

May  
June 2024

# EXMOOR NEWS



Bringing community news across southern Exmoor since 1985

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Inside - The Cricketer's  
Tale Bridgetown Cricket  
Club Centenary





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Cover image 2023: © Emma Howe  
Exmoor River

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



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# EXMOOR NEWS

## COVERING SOUTHERN EXMOOR

Hello,

May-June issue already! Bring on summer. As we put together this magazine there was hail yesterday and, of course, the rain. Bring on the sunshine and let's get out and about. We love receiving all your articles and event details for *Exmoor News*; they are a perfect illustration of how varied life is across this unique and very special part of the country. So many interests, concerns, events and activities! In this issue, see page 14 - The Cricketer's Tale, an article about Bridgetown Cricket Club Centenary.

Keep sending in your copy for events, things to do, places to go, volunteers' information etc. You can join our contributor reminder email by sending an email to [exmoornews@gmail.com](mailto:exmoornews@gmail.com) and ask to be put on the list. This reminder email goes out a couple of weeks prior to the deadline and we only send one for each magazine, so you don't get inundated. Guidelines on sending copy is here [www.exmoornews.co.uk/contributors](http://www.exmoornews.co.uk/contributors). As always, thank you to you all.

Best wishes, Ceri Keene and Claire Savill

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

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We take our responsibility to maintain high editorial standards seriously.  
Should an error occur please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Under the Data Protection Act, we have a legal duty to protect any information we collect from you. We take appropriate security measures to safeguard your data and apply security standards and controls to prevent any unauthorised access to it.



## **Wellhayes Vineyard May Party**

For the first time in three years, Wellhayes Vineyard at Clayhanger is holding a party—on Saturday 25 May from 12.30pm, to launch the release of the 2019 vintage.

The Wellhayes Sparkling Wine has won many awards and sells out quickly. Unlike the large champagne houses which have large reserves that are blended to ensure a consistent house style each year, Wellhayes owners, Simon and Alison Routh, make the wine on site in their traditional Devon bank barn, solely from the grapes grown in their one hectare vineyard. This makes each year a unique expression of the grapes that came off the field that year. With less than 2,000 bottles available, the 2019 vintage is described as having a fine mousse and lively acidity with a fresh taste of strawberry and a hint of raspberry, and is likely to be highly sought after.

A limited number of tickets for the launch are available at:  
[www.wellhayesvineyard.co.uk/party](http://www.wellhayesvineyard.co.uk/party)



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**DULVERTON ACTION GROUP**  
**Litter-picking**  
(3rd Sunday)

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

10.30 meet by the Heritage Centre

**Everyone welcome!**  
~ and all kit supplied ~

For enquiries call Magdalena  
on 323 785 or 07929 761 958

**DULVERTON**  
**VINTAGE FILMS**

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> May**  
**THE IRON LADY**  
*Meryl Streep & Jim Broadbent*  
(2011)

**Wed 12th June**  
**HARVEY**  
*James Stewart* (1950)

Film starts at 2.30 pm  
at **Fishers Mead Community Centre**

£3 includes tea and biscuits



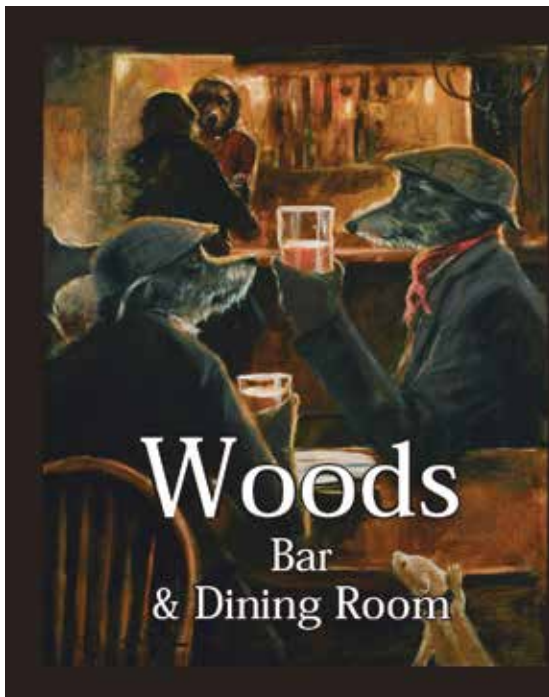
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Contact Susi for more information at:  
[susi@sailientcoaching.co.uk](mailto:susi@sailientcoaching.co.uk)

**DRINK EAT DISCUSS MENOPAUSE**  
[www.menopausecafe.net](http://www.menopausecafe.net)

Our Menopause cafe meets monthly on Zoom, face to face (two venues: Bickleigh and Tiverton) and walking—allowing for more flexibility.

It is an opportunity to share experiences (or just listen), breaking down the stigma and increasing awareness of the impact of menopause on those experiencing it, their family, friends and colleagues.

**A free to join discussion group open to all ages and genders.**

**Let's keep Sharing Menopause**



## Managing perimenopause and menopause

### Advice from local therapists

Menopause is a natural stage of life. Hormones are essential for women's health and changing levels can affect women physically and emotionally. As women approach the menopause, their oestrogen levels drop. As levels drop, the stress hormone cortisol can rise, which can easily trigger adrenalin in the body, leaving women feeling anxious and stressed. Variations in oestrogen levels account for the different symptoms and severity experienced.

Some women experience very few symptoms, while others have a wide range of symptoms affecting their whole body. The most common symptoms are hot flushes, night sweats, forgetfulness, brain fog, aches and mood swings, though there are many more.

### Claire Fisher – Reflexologist

Reflexology can help to alleviate and balance both the physical and emotional symptoms of menopause. Hormones in women during perimenopause, menopause or post-menopause, are leading the body through a different stage of life. These hormones fluctuate and can be very erratic. By stimulating the pituitary gland, the hypothalamus and the thymus reflex points, reflexology can help to balance the endocrine system and reduce symptoms such as hot flushes and anxiety. By calming the central nervous system, reflexology can improve sleep and mood, helping women to cope better and ease the stresses during this transitional time. It also helps to ease aches and pains and induce deep relaxation.

Hand reflexology can be used as a means of self-help. There are some videos produced by the Association of Reflexologists on YouTube.

[www.clairefisher-reflexology.co.uk](http://www.clairefisher-reflexology.co.uk)

### Paul Tam—Hypnotherapist

Menopause can be a stressful experience—the time when changes are happening in your body, causing all sorts of upset in your mood and emotions, apart from the physiological changes. Stress levels go up and anxiety with mood swings can increase. These symptoms can be quite distressing, both for you and for those around you. (Don't forget that some men can go through something similar as well.)

When you feel that you're "losing it", this is the time to take that really deep breath; hold it for a few seconds then breathe out slowly through your mouth. Take a few moments. It's much like counting to ten when you're at the point of losing your temper.

Consulting a hypnotherapist can help you learn useful techniques to allow you to relax and be more aware of yourself, and to help you get through what can be a difficult time.

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

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**Mobile: 07837 729484**  
**Email: [mikecottrell20@gmail.com](mailto:mikecottrell20@gmail.com)**



# Macular Society Meetings in Dulverton

Hallo again!

It has been a while, but the Macular Society group is still meeting regularly, every fourth Thursday each month, 2-4 p.m. at Fishers Mead Community Room in Dulverton (on the left at the beginning of the drive up to Exmoor Medical Centre.)

We have again an exciting programme this year: yoga for the elderly; a GP giving advice on living healthily into old age; a talk on macular degeneration, available treatments and research by the leading ophthalmologist from Musgrove Hospital; a blind television personality; experts from Somerset Sight and the RNIB, plus two outings with

Exmoor Community Bus blissfully free of charge for group members.

Macular degeneration affects over 1 million people alone in this country. If you have been diagnosed with MD, need information on how to live with it, or are interested on behalf of somebody else, you can join us by ringing Marion and Royce on: 01398 371 450.

**Macular Society**  
Beating Macular Disease

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Dulverton Netball Club hosts...

# Quiz Night

Join us for our quiz night. Teams of six. £12 per person, which includes a meat and cheese platter. There will be a bar, and a raffle.

**FRIDAY, 10TH MAY**

7PM FOR 7:30PM START | DULVERTON TOWN HALL

FOR TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT CHRISTINE ON 07801 082121



# Milverton Concert Society **Trio Gaspard**

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

And so we come to last concert of this season. Trio Gaspard recently completed a UK tour before heading off to Switzerland, Germany, Florence, Stamford and...Milverton!

The programme in Milverton includes Haydn, Liszt, Winkelman, and three Brahms *Hungarian Dances*, arranged by Trio Gaspard. Described as 'probably the best piano trio I have ever seen', Trio Gaspard is Artist in Residence at the Wigmore Hall, London, for the 2023/24 season. The trio also performed at the BBC Proms in 2022, which was broadcast live by the BBC.

How to book: [www.milvertonconcerts.org](http://www.milvertonconcerts.org)

TicketSource free telephone service 0333 666 3366



To commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings, there will be a special showing of the film

## **The Longest Day**

on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> June in Dulverton Town Hall at 7.30pm.

Doors open 7pm. Donations to the RBL



The bar will be open before and after the film

## BRUSHFORD PARISH HALL

**Pop Up Bar + Entertainment  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month**

**Book Mart, Drop In Café and PC  
Internet Help Desk 2:00pm to 4:00pm  
Every 1st Thursday of the Month**

14<sup>th</sup> September 19:00 to 22:00  
**Last Night of the Proms**  
+ Max & Mikes Street Food 18:30 - 20:00




12<sup>th</sup> October 18:30 to 22:00  
**Quiz Night in Aid of Charity**  
+ Max & Mikes Street Food ( Mexican ) 18:30 - 20:00



**Check the latest News, Events & Clubs at**  
<https://brushfordparishhall.org.uk>  
<https://www.facebook.com/brushfordparishhall>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsbph>

**We are also looking for Volunteers to join our Team Rota  
to help with our events & bar nights for whatever hours  
you can spare.**  
Please email: [enquiries@brushfordparishhall.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@brushfordparishhall.org.uk)



Points to consider  
kindly supplied by:  
Bill Wilson  
F.B.C.S. IT Consultant  
and Business Analyst

## SOME SIMPLE STEPS FOR ONLINE SECURITY

### • **PASSWORDS**

- Use a password of 15 characters and include £ and other signs if possible
- A 7 digit password takes about a second to crack with a password cracker
- The most secure place to keep a record of passwords nowadays is on paper
- Note security warnings telling you your password has been compromised
- Use different passwords for each site

### • **Use 2 FACTOR AUTHENTICATION**

- Use 2 factor authentication for everything
- If anyone tries to login from an unauthorised device you will be notified

### • **EMAIL**

- Watch out for links that are not secure
  - Check the link is valid e.g. [hsbc.com](https://www.hsbc.com) or [hsdc.com](https://www.hsdc.com)
  - http or https –is for secure and encrypts the traffic
- **IF NOT SURE OF A LINK DON'T CLICK IT**
- The current trend for criminals is to watch your traffic for a few weeks to make any scam credible

### • **KEEP SOFTWARE UPDATED**

- Ensuring you are connected to the correct site; Apple, Google etc

### • **SECURE YOUR HOME NETWORK WITH A STRONG PASSWORD**

- Why bother burgling you when I can sit outside and rob you

### • **WATCH OUT FOR SMART DEVICES**

- Many of these have passwords such as 0000

### • **PHONE SCAMS**

- **NEVER** connect to your bank etc whilst on the phone to a caller
  - Hang up; phone from the number you regularly use preferably from a different phone as sometimes the phone can still be connected to the previous call
- **NEVER** give out your passwords over the phone





# Dulverton Town Hall

**Friday 3 May**

**WONKA** (Cert PG)

Director: Paul King

116 mins

Willy Wonka is the mastermind behind some of the most delicious and innovative chocolate creations the world has ever seen. But before shaking up the chocolate industry and making a name for himself as a confectionery genius, the ambitious young creator had to defy all odds. As a result, Willy transformed his wildest dreams into reality with a bold vision, determination and unexpected help from new friends. After all, hard work and a dash of magic can make anything happen. Because, as Willy already knows, it only takes a dream to make a difference.

**Friday 17 May**

**THE HOLDOVERS** (Cert 15)

Director: Alexander Payne

133 mins

A curmudgeonly instructor at a New England prep school remains on campus during the Christmas break to babysit a handful of students with nowhere to go. He soon forms an unlikely bond with a brainy but damaged troublemaker, and with the school's head cook, a woman who just lost a son in the Vietnam War.

**Friday 31 May**

**THE LAND GIRLS** (Cert 12)

Director: David Leland

111 mins

During World War II, the Women's Land Army recruited women to work on British farms, while the men were off to war. Three such Land Girls of different social backgrounds—quiet Stella, young hairdresser, Prue, and Cambridge graduate, Ag—become best friends, in spite of their different backgrounds.

Filmed mostly in and near Dulverton and the West Somerset Railway in 1997, starring Catherine McCormack, Rachel Weisz, Anna Friel, Steven Mackintosh, plus many local Exmoor people as extras. Watch an armed services march in High Street and the dance scene with a band playing on our town hall stage, with the same proscenium arch, as you watch the film on our screen!

**Friday 14 June**

**ONE LIFE** (Cert 12A)

Director: James Hawes

109 mins

The true story of London broker Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton (Anthony Hopkins) helps rescue hundreds of predominantly Jewish children from Czechoslovakia, in a race against time before the Nazi occupation closes the borders. Fifty years later, he's still haunted by the fate of those he wasn't able to bring to safety.

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](mailto:janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk)

Bar open from 7pm. Films start at 7.30pm.

## Exford and Simonsbath Flower and Produce Show

Saturday 24 August 2.00 pm,  
Exford Village Green  
Everyone welcome!

Large show marquee  
Children's sports 2.30 pm  
Raffle, auction of produce  
Play and picnic area  
BBQ and much more

Live band – Silverback from 7.30pm

Sorry, NO dogs allowed on the green.

## Tiverton Pannier Market

### 2024 events schedule

#### May

Thursday 2 May (midday to 2pm) –  
Midweek Car Boot Sale

Saturday 4 May (9am to 2pm) –

Tiverton Farmers Market and Garden Festival

Saturday 11 May (5pm to 9pm) – Electric Nights

#### June

Saturday 1 June (9am to 2pm) – Tiverton Farmers Market  
Thursday 6 June (midday to 2pm) – Midweek Car Boot Sale

Saturday 15 June (times TBC) – Tiverton Family Dog Show  
and Father's Day event

Sunday 30 June (9am to 2pm) – Tiverton Salvage Fair

For details, visit: [www.tivertonmarket.com/events/](http://www.tivertonmarket.com/events/)



## Enjoy exploring the late Spring gardens of East Anstey

In aid of St Michael's Church East Anstey

on Sunday 26th May 10am-5pm

With morning coffee, Prosecco, cream teas at given venues.

See our website for more information  
[www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk](http://www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk)

or for more information

Email - [eastansteyopengardens@hotmail.com](mailto:eastansteyopengardens@hotmail.com)

Facebook - East Anstey Open Gardens



## DULVERTON GARDENING CLUB

16th May, John Addison

“Plant Propagation”

\*\*\*\*\*

20th June, Katherine Crouch

“My Chelsea Adventures”

7.00 for 7.30pm at  
Dulverton Town Hall

Entry for Non members £4.00

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## (Formerly EXMOOR U3A)

Our meetings are held in Dulverton Town Hall on the last Wednesday morning of the month, 10:00am for coffee. We welcome non-members, who can attend their first meeting free of charge. Talks start at 10:30am and last about one hour.

To find out more about membership, interest groups, speaker meetings and social activities, please email: [info@exmoorfriends.co.uk](mailto:info@exmoorfriends.co.uk).

**Wednesday 24 April:**  
Maggie Duffy

*Devon Historical and Hysterical*

**Wednesday 29 May:**  
John Burgess

*Exmoor and its Characters*

**Wednesday 26 June:**  
Andy Bell

*From Lace to Space*

**Wednesday 31 July:**  
Simon Rous

*Decoding the Symbols Hidden in Holbein's Tudor Portraits*

To find out more about membership, interest groups, speaker meetings and social activities, please email: [info@exmoorfriends.co.uk](mailto:info@exmoorfriends.co.uk).



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Tuesday May 7th

Tuesday May 14th

Tuesday May 21st

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5.45 - 6.45PM

**SENIOR GROUP (13-19 YEAR OLDS)**  
7 - 8.30PM

To book a place contact James:  
[info@fabulaarts.co.uk](mailto:info@fabulaarts.co.uk)  
or 07554748835

[WWW.FABULAARTS.CO.UK](http://WWW.FABULAARTS.CO.UK)



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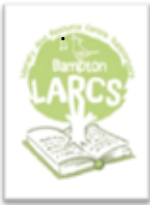
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# Rent arrives in Barnstaple in July!

Landmark Theatres are delighted to announce that Jonathan Larson's Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning rock musical, *Rent*, is coming to the Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple, from 3-13 July 2024.

*Rent* follows a group of young artists living in Manhattan's East Village as they navigate love, loss, and the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS. The powerful and inspiring storytelling captures the ultimate sacrifice of a life of stability for the sake of art, reminding us of the importance of following our passions and taking risks to pursue our dreams.

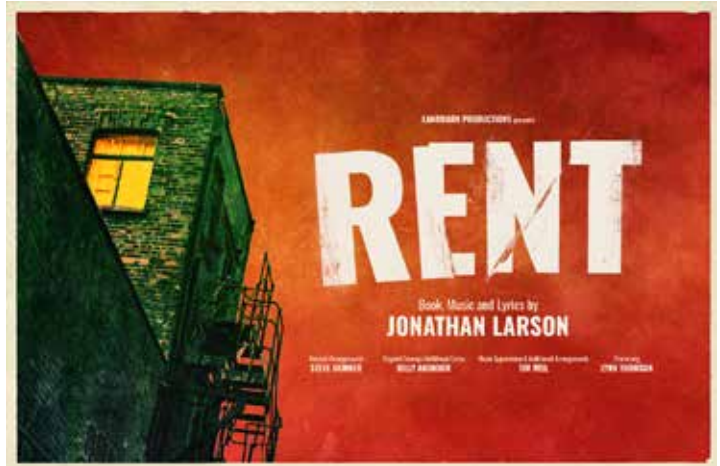
Loosely based on Puccini's opera, *La Bohème*, *Rent* is a must-see musical, featuring smash-hits including *Seasons of Love* and *Take Me or Leave Me*. The critically acclaimed production has won four Tony Awards, six Drama Desk Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1996. *Rent* ran on Broadway for 12 years, from 1996, and premiered in London's West End in 1998 at the Shaftesbury Theatre, where it ran for 18 months.

With book, music and lyrics by Jonathan Larson, Paul Jepson directs and Mark Crossland is musical director. The cast includes: Alicia Corrales, Athena Collins, Cameron Bernard Jones, Evita Khrame, Jack Reitman, Kellianna Jay, Kyle Richardson, Luke Friend and Myles Hart.

Landmark Theatres CEO and Creative Director, Paul Jepson, said: "We have assembled an exceptional cast. The combination of seasoned and emerging performers promises to create a captivating and dynamic performance. The diverse range of talents and experiences will undoubtedly make for a rich and multi-dimensional portrayal that will captivate audiences. We are so pleased to be giving well-deserved opportunities to these performers and can't wait to get into rehearsals!"

Performances: Monday—Saturday evenings 7.30pm (Sunday 8pm). Saturday matinee 3.30pm, Sunday matinee 12pm.

Book online at:  
[www.queentheatre-barnstaple.com](http://www.queentheatre-barnstaple.com)



Age recommendation: This production contains strong language and mature themes. Audience discretion is advised. Age recommendation 14+

Find out more at: [www.rent-the-musical.co.uk](http://www.rent-the-musical.co.uk)

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If you have travelled along the Exe Valley on a summer weekend, you may well have spotted a cricket match under way at Bridgetown. But then it's hard to miss what is regarded as one of the most beautiful cricket grounds, not just in England but worldwide, with awards from Wisden in 2002 and the *Daily Telegraph* in 2008. This year, Bridgetown Cricket Club celebrates its centenary and who better to tell the story of the club than its newly appointed president, Doug Sherring? Doug's connections with the club, as player, groundsman, treasurer, and secretary, go back many decades; his pride in the club has never dimmed, as *Exmoor News* discovered when we caught up with Doug at the home he shares with his partner, Phyllis, at Golsoncott, near Rodhuish.

Now 77, a father of three and grandfather of six, Doug was born in Lydeard St Lawrence at the Friendship Inn, where his father was then the landlord. The family moved to Bridgetown when Doug was six; he went to the village school in Exton and then to the newly opened secondary school in Dulverton.

"I wanted to join the police force," says Doug, "but my father had a serious accident at work and I had to leave school and join the family firm." The firm was Sherring's Plant Hire and Doug, who was the eldest of eight children, would spend his entire working life there.

But, as a youngster in the late 1950s, Doug would meet someone who would, in many senses, change his life: Edward Roy Nesfield (always known as Roy, or Mr Nesfield, as Doug refers to him to this day) had been the land agent for the Miltons and Pixton estates and his passion was cricket. A cricket blue, Roy Nesfield had played for Worcestershire and the Somerset Stragglers and wanted to raise a cricket team locally. "He walked up and down the Exe Valley six times to find a suitable plot," says Doug. Roy Nesfield eventually settled on land that formed part of the

# CRICKET CLUB CENTENARY



*Doug Sherring*

Miltons estate, just south of Bridgetown, which would become the club's permanent home.

"It was Mr Nesfield who got me into cricket and I was so lucky that he took me under his wing," says Doug. "He became my mentor and was like a second father to me. I started by taking my kit down to the ground, just in case they were short..." Roy Nesfield also introduced Doug to the Somerset Stragglers—he remains a member to this day—and taught him how to prepare a wicket and care for the ground.

"He loved cricket so much," says Doug. "He even called the Bridgetown house that he built and shared with sister, Wickets!"

Cricketing legends, including Vic Marks, Derek Underwood and Joel Garner, have visited the club through the years, along with many UK touring teams, such as the Fleet Street Wanderers, and overseas teams—and who could blame them? It's hard to imagine a more idyllic sporting spot or a more welcoming club.

Much has changed in the world of cricket since the club was founded in 1924, not always for the better, according to Doug. In many cases, winning has become the driving force, rather than playing for the love of the game. Bridgetown, which once produced almost all of the club's players, has changed too; a century ago it was a busy village, with a shop, post office, pub and garage. These

days only the pub remains and most of the players live elsewhere.

If cricket and Bridgetown have changed, so too has family life. Children and young people are involved in far more sporting and other extra-curricular activities than ever and today's fathers are much more hands-on in their children's lives. Fewer young men are able or willing to give up their entire weekends during the season to cricket. Nevertheless, Bridgetown has enough players to field both a Saturday side and a Sunday side, enabling players



to opt for one or the other (if not both) and it still prides itself on being a family club. Doug's late wife, Lynda, was always a keen supporter, as well as being responsible for producing the club's superb teas.

As well as a host of activities planned for the centenary, a major fundraising drive is under way to pay for essential improvements to the club's distinctive thatched pavilion, which is reached by a narrow wooden bridge. (The pavilion is also home to generations of swallows, who return there, year after year, to nest and raise their young.)

Although Doug's own cricketing days are over—he now plays golf at Minehead, where he can get around in a buggy (Exmoor weather and mud permitting)—his involvement with Bridgetown Cricket Club continues. He's far too modest to admit that his presidency is richly deserved but he is clearly full of affection

*Photograph Dave Sizer ©*



*Marking the club's 75th anniversary in 1999 - with added sunshine!*

for the game, the club and the sporting camaraderie that have been such a constant and important part of his life.

"Cricket has given me so many friends, lifelong friends," he explains, "and it taught me to respect other people." That spirit is still very much in evidence at Bridgetown Cricket Club, where new members and supporters are always welcome (see below for details).

For match and membership details, visit:  
[www.bridgetown.play-cricket.com](http://www.bridgetown.play-cricket.com)  
Find out more about the club's history at:  
[www.somersetcricketmuseum.co.uk/bridgetown-cricket-club-club-history/](http://www.somersetcricketmuseum.co.uk/bridgetown-cricket-club-club-history/)

**Diane Trembath**

*Last Man Standing by Maurice Bishop ©*





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**27 April to 23 May**

Lynton Library  
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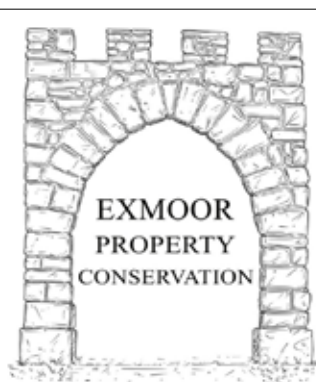
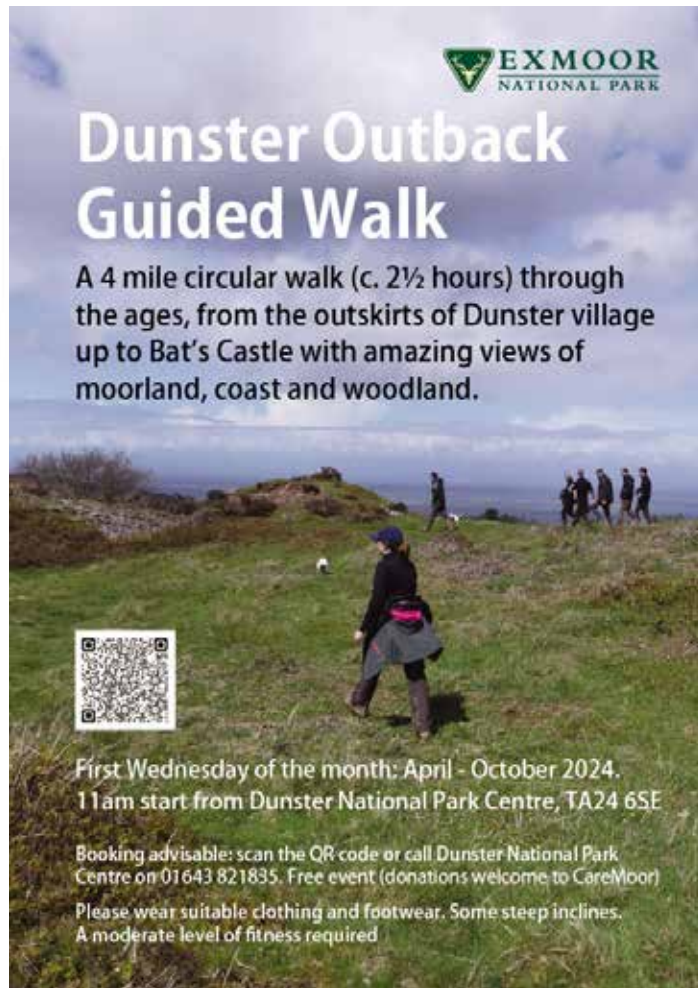
A 4 mile circular walk (c. 2½ hours) through the ages, from the outskirts of Dunster village up to Bat's Castle with amazing views of moorland, coast and woodland.



First Wednesday of the month: April - October 2024.  
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Booking advisable: scan the QR code or call Dunster National Park Centre on 01643 821835. Free event (donations welcome to CareMoor)

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## ***Winsford film club needs you!***

Winsford Moor Movie club, based at Winsford Village Hall, is looking for new volunteers to run the movie club for the next season, starting September 2024. The club currently shows a film once a month on a Tuesday evening for eight months of the year.

If you are interested please contact Claire Sams Tel 01643 851586 or email [clairesams999@btinternet.com](mailto:clairesams999@btinternet.com)



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We presently distribute our magazine to the following places – Bampton, Bridgetown, Brompton Regis, Brushford, Bury, Cutcombe, Dulverton, Dunster, East Anstey, Exebridge, Exford, Exton, Hawkridge, Luxborough, Molland, Morebath, Oakford, Simonsbath, Skilgate, Upton, West Anstey, Wheddon Cross, Winsford, Withiel Florey, Withypool, Wiveliscombe and Wotton Courtney.

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There are exciting opportunities to get involved in other ways too—whether venturing on to the stage, assisting backstage, or helping run the theatre, which is still run entirely by volunteers; new volunteers always welcome! Contact [volunteer@regaltheatre.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@regaltheatre.co.uk)

For those still preferring to 'sit and watch', discover what's on during May and June, as well as some future delights by visiting [www.regaltheatre.co.uk](http://www.regaltheatre.co.uk) or collect one of the new brochures to be found in various local outlets, including the Regal Box Office in The Avenue, Minehead, which is open Monday to Saturday, between 9.30am and 12 noon (01643 706430).



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## Exmoor's spring heralds

After enduring one of the wettest winters on record, the arrival of our swifts, swallows and house martins heralds the oncoming spring, with happy chatter and a joyous aerial display. Some of these birds will have endured one of the longest migrations on the planet— thousands of miles, to come back to their birth home on Exmoor—several generations of our swallows have returned to the same nest, at the end of a corridor, every year of our 24 years in this house!

Our spring doesn't start until these little birds arrive to brighten our days. Shortly after their arrival, we start listening out for the cuckoos, who have travelled similar vast distances to return to Exmoor, as they complete the spring symphony and provide the soundtrack into summer. These amazing creatures serve as an outstanding reminder of the resilience of nature and, as Exmoor transforms into its summer hues, the presence of swallows and cuckoos serves as a beacon of hope for better times ahead. In their simple way, these birds stimulate the collective consciousness to a more optimistic future.

**Tony Keene**

Photographs  
Tony Keene © 2024







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## Simonsbath Festival 2024

8 May to 29 June

Another year is upon us and, as always, the festival has a range of fascinating talks and music to suit all tastes.

The festival begins with Katherine Field telling us about Lucy Kemp-Welch. Known for her equine art, Kemp-Welch provided illustrations to an edition of Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty* using Robert Baden-Powell's horse, Black Prince, as her model.

The name Waley-Cohen features not once but twice this year. Tamsin joins us in Dulverton for a concert with pianist, Cordelia Williams. Tamsin's uncle, Robert Waley-Cohen, comes to St Luke's to talk about the Upton Estate, as well as his time at Honeymead.

Opera, jazz and baroque with a twist, along with talks from a former cast member of *Blackadder* and Devon's own Rosemary Griggs, who will come dressed in her Tudor gown.

All this, combined with the Exmoor Society walks and the Exmoor Running and Walking Festival, will provide visitors and locals with much to choose from.

To find out 'moor' go to our website:  
[www.simonsbathfestival.org.uk](http://www.simonsbathfestival.org.uk)

See you there!

Event	Date	Time
Katherine Field	8 May	7.30pm
Tamsin Waley-Cohen/Cordelia Williams	10 May	7.30pm
Hot Fingers Jazz Band	11 May	7.30pm
Ella Ravilius	15 May	7.30pm
Simonsbath Festival Church Service	19 May	11.00am
Black Adder: Behind the Scenes	22 May	7.30pm
Exmoor Society: Festival of Nature	25 May	10.00am
The Red Priest Quartet	25 May	7.30pm
Robert Waley-Cohen	30 May	7.30pm
Nicola Turner Inman	5 June	7.30pm
Tatcho Drom Balkan Band	8 June	7.30pm
Exmoor Society Walk: Ley Hill	12 June	10.30am
Rosemary Griggs	12 June	7.30pm
Exmoor Society Walk: Hawcombe	14 June	1.00pm
Opera Anywhere: Magic Flute	15 June	7.30pm
Bruce Heywood: Life of Frank Green	19 June	7.30pm
Exmoor Running & Walking Festival	21-23 June	
Midsummer Family & Community Concert	26 June	2.00pm
Film Screening: Wool Coat	29 June	7.30pm







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\* Dunster Castle National Trust -Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Members £18.00pp/ Non Members £35.00pp

\*Bicton Park Botanical Gardens and Sidmouth -Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> £29.90pp

\*Mottisfont National Trust – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Members £24.00pp/ Non Members £43.95pp

\*Gardeners World Live- at the NEC Birmingham- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> £60.00pp includes entry

\*South Devon Railway -Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June £34.50pp includes train

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## Great Bradley Bridge — building begins this year

Work gets underway on Great Bradley Bridge in Exmoor National Park's 70th Anniversary year, thanks to CareMoor for Exmoor donations. Funded by generous donors to the appeal, as well as the British Mountaineering Council, the Graham Keene Foundation and a local landowner, construction of this important 28-metre-long bridge over the River Barle can begin this summer.

A section of the footpath between Tarr Steps and Withypool, part of the long-distance walking route, the Two Moors Way, has been heavily eroded by flooding and Great Bradley Bridge will reroute walkers safely to the other side.

Bridleway users will also benefit. A recent donor has been the West Somerset & Exmoor Bridleways Association. Chairperson, Amanda Hamley, said:

"We are hugely supportive of the Great Bradley Bridge project and are delighted to be able to make a donation towards its construction. The bridge will make an enormous difference to walkers and horse riders, enabling them to cross the river safely all year round, and joining up access to the bridleway networks for riders to enjoy."

Exmoor National Park CEO, Sarah Bryan, said: "We are delighted to see work beginning on this project; the new Great Bradley Bridge will be a crucial link in this route, making it easier for hikers and riders to explore the beautiful landscape. It will help to boost tourism in the region and support local businesses but, importantly, it will also protect local wildlife. The bridge will help reduce erosion and reduce disturbance to important habitats full of local wildlife from otter to pied flycatchers.

"We just want to say thank you to all the amazing people and

organisations who have supported us with donations and helped get this project off the ground. While we've secured sufficient funding to make a start, we're not quite over the line yet and we would encourage those who love Exmoor to consider a small contribution to maximise this great opportunity for people and nature."

Final fundraising will help us complete the bridge and improve connecting paths.

We want to encourage a last push of fundraising to help complete the project. For a donation of £100 to our Great Bradley Bridge appeal, we will add a small plaque to the new bridge. This could be the ideal solution for anyone loving this popular route, which forms part of the Two Moors Way and offers families an important place to visit for years to come.

You can make a donation, order a plaque, or find out more at: [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/caremoor](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/caremoor)

*Left to right: Amanda Hamley and fellow rider, Sam, present a cheque to ENPA Ranger, Charlotte Wray. Photo: ENPA*



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New members are always welcome and we offer a wide range of excellent value membership options. Rusty Racket sessions can be organised for returning or new players in need of a gentle introduction. So please come along and give it a try. Your first session will be free. For further information, including contact details, visit our Dulverton Tennis Club website: [www.dulvertontennisclub.co.uk](http://www.dulvertontennisclub.co.uk)



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## Eat Game 2024 Champions!

Joe Mann, the Head of the Faculty of Art, Design, and Food at Queen's College, Taunton, recently clinched the National Champion of Champions Eat Game award for 2024. The win, amid stiff competition from renowned schools and retailers across the UK, affirmed the college's position as a leader in culinary education and underscored Joe Mann's unwavering dedication to promoting sustainable game meat consumption among students.

Since joining Queen's College in 2021, Joe, a fervent advocate for game meat, has been instrumental in imparting his passion and knowledge to students and educating the next generation about game meat.

"I'm tremendously thankful for all the pupils and staff involved in championing game," he said. "A huge thank you to Eat Game and BASC for such a prestigious award—we've all worked so hard to be part of this."

BBC presenter, author, and farmer, Adam Henson, commended the college for nurturing a deep appreciation for food among its students, emphasising its commitment to promoting nutritious, sustainable, locally sourced game. He spoke passionately about the disconnect prevalent among young people regarding the sources of their food, highlighting Queen's College as a beacon of education in this regard. His address underscored the vital role played by institutions like Queen's College in bridging the gap between consumers and the origins of their sustenance.

Approved photography



Philip J Milton  
& Company Plc

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## BOEVEYS TEAROOM HAS RE-OPENED UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

9:30-4:00pm Tuesday-Saturday

Visit the popular tearoom "Boeveys" in the heart of Simonsbath on Exmoor.

Claire and Louise will be serving all day breakfast, light lunches, freshly homemade scones and cakes. All our produce is locally sourced from Exmoor and the surrounding areas.

We have a license so you can enjoy a glass of wine, Prosecco or local ale and cider with your lunch.

We look forward to seeing you all.

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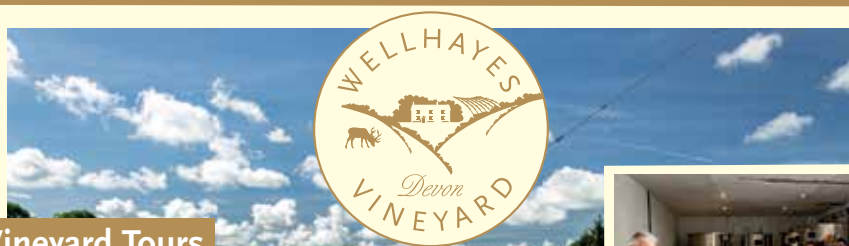
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# Why live and work on Exmoor?

In 1954, Exmoor was designated as a National Park, with the aim of preserving and enriching the natural splendour, wildlife, and heritage of the region.

The communities within Exmoor are tightly knit, steeped in enduring traditions, and sustain themselves through the challenges of farming, with Red Devon Cattle, Exmoor Horn, and Devon Closewool sheep an integral part of farming life. Exmoor's distinctive beech hedges line the winding lanes that connect one village to another.

The park's charm lies in its majestic high moors, dramatic sea cliffs, and deep wooded valleys, offering a blend of tranquillity and adventure waiting to be explored. Visitors can immerse themselves in activities such as wild swimming off the northern coastline, canoeing along the rivers, hiking and walking, biking and horseback riding across the moors, watching wildlife, wildlife safaris and taking in the breathtaking views of heather-clad vistas. The area is a treasure trove for artists and photographers alike.

Exmoor is home to a rich diversity of wildlife, including the awe-inspiring red deer and the once threatened wild Exmoor ponies. The habitat also provides sanctuary to rare species like fritillary butterflies and bats. Moreover, Exmoor boasts pristine dark skies and unpolluted air, offering a haven for stargazers and nature enthusiasts alike.

With a truly ancient history spanning thousands of years, Exmoor's landscape is imbued with a sense of timelessness and complexity, evidenced by ancient burial mounds and archaeological remnants of early farmsteads.

Exmoor truly is a magical place for all who live and work there. Its captivating landscape serves as a wellspring of inspiration for both visitors and residents alike, who appreciate spending time in nature and enjoying the benefits for wellbeing and health.



© claire savill 2021

Social Media Exmoor Style!



Exmoor Pony Mare and Foal © Claire Savill 2021

Photographs and illustrations © Claire Savill 2021



Brian Boundy judging wool on the hoof



Tarr Steps - ancient clapper bridge across River Barle



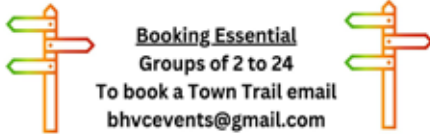
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## Bampton Town Trails

Saturday, May 11th, 2.30 pm  
 Wednesday, June 19th, 10.30 pm  
 Saturday, June 22nd, 2.30 pm  
 Wednesday, July 24th, 10.30 am

Find out more about Bampton's past & present on a gentle guided walk, taking about 1.5 hours



### Booking Essential

Groups of 2 to 24

To book a Town Trail email [bhvcevents@gmail.com](mailto:bhvcevents@gmail.com) with the names of walkers and a contact mobile number.

Our Town Trails are free but you can support BHVC by making a minimum donation of £3 to help keep the Heritage Centre running.



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## QUIZ NIGHT & SUPPER

at Community Hall, Bampton  
**on Friday, May 24th**

Enjoy a fun evening with a delicious ploughman's supper, and general knowledge quiz questions. Quiz and raffle hosted and in aid of Bampton Heritage & Visitor Centre.

Tables of 6. Tickets are £12.00 pp, including supper and are available from Bampton Fresh.

Licensed Bar & Raffle.  
 Arrive at 6.30 for a 7pm start

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# The Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival 2024

16 & 17 November

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## Coming soon to Dulverton...

There are so many unmissable events taking place in the picturesque market town of Dulverton over the next few months.

The Dulverton Farmers Market is back on Saturday 27 April from 10am-2.30pm in the centre of town, and then on every last Saturday of the month until September. A wonderful showcase of local independent producers and artisans.

On Saturday 25 May, the Exmoor Lawns beside the River Barle will be buzzing with the sounds of live music from 3 to 10pm at the new Dulverton Sounds Music Festival. There'll be a large marquee featuring music of almost every genre, such as the Edenbridge Town Band and The Jurassix Sea Shanty Band. Discover the music of Foxwillow with singer/songwriters Celia and Martin, and Hazel on the Celtic harp.

Jules Reason and Rob Male will be entertaining us all, with their style of rock music on acoustic guitars and vocals, and the fabulous Mint Juleps, who will bring a cocktail of retro jazz/pop hits. Enjoy a set of country and western tunes and songs by the Pop Divas, with the enchanting Elizabeth Phipps. Discover the separate chill-out tent, where you can mix with friends and play folk tunes on your own instruments from 12noon. There'll be a folk acoustic set with guitar and recorders, and a swing/jazz set on clarinet with piano. And don't miss the refreshments area featuring hot and cold food and locally produced beers, ciders and spirits. Tickets for the whole day are £10, available from 20 April online via [visitdulverton.com](http://visitdulverton.com) and from Dulverton Post Office. Ticketholders will wear wristbands issued on the day.

This year's Secret Gardens of Dulverton is on Sunday 23 June—several of the town's unique, private gardens are open to the public for

just one day. Tickets in advance (£5) from Dulverton Post Office or The Tantivy include a map and brief details of each garden. Tickets on the day (£7) will be available in Dulverton Town Hall, where you can enjoy refreshments too.

The Dulverton Artisan Food, Drink and Crafts Festival is back on Saturday 6 July from 10am-4.30pm, with free admission. This lovely summer event celebrates the many artisan producers located across Exmoor, the Quantocks and Devon and is held on the Exmoor Lawns. Discover over 30 stalls from local producers: gifts, clothing, homeware, leather goods and, of course, home-produced meat, beer, spirits... to name just a few!

**For more information on any of the above events go to [visitdulverton.com](http://visitdulverton.com) or find us on social media at Visit Dulverton.**



## What's coming soon in Dulverton?

*'Dulverton Sounds'  
Music Festival  
Saturday 25 May  
3-10pm  
Exmoor Lawns,  
Dulverton*



*Secret Gardens  
of Dulverton  
Sunday 23 June  
10am-4.30pm*



*Dulverton Artisan Food, Drink & Crafts Festival*

*Saturday 6 July*

*10am-4.30pm*

*Exmoor Lawns, Dulverton*



## **Damp and mould**

*Damp and mould is building up in our house. Our living room is worst and there's a strong smell so we have stopped*

*having friends round. We're also concerned about our health. We've reported it to the landlord who has done nothing. We've six months left on the tenancy agreement and running out of options. What should we do?*

Absolutely right to tell the landlord but, to work out if they are responsible, you need to find the cause of the damp and mould, but this can take time unless it is clear there is a leaking roof or bad insulation. Damp occurs when property doesn't dry out. It can be rising, penetrating, construction or condensation damp and can lead

to mould, the fungus that grows where warm, damp air condenses on cold surfaces like window frames. The following link will help establish they type of damp, who is responsible and what you can do: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/repairs-in-rented-housing/repairs-common-problems/repairs-damp/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/repairs-in-rented-housing/repairs-common-problems/repairs-damp/)

Your landlord is responsible for fixing a damp problem if it's making your home unsafe and unhealthy. They will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have done like rotting window frames. They would have to cover the cost of repairs to any items damaged by the damp including carpets and furniture.

Keeping homes well heated and well ventilated is the best way to

prevent condensation but with high heating costs and cold weather this isn't always easy. You may, however, be eligible for support so check out this link: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/save-energy-at-home/get-help-with-the-cost-of-energy-efficiency/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/save-energy-at-home/get-help-with-the-cost-of-energy-efficiency/)

Try to avoid doing anything that makes damp worse like drying clothes on heaters, blocking air vents or using portable gas heaters, as that may affect whether the landlord takes responsibility for repairs.

At CA TNMWD we have trained energy advisers who can help. Rural Devon Citizen's Advice | Torridge, North, Mid ... ([citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk](http://citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk)) The above link will take you to our website which will give you several options to get in touch. Alternatively, ring our free, local Adviceline on 0808 27 87 999.

If you would be interested in volunteering with us, our website also shows the opportunities we have and we would love to hear from you! Contact: [recruitment@ruraldevoncab.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@ruraldevoncab.org.uk)



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## **Woods and Trees Talk**

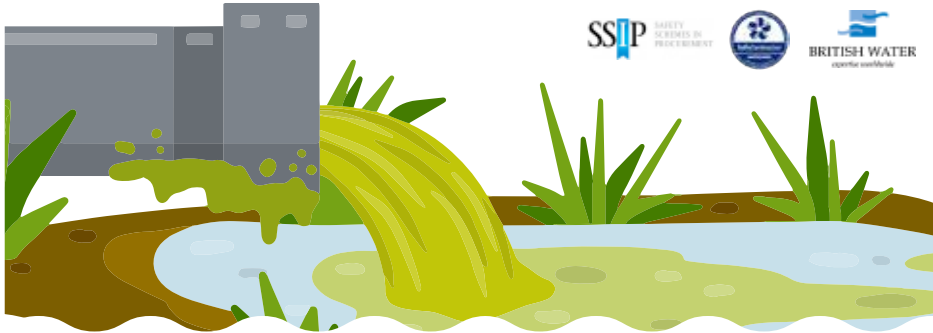
Thursday, 30 May 2024, 14:00

Simonsbath House Hotel,  
Simonsbath, TA24 7SH

Join Graeme McVittie and Robin Offer, from Exmoor National Park Authority, for an informative session about the establishment of a new woodland at Simonsbath, named King's Wood. The session is followed by an optional walk to the Kings Wood site and a visit to Simonsbath Sawmill hosted by Three Atop.

Don't forget to book your lunch direct with Simonsbath House Hotel or Exmoor Forest Inn available prior to the talk. Every lunch booked supports CareMoor further, so please advise when booking lunch that you are attending the talk afterwards.

All money from ticket sales goes directly to the CareMoor Woods and Trees appeal.



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## Dulverton Weir and Leat Restoration

engagement, historical research and educational activities being particularly valuable in this regard.

In our last update prior to Christmas, we reported that DWLCT trustees held a number of meetings in the latter part of last year with directors, senior officers and elected representatives of Somerset Unitary Council, which now owns Dulverton Weir and most of Dulverton Leat.

The trustees confirmed DWLCT's willingness to continue the partnership that operated with the former owners (Somerset West & Taunton Council), and to join with the council in a fundraising programme leading to the restoration of this valuable historical asset. The trust's other partner's experience of fund raising and DWLCT's public

We anticipate being able to share more news about our activities with Exeter University, the Mills Archive Trust and Bridgwater and Taunton College Creative Studies School (using music provided the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Antonio Pappano) shortly.

It was recognised by all parties, however, that any successful fundraising initiative of this sort, requires at least a year (probably longer) before funds can be found to commence restoration and that, in the meantime, the weir and leat will continue to deteriorate. This would make restoration more expensive, and increase the possibility of the council breaching its ownership

covenants, as well as damage being caused to the foundations of buildings adjacent to the leat (caused by the leat running dry and ground shrinkage).

The council has earmarked a small sum in the 2024-2025 budget to make the necessary temporary repairs to halt further weir deterioration and give a 'breathing space' to commence a formal fundraising programme.

The 2024-2025 budget is due to be reviewed by the full council later this month and we will update supporters as soon as we have more information.

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

## Lancia Motor Club Sliding Pillar Rally

### *Notice from Exford Parish Council*

Just to let everyone know that the Lancia Motor Club Sliding Pillar Rally (named after the type of front suspension all the cars have) has let us know that it will be here in Exford this year, from Friday 24 to Monday 27 May. There will be lots of visitors and they are already booked into the White Horse and The Crown, so you may hear more about this in due course.

The Lancia Motor Club Sliding Pillar Rally alternates between the UK and mainland Europe and usually has up to 50 cars attending, with participants coming from all over the world. The cars are all pre-1960, the earliest from the 1920s. As part of the rally, Exmoor Mountain Rescue team #exmoorsearchandrescue will also be showcasing some of the work they do. Keep an eye out on Facebook with more info on this as soon as we have it.



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## Exploring Exmoor National Park... Rockpooling with the Rangers

Join Exmoor National Park Rangers for a rock pool adventure. Hunt for anemones, crabs, sea sponges and all sorts of other marine critters. With knowledgeable Exmoor rangers as your guide, learn more about the diversity of life on our shores and gain skills to get the most out of rockpooling in your own time. You can even examine your finds afterwards with the National Park centre microscope.

All equipment provided including identification guides, nets and buckets. Remember sun cream and water bottle (free filling station in Lynmouth near the toilets). Sandals or waterproof shoes are useful. Everyone welcome!

Location: Lynmouth beach—meet opposite Lynmouth National Park Centre.

Duration: 2 hours

Times and dates:

5 May 10:30-12:30 27 May 14:00-16:00

### Dunster Outback Guided Walk

A 4-mile circular walk (approx. 2½ hours) through the ages, from the outskirts of Dunster village up to Bat's Castle with amazing views of moorland, coast and woodland.

First Wednesday of the month: April—October 2024

11am start from Dunster National Park Centre, TA24 6SE

Booking advisable: call Dunster National Park Centre on 01643 821835.

Free event (donations to CareMoor welcome).

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Some steep inclines.

A moderate level of fitness required.



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### Somerset Day and the Big Somerset Picnic

Somerset Day, organised by the not-for-profit Passion for Somerset CIC, inspires and empowers communities, businesses and all who live and work in Somerset to share a passion for our county. Celebrated annually on 11 May, it's a day to cherish our shared traditions, culture, and the sense of belonging that makes Somerset truly unique.

This year we want everyone to join in and celebrate with the Big Somerset Picnic over the weekend of 11—12 May. Organise your own picnic in your local village, town hall or community centre, your local school or nursery, care home or your office or shop. At the same time use your picnic to raise funds for a local organisation or cause.

To find out more and take part go to [www.somersetday.com/picnic](http://www.somersetday.com/picnic) and we'll send you the Big Somerset Picnic 2024 pack with full details and lots of ideas to help you organise your picnic. You've also got a chance to win a hamper bursting with Somerset produce, as well as details on how to enter our best-decorated picnic spot competition.

Nigel Muers-Raby, Passion for Somerset CIC said: "This event brings people together, provides opportunities to fundraise for local causes and celebrates everything Somerset has to offer. Whether it's a picnic on the village green, entertainment and food stalls outside the town hall, a special Somerset-themed lunch menu or a takeaway delivered to the office, the Big Somerset Picnic is an opportunity for everyone to get together and get involved".

*Somerset Day 2023 at Eddington Village Hall*



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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY HECTOR – 50!

There is simply no other elephant today, who can celebrate in such a special way  
A 50<sup>th</sup> birthday - after leaving Hamleys' store - that's one-half century, of poetry and more.  
This grey and fluffy elephant - clutched tightly 'neath one arm  
Snuggled in a raincoat - to keep him safely warm  
On reaching 'home' he's settled on a quilt of crinkled feathers  
And we both thought we'd be happy if we simply stayed together.  
But, Hector had made other plans, before he'd left the train  
When he told me he'd been christened with a proud prestigious name;

'I'm **Hector Henry Heuston**, Elephant Extraordinaire  
In my smart blue howdah head gear, looking debonair'

Since then he's travelled greatly and he never seems to moan  
So long as he's transported and then carried safely home  
His longest bumpy journey was to Brüggem in a box  
He was crated squidged and pummelled by my coats and shoes and socks!  
He's done the London Underground from Bank to Waterloo  
Then shivered for a season down in Wales and Hamdon too;  
He's travelled as a favourite in a 'plane and in a car  
And celebrated 'birthdays' – where he's always been the star  
He's sought for sun on Exmoor - but his greatest challenge yet  
- is to celebrate age 50 – and remain an adult's 'pet'  
But, I know this 'lad' Hector, and he'll win at every game  
His age will never weary him; he'll always be the same  
He'll laze around on duvets, in the sun, just like before -  
Though perhaps (with age) more soundly – and perhaps a little  
snore! *ZZZZzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz*

© Fran Bridger



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## Dulverton Health Walks

The Dulverton Health Walk Group meet each Tuesday at 10am to walk at different locations. The walks are between one—two hours; they are not too difficult and we stop quite often to catch up and to admire our wonderful countryside.

If you would like to join our very friendly group, please contact either:

Richard Clarke on  
01398 341 141 / email:  
richardclarke567@  
btinternet.com

or Richard Archer on 07773 160222 / email: archer8r@hotmail.com

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## High Sheriff tours Exmoor tree nursery

The High Sheriff of Somerset, Robert Drewett, paid a special visit to key Exmoor National Park Authority sites, in its 70th anniversary year, to tour its tree nursery and Public Rights of Way furniture-making operation. He was shown around the 'Seed to sawmill' operation at the ENPA Exford Depot and the off-grid Pinkery Outdoor Education Centre near Simonsbath, learning more about access and education work and recent investments helping ENPA achieve its carbon neutral plans.

The newly extended Exford ENPA Tree Nursery has been funded partly by grants from the Devon Environment Foundation and the Forestry Commission, but also from donations to the CareMoor Woods and trees appeal, where native species of trees such as Sessile Oak are grown from ENPA gathered seeds.

Mr Drewett toured the highly sustainable sawmill and workshop, making signs and gates from locally sourced timber produced by conservation focused woodland management.

At Pinkery, he toured the centre's wind turbine and biomass boiler, which— along with a switch to electric vehicles and tools—are contributing to ENPA's actions to cut climate-changing emissions. He also learnt more about educational activities such as Young Rangers and discounted residential places at Pinkery for pupils in receipt of free school meals.

"It's been fascinating to learn about the wide range of projects ENPA are involved with and how they are leading by example in sustainable operations at their sites," said the High Sheriff. "A lot of hard work goes into preserving our National Park, from rangers overseeing 1000km of public paths and bridleways across Exmoor, to the locally made wooden gates, stiles and iconic signposts in the Exford depot workshop.

"Activities encouraging young people to connect with our National Park, develop new skills and build confidence are also vital. I hope the team will continue to inspire future generations and help them develop a desire to care for and be part of Exmoor, to help sustain this special place for the next 70 years."

[www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/)



*Left to right: Dan Barnett and Charlotte Wray (ENPA); High Sheriff Robert Drewett, and Tony Mann (ENPA) at Exford Tree Nursery.*





*Gaynor Gough  
with her prize of  
a gift voucher  
from the  
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*Photo:  
Nina Dodd*



## **Dunster Winter Festival: 6—8 December 2024**

Gaynor Gough's suggestion, 'Dunster Winter Festival', has been chosen from almost 150 entries as the name of the event that will replace Dunster by Candlelight. After much deliberation, the committee agreed it best reflected their plans for December 2024. Thank you to the schoolchildren, residents, and visitors who took the time to enter the competition.

Over the weekend of 6—8 December, the Dunster Winter Festival will carry on the traditions visitors love. Expect to see lanterns providing atmospheric lighting, some entertainment in the village, and the castle and other venues open to the public as usual. This year, the committee hopes to include craft workshops and storytelling—with more to be announced as details are finalised.

With the name confirmed and the date set, the committee is focusing on raising essential financial support. As the event has brought thousands of visitors to the area over the past 40 years, it provides an important boost to the local economy and the chance to promote businesses of all types. It's great that some funding has already been pledged. Any businesses and organisations interested in discussing how they might get involved should contact the team at [dunsterwinterfestival@gmail.com](mailto:dunsterwinterfestival@gmail.com)

One of the event's objectives is to support the attractions that draw people to Dunster. This includes parks, gardens, historic buildings—and even the toilets! Like so many other villages in our area, local government funding has been reduced over recent years, so any profits offer a welcome financial boost to the charities and organisations that work tirelessly all year round to keep places open for everyone, from nearby and further afield.

Committee member, David Noad says: "We had an incredible response from the local community—residents and traders alike—who want to support a new event. The name Dunster Winter Festival best describes how the event has evolved, keeping the elements visitors love and adding new ones. There'll be more ways to be involved too, from joining workshops to learn some of the skills of our talented local craftspeople to storytelling. The committee and wider village are galvanised to ensure we put on a great weekend's entertainment for our visitors. Now we need to raise the financial support needed to deliver an amazing event."

Keep up to date at: [www.facebook.com/dunsterwinterfestival/](https://www.facebook.com/dunsterwinterfestival/)  
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Free event with donations welcome to our CareMoor for Exmoor scheme, supporting heritage, nature and access projects on Exmoor.

Sign up at the Eventbrite link: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/exmoor-national-park-authority-59110586823](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/exmoor-national-park-authority-59110586823)

For more information or to arrange a lift contact:

Patrick Watts Mabbott: 07973 727469

or email:  
[getinvolved@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:getinvolved@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)



## Jim Laker Fund—Spring 2024

Spring is here and the Jim Laker Fund is fundraising to continue our donations to groups and organisations across the 10 Parishes area. Since JLF's inception in 1997, we have given more than £67,000 to a diverse range of recipients; these have recently included a local football kickabout group (help to purchase equipment and kit) and funds towards replacement of a defibrillator cabinet.

A key source of funds is our annual grand draw, with prizes including cash (£100 and £50) and lovely beers generously donated by Nuttycombe Brewery and Exmoor Ales. Tickets will be on sale at Milverton Street Fair on 6 May, at Saturday stalls in Wivey during early summer, and in Wivey Larder, with the winners drawn at Wivey Show on 17 August.

This year has seen some changes in JLF's committee, with two valued members leaving and new faces joining us, with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Our present treasurer is stepping down after nine years of dedicated support, so we are seeking a new person to take on that role.

Help and support for the role is available if needed, so please contact: [info@jimlakerfund.co.uk](mailto:info@jimlakerfund.co.uk) if you are interested.

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Every penny of the money raised will help to support cancer patients and their families across the region thanks to our chosen charities, Ducks & Drakes in Dorset, SURE in Somerset, FORCE in Devon and the Tanya's Courage Trust in Cornwall.



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## Eco-Friendly Candles Set to Shine!

Eco-friendly candle company, Tripps of Somerset, based in picturesque Withiel Florey near Taunton, has formed a partnership with The Range Marketplace. It's a significant milestone in the Tripps journey and director, Tracey Tripp, is delighted.

Tripps celebrated its second anniversary in April and is forging partnerships with more stockists in Somerset and beyond, spreading its reach far and wide.

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## A Dog's Day Out – A Marathon

I've been asked to write about the Games\* in this column, Honey; apparently they are going to be the big thing this year.

"I'm not surprised Buddy did you watch young Tiger with her ball in her backyard the other day. The way she heads the ball

from a throw in and flicks it with the end of her nose and the speed of those little legs. She's incredible. A star of the future. It will only take a talent scout to spot her and she'd be signed up to play in the England squad."

My brain cells can't negotiate writing about a day of playing a game of football or any other sport come to think of it. Anyway, where does Tiger get all that energy from? It must be in the food she eats, and all of this is leading me, naturally enough to our dinner.

Did she tell you she's recently been having trouble choosing which bag of dog food to buy? Gone are the days when you would line up outside the butcher's shop for a pound of shin of beef or whatever the smiley-faced butcher had behind his counter "on offer today" she said. Instead there are row upon row of bags of convenience dog foods stacked up in the aisles in supermarkets, all supplied by different manufacturers, each one claiming to be the best. Even worse there are hundreds of varieties to scroll through if you have to buy online. It would be easier to run a marathon she said. I offered to help sniff 'em out but there's no chance as they're all wrapped in layers of plastic to keep out wet little noses and for ease of shipment.

I don't know what to make of all this, Honey. Once upon a time a dog could take off if he felt a bit peckish and follow its nose to the back door of a kitchen with a friendly chef behind it.

"They still do, Buddy. The lady up the road keeps losing her spaniel. Don't know how she gets out but Richard calls

me to say she's in the bar at his pub; she told me the other day."

And then there was that little brown dog that once lived here, who used to squeeze through the gate and go up to the kitchen at the Simonsbath Hotel for breakfast. My kinda guy.

So what did she get for our dinner today? What's on the bag, Honey?

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So where's that lovely smell coming from?

"She's roasting a chicken with garlic in the oven to go with this kibble."

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

*\*Reference: Olympic Games 2024 Friday 26 July – Sunday 11 August*

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## Travels from Dulverton: Chapter 10

We spent a wonderful few days over the Easter weekend exploring the Exmoor coastline. Starting in Watchet, we meandered westwards, taking in the traditional seaside atmosphere of Blue Anchor, historic Porlock and the steep Alpinesque streets of Lynton and Lynmouth. The further west we went, the more rugged and demanding the landscape, steep inclines that would challenge even the most robust of drive shafts. The secret is preparation. Select the lowest gear and put your pedal to the metal, do not change gear during the ascent and have your hand on the handbrake ready to engage if required. The downs are as intense as the ups, escape routes providing a safe option should your brakes fail.

On the third day we stopped for lunch at The Blue Ball near Lynmouth, technically a North Devon hot spot. On the wall by our table, a painting depicted a bunch of burly bearded volunteers and their horses dragging a wooden lifeboat up a seriously steep muddy track. A young boy skipped ahead, he lit their way carrying a tilly lamp. The moon shone bright in the background, shimmering off the sea as waves crashed into the rocky cliffs behind them.

The RNLI celebrates its bi-centenary this year. Equipment has improved a lot from the open wooden rowing boats of old; they have waterproof

clothing, life jackets to protect them, and boats with cabins to keep the rescuers and rescuees warm and safe, but the ethos is still the same. Locals volunteer to save the lives of others if the call goes out. It is now a recognised charity, with millions in the bank to keep it afloat. The people in the painting were born of a time before bank accounts and health and safety. Much tougher in many ways, but also probably a lot more straightforward.

If we had continued westward, our next stop would have been the Valley of the Rocks. A stunning must for anyone. An old witches' cave, fearless goats, the South West Coast Path and a very picturesque cricket field funded by Sir Christopher Ondaatje OC, CBE, FRSL, brother of Michael Ondaatje who wrote *The English Patient*. The views are second to none, dramatic and inspiring.

It seems there is no letup in the rain. Perhaps there is a global conspiracy to force the introduction of hydroponic indoor farms. Yes, they already exist, check out the practice of cloud seeding. Hopefully, May will bring some much needed drier and warmer days, and we can start getting out into some beer gardens for a refreshing pint of sparkling cider.

Lambing season is at its end. The fields are full of mothers and their babies. Although one would think they are all identical looking, they know who's who by noise, sight and smell. A bleat from either will quickly see them back together, should one stray from the other for too long. It's also the season for finding the odd runaway lamb, wandering the roads trying to figure out how to get back in its field. We have had to guide a few and open gates to let them back in. It is always tempting to perhaps keep one but apparently they don't do well indoors and are rather smelly. My boss took me to see some mums and their babies. Exmoor Longhorn show sheep, lovely looking chunky ones you see covered in snow on Christmas cards. Handsome rams—they have calm wise faces. It was a wonderful experience. I was lucky enough to get the chance to cuddle a lamb; it bleated for its mum but was warm and cuddly. They smell quite potent, but are totally adorable all the same!

We are probably going to have to sell our van, as insurance and road tax have doubled in the last 12 months, but adventures will continue in one way or another. Until next time.

*Mary Ford*

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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:	www.dulvertontennisclub.co.uk
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 Pre School at Cutcombe First School:	.01643 841462
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

If you see something that needs changing in the directory - please do let us know.  
Email [exmoornews@gmail.com](mailto:exmoornews@gmail.com)

**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
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
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
Cutcombe Horse Show & Gymkhana: Angela Edwards	01643 831549
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	01398 331219
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 Gardening Club: Roger Hammond	01398 323954
Dulverton Heritage Centre: Kathy Currie	07493 518350
Dulverton Vets	01398 323285
Dulverton Vintage Films: Magdalena Harding	01398 323785
Exe Valley Market Bus: Jennie Chappell ..... jennie@chappell.me.uk	01398 351666
Exmoor Patient Group: Chair: Sandra Wilson, W Nightcott, Dulverton TA22 9RT	01398 324687
Exmoor Bee Keepers Association: Sec: Caroline Ralph ..... exmoorhoneyshow@gmail.com	01984 656240
Exmoor Community Bus: Ann Kelland, ..... ann.kelland@yahoo.co.uk	07970 149123
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	01398 324035
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	07563723884 or 01823 331222
Upton Village Hall Yoga Phoebe ..... yogawithmeaning@hotmail.com	0794 228 7734
Voices of Exmoor Amanda Taylor	01598 428005
West Somerset Advice Bureau:	01643 704624



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