

A photograph of a woodland floor. In the upper left, there are two bright yellow flowers with five petals each, growing from a stem. Below them, there are several large, heart-shaped green leaves with prominent veins. In the center and lower right, there are several purple flowers with five petals and dark purple markings on the lower petals. The ground is covered with moss and small green plants. The background is filled with more greenery and thin tree trunks.

The Exmoor Society
Spring Newsletter 2021
No. 68

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The Exmoor Society / ENPA 2021 SPRING WEBINARs

May 2021

Nocturnal Exmoor: The Darkness Revealed

How do circadian rhythms influence flora and fauna?

What are the threats to nocturnal wildlife?

How does darkness affect cultural perception?

How can Exmoor's Dark Skies be celebrated and protected?

A series of four live webinars throughout May 2021.

Further details to follow – please see

www.exmoorsociety.com



Something wicked this way comes?

© Liz Pile

NEWS UPDATE

Chairman's Comments

Looking Ahead

Meanwhile on Exmoor, sheep are in lamb, snowdrops are flowering, some trees are in bud, bird song is heard over moors, woods, farms and in gardens, wide vistas, skies and stars are visible on clear days and cold nights with snow soon evaporating, rain and mist more frequent. A welcome number of photos are appearing on websites and social media showing the range of Exmoor's iconic features from the Valley of Rocks, Tarr Steps, Doone Country to Exmoor ponies, red deer, lichen-covered trees and the hanging coastal woods, the longest, uninterrupted stretch in England.

When Covid-19 pandemic broke last March with its devastating consequences, National Parks were seen as areas of large open spaces where people could exercise away from crowded urban areas and experience nature at first hand in the fresh open air. Many more people came to Exmoor when lockdown eased through last summer and autumn, ENPA Rangers noticed that large groups of young people visited for the first time to socialize having fun with friends. Walkers, riders, cyclists descended and B&Bs, camping sites, settlements all became full. Hopefully, the restorative power of beauty, nature, heritage, access to a community still linked to the land, was experienced and enjoyed. Now as this Newsletter is being prepared in January, lockdown has returned, outdoor exercise limited to the local vicinity and the message is to welcome people back to Exmoor but not yet.



Burrow Farm Engine House under the Milky Way

© Keith Trueman

The Society has had to adjust its 2021 programme in several ways. The big event at the end of April, the annual Spring Conference cannot take place in the normal way - a day long meeting with expert key note speakers, case studies, and allowing time for networking, confidence building and questions through coffee and lunch breaks. The Conference is important in raising issues of the day and is in partnership with the ENPA and others. The Society hopes to run the Conference by four webinars in May lasting just over an hour with speakers

and questions from participators with a follow-up to be published in the 2021 *Exmoor Review*. This year's theme is Nocturnal Exmoor, exploring and celebrating the abundance of wildlife at night and the threats to them. Declared a Dark Sky Reserve in 2011, Exmoor has low levels of light pollution and attracts many people to study the stars another ingredient of Exmoor at night.

The Annual Walks Programme, spread over Exmoor, continues to be led by experienced walk leaders exploring popular themes such as landscape beauty, nature, history and mystery. Last year, the walks only took place between July and October through a pre booking mechanism with restricted numbers. Pre-booking will be necessary at the beginning of this year with limitations on numbers - further details are in the newsletter with updates on our website. The Annual General Meeting in September and Founder's Lunch in November may take place under restricted conditions. Awards and competitions continue with details on our website, starting now with the Malcolm McEwen Essay and Alfred Vowles Photographic Competitions. The Resource Centre continues with its archive activity.

“Natural beauty is about the human response to a place as well as the things in the place itself. It elevates us in mind and spirit . . .”

We are in a period of unprecedented change because of the pandemic, but also in the policy context for National Parks. Piling up this year will be the Government response to the Landscapes (Glover) Review with likely radical changes in their role, governance and priorities; proposals outlined in the 2020 Agricultural Act for a new agri-environmental scheme, including testing Exmoor's Ambition based on the natural capital approach; Climate and Biodiversity emergency targets; a planning Bill based on the Planning White Paper. The period ahead will be difficult and complex and the Society will have to reflect deeply on these matters and how it might need to adjust its own responses and actions.

Unusually for a report, in the Landscapes Review there is a lovely passage that refers back to Wordsworth and his 1810 Guide Through the District of the Lakes “a place whose character came not just from holly, broom, wild rose, elder, dogberry” of lakeside woods, but the “ancient mansions” and “community of shepherds and agriculturalists - proprietors, for the most part, of the lands which

they occupied and cultivated”. Looking ahead, it goes on to say “Natural beauty is about the human response to a place as well as the things in the place itself. It elevates us in mind and spirit . . . We believe that it is only by recognising the role of people and nature together in shaping our landscape over thousands of years, and the good and harm that they can do today, that we will once again bring our landscapes alive.”

Spreading the Word

Exmoor Society presentation to Natural England Landscape Network

‘Towards a Register of Exmoor’s Natural Capital’, the report prepared for the Exmoor Society by Rural Focus Ltd, is a foundation of Exmoor National Park Authority’s preparations for the Government’s replacement of the Basic Payment Scheme for farmers and landowners by an Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). Explicitly acknowledged in the Landscapes Review (better known as the Glover Report, published in 2019, on page 42), it is also referenced by Professor Sir Dieter Helm in his book ‘Green and Prosperous Land: A Blueprint for Rescuing the British Countryside’. He calls it a leading example of an approach to incorporating 25 Year Environment Plan objectives for enhancing natural capital in National Park statutory duties. Then, in October 2020, Natural England provided yet another opportunity for the Exmoor Society to promote its ground-breaking work.

Centred on the question, “What do we want our landscapes to deliver for a 21st century society?”, Natural England organised a series of three autumn webinars for its Landscape Network. Its purpose was to provide inspirational, thought provoking and challenging talks, reflecting that for the landscapes of England and for those who manage, maintain and care for them, this might well be the most important time for many years. It was therefore a pleasure to accept an invitation for The Exmoor Society to contribute to the series. Chaired by Caroline Cotterell, Director of Natural England’s Resilient Landscape and Seas Programme, vice-chairman Dr Keith Howe took as his theme ‘Landscape and Natural Capital in a National Park – The Case of Exmoor’. Interpreted in the context of national policy, first he outlined the meanings of landscape and natural capital, explained why what people value is imperfectly expressed in money terms, the distinction between private and public goods, and why making trade-offs is inevitable.



The Chains

ENPA Images

Attention then shifted to outlining Exmoor's approach to Defra's Test and Trials programme, a basis for ELMS design, its two pillars the Exmoor's Ambition and Natural Capital Register reports. The National Park Authority kindly provided map illustrations showing progress so far, including cultural attributes of Exmoor's landscape. This latter feature is a novel contribution of The Exmoor Society perspectives. It reminds us that people value the national park for literary and artistic associations, and its historic buildings and other physical artefacts, as well as its natural and farmed environments which are more commonly the focus. This aspect was one source of a very lively debate between the webinar audience during Keith Howe's presentation. In summarising, Caroline correctly identified the overarching message of his talk that landscape is an economic issue.

The webinar concluded with wide-ranging questions and comments for Keith's response. His answers are available along with the presentation slides (less the photographs included to familiarise the webinar participants with Exmoor's diverse and beautiful landscape) on the Society's web pages at <https://www.exmoorsociety.com/content/news/landscape-natural-capital-the-case-of-exmoor>



Devon Red Ruby cattle and sheep on Exmoor

© Anne May

Resource Centre

The Exmoor Society's Resource Centre is based at the Dulverton Office and includes an environmentally controlled Archive relating to the Society and its collection over 60 years; a library containing books and reports on National Parks and Exmoor on a variety of themes; copies of all Exmoor Reviews and Spring Newsletters; a work space with free WiFi for browsing, studying etc; a display area for current key material on Exmoor; and spaces for projects encouraging citizen science currently offering microscopes and samples of lichens, mosses and ferns.

The pandemic has had a significant effect on the work of the Resource Centre in 2020. When we have been able to safely access the Dulverton office, a small number of volunteers have continued with the work of recording the detail of the material from the estate of Victor Bonham-Carter, entering the information on each item into the archive catalogue. In addition, work has continued on the detailed archive of papers of the business of The Exmoor Society itself.

We have received a number of donations of material for the archive including a selection of beautiful old books and maps and a set of old postcards of Exmoor, bound in decorative albums covered in William Morris cloth.



A number of requests for information from the archive have been responded to during 2020 including requests for scans of documents for family history researchers, information for an individual writing a book about relocation of schools to Simonsbath during WW2 and work to gather information for the Chairman on surveys and accords on Forestry and Woodland on Exmoor. Over the summer months, a few visitors were able to book a visit to the Resource Centre in person, following COVID-19 safe procedures.

A number of presentations had been requested and booked for the autumn and winter of 2020. These included a talk on Hope Bourne for Barnstable U3A and a talk on the work of the Society for the West Somerset Village History Society. These were cancelled or rearranged for 2021 due to the pandemic.

Our plans to create opportunities for people to learn more about the work of the Resource Centre and to encourage more volunteers to join our small team had to be put on hold due to the restrictions. We hope to be able to recruit more volunteers in the future, providing people with opportunities to learn about the work of the archive and help to continue to improve the resource and safeguard materials for the future.

Nurture, Nature and Natural Capital

It has been a big year for National Parks, not least because they became the escape valve for lockdown Britain. Walkers and picnickers, wild swimmers, tame camper vans, cyclists, motor cyclists and canoeists all flocked to Exmoor. With the sun shining and much of the country furloughed we were all after the much-prescribed nurture of nature. And some visitors stayed on. As Zoom proved home-working possible, property flew out of estate agents' doors, dogs and wellingtons were acquired and families swapped urban life for Arcadia.



People flocked to Exmoor

© James Walker

This surge in popularity and the long-sought broadening of the Park's visitors to include communities that have not traditionally visited Exmoor pushed the complicated question of what National Parks are for to the fore. It is the question that the Glover Landscapes Review wrestled with way back in 2019, and this Spring it may be that Defra will report on this important reassessment of the role and purposes of protected landscapes. Defra's conclusions are likely to include the formation of a new National Landscapes Service to give a collective voice, and hopefully weight, to England's protected landscapes. And the new service's agenda, if Glover's recommendations are adopted, will include objectives both to make the Parks more welcoming to different people and, at the same time, 'recover and enhance nature'.

These two aims can seem incompatible. It is hard to protect peatland if too many people walk on it; or spawning fish, insects and aquatic invertebrates if, freshly doused in Frontline flea and tick treatment, dogs dive into rivers and streams; or for that matter ground-nesting birds when footpaths aren't followed. Without a public transport infrastructure these often remote places become clogged with cars (and the atmosphere with carbon) as visitors make their way to mountains, rivers, hills and beaches. These are the penalties of popularity and conflicts that need to be resolved.



Exmoor Society guided walk 2012

© Jenny Gibson

Working individually and with other National Park Societies under the umbrella of the Campaign for National Parks, The Exmoor Society contributed to the debate, most importantly through our 2018 study, *Towards a Register of Exmoor's Natural Capital*. Taken up by the Glover Review, this uses the concepts of natural and cultural capital as a way of measuring the value that Parks represent. This is not just their beauty and tranquillity but also the less visible public goods of ecosystem services: clean air and water, healthy soil, carbon sinks and as repositories of biodiversity. Natural capital is a lens that may help resolve the difficulty of how the National Parks embrace and nurture people whilst protecting and nurturing nature.

Natural capital also informed our response to two other national consultations that will impact on the future of the Park. The work on Environmental Land Management Schemes, the basis for post-EU payments to farmers, uses it as a way of quantifying how much public money should be paid for the public goods Exmoor farmers provide. It also underpinned our response to the ‘Planning for the Future’ white paper where we argued that the enhancement of natural capital needs to be at the heart of any planning system. Both the Environment Bill 2019-21 and a new planning bill are expected to come before Parliament this year. 2020 was a big year for Exmoor - 2021 will be bigger.



View from the Coleridge Way

© Mike Green

Nocturnal Exmoor – the Darkness Revealed

Exmoor has a particularly rich and diverse fauna and flora, influenced by its geology, topography and geographical position on the south west coast. It is of national importance for its bats, supporting 16 of the 17 known breeding species in the UK, its rare fritillary butterflies and the many bird species that inhabit the internationally rare habitats of upland heath, blanket bog and western oak woods.

In 2011, Exmoor National Park was awarded the accolade of Europe's first international dark sky reserve, in recognition of its low levels of light pollution. Many animal species are well-adapted to foraging and hunting at night and so Exmoor's dark skies will undoubtedly benefit those nocturnal species, including insects, birds and mammals.



Barn Owl – Exmoor Owl & Hawk Centre

© Nigel Hester

In response to the State of Nature Report (2019), which highlighted the steady decline in the abundance and distribution of species across the UK since 1970, a proposal was put forward by Exmoor Society Trustees in the Spring 2020 to launch a new project, entitled Nocturnal Exmoor. Whilst wildlife records for the National Park are extensive, there will be data gaps, especially for nocturnal species whose behaviour and distribution will be more difficult to assess. This exciting project will explore and celebrate the range and abundance of wildlife nocturnality within Exmoor and, in addition, it will assess the pressures and threats to this often-hidden flora.

When the project was launched, it was envisaged that it would run for two years but, due to the various restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, much

of the work, especially community involvement and events, has had to be delayed. The Society and ENPA have jointly decided to promote Nocturnal Exmoor as the key theme for this year's Spring Conference, publicly launching the project and beginning an engagement and research programme which will be rolled out over the next 2-3 years.



Exmoor Moon

© Nigel Hester

The Nocturnal theme will be explored through four key areas of interest:

1. Nocturnal wildlife, especially bats.
2. The circadian rhythms influencing the lives of plants, animals and people.
3. The influence of night on our cultural perceptions, both historically and at present.
4. The night sky – an astronomical adventure.

It has been decided to replace the conference this year with a series of four live webinars throughout May. Further details when available on the Society's website – www.exmoorsociety.com.

2021 Walks Programme

The Exmoor Society walks programme has been popular for many years. Led by knowledgeable guides from enthusiastic volunteers to expert professionals, the programme aims to provide a variety of themes and locations exploring Exmoor's natural world and landscapes.

Most of the 2020 walks were cancelled but a few took place during late summer when Coronavirus regulations were relaxed a little. Each was restricted to six people only, including walk leaders, and pre-booking was required with contact details supplied for track and trace purposes. Happily, no positive tests were reported and a little freedom was enjoyed before regulations tightened again.



Part of the Saxon Herepath

© Stan Lester

Our 2021 walks programme is planned to start in April and continue to the end of September and this may be extended as potential leaders return from furlough. At the time of writing, lockdown regulations do not allow group activities but we are hoping this will change and at least some of the walks will go ahead. Simonsbath Festival organisers share our cautious optimism and we are again linking walks in May and June to relevant events in the festival. These

include the history of Molland Church, a talk on medieval farming followed by a walk to Ley Hill medieval settlement and a look at the restoration of John Knight's Ashley Combe. And on the subject of John Knight's transformation of Exmoor, there is also a walk to explore his forgotten buildings and another that looks at the evidence of other knights on the moor.

Of course, the programme includes the ever-popular murder-mystery at Wheal Eliza, a walk around Hope Bourne's Withypool, and a search for Horner Woods' bats and Porlock's coastal wildlife. Virus permitting, there will also be the opportunity to hone one's compass skills on North Hill, pursue the elusive heath fritillary through Hawkcombe nature reserve, march along the Saxon Herepath, find the lost village of Clicket and explore historic Lynton.

Exmoor's conservation greatly relies on the farmers and landowners who are the custodians of its unique landscapes so appreciated of residents and visitors. A local landowner will be leading a new walk on Molland Moor to show how its natural and cultural assets can be conserved and enhanced. This walk promises to be both scenic and enlightening on finding new solutions to complex problems.

We very much hope everyone's work in putting together this year's walks programme won't be in vain. Whatever 2021 brings, we thank our dedicated walk leaders and appreciative walkers and look forward to a safe and healthy future.

AWARDS

Brian & Mary Chugg Conservation Award 2020 Winners: Graze the Moor Project

GRAZE THE Moor is an innovative grazing project based on Molland Moor (681 hectares) that ended in 2019. The Award is given to the project group as an exemplar of partnership-working between the owner and tenant farmer, Natural England, ENPA, Environment Agency, expert consultants and academics. The project was set up to seek solutions on a formerly heather-dominated moor that had been encroached, in many areas, by purple moor grass. The Project Report shows that, through introducing an experimental moorland system including over-wintering of cattle, there is evidence of over 75ha of heather regeneration,

increased breeding birds population, no loss of farm profitability compared with conventional upland beef and sheep farming. However, there was an increase in heather beetle attacks contributing to ongoing heather loss. On behalf of the project group, Christina Williams, landowner, said that it had been an interesting journey and hoped the project could continue. 'Sadly, after eight years, there is no further funding for the research elements of the project but we hope to continue the monitoring for the next few years. With the future of agri-environment schemes unknown at present we do not know if we will be allowed to continue with our winter grazing. We will keep The Exmoor Society up to date with any developments.'



From L to R - Allan Butler, Christina Williams Simon Thorp, Janet Dwyer, Julie Tucker
Dave Barrow, Steve and Richard Langdon

Members of the project team: Chair: Simon Thorp, retired Director of The Heather Trust; Dr Allan Butler, Royal Agricultural University; Professor Janet Dwyer, Countryside and Community Research Institute; Dr David Boyce, independent ecologist; Mike Pearce, Natural England; Christina Williams, Molland Estate; Steve and Richard Langdon, tenant farmers at Luckworthy Farm, Dave Barrow, Moorkeeper, Julie Tucker, Farm Secretary.

Credit is also due to ENPA's Sarah Bryan, Rob Wilson-North, Alex Farris and Heather Harley for their work on the steering committee.

Founder's Award 2020 Winner: Caroline Tonson-Rye

Caroline Tonson-Rye served as a trustee for six years, with special responsibility for the Archive and Library. She worked closely with the Archivist throughout the two Archive Projects and provided transport for her to talks to various groups throughout the Greater Exmoor area. Caroline also dedicated



a lot of her time, both during her trusteeship and after she had stepped down, to sorting and cataloguing archive material as well as training and supporting other volunteers.

With her background in publishing, Caroline's involvement was invaluable in preparing Hope's unpublished manuscript *An Exmoor Village* for publication, as well as her joint authorship of *Hope Bourne's Eloquence in Art*, both available from the Society's online shop. She

also compiled and edited the *Exmoor Study Exmoor Chroniclers* and researched and sourced images for the Society's history *Saving the Splendour* as well as diligently checking every date and detail in the book for accuracy.

Caroline also oversaw the Alfred Vowles Photographic Competition every two years, appointing judges and awarding prizes to the winners. Entries for this year's competition can be uploaded on the Society's website now.

Caroline always worked quietly in the background, seeking neither praise nor recognition. The Exmoor Society is delighted to present the Founder's Award as a token of its respect and gratitude for her invaluable contribution over many years.

WOODLANDS

Exmoor Woodland Strategy 2021

The UK Government plans to accelerate tree planting and improve management of existing trees and woodlands, and ran a consultation on this in autumn 2020 to which ES submitted. What is Exmoor's record on trees? What are appropriate tree planting and woodland management responses now?



Burridge Wood, Dulverton

© Exmoor Society

The UK has only 5 hectares (ha) of forest per 100 population by contrast with the world average of 60ha. However, Exmoor not only has a higher proportion of woodland at 13.5% cover than the rest of England (barely 10%), but also 91ha per 100 of its resident population. Around one third of Exmoor's woodland is coniferous and mixed; not quite one third is broad-leaved; almost one quarter is highly-prized ancient and semi-natural woodland such as Horner; the remainder is scrub. Beech hedging planted during the 19th Century by John Knight is a characteristic feature. The medieval Royal Forest of Exmoor is

centred on Simonsbath and the ENPA has restored the working Mill there which is now the base for Three-Atop Woodland Services run by Nick Hosegood, 2017 winner of The Exmoor Society's Pinnacle Award.

The Exmoor Society encouraged the ENPA in conducting its 2013 Report by Jones & Vaughan of Silvanus and entitled Unlocking the Potential of Exmoor's Woodlands. Previous experience with Rural Development Forestry in the South West Forest (SWF) Programme from 1990 was chaired by the Society's Chairman, Rachel Thomas. An overview of it is given by Thomas & Wibberley, 2001. The Exmoor Society's 2021 MacEwen Essay competition is on the theme of Exmoor's Woodland Strategy.

Professor E J Wibberley

THE MACEWEN ESSAY COMPETITION 2021

An essay competition, launched by The Exmoor Society to mark its Diamond Jubilee in 2018 and the legacy of Malcolm & Annie MacEwen, whose Conservation and Research Trust is now managed within The Exmoor Society portfolio.

Essay title: Exmoor's Future Trees: which species should be planted, where, how, & why?

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. An official entry form must accompany each entry. No evidence of authorship to appear on the essay.
2. Previous years' winners are not eligible to enter again.
3. Word limit: maximum 1200 words and four illustrations (high resolution diagrams/images 1-5MB in size).
4. Closing date midnight on 31 May.
5. Judging for clarity/originality by a Panel of Judges will occur during early June.
6. There will be a prize of £500 for the winning essay which will be published in the next year's *Exmoor Review*.

The winner will be invited to give a brief presentation on their title at the Society's AGM in September.

Enter online at www.exmoorsociety.com

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Coastal Group

What a year 2020 turned out to be? The only event held from our planned Programme was 19th February. An evening that started with complimentary wine and nibbles, followed by a detailed and well researched talk by Dr. Patrick Hoyte; "Life Below Stairs at Dunster Castle." Twenty-eight members remained to attend the 2020 AGM. All 6 members of the previous committee were voted back on. We also welcomed a new member; Jean Ringshaw, who completed our committee quota of seven.

Sadly, the pandemic intervened so emails were sent to all members informing them that future 2020 events were cancelled. The Annual Subscription paid by members in January 2020 was extended and will remain valid for two years, until the 31 December 2021. With regard to the programme for 2021, the Committee have been in communication with all speakers from the 2020 programme. As soon as large groups are permitted to meet again, they will be contacted to agree new dates. They have all confirmed they are looking forward to giving their presentations as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Spring is on the way and hopefully, within the next few months, our lives may gradually become a little closer to the previous normal.

Carol Rawle, Chairman.



© Madeline Taylor

Dulverton Group

Due to the Covid-19 situation, no meetings of the Dulverton Group of The Exmoor Society were held in 2020. When circumstances allow, the planned 2020 programme, or part thereof, will be held later in 2021. The membership has been kept informed of the situation.

Dr Ken Mills, Chairman

MISCELLANEOUS

New Development Co-ordinator

I joined the Exmoor Society back in September as Development Coordinator and was presented with two key objectives. The first to increase membership for the society and the second to drive our presence on social media. With national restrictions in place, my key focus for the past few months has been that of social media. Platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram are such valuable marketing tools. More than 4 billion people across the world use social media each month, with the typical user spending approximately 15% of their



day using different platforms. These figures highlight how important it is for The Exmoor Society to be part of this digital world to help raise our profile, share our message, and therefore increase our membership.

A recent campaign we engaged with was the promotion of our Pinnacle Award. As an award targeted at young entrepreneurs aged 18 – 35 years, it was key to not only use the relevant channels to reach this demographic but also to use the right media. The use of video in marketing has grown exponentially and will continue to do so. It is predicted that by 2021, 80% of web traffic will consist of video. To this end we created a video advert (accessible by the QR code) to promote the award to potential entrants. This advert was promoted on all three of our social media platforms (Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook) and resulted in a great turnout of applications.

Alongside promoting our events and activities, we have also used social media to deliver Exmoor to people across the UK (and beyond)! With the pandemic enforcing strict travel restrictions across the country, so many people are prevented from coming to our beautiful national park. Although hardly a substitute for the real-life experience, social media platforms provide a welcome

window (some could say almost a vital lifeline) to allow people to enjoy Exmoor from afar. Upon joining the society, I discovered a rich online community made up of individuals and local organisations, all delivering snippets of Exmoor to their followers. Photos of Exmoor ponies, red deer, and famous honeypot sights such as Dunkery Beacon are all greatly welcomed by users who appreciate the familiarity of these sights which brings a great level of comfort during such uncertain times. The quote below highlights this perfectly and was received by the Exmoor Society during the second week of lockdown January 2021:

“As I'm self-isolating in Bath, these wonderful daily reminders of what I'm missing from one of my favourite areas in the South West is a real positive . . . thank you!”

If you are on social media, then please do follow us and support the content that we provide. Each like, share and retweet spreads our message a little bit further which helps us increase our profile and reach people far and wide. We are active on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and can be found with the handle @exmoorsociety.

Laura Yiend, Development Coordinator



Saving the Splendour

A history of The Exmoor Society

by
Philip Dalling

£9.99

www.exmoorsociety.com/shop



Moon over Almsworthy Common

© Nigel Hester

ALFRED VOWLES PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

We are looking for stunning photographs, regardless of subject, that capture the essence of Exmoor throughout the year in an original way. Unpublished photographs taken in previous years can be submitted, but they must have been taken in Exmoor National Park; please indicate when and where they were taken.

£100 PRIZE TO THE WINNER

**A SELECTION OF THE BEST PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE
USED IN FUTURE CALENDARS OR CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Closing date 30 September 2021

Enter online: www.exmoorsociety.com/content/whatwedo

A few words from a local amateur photographer . . .

No two walks through Exmoor are the same. Each wander allows me to breathe and take in the beauty of the variety of landscapes which change with the sun through the year. Each outing provides exciting photography opportunities for me to capture; one of which comes to mind was an amble down my local road where a hint of movement caught my eye. I looked within a field of bushes to spot a young deer who had already noticed me and was staring at me inquisitively. Thankfully, having my camera on hand I quickly snapped up the opportunity! I was beaming from the unexpected interaction which stays with me to this day as I am a novice photographer.

Exmoor brings the wind, the rain, the mud (!) and on glorious days the beautiful sun. I am blessed to call this place home.



Chrissie Wiggill (instagram @chrissywiggillphotography)



Cow Castle landscape

© Ueli Zellweger

Exmoor Festival Dates

<p>SIMONSBATH FESTIVAL 3 May – 17 June 2021 www.simonsbathfestival.org.uk</p>	<p>DUNSTER MUSIC FESTIVAL 28-30 May 2021 www.dunsterfestival.co.uk</p>
<p>TWO MOORS FESTIVAL 1-10 October 2021 www.thetwomoorsfestival.co.uk</p>	<p>DARK SKIES FESTIVAL - EXMOOR 22 October – 7 November 2021 www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk</p>
<p>These are proposed dates. Stay up-to-date with Exmoor events at www.visit-exmoor.co.uk</p>	

The Exmoor Society

Registered Charity No1160912

2020-2021

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