



# The Exmoor Society

## Calendar of Society & Groups Events 2012



### March

- 1st Bristol Group – Talk by David Hawkins of Taunton 'West Somerset Workhouses', 7.30pm, Kenn Road Methodist Church, Clevedon.
- 1st Dulverton Group – AGM 7pm, followed by 7.30pm slide show 'My Life with Exmoor Ponies' given by Val Sherwin. Dulverton Congregational Church Hall, Chapel St, Dulverton TA22 9HF
- 21st Porlock Group – 'Access and Conservation on the Dunster Estate'. A talk by Andy Player, Countryside Manager Dunster Estate. Members free. Non-members £2. Porlock Village Hall 7.30pm. Roy 01984 640201.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Barnstaple Group – 'A Tale of Five Exmoors' with Tim Harris and Jeremy Holtom. 7.30pm The Castle Centre, Castle Street, Barnstaple EX31 1DR. Non-members very welcome £2.

### April

- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Writing Workshop for children of Greater Exmoor aged 9-14 years at Exford Youth Club Pavilion. Details from Parish Rooms.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Society Walk – '**All Things Bright and Beautiful**'  
Meet 10.30am Nutcombe Bottom (GR 978 422). 7-mile circular walk to see England's tallest trees, Bats Castle hill fort and Grabbist Hill which inspired the hymn 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'. Hilly & muddy. Dogs with responsible owners welcome. End appx. 4.30pm (Ref.JG)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Society Walk – **Simonsbath and the Historic Sawmill**  
Meet 10.30am Ashcombe car park, Simonsbath TA24 7SH (GR 774 394). Explore the remarkable history of Simonsbath and its C19th water-powered sawmill and estate workshops. Less than half a mile of level, easy walking but may be uneven. Stout footwear advised. Tour will finish at about 12.00 followed by option to walk along the riverside leat system to the Barle Weir (2 km; 1.2 miles) finishing at about 13.00. Sorry, no dogs. (Ref. GW)
- 18<sup>th</sup> Porlock Group – 'My Life as an Exmoor Ranger'. A talk by Richard Eales. Members free. Non-members £2. Porlock Village Hall 7.30pm. Roy 01984 640201.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Bristol Group – Walk of appx 6 miles. Meet 10.30am Ashcombe car park, Simonsbath (GR 774394). David Sinden 01179 073977
- 19<sup>th</sup> Dulverton Group – 'Dieglaford – the Evolution of the Settlement of Dulverton'. An easy 2 hr stroll with Jessica Turner. Meet 2pm outside Exmoor House.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Society Spring Conference – **10am Dulverton Town Hall** – '*Exmoor's Woodlands*'. Please use booking form. £12 to include refreshments.

### May

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Society Walk – **Hunters Inn to Heddon's Mouth (with 3 mobility scooters available)**  
Meet 10.30am. National Trust shop, Heddon Valley EX31 4PY (GR 655481). A walk for the Society in partnership with the Heart of Exmoor, Countryside Mobility and the National Trust. A 2-hour stroll along the tranquil Heddon Valley to the sea at Heddon's Mouth. Enjoy views of the sea before returning

to Hunters Inn and optional pub lunch. Three 'Tramper' all-terrain mobility scooters will be available free of charge for this event. Booking for scooters is essential on 01392 456522. Well behaved dogs welcome. (Ref. JG).

3<sup>rd</sup> Porlock Group – An Exmoor Farm + West Ilkerton – Past and Present. Meet 11am (GR 70404659) for guided exploration. Bring picnic. Continuation or join at 2.30pm (GR 71424495). Led by Rob Wilson-North. Pauline 01643 863372.

16<sup>th</sup> **Society Walk - Mining & Mystery at Wheal Eliza**

Meet 11am Ashcombe car park, Simonsbath TA24 7SH (GR775394).

A short walk along the River Barle. Hear the history of the Knights, mining in this part of Exmoor & the tragic mystery of Wheal Eliza. One or two short climbs but overall an easy walk along the valley. Return to Simonsbath with the option of a pub lunch or bring a picnic. (Ref. RT).

**19th Society Spring Walk on Dartmoor – Led by the Dartmoor Preservation Association – Meet 11am Two Bridges Quarry car park (SX609750) on B3357/3312 Princetown to Mortonhamstead road. If quarry car park full, park just west of junction of B3212 and B33357.**

Walk above the West Dart river past evidence of prehistoric human activity to Wistman's Wood Nature reserve, Dartmoor's most iconic upland oak wood festooned with rare and important mosses and lichens. After a picnic lunch the walk passes through plantation and farmland, returning along a beautiful stretch of the Cowsic river. 5 miles over reasonable ground. Ends appx 2.30pm followed by refreshments at Two Bridges Hotel or in Princetown. (with museum open). At 3.30pm short guided walk to prehistoric features (stone rows, menhir and cists) at Merrivale, a few hundred yards from Princetown to Tavistock road. Please bring picnic. Numbers not limited but to allow for planning, please advise DPA in advance of attendance (fsenior@dartmoorpreservation.com). This and the reciprocal autumn walk are open to Society and Dartmoor Preservation Association members only.

23<sup>rd</sup> **Society Walk – Withypool Circular**

Meet 10am Withypool car park (GR GR 843354).

5-mile circular walk to Landacre Bridge via Kitridge Lane returning along the Barle to optional lunch at the Royal Oak. Likely to be boggy in places. Dogs under control welcome (Ref. JR).

24<sup>th</sup> Dulverton Group – Visit to Exmoor Pony Centre 2pm. Cost £3 pp to incl. refreshments

24<sup>th</sup> Bristol Group – AGM followed by talk from Dr. Atkinson on 'Mining in the Brendon Hills'. 7.30pm, Kenn Road Methodist Church, Clevedon.

**June**

4<sup>th</sup> **Society Walk – Simonsbath and the Historic Sawmill**

See April 16<sup>th</sup> for details.

9<sup>th</sup> **Society Walk – An archaeological walk to commemorate Hazel Eardley-Wilmot.** All welcome. Details to follow on website or from Parish Rooms.

13<sup>th</sup> Porlock Group – The Mineral Line to the Incline at Comberow. Gentle 2 mile stroll to view the incline from the bottom, followed by optional pub lunch in Roadwater. Meet 11am at end of road to Pitmill Farm (GR 037365), Roy 01984 640201.

- 18<sup>th</sup> **Society Walk – Pinkery Pond and Canal**  
 Meet 10.30am lay-by on B3358 between Challacombe and Simonsbath near Goat Hill Bridge nr TA24 7LL (GR 724404 ).  
 Explore the history of this remarkable and mysterious early C19th lake lying in remote moorland west of Simonsbath – “deep and brown and still, reflecting rushes and reeds at its sides, the sedges of the hills, and the sky over them” (Henry Williamson). Dogs under control welcome. 3-4 miles. End appx.1pm (Ref. GW).
- 22<sup>nd</sup> **Bristol Group** – BBQ at Glenny Wood (GR 471734). Starts 7pm. £3.50 pp. Bring your own meat and drink.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> **Dulverton Group** – Guided tour of NT Knightshayes House, gardens and walled garden. 10.45am–3.30pm incl. lunch. Full details and cost from Ginny 01398 323977.
- 29<sup>th</sup> **Society Walk – Doone Country**  
 Meet 10.30am Malmsmead car park (GR 792478).  
 A 9-mile circular walk along Badgworthy Water to the site of the medieval village. Then on to Oare Church returning via Oare Water. Please bring a picnic. Dogs under control welcome. Ends appx. 3pm (Ref. JR).
- July**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Bristol Group** – Visit to Cothelstone Manor, preceded by a short walk and picnic lunch. Meet 10.30am at Lydeard Hill car park (GR 181338) or 1.30pm at Cothelstone Manor. Cost £12.50 includes tea. Mike Wilkinson 01275 878470.
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Society Farm Visit** – Great Champson, Molland (GR 803284). Meet at farm at 1pm with your picnic. Sorry, no dogs.
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Dulverton Group** – Guided tour of Orchard Wyndham, Williton, house and garden. Meet 12noon for lunch at Bicknoller Inn followed by 2pm tour. Cost £8. Full details and cost from Ginny 01398 323977.
- 14<sup>th</sup> **Society Walk – Exmoor Mires Restoration**  
 Meet 1pm lay-by at White Ladder Stone Row, Comerslade (GR 733 373).  
 Join a member of the Exmoor Mires Project to explore the archaeology of Exmoor’s mires. Look at the restoration work, monitoring equipment and future restoration areas whilst enjoying the historic landscape and its wildlife. 3-5 miles over rough, wet ground. Dogs welcome (Ref. DS).
- 20<sup>th</sup> **Society Walk – The Mineral Line, Chargot Woods**  
 Meet 10am Chargot Woods car park (GR 975 354).  
 View the conserved remains of one of the finest examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century mining activity on the Brendon Hills. Visit Langham Engine House, mine adits and Bearland ventilation flue. 1 mile on forest tracks with 250ft descent /ascent. End appx 12 noon (Ref. RC).
- 25<sup>th</sup> **Society Walk – Dulverton, Tarr Steps and River Barle**  
 Meet 10am Marsh Bridge (GR 905 295).  
 10 mile circular from Marsh Bridge up to Mounsey Gate, down to Tarr Steps and back along River Barle. Lunch at Tarr Steps or bring a picnic. Dogs under control welcome. End appx 3pm (Ref. JR).
- 25<sup>th</sup> **Dunster Country Fair**– visit the Society stand for display and goods for sale.

## August

7<sup>th</sup>

### **Society Walk – ‘Coast and Common from Barna Barrow’**

Meet 2pm Barna Barrow car park (GR 753 496).

Enjoy glorious views of ‘coast and common’ on this 3½ hour leisurely-paced walk. Wide ranging views, stunning coastline, heather and common, Devon’s most northerly point and Lundy Island will all be seen on this 4½ mile walk. End appx 5.30pm. (Ref. TP).

8<sup>th</sup>

Exford Show – visit the Society stand for display and goods for sale.

10<sup>th</sup>

### **Society Walk for Young People and their families – Farming and Landscape**

Meet 10am Horner car park (GR 899 455).

Calling all young people and their families! Come along for a gentle stroll across our lowland farms, exploring farming and agriculture and its impact on the landscape, past and future. Locals and visitors are very welcome. Bring a picnic and wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear. End 1pm (Ref. MW).

17<sup>th</sup>

Dunster Show – visit the Society stand for display and goods for sale.

20<sup>th</sup>

### **Society Walk for children and their families – A paddle, a pootle and a picnic on the Barle**

Meet 12 noon Simonsbath Sawmill, TA24 7SH on the B3223 (GR 773 394).

Enjoy a paddle and stream dip with staff from the Heart of Exmoor. Optional short stroll along the River Barle learning about wildlife and heritage in this fascinating valley. Bring a picnic (lashings of ginger beer mandatory!). Children must be accompanied by adults. Toilets on site. Please wear outdoor clothing and suitable footwear. If wet, Simonsbath Sawmill open for tours during the day. End 2pm (Ref. JS).

22nd

### **Society Walk – Hope Bourne Anniversary Walk from Withypool**

Meet 11am Withypool car park (GR 843 354).

A circular walk of appx 7 miles celebrating the life of Hope Bourne. Starting at 11am we follow some of her routes around Higher Blackland Farm. Alternatively join at Landacre Bridge (12.30pm) for a picnic and the one mile walk up to Ferny Ball. Followed by optional tea at Withypool. Dogs under control welcome. End appx 3.30pm (Ref. JR).

24<sup>th</sup>

### **Society Walk – Dunster Walkabout**

Meet 10am ENPA shop, Dunster Steep (GR 992 438).

An easy 2½ hr / 1½ ml walkabout to see and hear about some of the fascinating things that the normal tourist misses. End 12.30pm (Ref. RC).

## September

5<sup>th</sup>

Bristol Group – Visit to Holnicote Estate with Nigel Garnsworthy. Meet there 10.30am (GR 910464). Chris Norrish 01275 876242.

8th

### **Society Walk – Two Iron Ages along the River Barle**

Meet 10.30am Ashcombe car park, Simonsbath (GR 774 396).

7½ mile return walk to Cow Castle Iron Age hill fort and the 19th century Wheal Eliza iron mine. Dogs with responsible owners welcome. End 4.30pm (Ref. JG).

15<sup>th</sup>

**Society AGM at Dulverton Middle School – Doors open at 10am**

16<sup>th</sup>

**Society Annual Church Service at St. Lukes, Simonsbath, 10.30am**

- 19<sup>th</sup> **Society Walk – Hunters Inn towards Woody Bay (with 3 mobility scooters available)**  
 Meet 10.30am. National Trust shop, Heddon Valley EX31 4PY (GR 655 481)  
 A walk for the Society in partnership with the Heart of Exmoor, Countryside Mobility and the National Trust. Enjoy stunning views of the Exmoor coast and across the Bristol Channel on this walk of appx 3 hours from Hunters Inn along the coastal carriageway towards Woody Bay. Followed by optional tea at Hunters Inn. Three ‘Tramper’ all-terrain mobility scooters will be available free of charge for this event. Booking for scooters is essential on 01392 456522. Well behaved dogs welcome (Ref. JG).
- 19<sup>th</sup> **Porlock Group** – A talk on astronomy by naturalist and broadcaster Chris Sperring MBE. If the evening is clear, some of the talk will take place outside. Admission £3. 7.30pm Porlock Village Hall. Pauline 01643 863372.
- 27<sup>th</sup> **Barnstaple Group** – ‘In celebration of Exmoor’s Dark Skies’ with Emma Dennis. 7.30pm, The Castle Centre, Castle Street, Barnstaple EX31 1DR. Non-members very welcome £2.
- 28<sup>th</sup> **Society Walk – Anstey, Molland and Withypool Commons**  
 Meet 10.30am Anstey Gate (GR 835 298).  
 8-mile walk covering the three commons via Old Barrow Down, Porchester’s Post and White Post. Bring a picnic. End appx 2.30pm (Ref. JR).

## October

- 4<sup>th</sup> **Bristol Group** – Walk – Meet 10.30am at Horner Wood car park (GR 898454). Mike Wilkinson 01275 878470.
- 13<sup>th</sup> **Society Walk – Porlock Hill on Foot**  
 Meet 10am Porlock Church (GR 886 466).  
 A circular 7½ mile walk through the woods to Hawkcombe Head, enjoying the autumn colours and possibly seeing deer. Dogs with responsible owners welcome. Please bring a picnic. End appx 4.30pm. (Ref. JG)
- 17<sup>th</sup> **Porlock Group** AGM followed by talk by Todd Gray on the pirates of the Bristol Channel. Porlock Village Hall. 7pm for 7.30pm. Refreshments available. Pauline 01643 863372.
- 19<sup>th</sup> **Society Woodland Visit** – Barle Woods – details to follow in autumn mailing.
- 21<sup>st</sup> **South Molton Group** – AGM.

<b>TBC</b>	<b><u>Society Joint Walk with the Dartmoor Preservation Association Deer on Exmoor. Details in autumn mailing and on website nearer time.</u></b> Open to Society and Dartmoor Preservation Association members only.
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- 24<sup>th</sup> **Society Walk – Dulverton Circular**  
 Meet 10.30am Marsh Bridge (GR 905 295).  
 4-mile circular through woods round Dulverton with steep climbs and descents. Dogs under control welcome. End appx 1pm (Ref. JR).
- 25<sup>th</sup> **Barnstaple Group** – ‘Flying with Birds’ with Jonathan Marshall accompanied by his golden eagle. 7.30pm, The Castle Centre, Castle Street, Barnstaple EX31 1DR. Non-members very welcome £2.
- 25<sup>th</sup> **Dulverton Group** – ‘The West Somerset Free Press’ – a talk by Geoff Cox, a descendant of the founder of this newspaper. 7.30pm, Dulverton Congregational Church Hall, Chapel St, Dulverton TA22 9HF.

## November

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dulverton Group – ‘The Royal British Legion – A History and How it Functions Today’ by Col. Paddy King-Fretts, Chairman of South Molton branch. 7.30pm, Dulverton Congregational Church Hall, Chapel St, Dulverton TA22 9HF.
- TBC Porlock Group – 10th Anniversary Dinner. Date and details with Autumn mailing.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Porlock Group – ‘The History of the West Somerset Free Press’ – a talk by Geoff Cox, a descendant of the founder of this newspaper. Porlock Village Hall 7.30pm. Members free. Non-members £2.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Barnstaple Group – ‘Challacombe – A History and Slides’ with Christopher Tull and Mark Asher. 7.30pm The Castle Centre, Castle Street, Barnstaple EX31 1DR. Non-members very welcome £2.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Bristol Group – Photographic Quiz followed by nibbles at Kenn Road Methodist Church, Clevedon at 7.30pm. Rosemarie Ball 01275 872017.

## December

- 7<sup>th</sup> Society Annual Christmas Lunch – Exmoor White Horse, Exford. 12.30pm. £20 per person. Booking form in the autumn mailing.

## 2013

### January

- 24<sup>th</sup> Barnstaple Group – ‘The Archaeology of Devon Place Names’ with Terry Green. 7.30pm, The Castle Centre, Castle Street, Barnstaple EX31 1DR. Non-members very welcome £2.

### February

- 28<sup>th</sup> Barnstaple Group – ‘The Golden Horseshoe’ with Barbara Wrigley. 7.30pm The Castle Centre, Castle Street, Barnstaple EX31 1DR. Non-members very welcome £2.

### March

- 7<sup>th</sup> Dulverton Group – AGM 7pm followed at 7.30pm by presentation on ‘ShelterBox’.

The Society Walks are free to members. Guests and visitors are very welcome. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing; be prepared for inclement weather; carry wet weather gear with you. Dogs on lead/with responsible owners are welcome or as indicated. Follow the guidelines given by the walk leaders. Leaders will set a pace suitable for the party – please do not force a faster pace. Take a picnic (unless an optional pub lunch is indicated) and plenty to drink.

The Groups welcome visitors to their meetings and activities but reserve the right to charge a small fee to non-members (of that particular group). Please check with Group Secretaries prior to events and particularly for outings, as booking may be necessary. Groups advise that members take part in activities at their own risk.

### **Group Contacts (\*Acting Chairman/Contact):**

**Barnstaple Group:** Julia Holtom\* 01598 763295  
& Sally Jack\* 01271 323204

**Bristol Group:** Chris Norrish- 01275 976242

**Dulverton Group:** Peter Donnelly 01398 323030

**Porlock Group:** Dr Duncan Jeffray\* 01643 702788

**South Molton Group:** George Jones - 01769 572276