



January 2024



May we take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy and Healthy New Year

Latest News

Environmental land management in 2024: details of actions and payments

Today Defra have published an update to the Agricultural Transition Plan on GOV.UK. It includes their progress, priorities and plans for the coming years. In this post, they share a summary of the update which includes details of scheme payment rates, premium payments, new actions and plans for a single application service. View here:

<https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/04/environmental-land-management-in-2024-details-of-actions-and-payments/>

The Network will coordinate an update meeting with FWAG in the forthcoming weeks.

Singing in the Ring Carol Service – What an inspiring way to finish the year.

The Auction Market is more than just the livestock auction playing a vital role within our farming community. The ring was turned into a Winter Wonderland preparing everyone for the Christmas spirit. Over 230 people from Exmoor's farming community joined the Exmoor Hill Farming Network (EHFN) and The Farming Community Network (FCN) for their first ever Carol Service in the Auction ring at Cutcombe Market on Monday 18th December. The service was conducted by Rev. David Weir who oversees 8 churches located within the Exmoor Benefice.



Katherine Williams, Network Manager said "We were completely humbled by the support shown from the local community in making the evening such a success with a wonderful atmosphere. The service brought together people of all ages across Exmoor and we were delighted to welcome school children from Cutcombe and Exford First Schools to sing in the ring". Readings were read by local farmers and representatives from Exmoor Farmers Livestock Auctions and the Exmoor Rural Health Hub. The evening finished with a complimentary beef stew arranged by Heywood's Cafe and festive delights served in poultry room.

Photo Credit: Emily Fluer Photography

Rev. David Weir said " Singing in the Ring was a wonderful gathering around the Christmas message of peace and good will to all, beautifully expressing the way our community works together and supports each other throughout the year. Katherine Williams is an exceptional person with a great understanding of our community, commitment and ability to mobilise us into action for the good of all.

Stephen Dennis FCN 's Regional lead said "What an amazing night bringing so many of those within the farming community together from Exmoor and beyond. It was a real privilege to represent FCN on behalf of Charmain and the other volunteers in the area as we seek to support our farming families.

The great relationship between the EHFN, the rural church support through Rev David Weir, Andy Gerrard plus the Health hub and FCN gives an excellent network of support to those in the farming community when needed. Let's hope those individuals can feel confident to reach out for support when they need it!". A grand total of £609.25 was raised from donations and a prize draw which will be split between FCN and Exmoor Benefice. Thank you to many local businesses for their support and members of EHFN who gave up their time preparing and on the evening. **Save the date for next years' service: tbc, December 2024**

Sheep and Goats Inventory Reminder

If you haven't already, just a gentle reminder your inventory is due now

SHEEP & GOATS INVENTORY due 31st December 2023

To complete your inventory online, select the url (link) below from 1 December as the data should be as at 1 December. Please also note the login details

<https://www.gov.uk/.../sheep-and-goat-keepers-complete...>

Open Event - Save the Date

EHFN Pre Lambing Breakfast

After the success of last year, our annual breakfast will return.

Date: Sunday 25th February 2024

Venue: Winsford Village Hall **Time:** 9am-12pm

All proceeds to The Farming Community Network and Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution. Further details to follow next week, please save the date for now.

Latest News from



Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme – Don't miss out on a funding opportunity

The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme on Exmoor is open to applications that can be delivered by **March 2025**. Farming in Protected Landscapes is a programme of funding for one-off projects, not an ongoing agri-environment scheme. It will support farmers and land managers to carry out projects that:

- support nature recovery
- mitigate the impacts of climate change
- provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
- support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses

For example, the programme might support:

- promoting connectivity between habitats

- promoting easier access on public rights of way
- conserving historic features on a farm, such as lime kilns or mining heritage
- action to reduce carbon emissions on a farm
- Purchasing machinery that is not available through other funding sources that meet the FiPL outcomes.

Further information can be found here: [Exmoor - Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme \(exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk\)](https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/about-us/farming-in-protected-landscapes-programme) To apply or if you have any questions please contact Charlotte Thomas cthomas@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk or Sarah Eveleigh seveleigh@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Exmoor National Park Job Opportunity:

Great job opportunity to work with a National Park...

Non-Native Invasive Species (ENNIS) Project Officer with Exmoor National Park Authority.

Please see the link below for further details

https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/about-us/jobs-and-volunteering-opportunities?fbclid=IwAR0IfRo7cfxkSXXkRwsB3lqBLjW0iU9pODqwJLw_9mYORrC2Dz32l1gFuW4

Peer Support Groups

Exmoor Women in Farming Group - Post Christmas Meal

Please join us in the new year for our festive get together with a selection of canapes and a two-course meal kindly supplied by Julie Reed.

Date: Tuesday 9th January 2024

Venue: Hawkridge Village Hall, Hawkridge (located in the centre of the village)

Time: 7pm arrival for 7.30pm sit down

Cost: £26pp (cash only, payable on night)

Canapés and two course meal.

Please bring your own drink. Coffee and tea to follow. Prize draw and Quiz.

Bookings essential by Friday 5th January 2024 via admin@ehfn.org.uk or call the office on 01643 841 455

Exmoor Forward farming Group - Post Christmas Meal

Please join us in the new year for our festive get together with a two-course.

Date: Wednesday 24th January 2024

Venue: The Black Venus, Challacombe, Barnstaple, EX31 4TT

Time: 7pm arrival for 7.30pm sit down

Cost: As seen on menu which will be proved on booking. (payable on night)

Guest speaker: Olly Matthews. Olly is farming at Withiel Florey Minehead, in partnership with brother Ed. They farm 565 acres, 1150 Romney x ewes and 150 head of mostly Angus cattle. Their aim for the next two years is to run 1500 ewes with 250 store cattle. Olly is passionate about making the best use of grass and grazed forage on a low input low machinery system alongside a work life balance with plenty of time for family!

Bookings essential by **Tuesday 16th January 2024** via admin@ehfn.org.uk or call the office on 01643 841455

Training Opportunity

Level 3 Emergency at Work First Aid Course – one day

We have received interest to run the above course during February 2024 and require suitable numbers to proceed. Please contact us if this course is of interest.

Other interest



Blackmoor Gate Sheep Sale: Monday 8th January 2024
1100 sheep, sale at 11am

Cutcombe Sheep Sale: Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 2pm

<https://www.exmoorfarmers.co.uk/catalogues>



**Exmoor Rural
Health Hub**

- Wednesday 17th January 11am – 3pm – Sheep sale
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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

**landsense
professional**

Grass Keep Available Landkey

Lot 1 – 35.12 acres

Lot 2 – 17.69 acres

Lot 3 – 31.68 acres

Tenders Close **Friday 2nd February 2024 at 12.00 Noon**

Location

Situated in North Devon, to the north of the village of Landkey on the outskirts of Barnstaple. Please see attached particulars for full details.

NEW

PROMISE*works*

Promiseworks is a charity that supports vulnerable children and young people in Somerset.

We urgently need volunteer mentors in the **Exmoor** and surrounding area.

Can you offer time, commitment and kindness to one of our children/young people?

Mentoring is an extremely rewarding experience. We will guide you on your mentoring journey with training and full support.

Please visit www.promiseworks.org.uk email sue@promiseworks.org.uk phone Sue 07707 586111

We have successfully supported over 300 children, many more need support. Join us today.



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

TO LET

Molland – South Molton – Devon

108.53 Acres Pasture
129.68 Acres Pasture

As a whole or in 2 Lots
**To let on a 5 year Farm Business Tenancy
From 25th March 2024**







Details available from DixonSmith LLP
www.dixonsmith.uk T: 01392 325178
E: Charles Dixon - charles@dixonsmith.uk

Molland Tender by Thursday 25th January



SERVICES:

-  Preparation for year end accounts
-  Bookkeeping & invoicing
-  VAT Returns
-  General farm admin

CONTACT US

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To attend, any of the events (attached) please email admin@ehfn.org.uk or 01643 841455 to book your place.

Key funders:



Working with
THE ROYAL
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Ward and Co
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