

Exmoor Spring Conference 2022 - The Challenge of Change **Friday 22nd April – Porlock Village Hall**

Porlock provides an unexpectedly perfect place to witness sudden change. In October 1996, a swathe of grassland turned to salt marsh as, whipped on by Hurricane Lili, the sea breached the shingle ridge and radically reshaped the bay. And the pace of change seems to be accelerating everywhere, not only in the alarming alterations to climate and biodiversity, but also to the ways we live and work. There are significant policy developments too that will affect Protected Landscapes like Exmoor – particularly the Government’s decision on The Landscapes Review, and the Environment and Agriculture Acts and proposed planning changes - all responses to the urgent question addressed by this conference: how should we manage land in ways that will allow the environment to adapt and flourish?

The Exmoor Society hosts an annual conference in partnership with Exmoor National Park Authority and aims to encourage debate on matters affecting the National Park’s special qualities. Past conferences have attracted keynote speakers who set the national agenda, including Professor Sir Dieter Helm on Natural Capital in 2017 and in 2019, Dame Fiona Reynolds on Natural Beauty and People’s Wellbeing.

This year we have an interesting line up of speakers and it is particularly pleasing that **Tony Juniper CBE**, Chair of Natural England, will be speaking at the conference on Low Carbon/High Nature; Nature, Climate, People and Landscape – What are the trade-offs and what should we do in Protected Landscapes? He will be joined by **Harry Barton**, CEO of Devon Wildlife Trust, and **Professor Ralph Fyfe** of Plymouth University, to discuss the urgent question of how can land best be managed to support people, nature and the climate.

Other speakers drawn from farming and conservation will look for the common ground on which environmental issues and the realities of farming life meet - and at what we can do that will allow these landscapes to adapt and flourish in the face of the inevitable crisis we face. Delegates will have the opportunity to ask questions and air views. Tickets cost £25 which includes refreshments and a buffet lunch with the opportunity to network with speakers and other delegates.

The conference runs from 9.30am to 2.45pm and is followed by expert guided walks around Porlock Bay and the salt marsh created by the dramatic events of 1996.

For more information and to book a place, visit www.exmoorsociety.com or ring 01398 323335.