

## Welcome to issue 43

Welcome to our November 2016 issue 43. Dulverton is a little town and I am proud to live here. However we have our share of problems, see in this issue photos of Lorries taking a short cut!!!!!!

In her interview in this issue Angela of the Lion Hotel, asks for some more toilets for visitors. This got us thinking "What are the top 3 problems we have – Traffic Management? – Housing? – Too many layers of Government Including an unelected National Park.?"

We could go on but what would be great would be your thoughts so we could share them with the Town, you never know we may all agree.

Please enjoy this issue and please let us know your thoughts

## Seen on the River

A rare sight! On looking out of the window this morning at a very swollen river Barle. I was surprised to see a gaggle? or flock, of Goosanders on the bank opposite. On closer look it is actually seven young Goosanders, they all looked like female as they were grey predominantly with coloured heads, Males being black and white.

Fishermen are not going to like this news as Goosanders are greedy fish eaters and the river Barle is not best stocked with fish in recent years.

Walking back after buying some milk, a sight which used to greet all who walked by the river Kingfishers.

Is it a good sign that we have natures fishermen being seen on the river.



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Copy for next Issue (December 2016)

By the 15.11.16

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## Lets' be helpful

I think that we all agree there's need to repair the services and roads, and this work causes difficulties for the Town and its visitors but could those arranging the works, help those using the town.

We may not always like the "white van man" but the help given to one during the work at the start of October, was something else!

He had a delivery in Jury Road about a 100 yard up from the Rock, he tried to turn to town at Machine Cross and was diverted via Brushford, no problem with that but then he got to Dulverton.

He was told that Jury Road was closed; he enquired and was told roads closed, well he tried, and found a large closed sign.

Well he then went back and asked those working on the road where to go and was told "Road closed follow the sign!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Later a sign appeared next to the one outside the Rock "Open to Ridlers" – may I ask how does a new visitor know where Ridlers IS,

We are a town that is visitor friendly  
????????????????????

Could the signage be approved by someone who knows the Town – PLEASE

For the record my white van man left Dulverton but bless him he tried again and I got my delivery just after 9.30pm



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## Short and Sweet



**A West Somerset Civic Service** was held at All Saints Church, Dulverton for Cllr Bruce Heywood, and the Chairman of West Somerset District Council Sunday 23rd October.

The ceremony was well attended and even more attended the reception held in Dulverton Town Hall

It was remarkable to see so many Mayors and Leaders of the community gathered in one place, their chains of office abounded and made a splendid display



**A Letter we received**, - I understand there was an "Animals Service in the Parish Church yesterday. (We received the letter 10.10.16)

It would have been nice to have been told in advance so that I could have passed the information on to my many customers, or even given a poster to put in the window.

**Chris. DULVERTON PET SUPPLIES**

**Editors note** We were not told either!



**4 Church Lane** – It may seem that the purchase of the cottage for an affordable let has gone very quiet. However much has been going on, there has been a legal problem and the lawyers for both sides have been working to resolve the issue.

This has caused a further problem, the cottage has been empty for almost 10 months, we hope that in the next month progress can be made.



**Planning** - Co-op, 17-19 Fore Street,

Proposed advert consent for the erection of 4 signs.



**Paddy does it again** – Woods was once again in the news winning "**The Wine Pub of the year**". This is the 7<sup>th</sup> time on the trot that Woods have won this national competition.

What more can we say that has not already been said? Except **Well done Paddy and Woods and we look forward to 2017**

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**Payphones** – There is a review of payphones in our area – the one is affected in our area is Amory Road – for more detail phone 0800 661 610 option 1



**Sorry** – We gave some incorrect information in our last issue – Carl Hooper contacted the Voice

“Just to let you know the information in last month's voice about the co-responders is not correct. You do have to be in the service to be a co-responder”

Thank you Carl

# Part Three of Dulverton Schools

Let us continue with the Middle School which was set up by the Somerset County Council members in September 1967 when Mr Douglas Jukes was appointed as the first headmaster. You may well remember him as being very tall and a Greek classical scholar . His great interest, apart from school, was boating which he was always ready to talk about!

The school then had a series of appointments all coming to Dulverton from Danesfield Middle School in Williton, they were:-

Mr Ken Almond who frequently used to cycle to school from Minehead, he also played as part of a folk group.

Mr John Owen well remembered as a keen Rugby player and a fan of the game.

Mr Steve Ford who was Acting Head from January 1998 until April 1999 when he was appointed Head. He was instrumental in introducing the Exmoor Curriculum mentioned in part two of the previous articles.

## *Top School*



The last Head to be appointed, also from Danesfield, was Mr Jerry Weedon, until the school finally closed as a Middle School, following many discussions as to its future.

To return to the First School, why did education cease at the Top School as it was known and why did it move premises? We have to look at the location, why Top School? Very obvious, perched on the side of a hill, looking down on the Town, even higher than the Church tower which is immediately below it. But, it had its disadvantages, its access was extremely difficult for children, staff, and the delivery of everyday goods that every school required.

The road that led up from the Town via Town Marsh was known locally as a "Butt Cart track", or more correctly Catford Lane, which in years gone by was one of the few roads into Dulverton, very narrow and very steep! Granted the footpath was walkable, (since closed by a possibly dodgy wall deterioration that some difficult authorities cannot agree to make a sensible decision on how to repair) but with numerous uneven steps and again very narrow. From a Health and Safety point of view the local Fire Engine was unable to negotiate the poor access, even the dustcart, (as it was known then), the tanker that delivered the heating oil and varying other deliveries could not reach the school. Not forgetting the fact that there were very limited facilities for children to enjoy outdoor sports on the steep side of a hill.

The County Council of the day thought that they should move into the Middle school buildings as a cheap option, probably a poor idea as it never happened.

Inevitably the move to improve premises was decided, a brand new set of buildings were proposed and built adjoining the then Dulverton Middle School.

Then in the year 2000 both the First School and the Middle School were brought together on adjoining ground with an annexed infant school building provided for pre school children, when Mr Charlie Pope was Headmaster of the First School until he retired in 2009. In 2010 Mrs Francis Burns became Head and latterly Head of the Federation of Schools. To explain further, Federation of Schools was a way of satisfying the authorities need to save money by sharing resources with other schools, therefore Exford First School, Dulverton First and Dulverton Middle became the Federation.

And yet again in 2016 the politicians have intervened to change our education system to a different way thinking that had our communities in an uproar, with many families in battle with the education authorities. But as we all know, to our dismay to try alter that, is a very rocky road.

This Is only a very brief account of the Schools in the Dulverton area over the past years.



# Our Post Office

The recent upgrade of our Post Office when it was closed for the work, showed just how difficult life would be if we lost it.

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# Our Bird Feeding Station

Many of us feed the birds this year; things have changed dramatically for the birds that used to visit our bird table in previous years.

The most noticeable is that the Long Tailed Tits have reduced from the usual family of about twelve, that came to feed on a regular basis have now come down to three birds only.

These are not the only reductions that we have noticed, there were numerous other Tits, Blue, Great and Coal that visited, along with Chaffinches and Robins to mention a few breeds, these also have reduced in numbers.

We had an occasional visit from a hungry Sparrow Hawk, as this bird is dependent on small birds and mammals for its diet, could this be the cause of our small bird decline?

There is one other thing, disease, we have noticed that chaffinches have been suffering with a fungus on one or both legs, which seems to worsen into very puffed out chest with a deterioration into poor breathing.

**Please let's hear from you telling us what you see**



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# The Never ending Story

**YES !** It's that wall again! As a residence of Dulverton you could be forgiven for laughing off the church wall Saga as an old wife's tale but sadly for members of its parish it is not fiction although most of the time it feels we are living in a world of fantasy make believe.

**FED UP !!** Your Town Council & Local Church certainly are. It may not come as much a surprise but the towns suffering is now into its 4th or is the 5th year, difficult to keep track - doesn't time fly...when you're having fun or trying to get a wall fixed. Although it's not the fixing that's been the problem, it's the getting permission about how to get it fixed, that's the problem.

It's the type of story told over a drink in the local pub, with cries of; your making it up, it can't be true, it could never happen around here,.....

But it has, have you heard of with the now legendary Dulverton's Church Wall. In each case it's **you** that suffers.

The question to be asked is – Why did the Diocese of Bath & Wells blindly accepted 1 report commissioned by a member of their own group and discounted 3 professional reports commissioned by your council. Why were our reports given so little credence? Why was so much importance given to one person's opinion who opposed our Town Council (DTC) and later admitted not being qualified to judge.

Is anyone to be held accountable for the **“unfortunate” costs you have to bear** Should not the cost of conservation be tempered by its effect on the community? Conservation for conservation sake. Did not Dunster suffer similarly with regard to putting down the “wrong” pavement stones, then taking them up and then putting down different paving stones? These was a cost to YOU, it was not free – bad advice costs you money.

But let's focus on the next chapter of our story - as you already know if you have been following along. The Diocese of Bath & Wells issued 2 Faculties (a church term for planning permission) both dated 1st April 2016 – a good day to pick, April Fool's day (requests to have a copy or even see them had gone unanswered for over 6 months) Finally both arrived (within 2 weeks of each other). One faculty gave DTC the option to fix the wall using either of the 2 alternatives proposed and the other took away that option.

To top it all early this month another letter arrived and who would have guessed with yet another Faculty in tow, however this one takes note of the DTC 3 report's conclusions and the “comprise report” which the “objectors” (finally) agreed along with DTC (if you're counting that's makes 5) i.e. that the wall is supporting 3 meters of earth, therefore it is a supporting wall and could be a danger to the public if it collapses. Funny that! Just what DTC reports have been saying all along!

5 reports, 5 years delay and 3 Faculties (we only wanted one) later your council has the authority to get on with the job. A word of warning - don't count on an organisations word, even when it's in writing, “excuses” can always be found not to deliver on commitments when it suits their purpose. There is always a reason to duck out of obligations made in a so called “error”.

4 or 5 years wasted! It would be “nice” to say that's it, but as in all fairy tales the next CHAPTER in what is fast becoming the “never ending story” is likely to be just around the corner.

Now a contractor can be appointed to start the work based on tender responses due by end Oct.

**Editors Question** - Could the Dulverton Town Council let us, the Council Tax Payers know – what it has and will cost us before the path is reopened, also an estimate on how much has been wasted both in money and peoples time.

**I hope to have a reply in our next issue**





# Now get out of that!

We know that Lorries getting stuck in town is something that happens but we can show one that takes the cake, photos taken by the Mayor. When he asked the driver why he had come that way he said "I was told to"!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



## Report a Problem

Our Council has received information about the Public being able to: "Report a problem" on the Highway. You can now report issues you find on a highway such as a pothole, blocked drain or poor road surface at:

[www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/) .

Simply log the issue on the map by location and fill in the details using the online form. It will be inspected within 3 working days.

Residents can also report any issues found on a right of way –such as a broken stile or blocked path at [www.somerset.gov.uk/rightsofway](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/rightsofway)

We can also report issues to Highways and Public Footpaths and Rights of Way on 03001232224 .



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# Let's meet Angela at the Lion Hotel

**What got you into this business** - My Husband

**What gives you most satisfaction in your working life** - Praise from a customer to say we got it right

**What challenges do you face** - Constant repairs to an old building

**If you had a magic wand** - Help the children of Syria but I think it would take more than one magic wand

**What three things do you need to be a success** -Hard work, determination and a plan

**What changes would you like to see in the next five years** - In Dulverton some more toilets for visitors

**Who inspires you** -Joanna Lumley, Helen Mirran and women who don't give up because they are over 60

**If you had a chance to start over what would you do differently** - Study a bit harder at school

And learn languages

**What makes you happy** - spending time with my wonderful ever increasing family

**If you were an animal, what animal would you like to be** - a cat

**What do you do to relax** - walk the dogs and if I have time left I love to read

**Do you have hobbies** -Family research

**How do you manage your time** - I don't seem to be able there is never enough time to do everything I should

**Is there anywhere on the planet you would like to go** - Apart from Australia I would love to visit India

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

Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, Emily Pankhurst, Elizabeth 1



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# Dulverton - the way we were



Did you recognise the Garage in Fore Street last month, what year did that disappear and why? Now have a look at this one, what was the shop to the right of the picture selling, and what year was the photo taken?

## Letter from our readers

"Thank you for your letter, we have put into this months voice at this late stage to enable other readers to view the response and possibly to see what they think the answer is. We shall be discussing this in our next issue." Thank you again.

Ed.

7 BANK SQUARE DULVERTON SOMERSET TA22 9BU

25 October 2016

Dulverton Voice  
4 Jury Road  
Dulverton TA22 9DU

My guess about the year of the Dulverton picture in the October Dulverton Voice is 1932.

- 1- Woods bakery was then at 1 Church Street (now Bank Square, without a bank)
- 2- The car looks 1930-ish
- 3- The Lion Hotel garage doors are pre- Stanbury's petrol pumps which were along the front when we first came here in the 1960's

I look forward to reading the answer in the next Voice.

Yours sincerely

(Mrs. G. Sinclair)



## **Dulverton by Starlight Sunday 4th December.**

**Fore Street will be closed** to traffic to allow for the **Starlight market**.

**Most of the shops** will be **open** throughout the day.

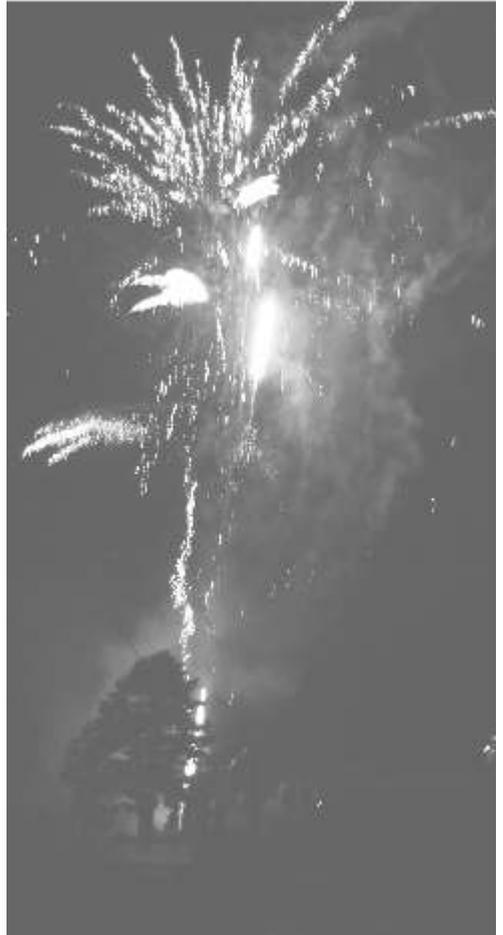
For the 2nd year there will be a **Tree Trail** in the Upper Town Hall, this is will be open from 10.30am until about 6pm.

The **Model Railway** will also be open this year.

New for this year will be **Donkey Rides** in Bank Square and this will be from 2pm until 5pm.

There will be a **full afternoon of entertainment on the stage**, which will begin at 2pm and will close at around 7.30pm after the **fireworks** and the **local band** have played to end the day's festivities

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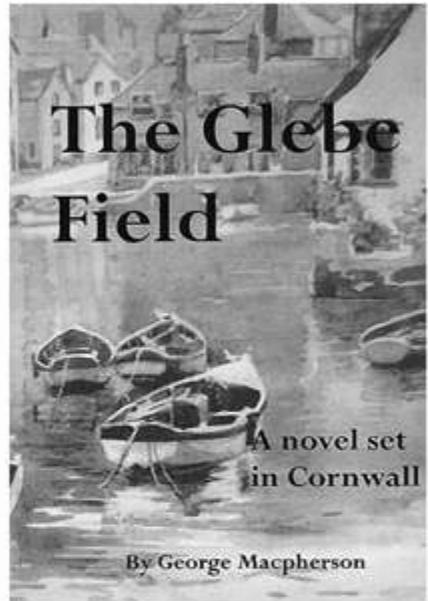


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# Dulverton Sports!



**Football** - Following defeats in both our first two games of the season, we travelled to Bridgwater, playing Wembdon in the first round of the League K.O. Cup.

At the end of full time, with the score being 1-1, we went straight into a penalty shoot-out resulting in a 4-3 win to us.

Our next game was at home to Norton Fitzwarren. We completely outplayed the visitors and ended up winning 4-0, Lewis Hough scoring a hat-trick.

Having already lost 0-5 to Stogursey at home earlier in the season, we travelled over to try and get our revenge! Thankfully, it was not a repeat of our previous encounter and we came away with a 0-0 draw.

Our latest game saw us being drawn at home to Worle Reserves of Weston-Super-Mare in the first round of the Somerset Intermediate Cup. A good game developed with end to end football. Lewis Hough put us in front after 30 mins only to see them equalize just before half time. We continued to put pressure on them with our hard work eventually resulting in Lewis scoring the winning goal.

## Dates for your Diary – November

### **Vintage Film Club** -

Wednesday 9th November –

3 pm at Fishers Mead Community Centre:

The Bitter Tea of General Yen – starring Barbara Stanwyck – 1933

### **Dulverton Action Group** -

Sunday 20th November –

Litter-picking:

10.30am meet by the Heritage Centre - Everyone welcome!

### **Film Club**

Friday November 11th

**SPOTLIGHT** (Cert 15)

Friday November 25th

**LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP** (Cert U)

**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 Schools Association Winter Fair** is being held on the 12th November – let's support this event as the schools come to the end of the first term of the changes.

**Voices of Exmoor** – 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December in the Town Hall at 7.30pm– Christmas Songs & Carols – Tickets from the Tantivy - £5 In aid of St Margaret's Hospice

**Dulverton Gardening Club** - 10th November Town Hall, 7:15 start

Planting Workshop, A talk and planting Workshop on Garden Design (Part2) Sally Leany returns to further our education on garden design with hands on approach on the night  
Sally has suggested that people bring their favourite reference book on the night

**U3A** - Wednesday 30th November -10.15am Community Centre

St. Margaret's Hospice & their Nepal Trek Challenge 2014

with of St Margaret's Ian Williamson and Jane Lillis.

**Dulverton Players** – Present “**Ghost Writer**” at the Town Hall

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Cricket Colts	323474
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Project	324169
Tennis	07723 459402

### Young People

Youth Club	07866 730093
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### Other

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Dulverton Centre	323841

Abbeyfield	324136
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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
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