

The Exmoor Society Quiz No 3 – The Answers

- 1. Prayway Head, Brendon Common.** The head of water meadows known as Prayway Meads through which the young Rive Exe meanders.
- 2. Hoar Oak Valley,** through which the Hoar Oak Water flows on its way to Watersmeet to join the East Lyn Water, and then on to Lynmouth and the Bristol Channel.
- 3. Larkbarrow,** a Bronze Age burial mound which gives the area its name, built at the time of deforestation and a more settled way of life, creating the moorland landscape familiar to us today. The ruins of Larkbarrow Farm remain to mark John Knight's attempt to turn Exmoor into productive farmland. A nearby sheepfold or 'stell', another legacy of the Knight's ownership of the Royal Forest, has a monument built into its wall commemorating Malcolm MacEwen and another to Guy Somerset, a former Chairman of The Exmoor Society.
- 4. The Punchbowl, Winsford Hill.** Created when the Devil needed to scoop out a well, throwing the excavated soil over his shoulder to form Dunkery Hill. A more prosaic explanation suggests it was formed in the last Ice Age but, whatever your preference, it is a dramatic feature of the landscape and offers beautiful, far-reaching views.
- 5. Whitstone Post, Porlock Common.** The Whit Stones, or White Stones, are again accredited to the Devil, and his rival, the Giant of Grabbist, who had a contest from Hurlstone Point to see who could throw a rock the furthest. Alternatively, these 'standing stones' could be part of a stone circle known as the Fif' stones, were recorded as boundary markers for the Royal Forest, and thought to date back to pre-history. They are large sandstone slabs, well-embedded in their location and atypical of other local stone monuments, providing a sheltered resting/view point high on Porlock Hill.