

EXMOOR NEWS

September October 2025

FREE Bringing community news across southern Exmoor since 1985





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EXMOOR NEWS

COVERING SOUTHERN EXMOOR

Changes to Deadlines and Contact Information

Things are changing at Exmoor News.

Back in 1985, *Exmoor News* was produced alongside several parish magazines. Since some of those magazines have recently adjusted their deadlines we're making changes too.

Our new deadlines are now much closer to our publication and delivery dates. This means contributors will have more time to send in their copy — making things simpler for everyone. The deadline for the November-December 2025 issue will be October 2nd. Deadlines for 2026 are here (and also shown on our website at exmoornews.co.uk.)

	2026		2026	2026	2026		2027
	JAN/FEB	MARCH/APRIL	MAY/JUNE	JULY/AUG	SEPT/OCT	NOV/DEC	JAN/FEB **
Ads paid by Thurs	27 Nov	5 Feb 2026	9 April	4 June	6 Aug	8 Oct	27 Nov
Copy deadline Thurs	4 Dec	12 Feb	16 April	11 June	13 Aug	15 Oct	3 Dec
(Exitor 2026 St) Aprill					(** different for Ymas)		

New Contact Number

Please note: our phone number has also changed. You can now reach us on 07871 774222.

If you'd like to contact Ceri or Claire, we prefer email — and that hasn't changed: exmoornews@gmail.com

Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbours of the changes.

We thank all our advertisers, contributors and distributors for their support.

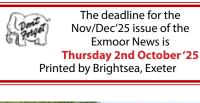
If you'd like to see your photo on the cover, send us a low resolution image and if we can use it, we'll ask for a high resolution version.

Best wishes, Ceri Keene and Claire Savill E: exmoornews@gmail.com T: 07871 774222 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.

Rate card - Page 2

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Flying Scotsman. Cover image 2025: © Tony Keene Article - see page 3



Forty years on

Did you know that Exmoor News celebrates its fortieth birthday this year?* It's a milestone we share with glossy magazine Country Living...But what else was happening 40 years ago...and what has changed?

The stand-out event, organised by Bob Geldof, was Live Aid on 13 July, with concerts at Wembley Stadium and John F Kennedy Stadium in Philadelphia. A dazzling line-up including Queen, Joan Baez, U2, Madonna, Paul McCartney and Eric Clapton helped to raise £114 million for famine relief in Ethiopia, (£542 million today). The UK's top-selling single was The Power of Love by Jennifer Rush—big ballad, big hair! Brothers in Arms by Dire Straits was the top-selling album.

In May 1985, Margaret Thatcher began her seventh year as Prime Minister; Ronald Reagan had begun a second term as US President. And 21.4 million viewers tuned in to Coronation Street to watch Bet Lynch become landlady of the Rovers Return.

Italian restaurants were a favourite 1980s dining-out choice, while international dishes such as chicken Kiev, beef Stroganoff and Black Forest gateau were popular. Just two people in every hundred said 'no' to meat and fish; this year, an estimated 6.1 million people (11.5% of the UK population) are either www.exmoornews.co.uk/exmoor-news-copies/

sticking to a vegetarian diet or switching to it.

Martina Navratilova beat Chris Evert to win her sixth Wimbledon title: Manchester United beat Everton, to take home the FA Cup, and England regained The Ashes. Slip Anchor, ridden by Steve Cauthen, won the Epsom Derby and £204,160 (worth over £790,000 today) in prize money for owner, Lord Howard de Walden.

Speaking of money, some facts and figures: in 1985, inflation was running at 6.08%; in December 2024, it was 2.60%. The fashionable sofa bought for £500 in 1985 would cost almost £2,000 today. Buying a home with a mortgage in 1985 meant paying a hefty 11.375% in interest. That rate is now a more modest 4.9% but property prices have soared and home ownership has become an increasingly distant dream for many people.

*Find out more about the story of Exmoor News in an article by founder Editor, Jan Ross in our July-August 2020 issue and a follow-up article by current editors, Ceri Keene and Claire Savill, in the July-August 2021 issue.

Both available online at:

Exmoor News Rate Card

Size 1 60wide x 92high

Mono £20 Colour £28

Size 2

124w x 92h mm

Mono £40 Colour £55 Size 3 60w mm X 188h

Colour £55

Size 4 188w x 92h Colour £83

*Bleed is when the printed image goes over the edge of the cut page.

The Exmoor News page size is 210x210mm, we ask for 4mm of bleed. The image can be larger than the full page ad size but don't go too near the edge, allow appx 5mm.

Size 5

124w x 188h mm

Colour £122

Size 6

190mm x 190 mm (no bleed)

216 mm x 216 mm (includes bleed)

EXMOOR NEWS

Colour £165

Dulverton Gardeners Support Moorland Food Bank The Flying Scotsman



Christine Dubery with John Preston (centre), with local gardeners (left) and Roz Matthews and Frances Nicholson, Moorland Food Bank (right).

For the second consecutive year, greenfingered Dulverton gardeners have enabled the Visit Dulverton Partnership Group to make a generous donation to the Moorland Food Bank. The Secret Gardens of Dulverton event took place in June and was very well attended by locals and visitors alike. Ten private gardens were opened to the public for one day, with over 250 visitors admiring the gardens and enjoying refreshments served by volunteers in the town hall.

The Visit Dulverton committee decided, once again, to donate the event proceeds to the food bank, which serves a large area of southern Exmoor. Visit Dulverton Partnership Group Chair, Christine Dubery, handed a cheque to Moorland Food Bank Chair, John Preston, at the Dulverton Family Dog Show, another event organised by Visit Dulverton volunteers.

'We would like to thank the Visit Dulverton Partnership Group for their generous donation,' said John Preston. 'It will help a lot of people who are in need of our support.' Christine Dubery added her thanks to the garden owners. Secret Gardens of Dulverton 2026 is on Sunday 21 June.

If any Dulverton residents would like to open their gardens, please do get in touch via the Visit Dulverton website: www.visitdulverton.com



The Flying Scotsman returned to the West Somerset Railway at the end of June for a couple of weeks. Flying Scotsman was originally built in Doncaster for the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER), emerging from the works on 24 February 1923 and initially numbered 1472. It was designed by Sir Nigel Gresley as part of the A1 class—the most powerful locomotives used by the railway. The legendary locomotive also performed the first ever non-stop London to Edinburgh trip in 1928, cutting the journey time to eight hours.

In 1934, Flying Scotsman was clocked at 100mph on a test run—the first locomotive in the UK to reach that speed. Owned by the National Railway Museum, the engine underwent a £4.2million restoration to put it back on the tracks as a working exhibit from 2015. In 2023, it celebrated its centenary with a nationwide tour, and is visiting a number of heritage railway lines in 2025, as the nation celebrates Railway 200—the bicentenary of the modern railway. The West Somerset Railway last welcomed the locomotive in September 2017.







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Looking for young actors...

Are you aged between 13 and 18?

Do you enjoy acting, drama and theatre?

For the past year, Fabula Arts has been running a Junior Group in Brushford; now we are setting up a Senior Group for young people aged 13+.

We are looking for teenagers with an interest in acting or just with the enthusiasm to be part of a collaborative group. No experience is necessary. Our aim is to use drama to provide a supportive place where young people can meet, grow in confidence and have fun.

The long-term aim is for the Senior Youth Theatre group to take part in the National Theatre Connections Festival. This is a nationwide event in which casts of young people perform plays written by professional artists—at professional theatres.

To start, however, we are offering three free trial workshops in Brushford Parish Hall on 6, 13 and 20 November from 7.45pm to 9.15pm.

Contact James at:

info@fabulaarts.co.uk to book a free place or to find out more.





BOEVEYS TEAROOM

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.

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Want to Own a Racehorse?

Nestled in the rolling hills of Bilbrook lies Sandhill Racing Stables, where Johnson White welcomed us to this thriving racing yard. The yard was founded by Philip Hobbs who shares the licence with Johnson and where they currently house between 75 and 80 horses.

A dedicated team of 25 staff keep the yard running smoothly, gearing up for races from mid-October to mid-May. Everything is organised with military precision—through lists, diaries, and rotas. Feed requirements that depend on how much work the horse is doing, training schedules, race planning and staff shifts are all managed the traditional way—on large boards positioned around the yard and office.

The horses compete mainly in the UK, with occasional races in France and Ireland. Stable lads and lasses accompany them to meetings, taking pride in turning them out immaculately in the paddock.

Some stable staff join through work experience programmes, and several have gone on to become jockeys. As for the horses, they range from three-year-olds, just starting out with their first bumper races, to experienced eleven-year-olds. When they retire from racing, many horses take part in other equestrian disciplines.

Johnson is a familiar face in the local community—he even spoke at the Dulverton Literary Festival last year. He doesn't ride out himself but does enjoy sports when he gets the time. He works closely with individual owners and racing syndicates, whose members come from all backgrounds—from groups of friends or local sportsmen to well-known names in show business and the commercial world.

Interested in owning a racehorse or a share in one, or want to find out more about the racing industry?

Contact: johnsonwhite02@icloud.com / 07977 064031

Claire Savill



Look out for the Ghost Train!

The Dulverton Players are now rehearsing for their next production, *The Ghost Train*, a classic comedy thriller written by Arnold Ridley of *Dad's Army* fame. Performances run from Wednesday 22 October to Saturday 25 October at Dulverton Town Hall. Put the dates in your diary!

Six passengers find themselves stranded late at night in the waiting room of an isolated Cornish railway station. Ignoring the stationmaster's ghostly tales and dire warnings, they decide to stay where they are until morning—with terrifying consequences. All is finally revealed and the details of a fiendish plot are laid bare.

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And try Mortimer's kindly donated home made cakes Saturday 11th October 2025 9:30am - 1:00pm Dulverton Town Hall





Concert to commemorate and celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the ending of WW2

Dulverton Town Hall on Saturday 13th September at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm)

Featuring:



Singing a selection of special items and songs of the period, with the opportunity for audience participation!



Presenting an episode of the hit TV comedy 'Dad's Army'
Written by Jimmy Perry and David Croft

Tickets (£10) from The Tantivy, Dulverton



DULVERTON TOWN HALL

STOP PRESS!

SATURDAY 30 AUGUST

UNMOORED (Cert 15)

Directors: Caroline Ingvarsson Emma Lindahi

93 mins

Two screenings to make sure the audience can read the occasional subtitles – 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm

An adaptation of 'The Living and the Dead in Winsford' by Hakan Nesser. A Swedish TV presenter's well-ordered life unravels when she finally confronts her domineering husband about an accusation against him. Her subsequent flight precipitates a chain of lies and paranoia in this taut psychological thriller. Filmed largely on Exmoor with dramatic and beautiful filming of the River Barle, the Chains, Exmoor ponies and Exmoor Forest Inn. Subtitles for scenes in Poland and Sweden

Friday 5 September

MARIA (Cert 12A)

Directors: Pablo Larrain

123 mins

Maria Callas is one of the most iconic performers of the 20th century. The film follows the Greek-American soprano as she retreats to Paris after a glamorous and tumultuous life in the public eye, reimagining the legendary diva in her final days as she reckons with her identity and life. Starring Angelina Jolie as Maria.

Friday 19 September

THE SALT PATH (Cert 12A)

Director: Marianne Elliot

115 mins

The story (may be fictional now!) of a couple who embark on a 630-mile walk along the South West Coast Path while facing terminal illness and the loss of their home. Stretches of the Exmoor coast feature in the film, showing the splendour of Somerset, Devon and Cornwall.

Friday 3 October

THE PENGUIN LESSONS (Cert 12A)

Director: Peter Cattaner

111mins

Inspired by the true story of a disillusioned Englishman who went to work in a school in Argentina in 1976. Expecting an easy ride, Tom (Steve Coogan) discovers a divided nation and a class of unteachable students. However, after he rescues a penguin from an oil-slicked beach, his life is turned upside-down.

Saturday 4 October

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

Conductor: Antoni Pappano

149 mins

Puccini's Japanese tragedy is given a ravishing production by the Royal Opera House in 2017. An exceptionally fine cast with powerful performances by Ermonela Jaho, Marcelo Puente, Scott Hendricks and Elizabeth DeShong. One of the all-time operatic favourites.

Friday 17 October

THE OUTRUN (Cert 15)

Director: Nora Fingscheidt

118 mins

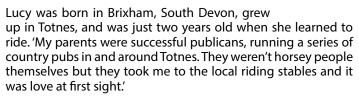
Rona, fresh out of rehab, returns to the wild Orkney Islands after more than a decade away. As she reconnects with the dramatic landscape where she grew up, memories of her childhood merge with the more recent challenging events that have set her on the path to recovery.

Tickets-Dulverton Films members £3, non-members £5, students accompanied by an adult £2.50. Book in advance at Dulverton Town Hall's Thrift Shop, open 1030 am to 2.30pm, Monday to Saturday, or email janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk. Tickets may be available on the door. Bar open from 7pm. Films start at 7.30pm

Healing Hooves

The pony and horse rescuer's tale

Listening to Lucy Culverhouse, it is clear that horses and ponies have always been part of her life and that she is deeply committed to their welfare. It was this commitment that led her to set up Healing Hooves Devon, a place of equine safety and sanctuary that currently occupies 50 acres of hilltop countryside near Stoodleigh and is home to 30 ponies and horses. But as well as providing a permanent home for the animals, Healing Hooves Devon enables vulnerable children and young adults to spend therapeutic time with them.



Her early teenage years were filled with shows and cross-country gymkhanas but, at 17, Lucy headed to Canada, which meant selling her beloved pony to fund her passage. That's not something I would do now,' she reflects. She spent six months on a ranch, working with Canadian and American horses—including American quarter horses—and also worked with a child who had profound disabilities. What she learned in Canada, would, in years to come, inform her work at Healing Hooves Devon.

Back in the UK, and when her three children were young, Lucy had less time for to spend with horses herself, although the children all had pedigree Dartmoor ponies. But things were about to change. 'We were living in Moretonhampstead and other ponies—ponies who needed help—started to come along. I'm not quite sure how they found their way to us, but they did! We had no grazing, so a neighbour lent us a field but it had no fencing or water. We put in fencing and a water supply. And that happened again, twice; so we eventually had three fields within a two-mile triangle. Initially, we were going to focus on tiny ponies, but then a bigger one came along...'



Lucy Culverhouse

Lucy is someone who cares about doing things properly and decided that the best way to provide for ponies in need would be to set up a charity. However, launching a charity is a slow, painstaking process, so Healing Hooves Devon, as it was now known, opened a not-for profit shop in Moretonhampstead. This provided some much-needed income in the interim and the charity was eventually registered in 2017.

Word of Lucy's work was spreading and more horses and ponies were being handed over to the charity, for various reasons. In some cases, Lucy stresses, people simply wanted to do the right thing; for example, an older owner who could no longer give their horse or pony the care they needed. But, as anyone involved in horse welfare is only too

well aware, it often happens for very disturbing reasons. Our reputation as a nation of animal lovers is not always deserved.

Inevitably, with more animals to care for, Healing Hooves Devon needed more land, but it had to be suitable. That became possible in February 2022, when land, stables and a base for Lucy became available at Stoodleigh. She moved with 20 ponies and horses; now there are 30. Some of these are at livery, so that helps with running costs, which are considerable. Several of the residents have medical conditions, such as diabetes, needing careful management and medication, in addition to routine veterinary care.

It's an idyllic-looking setting but challenging too; Lucy runs everything singlehanded for much of the time. Her day starts at 6am with the first water and medication round, with two more water rounds later in the day; then there are general yard duties, followed by admin time and exploring potential funding opportunities. Watching Lucy interact with these special animals, who range from tiny Moomin, a Shetland pony with dwarfism, to a handsome Appaloosa, it soon becomes clear that she has an incredible bond with them. She relies on an ageing ATV to get round the 50 acres but it is coming to the end of its useful life. To replace it would be extremely costly so, if anyone has a used but still functioning Gator-type ATV that they no longer need and would like to donate to Healing Hooves, Lucy would love to hear from you!

This summer's recurrent heatwaves have been particularly challenging; one local event, the proceeds of which were due to go to the charity, was cancelled and, in mid-July, 17 of the horses and ponies had to be moved out of the sun into the stables. Thankfully, help was on hand from Lucy's daughter and from another lifelong horse lover, Diane Boyd, who manages the charity's shop in Bampton.

The shop opened on New Year's Eve 2024, to a warm welcome by the local community. 'People have been so kind and we are so grateful to them,' says Lucy. What makes it unique is that, as well as an excellent selection of clothing, accessories, books and household items, it has an extensive secondhand tack section. It is a budget-friendly way to get kitted out, particularly if you have children, are coming back to riding, or learning to ride as an adult. The shop, which welcomes donations of good quality, clean clothing, homewares and bric-a-brac, as well as tack, is a vital source of income for the charity.

Lucy is keen to expand its work with children and young people. 'Some have gone though bereavement, or are struggling with anxiety or bullying; some are neurodivergent,' she explains. 'Here they learn about horses and ponies and how to care for them, and gain respect for animals in a safe, supportive environment. So we need funding to expand this; even modest amounts can help.'

Healing Hooves Devon is also looking for trustees who can help the charity develop. An experienced bookkeeper would be welcome, as would someone with marketing skills. Lucy is particularly keen to hear from anyone with bid-writing skills to





help with grant applications. 'We had help bidding for a grant for hay last year but now we're back to square one!' As well as a replacement ATV, the charity needs horseboxes and a bale trailer. We feel sure that, with its long-established and sizeable community of horse and pony lovers, Exmoor will rise to the challenge!

Diane Trembath

Find out more at: www.healinghoovesdevon.org.uk Also on Facebook and Instagram.

Photos: Ponies and horses at Healing Hooves Devon ©Aga Karmol



BRUSHFORD**PARISH HAL**

Quiz Night and Bar

October 11th - Quiz starts at 19:30 + Max & Mikes Street Food (inc takeaway) from 18:00

Christmas Fair

22 November 11:00 - 15:00 Variety of Stalls for Gifts, Tombola, Raffle, Bar And the Dulverton Town Band playing for you.

> Pop Up Bar + Entertainment 7:00pm to 10:00pm Every 2nd Saturday of the Month

Book Mart, Drop In Café and Internet/Phone/PC Help Desk 2:30pm to 4:30pm Every 1st Thursday of the Month

Hall & Facilities are Available for Private Hire, Weddings, Birthday Parties etc bookings@brushfordparishhall.org.uk for further info Our Hire Prices are fixed again at our 2023 Rates for Another Year

For updates and the latest News, Events & Clubs at https://brushfordparishhall.org.uk or https://bph.org.uk https://www.facebook.com/brushfordparishhall https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsbph

Volunteers urgently needed to help with bar nights and other events so if you have a little occasional time to spare. Email:- andy@brushfordparishhall.org.uk

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When

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Visit https://somersetcoastfestival.co.uk/ for more information.





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Lecture Season 2025-2026

Why not join The Arts Society Exmoor to experience a new season of captivating lectures, starting in October? You will receive a very warm welcome. All lectures are held in Brushford Parish Hall starting at 2.30pm, with refreshments available before the lecture. To join the society, please go to our website at: www.theartssocietyexmoor.org.uk or call Jane Marchent on: 07843 414717

6 October 2025—The Great Age of the Shogun

An illustrated lecture on art and culture in Japan's Edo Period (1615 – 1868) by Professor Marie Conte-Helm, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

3 November 2025—Art Behind Bars The Role of the Arts in Breaking the Cycle of Crime, Prison and Reoffending. A thought-provoking talk by professional artist, writer, and lecturer, Angela Findlay.

1 December 2025—Messiah

An audio-visual exploration by Professor Raymond Holden of Handel's choral masterpiece. Composed in 1741, *Messiah* is one of the Western music's greatest achievements.

5 January 2026—Here We Go Again! The Great British Pantomime

Learn about slapstick and find out why pantomime is so popular and such a joyful, quintessentially British, celebration—with Tony Lidington, who has been a writer and director of historic pantomimes throughout England for 30 years.

Andy's book debut

Dulverton resident, Andy Burton, has joined the growing number of people forging new post-retirement careers for themselves. Former plumber, Andy, is now writing children's books, inspired by the many beloved pets that he and his wife, Sue, have owned through the years. His first book, *Maximus the Catsumus (the Pantomime Cat) and the Cat Burglar**, has just been published.

Maximus the Catsumus, also known as the Pantomime Cat, has been accused of a crime that he did not commit, and thrown into jail. But with courage, cleverness and determination, Maximus escapes—to bring the real culprit to justice ...

It is a thrilling—and funny—tale of bravery, cunning and friendship. All the characters are based on real animals, past and present, owned by

Andy. And the book is dedicated to them.

Maximus's story is ideal for young readers and parents to enjoy together; read aloud or alone, the gripping tale and eye-catching illustrations vividly bring each character to life. (Children who enjoy the first Maximus book will be delighted to learn that a second, Maximus the Catsumus and the Phantom of the Pantomime, is coming soon!)

*Available at major booksellers and online from Amazon or Austin Macauley Publishers.





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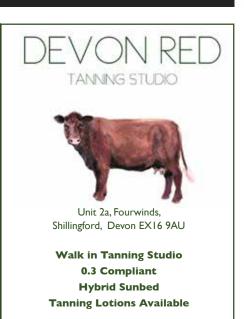


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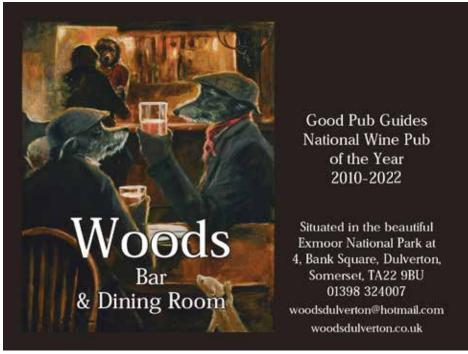
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DULVERTON ACTION GROUP Litter-picking

(3rd Sunday)

Sunday 21st September

Sunday 19th October

10.30 meet by the Heritage Centre

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DULVERTON VINTAGE FILMS

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Audrey Tautou (2001)

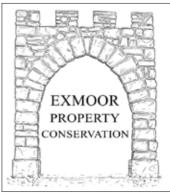
Wed 8th October

EMPIRE of the SUN

Christian Bale, John Malkovich, Miranda Richardson & Nigel Havers (1987)

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Dulverton's First Family Dog Show

There was perfect weather for Dulverton's first Family Dog Show in July. A large crowd and their four-legged friends gathered at Exmoor Lawns beside the River Barle, for a day filled with wide smiles and wagging tails.

Organised by Visit Dulverton volunteers, the show offered fun classes for dogs of all types and ages and was judged by Pauline Tolhurst BVSc MRCVS, assisted by stewards, Sue Blackmore and Wendy Berry. Dulverton's Bridge Inn hosted a pop-up bar and the Everest Natural Pet Company (based at Dulverton Post Office) ran a stall.

Best Child Handler was Jasmine Chandler with Jack Russell puppy, Horace. Margaret Bratby's Cinders won Veteran Dog—a Dulverton favourite. Fran Bell and Billie Isaac's cocker spaniels, Polka and Freda—

litter sisters from the fourth generation of the same family, bred in Dulverton—were the Best Matching Pair. There were classes for the Best Working Dog and the Best Rescued Dog, with many fascinating stories to tell. Best Terrier went to Ali Pegrum's Wilbur.

Each winner went forward to Champion/Best in Show class, which was won by Lisa Joslin's Bernese Mountain Dog, Olive. Reserve Champion was Lottie, a Welsh springer, who came from Norton Fitzwarren with owner, Helen Haig. There were some fabulous activity classes to finish the day—Best Ball Catcher and Best Sit and Stay. Holidaymaker, Pete Orchard, won Best Trick class with terrier, Laralou.

The show was a great success and plans are already under way to repeat it next year. The event was generously sponsored by local businesses Stockham Farm Exmoor, Masons Kings and Tarr Farm Inn, and the announcer gave a special thank you to those who made donations towards the event in memory of Rufus Crisp, Ben Huckins and Sid Pegrum — much-loved, much-missed Dulverton dogs.

For details of this and other Dulverton events, go to: visitdulverton.com





Great turn out on the day.
Pawsitively fabulous – and they know it.















Enthusiastic crowds and plenty of four-legged friends of all types and ages at Dulverton's first Family Dog Show in July.

Winsford Moor Movies

Films start at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of every month, in Winsford Village Hall.

Tuesday 9 September: *The Penguin Lessons*. Adapted from Tom Michell's autobiography. Set in Argentina in 1976 during the military dictatorship, it stars Steve Coogan and the penguin!

Tuesday 14 October: *The Phoenician Scheme*. A bold, quirky and visually striking satire of capitalism and dysfunctional families.

Tuesday 11 November: *The Ballad of Wallis Island, Mr Burton,* or *The Salt Path*—to be confirmed depending on release dates

Tuesday 9 December: *The Friend*. Adapted from the bestselling novel by Sigrid Nunez. See what happens when Iris is bequeathed a Great Dane!

If you want to come to all the films, it is worth becoming a member. The cost of membership has not increased and is £8 for the 2025-26 season and £3 entrance for each film. Non-members pay £5 entrance for each film. Join on the first night, or by leaving the membership form and payment at Winsford Village Shop.

Please come early on the first night as we will need time to process new members. Hope you can come.





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Regal Film Society—Unmoored (Cert 15) Tuesday 2 Sept 2025, 7:30pm

National Theatre Live: Inter Alia (As Live Cert 15 tbc)

Thursday 4 September 2025, 7:00pm

The MATA Regal Theatre Company Ltd presents...
Regal Variety Show 2025

Friday 12 September 2025, 7:30pm

Regal Comedy Night Friday 13 September 2025, 7:30pm

Fleetwood Mac Songbook Saturday 20 September 2025, 7:30pm Ocean with David Attenborough
Thursday 25 September 2025, 7:30pm

Beatlemania Live in Concert Saturday, 27 September 2025, 7:30pm

Royal Ballet & Opera: Tosca (Opera)
As Live

Wednesday 1 October 2025, 6:45pm

Su Pollard—Still Fully Charged Thursday 2 October 2025, 7:30pm

Movicals

Saturday 4October 2025, 7:30pm

Regal Film Society – tbc (Cert 15) Tuesday 7 October 2025, 7:30pm

Wish We Were Pink Floyd Friday 10 October 2025, 7:30pm Oasiz Unplugged... Saturday 18 October 2025, 7:30pm

Royal Ballet & Opera: La Sonnambula (The Metropolitan Opera) Tuesday 21 October 2025, 6:00pm

Gaslight—Barnstormers
Thursday 30 and Friday 31 October,
Saturday 1 November 2025, 7.30pm.

Tickets for all events may be booked in advance online at www.regaltheatre.co.uk/whatson or from the Box Office (tel 01643 706430) between 9:30am and 12:00pm Monday—Saturday.

WiveyPool Granted Planning Permission for New Pool House

WiveyPool is thrilled to announce a major step forward in securing the future of our much-loved outdoor community pool. After months of consultation and revisions, Somerset Council has granted planning permission for our Pool House development.

The new Pool House will offer key facilities, including an accessible toilet for recreation ground users, a warm indoor space for shelter and socialising, and the continued presence of the popular tuck shop.

Trustee, Mike Davis, said: 'This is a

fantastic milestone. With growing demand for cold-water swimming, the new Pool House will let us extend our season and broaden our existing programme—from aqua aerobics and water polo to swimming lessons for all ages. Many young swimmers even go on to become lifeguards, which is great to see.

Chair of Trustees, Liz Hurry, added: 'After an incredible amount of hard work from our team and consultants, we're so pleased to have the green light. The new Pool House will transform the pool experience and serve the wider community. Now, we need to rally support to fund the final stage.'

The total cost is £250k, with £233k already secured through

budgeting and grants. Swimmers have raised over £4k this summer through the 1927 Sponsored Swim. The Crowdfunder remains open through autumn—there's still time to get involved! Support the Pool House project here: crowdfunder. co.uk/p/wiveypool-pool-house



David Patterson who has completed 1,927 lengths of WiveyPool in The 1927 Swim Challenge

Riverfly Survey

Exmoor is a treasure trove of riches for people who are interested in natural history and all things wild. However, as with so much in this world, there are constantly changing factors—pollution, temperature rises, floods, droughts, the arrival of invasive species, the increase in tourism. And sometimes you have to look at the little things.

On a beautiful day, I recently accompanied Jenny Ibrahim as she conducted a riverfly survey on a section of the River Barle, on behalf of the Riverfly Partnership. This organisation recruits volunteers to undertake projects in rivers and streams, as part of the Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (RMI). The RMI is a citizen science project that enables trained volunteers to protect river water quality by monitoring eight

pollution-sensitive invertebrates and complements the work carried out by statutory agency staff across the UK. Many of these creatures' larvae are minute and include caddisflies and mayflies but, even though they may seem insignificant, they are vital indicators of the river's health.

When we were out on the moor, the water levels were extremely low and the temperature was high. The numbers of riverflies that were found also seemed very low, which impacts creatures higher up the food chain, such as fish, birds and animals. But only when all the data is collected and analysed can the true state of the river's health be assessed. Hopefully, with the continued dedication of the many volunteers, we will come to get a greater understanding of the health of our rivers and keep fighting to stop their deterioration.

Viv Keene





Photo: Vivienne Keene

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Run Salmon Run!

'I learnt that I can run, not just for myself, but also for my community, as we celebrate the natural world.'

Salmon Run participant.

A unique River Exe event on Saturday September combines running, science and community—to art. highlight the endangered Atlantic Salmon's journey from sea to spawning ground. Organised by Tidelines and now in its fourth year, Salmon Run is supported by Westcountry Rivers Trust, Friends of the River Exe, Exmoor National Park, Wild Running and other organisations. Tidelines carefully and creatively reweaves the relationship between people, river, estuary and coastline, at a time of climate and nature crisis.

Salmon Run is centred round a community relay run and a 43-mile ultra run, following the river along the Exe Valley Way. Teams of runners at all levels carry a crafted salmon 'baton' from the sea in Exmouth to Dulverton, Exmoor, passing through many towns and villages. Runners empathise with the salmon's journey, travelling upriver to spawn. In the past, thousands of salmon returned from the Atlantic to the Exe. Now, returning fish numbers are in the hundreds or fewer; the species is facing extinction in the Exe and across the UK.

The Atlantic Salmon is a vital part of the ecology and culture of our river and of many others. Threats include climate change, leading to warming water and highly fluctuating river levels, pollution, lack of food and overfishing at sea, and the many weirs blocking their journey along the river. Salmon Run is working with Westcountry Rivers Trust to restore habitat, with volunteers planting trees

this winter in the upper reaches of the Exe. As well as sharing information at events, we release a new podcast each year, to enable people to learn more about this remarkable species.

Salmon Run: The Gathering, at Sideshore in Exmouth, offers talks, creative workshops, a river-shaped bouncy castle, games and information from 9.30am-1.00pm.

Starting at 3.00pm, Exmoor National Park rangers are running creative activities on Dulverton's Exmoor Lawns by the River Barle, There is information about citizen science and water testing from Friends of the River Exe; a music workshop for everyone hosted by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Outreach, and a talk by Westcountry Rivers Trust about its work on the Exe. The closing ceremony takes place between 6.00-7.00pm, when the final relay team arrives.

You can get involved! As a runner, form a team or part of a team and run a section of the relay; join us at Dulverton, or come and plant a tree to enhance and restore the river habitat for young salmon on the Exe in winter 2025/26. We also need volunteer stewards for a couple of hours on the day.

Contact us at info@tidelines.uk for more info or visit:__www.tidelines.uk/blog/salmon-run-2025/



Unmoored featuring Exmoor on screen



If you enjoy Scandi crime drama, look out for *Unmoored*, a new film shot mainly in and around Simonsbath, on glorious Exmoor.

Available to stream from mid-September, it should be appearing in some local cinemas from 15 August. For details, visit: www.bulldog-film.com/unmoored

Shot in late 2021, it is an atmospheric, psychological thriller about a Swedish TV presenter, Maria, played by Mirja Turestedt, fleeing to Exmoor with her dog, Castor, and some dark secrets—an adaptation of Hakan Nesser's novel *The Living and the Dead* set in Winsford. You will easily recognise the Barle Valley, Exford, Minehead and the Exmoor Forest Inn—all beautifully filmed. Screen Somerset, the county council's film office, supports and promotes film and TV production, which brought an estimated £4m into the county's economy in the last financial year.

Dulverton Films are screening this film on Saturday August 30th at 3.30pm and 7.30pm (see page 9).



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SEPTEMBER

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Tuesday 16th – River Exe Cruise & Exmouth £27.00pp includes Cruise

Thursday 18th - Swanage with Corde Castle £23.00pp

Saturday 20th Lion the Witch & the Wardrobe theatre trip, Bristol Hipp £99.00 includes coach/ Bristol Shopper £22.00pp

Tuesday 23rd – Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary & Sidmouth £19.00pp

Friday 26th – Malver Autumn Show £43.50pp includes entry

Tuesday 30th - Dartmouth £22.00pp coach only

Please see our website for other Day Excursions and Theatre Trips or call the office for a brochure

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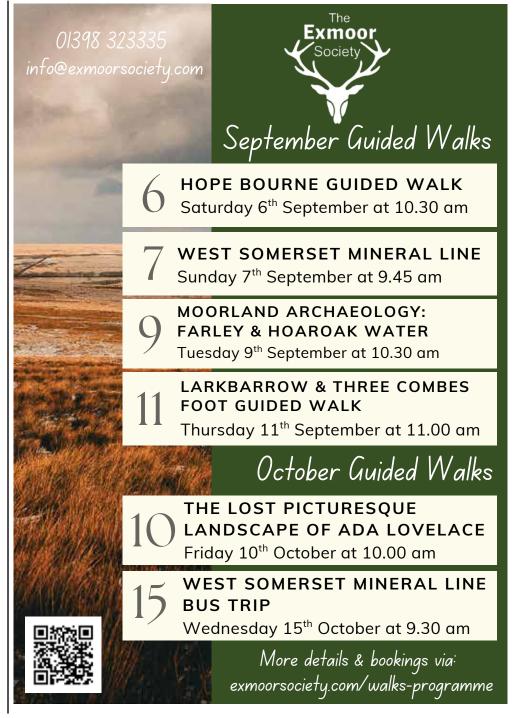
Voices of Exmoor— 20th Anniversary Year

The Voices of Exmoor celebrate their 20th anniversary in 2025 and, for their first performance of the year, the choir were privileged to sing in St Luke's Church—for the Simonsbath Festival, and the Exmoor Society's service commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

On 4 July, after months of planning and rehearsals, the choir was ready to perform their summer concert, Greatest Hits and Aspirations, before an audience of friends and family in Dulverton Town Hall. The evening was a very special celebration, with members of the audience describing it as 'inspiring and uplifting... the pleasure of the choir in performing was evident to the audience... the singing was wonderful...so full of energy and smiles.' For this special occasion, in addition to the wonderful direction of the choir's Musical Director, Amanda Taylor, and the marathon performance of accompanist, the very talented Joke Routledge, a cello and cornet accompanied the choir for Karl Jenkins's Benedictus. The audience was moved by another Karl Jenkins piece, Adiemus, in which the underlying rhythm of the cahon (beat box) was incredibly powerful.

Two weeks later, *Greatest Hits and Aspirations* was performed again to an audience in the beautiful Church of St John the Baptist in Witheridge.

Details of other performances this year and the date for our Christmas Concert in Dulverton Town Hall will be in the next edition of Exmoor News.





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Milverton Concert Society



Red Priest—the world's most extraordinary baroque group

Where: St Andrew's Church,

Wiveliscombe (only 27mins

from Dulverton!)

When: Saturday 20 September

7.30pm

What's so special about Red Priest?

This extraordinary high-energy quartet (violin, recorder, cello, harpsichord) has been at the cutting edge of baroque music performance for over 25 years and has developed a truly unique style, combining amazing musicianship with breath taking theatrical presentation.

The programme

Baroque Extravaganza is thrilling selection of baroque masterworks, including Vivaldi, Handel, Telemann, Bach and others, performed in Red Priest's inimitable style.

Want a sneaky preview? Listen to them at www.redpriest.com Tickets: www.milvertonconcerts.org

All Saints' Church Gets Winter Ready

Roofers and plumbers have been busy this summer, attending to overdue repairs at All Saints' Church, Dulverton, to ensure that the building is warm and dry this winter.

Besides hosting services through the week, plus weddings, baptisms and funerals, harvest festival and Remembrance Sunday, All Saints' is hosting concerts for the Two Moors Festival in October, and Dulverton Exmoor Literary Festival talks in November. Then it is on to the Advent season, starting with Dulverton by Starlight on 7 December. So we have been busy fixing the roof while the sun shines... and more.

Ware Construction has cleared the roof of obstructions that caused rainwater to leak last year and NJT Plumbing has replaced tanks and pipework that feed the heating system. The latter has served the community well for over 100 years, as the original installers signed their work back in 1923! South Molton Scaffolding pitched the Photos - Bill Gash



The roof: cleared and ready for winter weather.

metalwork to help us gain access to the area in the rooftop—not one for vertigo sufferers. Part of an ongoing programme to get our church ready for its five-yearly diocesan inspection in 2026, this work will ensure that congregation members, visitors and attendees of the many events we host through the year, stay warm and dry this winter.



Rare view from the tower: looking down to the Lady Chapel.



January 1923: signed off by the installers.



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Exmoor Dark Skies Festival 2025

Join us in celebrating and exploring the wonders of Exmoor after dark! This year's festival runs from Friday 17 October to Sunday 2 November.

We're already planning an exciting programme, with last year's highlights inspiring this year's line-up. Expect events such as Dark Skies Yoga, planetarium experiences, family stargazing and wildlife walks, astronomy suppers and talks

Events are held across the National Park, hosted by the Exmoor National Park Authority, along with local businesses and community groups. Look out for the 2025 programme on the Exmoor Dark Skies Festival pages at:

www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

We hope to see you under the stars this October!



Two Moors Festival celebrates 25 years

Internationally renowned for chamber music, the Two Moors Festival is celebrating its 25th anniversary with an exciting line up in October 2025. This

includes the best of chamber music and song, spanning six centuries of musical tradition, as well as talks and workshops. Twenty-one events in 15 different venues on Exmoor take place from Wednesday 1 October until Sunday 5 October and, on Dartmoor, from Wednesday 8 October until Sunday 12 October.

Since 2001, the Two Moors Festival has evolved into one of the most distinctive classical music festivals in the UK, usually welcoming over 4,000 people to its rural venues. The festival also nurtures young artists through its Young Musicians Competition.

The festival has become a cornerstone of the South West's cultural calendar. Every October for the past quarter-century, venues across Devon and Somerset—from village halls to churches, castles to museums, country houses to railway stations—have hosted inspiring recitals, concerts, operas, newly commissioned works, talks, exhibitions, school workshops, masterclasses, and more.

Highlights of this year's 25th anniversary festival on Exmoor include:

English Song with soprano, Elizabeth Watts, and acclaimed accompanist, Julius Drake, in Dulverton.

All ages singing workshop with APOLLO5 in Dunster.

Schubert's *Trout Quintet* with Artistic Director and violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen, cellist Guy Johnston, pianist Cordelia Williams, violist Gary Pomeroy, and bassist Toby Hughes in Dulverton.

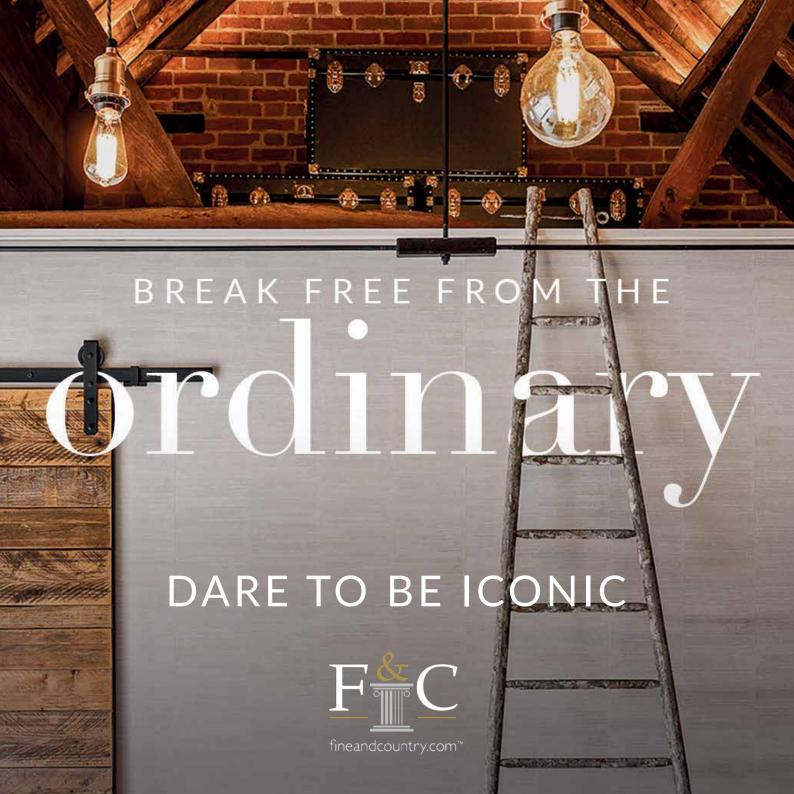
Jazz at Dunster's Tythe Barn, with Alice Zawadzki, pianist Fred Thomas, and bassist Misha Mullov-Abbodo.

Tianxu An—playing Liszt, Chopin and Rachmaninov in Dulverton Church.

Young Musicians Competition—winners' concert in Dunster.

Talks on the churches of Exmoor and Exmoor Farms—A Year on the Moor.

For further information and tickets, visit: www.twomoorsfestival.co.uk









Winsford

Dunster

Dulverton



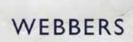






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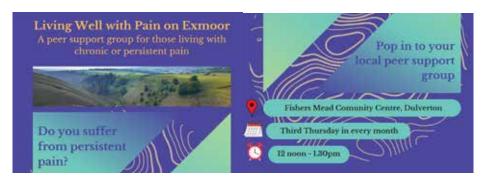
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Anstey Tug of War

Anstey Tug of War Club has been selected to represent England at the World Tug of War Championships 2025—right here on home soil in Nottingham, from 4-7 September. We'll be hitting the rope in both Men's 560kg and Mixed 580kg Senior classes on Sunday 7 September, pulling against the best in the world: 1,500 competitors

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Our teams are preparing hard and looking forward to flying the flag for England. Come along to the World Championships and support our team from the sidelines!

Grab tickets at: www.tugofwar2025. com/spectators

Full event info at: www.tugofwar2025.com

Follow @tugofwar2025 and englandtugofwar on Facebook and Instagram too. Let's do this!





The West Country is Stags Country



Dulverton Guide £1,850,000

A substantial Grade II-Listed country home set within the heart of Exmoor National Park with holiday cottages, 7.82 acres, stable, menage and outbuildings. EPC: Exempt. Council Tax: G. Freehold.



Winsford Guide £3,250,000

A private sporting and livestock farm with some of the finest views on Exmoor. South-facing farmhouse, range of stone barns, modern style farm buildings and 256.61 acres. EPC: F. Council Tax: F. Freehold.



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Exton, Dulverton

Guide £650,000

An impressive stone barn conversion set in a peaceful location with stunning far-reaching views and grounds extending to 1.7 acres. EPC: D. Council Tax: D. Freehold.



Hawkridge, Dulverton

Guide £695,000

A 4-bedroom residence with stunning moorland views, gardens, garage, stables, pastureland of 6.1 acres and access to unrivalled riding and walking. EPC: D. Council Tax: D. Freehold.



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Repair and Green Skills Training for Somerset Students

Over 150 Somerset students have taken part in hands-on repair workshops, thanks to Team Repair, a youth-led organisation on a mission to reduce e-waste and equip young people with vital green skills.

Funded by Somerset Council and SUEZ through the SW:EEP community fund, the 12-week programme for students aged 10–14, including those with special educational needs, was held across five schools and one youth group. Six teachers were trained to run the sessions, in which pupils repaired items like microscopes, torches, games consoles and remote-control cars.

This was a first repair for 38% of students and the impact was clear:

- Over 300 gadgets repaired;
- 40% said they were now more likely to repair in future;
- 37% showed increased interest in science and tech careers;
- 35% became more interested in environmentally friendly jobs.

Teachers scored the programme 10/10, praising its relevance, student engagement, and lasting impact. As one teacher said: 'It gave students a real-world learning experience. It should be rolled out to all schools.'

Somerset Council's Lead Member for Transport and Digital, Cllr Richard, said: 'Team Repair is a brilliant example of a project that helps young people develop confidence and life skills, while reducing waste and caring for the environment.'

SUEZ recycling and recovery UK's Communications Manager, Matthew Canning, added:

'Green skills are vital for the future circular economy. Team Repair is making them accessible and exciting to the next generation.'

The programme also contributes to wider efforts to tackle the UK's growing e-waste crisis; each year, an estimated 103,000 tonnes of electronics are thrown away, equivalent to 8.5 million microwayes.

Exmoor Rotary

The beginning of July was also the beginning of the Rotary year, so we welcomed our new present, Philippa Bodien. It was also the time of the year when we attended the leavers' assemblies at three local primary schools at Dulverton, Bampton and Bolham, and presented them with illustrated dictionaries, part of a Rotary literacy project. Always special occasions, this time we donated 48 books to the children.

Our annual outing for senior citizens is scheduled for 1 September, a supper to raise funds for ShelterBox on 4 October, and pub quiz for charity on 16 October. We are also making a donation of £400 towards funding the replacement Castle footbridge for the Exmoor National Park. More information can be found at www.exmoor-rotary.org.uk

Humphrey Berridge

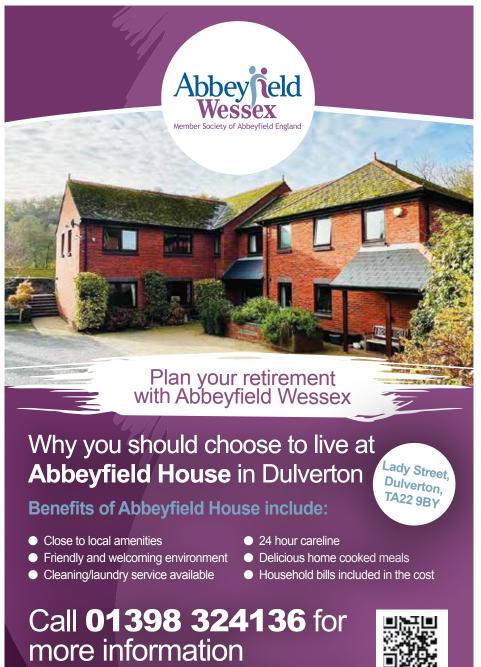
The Dennis King Memorial Fundraiser Day for Hospice Care



Morebath CC would like to thank everyone who helped, gave draw prizes, made cakes, made tea, and also turned out to play cricket in memory of Dennis King on Sunday 25 May.

The weather was favourable this year, with sunshine rather than rain. A good crowd was entertained with some interesting games, first between Morebath and Bampton FC, then Morebath versus a Morebath past masters team.

A total of £400 was raised on the day, from the draw and donations; this was then topped up to £500 by the club. A very good effort all round.



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10 Parishes Festival

Final preparations are in place for the 10 Parishes Festival of visual and performing arts, which returns to Wiveliscombe and surrounding parishes from 6-14 September. The Festival Guide is now out and contains details of over 30 venues hosting artists' open studios, performances, talks and workshops.

A new artist taking part this year is Rachel Byles, who was brought up on a dairy farm on the fringes of Exmoor and has lived in Devon and now West Somerset since she



Beech Hedge in Low Sun

was an infant. A life-long familiarity with the farmed landscape of the West Country gives an abundance of inspiration, particularly through the autumn and winter months when she always excited to see what the cast of a low sun reveals. Rachel has been reviving her practice in recent years, after a long fallow period, and works in a range of media. She will exhibit at Hele Farmhouse, Brompton Ralph, throughout the festival except Wednesday 10 September.

Rachel has recently had work selected for a range of open exhibitions including this year's Society of Graphic Fine Art's Annual exhibition in London. Last autumn she was included in the 2024 South West Academy Annual open exhibition, held at Kennaway House in Sidmouth. She was delighted that one of her works won the inaugural Modern Art Distillery prize.

The Festival Guide is available from many local outlets and online at www.10parishesfestival.org.uk



Cridland's Hedae



Dulverton Table Tennis Club

The club meets at Brushford Parish Hall each Friday from 5 September, from 2.30—4.30pm, with a fee of £3 payable each week.

We are very keen to welcome new players and have three tables and spare bats for you to use. The general standard of play is average, so

do not worry, come & try it! To tempt you further, we stop half way through the session for a cup of tea—and, sometimes, homemade cake!

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Gary Cooper with the Barle Singers The Sitwell Connection— Back to the Roaring Twenties

Music by Constant Lambert and William Walton, including *The Rio Grande* and excerpts from *Façade*.

Wednesday 8 October 7.30 pm All Saints' Church, Dulverton.

Following the successful production of Rossini's *Petite Messe Solonnelle* in June, the Barle Singers and Gary Cooper are now rehearsing for a very different musical programme.

The Barle Singers' autumn concert includes works not usually associated with their repertoire. Both Lambert and Walton were part of the avant garde set that included the Sitwell siblings, Edith, Osbert and Sacheverell. Their music of the 1920s and 1930s was influenced by the developing jazz age and Latino rhythms, producing vibrant pieces.

With the choir under the baton of Steven Pugsley, and Gary Cooper's expertise on the piano, this should be a memorable concert—something a little different.



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Our meetings are held in Dulverton Town Hall on the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am coffee for 10.30 start. (There is no meeting in August, December or January.)

Talks last about one hour. All are welcome and admission is free for your first visit.

Wednesday 24 September Alan Woolley— RAF's Typhoon Fighter

Senior UK Officer for the four-nations project office in Munich until 2005, Alan accepted the Eurofighter Typhoon—the RAF's main multi-role fast jet fighter—into service. He talks about why Typhoon is needed and how it is used, describing operations undertaken and Typhoon's development during the European defence industry's largest collaborative programme.

Wednesday 29 October John Burgess — Working for the Wireless

John worked for Exmoor National Park Authority for 10 years, where his lifelong association and love of Exmoor flourished; then for BBC Plymouth, and on to 25 wonderful years in radio. John's talk covers programmes he worked on for Radio 4 and Radio Devon. We will hear about ordinary people with incredible, colourful and amusing stories to be told, many in their own words.

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Past Lives of Woolacombe

A wild sea-child once played on Woolacombe sands she tasted the sea upon her lips while salt spray kissed her arms she had no fear of days ahead but laughed, and blithely ran.

I saw her eyes in transparent seas, hidden by wind-clawed hair and she agreed to make for me sculptures from sand-dune air she crafted forty black-headed gulls and cormorants flying over she took me to pools of sidewise crabs that cleaved upon her shoulders.

I swear such antique beauty had been fleshed from salty smears while Briton piercings at her eyes were stitched with golden tears she held the pride of an English race that sailed mysterious seas and through her heart and by her face she blessed the old country.

I once saw an image of a Woolacombe child fearlessly looking to sea she lived a million years ago and dreamed this image of me.

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News from Exmoor National Park





Exmoor Fingerpost features in Natural History Museum

Covered in twelve rare lichens, an old Exmoor National Park (ENPA) fingerpost is on display in the Natural History Museum. The post features in the museum's *Fixing Our Broken Planet*, as a prime example of a manmade item recolonised by nature, and of an item recovered from an area with clean air.

The Natural History Museum has been working with ENPA for some time to select the best exhibit, sending renowned lichen expert, Pat Wolseley, to study species growing on old iconic signposts. Natural History Museum specialists have frozen these particular lichens in time, for educational reasons. They were very grateful and the museum has funded a new signpost, which, hopefully, will also attract more lichen species over years to come.

Ambitious New National Park Management Plan

ENPA has unveiled its new *Management Plan 2025-2030—a Partnership Plan for Exmoor*, setting out a bold and collaborative vision for the future of one of the UK's most treasured landscapes.

Developed through extensive consultation with communities, partners, and stakeholders, the new plan was formally adopted by ENPA members at the authority's the July meeting. It sets out a vision for Exmoor as a thriving, nature-rich landscape, leading the way in climate action, supporting vibrant communities, and welcoming all who seek inspiration and connection with nature.

Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands

As part of the *Reviving Exmoor's Heartlands* landscape recovery project, ENPA has been involved in a series of workshops, run by Savills. These sessions have offered farmers and landowners the chance to explore a range of topics, including dung beetles and their ecological role, woodland and wood pasture planting, moorland management, and the findings of a recent moorland breeding bird survey, carried out across participating farms. There was also an opportunity to learn more about creating and managing species rich grassland.

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These workshops have provided a valuable opportunity for to share knowledge, collaborate, and discuss of practical land management approaches. The aim is to support improved conditions for our Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) while continuing to produce high-quality livestock.

Find out more about these and other ENPA activities at:

www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

The Swift Success!

In Spring 2024—in an effort to encourage more Swifts into Bampton, Stuart McFadzean and his amazing team of Swift lovers built and installed.52 Swift boxes into the tower at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Bampton.

This July, Swift team member, Steve, and younger helper, Eva Wishart (a passionate 13-year-old conservationist doing amazing work with Harvest Mice), peeped into each numbered box carefully to reveal if any boxes had any signs of nest making. The results were so exciting! Eleven boxes had nests or signs of nests and six had adults sitting on eggs or young chicks staring back at the onlookers! As juvenile Swifts do not generally make a nest until they are two-three years old and adult Swifts always return to the same nesting site year on year, this is such a great result and very encouraging. In addition to success in the tower's new nest boxes, all the nests previously occupied around the rest of the church building were also occupied.

The stunning acrobatics and screaming calls of these truly astonishing birds just gladdens the heart and, to some, it evokes many childhood memories of when Swifts were far more prevalent than now.

Eddie Grundy of *The Archers* recently helped to bring our attention to these iconic birds, quoting from Edward Thomas's poem, *Haymaking*:

'While over them shrill shrieked in his fierce glee The Swift with wings and tail as sharp and narrow As if the bow had flown off with the arrow.'

Some Amazing Swift Facts:

Nesting is one of the few times that adults touch solid ground, feeding, mating and even sleeping on the wing.

It is thought the Swift can close down half its brain when high in the air—to rest and then swap over to rest the other side, an astonishing thought.

Unlike other small birds, they can leave their young in the nest for two-three days, so they can fly huge distances to gather food in a bolus, in the throat. The chicks enter a state of torpor, similar to hibernation, while the parents are away.

In an average year, a Swift can fly up to 200,000 miles, nearly as far as flying to the moon!

The oldest known bird was nearly 18-years-old but they usually

live for nine years and faithfully return to build colonies. Hopefully, we can look forward to many years of Swifts welcoming us all, each summer.

Swifts are a recognised UK Conservation Red List species, due to a 60% decline in their breeding population between 1995–2020, thought in part to be due to lack of nesting sites. With all Bampton's potential nesting sites, it would be good to hope that the town is fast becoming a large established colony that will last for many years.

Sadly, when you read this article, most of the Swifts will have begun their incredible 7,000- mile journey back to their Sub-Saharan African home. The journey takes just five days or so, depending on the weather! But, what a joy to look forward to, their arrival back here with us in May next year!



Inspecting the Swift boxes, Steve Ryan assisted by Eva Wishart



Adults incubating



Active nest with two eggs (average number of eggs 2/3, one clutch per season)



Young chicks

Thank you, once again, to Anthony Mount and all the bell ringers for all your help, assistance and enthusiasm around the Swift Project.

If anyone would like to purchase a Swift box for their home, Stuart McFadzean and his team will be happy to make one to order.

Please contact Fiona Clark for more details: 07854 602060





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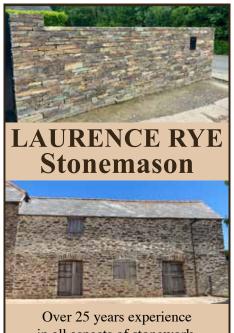
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Great Taste Award for Local Herbalist

Exton-based herbalist and scientist, Laura Robinson, has won a 2025 Great Taste Award for her uplifting herbal tea blend, Surf's Up, part of her Coastal Herbal Tea Collection. The blend earned a prestigious 1-star rating from the Guild of Fine Food, celebrated for food and drink that delivers fantastic flavour.

'Awards like this help shine a light on rural innovation,' says Laura.

Originally inspired by the Sussex seaside, Surf's Up is now handcrafted in Laura's Exmoor dispensary, using botanicals that reflect both the tea's purpose and the landscape. For the past two years, she has been drawing on her background in science and plant-based medicine to create small-batch herbal infusions, each designed to evoke a distinct mood or sense of place.

This autumn, Laura is set to launch a new Wild Exmoor Herbal Tea Collection, capturing the rhythm and rugged beauty of Exmoor National Park.

You can find Laura's teas at selected local markets, retailers, or online at: herbalscience.co.uk.

Trade enquiries: retailers, cafés, and accommodation providers interested in stocking the range can contact Laura at Herbalscienceltd@gmail.com

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The Therapist Collection Reflections from our Clinic

Julia Walder—Perinatal Massage Therapist and Aromatherapist Holistic Approaches to Postnatal Recovery

The postnatal period is often joyful and life changing—but it can bring physical and emotional challenges. Many women experience back or pelvic pain, muscle weakness, fatigue, incontinence, abdominal muscle separation and sore C-section scars. The emotional demands of caring for a newborn including sleep deprivation and hormonal changes can lead to anxiety, stress, or low mood.

It is important for mums to take care of themselves as this enables them to provide the best care for their newborn. There are many forms of professional help available to women, including:

Postnatal massage helps to relax, ease muscle tension and healing. Aligned to this is the Mexican Closing the Bones Rebozo ritual, using gentle wrapping and rocking of the woman to support pelvis realignment. It also is very healing emotionally. Women's health physiotherapy aids recovery of the pelvic floor and abdomen, all the while offering valuable advice on posture and safe movement.

Caesarean section, scar therapy reduces tightness and improves mobility, through gentle, targeted touch.

These approaches aim to support recovery as a whole—body, mind, and spirit—helping new mothers feel more balanced, connected and well as they adjust to life after birth.

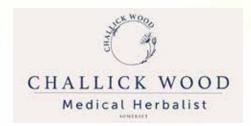
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Lis Jorgensen—Medical Herbalist Feeling overwhelmed?

In our modern culture of busy working lives, digital access speeding up every interaction, and seemingly everexpanding choice in a time of diminishing resources, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed, especially at this time of year. Summer is an expansive time: our energies rise through the spring and early summer, along with our expectations. We fit in more activity and social engagements, and generally make the most of the long days.

As a medical herbalist this is something I often see in my clinic. It may be the main complaint or an exacerbating factor. My four-year training in herbal medicine also included a continuous counselling theory and technique programme. I find the blend of these skills invaluable in my work. In an era dominated by stress, technology and constant demands, working with a herbalist provides a grounding and holistic approach to well-being. My clients tend to find that the holistic nature of the herbal consultation offers space to contextualise their thoughts and feelings, giving them time to connect with themselves. Working with plant remedies, in our beautiful local setting, also gives people a way to connect with nature, restoring harmony between mind and body.

I may prescribe well-known relaxing nervine herbs, such as chamomile and lavender, to soothe the nervous system and promote good sleep, alongside herbs such as adaptogens to support the body in working more efficiently under stress, boosting resilience, and helping the body to adapt to life's pressures.



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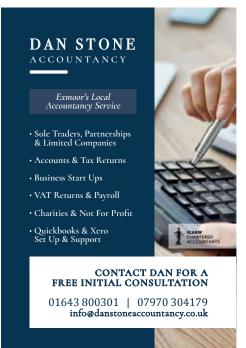
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Dulverton Health Walks

The Dulverton Health Walks group meet every Tuesday morning at 10am to walk at different locations. The walks are not too difficult and

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Wellington Hospital's New Rheumatology Clinic

Rheumatology care at Wellington Community Hospital is going from strength to strength, following the launch of a new point of care ultrasound service (POCUS) this year.

The POCUS clinic aids the rapid diagnosis of early inflammatory arthritis after a patient has been referred by their GP, which means treatment can start promptly.

The service began in January, and runs three to four times a month, and includes a dual-run ultrasound scan service, provided by one of Somerset NHS Foundation Trust's sonographers.

The trust's consultant rheumatologists and specialist nurses see anywhere between six

to eight patients per clinic, with ultrasound scans completed for all of them during their appointment.

Dr Natasha Weisz is one of Somerset NHS Foundation Trust's rheumatology consultants, who was recently recruited from a large NHS trust in London.

'I came to live and work in Somerset as we were keen to relocate out of London,' she said. 'An opportunity to work in Taunton presented itself via a LinkedIn Somerset NHS FT job advert for a consultant position...and things went from there.

'Somerset is such a great area to live in, with many open spaces and parks, charming historic towns, good schools, and a nursery on site at Musgrove Park Hospital too...and a lot less congestion than in London!'

Natasha runs the service at Wellington Hospital, and explains why it is working so well outside of the two acute hospitals, in line with the new NHS 10 Year Plan's three shifts.

'For many years, we've been providing rheumatology care and treatment from our acute hospitals in Taunton and Yeovil,' she said. 'As demand soars, the pressure on the service has increased.

'We have needed to become more efficient in the way we provide services, so it has been a huge step forward in terms of diagnosing patients faster and being able to commence treatment at their first appointment. This has had a very positive impact on the waiting times for our service.

The patients we see in Wellington naturally tend to be from the local area, with rheumatology services also running from other community hospitals in Minehead, Bridgwater and South Petherton.

'Community hospitals are essential to enable the expansion of rheumatology services and benefits patients who live far from our main base at Musgrove Park Hospital.

'At our Wellington Hospital clinic, it's even



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possible for an ultrasound scan to be arranged during the same appointment, so rheumatology consultants and specialist nurses can assess patients' level of inflammation.

'The results of the scan can be acted on within the same appointment, so it's very much a one-stop-shop that makes it quicker to diagnose the condition, and importantly, speeds up the time to begin treatment.

'One of the great things about our service is that we're not only diagnosing patients with an inflammatory disease, but also identifying those who don't, and we can discharge them from the service.'

With the service making a positive impact at Wellington Hospital so far, Natasha said she hopes it can expanded further in the future.

'If we can recruit an additional specialist nurse, we'll be able to run another clinic, and therefore get more patients started on important treatment,' she continued.

'The feedback from patients has been really positive and they've told us that they prefer having their appointments closer to home in Wellington. In fact, some patients who live closer to Taunton even request to have their follow-up appointments at Wellington Hospital!'

Colleagues from the Somerset-wide rheumatology service met earlier this year to discuss how the service could be run more efficiently across the county.

Natasha took part in the event and said: 'The session allowed everyone to voice their opinions on what they feel could be improved within our department, as well as the challenges we face. It was a good opportunity to network and have a day with our administrative colleagues too.

'As a department, we have a lot of ideas on how we could improve patient care and expand our service in line with national best practice and maintain patient safety.

'One of the real challenges for our service is

the limited outpatient capacity at Musgrove Park and Yeovil hospitals. Community hospitals are essential in order to meet the rising demand in healthcare services.

'The POCUS service would not be possible without the help and support of our sonographer colleagues, and collaborating in this way has resulted in a fantastic service speeding up time to diagnosis and rapidly reducing waiting times."

Martine Thurtle, chair of the Wellington Hospital League of Friends, adds: 'We're really pleased to have this level of service running at Wellington Hospital, as it's great news for people from the local area who can now get this care and treatment closer to home.'



Pictured (left to right): James Harris sonographer, Dr Natasha Weisz - consultant rheumatologist.

NHS expands diagnostic services in Bridgwater

NHS England has approved Somerset NHS Foundation Trust's proposal to construct a diagnostic centre next to Bridgwater Community Hospital. The new £17.8 million state-of-theart centre will provide a range of specialist diagnostic and outpatient services to the people of Bridgwater and surrounding areas. It follows the opening of a community diagnostic centre in Taunton in 2020.

The Bridgwater diagnostic centre will run a range of services from two CT scanners, two MRI scanners, four outpatient rooms and two echocardiography/ultrasound rooms. This will enable the centre to provide routine and specialist cardiac and cancer scanning, alongside clinics—a one-stop arrangement for appointments. The trust has applied for planning permission for the new centre. If approved, the new facility is likely to open in Summer 2026.

From the Police and Crime Commissioner

In July, I welcomed people from across Somerset West to a public forum at Taunton Rugby Football Club—representing families, businesses and councils, elected officials and the voluntary sector. My thanks to everyone who attended and shared experiences and thoughts—helping us build safer, secure communities.

Chief Inspector Rebecca Wells-Cole and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Supervisor Sharon Baker from the local neighbourhood policing team provided valuable updates and answered questions about operations in and around Taunton, Bridgwater, Minehead and Wellington.

Forums contribute to open and honest dialogue—listening to you and feeding back on our actions to improve policing and prevent crime. Your input helps us understand what is working, and where we need to do more. I shared updates on my Police and Crime Plan's five priorities. Strengthening neighbourhood policing is a key focus. Through the government's Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, Avon and Somerset Police are deploying 70 additional experienced officers, with strong community ties and problem-solving and investigative skills, into local teams.

Supporting victims

Another important update was the launch of our newly commissioned support services ranging from emotional support and advocacy, to practical advice and restorative justice, for victims of crime and anti-social behaviour. Victims now have access to enhanced, tailored support through:

Safe Link Plus Young Victims Service Avon and Somerset Victim Services Unseen

Staying connected

Please keep an eye on my website www. avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk and social media for forum dates. Let's make our communities safer, secure, and more resilient.

Claire Moody, Police and Crime Commissioner, Avon and Somerset

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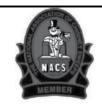
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A Dog's Day Out—Cool Dudes

'Hey, Buddy, the editors are calling for your contribution to the next edition of the News!'

I can't think in this heat, Honey; you'll have to write it.

'Not me, Buddy.'

You could ask Miss Piggy over there who she's met this week.

'She can't hear us. She's been on her back with her paws in the air for days.'

The society columnist not functioning either, then? (Sigh...) Can you remember to ask if we can have the whirry-purry machine down here—to get some air moving.

'Why don't you try lying in the garden, Buddy? There are birds and bees and butterflies all flapping their wings out there!

Stinging things too. I was chased by a whole gang of them yesterday. Flying beasts. Tried to sit on me! I even got bitten. Look right here!

'Oh that's nasty. It's still there.'

Knock it off, Honey!

'I can't; it's stuck on. Roll around on the mat.'

Gone?

'No. Try rubbing along the side of the sofa. That's my favourite go-to place.'
Gone now?

'Yup, there it is on the floor! Stamp on it, Buddy.'

'Hello people. What's happening here? Have I missed something?'

Down there, Piggy. Look!

'Oooh, yes. Yum, delicious. Thanks, guys. Must go back and lie down now. It's just too hot to do anything.'

Buddy Brown (pure Jack Russell, a roving reporter)



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LOCAL CHURCHES AND CHAPEL CONTACT NUMBERS		
All Saints Church, Dulverton: Revd Dowell Conning		01398 322867
All Saints Dulverton, Parish Office: 1 Church Walk, Dulverton, TA22 9ER		
Dulverton Benefice/All Saints/Community choirs: Gary Cooper		
All Saints Church, Dulverton, Bell Tower: Anne Markwick		
Brushford: Revd Dowell Conning.		
Exmoor Benefice: The Rev. David Weir, The Rectory, Exford, TA24 7LX		
Exmoor Benefice Ringers: Sue Atkins		
Catholic Church: Priest: Father David.		
Dulverton Congregational Church: Chapel Street: Mr David Perry		
The Traditional Anglican Church: Loxbeare, Priest Reverend Aird		
Exmoor Benefice Choir: Mrs B. Staples.		
St Peter's Church Oakford: Rev'd Stephanie Gordon-Jeffs	office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org	01884 25041/
ARTS	al a san	07075 501471
The Arts Society Exmoor: Peter Maggs (Chairman)	, -	0/8/5 5014/1
Draw Life Live: Tony Keene		01001060105
Dulverton Art Group: Sec: Mrs G Rose, 2 Stable Mews, The Square, Witheridge		
Dulverton Camera Club: Sec: Peter Main, 4 Valley View, Morebath, Tiverton,		
Dulverton Players: Chair: Christopher Dubery		
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 T		
Brushford Short Mat Bowling: Sec: Sam Takle		
Cutcombe Cricket: Sec: Peter Thompson		
Dulverton Angling Assn: c/o Pat Veale, 9 High St., Dulverton, TA22 9HB		
Dulverton Badminton Club: Sec Judy Smith		
Dulverton Cricket Club: Carl Hooper	dulvertoncricketclub1858@gmail.com 0	7866 256769/01398 324494

Dulverton Cricket Club, Colts: Mrs Christine Dubery	01398 323474
Dulverton & District Tennis Club: Membership Sec. Anne Marwick	
Dulverton & Exmoor Squash Club: Membership Sec: Chris Winter	
Dulverton Jnr. F.C: Sec: Mrs Christine Dubery.	
Dulverton Netball Club :	
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 Facility Bookings: Chris Dubery	07891 982121
Dulverton Sportsfield Management: Adrian Smith	
Dulverton Senior Table Tennis: Richard Archer	
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:	
Wimbleball Fly Fishers:	
PRE-SCHOOL GROUPS	
All Saints School & Nursery:	
Anstey Parent and Toddlers Group: Anstey Village Halll	
Bampton School Nursery: School Close, Bampton EX16 9NW	
Little Owls Nursery at All Saints C of E School, Dulverton.	01398 324360
SCHOOLS	
All Saints C of E School: Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	
Bampton CE Primary School: School Close, Bampton EX16 9NW	
Bampton School Nursery: School Close, Bampton EX16 9NW	
Brompton Regis Toddlers: Mrs.E. Luxton	
Cutcombe C of E First School: Wheddon Cross, TA24 7DZ.	
Dulverton Junior School: Barns Close West, TA22 9EE	
Dulverton Children's Centre: All Saints School, Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	
Dulverton Family and Toddlers Group:	
Dunkery Pre School at Cutcombe First School:	
East Anstey Primary School: East Anstey, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9JP.	
Exford CofE VC First School:	
Little Berries Pre School at Exford First School	
Little Owls Nursery: All Saints School, Fishers Mead TA22 9EN	
WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS Anstey W.I.: Karen	01200 241106
,	
Bampton Ladies Group. Mrs. Diane Holland	
Exmoor Moorhens: Chairman: Mrs. I. Collett	
Oakford Moorland Ladies Club: Chair: Mrs Louise Wilder louie.c@tiscali.co.uk	
YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES	
Bampton Scouts/Cubs/Beaver748s: Tony Weiss	N1308 3310N1
Dulverton Ballet: Mrs Wightmore, Flat 3, Easter House, St. Andrews St. Tiverton	
Exmoor Community Youth Club: Organiser Laura Tasker, Fridays 6 — 8 pm	
Exhibit Community Touth Club. Organiser Laura lasker, muays 0 – 6 pm	

OTHERS

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Abbeyfield House	01398 324136
Barle Singers:	
Bampton Heritage and Visitor Centre (inside St Michael and All Angels Church, Bampton) www.bamptonheritage.org	g.uk or bamptonheritage@btinternet.com
Bampton Library and Resource Centre, Station Road	01398 332466
Bampton Pharmacy	01398 331455
Bampton St. Michael's Community Hall, Station Rd	01398 332158
Brushford Parish Hall:	nall.org.uk
Brushford Luncheon Club: Treasurer: Margaret Albery	01398 324587
Care Direct for help and advice: www.somerset.gov.uk	
Citizens Advice	
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	
Dulverton Bridge Club: Sec. Brian Hugheswww.Bridgewebs.com/dulverton	01398 331219
Dulverton Pharmacy	
Dulverton Development Forum: Sec: Mrs J. Ross	01398 323818
Dulverton Films: Jan Ross	
Dulverton Gardening Club: Roger Hammmond	01398 323954
Dulverton Heritage Centre: Kathy Currie	07493 518350
Dulverton Parish Rooms: Bill Gash	/index.php
Dulverton Town Hall: Christine Dubery	
Dulverton Vets	01398 323285
Dulverton Vintage Films: Magdalena Harding	01398 323785
Exe Valley Market Bus: Jennie Chappelljennie@chappell.me.uk.	
Exmoor Patient Group: Chair: Sandra Wilson, W Nightcott, Dulverton TA22 9RT	
Exmoor Bee Keepers Association: Sec: Caroline Ralphexmoorhoneyshow@gmail.com	01984 656240
Exmoor Community Bus: Ann Kelland,	07970 149123
Exmoor Friends: Martha	
Exmoor National Park Centre	
Exmoor Pony Centre: Ashwick, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9QE	
Exmoor Pony Society: Sec: Mrs Jay Gee, Little Ash Farm Cottage, Ash Lane, Withypool, TA24 7RR	
Exmoor Rotary Club: Humphrey Berridge (PRO), Station Hse, Luke St, Bampton	
Good Neighbours:	
Oakford Village Hall: Bookings: Mrs Dawn Williams	
Royal British Legion, Dulverton Branch: Brig Peter Maggs (Chairman) www.britishlegion.org.uk	
TA22 Voluntary Lift Scheme (formerly Brushford Voluntary Lifts):	
Tiverton Model Aero Club: Sec: Mr. P Veale, 9 High St., Dulverton TA22 9HB	
Village Agent Nikki Bonner info@somersetrcc.org.uk	
Upton Village Hall Yoga Phoebe yogawithmeaning@hotmail.com	
Voices of Exmoor Amanda Taylor	
West Somerset Advice Bureau:	01643 704624

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ACROSS

- Private drainage. ____ tank common in rural homes.
- Weather that tests your drainage system.
- 4. What houses electrical equipment for pumping stations?
- Treated wastewater that can be released safely.

DOWN

- Maintenance. Prevents drainage issues.
- 2. Getting a horrible __? Book a WCI smell investigation.
- 5. Chamber for wastewater storage.
- Sticky ____. Can clog your system.
- 8. An overflowing septic system can cause disarray.
- When your septic system fails, it may _____

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