January 2021

Happy New Year to you all.

Latest News
Environmental Land Management Advocacy Project
Exmoor Hill Farming Network will be working with FWAG to deliver a series of farmer engagement workshops on behalf of the Exmoor National Park Authority and Quantock Hills AONB. Defra have commissioned protected landscapes (AONBs and National Parks) to undertake farmer engagement in their areas. Between now and March 2021 a series of online workshops will be delivered to raise awareness of the new Environmental Land Management (E.L.M) and encourage Countryside Stewardship as a way of supporting farm incomes through the provision of public goods as BPS is phased out by 2027 and before E.L.M is introduced. The programme will include workshops around the launch of the 2021 Countryside Stewardship application window which is expected in February. There will be a number of changes to the scheme including the launch of a new capital grant scheme to replace the Hedgerow and Boundary Grant and also changes to the scheme structure and options. If you have previously been in an Environmental Stewardship agreement and not entered Countryside Stewardship these changes are a good opportunity to reassess your options, also for those in Countryside Stewardship with an expiring agreement we can explore the benefits of extending your existing agreement or entering a new application. These workshops will be delivered by locally based FWAG officers to increase understanding. There will be an opportunity to feedback and discuss collaborative working going forward. We endeavour to hold the first workshop on ‘ Agricultural Transition ’ in the forthcoming weeks. This event will be open to all land owners and managers from Exmoor, Quantocks Hills and the West Somerset Vale area. Further details to follow soon.

EHFN Review of Network Activity 2018-2020 - please complete our survey to assist with funding opportunities going forward
Members Survey – Your views are important to us – all responses required by Monday 25th January 2021
We need your help so that we can apply for new funding after January 2021. Please spend a few minutes answering the following questions about your experience of the Exmoor Hill Farming Network since February 2018. Your views will inform the future development of the Network. We have included sections on future government support and nature. This survey should not take any longer than 10 minutes to complete, it will really help us respond to the needs of our farming community if our funding continues. To help refresh your memory and access the survey, please look at the list of Network meetings, courses and events over the last 18 months listed here https://forms.gle/kfx11u66B28ZfxUJ6
Projects Update
IT Support and Training on Exmoor –Sixth and final bite sized video launch today- A digital presence for your business. Maximising your online profile with customers
Welcome to a series of bite-sized videos about the internet and computers, produced for us by Exmoor IT. Each video is about 20 minutes long and tackles issues that we hope you find informative and helpful. We recognise that Covid-19 is producing a ‘new normal’ in the way businesses need to use IT, especially in remote upland locations like Exmoor. We are very thankful to the Princes Countryside Fund, supported by The NFU Mutual Charitable Fund, for helping us with this initiative using its Covid-19 Grants Programme for Farmer Support Groups.
Between October and January 2021, our videos will be released and followed up with an interactive session over Zoom with this IT project ending later this month. For those wishing to take part in the interactive sessions, who would like help on how to use Zoom. Please contact Katherine at EHFN and she will be very happy to assist.

A digital presence for your business. Maximising your online profile with customers
• Choosing and purchasing a domain
• Using your own domain for your email
• Developing a website
• Hosting your website
• Getting yourself noticed (SEO and google rankings)
To view the latest video and the series visit our website, click the page link here http://www.ehfn.org.uk/it-support-and-training. The top tips for video 5- New software, old hardware. Knowing when and how to upgrade can be found attached and on our website. Our Zoom online participatory session to discuss the above topic area in further detail with EHFN and Andrew at Exmoor IT will be held on Monday 18th January 2021 at 8pm. Please let me know if you attend to join and for those who have joined previous sessions will be sent log in details automatically.

Fundraising Update
EHFN Post Christmas Quiz
A new venture for EHFN, our first ever virtual fundraiser 'Quiz night' was held on Friday 1st January with quiz mistresses Katherine Williams and Charmain Dascombe aka Anne Robertson and Sue Barker. Thank you to the 29 teams who joined us for an evening of 6 rounds including Exmoor, agricultural logos, guess the farm objects, name the 15 UK national parks, general knowledge and guess the view questions. A Christmas theme was a must and the evening attracted audiences from Chard to Combe Martin. We had three teams scoring 62 points / 70. Cards were cut 1st Prize went to Sarah Eveleigh and Dan Floyd winning the £25 Mole Valley voucher kindly donated by a member, 2nd Prize Roast Chicken Hamper won by Sarah Woollacott and Family and 3rd Prize Andrew and Linda Pugsley winning the Guylian Chocolates. If you haven’t sent over your £5 yet please transfer or get in contact with us to arrange collection. Look out for details of a pre lambing social in February.
**Peer Support Groups**

We are delighted to announce the Next Generation age range has increased to **Under 40** so please get in touch if you would like to receive emails regarding the groups activity.

**Next Generation Group post-Christmas social**

Join us for a social evening with a Kahoot Quiz and Bingo. **Date: Thursday 14th January** at 7.30pm prompt via Zoom. We hope many of you will join in for an evening of fun but most importantly an opportunity to come together. Now with another national lockdown it seems the ideal time as our last meeting (Ram MOT) evening was held in September. Please register your interest and the log in details will be circulated on Thursday morning. Prizes available for the winners!

**Next Generation – Future Farming**

**Where do you see farming on Exmoor in 10 years’ time? – poster attached**

*How would you like to see farming on Exmoor in 10 years’ time?*

This event is open to Next Generation members (**under 40s**) who have a general interest or are involved in farming on Exmoor:

**Do you work on a farm/s? Do you work on the home farm? Are you looking to return home farming? Are you looking for farming opportunities in the future? Do you have a general interest in hill farming?**

We would like to hear from you. Join EHFN and representations from the Exmoor National Park Authority to discuss future farming on Exmoor. **Date: Monday 25th January 2021  Time: 7.30pm – 9pm**

The evening will be run by Dave Knight and Tom Burge, EHFN Directors who are local farmer’s sons and understand the opportunities and challenges faced. This is an opportunity to help shape the future of farming on Exmoor and feedback your opinions. Please register and log in details will be circulated nearer the time.

**Exmoor Women in Farming Group**

**Topic:** A time to reflex on some of the positive news stories relating to the agricultural industry from 2020 and a look ahead at what to expect for 2021? with Lydia Cox, NFU Somerset County Advisor  

**Date:** Wednesday 20th January 2021 **Time:** 7.30pm – 9pm **Venue:** From your own home  

**Peer Support Contribution:** £5pp. Further details to soon.

**Latest News from the Exmoor National Park Authority**

**Financial Support**

Today (5/01) the Government have announced new **support grants** for eligible retail, hospitality and leisure businesses that have had to close, again based on rateable value as per previous support:

- **£4,000** for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or under
- **£6,000** for businesses with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- **£9,000** for businesses with a rateable value of over £51,000

We will share any further details as soon as they are received, including any discretionary funds for those businesses that are required to close but are not paying business rates. View details here: [£4.6 billion in new lockdown grants to support businesses and protect jobs - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
Exmoor Local Access Forum seeking new members – info attached

The Exmoor Local Access Forum is an independent statutory advisory body providing advice to Exmoor National Park Authority and other specified bodies about how to improve public access to land for open-air recreation and enjoyment. They are looking for new members. This role could appeal to you if you are part of a local interest group such as walking, horse riding, cycling or an owner/occupier of land which has a public right of access. Applications also welcome from individuals interested in tourism, nature heritage conservation, coastal issues, health, public transport or community safety. Deadline for applications 31st January 2021. See attached role description for further information or visit Exmoor - Exmoor Local Access Forum Member (exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)

Covid Related
NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group

Please support our GP surgeries, by not calling about Covid vaccinations – don’t worry if you haven’t heard from us yet, we will be in touch directly to arrange your vaccination appointment when the time is right. #staywell

Please support our GP surgeries by not calling about Covid-19 vaccinations.

Don’t worry if you haven’t heard from us yet, we will be in touch directly to arrange your vaccination appointment when the time is right.

#StayWellSomerset

Other interest
Farmers Weekly – Views from Farmers surrounding Covid-19 on farm

Lauren Harris, Business Reporter from Farmers Weekly would like to hear from members over concerns surrounding Covid-19 and the impacts it has or could face farmers if the virus was contracted. For example, what farmers would do if their entire family/staff contracted the virus and were unable to work, especially in regards to tending livestock; or what to do if farmworkers usually come into the farmhouse for lunch and part of the team or the whole team no longer feel comfortable with this; or if farmers are concerned their staff aren’t following correct lockdown/social distancing rules outside of work and how to address that. Please contact Lauren to discuss further directly on Lauren.Harris@markallengroup.com before Monday 11th January 2021 (4pm) and you can remain anonymous if you wish.
launched the ‘Eat Balanced’ campaign on Monday 4th January 2021 with TV adverts featuring on ITV, Channel 4 and Sky over the next two weeks. The advert will feature during family favourites including Coronation Street, Emmerdale and Location, Location, Location as well as during many food-related shows such as Saturday Morning with James Martin and Junior Bake off to name but a few. The TV-led campaign also runs across social media and digital and through retailer activity, highlighting the nutritional benefits of enjoying red meat and dairy, while showcasing our world-class standards in food production and sustainability. More information on the campaign can be found on the dedicated webpage. Three slightly different versions of the TV advert can be watched on YouTube, featuring beef, pork, lamb alongside dairy.

**Commercial Adverts**

**J Hunter Services**

Full time team member to join a small but expanding business on Exmoor! Jobs role is wide and varied, main skills to include:

- Hedging and fencing
- Digger work/Groundworks
- Tractor driving
- Chainsaw work

Tickets preferred however will put the right candidate through training. Full clean UK driving license is a must. Hours flexible dependent on time of year and pay will be based on experience.

For all enquiries, please contact Jack Hunter hunterjack2705@gmail.com or 07967787824

**Seasonal Calving/ Lambing Help**

With the season shortly upon us, if you have an opportunity arising or would be interested in work. Please register your interest with us (in strictest confidence). Do take a look at our dedicated advert page on our website [Adverts (ehfn.org.uk)](http://ehfn.org.uk). We are happy to circulate vacancies or services to our database of members. A £25 commercial advert fee applies.

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For further information on any of the above. Please contact Katherine Williams on 07970 795808 or email katherine@ehfn.org.uk