


Full
Events
Listing
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Exmoor Dark Skies Festival 2023

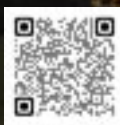
Sponsored by  airband

Friday 13th to Sunday 29th October

Join us to celebrate and
explore the wonders
of Exmoor after dark

#ExmoorDSF

www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesfestival





Family-run, Traditional 18th-Century Inn in the Heart of Exmoor

Open All Day, Every Day from Midday
Food Served All Day from Midday
Function/Dining room for up to 35 people
Beer Garden with Covered Seating & Outdoor Bar
Children & Dogs Welcome
8 En-suite Bedrooms

Guided Dark Sky Walk & Supper
18th and 26th October

Night Wildlife Talk & Supper
24th October

See pages 22, 34 & 35 for details



The Royal Oak, Withypool, Somerset TA24 7QP.
Tel: 01643 831506 joinus@royaloakwithypool.co.uk
www.royaloakwithypool.co.uk



This year more than ever we are learning to appreciate the value of the natural world and why we must protect it. Exmoor's wildlife and human health benefit from the incredibly low levels of light pollution in the skies above the National Park and we are continuing our efforts to reduce this even further. This popular annual festival, now in its 7th year, celebrates all that is wonderful about this special quality of Exmoor. We're proud to have some of the darkest skies in the country and with the variety of events taking place all year round, we know you'll enjoy your dark skies experience. I urge everyone to stop, look up, and take a moment to contemplate our place in the universe and appreciate the tranquility of Exmoor under a blanket of thousands of stars.

Whatever your age or interests, come and discover something out of this world during this festival.

www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesfestival




Sarah Bryan
Chief Executive,
Exmoor National Park

Photos:
This page, Beacon of Hope by Robin Howe
Front cover, Engine House View by Harvey Grenville

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

Event	Location	Map	Page
FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER			
Dark Sky Discovery Hub Evening with Jo Richardson	Exford	7	12
Astronomy Lecture - From Galaxies to Life	Tiverton	18	12
Stargazing & Pizza Night	Kentisbury	9	9
SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER			
Space and Telescope Workshops & Evening Family Event	North Molton	13	16
Ranger Guided Walk up Dunkery Beacon	Webbers Post	21	15
E-Bike Night Ride	Porlock Weir	15	10
Stargazing & Pizza Night	Kentisbury	9	9
Yoga under the Stars	Oare	11	16
Dinner & Evening Astronomy Talk with Prof Roger Davies	Porlock Weir	15	19
SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER			
Stargazing at the Valley of Rocks	Lynton	10	10
MONDAY 16 OCTOBER			
Protect the Night Presentation with National Park Officers	Online		19
TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER			
'The Solar System and beyond' Talk, Supper & Stargazing	South Molton	17	20
Stargazing with Hot Chocolate and Cake	Kentisbury	9	21
Planetarium Sessions	Tiverton	18	20
WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER			
Dark Skies Singalong, Quiz and Sky Gazing Farm Event	Challacombe	4	22
Dark Sky Walk & Supper with National Park Ranger	Withypool	23	22
E-Bike Night Ride	Porlock Weir	15	10
Stargazing at the Valley of Rocks	Lynton	10	10
Night Walk through Valley of Rocks	Lynton	10	11
THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER			
Stargazing & Pizza Night	Kentisbury	9	9
Dark Sky Discovery Hub Supper Club	Exford	7	11
FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER			
Woodland Stars & Wildlife Walk with Forestry England	Nutcombe Bottom	6	25
Two-Night Stargazing Break at Yarn Market Hotel	Dunster	6	25
Stargazing & Pizza Night	Kentisbury	9	9
Dark Skies Evening & Dinner with Jo & Pete Richardson	Kentisbury	9	25
SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER			
Exmoor's Dark Skies Talks by Astronomer Seb Jay	Lynmouth	10	26
Planetarium Sessions & Dark Skies themed Activities	Dunster	6	26

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

Event	Location	Map	Page
SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER (continued)			
Exmoor Star Baker Competition + Talks and Produce Show	Porlock	14	29
Astrophotography in the Doone Valley	Malmsmead	11	29
'Space is Big' Talk, Stargazing (& optional supper)	Washford	19	30
In the Starry Skies with astronomer Jo Richardson	Holworthy Farm	8	30
Stargazing & Pizza Night	Kentisbury	9	9
E-Bike Night Ride	Porlock Weir	15	10
SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER			
'Alphi Saves the Night' Story Telling and Crafts	Lynmouth	10	30
Family Astro Party	Allerford	1	33
Guided Night Walk, Farmhouse Supper & Stargazing	Exford	7	33
Night Walk through Valley of Rocks	Lynton	10	11
Sunday Roast & Stargazing with Moor Wild Experiences	Nettlecombe Court	12	33
MONDAY 23 OCTOBER			
Dark Sky Discovery Trail: Semi-guided Experience with Astronomy Support	Larkbarrow		34
Dark Skies Wildlife Walks with Night Vision Cameras	Watersmeet	20	34
TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER			
'The Night Shift-Wildlife After Dark' Talk by Stephen Powles	Withypool	23	34
Guided Night Walk, Farmhouse Supper & Stargazing	Exford	7	33
Stargazing with Hot Chocolate and Cake	Kentisbury	9	35
WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER			
Dark Skies in Watercolour, Painting Sessions for Children	Lynmouth	10	35
Exmoor Ponies & Wildlife at Night	Ashwick	3	35
Stargazing at the Valley of Rocks	Lynton	10	10
THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER			
Dark Sky Discovery Hub Supper Club	Exford	7	11
Stargazing & Pizza Night	Kentisbury	9	9
Supper under the Stars with Astronomer Jo Richardson	Oare	11	35
Night Walk through Valley of Rocks	Lynton	10	11
Dark Sky Walk & Supper with National Park Ranger	Withypool	23	35
FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER			
Exmoor Ponies & Wildlife at Night	Ashwick	3	37
Dark Sky Discovery Hub Supper Club	Exford	7	11
Dark Skies Wildlife Walks with Night Vision Cameras	Malmsmead	11	36
Moonlit Walk for Exmoor	Wimbleball Lake	22	3

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

Event	Location	Map	Page
FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER (continued)			
E-Bike Night Ride	Porlock Weir	15	10
Two-night Stargazing Hotel Break	Simonsbath	16	36
Walk & Talk with Astronomer Jo Richardson	Simonsbath	16	36
SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER			
A day out with Jo Richardson (inc. Wimbleball Lake visit)	Simonsbath	16	36
Space-themed Craft Session for Children	Dulverton	5	37
Yoga under the Stars	Oare	11	38
Stargazing & Pizza Night	Kentisbury	9	9
Arlington Asteroids - 5/10K Run	Arlington Court	2	38
SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER			
Dark Sky Discovery Hub Supper Club	Exford	7	11
Stargazing at the Valley of Rocks	Lynton	10	10

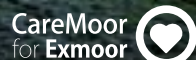
BOOKING INFORMATION

The festival includes events run by Exmoor National Park Authority, other organisations and businesses. Check T&Cs with each event organiser. Check Festival website for changes and cancellations.

How to book Exmoor National Park Authority events:  **EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK**

Book online at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesfestival

For help with booking an Exmoor National Park event please call the Lynton National Park Centre on 01598 752509 (open 7 days).



The price for some events includes a donation to 'CareMoor for Exmoor'. CareMoor is Exmoor National Park Authority's donation scheme, CareMoor funds are used for valuable conservation and access projects. See www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/caremoor.

How to book other organisations' events:

Please refer to the event pages in this programme, each event listing includes booking information and contact details of the organisers.

ENPA accepts no responsibility for events run by partner organisations or businesses.

Wislandpound by Keith Trueman

MAP OF EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK



International Dark Sky Reserve & Stargazing Locations

In 2011 Exmoor National Park became the first area in Europe to be designated as a Dark Sky Reserve by the International Dark Sky Association. Whilst the whole of Exmoor can boast incredibly dark skies, the designation specifically helps us to protect the shaded areas shown on the map above. These are known as the core dark sky area and buffer zone.

For most stargazing related activities you can head to any of the more rural areas of the National Park but if you would like some further pointers and recommendations of where to go including a map then you can download a free copy of 'An Astronomer's Guide to Exmoor' from our stargazing webpage: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/stargazing

Dark Sky Discovery Trail

If you're looking for somewhere to experience a short self-led walk at night with 360° views of the night sky above Exmoor then try our **Dark Sky Discovery Trail** near Exford. Whether it's clear or cloudy it will be a mini adventure suitable for all the family. Read more about it and watch a film at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/stargazing or ask at our National Park Centres where a printed guide is available to buy for just £1.



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DARK SKIES ART COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN

Win a **CELESTRON** Starsense Explorer DX102 Telescope and other prizes in this year's festival competition for children.

Capture the wonders of Exmoor at night in a painting, drawing or other creative medium. Whether your subject is our nocturnal wildlife, a classic Exmoor landscape scene under the stars, or people enjoying the countryside under a star-filled backdrop, the judges will be looking for attention to detail and a picture that captures the spirit of Exmoor. Two age groups: 11 years and under, 12-16 years. Closing date 6th November. Read full details on the festival webpage.



EVENTS RUNNING ON MULTIPLE DATES

Dusk Wildlife Safaris

Book an exclusive date for you and your family/group (up to 7 people) for £210. As the sun goes down, experienced safari guide Daphne Barle will take you out on a wildlife adventure in her Land Rover. Hopefully you'll see some deer and stars (weather permitting) and hear myths and legends. Call 07977 571494. www.exmoorwildlifesafaris.com

Stargazing & Pizza Nights with Moor Wild Experiences ⁹

Friday 13, Saturday 14, Thursday 19, Friday 20, Saturday 21, Thursday 26 and Saturday 28 October 7-9pm Barton Farm, Kentisbury

Discover Saturn's rings, Jupiter, constellations and distant galaxies using 7 telescopes, binoculars and the Stellarium app. Let your Guides Liz and Gary navigate you around the top 10 things to spot in the autumn night sky even with just the naked eye! Take home a free Dark Skies Pocket Guide and leave with great memories in a warm and friendly atmosphere. For absolute beginners. Adult (14+) £30, Child (5-13) £15, U5s £5. Book at www.moorwildexperiences.co.uk info@moorwildexperiences.co.uk or call 07505 364792.





Celestron, the World's #1 telescope brand, are proud to introduce a new astronomy range designed in association with Royal Observatory Greenwich.

FIRSTSCOPE TELESCOPE



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TRAVEL SCOPE 70 TELESCOPE



RRP £59.99

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RRP £49.99

Buy yours today from the following locations:

Exmoor National Park Centre - Lynmouth	01598 752 509
Exmoor National Park Centre - Dunster	01643 821 835
Exmoor National Park Centre - Dulverton	01308 323 841



In association with



EVENTS RUNNING ON MULTIPLE DATES

Stargazing at the Valley of Rocks with Moor Wild Experiences 10

Sunday 15, Wednesday 18, Wednesday 25 and Sunday 29 October 7-9pm

Discover Saturn's rings, Jupiter, constellations and distant galaxies using 7 telescopes, binoculars and the Stellarium app. Let your Guides Liz and Gary navigate you around the top 10 things to spot in the autumn night sky even with just the naked eye! Take home a free Dark Skies Pocket Guide and leave with great memories in a warm and friendly atmosphere. For absolute beginners. Adults (14+) £12, Child (5-13) £10, U5s £5. Book at www.moorwildexperiences.co.uk info@moorwildexperiences.co.uk or call 07505 364792.

E-bike Night Rides with Exmoor Adventures, Porlock Weir 15

Saturday 14, Wednesday 18, Saturday 21 and Friday 27 October 6-9pm

Experience the thrill of E-Mountain Biking at night! We provide everything you need, including Specialized Tero e-bikes. Meeting at our base at Porlock Weir, we will set you up with your e-bike and lights and explain how to use. We will then guide you on a selection of easy-going off-road trails, and quiet roads, climbing up onto the moors. We will enjoy a few stops on the way, taking in the night sky, and enjoying being out at night! This trip is perfect for beginner/intermediate riders who have done some mountain biking before. The route is likely to be roughly 20-25 km. Adults (16+) £60 including bike hire etc. Discount if you have your own bike. Email info@exmooradventures.co.uk for booking link.

EVENTS RUNNING ON MULTIPLE DATES

Night Walk through Valley of Rocks with Mother Moon, Lynton 10

Wednesday 18, Sunday 22 and Thursday 26 October 7-9pm

Enjoy the peace of the valley, taking in the beauty of the night sky in this stunning part of Exmoor. Your local guide Jess Twydall of Mother Moon will meet you at Lynton Town Hall and share tales of the past and local history as you walk through the woods on Hollerday Hill and into Valley of Rocks. Hear about the moon cycles and how they impact our moods and emotions. This is very much a walk for wellbeing, slowing down, and enjoying the tranquility of Exmoor. Price £15, Under 12s Free.

Book via info@mothermoon.co.uk or call 07716 223270.

Dark Sky Discovery Hub Supper Club with Wild About Exmoor, Exford 7

Thursday 19, Thursday 26, Friday 27 and Sunday 29 October 6pm

Meet at the Exford Bridge Tearooms to share a delicious meal, then the sociable and informative part of our stargazing evening kicks off with a planetarium on the widescreen TV to show you around those clear Exmoor skies. We show you how to "star hop" between constellations and major stars and deeper sky objects before heading out to use our telescopes.

Later, weather permitting, there is an optional dark skies walk (£5 extra, payable on the night) when we can practice using tablet and phone apps in the field. Adult £40, Under 16s £20.

Book via info@wildaboutexmoor.com or 07990 521604.

www.wildaboutexmoor.com



Astronomy Lecture 'From Galaxies to Life' ¹⁸

Lecture Theatre, Petroc College, Tiverton

Friday 13 October 7pm

After a brief introduction to Exmoor - an International Dark Sky Reserve, from an Exmoor National Park officer, hear from astrophysicist and cosmologist Professor Roger Davies from Oxford University. During this accessible and informative talk, he will illustrate our ideas about galaxies and stars and show how recent discoveries have revealed how the chemical elements, from which we are all made, are produced in stars. We have discovered thousands of planets around stars beyond the Solar System; learn what they are made of. Finally hear about the chances that there is life on one of these planets using the latest results from James Webb Space Telescope. Q&A session. Arrive from 6.30 for 7pm start. Price £8pp (Hot drink on arrival and Talk) £6pp (Talk only).

See Exmoor National Park Authority event booking on page 6.

Dark Sky Discovery Hub Evening ⁷

with Guest Speakers Jo & Pete Richardson, Exford

Friday 13 October 6pm

Meet at the Exford Bridge Tearooms to share a delicious meal, then the sociable and informative part of our stargazing evening kicks off with a stargazing presentation on the widescreen TV from astronomers Jo and Pete Richardson from Space Detectives. We will investigate stars and galaxies, discover star constellations, and share myths and legends of the night sky. If the sky is clear, we will then head out and use the computerised "Go To" telescope to observe the sky as well as have a go at naked eye star hopping, using laser guidance! If the weather is cloudy, Jo will use a virtual planetarium projector indoors and offer guidance on how to use free downloadable apps on phones and tablets to help you navigate your way around the night sky. Also, find out more about telescopes and view a gallery of Pete's astrophotography. Adult £40, Under 16s £20. Book via info@wildaboutexmoor.com or 07990521604. www.wildaboutexmoor.com

Orion nebula M42 by Tim Wetherall

Yarn Market Hotel

High Street, Dunster, Exmoor, TA24 6SF.

Tel: 01643 821425

email: hotel@yarnmarkethotel.co.uk

web: www.yarnmarkethotel.co.uk

Stargazing Breaks

Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd October 2023

Friday 9th to Sunday 11th February 2024

Experience the Dark Skies of Exmoor National Park

Led by Terry Evans, Chairman of Crewkerne & District
Astronomical Society

**£240.00 per person for 2 nights Dinner Bed
and Breakfast to include Sunday lunch,
all talks and transport to the stargazing site.
No single supplements**





Ranger Guided Walk up Dunkery Beacon, Webbers Post **21**



Saturday 14 October 5.15pm

Join a group of like-minded people led by National Park Ranger Tim Parish for a guided walk from Webbers Post up to the top of Dunkery Beacon - the highest point on Exmoor. There'll be astronomers on hand to guide you around the constellations if skies are clear. Under clear skies the 360-degree views of the night sky will be awe-inspiring but even on a cloudy wet day we'll make our way up listening for the deer and sounds of Exmoor at night. Parts of the 4-mile walk (around 3 hours) will be on uneven, narrow paths in the dark. A reasonable level of fitness is required. Adult £5, Under 16s £3.

See Exmoor National Park Authority event booking on page 6.



Saturday 14 October The Poltimore Inn Observatory, North Molton 13
Family Space Workshop "Blast off" 1pm

A fun family space event ideal for children 4-10 years. £12 per child.

Telescope Workshop Course 4pm

This is part of a 4-week course at £99 - please enquire with the Poltimore Inn.

Family Stargazing Event with Virtual Reality 6pm

This is an exciting evening all about stargazing under an Exmoor Dark Sky. Learn about stars, how they are formed, the sizes and distance between them, as well as the myths and legends associated with the constellations. Observatory Tour,

Look through Telescopes, Expert Astronomer Guidance, Laser Guided Night Sky Explanation. (Virtual Sky Projection and guide if weather is poor). Adult £35, Child £25.

Booking for all events via

www.thepoltimoreinnnorthmolton.co.uk

or call Debbie on 01598 740338.

Call to book Dinner and for Accommodation see

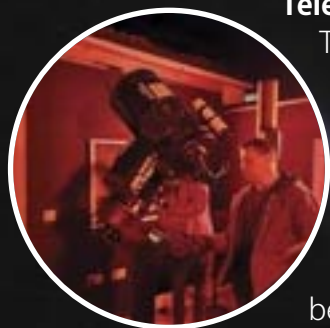
www.thepoltimoreinnnorthmolton.co.uk/poltimore-lodges

Yoga under the Stars! Oare House, Oare 11

Saturday 14 October 6.30pm

Gather round the fire and enjoy a welcome drink of Kombucha before we head out 'into the wild' to practice yoga under the stars. Connect with the Earth and gaze up at the heavens as you move your body in tune with an autumnally themed yoga practice. End the evening at the fireside again with hot chai and a delicious snack. Adult/Child £20. Book at

www.shiatsuyoga.co.uk/darkskiesyoga



NGC4565 Edge on Spiral Galaxy by Pete Richardson

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enquiry@porlockweirhotel.co.uk

The Porlock Weir Hotel
... the anchor of Exmoor



Porlock Weir Hotel
Dinner and stargazing

Saturday 14th October ~ £45pp ~ 6:45pm Start Time

Join us in our restaurant for a 3 course dinner and talk with Professor Roger Davies, then explore the starry skies from our garden.

~

The Luttrell Arms Hotel
Perfectly positioned for exploring and stargazing in the National Park.



The Luttrell Arms Hotel
... at the heart of Dunster

01643 821555
enquiry@luttrellarms.co.uk

Dinner & Evening with Professor Roger Davies ¹⁵
'Everything you wanted to know about astronomy but were afraid to ask'
Porlock Weir Hotel, Porlock Weir
Saturday 14 October 6.45pm

Join us for dinner and discover the magic of the night skies and all that twinkles with a talk about the stars with Professor Roger Davies, astrophysicist and cosmologist from Oxford University. He will be giving an informative indoor presentation titled 'Everything you wanted to know about astronomy but were afraid to ask', in the surrounds of our stunning hotel overlooking Porlock Harbour. Have you ever wondered how far it is to the nearest star, how stars shine, or what shape galaxies are? Come along and find out. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions and Professor Davies will illustrate this talk with what we can see in the night sky, some of the latest images from the most advanced telescopes, and a bowl of fruit! After dinner, experience the night skies, in our garden, wrapped up with a hot chocolate in hand. Event inc. 3 course dinner: £45pp. Why not get the ultimate Dark Skies experience and book a special 2-night stay package? www.porlockweirhotel.co.uk Enquire and book on 01643 800400.

Protect the Night -
An online presentation with National Park Officers
Monday 16 October 7pm

Join the National Park's Future Landscapes Officer Julie Layzell and Wildlife Conservation Officer Ali Cockburn for a free online session to learn about the problems faced by humans and wildlife caused by light pollution and what steps you can take to help nature and keep our skies dark. Free event. Register for the joining link. See Exmoor National Park Authority event booking on page 6.



Planetarium Sessions 18**Petroc College, Tiverton****Tuesday 17 October from 5pm**

Book an evening session in one of the country's largest mobile planetariums where you'll be immersed under spectacular night skies with experienced science teacher and presenter Simon Ould from Space Odyssey.

A memorable experience for all ages and a must for anyone who's never had a go! Sessions at 5pm, 6.15pm and 7.30pm. Adult £6, Under 16s £4.

See Exmoor National Park Authority event booking on page 6.

**'The Solar System and beyond' Evening Talk, Supper & Stargazing 17****Quince Honey Farm, South Molton****Tuesday 17 October 6.30pm**

Quince Honey Farm are thrilled to welcome Rick Dooley, Chairman of North Devon Astronomical Society, to give a talk on 'The Solar System and beyond'. Start the evening with a warming supper and finish with stargazing with telescopes in the Nectar Gardens, all the while learning about our solar system, the wonder of the universe and our place in it.

Suitable for beginners. £15pp (includes supper). Booking essential; call **01769 572 401**, in person, or via our website (booking fee applies):

www.quincehoneyfarm.co.uk/workshops-and-experiences

Stargazing with Hot Chocolate and Cake with Moor Wild Experiences 9**Barton Farm, Kentisbury****Tuesday 17 October 7pm**

Discover Saturn's rings, Jupiter, constellations and distant galaxies using 7 telescopes, binoculars and the Stellarium app. Let your Guides Liz and Gary navigate you around the top 10 things to spot in the autumn night sky even with just the naked eye! Take home a free Dark Skies Pocket Guide and leave with great memories in a warm and friendly atmosphere. For absolute beginners. Adults (14+) £12, Child (5-13) £10, U5s £5. Book at **www.moorwildexperiences.co.uk**, **info@moorwildexperiences.co.uk** or call **07505 364792**.

Dark Skies Singalong, Quiz and Sky Gazing Farm Event ⁴

Shoulsbarrow Farmhouse, Challacombe

Wednesday 18 October 6.30pm

Join experienced choir leader Amanda Taylor for an uplifting evening of fun and laughter, singing along to some dark sky related songs and short quiz, again with a dark sky theme! Based in their farm barn, you'll be surrounded by friendly traditional and rare breed livestock and horses. Sky gazing from the barn or anywhere on site is amazing. An ideal event for wellbeing, in this tranquil location under some of the darkest skies on Exmoor. Hot drinks and sausage in a roll provided. Sausages are made from Gloucestershire Old Spots Pigs reared on the farm. Adults only, £10 includes refreshments and a donation to North Devon Hospice. B&B accommodation also available, visit www.shoulsbarrowfarmhouse.co.uk. Contact Amanda Taylor on taylororiginal20@gmail.com or 01598 428005.


Withypool Hill Dark Sky Walk & Supper with National Park Ranger ²³

Royal Oak, Withypool

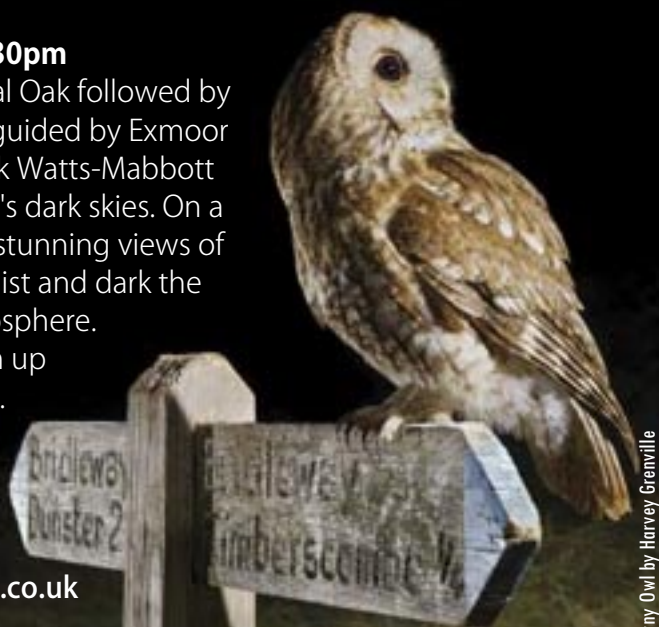
Wednesday 18 October 5.30pm

Meet for supper at the Royal Oak followed by a walk over Withypool Hill guided by Exmoor National Park Ranger Patrick Watts-Mabbott who will talk about Exmoor's dark skies. On a clear, crisp night enjoy the stunning views of the skies, but even in the mist and dark the moor has an amazing atmosphere.

On return to the pub, warm up with a luxury hot chocolate.

Adult £25 (includes a £5 donation to )
child £10.

Book via
joinus@royaloakwithypool.co.uk
or 01643 831506.



Tawny Owl by Harvey Grenville



Stargazing Evenings* @ Holworthy Farm
Delivered by Space Detectives

Includes Supper

Limited Spaces!

Saturday 21st October 2023 - In the Starry Skies (Exmoor National Park Dark Sky Festival)

Saturday 18th November 2023 - Jupiter, A Planetary Giant

Saturday 16th December 2023 - Space Rocks (Geminids Meteors)

Saturday 20th January 2024 - In the Starry Skies

Saturday 24th February 2024 - Observing the Moon

Saturday 16th March 2024 - Deep Space Observation (James Webb Space Telescope)

From £28 per person
holworthyfarm.co.uk
01398 371244 Wimbleball Lake, TA22 9NY

*Evening events start at 6.30pm and finish late, unless detailed otherwise



**DARK SKIES
ROOT PROJECT**
www.rootproject.co.uk

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER EVENTS
STARGAZING
MUSHROOM HUNTING
WILD YOGA
Gare Valley, EX38

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programme 21-29
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open until 30
October

#ItsYourOutdoors
01398 371460
swlakeswlakestrust.org.uk/activities



Your perfect base camp for the Dark Skies Festival...

Kentisbury Grange is situated on the edge of Exmoor National Park and offers easy access to this year's events.

Enjoy an overnight stay including a hearty breakfast from just **£145 per room** based on two people sharing, or **£250** including a fabulous 3-course dinner. Our 2-bedroom waterside lodges with private decking and a hot tub sleep four people and are available Fri-Mon or Mon-Fri for just **£500**.

Book a room for 3 nights or more and you'll also receive a complimentary bottle of Prosecco on arrival!



Exclusive 'Space Detectives' stargazing event

We're delighted to be hosting a very special evening on 20th October 2023 with **Jo and Pete Richardson, FRAS** from **Space Detectives** including a fantastic stargazing presentation as well as telescopic and laser guided exploration of the night sky. The event includes a 3-course dinner in our Coach House restaurant and costs **£50 per person**.

Book now on **01271 545 008** or at reception@kentisburygrange.com

www.kentisburygrange.com | Kentisbury, North Devon EX31 4NL

Woodland Stars & Wildlife Walk with Forestry England **6**

Nutcombe Bottom, near Dunster

Friday 20 October 7.15pm

Join Chris Sperring MBE and James Latus Community Ranger for Forestry England for a guided evening woodland walk. Suitable for all ages, your hosts will discuss astronomy and evening wildlife - the latter taking centre stage if the weather is wet or overcast. Adult £7.50, Child/OAP £5, Family (2+2) £20. No dogs allowed. Book via **0300 0674800**.

Exmoor's Dark Skies Evening & Dinner with Astronomers **9**

Jo & Pete Richardson, Kentisbury Grange, Kentisbury, Barnstaple

Friday 20 October 7pm

Join astronomers Jo & Pete Richardson FRAS from Space Detectives for an evening of stars and astronomy at the award-winning Kentisbury Grange Hotel in North Devon. Enjoy a 3-course dinner in the Coach House restaurant, a fantastic stargazing presentation as well as telescopic and laser guided exploration of the night sky. £50pp. Book via reception@kentisburygrange.com or **01271 545008**. www.kentisburygrange.com

Two-night Stargazing Break, Yarn Market Hotel, Dunster **6**

Friday 20 to Sunday 22 October

Enjoy a series of informative talks, guided stargazing trips led by experienced astronomer and presenter Terry Evans, chair of Crewkerne and District Astronomical Society. On Saturday enjoy a planetarium session in the large 360-degree dome. There'll be plenty of time to explore this amazing medieval village, steeped in history and dominated by the National Trust's Dunster Castle. The break is on a full board basis including Sunday lunch at £240 pp inclusive and there are no single supplements. Email hotel@yarnmarkethotel.co.uk or call **01643 821425**. www.yarnmarkethotel.co.uk

Exmoor's Dark Skies Talks ¹⁰
by Astronomer and Presenter Seb Jay
National Park Centre, Lynmouth
Saturday 21 October 2.30pm and 4.30pm

Astronomer Seb Jay has been inspiring Exmoor visitors for years - come and learn fascinating facts and stories about the night skies and how to enjoy them. Astronomer Seb Jay takes us on a journey through time and space, first visiting our own solar system, then our galaxy the Milky Way, and on out into the Universe. Seb's talks are always engaging, and the distances covered are mind boggling. £5pp. To book phone **01598 752509** or call in to the Centre.



Planetarium Sessions & Dark Skies ⁶
themed Activities for Children
Tithe Barn, Dunster

Saturday 21 October Sessions all day from 10.30am



Book an immersive 45/60 minute session in the Space Odyssey Planetarium and learn about space and the universe from Simon Ould an experienced Science Teacher and Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. The shorter sessions are slightly more suited for families with younger children. Adults £6, Under 16s £4.

See Exmoor National Park Authority event booking on page 6.

From 11am, there's also a host of free drop-in family-friendly activities including space experiments with astronomer Simon Holbeche. or join the authors of Alphi Saves the Night for storytelling, crafts and sticker making. No booking required. Suitable for families with younger children. Book available for purchase. Cafe raising funds for **CareMoor for Exmoor**

Asia orion by Tim Wetherall



Cloud Farm Campsite

Visiting for the Exmoor Dark Skies Festival? Why not escape into nature with a short getaway to our camping pods, offering a perfect blend of tranquillity and indoor comforts. Nestled in the heart of Exmoor, these pods have stunning views of the Lorna Doone Valley. Picturesque riverside camping pitches, electric hook-ups and campervan pitches also available.

Booking & information



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EXMOOR National Park
The Somerset Dark Sky Friendly

Exmoor Star Baker Competition plus Talks and Produce Show 14**Village Hall, Porlock****Saturday 21 October 2-5pm**

Calling all bakers, young and old, to take part in this brand-new event. Taking inspiration from the popular Bake-Off TV series and Exmoor's amazing dark skies, amateur and professional bakers of all ages from across Exmoor are invited to enter their own show-stopper cake or cupcakes with an astronomy or night-wildlife theme for judging. Prizes to be won! During the afternoon, the public are invited to admire the creativity of our bakers as all entries will be on display along with local produce and craft stalls. Raffle and refreshments. From 2.30 pm, there will also be three short talks suitable for all ages;

- Exmoor, International Dark Sky Reserve - ENPA
- Where, when, and what to look for in the October night sky - Astronomer Tim Wetherell
- Nocturnal Wildlife - Exmoor Natural History Society.



Afternoon event Adults (12+) £1, Under 12s 50p. Entry forms for competitors (free) available from Porlock Visitor Centre, Porlock Post Office, National Park Centres, download from the Dark Skies Festival website, or email visit@porlock.co.uk where completed forms should also be sent. Tel: 01643 863150.

Astrophotography in the Doone Valley, Malmsmead 11**Saturday 21 October 6pm**

Ever wanted to learn about capturing the beauty of the Exmoor landscape and dark skies at night? Join local photographer Mark Johnson for a photography experience to remember. At the start of the event visitors will be able to enjoy hot drinks and snacks at the Buttery tea-room. Adult £10, child £5. Book via

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/devon/lorna-doone-valley/events

'Space is Big' Talk, Stargazing (& optional supper) ¹⁹

Torre Cider Farm, Washford

Saturday 21 October 6pm/7.30pm

Join astronomer Simon Holbeche for 'Space is Big, Really Big' - diving into Douglas Adams' famous quote from the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. We'll explore from the edge of space, 100 kilometres above our heads, to the edge of the observable universe. Planet hopping out of the solar system, past Voyager 1, past the left-over bits from our Sun's birth, and on to our neighbouring stars, we'll realise we've hardly started our journey. Talk followed by stargazing with telescopes (weather permitting).

Talk & 2-course Supper 6pm £22.50pp, Talk only 7.30pm £9.50. Book via www.torrecider.farm/events, info@torrecider.farm or call 01984 640004.

In the Starry Skies with astronomer Jo Richardson ⁸

Holworthy Farm, near Brompton Regis

Saturday 21 October 6.30pm

Come and join Jo and Pete Richardson from Space Detectives on a guided tour of the night sky with a farmhouse supper. Delve into the wonders of an Exmoor Dark Sky, discover what stars are, and hear the myths and legends surrounding them. If the weather is clear, we will use the computer driven telescope and laser guidance to pick out interesting celestial objects. If the weather is inclement, we will use the virtual sky tour in the warmth of the studio overlooking Wimbleball Lake. £28pp includes supper and tea/coffee. Farmhouse accommodation available £44 pp B&B. www.holworthyfarm.co.uk Call Gillian on 01398 371244 to book.

'Alphi Saves the Night' Story Telling and Crafts ¹⁰

National Park Centre, Lynmouth

Sunday 22 October 10am-1pm

Join Ewen & Michalea, authors of Alphi Saves the Night and Alphi Saves the Alps for storytelling, crafts and sticker making. Free drop-in session (no booking required) for families with younger children. Their books will be available for purchase.

Western Veil Nebula by Craig Ogier



Simonsbath House Dark Skies Holiday Friday 27th – Sunday 29th October

Bed & Breakfast £130 per couple per night. Then join us and book onto any of the special events happening throughout the week. (Dinner reservations & Packed Lunches available)

Friday 27th - Walk & talk with ESERO-UK Ambassador Jo Richardson FRAS and enjoy the spectacular display afforded to an International Dark Skies Reserve. £20pp

Saturday 28th - Visit Wimbleball Lake & see Exmoor Ponies on nearby Haddon Hill. Followed by another evening with Jo learning to use telescopes & talking Astrophotography. £35pp

Sunday 29th - Pencil Sketching by the River Barle. Whether you are a beginner or more experienced, take part in the ultimate outdoor mindfulness. £10pp

E-mail: enquiries@simonsbathhousehotel.co.uk Phone: 01643831259

Telescope Hire

Explore Exmoor's Dark Skies
with a Skywatcher Telescope.




Hire from a National Park Centre for £25 per night (additional nights just £10 extra each) Full instructions, including video link, provided. For further details visit www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/stargazing or contact an Exmoor National Park Centre:
Dulverton 01398 323841
Dunster 01643 821835
Lynmouth 01598 752509

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Family Astro Party with the National Park ¹

Horner Farm, Nr Allerford

Sunday 22 October 3.30-8pm

Presentation and family space-themed workshop with fun experiments and activities led by astronomer Jo Richardson from Space Detectives and National Park staff. Pause for your picnic tea before a Ranger guided bat walk, more stargazing activities and telescopes. Great for children. £7pp. See Exmoor National Park Authority event booking on page 6.



Guided Night Walk, Farmhouse Supper & Stargazing, Exford ⁷

Sunday 22 & Tuesday 24 October 6.30pm

Meet in Exford then we'll set off for a walk up an old drovers' way onto the edge of the moor. Soak up the atmosphere and sit and watch the stars come out as I point out the visible planets and constellations by laser before we head down to our smallholding in the valley below for a delicious home cooked roast dinner, made with local produce. We talk about the stars and planets, explain the use of stargazing Apps, and use our telescopes and binoculars to delve into deeper space. If it's cloudy, enjoy a planetarium presentation. £45pp. Book via info@wildaboutexmoor.com or 07990521604. www.wildaboutexmoor.com

Sunday Roast & Stargazing with Moor Wild Experiences ¹²

Nettlecombe Court

Sunday 22 October 7pm

Discover Saturn's rings, Jupiter, constellations and distant galaxies using 7 telescopes, binoculars and the Stellarium app. Let your Guides Liz and Gary navigate you around the top 10 things to spot in the autumn night sky even with just the naked eye! For absolute beginners. Adults (14+) £24, Child (5-13) £20, U5s £15. Book at www.moorwildexperiences.co.uk info@moorwildexperiences.co.uk or call 07505 364792.

Dark Sky Discovery Trail: Semi-guided Experience 
with Astronomy Support, Larkbarrow, near Exford
Monday 23 October, flexible arrival 6pm

Gain confidence as the sun goes down on this amazing dark skies walk. National Park staff will be on hand as you negotiate the flat 2-mile walk with 360° views of the night sky. Whatever the weather, you'll feel the excitement of being surrounded by darkness and the sounds of nature. If skies are clear, then our astronomers will help you identify planets and constellations and give an overview of our place in the universe. £3pp. See Exmoor National Park Authority event booking on page 6.

Dark Skies Wildlife Walks with Night Vision Cameras, Watersmeet **20**
Monday 23rd October 5pm & 7pm

Join one of our escorted walks around Watersmeet with our ranger team, using night vision cameras you will get to see what incredible evening wildlife calls the area home. Refreshments at Watersmeet tea-room.

Adult £10, Child £5.

Book at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/devon/watersmeet/events

'The Night Shift - Wildlife After Dark' presented by Stephen Powles **23**
plus Supper, Royal Oak, Withypool
Tuesday 24 October 6.30pm

Former vet, wildlife photographer and presenter Stephen Powles will talk about a mix of amusing, informative and interesting wildlife stories about creatures of the night. It will feature hedgehogs using a staircase, a pear thief and a smart mouse - how smart the mouse is, has to be seen to be believed! Otters, pine martens and tawny owls will also put in an appearance. Supper will be available before or after the talk. Suitable for children and adults. Adult £25, Child £15 (includes 2-course supper).

Book via joinus@royaloakwithypool.co.uk or 01643 831506.

Stargazing with Hot Chocolate and Cake with Moor Wild Experiences **9**
Tuesday 24 October 7pm Barton Farm, Kentisbury

See similar event on 17 October - page 21

Dark Skies in Watercolour, Painting Sessions for Children **10** 
Lynmouth National Park Centre**Wednesday 25 October 10am & 12.30pm**

Join Sophie Tyler from Exmoor National Park for a 1½hr creative watercolour painting session. Most suited to ages 7-11. All materials provided. Two sessions to choose from. Child £3.

See Exmoor National Park Authority event booking on page 6.

Exmoor Ponies & Wildlife at Night **3**
Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick Near Dulverton
Wednesday 25 October 5.30pm

A family friendly evening meeting Exmoor ponies and finding out about Exmoor's nocturnal wildlife. Hot chocolate and marshmallows/Drink and Biscuits included. Event duration approx. 1½hrs. Adult £5 Child £4. Visit www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk email info@exmoorponycentre.org.uk or call 01398 323093.

Withypool Hill Dark Sky Walk & Supper with National Park Ranger **23**
Royal Oak, Withypool
Thursday 26 October 5.30pm

For details see page 22 for similar event on 18 October.

Supper under the Stars Evening **11**
with Astronomer Jo Richardson
Root Project, Oare
Thursday 26 October 7pm

Join us in Oare for a stargazing evening and firepit supper led by astronomer Jo Richardson from Space Detectives. Adult £20 Child £10 Family (2 Adults + 2 children) £50. Contact hadyn@rootproject.co.uk
Book at www.rootproject.co.uk/events



Dark Skies Wildlife Walks with Night Vision Cameras ¹¹

Doone Valley, Malmsmead

Friday 27 October 5pm & 7pm

Join one of our escorted walks along the Doone Valley with our ranger team. Using night vision cameras, you will get to see what incredible evening wildlife calls the valley home. Refreshment available at the Buttery tea-room. Adult £10, Child £5. Book at

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/devon/lorna-doone-valley/events

Two-night Stargazing Break ¹⁶

Simonsbath House Hotel, Simonsbath

Friday 27 to Sunday 29 October

Join us and book any of the special events happening throughout the weekend with ESERO-UK Ambassador Jo Richardson FRAS and enjoy the spectacular display afforded to an International Dark Sky Reserve. On Saturday visit Wimbleball Lake and see Exmoor Ponies on nearby Haddon Hill, followed by another evening with Jo learning to use telescopes and talking astrophotography. There's also a Sketching course during Sunday. Bed & Breakfast £130 per couple per night. (Dinner and Packed lunch available if required).

Walk & Talk with Jo Richardson, Simonsbath ¹⁶

Friday 27 October 6pm

Walk & talk with ESERO-UK Ambassador Jo Richardson FRAS and enjoy the spectacular display afforded to an International Dark Skies Reserve. £20pp

Day out with Jo Richardson (starts at Simonsbath) ¹⁶

Saturday 28 October 10am

Visit Wimbleball Lake & see Exmoor Ponies on nearby Haddon Hill. Followed by an evening with Jo learning to use telescopes & talking Astrophotography. £35pp (food excluded).

Events are open to non-guests too. Booking is essential.

Call 01643 831259. www.simonsbathhouse.co.uk

Moonlit Walk for Exmoor, Wimbleball Lake ²²

Friday 27 October 5pm

Rise to the challenge of walking 9 miles around this stunning lake under a full moon, in the safety of this fully marshalled event. Ideal for individuals, families and groups. Celebrate completing the walk with free hot drinks next to a campfire and look up at the moon and starry skies at Wimbleball's new dark sky discovery hub and viewing platform. Price £10pp or Family Ticket (5 max) £30, or maybe you'd like to raise sponsorship whilst enjoying this outdoor adventure. We'll set you up your own online fundraising page to make it fun and easy to support three amazing Exmoor-based charities: Exmoor Search & Rescue, CareMoor for Exmoor and South West Lakes Trust.

See Exmoor National Park Authority event booking on page 6.

Exmoor Ponies & Wildlife at Night ³

Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick near Dulverton

Friday 27 October 5.30pm

For details see page 35 for similar event on 25 October.

Space-themed Craft Session for Children ⁵

National Park Centre, Dulverton

Saturday 28 October 2-4pm

A free drop-in arts and crafts session; colouring, making telescopes and designing space craft. Materials provided. Free entry but donations to CareMoor for Exmoor welcome. No need to book.



Yoga under the Stars! Oare House, Oare 11

Saturday 28 October 6.30-9.30pm

For details see page 16 for similar event on 14 October.

Arlington Asteroids - 5/10k Night Run 2

Arlington Court National Trust, near Barnstaple

Saturday 28 October 7.30pm



Join Channel Events for this night run around the National Trust's beautiful Arlington Court Estate in North Devon, home of the national carriage museum. The course is undulating but on good trails and tracks. Making your way around the estate, passing the ponds, following the river, through the woods and returning past the church and the carriage museum before finishing arms aloft outside the main house. Choose the 5km or 10km routes.

The café will be open for pre and post run refreshments too! £19pp + booking fee.

All details and booking via www.channelevents.co.uk/arlington-asteroids



Arlington Court by Keith Trueman
Dark Skies Yoga by Terry Bruce (www.shiatsuyoga.co.uk)

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