

NEWS FROM EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT FUND LAUNCHED

In its first year of operating Exmoor National Park Authority's environmental support fund, CareMoor for Exmoor has raised over £5500 with support from local businesses and event organisers. Last year the organisers of the Exmoor Explorer Mountain Bike Marathon were one of the first to make a donation to CareMoor for Exmoor and this year they are continuing their support with a further £400 donation.

CareMoor for Exmoor encourages local businesses to raise money to be spent on a range of projects from building dormouse nesting boxes to providing stepping stones on a well used river crossing. Projects relate to Conservation, Archaeology, Rights of way, and Enjoyment – the first letter of each spelling the 'Care' in CareMoor.

Businesses raise funds through a variety of methods tried and tested by the Exmoor Paths Partnership, for example by donating 5p per cup of tea sold to the fund, contributing a percentage of a total bill for accommodation or food, or giving the proceeds of an event. Several accommodation providers also have handmade wooden collecting boxes on display to encourage visitors to donate their small change.

Project co-ordinator Sally Parish said: "I am delighted that the Exmoor Explorer is supporting CareMoor for Exmoor again. We have now raised over £5500 and completed two of the first projects with another two about to get underway in the next few months."

Team Zoyland, the organisers of the Exmoor Explorer Mountain Bike Marathon were one of the first supporters of CareMoor for Exmoor. The Exmoor Explorer is a long distance challenge, not a race, and participants can choose routes of either 25 or 35 miles across permitted paths on Exmoor. Teams pay to take part in the event and a percentage of this goes to CareMoor for Exmoor.

Organiser Steve Crossman said: "We are delighted to be able to continue to support such a good cause by contributing to maintaining this fantastic rights of way network and to know that we are helping to ensure that Exmoor remains a wonderful cycling destination for the Exmoor Explorer event and future generations.

He continued: "We get applications for the Exmoor Explorer from all over the country so if you'd like to join in the fun then entry forms and more details can be found at www.exmoorexplorer.com"

The Exmoor Explorer was first run in 1998 and it has introduced hundreds of mountain bikers to the wonderful cycling available on Exmoor. The event is intent on helping participants return to visit again and again by showing them routes that may not have found for themselves. This year the event takes

place on Sunday 6 August and starts from Dunster Castle, owned by the National Trust.

More information about CareMoor for Exmoor and to keep up to date with its progress can be found by visiting website: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk
For further details about CareMoor for Exmoor or the Exmoor Conservation Volunteers contact Sally Parish at Exmoor National Park Authority via sparish@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk or 01398 323665.