



February 2024

Celebrating our 10th Anniversary

Last week, the Exmoor Hill Farming Network celebrated its 10th Anniversary. EHFN was established in 2014 to improve the viability and sustainability of Exmoor farming businesses through knowledge-transfer, peer-group support, training, and co-operation to safeguard upland farming, rural employment, and landscape management. The Network is regarded as one of the UK's most successful and active farmer networks and has received national recognition over the years, regularly supporting over 450 farm businesses across the greater Exmoor area. This year Exmoor celebrates the 70th anniversary of its designation as a National Park. To mark these milestones, EHFN and the Exmoor Society have commissioned a book called ***Exmoor Farms: A Year on the Moor*** and an exhibition to accompany this that will explore what it means to farm this beautiful corner of the UK's uplands in the 21st century. We are working with local author Victoria Eveleigh and photographer Eleanor Davis to produce this. Whilst the book is firmly underway, we look forward to sharing details of the launch event in October 2024 at Dunster Show on Friday 16th August. A big thankyou to our board of directors for all their hard work behind the scenes and thankyou to our sponsors and everyone for supporting us on this network journey. Here's to the next 10 years!

Latest News

Lifesaving defibrillators are installed at the heart of the farming community on Exmoor

With thanks to match funding from London Hearts both Exmoor Livestock Markets situated at Cutcombe and Blackmoor Gate have lifesaving defibrillators which are accessible to the public 24/7.

London Hearts, a charity providing funding grants to make defibrillators more affordable to communities and organisations across the country have provided match-funding for this initiative. **Peter Huntley, Manager of Exmoor Farmers Livestock Auctions said** 'If somebody has an accident or a heart attack at the market site, it's imperative we act quickly as it could be a matter of life or death. We have farmers of all ages coming to the market and if the defibrillator saves one life, then it's invaluable. **Katherine Williams, Exmoor Hill Farming Network Manager said:** "The aim of our organisation is to support the farming



community across Exmoor in a variety of ways. These vital machines will become a respected community asset in a time of need. EHFN and Exmoor Rural Health Hub (ERHH) have both contributed to the purchases. **Ian May, EHFN Chairman added** "We were eager to ensure the defibrillators were available to the farming community and members of the public 24/7. We will look to work to train staff and members of the farming community to make the most effective use of them". **Olivia Winterton, ERHH Trustee said** "When the ERHH were approached by the Exmoor Hill Farming Network to support the London Hearts match-funding initiative to get more defibrillators into rural communities, we had no hesitation in offering to fund one of the two machines which have now been installed at the two Exmoor Farmers Livestock markets. Being able to provide potential lifesaving machines for the Exmoor markets perfectly satisfies one of the primary aims of our charity: to deliver access to health and mental well-being support for the farming and wider community on and around Exmoor'. The defibrillator models supplied at Blackmoor Gate and Cutcombe Markets are registered with both Devon and Somerset Ambulance Service's through a dedicated website portal. **Pictured:** Cutcombe Market (L – R) Andrew Pugsley (EHFN Director), Peter Huntley, Olivia Winterton, Katherine Williams, Richard Webber (ERHH Chairman) and Iona Leckie (ERHH Trustee)

Forward Farming Group New Year Meal

A huge thanks to Olly Matthews and The Black Venus Inn, Challacombe for providing a tasty two course meal for 27 members of the Forward Farming Group last week.

Olly kindly joined us as guest speaker sharing his experiences to date, farming beef and sheep on the Brendon Hills in partnership with his brother Ed. Olly has undertaken various training opportunities including the National Sheep Association Next Generation programme which has been instrumental to him and the business. The evening gave group members an opportunity to come together and chat amongst likeminded people before the lambing and calving season is upon us. For further information about the Next Generation Programme please visit: <https://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/next-generation/>



Exmoor Hill Farming Network Equipment Pool

The Network has been successful in obtaining a Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) grant this spring to help members improve the sustainability of their farming business without having to make costly outlays to carry out nature friendly farming practices. The equipment range includes a selection of Shearwell EID Readers and Printers, Tru Test EC10 Plate Meters, Soil Dibbers and a Heavy Consort Pipe Layer. This equipment is available from 2 days – 7 days at a time. This small selection of equipment is available to all farmers and landowners within the Exmoor National Park. This initiative will also facilitate knowledge sharing amongst the farming community. If this proves successful we will look to expand the range of equipment on offer. ** Small administration fee applies**. For further information, please contact Beth admin@ehfn.org.uk / 01643 841455 to discuss your requirements.

Final Reminder – Open event

Booking essential for catering purposes by Wednesday 7th noon.

Practical Hedgerow & Soil Assessment Workshop

Thursday 8th February 11am-2pm at
Raleigh's Cross, TA23 0LN

- Join the FWAG team for a practical demonstration of how to undertake assessments as part of the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) Action for Hedgerows (HRW1) and Soils (SAM1).
- We will discuss the requirements of the Soil and Hedgerow Actions, what they aim to achieve, and we will demonstrate how to undertake these assessments to the required standard.
- This is an outdoor event so please come appropriately dressed.
- Park at Raleigh's Cross Inn - the workshop will take place in the field across the road, opposite the pub
- Light refreshments provided

• **Booking essential:** admin@ehfn.org.uk or 01643 841455



Latest news from



South West Annual Regional Members Meeting

on

Thursday 22nd February 2024, 7:30pm
at the Stockman's Restaurant, Exeter Market, EX2 8FD.

Speakers include

Phil Stocker, NSA Chief Executive
'An update on NSA plans and activities'

and

Hugh Townsend and Alasdair Squires, Townsend Chartered Surveyors
'The emerging environmental marketplace - carbon credits, biodiversity net gain (BNG) and nutrient neutrality, and their potential for farmers'.

Members and non-members are all welcome
Refreshments and buffet provided

Please contact Ian May, Regional Manager for further information
Email: ian@nationalsheep.org.uk Tel: 07913 043234

Schmallenberg information

The NSA 'What makes a successful lambing' webinar is now available to watch again on the NSA website at www.nationalsheep.org.uk/webinars.

For further information on the current BTV-3 and SBV outbreaks please visit the [APHA website](http://www.apha.gov.uk).

Full the press release: [NSA hosts successful lambing webinar but warns farmers to remain vigilant this lambing season | News | National Sheep Association](#)

Open Events

Countryside Stewardship and Sustainable Farming Incentive update

We are delighted to arrange an CS and SFI update evening via Zoom with Anne May from FWAG. We will provide you with an update on the January announcements to explain how the schemes will work together going forward. Please register your interest for zoom details:

Date: Tuesday 20th February 2024 **Time:** 7pm via zoom



**EXMOOR
HILL FARMING
NETWORK**

You're invited
to join us for a Pre-Lambing Breakfast

Winsford Village Hall
Sunday 25th February 2024: 9am-12pm

**Large Farmhouse Breakfast £10 or
Small Farmhouse Breakfast £8 including drinks**

Prize draw

Booking preferable along with any dietary requirements
admin@ehfn.org.uk or 01643 841455

All proceeds to The Farming Community Network
and Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution

FCN THE FARMING
COMMUNITY
NETWORK

RABI helping farming people

Peer Support Groups

Next Generation

West Group YFC and Exmoor Hill Farming Network invite you to an information evening with Avon and Somerset Police raising awareness on drink driving and drug use. This event will be held on Wednesday 21st February at Cutcombe Market by kind permission of Exmoor Farmers at 7pm. Heywoods Café will be providing refreshments. Please save the date.

Exmoor Women in Farming Group

Preparing for Lambing - Pre lambing discussion with Farmsense

Date: Monday 12th February 2024 **Time:** 7pm – 9pm **Venue:** Exford social Club, Exford

Peer support contribution - £5pp

Join Harriet Tibbs, Area Sales Manager, Farmsense for an informative evening to discuss the management of ewes through pre and post lambing, lamb health and common issues faced in the lambing shed.

Topics to be covered:

- **Colostrum management**
- **Pre-Lambing Nutrition**
- **Maximising performance from lambs**

There will be a quiz at the end with a goody bag for the winner!

We will also be joined by Bridget Goscomb to discuss general veterinary lambing related questions and top tips. Buffet to be provided. Booking essential for catering purposes by Friday 9th February 2024.

Next Generation Group

Pre-Lambing Workshop

Date: Thursday 15th February 2024 **Time:** 7pm prompt start – 9pm

Venue: Lambing shed at South Healsey Farm, Healsey Mill, South Molton EX36 3LE by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Tom Cole.

Join us for an interactive practical pre lambing workshop with sheep vet Rachel Forster from Market Vets, South Molton.

The evening will cover:

- General overview of sheep enterprise on farm
- Preparation for a successful lambing ,hygiene and lambing difficulties Colostrum management
- Disease control
- General discussion – Q and A session

Rachel will kindly update us on the latest information in relation to Bluetongue and Schmallenberg virus. Please wear appropriate welly boot footwear and clothing. Bio security measures will be in place.Booking essential for catering purposes by Monday 12th February 2024.

Exmoor Forward Farming Group

We are delighted to arrange the following.

Route: Visit to Dunster Heat, Specialist wood boiler suppliers. **Date:** Wednesday 28th February 2024 **Time:** 7pm – 9pm **Venue:** Dunster Heat Limited Higher Court Treborough Taunton, Somerset TA23 0QW by kind permission of Mrs Sarah Weatherlake

Peer support contribution - £5pp

Dunster Heat started in 2007 supplying wood gasification boilers & diversified in 2015 to having a Combined Heat and Power Plant (CHP) Generating Heat & supplying electricity to the grid.

Latest from




Would you like a chance to work with a National Park?
We have several positions available working with Exmoor
Moorland Bird Surveying, plus opportunities in planning and rural
enterprise.

Find the full details here [Working with Us | Exmoor \(exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk\)](http://Working with Us | Exmoor (exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk))

Other Interest

SAM MOORE SCHOLARSHIP




Sam was a farmer and fencer from Exmoor who uniquely combined a huge appetite for hard work with one for learning and sharing. A real force of nature he was passionate about livestock, nature and food, not afraid to have a go and share his failures as well as his successes. In his short time in the group Sam made a valuable contribution and this scholarship aims to provide others with the opportunity to learn, develop and share.

The scholarship is for a 1-year Team Membership and is open to new members farming within Exmoor. If you know of someone suitable, please share this and encourage them to apply!

HOW TO APPLY

TO APPLY [CLICK HERE](#).
APPLICATIONS CLOSE AT END OF JANUARY.
ENTRIES WILL BE REVIEWED, AND SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT NOTIFIED.
THOSE NOT SUCCESSFUL WILL STILL BE VERY WELCOME TO JOIN THE GROUP!



Please use this link to apply

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUxd0MAQYIm0m8F8A-6NFEeTa2VBZacLbid64hcjU35k5kOA/viewform?fbclid=IwAR1CQidIJB1aW2uK9rYv5x52N-1nNVixJ-G01L8i9oZUpSdZGz0T2xoVUsQ>



Cutcombe Cattle: Wednesday 7th February
Cutcombe sheep: Wednesday 14th February
Blackmoor Gate: Monday 5th February

View catalogues here: [Catalogues | Exmoor Farmers Livestock Auctions Ltd](#)

FOR SALE BY INFORMAL TENDER

Land at Edgcott Road, Exford, Minehead,
Somerset, TA24 7QG
Lot 1 – 2.64 acres (red) Lot 2 – 0.84 acres
(blue) Offers in excess of £50,000.00

[Click HERE to view Particulars](#)





**Exmoor Rural
Health Hub**

**Wednesday 7th February 2024 – 9.30am-1.30pm –
Chiropody/Occupational therapist (appointments
needed) 07977 510 717**



Please note the road closure on the B3224 between Exford and Wheddon Cross until 31st May 2024, therefore please make alternative travel arrangements if necessary.

Commercial Adverts

NEW

Permanent Flexible Part time Vacancies in Withypool

Pet/Animal sitter

We are looking for someone primarily to care for our animals three or four times per annum for 2-3 week periods and ad hoc every few weeks for 2-7 day periods.

We have a dog, a cat, a horse and pony (which are only stabled in severe weather), a very small flock of sheep as well as a few hens and guinea fowl.

The role involves walking our working collie at least twice daily (morning and afternoon/evening depending on the time of year) which we incorporate with checking/feeding the animals at home, and the sheep which are located near Exford.

This would work well with someone who either works from home (we have Starlink) or who has flexibility to fit this around their current job based locally and could therefore let our dog out during the day.

We require a person to live in during these pet sits, who would not leave our dog shut in for very long periods in the daytime.

This is a permanent role and we need someone capable, trustworthy and reliable to look after our animals, so we can maintain our work and travel commitments.

We have a stable and grazing available for your own horse whilst staying here if required and there are plenty of places to ride and hunt nearby.

General Household Help... we require help with day to day various household tasks including cleaning, ironing etc one day (8hrs) per week. This could be split into two days if required. If you think you may be suitable to take on either or both of these roles and would like more details please contact Jane Scripps 07986 936686.

NEW



The Exmoor Society, the charity that works to protect and promote Exmoor National Park, is looking for a part time office administrator, to join us in our Dulverton Office.

You will be part of a small, friendly team, working with the Office Manager and trustees to help run our office, look after our members and organise our busy programme of events.

Please contact the office by email for further information on info@exmoorsociety.com

Key funders:



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