



PROJECT UPDATE DECEMBER 2017

Exmoor's Historic Signpost Project



The project has been running for a year and I thought it would be a good time to update you all on progress to date.

We have had so much interest in the project from local communities, which has been fantastic. We have held three health and safety training sessions which was a requirement by SCC for all volunteers wishing to help with the project. So far, we have over 100 volunteers involved, from the initial survey stage, through to the practical side of cleaning and painting the signposts, whilst others are researching the history surrounding these iconic landmarks.

I'm sure you will have noticed many of the signposts that have been restored on your travels around Exmoor. Fifty have been completed so far in the following parishes: Brompton Regis,

Clatworthy, Cutcombe, Dunster, Exford, Exton, Hawkridge, Porlock, Timberscombe, Withypool and Wootton Courtenay.

In the New Year there are another ten parishes lined up to start work with teams of dedicated volunteers.



Some of the equipment supplied by the project to volunteers



Photos above to show before and after painting at Coppleham Cross which was carried out by Dr David Lungley

Restoration at Blagdon Cross, near Wheddon Cross



We were very grateful to volunteers Judith Knights and Keith Martin who spotted this broken finger in the bus shelter in Brushford. They kindly rescued it and we were able to work out it had travelled all the way from Blagdon Cross. Exmoor Welding, based in nearby Wheddon Cross, were able to expertly weld it back together and refurbish the whole fingerpost.



During October volunteers from Porlock had a visit from MP Ian Lidell-Grainger and Chief Executive of Exmoor National Park Authority, Sarah Bryan. They were able to see the volunteers in action and discuss the practicalities of undertaking the work.

The Somerset Traditional Fingerposts Maintenance, Repair and Restoration Handbook, (Exmoor Edition) has recently been updated and is available at <http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/get-involved/exmoor-historic-signpost-project>



The refurbishment of the Withypool Post fingerpost in 2017: beforehand, undercoated, application of top coats and lettering, and after completion. Photos courtesy of Dr Jeremy Davies and Gillian Lambie.

ENPA PARTNERSHIP PLAN AWARDS

We were delighted that the project was chosen to receive an award. Dr Jeremy Davies and Dr David Lungley accepted this on behalf of all the volunteers involved with the project for helping to make it such a success so far.



Minehead volunteers helping out across Exmoor

A team of volunteers has been helping surrounding parishes and have so far covered Dunster, Timberscombe and Wootton Courtenay.



We are very grateful for the help of all volunteers on the project.

For further information about progress in individual parishes or more details about how to volunteer then please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!