

## Welcome to issue 21

Firstly we hope that you all had a good Christmas and that 2015 will be good for Dulverton and all of us.

This issue has a number of special items, firstly there is an insert which is a report from our Town Council on 2014, this is produced and paid for by the Council and we are pleased to distribute it for them, free of charge, we hope you find it of interest.

The first of two articles which give interesting and new information on the leat, they could throw light on some of our Town's history, and we thank Philip Hull for sharing this information with the Voice.

Also the first of a series of interviews where we have asked young Mathew to interview a number of our well known Citizens.



Boxing day saw Bank Square packed for the traditional meet of the Dulverton Farmers Hunt, it was a shame that we had untraditional rain.

**Dulverton voice, lets hear your views and spread your news**

## Contact Us:

Copy for next Issue (Feb 2015)

By the 15.1.15

### How to Contact us

E mail:-

dulvertonvoice@btinternet.com

Website:- [www.dulvertonvoice.co.uk](http://www.dulvertonvoice.co.uk)

By post - Dulverton Voice

4 Jury Road TA22 9DU

### Disclaimer

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.



1 Church Walk, Dulverton TA22 9ER

Tel: 07791 709 049 - 01398 323204

[www.printingatthevicarage.co.uk](http://www.printingatthevicarage.co.uk)

[printingatthevicarage@gmail.com](mailto:printingatthevicarage@gmail.com)

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# Starlight 2014

As our picture shows it was "A HAPPY STARLIGHT" enjoyed by all who went. Thanks and Congratulations to the Committee who ran Starlight this year.

It was the last Nativity exhibition and they went out with a magnificent display.

The Fireworks rounded off the event with a bang, preceded by the Carols and followed by our Rock Band and what's more the weather was kind.



# Dulverton by Starlight Raffle Prize winners 2014

3 course meal for two at the Tongdam with a bottle of Champagne - **Mr & Mrs Lock**; Streamcombe Cookery Course voucher - **Mr M Croxford**; £100 Hamper from Delicatessen - **Lauren** from Woods; £100 Hamper from the Tantivy - **Kaitlyn Sellar Elliott**; Barbour Liddles Dales Quilted jacket voucher from Lance Nicholsons - **Inez**; £80 voucher for Woods - **Paul Robbins**;

£50 Voucher from Brimblecombe - **Mrs Scoynes**; Crabtree and Evelyn La Source Gift Set from the Dulverton Pharmacy - **Linda Stevens**; £50 Voucher for Carol King - **Sue Andrews**; £40 Meal voucher & Bottle of wine from Lion Hotel - **Annabel Greenfield**; £50 Voucher for the Wardrobe - **Mrs Spear**;

Full body massage from Isis Wellbeing & Skin Care - **Alison Stevens**; £40 voucher from the Pink Rooster - **Rosie Milton**; Set of 6 Dessert Knives & Forks donated by Caxtons - **Kath Sparks**; Bottle of Moet Chandon Champagne donated by the Riverside Caravan Club Park - **Shelly Edworthy**;

Bottle of Cider Brandy donated by Nimble Fingers - **Karen Ackland**; 12 Bottles of Beer donated by Risdon Hosegood - **Richard Drewer**; £25 voucher for the Tantivy Café - **Ivan Gunn**; Hope Bourne Book donated by the Exmoor Society - **David Issac**; Gentleman's Haircut donated by Malumbys - **Margaret Rawle**



**Our picture shows a very happy Kaitlyn with her £100 Tantivy Hamper**

**The Window Display Winners were:**

- 1st** Dulverton Delicatessen,
  - 2nd** Brimblecombe,
  - 3rd** Exclusive Cakes
- and **Highly Commended** was Carol King

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## Killed at 4 weeks old!

This beautiful four week old foal was killed by a white van and then, to add insult to injury, the owner of the herd has received a letter from an insurance company representing the owners of the van seeking damages for "allowing a horse to be loose on a carriageway"

**I hope that they have been told it is the ponies HOME**

However this does raise some issues, we are told that we are all are buying more on line for home delivery, thus more delivery vans! Will this have an effect on the wild life of Exmoor?

Do we know how many animals were killed or injured last year? A recent major study on the ponies said many people, including farmers, believed that fatalities were 10-12 a year.

We understand that this issue is being looked at and if you have any thoughts, ideas or information please let us know and we will pass them on.



# Pop in to the Bank for a Cake?

During last year there always seemed to be homemade cakes on the counter at our NatWest for the customers to enjoy. These cakes, made by the staff, have raised over £750 in donations, which have been passed to the Devon & Somerset Air Ambulance – Wear Pink – Children in Need – Macmillan Cancer Support. **What a great effort**

But there is more **Sarah** the Manager of our NatWest branch has been off running for Charity, completing the Bideford 10 miler and just over a week before Christmas the 10 mile Chase the Elf So having caught the bug she is planning to run 4 half Marathons in 2015

The Branch will be trying raise even more for their charities in 2015 including a **FUN WEEK** – We will keep our eyes open for that. **More Dulverton People helping others.**



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# From the Dulverton Town Council

## 100 Years 1914 - Small Holding

A letter was read from a resident asking if the Council could help him in obtaining a field in which to run his pony.

The Clerk was directed to inform the resident that he should apply to the Somerset County Council.

Eds note; The Town Council was not very sympathetic in this case, as you might expect, and the Somerset County Council would have been even less sympathetic!

## 50 Years 1965 – Erection of Bus Shelter

The Clerk reported completion of the Bus Shelter (Jury Road) and stated that he had, subject to the Town Council agreeing, insured the building in the sum of £250 with the Commercial Union.

Eds note; To us the sum quoted seems a very small figure in this day and age. The estimated cost to rebuild this at today's price would be in the region of £4,000

## 25 Years 1989 - Recreation ground-Litter Baskets

The Clerk reported that one of the litter baskets had been damaged. A Council member offered to look into this matter.

Eds note; I am not sure what the member would have found when the member looked into the basket, rubbish or more damage!

## Inconsiderate Parking

A member drew attention to inconsiderate parking in Battleton, Northmoor Road, and Amory Road. The Clerk to write to the Police.

Eds note; The Council is now AGAIN concerned and it is a very emotive subject as it was 25 years ago. Then the Police were very involved in the parking issues but now it has become District and County Councils responsibility.

CN

# Short and Sweet



We are sad to report that **George Wigmore** who's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday we reported in our November issue passed away early in December, our thoughts are with June his wife.



### Street Lighting

If you have a problem with street lighting, phone 0845 345 9155 and there are target times for getting it fixed.

However all those who use Jury Road between the Rock and where it widens outside number 10 will know, the lighting has not been working. For the record this fault was reported almost a year ago and has been chased through-out 2014.

So Thank You to whoever fixed the light and we are delighted to report it is now back in working order.



**Our Buses** - There seems to have been some confusion re the Saturday service to Taunton, the idea is that they would run a 50% service, not a complete stop. So the consultation has been extended – have your say 0845 345 9155



**Traffic Debate** – In the last issue the Council offered that a group might be formed with 3 Traders/Service Providers', 3 members of the Public and Council Members so the widest range of views could be sort, 2 members of the Public have come forward but NO TRADERS/SERVICE PROVIDERS, come on guys this is important for our Town.

**There were 26 replies received to the consultation, less than 2%. Most did not provide details of why they were for or against, it is a shame all those who talked about the problem, did not pass their comments on to the Council.**



**I want  
to win  
that  
cake!**



On Starlight Sunday the wonderful cake in **Exclusive Cakes** window was raffled and £160 raised for Children's Hospice South West.

**Carol Hope** wanted to win the cake and, if she did, give it to the Firemen who rescued her when she broke her neck in an car accident at Black Cat a few years ago.

Well want does not always turn into can have and she did not win. The cake was won by **Patsy Iles** who, when she heard the story, offered the cake to Carol, to give to the firemen. Our picture shows the Bampton Firemen having the first cut but Carol assures us that the Dulverton Guys got their fair share.

So that is where the cake ends up - with the firemen.

A nice story to start the year, Money raised for the Hospice by **Christine** and **Carols** wish granted by **Patsy**.



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# The Resurfaced Roads

We all remember the dust so bad it closed the Rock twice, we are sorry to report no progress on why!

The surface of these roads is breaking up not just in one place but from Higher Coombe to Jury Road. We were promised some comments; the voice is yet to receive them.

Our photo shows the start of Jury Road, down to the original surface in a number of places! As it is elsewhere

WHY? and WHAT IS GOING TO BE DONE ABOUT IT?

Maybe Somerset County Council will let us know.



## Road Closures

Chapel Street and Millham Lane - Somerset Highways to carry out preparation and resurfacing works 11/02/15 to 13/02/15

## Exmoor Pony Centre

The Moorland Mousie Trust would like to thank all those who supported them last year.

The year they have been busy encouraging interest in the local rare breed Exmoor pony; they are happy to advise and assist anyone with handling privately purchased young stock to help new owners get started on a good basis for building up a rewarding relationship.

Foal Handling courses in November showed those attending how we approach the young stock that have come direct from their moorland herds to the Centre and the way in which we gain their trust, making each stage of the process a simple transition.

You can follow their activities on Facebook or make a donation through their website [www.moorlandmousietrust.org.uk](http://www.moorlandmousietrust.org.uk) helping them to continue their work in the coming year.

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# REPAIR WORK UNEARTHES HISTORY OF THE WEIR (Part 1)

Recent temporary repair work on our Weir uncovered a large number of oak stakes (see photo) which had been used in its earlier reconstruction. Local residents were able to recover the stakes and commission Dr Andrew Moir of Tree Ring Services to undertake tree ring dating of the stakes to determine their exact age\*. He established that **the stakes date from the period 1784 to 1803** and that some of the stakes are from the same tree. Residents were also grateful to receive advice from Dr Matt Edgeworth of Leicester University; He is a recognised authority on industrial watermill systems.

The ancient history of the Weir and Leat can be **traced back to 1331** and the system was

in use right up to the 20th century. That means that the weir and leat would have had to be regularly serviced and repaired, with new sections added when bits of it got washed away or damaged in floods. The parts further back in the body of the structure are likely to be older. Weirhead residents have advised Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) and English Heritage that they believe the Dulverton Weir and Leat system should be recognised as an important urban watermill landscape and that any further repairs or alterations to it should be planned and funded with this in mind.

ENPA has undertaken to commission an Archaeological survey in 2015 which will be led

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## Matthew Meets...

This Month we start a new series "Mathew meets" and we thank Keith Ross for agreeing to be the first interviewee

### Mathew meets Keith Ross

Keith has lived in Dulverton for 56 years, having been born in Oxford; he went to school in Banbury, Blackley (Northants) where he started his secondary education, at the age of 11 he travelled by public service, with a change of bus on the way too! and then Huish Grammar School in Taunton

**Asked did you enjoy growing up?** "I enjoyed growing up, but school wasn't a favourite of mine I enjoyed Geography, it just so happened that our form teacher, a man who we called 'Twiddles' inspired my interest in the subject.





by Shirley Blaylock their Archaeologist. This will take place alongside a project to establish and document the full historical significance of Dulverton Weir and Leat.

Weirs and wider watermill landscapes are increasingly being recognised for their historical significance, with local communities becoming aware of their amenity value, and many of these structures making a significant economic contribution to the local tourist economy.

We will continue this interesting History in our Next issue

\* **Copies of the full report can be obtained from Philip Hull 323 526 /**

[hull@weirhead.net](mailto:hull@weirhead.net)



Mathematics was also a favourite of mine”.

**Do you have any hobbies?** “I never have much time, but I used to enjoy fishing, stamp collecting, tennis, badminton, and fast cars.

Now it is mainly gardening and once a year I manage a ski trip to the Alps.”

**What is your favourite memory?** “It was in America in 1969, going to Woodstock, a rock festival in the US with Geoff Stanbury and Paul Chanter. This memory is only closely followed by my journey to India in 1968, going through Iran and Afghanistan”.

**What are your favourites** – Football Team “Aston Villa” - Sport “Has got to be motor sport” – Colours “Yellow and Black because I saw them in Formula 1 over 60 years ago” “The last book I read was ‘Vicious Circle’ by Wilbur Smith; however my favourite book is ‘Shetland Bus’ by David Howarth and the last movie I watched was ‘The Railway Man’

**We know you have an OBE, but how did you achieve that?** “I achieved my OBE for Services to the local government based on my

national role with the Local Government Association based in Westminster; the honour was bestowed on me by HM the Queen”.

**We know you are a District & Town Councillor but what other things have you done?** “I used to run the Tantivy for 32 years; I was also chairman of Chamber of the trade here. Also, I worked for the Midland Bank (now HSBC) in Tiverton, Bideford and Bristol, until I left in 1968, and went abroad, returning permanently in 1974.”

**One last question, one thing that you think would improve Dulverton?”** I think there could be a great improvement in how Dulverton works, if local services that we achieve from the county and district councils were delivered locally by local people; so local people can decide what they want at a price they can afford. Take Exmoor Lawns for an example: if it was run by a local team it would be cheaper to run guaranteed; and it would be a better job done”

Thank You for your time

# Dulverton's Lost Buildings and structures

On looking at an old postcard of Dulverton showing scenes in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, I am reminded of Dulverton's loss of bridges and buildings. I thought that it would be interesting to remind us of what a few remember, and many never even knew.

## Did you know?

There used to be a **Toll House** to the left of the Vicarage entrance, taking money for the use of Jury road into Dulverton.

Where the cast iron railings are opposite Battleton House, below Moor Motors, there was a **cottage** situated right on the edge of the highway.

(Probably demolished because the road was narrower and it became a hazard right on the corner.) Also it might have been in jeopardy, as the bank behind is very steep down to the river.

On leaving Dulverton, by the Barle bridge, look to your left and you will see now, two cottages, where the seat is situated and the hanging basket pole is, there was another cottage, known as **The Milk Bar**; (now a thing of the past where you could buy milk shake and the like!) washed away in the great floods of 1952.

Go back into the 1700s and you find in the centre of Fore Street a row of rather tumble down houses known as the **Shambles**, (not York I grant you) but still the street where the traders of the town sold their wares; demolished to make way for improvements; You now know why Fore Street is as wide as it is!

Also in the same location a **Stone Cross** stood at the top of Fore Street at the junction of Union, Lady, and Bank Square in the middle of the thorough fare, long gone as it became a nuisance to wheeled traffic.

**Where is now, perhaps someone is knows?**

On entering Lady Street once a very narrow track, this opening has been widened to make way for larger vehicles. Look up at the top of the Post Office building and you will notice there is a large slice missing towards the road; possibly on the opposite side there was an overhang of the upper storey, also removed.

It is hard to imagine there was a single storey Garage running the full length of Union Street, originally named the **Lion Garage**, opening out to both Fore and High street situated against the now Tantivy wall and over the pavement into the road. Thus Union Street was extremely narrow, very picturesque; but not at all practical!

This brings to mind the loss of the **Lion Stables and Livery Yard**-always busy with horse traffic and managed by many a well known local **Ostler** (horseman) now sadly known as Lion Car Park. The Lion Hotel being a focal point in the 1800 and 1900s.

In 1896 you could have crossed the river Barle by a footbridge placed by **Dr. Sydenham** leading to his garden belonging to Battleton House.

You can just see the abutments if you walk along Pound Walk adjacent to the Recreation Ground, looking down river below the Leat outfall.

Another old building, gone for good springs to mind, when we think of a lost structure that had a community purpose for the town, was **Mr Page's Paint Shop**, this became the **Fire Station**, which was knocked down to make way for a new housing development; it stood at the junction of Lady Street and The Paddock where No1 and 2 have been erected, for all the world looking just like an ancient pair of garage doors painted red on an old high, stone barn.

We must not forget the **Family Chapel** built by Mr Locke who had Northmoor House constructed, you could have found this just over

Marsh Bridge, in the field on the left hand side. Even now there are a great many stones still surviving in between the trees and the undergrowth.

On driving down **Kemps Way**, past the Fire and Police Stations with the **Lorna Doone Statue** looking for the entire world like it had grown there, you might be forgiven, if this built up area seemed to have been part of the Dulverton landscape for a very long time. But, it is not so long ago that the area of ground below the Leat was **designated allotments** stretching from the top end of the Caravan Park back to the Castle. It is with much nostalgia, that I remember tending one of these plots back in the 60s.

CN  
Dulverton Heritage Centre

*Ed's Note – We would welcome any memories*



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## Dates for your Diary – January

Every Tuesday & Thursday- at the Sports Club -	Tennis 6.30pm & Every Saturday 2.30pm
Every Monday	Coaching Mondays Juniors 6pm Adults 7pm cost £2
Every Monday –	Zumba Dance – 5.30pm – Town Hall
Every Tuesday -	Running Club 6.15pm – Town Hall
Every Tuesday -	Squash Club Night 6/9pm – Sportsfield
Every Tuesday -	Family and Toddler Group 10am to Noon – Congregational Hall during term time
Every Tuesday -	Conservation group – Wimbleball 9.45am info371116
Every Tuesday –	Dulverton Dance – Town Hall 10.45am
Evert Tuesday –	Colts Cricket practice – 6.30pm - Sports Field
Every Wednesday –	Cricket Practice 6.30pm - Sportsfield
Every Thursday –	Netball Training - 6.30pm at the Middle School – restarts 10 <sup>th</sup> July
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday –	Carers Support Meeting - 3/5 pm - Medical centre
Last Tuesday –	Knit and Natter Group – 1.45pm in the library
Last Wednesday of the Month	U3a 10.15am Community Centre(not Aug & Dec)
Last Thursday of the month	Somerset age at the library 10am to noon
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month	Mothers Union 2.30pm at Hanover

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9th	Film Club – Town Hall 7.30 – see what to do
12th	Town Council Meeting - 7.30pm- Town Hall
13 <sup>th</sup>	Family & Toddlers restarts – see what to do
14 <sup>th</sup>	Hanover Vintage Films - 3 pm at Hanover Court see what's on
15 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club – see what's on
18 <sup>th</sup>	Dulverton Action Group - 10.30 am by the Heritage Centre:
24th	Messy Church – 3 to 5pm All Saints Church
28 <sup>th</sup>	U3A Lunch – See what's on
30th	Film Club – Town Hall 7.30 – see what to do
31 <sup>st</sup>	Men's Breakfast – see what to do

Please email your events to [dulvertonvoice@btinternet.com](mailto:dulvertonvoice@btinternet.com) or phone 324395

# January – What to do?

## **Film Club – 9<sup>th</sup> UNTOUCHABLE and 30<sup>th</sup> BOYHOOD** (Both Cert 12A)

Tickets –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 the Post Office (323474) or email janaross2003@yahoo.co.uk. Bar open from 7pm.

## **South Molton Singers** present a 10th Day of Christmas Concert at All Saints Church on the 3rd January - Entrance on door £5

Concert at 7pm, a pre-Concert buffet tea will be provided by Choir members from 6pm when a presentation of the work of **Share Music South West** will be given, it is a fantastic Charity working with mentally and physically impaired folk .All are welcome to pre-Concert buffet

**Dulverton Action – Litter picking** - restarts Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 10.13am at the Heritage Centre

**Hanover Vintage Films - Wed 14<sup>th</sup> January Broadway Melody starring Fred Astaire 3 pm**  
Hanover Court:

**Men's Breakfast Restarts Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January – 8am at the Copper Kettle details 324 395**

The **U3A Winter Lunch** will be on Wednesday 28 January at The Rest and be Thankful. Any members who would like to attend please contact 324 211 before the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Gardening Club – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>** An Illustrated Talk by Brain Carlson "All Aspects of Pelargoniums" 323 474

**Family and Toddlers – Restarts Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at the Congregational Hall, Chapel Street 10 am to noon – come when you want, go when you must.**

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# Dulverton Sports!



**Netball** –The Netball Club faced a tough test on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December coming up against the unbeaten Stealth Stars who sit top of the division. With some very fast and physical play, Stealth Stars controlled the game from the start.

Eventually despite Dulverton playing some good netball in patches, Stealth Stars proved too strong and they won 47-15 with **Kate Harris** getting umpires player of the match and the player's player being split between **Lisa Ninnis, Kate Harris, Kayleigh Cleave and Lindsay Smith.**

In the final game before Christmas, the Dulverton ladies were determined to get a win on the board and came up against Silverton on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Their determination was obvious from the start and raced to an 8 goal lead after the first quarter and there was no let up from Dulverton eventually winning 51-34. The umpire's player of the match went to **Nessie Watson** and the player's player went to **Nessie Watson and Bethan Rees.**

This leaves Dulverton in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the league but with only a few points separating 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> place, it will be all to play for after Christmas!

The club trains on Thursday evenings at 6.30pm at the Middle School. For more information, call Lindsay Smith 323 834.



**Football** –The Football Club continued with their Division Two fixtures in the Taunton & District Saturday League with a trip to local rivals Alcombe Rovers. In what turned out to be a very tight game, they came away with a point after

a 1-1 draw with **Adam Kelland** getting the goal for Dulverton. However Dulverton faced a much tougher test on 6<sup>th</sup> December when league leaders Milverton were their visitors. The away side played some great football and went away 5-0 winners.

On 13<sup>th</sup> December, Dulverton hosted Minehead Reserves in another local derby. It was a close game in the first half going in 1-1

at half time. However the home side dominated the second half and eventually came away with a 6-1 win. **Will Lewis scored three with Carl Hooper, Lewis Hough and Toby Cottrell all getting one each.**

For more information about the Football Club, call Carl Hooper 07866 256769.



**Squash Club** -held its annual Christmas handicap tournament on Sunday 14 December. The tournament that was keenly fought with the handicapping system giving everyone the chance to win. All first round losers were entered into the

plate competition.

The main tournament was won by **Mick Hazzledine who beat Harry Harrison.** The plate final was won by **Toby Cottrell, who beat Les Silverlock**

The annual tournament will be held in the spring.

We are most fortunate to have such an outstanding facility in Town.

Want to know more? Contact Chris Winter 351 561 / [chriscwin@aol.com](mailto:chriscwin@aol.com).

**Linsey Smith**

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## Dan Whiston

Many of us remember the sad day over 5 years ago when Dan was killed in an accident on his first day at a new job, the town was shocked and his funeral was packed.

His Darts team started a special memorial competition, which continues every year.

Now the directors of the company which employed him have been sentenced for their Breach of the Health and Safety duty of care.

They were fined £25,000, given a 12 month suspended prison sentence and 180 hours of community service.

Five years seem a long time to bring closure to this sad event, but there must be good reasons for the time taken.



## HEADSTONES MEMORIALS

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Flexes etc.



Can't see it?

Vacuum  
cleaner  
bags etc.  
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& sizes

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### Useful Phone Numbers



#### Churches

Catholic Priest	01643 702201
Other	322878
C of E Priest	01643 703285
Other	324267
Congregational	323744

#### Health

Dentist	323436
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
Tennis	07723 459402
Young peoples Project	324169
The West Somerset	
Youth Trust	01643 706468
Youth Club	07866 730093

### Exmoor National Park

HQ	323665
Dulverton Centre	323841

#### Other

Abbeyfield	341352
Advice (CAB)	01643 704624
Camera club	331556
Civic Society	323818
Dulverton Dance	341850
Dulverton Group Exmoor Soc.	331482
Exmoor Pony Centre	323093
Film Club	323785
Family & Toddlers	324395
Gardening	323474
Hanover Vintage Films	323785
Ladies Lunch	324395
Litter Gathering Group	323785
Messy Church	324395
Mother Union	323587
Players	341850
Samaritans	0845 7909 090
Somerset Age	0845 6434621
Royal British Legion	01884 840026
Town Council	324561
U3a	323587
Voluntary Lifts	07528 326 880
<b>Police</b>	
Emergency	999
Non urgent	101



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### **Watch this space...**

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