Brown, hosts a discussion with historical biographers, Andrew Lownie and Catherine Ostler, about their recent biographies of two different duchesses, involved in very different scandals.

Award-winning writer, columnist and presenter, Rachel Johnson, author of *Rake's Progress: My Political Midlife Crisis* is talking about her life in the political arena, with *The Times* writer and celebrated art critic, Rachel Campbell-Johnston.

Three novelists are discussing their latest books at this year's Book Club fiction panel: Instagram's @theummumsymum, Sarah Turner (her debut novel *Stepping Up*, was a Richard & Judy Book Club pick), former *Blue Peter* presenter, Janet Ellis (*The Butcher's Hook*), and Hanna Richell (*The River Home*).

Local celebrity and MasterChef judge, William Sitwell, returns to the 2023 festival, to interview award-winning writer, Henry Jeffreys, author of *Vines in a Cold Climate*, about British wines. David Cameron's former SPAD, Julian Glover, author of the Government's *Landscapes Review: National Parks and AONBs* is discussing 'What is our countryside for?' with Exmoor farmer and writer, Victoria Eveleigh,

Travel editor, Miranda Taylor, is hosting a session on creativity with international portrait photographer, Harry Borden (*Survivor: A Portrait of the Survivors of the Holocaust and On Divorce*) and Albert Read, author of newly released, *The Imagination Muscle*.

In a career spanning over 40 years, retired ITV sports reporter, Dennis Coath, has interviewed many sporting legends, including Muhammad Ali, Ayrton Senna and Sir Alex Ferguson. He will share entertaining anecdotes from his professional life, as detailed in his book *Rats, Pies and Pigeon Poo*. Be prepared to laugh out loud!

Dulverton also welcomes British explorer, Belinda Kirk, and UK military survival expert, John Hudson, in conversation with publisher and travel writer, Hilary Bradt, discussing the merits of challenging yourself to seek adventure.

Other writers confirmed for the event include local railway historians, Freddie Huxtable, Ian Coleby and Amyas Crump, discussing Exmoor, Somerset and Devon's lost railways. There are plans for creative writing workshops in Dulverton Library on Saturday 18 November, with the support of creative educators, Fabula Arts, and local children's author and illustrator, Annabel Collis.

The festival also sees the return of the under-12s Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival Children's Writing Competition. Michael Morpurgo is presenting the winners' prizes (donated by Waterstones Barnstaple). Details are being sent to local schools in early September.

The Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival is supported by Dulverton Town Council and generously sponsored by the following local businesses: Town Mills B&B, James Pryce Tractors, Masons Kings Agricultural Machinery, Stockham Farm Exmoor, *Exmoor News*, Hedley Price Funeral Directors, Jeff Pegrum Landscaping, Tozers Solicitors, Ware Construction, Rothwell & Dunworth Books, Your First Book, Stags Estate Agents, Osteo & Physio Tiverton, Maitland Walker Solicitors, The Exclusive Cake Company, The Exmoor Feasting Company, Wellhayes Vineyard, Friendship & Sons Funeral Directors, Winsbere House B&B, The Sip Shed and Exmoor Character Cottages.

Sunday 17 September sees the return of the annual **Dulverton Fun Run & Canicross**, now in its third successful year. Join us for cross-country running along 5km or 10km routes through the beautiful countryside around Dulverton—with or without your dog! The start and finish lines are at Exmoor Lawns, Dulverton beside the River Barle, with refreshments available. Online entries are now open. All competitors receive a tasteful, eco-friendly medal, exclusively handcrafted by Exmoor Engraving.



On **Saturday 23 September**, visit Dulverton Town Hall for another **Dulverton Antiques Valuation Day**. From 10.30am to 3.30pm, four experts from Adam Partridge Auctioneers join Visit Dulverton to host a second valuation event. Visitors are invited to bring their antiques, jewellery, fine art and collectors' items—a maximum of three portable items per person. For a donation of £5, the specialists give a valuation and history of each item. No appointments will be necessary, it'll be a first come first served simple ticketing system.

Dulverton's Oggies Music Shop and Tim Venning's 'From Tim's Workshop', both of whom repurpose and reuse old items,

such as musical instruments, into lamps, tables etc will have stalls at the event. Refreshments will be available and the bar open.

And the final **Dulverton Farmers Market** of 2023 takes place on **Saturday 30 September** from 10 to 2.30pm, with approximately 30 stalls featuring the finest local produce, street food and locally produced arts and crafts, as well as live music.

For more information and online ticketing of any of the above events, go to: www.visitdulverton.com



Valuation day



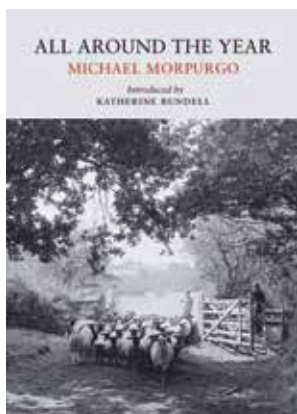
Adam Partridge



Creative writing workshop in Dulverton Library



Fun Run and Canicross



Michael Morpurgo



William Sitwell

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Thurs 5.00pm Brushford Parish Hall
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Fri 8.30am Brushford Parish Hall
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Why not join one of Linda London's Over 50s classes or the Easy Exercise for the Older and Wiser sessions in Brushford or Dulverton to help your mobility, stamina and suppleness? Not sure if a class is right for you? Come along for a free taster session, with no obligation. (See advertisement for class details.) To find out which session would suit you best, email Linda London: Lindavlondon4@gmail.com or for a friendly chat call: 01398 323393 or 07866 937654.

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Exmoor is looking beautiful, with glimmers of purple heather starting to emerge through the bracken and, despite the rain, the summer season is here, with village fetes, gymkhanas, local shows and events already in full swing.

The spring was a very busy time for Webbers and with continued resilience in the property market, there is a greater selection of properties coming to the market, providing plenty of choice for those looking to find their next home or business.

It would be easy to assume that, with the continued rise in interest rates, many people would put their sale or purchase on hold. However, in the West Country this doesn't seem to be the case. On a daily basis, new potential clients are registering their interest and details across Webbers' fourteen offices, which cover Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, in order to find their ideal property. Being realistically priced and being backed with a strong marketing campaign is certainly vital in avoiding price reductions, time on the market, and a lack of viewings.

If you are considering a move then please do not hesitate to contact your local Webbers Office.

We are delighted to showcase a variety of properties currently available.



Exford

Asking Price £799,950

A renowned Exmoor 17th Century, family-run coaching inn with 16 en-suite letting bedrooms, bar, cocktail bar and restaurant, plus owners' three-bedroom cottage with large rear patio. Large car park,

gardens and stables all located within popular village setting. EPC—C. Leasehold. Council Tax—TBC.

Contact the Dulverton office on 01398 323271

Clayhanger

Guide Price £575,000

A large detached five-bedroom house with two bathrooms, two reception rooms an open fire, kitchen/diner, utility, WC, double garage, extensive parking and large workshop. No Chain. EPC—D. Freehold. Council Tax—E.



Contact the Wiveliscombe office on 01984 624055



Upton

Guide Price £675,000

An imposing, well presented, converted Grade II listed chapel situated on the eastern fringes of

the Exmoor National Park, with impressive and commanding views overlooking the neighbouring countryside, 20' 6" x 17' 2" sitting room, character features throughout, attractive gardens, parking and garage. EPC Exempt. Freehold. Council Tax—E.

Contact the Dulverton office on T: 01398 323271

Clayhanger

Guide Price £325,000

Just over the West Somerset border in Devon, a character three-bedroom, semi-detached cottage with gardens and parking, living room with inglenook fireplace and log burner, kitchen/dining room, bathroom, electric heating, double glazing, excellent decor and lovely outlook. EPC—E. Freehold. Council Tax—C.

Contact the Wiveliscombe office on 01984 624055



Dulverton

Guide Price £210,000

Requiring modernisation and general repairs, this pretty and spacious character terraced cottage is located in the centre of the bustling Exmoor town of Dulverton, offering three bedrooms, a garage

and a small stoned seating area. EPC—F. Freehold. Council Tax—B.

Contact the Dulverton office on T: 01398 323271

Brayford

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Occupying a very secluded, elevated position accessed by a 1/4 mile long driveway is this four-bedroom detached house with an adjoining one-bedroom annexe.



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Contact the South Molton Office on 01769 573181

North Molton

Guide Price £450,000

Set within the heart of the highly popular village of North Molton, close to local amenities, is this particularly spacious and highly individual three-bedroom, two reception rooms, detached



bungalow enjoying countryside views, whilst having the benefit of a detached garage with an adjoining workshop and off-road parking. EPC–E. Freehold. Council Tax–C.

Contact the South Molton Office on 01769 573181



Halse

Guide Price £625,000

A detached four-bedroom single storey property. Grade II listed with two reception rooms and two bathrooms, kitchen and utility. Mains gas fired central heating, log burner, landscaped terraced

gardens with views, plus a versatile outbuilding and garage. EPC Exempt. Freehold. Council Tax –E.

Contact the Wiveliscombe office on 01984 624055



Brushford

Guide Price £290,000

Situated on the southern edge of the Exmoor National Park, this spacious two-bedroom apartment is located in the impressive and commanding former Carnarvon Arms Hotel. Extensive communal

gardens, parking and striking views of the neighbouring countryside. Suitable for full-time living or as an investment. EPC–E. Leasehold. Council Tax–E.

Contact the Dulverton office on 01398 323271

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Devon CPRE's search for young artists

The Devon branch of countryside charity, CPRE, is looking for budding young artists who can capture the beauty and variety of the county's natural landscapes, from its wild moorlands to its sheltered river valleys.

Young artists aged 18 and under have until the end of September to submit a painting, drawing, textile, collage, or mixed media artwork of a Devon view to win the coveted title of Devon's Best Young Landscape Artist 2023. The landscape could be a favourite beach or beauty spot, a local park or green space, somewhere visited on a day out or even the artist's back garden.

There are cash prizes for the winner of each category, and the best entries will go on exhibition at the Museum of Dartmoor Life in Okehampton.

Devon CPRE launched the competition two years ago with the support of Exeter-based landscape artist, Kath Hadden, who helps choose the prize winners alongside the charity's Director, Penny Mills. The two judges have consistently been impressed with the immense talent of the county's young artists. They hope to receive as many original submissions depicting Devon's stunning countryside and coastline, as they have in previous years.

Last year, two Dartmoor scenes were chosen as the winning entries: 15-year-old Angelie Pickett's accomplished painting of Ugborough stood out in the older age group, and a vibrant painting of Belstone River by 11-year-old Sophia Lopez Clarkson won in the younger age group.

Devon CPRE Director Penny Mills says: "Kath and I really enjoy looking through all the artwork, and we are always amazed by the talent of the children and teenagers who enter. We love their depictions of Devon's coast and countryside, and we look forward to seeing what 2023 will bring. No doubt, we will again have our work cut out deciding on this year's winners."

The competition is simple to enter, with a cash prize of £100 for the winner of each age category. Full details of how to enter are on the Devon CPRE website. The closing date for submissions is Saturday, 30 September 2023.

www.devoncpre.org.uk



1. Devon CPRE Young Landscape Artist competition 2022 - Winner (older category): Ugborough, edge of Dartmoor by 15-year-old Angelie Pickett

2. Devon CPRE Young Landscape Artist competition 2022 - Winner (younger category) - Belstone River on Dartmoor by 11-year-old Sophia Lopez Clarkson



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Children's Colouring Competition Winners

Four pupils from Dulverton School have been chosen as winners of the colouring competition, run jointly by Somerset Library Service and Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust. Each winner took home a £10 book token to spend during the school holidays.

The photo shows a selection of the entries; pupils were asked to colour in a new drawing by well-known local artist, Annabel Greenfield. This was one of a Dulverton-themed series.

This particular drawing shows Olli, the Dulverton Otter, in Dulverton Library with Dulverton librarian, Rosanne Payne.

This drawing, and others yet to be designed, will be published as a book for local children in the future.



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Life Drawing in Minehead

'When I've got nothing on - I'm busy.'

So said professional nude model, Dave Clarke. Nowadays, Dave hosts life drawing sessions with professional models at the Quaker Hall in Minehead every Tuesday morning. He started nude modelling 23 years ago, answering a Job Centre advertisement for a life model at Stroud College for 11 hours a week. His wife thought he was mad but, within six months, Dave was modelling at 54 different venues and even appeared naked on a Dawn French TV show! Dave is a crusader for life drawing, believing it a wholly worthy, modern educational art form, which should be available to youngsters in school from age 13 as a demystifier alongside their new-found awareness of sexual orientations and gender choices.

Dave and mate, Robert, can also be found busking in various West Country towns. They met in a production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* three decades ago and became firm friends. Robert is an accomplished life model and appears in some of Dave's art sessions but, between them, they write and produce folk songs, often with a country or comedy twist, to perform live in small venues. They currently have a hit song sitting at number two in the international Reverb Nation comedy chart.

The Minehead Life Sessions are two and a half hours long, untutored and open to all on a drop-in basis, so there is no standard requirement other than enthusiasm, a pad and pencil and £15. Feel free to tell Dave you didn't recognise him with his clothes on. All welcome - just drop in!

Venue: Quaker Meeting House, 9 Bancks Street, Minehead, TA24 5DJ.

Tuesdays 10.00am -1230



By Rev. John Thorogood

Thirteen years ago, I retired as Parish Priest of Dulverton and decided to join the Arts Society as I knew so little about Fine Art.

Once a month (usually on Mondays), nine times a year we meet for a one hour illustrated lecture by someone who is an expert in their field. We also have Study Days, Visits and Tours.

We meet in Brushford Parish Hall – a modern building with good parking. Brushford is a village just outside Dulverton and about a 30 minute drive down the A396. *JT*

Lectures run from October 2023 to June 2024.



2nd October Vaux-le-Vicomte Fit for a King

Built in 1661 using the finest materials and craftsmen available, this chateau was the inspiration behind the Palais de Versailles which at the time was a hunting lodge. Exquisite architecture, lavish interiors and garden design which outshone

the Sun King. An enigmatic tale with a twist.

Carole Petipher – An established guide and lecturer with over 20 years' experience leading history and art tours in France.

6th November The Glasgow Boys

This influential, radical group of young artists, active between 1875 and 1914 revolutionised Scottish art bringing it into the main stream of European art. Many of "the Boys" studied in Paris and visited Japan including Arthur Melville, a fine watercolourist, Joseph Lavery, Joseph Crawhall and James Guthrie and displayed a fresh, modern and vigorous style.

Julian Halsby – Read History of Art at Cambridge and went on to become Senior Lecturer and Head of Department at Croydon College of Art.



4th December Three Wise Men Gold Frankincense & Myrrh

Exploring the accuracy and depictions of Melchior, Casper and Balthazar. The term "Magi" refers to Zoroastrian priest-sages, who were specialists in medicine, religion and astronomy. They travelled from

the East and thus became one of the most popular religious subjects for the Renaissance artists.

Christopher Bradley – A professional tour guide and expert in the history and culture of the Middle East. He has worked as a film producer and cameraman making documentaries for the BBC, National Geographic TV and Channel 4



image © Emma Solfer

8th January

Exeter Cathedral: A Portrait in Decorative Gothic

Described as "England's most beautiful Decorated Gothic Cathedral" by English Heritage, with its imposing Norman towers flanking a 14th century nave and the longest rib vaulted ceiling of any Gothic Cathedral in Europe. A High spot in Medieval Cathedral building.

Mark Cottle – Mark's career has involved lecturing in Medieval and Tudor History and Anglo-Saxon and Medieval English History at Exeter College, St Mark's and St John's University Plymouth and Bath University.



5th February The Art of the Magical Cave Churches in Cappadocia Turkey

In the lunar landscape of central Anatolia wonderful examples of Byzantine art are hidden within the historic interiors of volcanic rock formations.

Geri Parby – With a First in History and Theology, a Masters in History of Art from the Courtauld and a Doctorate, Geri is one of our most popular lecturers.

13th May The Making of Landscape Photography

This is a fascinating exploration of the making of the image and the way it is perceived by the viewer. A wonderful chance to learn more about the eye and the brain being a double act of visual reference and intellectual interpretation.

Charlie Waite – One of the world's leading landscape photographers, he has lectured for over 25 years and had one-man exhibitions in Tokyo and London.

3rd June Conservation and Restoration of Paintings



An enlightening discussion about the nature of paintings from the Middle Ages to the present day and how they can be restored and conserved from ageing, deterioration, neglect, vandalism and even war. Together viewing the modern "museum standard" approach to the problem.

Sarah Cove – Sarah is an accredited paintings conservator-restorer, technical art historian and lecturer with over 35 years' experience.

For further information about the Arts Society Exmoor please contact: Jane Marchant 01984 629645
exmoor@theartsociety.org



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A new bridge for the Barle?

A CareMoor for Exmoor appeal was launched this summer to help build new bridge across the River Barle, securing and improving a popular walking route between the iconic Exmoor landmark, Tarr Steps, and the village of Withypool. While securing access improvements for future generations, the National Park Authority's plans will also help nature by protecting valuable wildlife sites in the valley.

Dan Barnett, Access and Recreation Manager for the Authority, said: "The footpath, which makes up part of the long-distance walking route the Two Moors Way, has always followed a permitted path in this location. The path here has become very unsafe due to heavy erosion caused by flooding. It is also an ecologically special area and ongoing path erosion and sediment loss is not good for the river's fish and other wildlife. We plan to divert walkers onto the other side of the River Barle, where a public Right of Way already exists, by building a new bridge. This will ensure that the route is secured for years to come."

Sarah Bryan, Chief Executive of Exmoor National Park Authority said: "We're holding a raffle and there are some great prizes on offer—we are extremely grateful to local business such as Exmoor Forest Inn, Highcliff House, Westerclose House, Hillways Farm, Stockham Farm, Wellhayes Vineyard, Wild about Exmoor, Exmoor Distillery and Wicked Wolf, Exmoor Tea and D J Miles who have donated prizes."

Tickets are available online or from National Park Centres, Tarr Farm Inn, Withypool Shop and the Royal Oak at Withypool. The draw will take place on 6 October.

The Authority is also offering dedication plaques on the bridge, which might appeal to people wanting to remember



someone special, to celebrate a special occasion, or simply to show their love for the area. Donations direct to the appeal can also be made online or at the centres.

For details of the Great Bradley Bridge CareMoor campaign including the raffle, dedication plaques, and how to donate, go to: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/caremoor or call 01398 323665.



Above: Bradley Bridge site

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£25,000 donation for Exmoor Woods and Trees appeal.

Exmoor National Park Authority is delighted to announce a £25,000 donation to its CareMoor for Exmoor Woods and Trees appeal.

The Richards family, who have a strong connection with Exmoor, visited the National Park recently to see the site of a new woodland being created near Simonsbath, where their substantial donation will be making a difference.

Mark Richards said: "For some time, we've been looking for a way to celebrate the lives of our parents Denys and Cicely Richards, who lived in West Buckland for many years and loved Devon and Exmoor."

Denys (1922- 1999) taught at West Buckland School, whilst Cicely (1921-2014) taught at Truro High School and Barnstaple Grammar in the West Country. Later they taught in Portsmouth.

"We found the perfect solution with the new woodland planting being undertaken by the National Park Authority," continued Mark. "My sisters, Sarah and Julia, and I think this is a lovely way to celebrate the lives of our wonderful parents, who inspired both us and the many pupils they taught."

Two generations of the family visited Simonsbath and met Senior Conservation Officer, Graeme McVittie, who walked them around the authority's land at the centre of the village—to show them exactly where and how their donation will be spent.

"Hearing the details of the traditional and innovative tree planting plans was inspiring and we're now looking forward to visiting again in late autumn, to help with the planting of saplings, in the knowledge that the project is being well planned and managed," added Mark. "The younger generations of our family will be able to visit Simonsbath in years to come and watch as the trees mature. It's the perfect way for our parents to be remembered and we encourage other families to support this project. Being able to visit and see exactly how our donation will be spent has been really important to us."

Graeme McVittie said: "As part of our climate change work, we've got ambitious plans to increase tree cover on Exmoor from around 13.5 to 17 per cent by 2050. Donations to the CareMoor Woods and Trees Appeal help us to ensure we achieve this and support our efforts to use only the most environmentally friendly methods of woodland creation and management."

Earlier this summer, the Simonsbath site was visited by Somerset Deputy Lieutenant and High Sheriff, Robert Drewett, in recognition of the naming of the woodland as King's Wood to mark the coronation of King Charles III.

Katrina Munro, who administers the CareMoor for Exmoor donations scheme for the authority, said: "Donors can choose which of our projects they want to support so, whether it's tree planting, wildflower meadow creation or our recently launched CareMoor appeal to build Great Bradley Bridge, we're really grateful for all donations that help us to keep Exmoor special for future generations."

Donations to CareMoor for Exmoor can be made online at:
www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/caremoor
or at Exmoor National Park Centres at Dulverton, Dunster and Lynmouth.



Two generations of the Richards family meet ENPA Senior Woodlands Officer, Graeme McVittie, on the site of the new King's Wood.





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Somerset welcomes the British National Ploughing Championships

The organisers of the annual British National Ploughing Championships & Country Festival are delighted that the event returns to Somerset this autumn, on 14 and 15 October. This fantastic event, held in a different part of the country each year, is back in the county for only the seventh time in its 72-year history, when the championships will be held on land at Bishop's Lydeard, near Taunton, by kind permission of K S Coles and family.

Over the two days, around 250 ploughmen and women from throughout Great Britain will be striving for perfection, using a variety of modern tractors, vintage tractors or magnificent heavy horses, with their aim to be British Champion in their respective discipline.

Visitors to the championships will be able not only to appreciate the ploughing skills on show, they can shop at the trade stand, shopping and craft area for anything from a tractor or a barn, to a garden trug, handbag or a children's puzzle. They will also be able to see demonstrations of the most up-to-date machinery available on the market today and, in contrast, many vintage tractors and implements on display from yesteryear. With giant steam ploughing engines and hedge laying competitions, it will be an event to remember. Tractor and trailer rides are available to enable visitors to get around the massive 250-acre site will be provided.

Find out more at: www.ploughmen.co.uk



Photo above

Alex Evans from Cumbria is one of around 150 competitors who will be using vintage tractors and ploughs.

Photo courtesy of Paul Gregory

Photo left

One of the lady competitors, Bryony Gill from Cornwall, will be ploughing with her Shires, Angel and Bravelad.




Photo courtesy of Paul Gregory



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This is a voluntary role, which is likely to demand a few hours a month including attending bi-monthly Trustee committee meetings. You will be joining a team of dedicated individuals who share the same vision for our local hall to flourish and serve the community. It is a rewarding role that contributes to the heart of our community.

Contact:

trustees@brushfordparishhall.org.uk for more information and a detailed job description.



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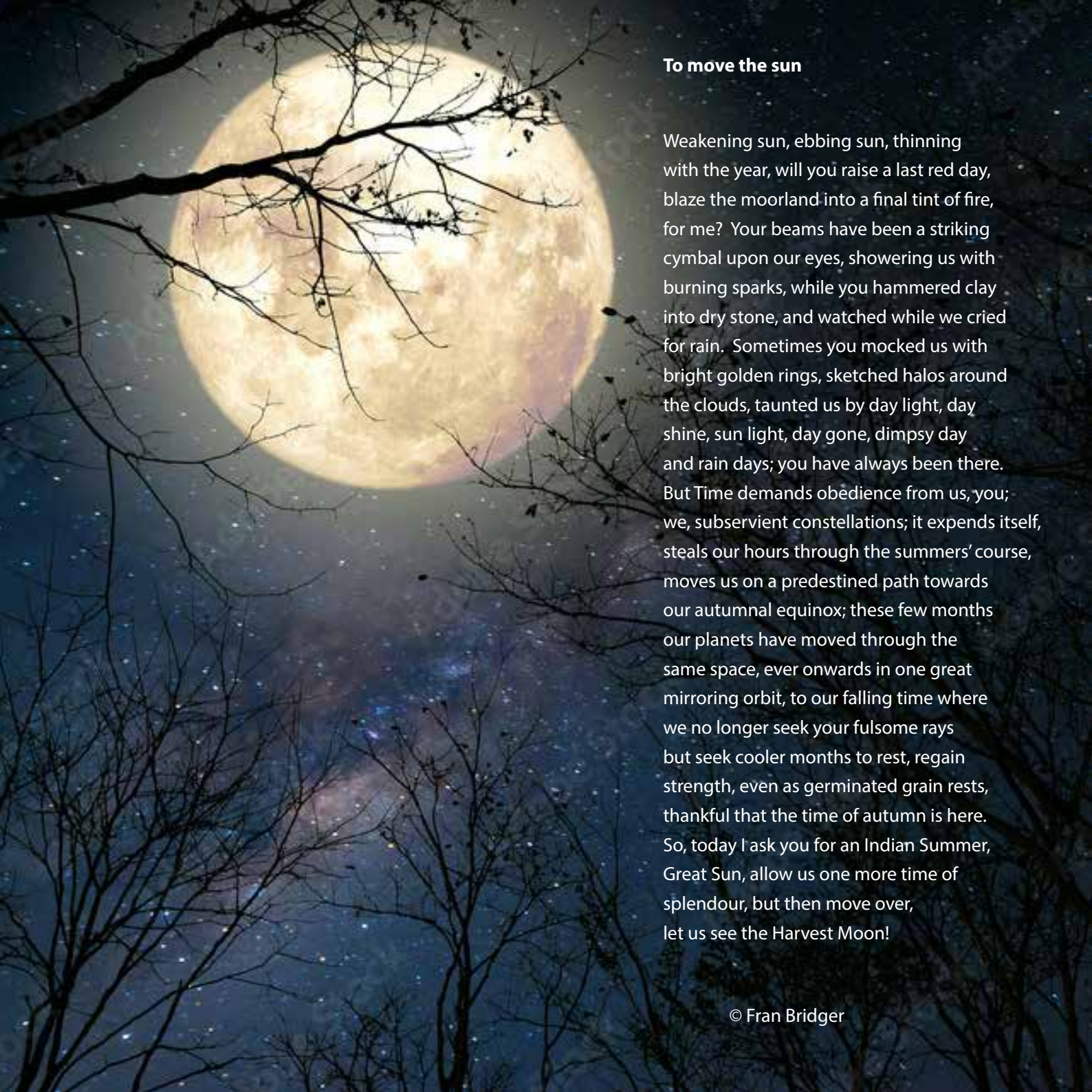
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To move the sun

Weakening sun, ebbing sun, thinning with the year, will you raise a last red day, blaze the moorland into a final tint of fire, for me? Your beams have been a striking cymbal upon our eyes, showering us with burning sparks, while you hammered clay into dry stone, and watched while we cried for rain. Sometimes you mocked us with bright golden rings, sketched halos around the clouds, taunted us by day light, day shine, sun light, day gone, dimpsy day and rain days; you have always been there. But Time demands obedience from us, you; we, subservient constellations; it expends itself, steals our hours through the summers' course, moves us on a predestined path towards our autumnal equinox; these few months our planets have moved through the same space, ever onwards in one great mirroring orbit, to our falling time where we no longer seek your fulsome rays but seek cooler months to rest, regain strength, even as germinated grain rests, thankful that the time of autumn is here. So, today I ask you for an Indian Summer, Great Sun, allow us one more time of splendour, but then move over, let us see the Harvest Moon!



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2023 Festival - Dartmoor 5-8 October | Exmoor 12-15 October



Two Moors Festival

The internationally renowned festival takes place over nine days in October: on Dartmoor from Thursday 5 to Sunday 8 October 2023, and on Exmoor from Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October 2023. This year's festival explores the theme of 'Home' in music.

Exmoor venues range from the stately home of Castle Hill near South Molton, to St Andrew's Church, Wiveliscombe, from All Saints' Church, Dulverton, to St Michael & All Angels Church, Bampton. Since 2001, the Two Moors Festival (charity number 1095723) has welcomed outstanding international artists and the rising stars of the next generation to perform for large and enthusiastic audiences in venues spread across Dartmoor and Exmoor.

Highlights of this year's festival are:

- world premiere of Deborah Pritchard's new song cycle, *Liberty*, for soprano, violin and piano;
- recreation of Proust's *Salon Concert Retrouvé* at stately home, Castle Hill, including a garden tour;
- semi-staged production of *Dido and Aeneas*, performed by Armonico Consort;
- Young Musicians Competition winners concert.

Other visiting artists include the soprano, Ailish Tynan; baritone, James Newby; pianists, Christopher Glynn and Huw Watkins; violinist, Mathilde Milwidsky, and the Sitkovetsky Trio, with a talk by author, Gavin Plumley, looking at the significance of home from his

perspective as a cultural historian.

Tamsin Waley-Cohen, Artistic Director, said: "This year I've chosen the theme of 'Home' and throughout the festival I'll be looking at what a sense of home can mean in many different contexts. We'll be celebrating the influences of folk, jazz and world music on the classical genre, and the different places and ways of life they evoke, as well exploring the loss of home and displacement. We'll be examining

the plight of refugees who create new homes, showing how our most ancient folk songs ground us to generations past and future. This promises to be a powerful programme that asks a lot of questions."

More details and ticket booking can be found on at our website:

www.twomoorsfestival.co.uk
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From Conifer to Culm

Members of the Taw Valley & Little Dart Landowners Group were recently treated to a *Conifer to Culm* workshop, hosted by one of the group's members near Meshaw.

Delicious pasties made with meat produced on the farm were served and the cider was made solely from apples harvested from the farm's orchard, which is documented in the Domesday Book (1086). This workshop was one of a few activities delivered by keen landowners in this area of the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere over the past six months. They are delighted that Defra has recently awarded funding to enable the group to continue their events programme, organised via the North Devon Biosphere Foundation and Devon Wildlife Trust, until May 2026. (Defra's Facilitation Fund helps to bring together farmers, foresters and other land managers to improve local environmental outcomes.)

Farmers and landowners across north Devon are being called upon to produce food, while significantly improving biodiversity and locking away carbon on their land. The Taw Valley & Little Dart Landowners Group (with over 60 members) have come together to share their approaches, learn from each other and hear about government grants supporting environmental improvements, such as Countryside Stewardship and the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMs), which is being rolled out in phases between now and 2027.

Culm Grassland is a priority habitat for Northern Devon, characterised by a high diversity of plant species and a varied structure that supports a wide range of insects, reptiles, mammals and birds. The group saw for themselves how the Culm has naturally regenerated over ten years, managed through non-intensive rotational cattle grazing.

The conifer plantation had two successive crops, spanning 80 years, and landowners heard how the seeds held within the seed bank under the plantation would most likely have a viable lifespan of less than 80 years. Theories were discussed as to how the Culm area might then have regenerated without the landowner having spread seed or green hay. It was considered plausible that an area of original Culm nearby had acted as a donor site with seed blowing across, travelling via birds or within the dung and on the feet of grazing cattle who were moved between sites in their rotation of non-intensive grazing.

The site is now rich with life and supports a range of other species living around its edges.

If you are a landowner, farmer, forester or land manager within the Taw Valley or Little Dart catchments and would like to know more about this group or would like to become a member, please contact kay.willmott@devon.gov.uk



North Devon UNESCO Biosphere—on the map

You can now discover the wonders of North Devon UNESCO Biosphere, and 57 other unique UNESCO sites in the UK and Crown Dependencies, thanks to a new illustrated map* designed by creative cartographer, Tom Woolley. From expansive mountain ranges and stunning coastlines, to vibrant cities and rural landscapes—the UK’s UNESCO sites are destinations of world-class natural and cultural heritage. The map includes 29 World Heritage Sites, thirteen Creative Cities, nine Global Geoparks and seven Biosphere Reserves, covering 13 per cent of the UK’s landmass. Most of the sites are free to enter and accessible by public transport.

The North Devon UNESCO Biosphere is a UNESCO designated area because of its unique ecosystem. The area covers thirty per cent of Devon and extends twelve miles past Lundy Island into the Bristol channel. It is one of 748 Biospheres globally, that together cover five per cent of the earth’s surface and are home to 250 million people.



Andy Bell, CEO of North Devon UNESCO Biosphere said: “As one of the seven Biosphere Reserves featured on the map, we are delighted to see a national drive for more visitors to the UNESCO sites across the UK to interact with the special qualities each one has. Once here in northern Devon, visitors can use our web app, North Devon Explorer (www.northdevonexplorer.com), which highlights the fantastic experiences available in the area, while helping to reduce pressure on the popular hotspots.”

Visitors to the UK’s UNESCO sites are invited to breathe in the sea air of North Devon, the English Riviera, and Brighton and Lewes, or immerse themselves in the spectacular vistas of the slate landscape of Northwest Wales and the Scottish Highlands. They can dive into the literary heritage of Manchester or Edinburgh, scale the mountains of the English Lake District or the peaks of Fforest Fawr, uncover legends and folklore along the Giant’s Causeway or Stonehenge, tackle the northernmost frontiers of the Roman Empire by foot or by bike, stroll around Bath, one of Europe’s great spa towns, or a landed estate at Blenheim Palace. And they can dance the night away in an iconic concert hall in Belfast or at a festival under the stars at one of the world’s largest deep space observatories at Jodrell Bank.

*The map was produced by the UK National Commission for UNESCO, as part of its Local to Global project, made possible with the GREAT Campaign and The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with thanks to National Lottery players.

Download the free map here: www.unesco.org.uk/our-sites.

Find out more about the North Devon Biosphere at: www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/

Volunteering with Citizens Advice

Regular readers of this column know we present a topical problem, then demonstrate how we would advise a client to deal with it, often providing links to further information. We conclude by inviting people to learn more about volunteering with us, because we rely heavily on volunteers as we try and meet ever-increasing demand. We thought more information would be useful!

It's a common misconception that our volunteers are retired professionals: lawyers, accountants, counsellors, etc. Many are, indeed, retired, but we also have volunteers for whom it's an enhancement on their CV. It's absolutely not the case that we rely on professionals! People volunteer with us for many reasons, sometimes just to meet new people. We provide comprehensive training and ongoing support so whilst a professional background may be useful, it's not a requirement.

Not all of our volunteers train to give advice. Some undertake reception work and admin. We have recently introduced an email advice service so someone with hearing difficulties who could not handle telephone inquiries could still provide advice by email, which is proving to be a simple and effective way to help increasing numbers of people.

What difference do we make to people? To individuals and families, relief and peace of mind; but you may be surprised at the bigger picture. Annually, we produce Impact Reports detailing what we have achieved in a financial year. There is an overall organisation report, also individual local authority reports and town council reports. They make for interesting reading!

We speak of the number of clients we have helped, (15,088 2022-23), the number of problems we have resolved (34,053 in 2022-23), and the amount of money we have generated for people that goes back into the local economy. In 2022-23, that was over £9.6 million! We highlight the key problems, such as debt, welfare benefits, or housing, and within that break it down to show what people ask about most. We handle family problems, employment concerns; we have specialist teams focusing on energy, health problems– the scope is vast. We print client stories and quote what people say about the help we have given them.

Take a look at www.ruraldevoncab.org.uk and click on Impact Reports. If you would like to be a part of making a real difference to people in our area email: recruitment@ruraldevoncab.org.uk for more information. Demand for our services has never been so great so we would love to hear from you!

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Suzi Koszler-Allen

Consultant Private Client Solicitor

<p>M: 07792632404 T: 01398 310 057</p>	<p>DDI: 0330 058 4012 ext: 2414 E: skoszler-allen@setfords.co.uk</p>
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There are milestone moments in life that require much more from your legal representative than experience alone. I am Suzi Koszler-Allen, a practising solicitor since 2008 specialising in private client work, an area of law that I am passionate about.

My goal is to provide you with the kind of efficient and responsive legal advice and support you would expect from a solicitor with 15 years of experience, combined with a high level of personal service and a desire to gain a thorough understanding of your specific needs.

My specialist areas of law are:

- Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Court of Protection
- Care Home Fees
- Grant of Probate
- Estate Administration
- Inheritance tax
- Trusts

While I operate mostly regionally across the Exmoor area, I have access to the national Setfords network of more than 400 solicitors, and so I can put you in touch with a solicitor who can help you with any other legal requirements you may have.

Please call me today to discuss your needs.



It's that time of year...

"We've booked a package holiday to Spain. It's our first time booking this sort of getaway and a friend recently had a terrible experience when things went wrong on a similar trip. What sort of help is available if something does go wrong?"

First, tell the company or travel agent you booked with as soon as possible so you're more likely to be able to get it sorted quicker. If you wait until you get home, you might get less compensation or none at all.

If the holiday you went on turned out to be lower in value than the one you originally booked, you can make a claim for 'loss of value'; for example, you paid for a de luxe room but only got a standard one. If it wasn't sorted out at the time, you can claim back the difference in value.

You can also claim compensation for any extra money you have to spend while away — perhaps the beach was a bus ride away from the hotel, not across the road as advertised. This is called 'claiming for out-of-pocket expenses' but make sure you keep all your receipts.

If big parts of the trip you booked didn't happen or services weren't provided, such as the cancellation of a planned two-day excursion was cancelled with no alternative organised, you can make a claim for 'loss of enjoyment.' You can also make this claim if something happens that causes distress or disappointment—for example, the pool was closed the whole time. There are no strict guidelines on how much you can claim for loss of enjoyment but any claim you make must be reasonable. You can't get compensation if you simply did not enjoy the holiday or if the problem, such as bad weather, was outside the control of the holiday company.

Check the information you received when you made the booking to see what you're supposed to get. If you don't get the service you've been promised you may be entitled to compensation for breach of contract. You might also be able to claim from your travel insurance—check if your policy covers this.

You can always ring our FREE, local AdviceLine on 0808 27 87 999 or take a look at: www.ruraldevoncab.org.uk and click on Get Advice.

If you would like to help people with problems like this why not come and volunteer with us? You get ongoing training and support; you will make new friends, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping your local community.

Contact:

recruitment@ruraldevoncab.org.uk for more information.



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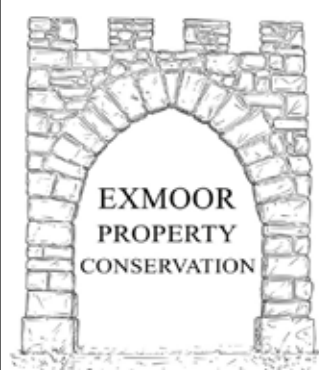
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Summer concerts at local vineyard



Wellhayes Vineyard, just outside Clayhanger, between Bampton and Wiveliscombe, produces award-winning, quality sparkling wine. It has just been awarded gold medals by the Taste of the West for its sparkling wine and truffles, to add to bronze medals awarded by the Independent English Wine Awards in 2021 and International Wine Challenge earlier this year.

The summer season of concerts, which has this year been playing to capacity audiences, takes place in a barn above the winery with a terrace overlooking the vineyard. The September concert, which is part of the



10 Parishes Festival of visual and performing arts around Wiveliscombe, takes place on 9 September and features saxophone and harp duo, Huw Wiggan and Oliver Wass. Huw and Oliver have developed a reputation as warm communicators who draw audiences into their intimate and engaging performances. The duo features on Orchid Classics disc, *Reflections*, which received a four-star review from *BBC Music Magazine* and five stars from Robert Hugill, who described the duo as "a seemingly unlikely combination that works



real magic". The disc reached number two in the UK Specialist Classical Chart and number six in the iTunes Classical Chart.

Visits to Wellhayes Vineyard are available from: wellhayesvineyard.co.uk
 Concert tickets are available from: wellhayes.uk/2023-concerts



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A Dog's Day Out—Summer Living

It's raining again, Honey.

"No early morning walk today to beat the heat then, Buddy."

She'll probably do extra chores downstairs. We can have a lie-in and after she's done the washing, breakfast and cleaned up, the rain might have stopped. Watch through the bedroom window and see who is the first out. Discount Mary she runs in any weather. Hey up who's this feller? Never seen him before or his dog.

"They're getting a bit of a drenching, Buddy. Why didn't they wait until the rain stopped?"

When a dog needs to go a dog's gotta go, Honey. They must be staying at the hotel. It is the height of the holiday season. His wife's probably still lying in their luxury suite watching breakfast television. You know the sort of thing — 'your turn to walk the dog this morning love'. It's a sporting type too, spaniel'ish, water off a duck's back to him. He could go for miles in this.

"None of the children have passed the window yet, Buddy. They'll miss the bus; it goes at 8."

Schools are out; it's their summer holiday too.

"Oh poor things. What are they meant to do in this weather?"

Shouldn't worry, plenty of fetes and dog shows around. Did I tell you Maisie went to the country fair last week. She said the kids used their pocket money to pay for her classes. She was third in the waggiest tail, then the rain started hammering down. The kids wanted to stay to the end to get their money's worth.

"So what happened?"

You know Maisie; not bothered by a drop of water, won happiest dog in the competition. We're due at one this Saturday. Maisie says she's going and Percy and Pip were planning to come too, on the way to the beach for a week.

"But what if it hasn't stopped raining?"

There's a pub next door to the show field.

"Phew."

Did you know she's taking us camping for a few days next week?

"Camping!"

Yep, it's the same place we went to last year. Do you remember it was so hot we went and found a hotel with air conditioning.

"I remember that campsite and the tree with you and me, Roxy and Pixie, flaked out and she sat in a camping chair hardly able to move."

Ah yes, and when she stood up she was still stuck to the chair. That was hilarious, he he. Summer living is meant to be easy. Has it stopped raining yet?

"No."

Shall we count the raindrops on the windowpane then. Look, I'll race you. Choose our drops at the top and see which one runs to the bottom first.

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



Sporting publication of the year

"A master storyteller", Racing Post

Rags To Riches by Charles Blanning is the thrilling story of a girl, a greyhound, and a racehorse. This action-packed novel features a host of colourful characters and racing, coursing, and hunting scenes, including the Grand National and the Waterloo Cup. When her home is burned to the ground during the Irish War of Independence in 1920, Sam and her greyhound, Rags, fall in with two demobbed English soldiers transporting hunt horses back to England. Their adventures with the seedy financier, Sir Buckland Rippers, his actress wife, Daisy, and his sinister valet, Mario, climax at Altcar and Aintree.

Charles Blanning, author of *The Greyhound and the Hare* and other acclaimed books, is the world's leading expert on greyhound sport. For ten seasons, he hunted with all the Exmoor packs until a serious accident forced him to stop riding. An ideal Christmas present for the country sports enthusiast.

Available at £15 (hardback) from the Exmoor Stores, Exford; Farmer's Den, Exford; Withypool Village Shop; and the Dulverton Bookshop, or direct from the author:

charles.blanning@btinternet.com

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Travels from Dulverton: Chapter 6

The Golowan Festival in Penzance is where we start our adventure. Steeped in myth and legend, banned in the mid-19th century then revived in 1991, this heady celebration marks midsummer and the Feast of St John. We arrived at 9pm on the Friday, setting off after work. The streets and pubs were already packed with revellers, fairground rides, candy floss stalls, live music, street processions, and ended with a silent firework display at about midnight. The Friday night procession was particularly magical. Locals carried candles, singing and drumming summoning the light of longer days, and chasing the serpent of darkness back into the sea until winter's return.



Living on Exmoor, it had been a while since any of us (including our dog who was a little overwhelmed by the hustle, bustle and noise) had been in such crowds. We had managed to park centrally in among the stallholders and fairground ride operators vans so, in the morning, deciding to move on, we made our escape. Swinging by Lamorna Cove, bypassing the old Lamorna Wink pub (a wink being a Cornish ale house where smuggled goods exchanged hands in Centuries gone by), and after a paddle in the sea at Porthcurno, we pulled in at St Just, a Cornish town with a dark historical reputation. St Just is one of the many beautiful, vibrant towns built upon the ashes of a Celtic settlement, merely feared for its pagan religion that for millenia had existed in harmony with the natural world.



During our mooch around the town, we spoke to a shopkeeper who had previously worked the Maysie Day stalls that occupy the Golowan Festival on the Saturday. She confirmed although a fabulous parade and well worth a visit, the crowds are exceptional, as people visit from all over the world. In light of this information we were glad for our decision saving it for another time perhaps.

After a wonderful drive up the north coast of Cornwall, we finally made it to the Cornwall/ Devon border. That night we camped at our favourite farmer's field at Northcott Beach, just north of Bude. Our view was of the undisturbed Atlantic coastline of Sandymouth Beach. A little girl in the neighbouring van insisted on watching the sunset; she said to her friend, "I watch the sunset EVERY night. Good night, Sun, see you in the morning." It's comforting to know the Celtic heart still burns bright in those who spend enough time basking in the sunshine, their bare toes wiggling in the green grass of a midsummer evening. Until next time...

Mary Ford

Photos: Mathew Ford

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: Jan Aldridge	clerk@brushfordparishcouncil.org.uk	
Cutcombe P.C.: Clerk: Liz Stitt	cutcombeclerk@gmail.com	.07919 001801
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: Sian Tedstone	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	.01398 351266
Upton P.C.: Clerk: Mrs P Purvis	uptonparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk	.01398 371548
Winsford P.C.: Clerk: Jennifer Yates	winsfordparishcouncil@gmail.com	
Withypool & Hawkridge P.C.: Clerk: Rebecca Tomalin	withypoolhawkridgeparishclerk@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
All Saints Dulverton, Parish Office: 1 Church Walk, Dulverton, TA22 9ER	allsaintsdulverton@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 David		.01643 702201
Dulverton Congregational Church: Chapel Street: Mr David Perry		.01398 324059
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: Christopher Dubery		.07989 455590
Oakford Players, 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: Peter Thompson	cutcombecricketclub@gmail.com	
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	chriscwin@aol.com	.07710 046107

Dulverton Jnr. F.C: Sec: Mrs Christine Dubery	.....	.01398 323474
Dulverton Netball Club: Sec: Mrs Kate Atkins	..... dulvertonnetballclub@gmail.com	.....07966 676305
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 341566
Moorland Hall Sports:	..... info@wheddoncross.org.uk	
Wimbleball Fly Fishers:	..... enquiries@fishingthewest.co.uk	
PRE-SCHOOL GROUPS		
All Saints School & Nursery:	.....	.01398 323231 & 01398 323223
Anstey Parent and Toddlers Group: Anstey Village Hall	.....	.07823770168
Bampton School Nursery: School Close, Bampton EX16 9NW	.....	.01398 331121
Little Owls Nursery at All Saints C of E School, Dulverton	.....	.01398 324360
SCHOOLS		
All Saints C of E School: Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	.....	.01398 323231
Bampton CE Primary School: School Close, Bampton EX16 9NW	.....	.01398 331121
Bampton School Nursery: School Close, Bampton EX16 9NW	.....	.01398 331121
Brompton Regis Toddlers: Mrs.E. Luxton	.....	.07766 703566
Cutcombe C of E First School: Wheddon Cross, TA24 7DZ	.....	.01643 841462
Dulverton Junior School: Barns Close West, TA22 9EE	.....	.01398 323223
Dulverton Children's Centre: All Saints School, Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	.....	.01398 324360
Dulverton Family and Toddlers Group:	.....	.01398 324329
Dunkery PreSchool: Supervisor: Mrs. S. Matravers, Shute Close, Cutcombe, Minehead	.....	.01643 841008
East Anstey Primary School: East Anstey, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9JP	.....	.01398 341369
Exford CofE VC First School:	.....	.01643 831365
Little Berries Pre School at Exford First School	.....	.01643 831365
Little Owls Nursery: All Saints School, Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	.....	.01398 324360
WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS		
Anstey W.I.: Karen	.....	.01398 341106
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
Exford Moorhens: Chairman: Mrs. I. Collett	.....	.01643 831016
Oakford Moorland Ladies Club: Chair: Mrs Louise Wilder	..... louie.c@tiscali.co.uk	.....01396 351277
YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES		
Bampton Scouts/Cubs/Beaver748s: Tony Weiss	.....	.01398 331901
Dulverton & District Young People's Project: Chair: John Preston	.....	.01398 323862
Dulverton Ballet: Mrs Wightmore, Flat 3, Easter House, St. Andrews St. Tiverton	.....	.01884 253999
Exmoor Community Youth Club: Organiser Laura Tasker, Fridays 6 – 8 pm	.....	.1643 831125
OTHERS		
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

If you see something that needs changing in the directory – please do let us know.

Email exmoornews@gmail.com



Bampton St. Michael's Community Hall, Station Rd. www.stmichaelshall.org.uk	01398 332158
Brushford Parish Hall: Bookings enquiries@brushfordparishhall.org.uk	07941 139846
Brushford Luncheon Club: Treasurer: Margaret Albery	01398 324587
Care Direct for help and advice: www.somerset.gov.uk	0300 1232224
Cutcombe Flower & Produce Show: Tracy Beviss	01643 841257
Dulverton Action Group: Magdalena Harding	01398 323 785
Dulverton & Southern Exmoor Twinning: Chair: Steve Ford, Dulverton	01398 323016
Dulverton Bridge Club: Sec. Brian Hughes	www.Bridgewebs.com/dulverton
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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 Heritage Centre: Kathy Currie	07493 518350
Dulverton Vets	01398 323285
Dulverton Vintage Films: Magdalena Harding	01398 323785
Dulverton Voluntary Drivers: Mike Beale	07743 885115
Exe Valley Market Bus: Jennie Chappell	jennie@chappell.me.uk
Exmoor Patient Group: Chair: Sandra Wilson, W Nightcott, Dulverton TA22 9RT	01398 324687
Exmoor Bee Keepers Association: Sec: Caroline Ralph	exmoorhoneyshow@gmail.com
Exmoor Community Bus Assn:	07925 044 262
Exmoor Friends (formerly Exmoor U3A): Andy Jeffries	01398 323462
Exmoor National Park Centre	01398 323841
Exmoor Pony Centre: Ashwick, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9QE	01398 323093
Exmoor Pony Society: Sec: Mrs Jay Gee, Little Ash Farm Cottage, Ash Lane, Withypool, TA24 7RR	01643 851777
Exmoor Rotary Club: Humphrey Berridge (PRO), Station Hse, Luke St, Bampton	01398 332324
Good Neighbours:	07395 171409
Oakford Village Hall: Bookings: Mrs Dawn Williams	dawnannwilliams1@gmail.com
Royal British Legion Dulverton: Peter Donnelly	01398 323030
TA22 Voluntary Lift Scheme (formerly Brushford Voluntary Lifts): Chair: Bart Middleton	07528 326880
Tiverton Model Aero Club: Sec: Mr. P Veale, 9 Higre flih St., Dulverton TA22 9HB	01398 323409
Village Agent Diane Weston	info@somersetccc.org.uk
Upton Village Hall Yoga Phoebe	07563723884 or 01823 331222
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