

# The Exmoor Society

## Calendar of Society & Group Events

### 2018

#### January

- 11 Bristol Group – Winter walk near Congresbury, lunch at The White Hart, Wrington Road, BS49 5AR. Meet 10.30 in the pub car park M/R ST450636.
- 27 Bristol Group – Winter supper at St Andrew's Church Hall, Clevedon, BS21 7UE. 7.00pm for 7.30pm. **Booking essential**

#### February

- tbc Bristol Group – Tour of the Met Office in Exeter on a Saturday in February. Date to be confirmed.
- 21 Coastal Group – 'The History of Doverly Manor Museum, Porlock', Grade II listed, built c15th, extended c17th, restored 1981. Illustrated talk by Dr. Lita Strampp, curator and Dr. Andrew Woodcock. Opportunity to look round. 7.30pm. Please note - this Meeting will be held in Solar room in Doverly Manor Museum. **Booking essential**

#### March

- 8 Dulverton Group – AGM followed by a talk on Dulverton's Weir and Leat by Peter Romain. AGM 7.00pm
- 21 Coastal Group – 'The Special Qualities of the Exmoor Landscape', talk by the Landscape Officer for Exmoor National Park, Pamela Morris, illustrating its international context and the living, managed local landscape of the present day. 7.30pm PVH.
- 22 Bristol Group – Talk about the Exmoor dialect. 7.30pm Kenn Road Methodist Church Hall

#### April

- 10 **Society Walk – Dry Bridge & East Lyn.** An Exmoor walk with moorland, woods and lanes. 3.5hr/5.3mi, inc. a rooted steep path. Pub lunch or bring a picnic. 10.30am Dry Bridge (SS 759 455) Ref BC
- 12 Dulverton Group – Wildlife of Devon from Shore to Moor – a talk with photos, field sketches and video clips by John Walters. 7.30pm.
- 14 **Society Walk – Bossington with Porlock Bay and Marsh.** A circular walk from the picturesque village of Bossington, via the dramatic viewpoint of Hurlstone Point, the sweeping shingle ridge and across the ever-changing saltmarsh. 3hr/2-3mi. 2pm, NT car park in Bossington TA24 8HF (SS 898480) No dogs. Ref NH
- 17 **Society Walk - Exmoor's Atlantic Woodland and Special Lower Plants.** A circular walk to introduce some of the special lower plant flora (the lichens, mosses, liverworts and ferns) of Exmoor's Atlantic woodlands. A free ID guide will be provided. Approx 2.5hr/1.5 miles, with plenty of stops along the way to study lower plant flora. 10.30am Tarr Steps car park TA22 9PY (SS 872 323) No dogs. Ref AS
- 18 South Molton Group – Talk on John Knight. South Molton Methodist Hall. 7.30pm
- 19 Bristol Group – Chapel Cleeve Manor – Walk 10.30am at MR ST032435 (roadside). Picnic or pub lunch. Manor visit 2pm MR 036430 £15 each with afternoon tea. **Booking essential**
- 20 **Spring Conference – Beef, Birds & Beauty – Exmoor's Ambition post-Brexit.** 10am Dulverton Town Hall, TA22 9EX. £20. **Booking essential:** [www.exmoorsociety.com](http://www.exmoorsociety.com)
- 25 **Society Walk – Longstone Landscape** A walk around the area studied for the Longstone Landscape This was a community archaeology project on Parracombe and Challacombe Common, Radworthy and Longstone area, involving people from various parishes over several years. The walk is over rough moorland. Bring a picnic. 5hr/7mi max. Meet Parracombe Village Hall EX31 4RJ (SS 627 448). Share transport to start of walk. Dogs on leads only. Ref JH
- 25 Coastal Group – 'Exmoor Signposts' an illustrated talk on the history of signposts across and around Exmoor, by Nick Wall, Senior Conservation Officer of The Somerset Heritage Centre and Dr Helen Blackman, Outreach Archivist for The Exmoor Society. 7.30pm PVH
- 26 **Society Walk – Yellowcombe and Winsford.** Challenging walk around Winsford Hill taking in the Caratacus Stone and the Punchbowl. Steep inclines. 3hr/5mi. Optional pub lunch or bring a picnic. 10am Winsford Car Park TA24 7JE (SS 905 348). Ref JR

#### May

- 2 Coastal Group – Talk on 'The restoration of the Water Wheel at Dunster Mill' by Stephen Hayes, National Trust Mill Operations & Projects Manager. Holnicote House, TA24 8TJ. Coffee 10:30 - Talk 11.00. Bar and lunch from 12:45 p.m. Cost £18 pp to include gratuities. **Booking essential.** Morning only £5.00 pp to include coffee and talk. Parking available.
- 2 **Society Walk – Above Wimbleball and along the Haddeo Valley.** Explore Haddon Hill and the Haddeo Valley, visiting Hartford and Bury villages. Views across Wimbleball and the dam. Bring a picnic. 4hr/7mi. 10.30am, Haddon Hill ENPA Car Park.TA4 2DS (SS 970 285). Ref MC
- 9 **Society Walk – Burridge Woods Bluebell Walk.** A walk through Burridge Woods, Dulverton, with the Society's archivist. Along the River Barle, through bluebell woods and past the remains of Oldberry Castle, an Iron Age hill fort. May be muddy and there are one or two climbs. 2hr/5mi. 10am The Exmoor Society, 34 High Street, Dulverton TA22 9DJ. Ref HB
- 10 Dulverton Group – Exmoor Postal Routes – a talk by Dr Helen Blackman on The Exmoor Society's investigation of these old foot, horse or motorbike routes. 7.30pm
- 19 **Society Walk – Molland Moor Cuckoos.** Unspoilt and wild, with wonderful views, it is a perfect place for cuckoos but also to see the Molland herd of Exmoor ponies and possibly red deer. Rough-going in places. 2.5hr/4mi. 10.30am, Molland Moor Gate known on OS as Anstey Gate (SS 835 297). Dogs on leads only. Ref CW
- 23 **Society Walk – Exmoor's Devon Commons** Walk Exmoor's Devon Commons looking at the history, archaeology and management issues. The owners of North Furzehill Farm have kindly offered to show people around their lovely garden after the walk. Bring a picnic. 5hr/8mi max. 10.30am, North Furzehill Farm EX35 6LN (SS 724 450) Dogs on leads only. Ref JH
- 24 Bristol Group – AGM at Kenn Road Methodist Church Hall, Clevedon BS21 6LH, 7.30pm. Rob Wilson-North will talk about newly discovered papers concerning the Knights.
- 30 **Society Walk – In Search of John Knight.** Join Exmoor Society member and the National Park's Head of Conservation & Access, Rob Wilson-North, on this walk centred around Simonsbath. Explore the setting of the village and John Knight's uncompleted gardens. Mainly level, but some steeper paths. Links with the illustrated talk on this subject at the Simonsbath Festival on 28 May 2018 (each can be attended separately). 2hr/1.5-2mi. 10.30am, Ashcombe Car Park, Simonsbath TA24 7SH (£2 fee). (SS 773 394) Dogs on leads only. Ref RWN

#### June

- 8 **Society Walk – Hawkcombe Wood National Nature Reserve.** Join Exmoor National Park Authority's Senior Conservation Officer (Woodlands) and learn about the ecology and management of one of Exmoor's most important woodlands. We will look at the work to help the heath fritillary butterfly, maybe see the adults flying and possibly the rare pied flycatcher. 4hr/2mi. 12.30pm, Car Park on the A39, 500m east of Whitstone Post, Porlock Common (SS 861 460). Dogs on leads. Ref GM
- 13 **Society Walk – Murder & Mystery at Wheal Eliza.** On this short walk along the River Barle, hear the history of the Knight family, mining in this part of Exmoor and the tragic murder and mystery at Wheal Eliza. One or two short climbs but overall an easy walk along the valley. Return to Simonsbath for optional pub lunch or bring a picnic. 2.5hr/2.5mi. 10.30am, Ashcombe Car Park, Simonsbath TA24 7SH. (SS 775 394) Ref RT
- 19 Bristol Group – Trip on the West Somerset Railway to Minehead. Optional walk from Dunster to Minehead. Meet 10.30am at Bishops Lydeard Station MR ST 164289. £16. Picnic lunch.
- 19 **Society Walk – Woody Bay to Hunters Inn.** The walk takes the coast path along an impressive section of our wonderful coast out to Highveer Point before turning inland to Hunters Inn for refreshments. The walk returns on the old coaching road, and after an initial steady climb, becomes easy back to the start. 5hrs/5.3mi. 10.30am Woody Bay roadside car park. (SS 675 486) Dogs on leads only. Ref BC
- 28 **Society Walk – Horner Woods and Stoke Pero.** Circular walk along Dickie's Path, with possible sighting of deer and Exmoor ponies, to Stoke Pero and back over Cloutsham Ball. Small amount of tarmac lanes and steep climb back through Horner Woods. Bring a picnic. 4hr/6mi. 10am Webbers Post (SS 903 439) Ref JR

#### July

- 7 **Society Walk – Avill Valley Vistas.** A steady climb from the Avill Valley to the Grabbist Hill ridgetop is rewarded with stunning views of Dunkery, North Hill and across the Bristol Channel. Following the ancient track, the views continue before making our way down to Wootton 11

- 11 **Society Walk – Knights through the Ages.** From Alderman's Barrow, via Larkbarrow to Three Combe's Foot. The knights start with the knight buried in the barrow, continue with the Knights who built Larkbarrow and finish with the sign to protect Alderman's Barrow from the tank knights of 1944. 3hr/5mi. Alderman's Barrow cattle grid (SS 835 422) Ref CB/AM
- 16 **South Molton Group – Visit to Cleeve Abbey.** Leave South Molton 11am. **Booking essential.**
- 17 **Society Walk – Five Barrows, Poltmore Arms & the Tarka Trail.** This walk starts from Five Barrows, continuing along the road to reach the Tarka Trail. This is followed over Whitefield Down and Sherracombe Lane for refreshments at the Poltmore Arms. We return to the start following an old unused road around Western Common. 4.5hr/5.2mi. 11.00am, Five Barrows roadside layby (SS 734 370). Dogs on leads only. Ref BC
- 17 **Bristol Group – Talk on Post War Holnicote** by Nigel Hester. Coffee & tea provided. Meet Piles Mill (MR SS 905465) at 11.00a.m. Picnic lunch and then a short walk.
- 26 **Society Walk – From Withypool to Tarr Steps - A step back in time.** Following the River Barle to Tarr Steps and crossing the ancient clapper bridge, on this walk we will climb slowly to the open moorland of Withypool Hill, passing two prehistoric sites before descending back to Withypool. Refreshments and toilets at Withypool and Tarr Steps or bring a picnic. 6hr/9.5mi. 10.30am Withypool Car Park TA24 7QP (SS 842 353). Ref AM

#### August

- 8 **Society Walk – Around the Mid-Exe Valley.** Join this walk for fine views of the Exe Valley and surrounding hills between Winsford and Bridgetown, including Exton. Some steep sections and potentially muddy. Bring a picnic. 4hr/6-7mi. 10.30am Winsford Village Car Park, TA24 7JE. (SS 90633 34936). No dogs. Ref MC
- 15 **Society Walk – Alderman's Barrow & the Source of Horner Water.** A circular walk to explore a remote corner of the Holnicote Estate. From stone rows to ancient barrows, reed buntings to ravens, blanket bog to crystal clear streams, Exmoor ponies to red deer; there will be plenty to discover. 3hr/2-3mi. 10.00am, Parking area by the roadside at Almsworthy Common. (SS 835 422) Dogs on leads only. Ref NH
- 16 **Society Walk – Doone Country.** Circular walk along Badgworthy Water to the site of the medieval village, up Tom's Hill, across Oare Common to Oare Church returning via Oare Water. Bring a picnic. 5hr/9mi. 10.30am, Malmsmead Car Park, EX35 6NU. (SS 792 478) Ref JR
- 30 **Society Walk – Selworthy and North Hill.** Challenging walk from Selworthy up past Bury Castle to Selworthy Beacon. Then along the South West Coast Path to Hurlestone Point returning through Bossington and Allerford. Some steep climbs and descents. Bring a picnic; there is also the option of a cream tea at Selworthy afterwards. 4.5hr/7mi. 10.30am, Selworthy Church Overflow Car Park, TA24 8TP. (SS 920 467) Ref JR

#### September

- 6 **Society Walk – The Bats of Horner Wood.** 15 of the 17 known species of bat can be found in Horner Wood. Learn more about them from an expert ecologist in a stroll along the valley watching the emerging bats foraging in the trees. With the aid of bat detectors, you will also get the chance to hear them as they hunt for flying insects. 2.5hr/1-1.5mi. 7.00pm, NT car park at Horner village TA24 8HY (SS 898 456). No dogs. Ref NH
- 12 **Society Walk – Trentishoe Down & the South West Coast Path** Starting on Trentishoe Down, we visit the small church at Trentishoe before skirting along Heddon's Mouth Cleave. Along the coast path to The Glass Box before we return over Trentishoe Down. 3.5hr/4.5mi. 11.00am Car park at top of road down to Trentishoe Church EX31 4QD (SS 635 480) Dogs on leads. Ref BC
- 13 **Bristol Group – 4 mile walk in Horner Wood.** Meet at Horner car park at 11.00. MR SS898456.
- 13 **Dulverton Group – Exmoor Natural History Society – a potted history** by Michael Hankin showing some of the fauna and flora found on Exmoor. 7.30pm
- 14 **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Seminar – Exmoor as an English Outback** Further details tbc.
- 15 **The Exmoor Society AGM** Porlock Village Hall TA24 8QD Further details tbc, please see [www.exmoorsociety.com](http://www.exmoorsociety.com) **Booking essential**
- 19 **Coastal Group – 'There by Design – Exploring Exmoor's Coastal Estates'**. An illustrated talk exploring how coastal scenery has been influenced by estates. Speaker Rob Wilson North, Head of Conservation & Access, Exmoor National Park. 7.30pm PVH
- 22 **Society Walk – Hope Bourne & her beloved Exmoor.** A walk around the Withypool area in the footsteps of Exmoor artist and author Hope Bourne, taking in some of the favourite views from her writings. Some parts rough underfoot and steep. Followed by optional refreshments in Withypool tea rooms or bring a picnic. 2.5hr/3mi. 10.30am, Withypool Car Park TA24 7RA. (SS 842 353) Ref RT/CTR

#### October

- 4 **Society Walk – Porlock Weir & Culbone.** Following the South West Coast Path through woods to Culbone Church, (the smallest parish church in England), and Silcombe Farm. Some lane walking before descending through Worthy Wood to Porlock Weir for a late lunch. 3hr/5mi. 10.00am Porlock Weir Car Park, TA24 8QD (parking fees) (SS 865 479) Ref JR
- 12 **Dulverton Group – 'Meet Sarah Bryan',** new ENPA Chief Executive. Appointed in January 2017, Sarah has a wealth of experience of National Parks and landscape management. 7.30pm.
- 11 **Society Walk – Headwaters of the Exe – Exmoor Water Improvement Project.** Join a member of the Headwaters of the Exe team on a walk to hear about this Project to improve water quality within Exmoor National Park, as part of Upstream Thinking. Great views of the Danes Brook and River Barle. Some moderately steep sections. 2hr/3mi. 10am Hawkridge Village TA22 9QW (SS 860 306) Ref AL
- 17 **Coastal Group – 'The Sixtieth Anniversary of the Foundation of the Exmoor Society',** by Rachel Thomas, Chairman of the Exmoor Society. Non-members are also invited and there will be no charges for this event. Light refreshments. 7.30pm, Porlock Village Hall, TA24 8QD. Followed by the AGM, for members only.
- 17 **South Molton Group – AGM and talk,** details TBC. 7.30pm, South Molton Methodist Church Hall, Duke St, EX36 3AL.
- 17 **Bristol Group – Tarr Steps History & Reconstruction** with Rob Wilson-North. Meet 10.30 in car park (SS872323). Picnic lunch & 2.5 mile walk.
- 25 **Society Walk – Watersmeet & the East Lyn River.** Moderate walk to Watersmeet and along the East Lyn river to the Rockford Inn for lunch. Back through autumn woods beside the chuckling river with its waterfalls. 3.5hr/5mi. 11am Hillsford Bridge NT Car Park (Combe Park grounds). (SS 739 477) Ref JR

#### November

- 8 **Dulverton Group – The Mystery of Pinkery Pond.** A talk by Dr Graham Wills exploring its intriguing history and examining the various theories about its intended function. 7.30pm
- 21 **Coastal Group – Annual Dinner – Details, menus and booking form** will be sent out nearer the time.
- 29 **Bristol Group – Talk on Somerset & Exmoor Smugglers** 7.30pm KRMC..

#### December

- 5 **Coastal Group – This is a provisional date – confirmation cannot be provided until March 2018.** Proposed Concert by The Exmoor Carolers. The event will be open to members and the general public. Access will be by ticket, obtained in advance. Refreshments will be served. Profits will be donated to the work of the Exmoor Society. Cost still to be decided.

**Participants take part in activities at their own risk. For all outdoor activities please wear appropriate weatherproof clothing and walking boots. Well-behaved dogs welcome, on leads during bird ground nesting season (1<sup>st</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> July), on Society Walks, except where stated. Contact Exmoor Society: 01398 323335 / [info@exmoorsociety.com](mailto:info@exmoorsociety.com) All Group events, please confirm with contact below.**

- **Barnstaple Group – Non-members welcome, £2 entry for talks. Further information: [hillypen@hotmail.com](mailto:hillypen@hotmail.com)**
- **Bristol Group – Non-members welcome. Further information: David Sinden – 0117 907 3977. [dj.sinden@gmail.com](mailto:dj.sinden@gmail.com)**
- **Dulverton Group – Talks are held at the Congregational Church Hall, Chapel Street, Dulverton TA22 9HF. Non-members welcome at £3. Contact: Linda Hammond – 01398 323954**
- **Coastal Group – Most of our talks are held in Porlock Village Hall, TA24 8QD (PVH). Costs inc. refreshments - Members £1, non-members £3. Further information, contact: Carol Rawle – 01643 862227**
- **South Molton Group – Non-members welcome. For further information, contact Jo Griffin – 01769 573368 / [jo@highergorton.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:jo@highergorton.eclipse.co.uk)**