

## Welcome to issue 51

Welcome to issue 51, we hope you enjoyed our special fiftieth issue.

As you will see below THE WALL is being repaired at last!

In the middle pages, we have published the complete letter from our Council to West Somerset District Council; this issue has raised more comments to the Voice than any other issue.

Our Council have asked us to help, so let's all write a letter to Mr Lang and show support for our Council.



## What started in 2013 and still is not repaired?

Yes – that's right! You guessed it – it's the boundary wall of the churchyard which was found nearly 5 years ago to be in danger of collapse! Well, the good news is that finally on the 7th June after a mountain of paperwork and heartache work has started on making it safe so that the footpath can be reopened. Sully's the contractors seem to be making good progress, and right from the start work can be seen to be speeding along.

When the work is finished we really must look at the whole system, the planning authority was the DAC

which it part of the Diocese of Bath & Wells who after a meeting agreed with the plans, only for one member who does not live locally, to start a campaign against what 3 experts employed by the Council had proposed.

This and intervention of the Exmoor National Park caused further delays, increasing the effort required and ultimately added to the cost (It will be interesting to see exactly how much) which the Town will have to pick up.

There must be a better way for a town like Dulverton, which lost for 5 years an important route out of town, which was much used by visitors.

The Town should thank the Council, Nick Thwaites and his team – not all councillors who did not give up and stuck at the problem over such a long time.

**If you would like to advertise in The Voice, please contact us at  
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## Contact Us:

Copy for next Issue (August 2017)

By the 15.7.17

### How to Contact us

E mail:-

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Website:- www.dulvertonvoice.co.uk

By post - Dulverton Voice, Foxhanger Apt,  
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Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this magazine, however no liability can be accepted for loss/damage or injury caused by errors or omissions from the information given.



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## DULVERTON TOWN COUNCIL, CHAIRMEN & MAYORS. 1895- 2017

The writer thought that as Dulverton has no public record of its Chairmen and Mayors, it would be a good idea to rectify this omission by erecting a Memorial Board in the town.

Work started by sifting through the Town Council records to extract the dates and names from 1895 when the Town Council was formed. As much of the earlier records were written in very spidery longhand it became difficult to read, hopefully the information that I obtained are reasonably accurate.

To reflect on the interesting number of people who have been elected, it is surprising that in this period, twenty three names appear, some having been elected more than once, in fact, two names have served for four different years.

The longest serving was Mr W.G. Bryant for thirty years from 1950 to 1981.

If this project is to succeed we needed several elements tied up before proceeding, namely, an acceptable design, type of construction, a design of lettering and, somewhere within the confines of the town to erect such a board.

We have approached several organisations concerning this, bearing in mind that it would be

advantageous to be available to the public to view for the longest time each day.

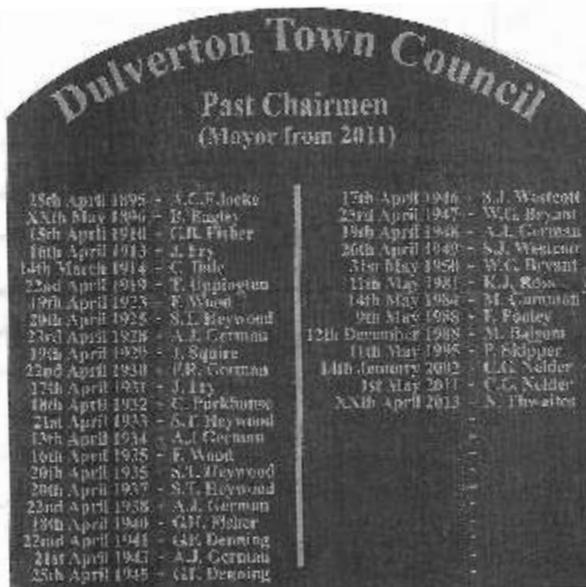
That All Saints Church have very kindly offered some space in the church where it might hang. The design and construction has been decided, the board being somewhere about a metre square. We now come to the trickiest item-- where does the

money come from??

It is estimated the total cost will be in the region of £500.

We are against asking the public purse for its dwindling cash , perhaps I could start by asking anyone who has associations with the Town Council first, and then widen my search. An indication of type of Board accompanies this article.

CN



# Short and Sweet



**We hope we can help** - 2 friends who live in Cornwall are trying to contact a very dear friend from Dulverton but they don't have her number.

They managed to catch a glimpse of her on TV when the Knit and Natter Group were on Spotlight recently. They contacted the Voice and we have passed the contact on to the Group and we will report back when we have further news.



**The Gardening Club** – held their annual plant sale at the beginning of June and it was again a success. I bought two super plants and as you can see from our picture there was a wide range of plants on sale.



**The 1610 GYM** – There's going to be some major changes to the "Exmoor Fitness Centre" A review has been undertaken and it has been agreed to use the space as a dedicated group exercise studio.

Those who want to use their current equipment can do so at Minehead.

**The current classes and sessions at the school and town hall will move to the "new fitness" centre.**

For further information – e-mail [mgodsell@1610.org.uk](mailto:mgodsell@1610.org.uk)



**A local Devon charity** helping children, using highly trained dogs.

3 months ago the charity started teaching young children about safety and enjoyment around dogs in Bampton.

They are hoping to run another 12 week course and also train children privately and wondered if this would be of interest to Dulverton?

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**Defibrillators**– I was asked do we have any Defibrillators in Dulverton with 24 hour access other than with the emergency services. If you know please let the Voice know.

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## “Under Milk Wood” at Dulverton Town Hall

Once again, we have been treated to a superb sell-out production from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Under Milk Wood, by Dylan Thomas, is mostly known as a radio play made famous by the wonderful voice of Richard Burton.

So to stage the play to fit so many venues on this tour must have been a challenge. Moving from character to character, the dozen or so actors told the story of a day in the little town of Laugharne through the words of Dylan Thomas.

From the start, the audience was held by the energy and pace of the cast, mainly onstage throughout the play, adapting themselves to the many characters of the story, criss crossing the stage as the action demanded.

The musical additions to the play were delightful extras which underlined the versatility of these talented students.

Black Dog

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# Unexpected Visitors



On Sunday 18th June, The African Children's Choir arrived in Dulverton, somewhat unexpectedly, for five nights.

The Dulverton Residential Centre and Congregational Church were asked to help out following a breakdown in their proposed tour schedule.

With the help of many people in the Community, the Congregational Church was packed to the rafters on the Tuesday for a concert.

The freewill offering raised the sum of £1,096 for the educational needs, and more, of the young people they represent in Uganda.

This Choir is made up of 18 children, and along with their 9 chaperones, have toured America and the UK over the past several months.

They have had a busy schedule. Some of their relaxation has seen them playing in the river, and its environs, helping them to keep cool during their time in Dulverton.

Their other duties include the on-going commitment of 15 hours schooling per week, they brought a taste of their East African culture into focus during their more formal song and dance routine in the Church, but also delighted us with their play, and crocodile song in the River Barle.

I am sure we all wish them well as they flew out of the UK on Thursday 29th June and move on into a boarding school education on their return.

What an amazing place Dulverton is, so welcoming and helpful!

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# The Sun came out just in time

Secret Gardens of Dulverton was helped as just in time the rain stopped and the Sun shone. We spoke to a few of the visitors who were delighted with the gardens. Well done to the organizers and to those who opened their gardens.



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**Get out onto  
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The Exmoor Society invites amateur photographers to submit entries for the Alfred Vowles Photographic Competition which is open until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. The award has three categories of photographs taken on Exmoor during the last two years – Wildlife, Heritage and Landscape.

The winner in each category receives a cash prize and the Alfred Vowles Memorial Trophy, donated by his family, is presented to the overall winner. The presentation of prizes takes place in Spring 2018 at the

opening of an exhibition of the winning photographs plus other entries.

Alfred Vowles was born in 1882 and was a well-known local photographer who, until the late 1940s, devoted his life to recording the landscape, life and people of Exmoor. For many years he ran a thriving business selling postcards of his work from a shop in Minehead, having earlier worked for Kodak in London. Alfred Vowles' legacy is a most valuable document of Exmoor of that period.

For further details and an entry form visit [www.exmoorsociety.com](http://www.exmoorsociety.com).

# New shop in Dulverton

Locals Phil and Seonee Brown open "Browns" located at 44 High Street, they are no strangers to having their own shop, they have had multiple shops through the years selling a wide range of items. They have been in the retail industry for over 60 years between them and most recently having pitches in several local markets they decided it was time for a new challenge.

Many of us will know Seonee and Phil from their jewellery markets in the town hall. The new shop, not only stocks the beautiful silver and semi-precious stone jewellery which Browns are known for but brings lots of new exciting fashion jewellery as well as many other wonderful items, such as silk flowers and hand crafted African birds.

What is nice they are buying the shop so it is not a short term let.



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# Parking in Dulverton

**The Editor felt that the issue was so important that we would publish the letter sent by DTC to WSDC in full**

Mr Bruce Lang  
From Dulverton Council (DTC)  
Assistant Chief Executive  
West Somerset District Council (WSDC)  
Williton TA4 4QA

13<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Mr Lang,

**Re: WSDC Proposed Off Street Parking Places Order 2017:**

With regard to the WSDC Proposed Off Street Parking Places Order 2017 Dulverton Town Council (DTC) wishes to object to the provisions in this document which relate to annual permits as they pertain to Dulverton car parks.

Specifically the proposals:

- a. To increase the cost of annual permits from £90 to £210 and the equivalent increase in the six month permit charge.
- b. To deny the use of these annual and six month permits in the Lion Stables car park.

On a general level DTC objects to the implementation of an increase in charges at a time when West Somerset Council are knowingly producing an excessive surplus from car parking. The surplus from 2015/2016 was £320,000 as stated in the Parking Account document at present published on the WSC web site. Income from car parks is expected to have increased in the 2016/2017 period by more than £100,000 and these large surplus figures have been the norm for at least the past six years.

The members of DTC also have serious concerns about the lack of consultation prior to these proposals being put forward. A single e-mail message asking our opinion was sent only after some prompting and our comments in reply were completely ignored without further communication.

The "Statement of Reasons" document, associated with the proposal, in item 4. suggests that bringing the "Dulverton" annual permit in line with other areas is a necessary and presumably a good thing. Members would contend that this is an entirely contrived and ill conceived notion which will produce only negative effects.

It is clear from the report to WSDC written by Tracy-Ann Biss that there will be an expected reduction in "Dulverton" permits from 147 to perhaps 40, from this it can be calculated that there will be a drop in revenue of

£5000. It has been the case that Dulverton has for several years sold more annual permits than the rest of West Somerset combined thus demonstrating their popularity at the price charged.

DTC managed the car parks in Dulverton for two decades prior to 2016 and during this time the usage was monitored closely, at no time was there any suggestion that permit holders were causing congestion. Exmoor National Park as an example purchased permits for their members who attend meetings, some as infrequently as monthly. They have recently stated that this will no longer be their practice due to the unreasonable increase in costs.

The "Statement of Reasons" document, associated with the proposal, in item 5. suggests that the change in permit use for the Lion Stables car park, "will support the provision of parking close to the town centre for visitors and shoppers".

Dulverton has 108 off-street parking spaces controlled by WSC but there are also more than 30 on-road, time limited (one Hour) spaces. These on-road spaces represent 23% of the overall controlled parking in the Town, a more than adequate provision, closer to the shops than any of the car parks.

There are only three short term car parks in West Somerset, Summerland (Minehead), Doverhay (Porlock) and Lion Stables in Dulverton. Prior to this proposal Summerland was the only non-permit short term car park so the suggestion that disallowing permits in short term car parks is the policy is spurious in the extreme.

No proper survey has been conducted by WSC to support any of the contentions made in the report.

In summary it is member's contention that these proposals as they relate to Dulverton are frivolous, unnecessary and designed to cause the maximum of disruption to residents of the area who visit the town by car. There is no financial benefit to West Somerset and the minimal administrative inconvenience, which could have been avoided altogether by not cancelling the lease held by DTC, is not a reasonable excuse for such draconian measures.

The lack of proper consultation with Dulverton Town Council prior to the production of the original report is considered by members to demonstrate a complete lack of regard by WSC for the status of DTC as a statutory authority. The authority and position of DTC, a sister local authority, has been seriously undermined by the autocratic attitude and actions of WSC and this will be the subject of a separate formal complaint.

Yours sincerely,

Clerk to Dulverton Town Council

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- Selling or trading without prior permission

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[www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk](http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk)



**Want to help?** Then write to Bruce Lang – address above or leave at the Post Office

It would greatly help in our Town Council's efforts to maintain the Car Park permits at their current cost

and to allow their use in the Lion Stables Including personal views is worthwhile especially hardship for residents and workers or anticipated loss of business. Please Help and Write - Please

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# Let's meet Gerry Lewis our new Mayor and Chairman of the Town Council

## What got you into your business??

Dumb luck got me in to IT, the whole thing was so new that we were making it up as we went along. I enjoyed it so much that I stayed with it until I retired and even now I still dabble.

## What gives you most satisfaction in your working life?

In my paid working life now past. Managing a team of intelligent people, getting them to realise their full potential.

## What challenges do you face?

Then as now, dealing with petty minded, unimaginative, bean-counting bureaucracy. People who imagine that dictatorial control is a substitute for doing the right thing.

## If you had a magic wand what would you use it for?

Conducting music, I would not trust myself with that sort of power.

## What three things do you need to be a success?

Initiative, determination and being prepared to start again from the beginning when you get it wrong.

## What changes in Dulverton would you like to see in the next five years?

I don't believe it's change that we need in Dulverton with one exception. We just need each tier of government, district, county and central to understand that withdrawing funding and as a result services, has to stop. Not just stop but reverse. More local control would be a great thing but without a reliable source of funding it too would be forced to cut. Grants are not the answer in my opinion, organisations like the youth club and facilities like the schools and the library need to be sure of their future in order to plan properly. The one exception that really needs to be addressed is housing, particularly for young people.

## Who inspires you?

Anyone who focuses on the objective and not the credit.

## If you had a chance to start over what would you do differently?

Absolutely nothing, my life has been great so far despite my best efforts and I couldn't imagine a better one.



## What makes you happy?

I really love it when a plan comes together.

## If you were an animal, what animal would you like to be?

I couldn't imagine being happy as any animal, I value having a brain far too much.

## What do you do to relax?

Read, write computer programs, research new things and listen to J.S.Bach.

## Do you have hobbies?

My whole life is a hobby, it's just that before I retired people paid me to have fun.

## How do you manage your time?

In my head, I juggle well or at least I used to. Lately I have to write a few things down.

## Is there anywhere on the planet you would like to go?

The Nürburgring to drive on the Nordschleife, in something fast of course.

## What 4 persons alive or dead, would you invite to dinner?

Sam Harris, Elon Musk, Jim Al-Khalili, Emma Thompson. Seriously clever and interesting people with real vision and no need to say grace.

## Thank You

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## A Happy Ending

A couple of issues ago Allison's chickens were offered free of charge to the right home and they have found a lovely new home with Sue Toogood and her flock in Bury. They have a huge area to wander around in and as Sues is as besotted with chickens as Allison is and she knows that they will be allowed to live and end their days doing what chickens are supposed to do. Apparently they have ganged up together so goodness knows what the other chickens think of them!

Allison had an enquiry about her chicken hut from someone at one of the local schools but didn't keep the message, so it they would contact her they are welcome to have the hut if they want it. However it is large and very heavy so they would need to take that into account.

## Goodbye - The Rock - Hallo Oggies

The Rock has been sold and subject to change of use permission from the National Park, it will no longer be a Pub. It will be a Music Shop, selling sheet music, musical instruments etc.

It will most likely be September before it is open; there is a lot of work to get it fit for its new life in the world of music.

I am sure we wish **Oggies** the best for its future, and we will keep you in touch with its progress.



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# July – What to do?

**Vintage Film Club** – 2.30 pm\* at Fishers Mead Community Centre

Wed 12th July – Gandhi – starring Ben Kingsley – 1982

**Wendy's Children's Party** – 16<sup>th</sup> July – 2pm to 4.30pm at the Sport Field – invitations have been sent out, if you have not received an invitation phone 324 395 to see if you can come

## Film Club

Friday July 7<sup>th</sup> - HIDDEN FIGURES (Cert PG)

Friday June 28<sup>th</sup>– THE LEVELLING (Cert 15)

Tickets –Dulverton Films members £3, non-members £4.50, students, accompanied by an adult, £2.50. (Tickets may be available on the door - £4). Book in advance at Dulverton Post Office (Tel: 01398 323474) or email janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk. Bar open from 7pm.

**Dulverton Fete 22<sup>nd</sup> July** – Noon to 4.30pm – To be opened by Johnny Kingdom at All Saints C of E School

Summer Fete Entry by programme (£2 children free) buy in advance from the Co-op (Available from 10th July, Mon–Fri 10.30–12.30)

In aid of All Saints Church and the Tennis Club

**Music at All Saints Church** - Sunday 9th July at 8pm "Classical guitar, piano and organ. A mixed programme of light and serious music Conall McKay and Ian Lovegrove, who teach music in Aberdeen are joined by a local pianist for duets

Bar and Retiring collection.

**U3A** - "Wednesday 26th June 10.30am– 'Anecdotes of a Funeral Director! An amusing talk by Nick Friendship

**Dulverton Action Group** - Litter-picking (always the 3rd Sunday):

Sun 16th July – 10.30 meet by the Heritage Centre - Everyone welcome and all kit supplied

**Heritage Centre** - Town Tours Sunday 9th July 3pm - Weds 19th July 3pm - Thursday 27th July 3pm

Why not join them on a guided walk exploring the history of Dulverton. Discover some secret places and hear tales of old from local guides. All £3pp

Book Sale - Saturday 29th July 10.30 – 4pm

15th July to 22nd July - Dulverton Town Football Club - A story in pictures

An exhibition of old photographs (some of which are over 100 years old) plus memorabilia to celebrate the Football Club's 130 year anniversary. To include a reunion of ex-players.

**Dulverton Group Exmoor Society** - Wednesday 19th July. A Visit to Chambercombe Manor. Set in a secluded valley, nestling snugly near the Heritage Coast of Ilfracombe, the Manor House is thought to date from the 11th century and was mentioned in the Domesday Book. It still retains much of its original architecture and is in a wonderful state of preservation. Linda Hammond 323 954 for details and to book your place

**Dulverton Gardening Club**- 4th July - Visit to Fursdon House Garden, Bickleigh House and Garden and cream tea.

8th July - Junior Show at Dulverton Junior School. For further details please see our website [www.dulvertongardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.dulvertongardeningclub.co.uk)

or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Dulverton-Gardening-Club](http://www.facebook.com/Dulverton-Gardening-Club)

**Voices of Exmoor** – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Summer Serenade

Songs from the Shows - At the Town Hall – 7.30pm  
Tickets from the Tantivy £5 – in support of Somerset Sight and C.L.O.W.N.S

**Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare** - 20th July to 6<sup>th</sup> of August at Knackershole Barn – the Exeter Northcott Theatre Production – more details next month Box office 01392 72 63 63

**Car Treasure Hunt** – Friday August 4<sup>th</sup> start 6.30pm Exmoor House carpark - £20 a car, finish the sport club BBQ and pay bar – 07973 424323 Steph to book

**Exmoor Pony Centre Activity Day** – 30<sup>th</sup> July – 11am to 3pm – more details [www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk](http://www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk)



## More news of the Cuckoos on Winsford Hill

My mother, who lives in Dulverton, passes the

Dulverton Voice on to me as I live in Exford and it said that if you see a cuckoo you should report it. I am often up on Winsford Hill and there were 3 cuckoos cuckooing to one another one time I was up there. I did see one too but didn't manage to photograph it.

However I did manage to record the sound of it again, on my old camera which has video. I am very interested in the cuckoo and all wildlife being an artist and keen photographer.

Three cuckoos were heard this year in May of an evening. You can always hear one up by the Caractacus stone in May in the evening.

I attach my last year cuckoo pics!

Thank you Anna Fraser for all the information

# Dulverton Sports!



**Squash** - The squash courts are located at the Millhams Lane playing fields. The courts were built and paid for by members of the Dulverton community and were opened in 1984.

The legacy of the hard work and dedication of those willing volunteers supports a vibrant squash club to this day. It has members of all ages ranging from teenagers to one of the original founding members who is now in his seventies.

The roof was badly damaged by the storms of last winter and is now beyond further repair. It is a large roof and it needs to be completely replaced at a cost of over £15,000. The club members have been saving for this eventuality for some years but the roof must be replaced now and we have a shortfall of some £5,000 in our savings.

Turning the clock back to the club's origins we are seeking the support of the local community. To that aim, we are seeking donations from local people and the sponsorship from local businesses. We have set up a crowdfunding website with the help of the Somerset Activity Sports Partnership, part of Somerset County Council. Our crowdfunding website can be found at: <http://bit.ly/drysquash>. The appeal will be run for 90 days and the members will be organising several events including a squash marathon at the club and litter picking on some of the roads leading to Dulverton.

Further details about the club can be found at: <http://www.dulvertonsquash.co.uk>



**Back to Netball** – 6.30pm every Thursday at Dulverton Junior School. No fee or booking required but please wear trainers.

You don't have to have played before or have not played for a long time. You will be taken back to basics, just follow the coaching, then if you like it and have FUN and you can go again if you wish.

For more details contact Linsey Smith 07973 146 571 or [lsmith17@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lsmith17@hotmail.co.uk)



**Football** - The Club is celebrating 130 years of football in Dulverton by way of an exhibition of photographs, some of which are over 100 years old. There will also be several articles of memorabilia relating to the Club on display.

The exhibition will take place at the Heritage Centre for a seven day period commencing on Saturday, 15 July. It is hoped that several ex-players will attend a re-union at the Centre from 2pm until 8pm during the opening weekend. The exhibition will be open to everyone during the remaining weekdays from 10.30am to 4.30pm.

For further information, please contact the Secretary, John Atkins on 323787



**Cricket** - Since the beginning of the season Dulverton cricket club have experienced mixed results

The first team playing on Saturdays have played 8 won 4 lost 4

The Sunday team have struggled for players and have played six, only winning one game.

There have been some notable batting performances have come from Carl Hooper 126, 81, 73, 61 & 52 Lewis Hough 107 & 101 Tom Blundell 95 Adrian Smith 79 Harry Harrison 77 & 51 Graham Turner 76 Lee Hooper 67 Jack Waterman 60

The Best bowling John Garner 4/53 & 3/30 Harry Harrison 3/8 Andrew Nicholas 3/24 Lee Hooper 3/46 & Ashley Williams 3/33

Also Toby Cottrell brought up his century of outfield catches for the club

The club are always on the lookout for players for both the senior and junior section. For more information contact club captain Carl Hooper on 07866 256 769.

**The  
Iron  
Girls –**  
What a  
nice photo



## Useful Phone Numbers



### Churches

Catholic Priest	01643 702201
CofE	323018
Congregational	323744

### Health

Dentist	323436
Dulverton Pharmacy	323359
Medical Centre	323333
Patient Group	324687

### Sports

1610 Gym	323075
Angling Assn	323409
Cricket Club	323834
Cricket Colts	323474
Exmoor Fitness Centre	323075
Football	323787
Netball	323834
Snooker	323899
Squash	07710 046107
Tai Chi Club	332104
Project	324169
Tennis	07723 459402

### Young People

Youth Club	07866 730093
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### Other

Exmoor National Park HQ	323665
Dulverton Centre	323841

Abbeyfield	324136
Advice (CAB)	01643 704624
Bridge Club	331219
Camera club	331556
Civic Society	07493 518350
Dulverton Dance	341850
Dulverton Group Exmoor Society	331482
Dulverton Vets	323285
Exmoor Pony Centre	323093
Film Club	323785
Family & Toddlers	324395
Gardening	323474
Hanover Vintage Films	323785
Ladies Lunch	324395
Litter Gathering Group	323785
Men's Breakfast	324395
Messy Church	324395
Mother Union	323587
Players	341850
Samaritans	08457 909090
Somerset Age	08456 434621
Royal British Legion	323030
Town Council	324561
<b>Women's Institute</b>	<b>323142</b>
U3A	323587
Voluntary Lifts	07528 326 880
West Somerset Advice Bureau	01643 704624
Village Agent	01823 331222
Report Street Light Fault	323110
Police:	
Emergency	999
Non urgent	101



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