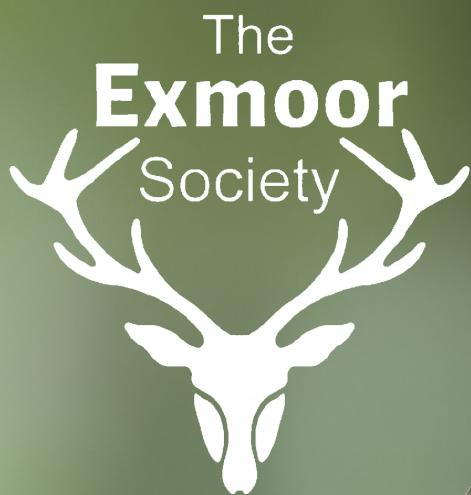




Spring Newsletter
2025



THE PINNACLE YOUTH AWARD

For Young People Working on Exmoor



Do you live on Exmoor?

With your own business or business idea?

Aged 18 – 35 years?

If yes, apply to our Pinnacle Award today and be in with a chance of receiving **£5,000** for your business venture.



To apply, email info@exmoorsociety.com with a brief description of your business and we'll help you apply!

Closing date is 27th August 2025.



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The Exmoor Society

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   @exmoorsociety

Annual Membership:

£25 (individual) £30 (family)
£70 (community supporter)

Views expressed in this Spring Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Exmoor Society. For further information about our campaigns, policies, and future plans, please visit our website or contact info@exmoorsociety.com.

Front Cover:

Wood Warbler by Richard Birchett

Back Cover:

August Colour on Dunkery by Leanna Coles



Ralph Ellis

Welcome from the Chair

What a hot, dry spring it has been. Not much grass and animals lying unnervingly still, rooted by the heat. The only action is swallows swooping down to the pond to drink, delighted by the midges.

This is our last Spring Newsletter, once again beautifully designed and edited by Laura Yiend our Marketing Co-ordinator. The Bolve, our emailed monthly news, has been so successful that we have decided to build on that with a special spring-time edition each year to keep members up to date with our events programme and other Society news. The cost of printing and postage keep climbing and this will save a significant sum that can be devoted to protecting Exmoor instead. But this digital world makes it all the more important that we have your email

addresses so please, please let us have them so that we can keep you posted! Our flagship journal *The Exmoor Review* will continue to be printed and posted to you at the end of the year.

It has been an exciting year for the Society. Our first ever Exmoor Society Festival of Nature was such a huge success - with over 500 people



Returning home to 34 High Street, Dulverton

joining us at Nettlecombe Court for a day of nature based fun and talks – that we have decided to do it again. We are already planning for May 2026.

The other big news is that after 18 months on Fore Street, we are heading back to our former offices on Dulverton High Street. An extremely generous bequest has allowed us to buy this wonderful building. It is a lovely place for us to work and meet but, most importantly, it means that we now have a permanent home for the Exmoor Society Archive and Library. The archive is the only comprehensive collection of books and papers about Exmoor’s landscape and history and so a vital public resource. The next plan is to fundraise for the remainder of the building’s purchase price so that we can use the income from our funds for more action.

The action this year is our campaign, *The Waters of Exmoor*. This is the first time the Society has concentrated on a single

SWW Sewage discharges upper Exe catchment		
	2022	2023
HOURS DISCHARGED		
Exford	431	168
Winsford	550	1363
Dulverton	1323	899
Brompton Regis	50	3439
FULL DAYS		
Exford	18.0	7.0
Winsford	22.9	56.8
Dulverton	55.1	37.5
Brompton Regis	2.1	143.3

Data from South West Water



Surfers Against Sewage: Map showing sewage alerts along the South West coastline (April 2025)

issue. We were decided by the shocking number of hours and days of sewage discharge into the Exe catchment – see the South West Water data below.

What this means downstream is shown by the Surfers against Sewage map - the red Xs mark where sewage pours into the sea, generally when it rains. The map above is from April after just one day of rain.

Another spur was the impact of human - and our particular concern - of veterinary medicines. We have been campaigning with local vet, Ueli Zellweger, to control the use of the spot-on flea treatments that are lethal to insects. We were urged on too by what we have lost - the near extinction of the Atlantic salmon. Tom Yandle’s description in the 2022 *Exmoor Review* of how every pool on the Barle was blue with shoals of salmon in his youth seems unimaginable today.

But the most powerful incentive for the campaign is the beauty of what we have. The glossy, glittering waters, clear running, fast over stone in wooded valleys. Although only 51% of Exmoor rivers are judged high or good ecological status, they support a rich community of plants, birds, animals, algae, lichen ... of otter, salmon, brown trout, mayflies and kingfisher. The Barle is a SSSI because it is considered Britain's best example of an acidic upland stream – in other words, it is rare, precious, and still profoundly natural. There is 58 km of astonishing coast, 2 designated transitional or tidal waters and three ground water bodies also in high or good condition.

Our spring conference this year, held with the Exmoor National Park Authority, united experts and thinkers to discuss the ways we can raise the condition of at least 75% of our rivers to that elusive 'good' or 'high' status. This is the national and Exmoor National Park Authority's target in its new Partnership Plan, and it should be

achievable. We would argue that in a National Park the percentage should be even higher. Our ambition is to create the connections and lay the framework for the intense work and collaboration necessary to achieve this.

As you will see in the rest of this newsletter there is an excellent programme of events to take you through the year – Meadows Day, more water themed action, and our extremely popular programme of walks. We will be busy moving, working on the archive, and continuing our Waters of Exmoor campaign. Please keep in touch, send us your emails, and come and see us back in our new old home.

Kate O'Sullivan, Chair



*Panellists from our Spring Conference 2025.
From left to right: Dr Rose O'Neill, James Thomas, Mark Lloyd, and Dr David Smith.*

Trustee News

One of the Exmoor Society's most valuable and longstanding trustees, Christina Williams, has retired from the board. As vice-chair and acting treasurer, Christina made a huge contribution to running the Society, but it is her excellent judgement, ideas, and her knowledge and understanding of Exmoor that will be most sorely missed. We wish her well and thank her for all that she has done for Exmoor and The Exmoor Society.

We are also delighted to welcome two new trustees to our board - Victoria Irvine and Tara Wright. They will go before our AGM this autumn to be confirmed.

Tara Wright

Tara Wright is a 4th generation farmer, working with her father near Wimbleball Lake. They have a small suckler herd of Dexter cows, a fish farm, and sheep, with a particular love for the native breed Devon Closewool. The connection between farming and the environment has always been obvious to Tara—both her parents have a keen interest in it and it rubbed off on her at an early age. The farm and love for wildlife inspired her to get a degree in zoology from Bangor University in 2006.

She feels strongly that the future of Exmoor depends on being able to produce high quality food whilst farming in a way that is sympathetic to the environment and conservation. For farming and nature to flourish they need to work together. This is the approach that she and her father have taken on their farm and Tara is committed to continue this.

Growing up in Surrey gave Tara a keen appreciation of how special Exmoor is. She is very aware of not taking its landscapes, communities, history, and local knowledge for granted.

As well as working on the farm with her father, Tara currently runs a moth trap regularly and is training to ring birds.



Victoria Irvine

Victoria lives just outside Molland with her artist & chef husband, George. She enjoys braving the Exmoor elements whilst swimming in the sea and rivers all year round & exploring the moor on horseback. As a family they love enjoying their home and spending all the time that they can outside. They especially like cooking and eating, preferably celebrating the wonderful local produce that can be sourced. Victoria also spends time reading quietly by the fire and enjoys books about travel, the environment, and exploration.

Victoria studied Economic and Social History at Exeter University, specialising in the History of English Agriculture and from this has found an amateur interest in regenerative farming.

Her career has been spent mainly working in travel, hospitality, and events. Life has been full on, varied and exciting, but moving to Exmoor was supposed to be about finding an easier pace of life. She now runs the Curious Curator, a travel and events consultancy with projects like riding adventures, art exhibitions, and locally sourced food events. Victoria organises regular talks with outstanding and interesting speakers at Emmetts Grange and has her own online book club.

Victoria grew up listening to stories from her father about his family's adventures on Exmoor.

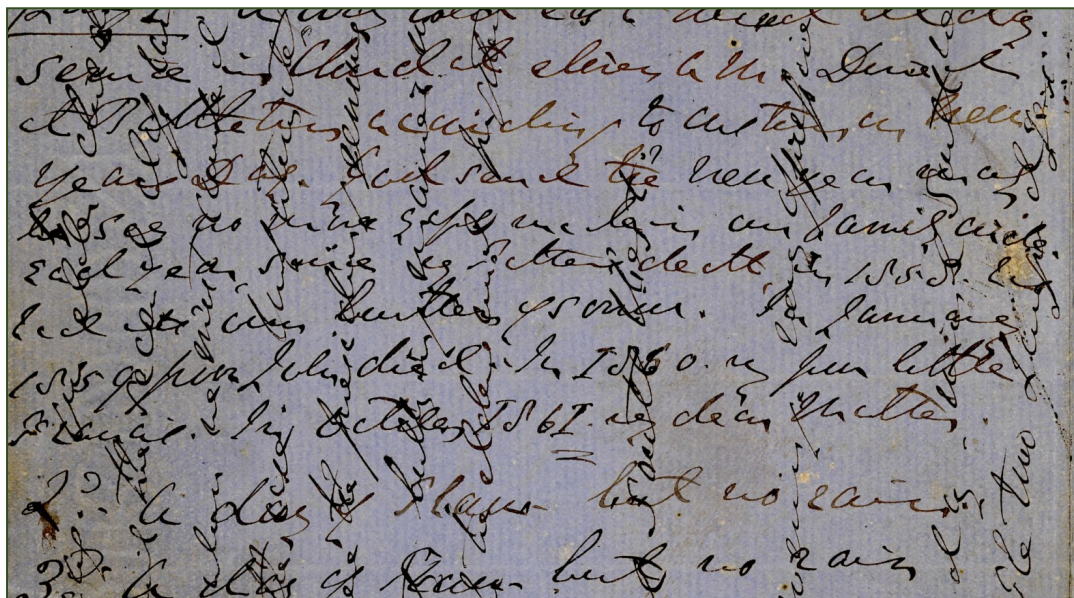


They travelled to Dulverton by train with their ponies and spent every summer in Simonsbath. Victoria continued this tradition by bringing her own family with their ponies and had many fun summers of exploration. In 2022, the Irvine family moved permanently to Exmoor.

Save The Date!

We warmly welcome you to our AGM which will be held at 10.30 am on Saturday 18th October at Dulverton Town Hall. We look forward to reviewing the work achieved in 2024/25 and celebrating the winners of our annual awards.





HELP UNLOCK HISTORY



Become a volunteer archive transcriber...

If you have an interest in local history and can use word processing software, you could really help us. We are looking for a couple of people to transcribe / re-type some of the important documents we hold from local writers, archaeologists, and others of significance to the history of Exmoor.

We are increasingly looking to make our archive documents available to members, researchers, and the public. But some are handwritten and difficult to read. Others might have been typed in the 1970s or 80s before the digital age. Now we need new word processed copies for possible publishing of extracts.

Take the nineteenth century diary shown above. This has been written first in one

direction and then overwritten in another direction after a quarter turn of the paper. The diary could be full of fascinating insights into life in an Exmoor town in the 1800s. We also have short works by Hope Bourne, archaeologist Hazel Eardley-Wilmot, and writer Victor Bonham-Carter for example—some typed, some hand written.

We will scan and enlarge the original documents to improve readability. Volunteers are then needed to transcribe them, either at our archive or from home — whichever you prefer. Contribute as much as you can, whenever you can; every effort is welcome! Please contact the Society office if you think you might be interested.



R D Blackmore's 200th Anniversary



2025 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Richard Doddridge Blackmore, one of Exmoor's most famous authors and the creator of its most romantic literary figures – John Ridd and Lorna Doone.

The Exmoor Society archive holds an extensive collection of material on Lorna Doone, and on the life and work of RD Blackmore. This anniversary gives us an opportunity to reconsider and showcase our collection.

Blackmore was not a native son of Exmoor, being born in Longworth, North Berkshire on 7th June 1825. However, he spent much of his childhood in the village of Charles where his uncle was Rector. His grandfather was also Rector of Combe Martin and Oare, and the Blackmore family were yeoman farmers in Parracombe for many generations. Blackmore valued his connections with Exmoor and often claimed that his mother's family – the Knight family of Glamorgan – were linked to the Knights of the Exmoor Forest, although there is no evidence for this.

Blackmore was forced to leave his profession as a lawyer early in his career due to ill health, and quickly turned to his first love of writing novels and poetry. His early works failed to gain popularity, and it was his great romance of Exmoor, Lorna Doone, which finally caught the public attention.

“Blackmore was forced to leave his profession as a lawyer...and quickly turned to his first love of writing novels and poetry.”

Initially Blackmore struggled to find a publisher for Lorna Doone, and when eventually Sampson Low agreed to publish it, reviews were lukewarm and it only sold 300 copies of the 500 printed. They were persuaded to reprint a cheaper edition, and this time – partly due to a mistaken connection to the popular marriage of Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne – the work became a great success across the world. This led to a boom in tourism to Exmoor, with people flocking to the Malmsmead area which began to be promoted as Doone Country.

The archive holds a number of biographies of Blackmore, as well as a set of pamphlets of his life written by a member of his family. These pamphlets give real insight into his character, telling of his reluctance to be in the limelight, preferring to spend time on the cultivation of his orchards, supported by the income he received from the success of Lorna Doone.

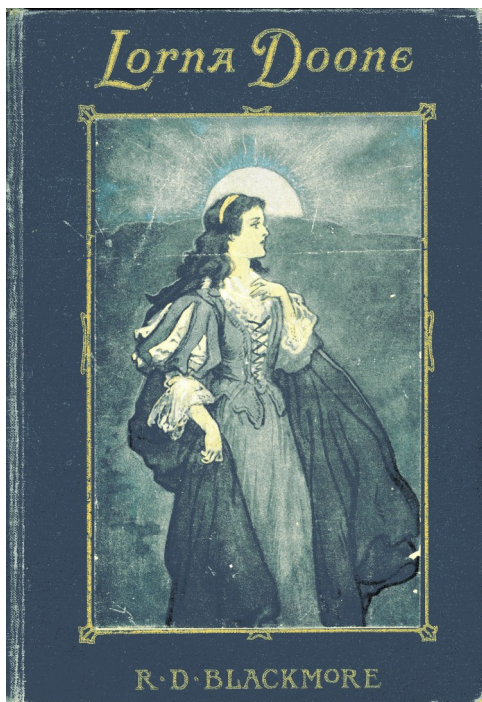


Despite his shy, retiring nature, Blackmore had a wide circle of friends, and our archive includes details of letters he exchanged with Mrs Halliday of Glenthorne – and of the gifts of fruits and clotted cream they exchanged – of the Rev. Sydenham, Rector of Brushford, Nicholas Snow of

Oare, and even of the parents of Noel Coward. Blackmore was godfather to their first son.

The common theme of the writings we hold on Blackmore is of his love for nature in general, and North Devon in particular. Waldo Hilary Dunn writes of Blackmore that, *“so much a part of him had all the sights and sounds of Nature become, that he could think only in such terms”* and Blackmore himself stated that *“I am thoroughly inborn and ingrained with the pith of Devonshire Life”*.

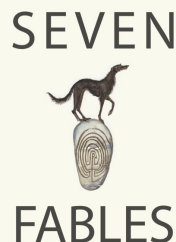
Our collection includes a large number of different editions of Lorna Doone, a complete set of all of Blackmore’s work, as well as pamphlets, guidebooks, and photographs. These will be on display at the archive during the next 12 months.



Cover of an 1886 edition of Lorna Doone



The Coleridge Poetry Prize



a haven of inspiration on Exmoor



The Coleridge Poetry Prize is open for entries!

Submit a poem (up to 40 lines) on any topic for a chance to win £50 and publication in our Exmoor Review journal.

This year, the competition will be judged by Tom Cain, Emeritus Professor and published poet and critic.

Closing Date: 30th June 2025
Entry: info@exmoorsociety.com



Happy Writing!

For more details on how to enter, please scan the QR code or visit exmoorsociety.com/competitions-and-awards/coleridge-poetry-prize

THE MOORLAND BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

An evening of discovery revealed how Exmoor's moorland birds are thriving, declining, and shaping the future of conservation.

Stephen Green

On the evening of 11th March, a packed audience was treated to a fascinating, illustrated talk by Joan Castello (ENPA Lead Survey Officer) about the results of the 2025 Exmoor Moorland Breeding Bird Survey. During the spring and summer of 2024, Joan led a team of four surveyors to record breeding birds across c17,000 ha of Section 3 moorland within the National Park. The survey followed the pattern of previous surveys in 2008 and 2014, enabling results to be compared over time. Environmental data was also collected to evaluate bird species habitat preferences and to inform future management.



Curlew by David Pinder

“Some species are doing well within the National Park, our populations of Dartford Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, and Whinchat are of national importance.”

The project was funded by contributions from The Exmoor Society, Devon Birds, National Trust, Natural England, South West Peatland Partnership, and DEFRA through the Landscape Recovery Scheme, with design and administrative support from ENPA and the RSPB. Without this partnership approach, the project would have been impossible.

The survey report highlights the abundance and distribution of 24 target species, plus showing the relationship of these species with environmental variables.

Compared to the 2014 survey, 13 species have increased and 11 species have declined, whilst the change from the 2008 survey shows that 17 species have increased

and 7 have declined. Just 3 species have declined compared to both previous surveys - the Curlew, Wheatear, and Yellowhammer. One of the original target species, the Quail, was not recorded at all in 2024.

Some birds that were considered target species in previous surveys are no longer present as breeding birds on Exmoor, including Ring Ouzel, Lapwing, and Red Grouse. Others, such as Merlin and Curlew, are probably extinct as resident breeders.

The survey has highlighted how some species are doing well within the National Park, and that our populations of Dartford Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, and Whinchat are of national importance (at least 1% of the national population).

The findings in the survey report for individual target species shows the importance of environmental variables on breeding success. For instance, the Linnet has declined nationally by 57% since 1970, but the 2024 Exmoor survey indicates a major increase from 982 sightings in 2008, to 1961 sightings in 2024.



Female Stonechat by Nigel Hester



Wheatear by Nigel Hester

The environmental data collected shows positive habitat associations with gorse, non Molinia grassland, and heather, but negative associations with altitude, slope, rush species, scrub, and burnt ground.

The environmental data from the survey shows that bird species presence and breeding success is linked to certain habitat requirements. For example, Molinia-dominated moorland was the least favourable for target species, whereas moorland combs with scattered trees supported greater diversity. This type of information will be hugely valuable in determining future land management in Exmoor.

Nigel Hester, Trustee



CELEBRATING EXMOOR'S MEADOWS



Join us for two exciting events where we will celebrate the beauty and explore the importance of wildlife-rich meadows.

WILD MEADOWS: An evening with John Walters

Friday 4th July 2025 ~ Dulverton Town Hall

We are delighted to welcome John Walters as he delves into the wonderful world of wild meadows!

John is a life-long naturalist who explores the natural world through field sketching, photography, and video. He works as an ecologist, artist, public speaker, and has published several books and guides including *The Wildlife of Dartmoor*. Tickets are £5 for members and £10 for non-members, and includes a free drink. Doors will open at 6.00pm ready for a 6.30pm start. Book via our website: exmoorsociety.com/events



EXMOOR MEADOWS DAY

Saturday 5th July 2025

White Rocks Cottage

Join us for a wonderful afternoon learning about meadows. We have a fantastic line-up of guest speakers who will explore these vital habitats:

- **Holly Purdey:** Farm Scale Meadows
- **Charles Stewart Smith:** Social Change and Community Meadows
- **Peter Exley:** Moor Meadows – How to set up a Community Meadow
- **Lucy Cornwall:** Indicator Species Survey

We'll then enjoy a guided walk with **Mark de Wynter Smith** who will explore the beautiful species-rich grasslands of Exmoor Forest Estate. A great way to celebrate National Meadows Day!



Rediscovering the ‘White Ladder’

This year marks the 50th anniversary since the rediscovery of the ‘White Ladder’ by Exmoor amateur archaeologist Hazel Eardley-Wilmot.

On June 23rd 1975, Hazel Eardley-Wilmot, a dedicated amateur archaeologist, was standing next to Five Barrows, near Kinsford Gate off the road from Simonsbath to South Molton, looking at the high southern ridge of Exmoor. She was thinking about what she might show to the North Devon Archaeological Society (NDAS) when they visited the area in three weeks time.

The summer had been unusually dry and the grasses had died back, leaving more open patches of peat and soil than in normal years. Beneath her on the lower slopes, she noticed a pair of quartz stones

about six inches high. Then on closer examination, she found fifteen more stones lined up from these quartz stones. Back home, she drew up a plan of what she had seen and measured. The plan suggested two rows of stones, one pace between the rows, and two and a half paces between the stones in each line.

Two days later she visited local farms to ask if anyone was aware of a possible pre-historic double stone row in this area. “No knowledge”, she wrote in the discovery diary.

As the days and months progressed, more and more people from the archaeological world visited the site, and many more stones were located. Some were found by prodding the turf with Hazel Eardley-Wilmot’s walking stick, which was fitted with a four to five inch iron spike. (This was recently donated to the Archive by Hazel’s friend and literary executor Hugh Thomas.)

In August, Mr Pilkington, the Chair of the NDAS, reported that he and James Thorpe had found the old name for the avenue, “White Ladder”, in MacDermott’s classic 1911 ‘History Of The Forest Of Exmoor’. MacDermott mentioned it in his account of



Hazel Eardley-Wilmot at Dunn’s Stone

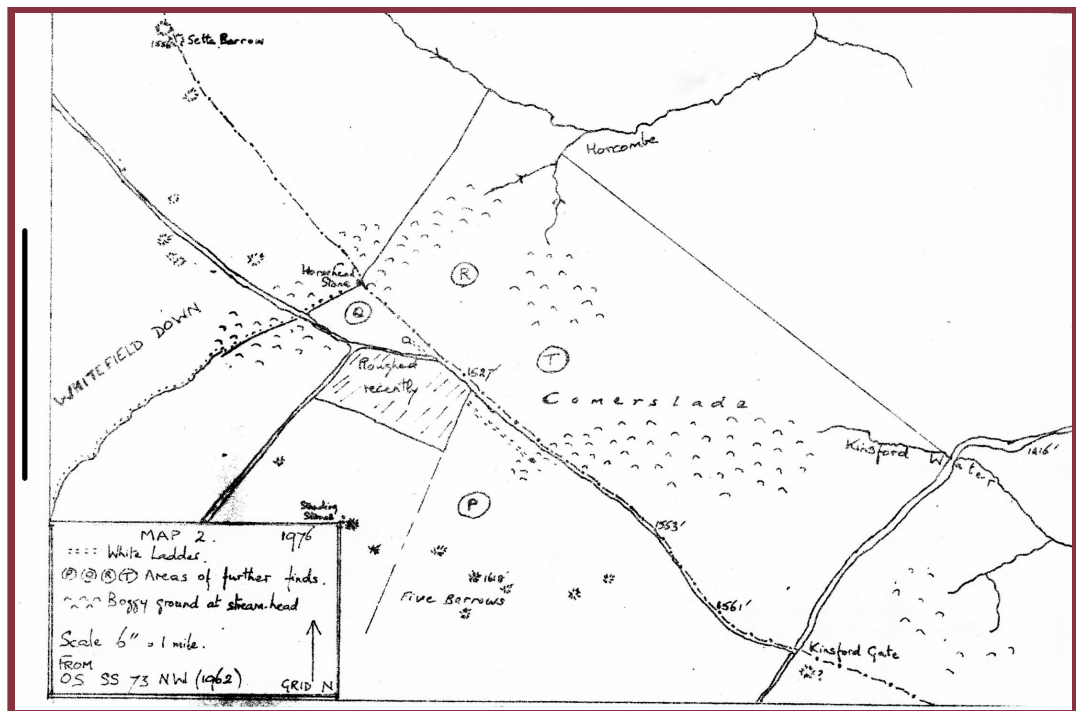
the last perambulation of the Royal Forest prior to its sale in 1818. The “White Ladder” was also marked on the enclosure map of 1819. However, only the name was shown. The knowledge of the pre-historic monument had been lost.

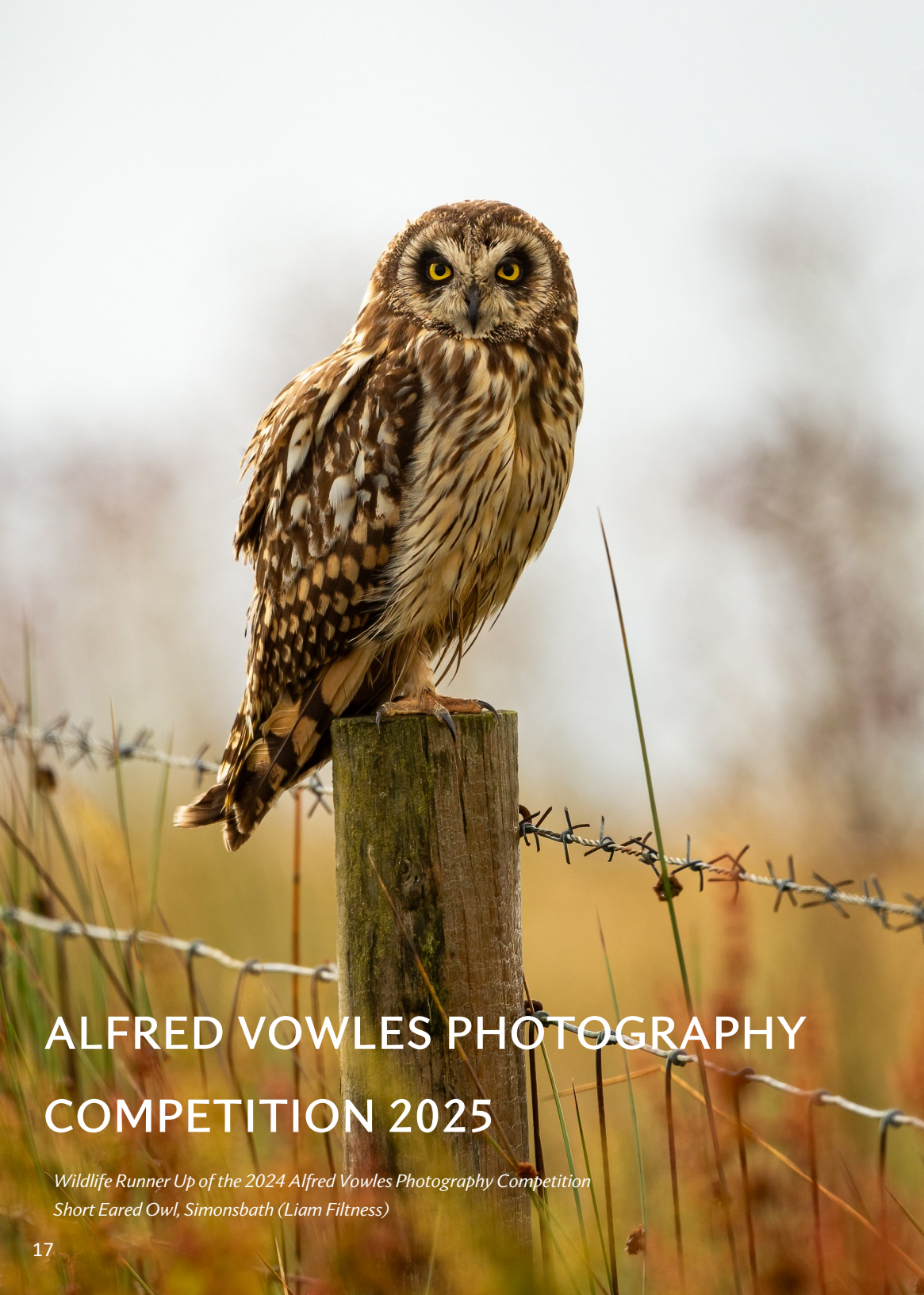
By the end of 1976, Hazel and her team had found 164 stones stretching across a quarter of a mile. In the surrounding area, they found a circle and a partial ellipse of stones, two intersecting stone lines, and dozens of mysterious small mounds. This was only one of many discoveries and excavations made by Hazel Eardley-Wilmot on Exmoor.

“Hazel and her team had found 164 stones stretching across a quarter of a mile”.

This year we will be telling her story, of her extraordinary life, and of her major contribution to the archaeology of Exmoor. We are contributing to an exhibition in August by the North Devon Archaeological Society at the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon. There will be a talk on Hazel later this summer, as well as a guided walk through the pre-historic landscape of the ‘White Ladder’.

BELOW: Map showing the location of the ‘White Ladder’





ALFRED VOWLES PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2025

*Wildlife Runner Up of the 2024 Alfred Vowles Photography Competition
Short Eared Owl, Simonsbath (Liam Filtness)*

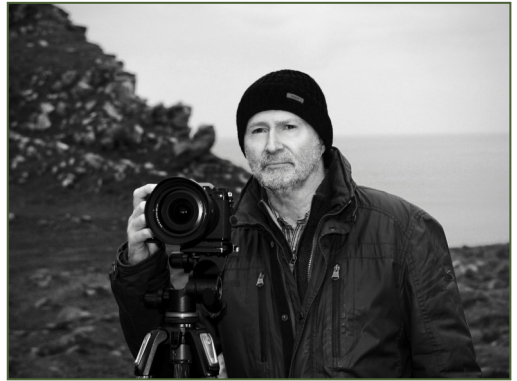
Cameras at the ready...!

Our Alfred Vowles Photography Competition is open for entries. We are looking for stunning photographs that capture the essence of Exmoor throughout the year in an original way. There will be one overall winner who will receive £250, as well as winners and runners up within each of the following categories:

- ◆ Farming
- ◆ Wildlife
- ◆ Landscapes

We're delighted to announce that this year's competition will be judged by renowned photographer Mark St. John Asprey. Mark has had a hugely successful career in London specialising in food and editorial photography. He has worked with many iconic brands including Smirnoff, Marmite, Carte D'Or, and Starbucks.

Now retired from commercial photography, he devotes his days to capturing the Exmoor landscape, staying true to his unique style.



Mark St John Asprey. Photo by Jonny Anthony.

Mark has very kindly offered to run a talk at our awards ceremony on Thursday 13th November at Dulverton Town Hall. Everyone is welcome, entrants and non-entrants alike.

How to Enter

Simply visit our website:

*[exmoorsociety.com/competitions-and-awards/
alfred-vowles-photographic-competition](https://exmoorsociety.com/competitions-and-awards/alfred-vowles-photographic-competition)*

Upload your photos and fill in the entry form
before 30th September 2025.

Good luck!



Mark St. John Asprey



GUIDED WALKS 2025

We have had a fantastic guided walks programme so far this spring. There are plenty more walks to come through the summer and into autumn, all of which can be booked at exmoorsociety.com/walks-programme. To keep up to date with new events added to our calendar, make sure to subscribe to our e-newsletter, *The Bolve*.

June



WEST SOMERSET MINERAL LINE WALK

Tuesday 3rd June

Enjoy a guided walk around Charget Woods, learning more about the history of the West Somerset Mineral Line.

Visit includes Langham Engine House and Bearland Flue.



9.45 am



2 miles
(moderate)



Dogs welcome



EXPLORING THE CHAINS

Thursday 5th June

A stunning walk exploring the Chains. Explore the Macmillan Way, Chains Barrow, Pinkery Pond, and Moles Chamber, before descending Great Vintcombe.



10.00 am



6 miles
(moderate)



Dogs welcome



HAWKCOMBE BUTTERFLY WALK

Friday 20th June

Join ENPA's Woodland Officer Graeme McVittie to look at some of the coppice management work in the nature reserve to help the recovery of the heath fritillary butterfly.



1.00 pm



3 miles
(moderate)



Dogs welcome

July



WEST SOMERSET MINERAL LINE BUS TOUR

Wednesday 16th July

Explore the route of the West Somerset Mineral Line by bus! Sites to visit include Charget, Burrow Farm, Brendon Hill, Roadwater, and Watchet, with an optional gentle walk.



9.30 am



1 mile
(optional)



No Dogs



LUXBOROUGH HISTORIC WALK

Sunday 20th July

Enjoy a historic walk around Luxborough using notes by E F Williams. A gentle walk exploring this picturesque Exmoor village with lots of stories about mining, timber, and bombs!



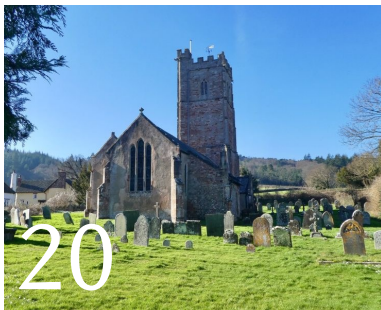
10.30 am



2 miles
(moderate)



Dogs welcome



ANCIENT PATHS OF LUCCOMBE

Sunday 20th July

Discover the ancient paths and sites of Luccombe. Starting at Luccombe church, the walk will include a visit to the ruined St Andrew's chapel before climbing up to Webbers Post. Finish the walk with an optional 'scarecrow' service at the church.



12.00 pm



3 miles
(moderate)



Dogs welcome

August



6

EXMOOR MINES

Wednesday 6th August

A fascinating guided walk exploring Exmoor's mines. Explore Wheal Eliza and the Cornham Ford workings before jumping into the car and visiting Blue Gate with a walk to Roman Lode Burcombe.



10.00 am



4 miles
(moderate)



Dogs welcome



7

SIMONSBATH & THE BARLE VALLEY

Thursday 7th August

A beautiful guided walk exploring Simonsbath and the Barle Valley. Visit Ashcombe's Picturesque Gardens before walking to Wheal Eliza Mine and then continuing to the Iron Age Hill Fort of Cow Castle.



10.00 am



5 miles
(easy)



Dogs welcome



17

PORLOCK WEIR & ADA LOVELACE'S GARDENS

Sunday 17th August

New for 2025, this guided walk will explore Porlock Weir before heading to Ada Lovelace's woodland gardens and Porlock Weir's tin tabernacle church, St Nicholas'. The walk will finish ready for an open-air harbourside service.



3.30 pm



3 miles
(easy)



Dogs welcome



26

WESTERMILL FARM WALK

Tuesday 26th August

An annual favourite, this stunning farm walk will explore the Exe Valley, walking beside the river before climbing up to see spectacular views of moorland and Exe Cleeve. Visit an ancient standing stone and meet all the farm animals.



2.00 pm



2 miles
(easy)



Dogs welcome



Cow Castle Landscape: Ueli Zellweger

September



HOPE BOURNE IN WITHYPOOL

Saturday 6th September

Follow in the footsteps of novelist and artist Hope Bourne. Explore the Withypool area taking in some of Hope's favourite views whilst learning about her incredible life here on Exmoor.



10.30 am



3 miles
(moderate)



Dogs welcome



WEST SOMERSET MINERAL LINE WALK

Sunday 7th September

Explore the West Somerset's Mineral Line, featuring Beulah Chapel, the Brendon Hill Ghost Village and a picturesque waterfall.



9.45 am



7 miles
(strenuous)



Dogs welcome



MOORLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Tuesday 9th September

Exmoor's moorlands are incredibly rich in archaeological remains. Join two ENPA archaeologists who will explore the beautiful valleys of Farley Water and Hoar Oak Water.



10.30 am



4 miles
(moderate)



Dogs welcome



LARKBARROW & THREE COMBES FOOT

Thursday 11th September

A wonderful moorland guided walk featuring Three Combes Foot, Kittuck Barrow, Stowford Bottom, and Larkbarrow ruins.



11:00 am



4.5 miles
(moderate)



Dogs welcome

October



THE LOST LANDSCAPE OF ADA LOVELACE

Friday 10th October

Join Graeme McVittie and follow the South West Coast Path from Ashley Combe Lodge to Culbone Church and explore the surviving features of the picturesque landscape designed by mathematician Ada Lovelace.



10.00 am



4 miles
(easy)



Dogs Welcome

November



LARKBARROW NIGHT WALK

Thursday 20th November

Join us for a captivating night walk to the remote ruins of Larkbarrow farm and cottage. Learn about the history of the site and spot constellations in the night sky.



5.00 pm



2 miles
(easy)



Dogs welcome

Save The Date!

As well as our fantastic guided walks programme, we have a few other dates for your calendar:

- ◆ Exford Show: Wednesday 13th August
- ◆ Dunster Show: Friday 15th August
- ◆ Exmoor Bike Scavenge: Sunday 28th September
- ◆ AGM: Saturday 18th October
- ◆ Alfred Vowles Photographic Awards Evening: Thursday 13th November
- ◆ Founders Lunch: Friday 21st November





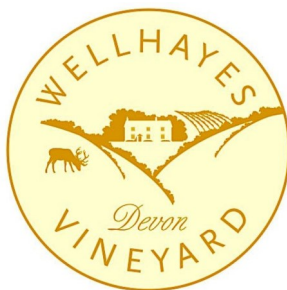
Paul Sparks

Community Supporters: Special offers & events

We are so grateful to all of our community supporters who help us in our work to promote and protect the unique qualities of Exmoor. Many of them operate within Exmoor National Park and contribute in helping the area thrive both economically and socially. Below are some special events and offers that some of our supporters are running, so please support them if you can, and remember to mention The Exmoor Society when you do!



English Wine Tasting



To celebrate English Wine Week, Wellhayes Vineyard are offering a rather special wine tasting, featuring 8 of the best English wines currently available. This will be at 7pm on Friday 27th June in the Tasting Room.

The tasting will include four still wines and four sparkling wines, to reflect the breadth as well as the history of English wine, and will be accompanied by a selection of meats and cheeses, as well as the Wellhayes truffles.

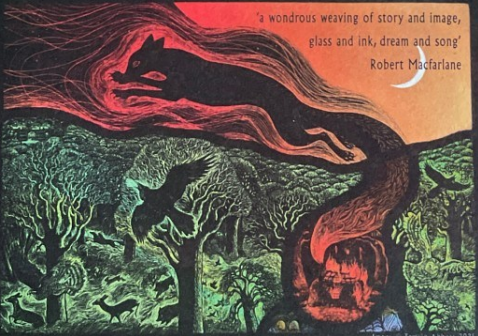
Tickets are £48pp. Book via: wellhayesvineyard.co.uk.

SPECIAL OFFER!* 10% discount on Vineyard Tours for Exmoor Society members. Book via wellhayesvineyard.co.uk and use code: Bolve

*discount applies to Vineyard Tours only.

SEVEN FABLES PRESENTS
WILD FOLK
 Jackie Morris Tamsin Abbott
 tales from the stones summer solstice celebration

'a wondrous weaving of story and image,
 glass and ink, dream and song'
 Robert Macfarlane



White Rock Cottage
 Simonsbath Exmoor

Saturday 21st June 10 - 6 Sunday 22nd June 10 - 4
www.SevenFables.co.uk



WILD FOLK - Tales from the Stones

Sun 22 Jun | Westermill Farm

Walk & Talk with Jackie Morris and Tamsin
 Abbott

www.SevenFables.co.uk



EXMOOR MAGAZINE

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Last few words...

Award Nominations

Each year we recognise the hard work of three individuals with the following awards:

- ◆ Founders Award: Presented in recognition of notable service to The Exmoor Society.
- ◆ The Mary & Brian Chugg Conservation Award: Presented to someone who has contributed significantly to the conservation of Exmoor.
- ◆ Archive Award: Presented to someone who has contributed significantly to Exmoor's natural, cultural, or landscape history.

If you would like to nominate an individual for any of the above awards, please email info@exmoorsociety.com before Friday 1st August, including their name and a brief explanation for the nomination. The awards are presented at our AGM on Saturday 18th October.



We are delighted that our Exmoor Festival of Nature will be back for 2026! After taking a year off to focus on our Waters of Exmoor campaign, we've started planning in preparation for another wonderful event in Spring 2026. Do keep an eye on our e-newsletter, The Bolve, to stay tuned for more exciting details to come!

Keep up to date with The Bolve!

This is our last edition of The Spring Newsletter, but you can keep up to date with the latest news and events from The Exmoor Society by signing up to our monthly e-newsletter. Sign up via our website or email info@exmoorsociety.com.



The Exmoor Society

Registered Charity No: 1160912
2025–2026

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Vice- Presidents:

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Mrs Toni Jones

Mr David Fursdon,
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Dr Steven Emery, Exeter

Mr Charles O'Connor, Simonsbath

Mr Nigel Hester, Allerford

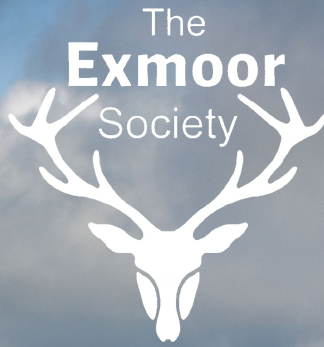
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Join us and help protect Exmoor

BECOME A MEMBER

Empower us in our work by becoming a member of the Exmoor Society. The more members we have, the more effective we are at campaigning and protecting our beautiful national park.

DONATE

All of our running costs are funded entirely by your generous voluntary subscriptions, donations and legacy gifts.

VOLUNTEER

From litter picking to helping in the archive or in the office, there are lots of ways to become involved with the Exmoor Society.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Join us for guided walks, events, evening talks and our annual conference. We love meeting and hearing from our members so do get in touch!

www.exmoorsociety.com

[@exmoorsociety](https://www.instagram.com/exmoorsociety)