

# THE LYMPTONE HERALD



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## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### **JANUARY 2024**

Lympstone Parish Council held their monthly public meeting on Monday 8th January in the Meeting Room.

A very Happy New Year to all our residents! I hope you all had a lovely break over the festive period and refreshed for a new year.

#### **Public session**

A resident asked about the proposed development at Meeting Lane and why DCC Highways had no objection to the additional traffic issues this would cause. He explained this traffic would certainly add to the already congested village roads. Cllr Culhane explained that she had access to a pollution monitor and would be gathering data to use as evidence to back up the residents' claim. The Chairman added that the PC was still waiting for this application to go to EDDC strategic planning committee for both the PC and residents to raise concerns.

#### **Clerk's Report – \*IMPORTANT\***

The Clerk explained that the defibrillator at the Saddlers Arms was out of action due to expired pads. The Clerk added that despite the fact new pads had been ordered well in advance she had recently received an email that the pads were out of stock and did not know when they would be back in stock. She had searched other providers who also

had the same issue with these pads for this type of defibrillator.

#### **Reports from the Chairman, East Devon District Councillors and Devon County Councillors**

Lympstone Parish Council Chairman wished all present a happy new year. District Cllr Jung hoped all had a good Christmas and a good break over New Year. He reported that EDDC would be holding a meeting with SWW to discuss the current issue of sewage being pumped into the sea. He added that just before Christmas he had circulated a note to the clerks and chairs regarding the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework that was published late December 2023, and the positive changes to the weight attributed to Neighbourhood Plans. However, he made it clear, the revised NPPF changed absolutely nothing for housing numbers in strategic planning in East Devon. The government figures remained as before. He explained that the Committee members at EDDC Strategic Planning would be requesting that changes to the weight of Neighbourhood Plans be drawn to the attention of Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups. So, details would be hopefully coming through from officers shortly. He highlighted the fact that the current EDDC local plan

remained and the emerging one did not presently exist. County Cllr Scott explained that if the development at Meeting Lane went ahead the adjoining roads would be changed to 30mph. He added that DCC were only consultees to EDDC planning department. Pre-application conversations were held with DCC and EDDC officers and the PC received updates. He added that the County and District Cllrs wanted these conversations held earlier with the PC before developers. He and County Cllr Trail had been working on a governance document to assist the consultation impact to be created by LPC and community led to take to developers first.

### **Community Payback Scheme**

Cllr Gale-Hasleham reported on this initiative: The Community Payback is where offenders work on projects to pay back the community for their crimes, for example by: removing graffiti, clearing wasteland, improving and decorating a public space or building like a community centre, repainting communal areas, making pathways accessible, clearing alleys, doing grounds maintenance and gardening, planting trees and picking litter. The work must: benefit the local community, not take paid work away from others and not make a profit for anyone. I am sure that we will qualify for some if not all categories and I

look forward to receiving input from my fellow Councillors after which I will make the appropriate application. He would discuss it in more detail at the next community committee meeting and bring recommendations back to full council.

### **Community committee**

Cllr Staddon reported on the committee meeting held on 11th Dec 2023: We discussed the plans to follow on from the success of both the Jubilee and Coronation parties in Candy's Field and repeat the fun this year in June. We are wondering whether to theme it on the D Day anniversary, although the party is set for later in June. We are at the early stages of bringing back the 'Beating of the Bounds'. With this we would like to also reinstate the missing boundary stone. Anyone who would like to help, would be much appreciated. The phone box at The Swan is set to become an interactive history box, we have all the necessary hardware for this, we are now starting the next phase of working out the best ways to use it. It will incorporate local people from Lympstone, with snippets of stories/historical information on this amazing village. We had the chance to consult with local residents regarding the new Youth Hub building, this proved really helpful, and we are awaiting a meeting

# LYMPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

## Event Co-ordinator

The Village Hall management team is keen to attract a Volunteer Event Co-ordinator, to assist with organising:

- Wedding Parties
- Major Village Events

The Event Co-ordinator is primarily a weekend role, responsible for:

- Showing interested parties around the Village Hall, and discussing client needs and requirements.
- Agreeing terms and conditions.
- Undertaking the initial briefing, and key handover.

- Being the “LVH Point of Contact” - updating clients and assisting with event planning.
- Ensuring all requested equipment and facilities are in good condition prior to the event.
- Coordinating room set-up to ensure that chairs and tables are in place.
- Ensuring that the Village Hall is returned, as found, in clean and tidy condition.

If you are interested, please email:  
[sjmorgan222@gmail.com](mailto:sjmorgan222@gmail.com)

*Steve Morgan*  
(Acting Chair, Lymptstone Village Hall)



## Grant Applicant

Lympstone Village Hall also needs help with grant applications.

The management team currently has two major capital projects that would benefit from grant funding, namely the construction of a Disabled Ramp between the Village Hall and the tennis

courts, with handrails, tarmacking and landscaping, and the establishment of an on-site Commercial Kitchen, primarily but not exclusively to provide the Primary School children with hot meals.

If you do have expertise in this area, please contact Steve, as above.



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# Schools Out Fancy Dress Disco with DJ Bongo!

**Lympstone Village Hall**  
**Boogie the Winter Blues Off!**  
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## **MONTHLY COMMUNITY HUB LUNCHES**

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the Christmas Community Lunch on 17 December a very special occasion. The full roast turkey dinner was followed by scrumptious Christmas pudding, with a small tippie thrown in. All our diners were given a 'Goody Bag' with a slice of Christmas cake and two mince pies (made by our wonderful baker volunteers in the Village) and some small presents from Santa (bought from very generous local donations). The Lympstone Ladies Choir led the carol singing afterwards.

We will continue to deliver a hot 2 course Sunday dinner to residents around the village and to host in the Main Hall for diners who enjoy the social experience.

The next dates are:

1pm Sunday 28 January

Cottage Pie & Trifle

1pm Sunday 25 February

Chicken Casserole & Sponge Pudding

1pm Sunday 24 March

Roast Lamb dinner & Brownies

If you would like to have a meal delivered, know of anyone who would appreciate this, or would like to join us at the Hall, please get in touch with Jenny or Vicki.

A small donation of up to £5 is welcome but not essential. If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information, please contact us

*Jenny Clark*

*merryfield@etcpm.com*

*Vicki Drinkwater*

*vicki.drinkwater@yahoo.com*

*Many thanks*

*Linda Lyon*

with the architect involved to follow through on points made. We are hoping to implement a PC Calendar, this will hopefully keep the village up to date with anything the PC has planned, such as works etc. Lastly, we spoke about both Jubilee and Coronation mugs that are leftover. We are hoping to disperse the remaining mugs in the near future, with the chance to purchase them, should anybody wish to.

The next PC meeting will be held on Monday 5th February 2024 in the Meeting Room, Lympstone Village Hall.

*Clerk to the Council:*

*Lucy Tyrrell c/o Minnows, Longmeadow Road, Lympstone EX8 5LF*

*Tel: 07890717081*

*Email: [lympstonepc@gmail.com](mailto:lympstonepc@gmail.com)*

## **PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE COULD YOU HELP?**

The Parish Council believe it is prudent to form a working party to begin producing a new Neighbourhood Plan that will meet the challenges our village will face in the coming years and ensure it remains a special place for our community to live and thrive.

A cross section of residents, able to commit some of their time and effort to regular meetings, will be needed to join some members of the Parish Council working together to achieve a new and robust plan.

The Parish Council aims to review its preparations in January and have an exploratory first group meeting on:

**11th March 6-7pm in the Meeting  
Room of the Village Hall.**

Please come along and take part!

If you feel able to become involved, in any way, or if you would like more information,

please contact the Clerk at

[lympstonepc@gmail.com](mailto:lympstonepc@gmail.com)

or c/o Minnows, Longmeadow Road,

Lympstone, EX8 5LF.



## **FREECYCLING WEEKEND MARCH 16TH AND 17TH.**

Freecycling weekends are when you can put outside your gate in a safe place anything you do not want and are willing for others to take. Of course you can do that any time. It is wise to put some sort of note with your stuff such as 'Help yourself'. It is also wise to ensure you do not leave your valued possessions anywhere near your gate!

If you live in a more obscure part of Lympstone, you could put out a 'Freecycling' sign at the beginning of your road. There is no need to let us know you are going to partake in freecycling.

## **TALK - ABOUT INDIGO**

Barbara Janssen will give a talk on Tuesday 12th March about Indigo. This will include a Brief History; why and how it works in its very unique way; why it is often referred to as "Black Gold"; how it can be grown and used. Barbara will bring samples of dyed work as well as examples of shibori work. She will also make reference to indigo dying with woad.

The talk will be held at Lympstone Sailing Club and will start at 7.30pm and finish about 9pm. Tea and coffee provided. The talk is free to Lympstone Art Group members. £3 on the door for guests.

*Judith Carter*  
*Lympstone Art Group*

## PARISH CHURCH

### Services

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 14th February - service at 11.30 in Lympstone and 6.30 at Holy Trinity, Exmouth

9.30 Sundays coming up - 4th\* and 18th Feb, 3rd and 17th March Journey Service. 11th and 25th Feb Holy Communion

Mothering Sunday 10th March Family Communion

Following 4th Feb service there will be a dedication and blessing of new bench

### The Churchyard

Proposals from EDDC StreetScene about their management and maintenance of the churchyard are under discussion. Plans will be published for wide consultation.

*Brian Mather.*

## 2024 COULD BE YOUR BEST YEAR YET... No matter what!

Okay! So this might involve making some changes to: Your self-image; Your Goals; Your mindset; Your habits. If you knew success was guaranteed what would you change first?

Why not come along to my 'make the changes you really want' talk and explore how to maximise your chances of ensuring 2024 becomes THE year of opportunity and achievement for you.

We will explore exactly how you can achieve more than you ever thought possible. Understand the Neuroscience principles behind creating lasting change. Discover how to deal effectively with your inner critic. Reveal what you really want and how to get it.

**'MAKE 2024 YOUR BEST YEAR YET'**  
In EXMOUTH - at Holy Trinity Church Hall

Thursdays: Feb 15th, 22nd, 29th @7-00pm - with refreshments and discussion

£5 per seminar workshop or £12 for all 3 - OAPs & students free] I'm an experienced Wellbeing & Resilience Coach - please contact me if you want to know more

*Elaine Paul.*

## **SAVE THE DATE !**

### **LYMPSTONE GARDEN FESTIVAL 8 – 16th June 2024**

Formal, flowery or wildlife friendly, however you like your garden the Lymptone Garden Festival will have something to delight and inspire you. There will be so much to see and get involved in with the Scarecrow Trail, Gulliford Burial Ground and Wild about Lymptone activities. We would also like to encourage those gardeners with beautiful front gardens to really go to town this year and make our village a visual extravaganza. Visitors would not be allowed to enter these gardens.

There's still plenty of time to get involved. We already have some amazing gardens ready to open, most for the first time! A huge thank you to everyone who has already volunteered their garden and support. Whether you open your garden, help out with the planning or volunteer on the day you'll be helping raise much needed for funds for Exmouth & Lymptone Hospiscare.

We have already started detailed planning and will keep you updated though the Herald, Village website or follow us on Instagram: @lympstonegardenfestival

After Easter we will be looking for volunteers who can help out during the Festival Week itself.

Meanwhile, if you have any queries or wish to volunteer, please contact:

*Liz Griffiths*

Liz@claylane.com

*Julie Heptonstall*

Julie.heptonstall@gmail.com

*Doreen Murray*

Doreenmurray999@googlemail.com



## FAIR WINDS FOR MARCH

Lympstone's Clarion Clarinet Quartet was founded 20 years ago by Richard de la Rue, and has performed many times in the village and surrounding area. For their next appearance he and John Welton have invited another wind group, the Roseland Wind Quartet, to join them in a concert in Lympstone Parish Church on Saturday 16th March at 7.30pm, heralding the start of the year's Lympstone Entertainments programme.

Apart from a clarinet, the Roseland musicians play flute, oboe and bassoon – all woodwind instruments – and one brass instrument – a French horn, which blends beautifully with all the woodwind you will hear – including John Welton's favourite bass clarinet and even the tiny E-flat clarinet. Each contributes its own magic to the ensemble.

You can look forward to a programme that includes the Classics, favourite Musicals, the Blues, Jazz and Boogie – anything from Mozart to Benny Goodman. There's a Quintet by Beethoven's lesser-known contemporary Franz Danzi, and even an arrangement of Freddie Mercury's Bohemian Rhapsody!

"Whatever the occasion," says the Roseland's leader Ben Edmonds, "we aim to bring variety, entertainment and enthusiasm to our programme." We know that this is an approach shared by the popular Clarion Quartet, who have entertained us in Lympstone for two decades now. (You can hear them in the Village Concert on 24th February.)

All the players in this concert are current or recent members/associates of the Devon Philharmonic Orchestra.

A fair wind, indeed.

Tickets are now on sale at Susannah's Tea Rooms, or online at: [lympstone-entertainments.net](http://lympstone-entertainments.net).

## **WHAT A TALENTED VILLAGE LYMPSTONE IS!**

**The Village Concert in The Village  
Hall Saturday, 24th February 7.30pm  
Bar open 6.45pm**

The tradition of a Village Concert was revived in Lymptone 18 years ago by Lymptone Entertainments. It has been hugely popular, and there is always a rush for tickets, which are available from Susannah's Tea Shop. This is what raises the money which enables Lymptone Entertainments to fund its programme of professional events every year.

The next Village Concert is upon us, on Saturday 24th February, with a full programme of talented performers, young and old, some new and some who have been performing for years. You will hear rehearsals going on all over Lymptone, of songs and sketches, brass bands and ukeleles, comic monologues and risqué jokes, clogs tapping and guitars strumming, and everywhere laughter. For this will be a concert to remember, a variety show, to raise our spirits and keep us cheerful until the next one. And it's in our own Village Hall.

Tickets are already on sale. Pop into Susannah's, have a cup of coffee, a delicious piece of cake, and buy some for you and your friends. Or if you live far away, buy them online at [lympstone-entertainments.net](http://lympstone-entertainments.net). You won't regret it.

## **FILM OF THE MONTH**

Petite Maman, Friday 9th February  
7.30pm

The Film Society's Film of the Month was many reviewers' Film of the Year in 2021.

Petite Maman is a French film, a spellbinding ghost story that "will pierce your heart, broaden your mind and gladden your soul, even as you wipe away tears", said one critic. "I honestly can't remember the last time I smiled so widely in a cinema," said another, who put it straight into his list of the greatest films ever made for children of all ages.

Whatever your age, don't miss this heartwarming film. You won't be disappointed. It's being shown on the big screen in the Village Hall, on Friday 9th February at 7.30pm The popular bar opens at 6.45. Members free, visitors £5.

## **1ST LYMPSTONE SCOUT TROOP**

This term the Scouts have been working hard to complete their Forester badge. As part of this they will need to plant some trees. We have obtained 10 Hazel saplings which are about 1 metre tall. If anyone has a suitable area where these could be planted please get in touch.

At the end of February we are losing our long term assistant leader Alex Britton as he goes off for an adventure in warmer climes. Many of you will know Alex from his time behind the bar in the Redwing. Huge thanks to Alex for everything he has done for scouting in Lymptone for the last 5 plus years.

If anyone would be interested in helping out while Alex is away please get in touch to discuss. You may have a child involved in Scouts, you may just want to get involved in something really rewarding that offers great experiences to our young people. There is no obligation to attend every week, all help is appreciated.

Contact us on:  
*scouts.lympstone@yahoo.com*

## **MONTHLY LOTTERY - FRIENDS OF LYMPSTONE CHURCH (FOLC)**

Friends of Lymptone Church is a charity set up almost 40 years ago that raises money to ensure that Lymptone's oldest building, the village church, stays in good repair. Over the past four decades, FoLC has raised nearly £65,000 to pay for the repair and maintenance of the church building, major projects including the re-roofing of the Church, repair of the tower's stonework, repairing windows and the conservation of memorial plaques, amongst other things.

Excluding the costs of repairs and maintenance, the annual running costs of the church are approximately £83,000, which are borne by the regular congregation, so FoLC's contribution to repairs and maintenance is invaluable.

Maintaining the church building in good condition enables it to be used by the whole community. Aside from the obvious services, weddings, baptisms and funerals, the church is also a warm, safe space for community events: Tick Tock children's club, a dedicated warm space for villagers during the most recent winter when fuel prices were so high, and for one-offs such as Wild About Lymptone and the Memory Day, both in 2023. The church also provides

the setting for important national civic occasions such as Remembrance Day, and the celebration of Royal events

FoLC raises money from various events that it organises including its largest fund-raiser, the monthly Lottery, which runs from April to March each year. In 2023, the FoLC lottery raised £2,170.

One ticket, costing £10.00, will enter you into the monthly draw for a whole year. Each month the owner of the winning ticket receives a prize of £50.00.

FoLC's dedicated and friendly village lottery ticket sellers start selling in January ready for the new FoLC lottery year and will be knocking on your door in the first few months of 2024. So buy a ticket (or several!) and give yourself a chance of winning! Your generous participation will also keep the Church wind- and water-proof!

If you are out when we call and you'd like to give yourself a chance of winning the monthly draw, as well as helping preserve our wonderful historic Church building, please email me and I will make sure you have a ticket.

FoLC is a charity independent of any religious affiliation or organisation. FoLC plays no part on the day-to-day running of Lymestone Church.

No money raised by FoLC is used for day-to-day running costs of Lymestone Church. FoLC is deliberately designed to avoid any religious requirement from its members and donors.

*Andrew Minter*  
*ajminterten@gmail.com*  
*07850 412657*



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## **EXE HOME SUPPORT:**

Companionship and support for people who feel lonely and isolated.

As we grow old, there are fewer and fewer familiar faces around us, and making friends becomes harder. We might feel overwhelmed and have nobody to talk to. What if I told you that you are not alone, and I am here for you, curious to hear your story.

**Exe Home Support can provide help you with:**

- getting out and reconnecting to the community;
- shopping, and preparing hearty meals;
- rebuilding self esteem and sense of belonging.



A friendly face on the other side of the table on a rainy day!

If you feel like you or your loved ones would benefit from my support, please give me a ring on **07565 869990** or send me an email to **mamazurek1@gmail.com**



## VOLUNTEER AT A LA RONDE?

If you are looking for a new challenge in 2024, come and join the volunteer team at A la Ronde, your local National Trust property. You could share the stories of the people and objects at A la Ronde or if you would rather be outside, you could join the welcome team or help look after the grounds.

To find out more join us at one of our volunteer coffee mornings:

10.30 to 12.30 on;

~~Wednesday 31st January,~~

Saturday 3rd February or

Friday 9th February.

To book your place or for further details please email:

*[alison.palfrey@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:alison.palfrey@nationaltrust.org.uk)*

or visit our website.

Volunteer at A la Ronde | Devon |  
National Trust

We have volunteer opportunities because in 2024 we will be open 6 days a week.



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**Help us get more people cycling.**

We refurbish secondhand bikes to get more people cycling in an affordable and sustainable way, which is made possible thanks to your help.

**Donate a bike!**

If you have any old or unused bikes taking up precious space, don't let them go to waste. Consider donating them to our charity.

We've been able to put  
over



bikes back on the road  
since 2011!

**Drop-off Location**

**8 Grange Close  
Lypstone  
EX8 5LD**

**Call Steve Morgan on 01395 276020**

**61 Haven Road, Exeter, EX2 8DP**  
**Registered Charity Number: 1174055**

## FREE STURDY GLASS JARS

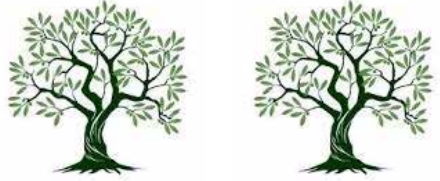


I am being snowed under by over 100 empty yogurt jars (475g size). They all have lids. They're useful for many kinds of storage both in the shed and in the kitchen and could be used for jam/ marmalade making or pickling.

They're too good to just be recycled, so if you'd like some and are happy to collect them from Lympstone, please contact me on:  
[sue.m@lymptone.net](mailto:sue.m@lymptone.net)

*Sue Mildenhall*

## OLIVE TREES FOR FREE



I have two 6 foot Olive trees on my allotment which have grown too big. Would anyone like these. You are welcome to have them if you are willing to come and dig them up. They would survive quite well in big pots.

Contact me if you are interested  
[judith\\_carter@hotmail.com](mailto:judith_carter@hotmail.com)  
07855 908785.

*Judith Carter*



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## LYMPSTONE SCARECROW TRAIL @ 'THE MOVIES'

**8th – 16th June**  
**in support of Hospiscare**

We might not all have a designer garden or an abundant allotment worthy of Lympstone Garden Festival this summer (I most certainly don't) but we can all have a scarecrow...

This is a fun way for everyone to join in the festival and help raise much needed funds for Exmouth & Lympstone Hospiscare. It is an event for both homes and businesses and anyone of any age can take part – all welcome.

We'd like you to make and display a scarecrow figure or a group of figures that depicts a movie – **while keeping it secret what the movie is!**

Donations for Hospiscare will be raised by people buying a map sheet and working their way around the village between 8th and 16th June, trying to guess each movie being depicted - hence the need for secrecy.

Your scarecrow could be in your doorway, on your drive or front garden. Even if you don't have somewhere to display a scarecrow we should be able to help find somewhere around the village for it to be displayed.

Prizes! There will be a prize for the individual or family who submits the map sheet with the most correct answers and also a prize for the favourite scarecrow as voted for by the competition entrants – it could be you!

To discover more and register to take part, please email us at:

[lympstonescarecrows@gmail.com](mailto:lympstonescarecrows@gmail.com)

*Caron Winter & Doreen Murray*

## **WILD ABOUT LYMPSTONE**

### **Calling plant-loving volunteers!**

“What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness” John Steinbeck.

We hope you're enjoying some of the beauty of the winter season. Perhaps you've heard the curlews calling down at the estuary during one of our wonderful recent sunsets? It's good to remember that winter is the time when nature wisely teaches us to rest, repair, and rejuvenate, ready for the new year ahead.

And with spring not too far away, a word about one of our upcoming events ...

### **The 1000 Plant Giveaway, Saturday 25th May, at the Church and Village Green.**

The Heathfield Allotment Trust is kindly supporting Wild About Lymptstone by growing and giving away 1000 plants to fill the gardens of Lymptstone. These plants will be native perennials, or self-seeding annuals, especially selected to attract a wide range of pollinating insects.

We would like to share the growing of these plants with a few volunteers who have a little space in their own gardens/ greenhouses to bring on the plants during spring. All resources will be provided and all we require is just a little of your time to pot, nurture and look after the plants between March and May.

**Would you be interested to help? If so, please contact Carrie on:**

**01395 279939 or**

**email:**

**[opmcarrie@gmail.com](mailto:opmcarrie@gmail.com)**

**Thank you!**

Do pop this date in your diaries as, in addition to the free plants, we plan to offer a variety of other WAL-related activities and information on this day, for example around wildflower and wildlife walks and surveys, nature

health and wellbeing, the Church's evolving more wildlife-friendly churchyard management plans and local action for climate change.

For further news about WAL's 2024 activities please head to our website page, look out for further Lympstone Herald articles and email us to join our mailing list.

And a note from Mary Truell to finish: "I would just like to say 'Thank You' to all the kind people who so generously voted for me to receive an award at the evening in December, organised by the Devon Local Nature Partnership. I do fully realise I have received this award on the behalf of all you people who, throughout the 2 years, have shared with such positive interest and enthusiasm, your talents and knowledge to help fulfill DWT's Challenge to have at least 1 in 4 people actively engaged in helping wildlife by 2030.

To our 'Cord', the tiny group who kindly 'coordinate' news, notices and new thinking, sincere thanks too. The idea to follow DWT's challenge was the very easy part. Putting it into action was what really mattered and where so many good Lympstonians are still coming forward to 'Engage in ACTION!'. I shall pin that fact firmly

onto the Certificate that I was kindly given. A big 'Thank you'! All further ideas most gratefully received and, as well, do be sure to offer any misgivings and corrections. There is just so much to learn."

Warmest 2024 wishes to all from  
Rebecca Abrahams, Mary Truell and  
all the WAL CORD team. WAL:  
*wildaboutlympstone@gmail.com*  
*truell@me.com*  
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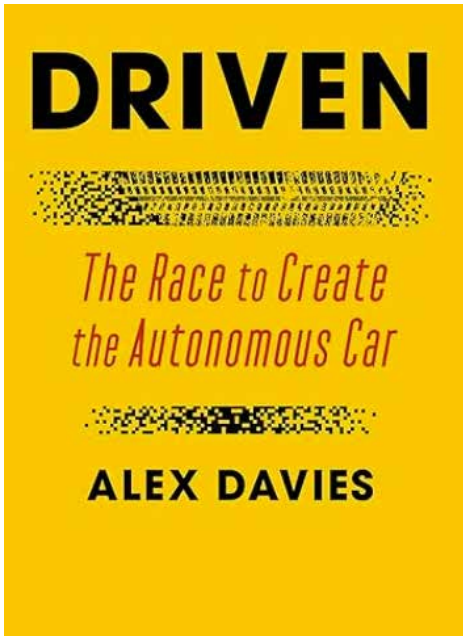
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## RECENT READS



Twenty years ago DARPA who sponsor advanced research in the USA ran a competition to develop a vehicle to save lives of the US military. This was hoped to lead to autonomous vehicles. This excellent book takes us through the exciting developments of the past 20 years of sensors and systems but we still have no autonomous vehicles on public roads. Exciting, and initially tech driven, the competitions in the Mojave desert are particularly well described. The first failed to find a vehicle that could complete the course but two years later several vehicles managed the 150 miles of rugged terrain. The action

then moves to the even more dynamic environment of urban driving and the businesses that were created and failed to deliver a safe system to replace the human skill of driving. There is so much in this book of interest to engineers, drivers, business people and investors still looking for the secret sauce that will bring sensory intelligence to robots. Things that humans do with ease are difficult for robots and vice versa. This is Moravecs paradox explored with billions of dollars of investment money from Google, Uber, Ford, GM et al. and still there are no autonomous vehicles regularly on the road.

For me, with a Defra funded innovation project to develop safe working systems to stop tractors killing humans and animals this is a key text. The book maps out the development process that failed to constrain the operational design domain and demonstrates the hubris of some inventors one of whom ended up in prison for IP theft. The desire for a complete system prevented the development of the aftermarket of conversions of existing vehicles that could evolve autonomy. Whilst deep learning techniques of showing many tagged pictures of cats to a computer can teach it to recognise a cat, this has proved insufficient to learn the complexities of navigating a road without accidents.

For me this is welcome. I am disappointed with the displays of robotic tractor systems and there are many now appearing, they seem to have a narrow focus and few farms are big enough for a single purpose machine.

I want to keep the flexibility of the existing tractor fleet and provide a conversion kit that allows them to be used in many tasks, anything from feeding animals on a frosty morning or carrying tools and posts while fencing. I have defined a few problems where humans work with tractors and spend a lot of time jumping on an off and driving short distances.

*Dr Toby Mottram*

Email your 'Recent Reads' to:  
**lympstoneherald@hotmail.com**

## **EXE ESTUARY TRAIL CLOSURE REOPENING**

*Update (Editor):*

I know a lot of people have been enquiring about when the Exe Estuary Trail will be opening again with rumours (and a previous press release by Devon County Council) committing to end of January.

By time of going to press (Mon 29th) word is that reopening might be as soon as Tue 30th in which case by time of reading you will be enjoying the reopened link to Exmouth. I did speak to Devon County Council directly for an official date and time but they were only preparing for a press release on confirmation of completion. Having also talked to the contractors they only expect to be on site for maximum of another 2 weeks which presumably includes tidying and making good of the site compound.

Reopening couldn't come soon enough with the single laning now along Exeter Road for the foreseeable -the Trail will offer a welcome respite from vehicular delays in the direction of Exmouth.

*Editor*

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Copies of the Lymptone Herald are delivered free to every household in Lymptone (approx 1100) every month with further copies being sold through the village shops. Please send your enquiries to Steve Morgan : [sjmorgan222@gmail.com](mailto:sjmorgan222@gmail.com)

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**DISCLAIMER** This news letter is compiled from emails sent to the editors by numerous people and very little of the information is checked before publishing which is done in good faith.  
*David Hawes, Editor.*

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