



November 2016



Events

Christmas Review– Thursday 8th December 2016 7pm for 7.30pm

Join us at The Music Room, Woolhanger for a 4 course meal, overview of our network activities and confirmed guest speakers are Bryan and Liz Griffiths, beef and sheep producers from North Devon and runners up to the British Farming Award – Sheep Innovator of the Year. Tickets: £24 per head. Invitation and reply slip attached. All are welcome and **please return cheques by Thursday 1st December at the latest.**

Your Future on Exmoor Meeting

After huge consultation with our farmer led steering group it was decided to hold a meeting with Exmoor Farmer's viewpoints being essential to inform and influence future policy to support viable farming on our local uplands earlier this month. It was well attended with 53 farmers taking the opportunity to have their say. Professor Janet Dwyer from the University of Gloucester (Countryside and Community Research Institute), along with industry experts were present. Janet is currently preparing a summary of views and ideas for circulation. Prof. Dwyer undertook the renowned State of Farming Survey in Exmoor 2015. Thank you to those of you who attended and we were delighted with the turnout. We hope to circulate the final paper in the next couple of weeks.

Training

Chainsaw Courses

We have seen a huge demand for the delivery of chainsaw courses on Exmoor this winter. The network will coordinate delivery in January. Please let me know if this is of interest to you.

New Year Courses - Level 2 Food Safety and Hygiene Certificate and Emergency at Work First Aid

We have received a few enquiries regarding the above courses. Please contact the office to register your interest and if sufficient numbers are achieved, we will arrange accordingly.

Local News

Potential Work Hub

Exmoor National Park has commissioned WorkHubs CIC to explore the viability of a potential workhub at Wheddon Cross which would support sole proprietors, self-employed, home workers and micro businesses by providing shared facilities and a focal point for micro enterprise on Exmoor. A workhub is a club-type workspace which provides a place for people to work as members as and when they need it, with a range of facilities from hot desks to rent on a pay as you go basis through to serviced offices. The workhub can cater for a mix of daily and occasional users under one roof providing a special mix of services for people whose business is often home-based. In order to see if this idea is viable the study needs small, local businesses, home workers and self-employed people to give their views. If you fit into any of these categories or it is of any interest to you, please go to www.workhubs.com and click on the button in the centre marked Exmoor Workhub to complete a quick survey or join the discussions on the dedicated Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/exmoorworkhub>.

Headwaters of the Exe Project

Exmoor National Park Authority and South West Water are offering grants of up to £4,000 for projects that will benefit water quality in the upper reaches of the River Exe catchment. A total of £250,000 is

available in grant funding from the two organisations between now and 2020 as part of the Headwaters of the Exe project.

Through the Project, funding is available for work that will improve water quality in the catchment, such as improvements in yard infrastructure or the provision of alternative water supplies to enable farmers to keep livestock away from watercourses at key times of year. For instance, £37.20 is available per square metre for covering manure stores, £16.28 is available per square metre for renewed concrete yards, or £66.00 is available for each new livestock drinking trough. Bea Davis, Headwaters of the Exe project manager said: "Grants are available to all those who receive advisory visits through the Headwaters of the Exe project. If you are interested in receiving a visit and a grant please contact Adam Lockyear, lead farm advisor for the Headwaters of the Exe project, on adam.lockyear@fwagsw.org.uk or 01823 660684." The Headwaters of the Exe project is funded by South West Water and Exmoor National Park Authority, working in partnership with organisations including the Exmoor Hill Farming Network and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West. The project forms part of South West Water's innovative Upstream Thinking programme. For further details on the Headwaters of the Exe project please contact project manager Bea Davis on BDavis@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk or 01398 322278 or take a look at the project webpage on <http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/headwaters>

Industry News – Cross Compliance

Don't forget on the 1st December you need to carry out your annual inventory of sheep in accordance with SMR 8. For further information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guide-to-cross-compliance-in-england-2016/smr-8-sheep-and-goat-identification>

To book or for further information please contact the office on 01643 841455 or KWilliams@northdevonplus.co.uk

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