



December 2025 Newsletter #012

Opening Notes

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Hopefully you'll be getting all the bike kit and gizmos you asked for for Christmas. I reckon there will be a boot and glove drier for me under the tree on Christmas day.

As well as being the last newsletter of 2025, this is also the end of my first year in this role - something I've enjoyed very much. We've already got a few events lined up for next year that should keep this newsletter interesting including a visit from Stark in January, our annual Teign to Tamar event in April, and our group trip to Wales in June. Hopefully this will be interspersed with news about our volunteers clearing lanes, write ups from trips away, and whatever else our group gets up to. We'll also see some concrete information regarding Devon County Council's restructuring into multiple authorities, something that whilst not particularly exciting, may have implications regarding our access to trails.

Go grab a mince pie and a glass of something and enjoy this month's edition. Sean Comber has provided a fantastic write-up of his trip to Spain back in September that should keep you entertained for a while, which you can read further down.

Keep on riding!

Michael

TRF Talk

Last Meeting

The last meeting was held on Tuesday 9th of December at The Swans Nest near Exminster. As the meeting was also our AGM, the write-up for this is in the section below.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th of January at **The Swans Nest, Exminster**, with the room available from around 1830 hours. The meeting itself will

A representative of Stark Future bikes will be showcasing their Varg model, with an actual bike for us to look around, so definitely one to come along to if an electrified future interests you.

AGM

The December meeting was our AGM, with 32 attendees and a well grazed buffet enjoyed by all. One new member attended - Pete from Bishopsteignton (Trevor's son).

After the initial chat between members and buffet, the meeting starting with Trevor discussing events of the last year, namely the search for a permanent meeting place, his trips away with groups, and what the future holds. Noel Squibb, Vice-Chair then spoke about his past with the group and how he now sees this as the time to relinquish his position. Gill Hall (Treasurer) stated the groups financial position, and the idea of making a large donation to charity to boost the groups profile.

Each group officer in attendance then discussed their role, and their decision to continue or not. Of note, Sean Comber (Secretary and Media) stated he would no longer be taking on the Secretary role, Ian Collins (Lane Clearing) stated he no longer wished to coordinate regular lane clearing and would only be taking on larger 'special projects', John Heal stated his intention to no longer perform his roles of Events Organiser or Club Greeter after 2026, and Chris Bittlestone (Horse Events) acknowledged that whilst horse events aren't regularly presented to Devon group now, there is still a place for the role.

Liz Millet and John Leah did not attend. John wished to continue in his role as Run Recorder, but Liz stated that she wished to stand down from her role as map marker and that no maps were ordered this year.

All remaining group officers were voted in unanimously. Nominations were then taken for the role of Vice Chair, Secretary, and Map Marker. Julian (Jules) Harman took the role of Vice Chair and also 'apprentice' to John Heal in his roles as Events Coordinator and Club Greeter. Mark Pollard took the role of Map Marker, and Michael Ollier took the role of Secretary.

The group is now without a general Lane Clearing Coordinator. If this is a role you could see yourself in, then please contact Trevor.

The group officer list is now as follows (new members underlined):

Chairperson: Trevor Foxon

Vice-Chairperson: Julian Harman

Treasurer: Gill Hall

Secretary: Michael Ollier

Rights-of-Way: Ray Tribe

Map Marker: Mark Pollard
Run Recorder: John Leah
Newsletter Editor: Michael Ollier
Forum Administrator: Doug Piper
Group Welcomer: John Heal, and Julian Harman
Events Coordinator: John Heal, and Julian Harman
Media Coordinator: Sean Comber
Horse Event Coordinator: Chris Bittlestone
National TRF Representative: Chris Cole
Website and Facebook Administrator: Scott Harris
Special Projects: Ian Collins

Read the minutes of the AGM using the link below, with the overall synopsis of each officer's comments, and with annual reports from Ian Collins, Michael Ollier, John Leah, and Ray Tribe.

December 2025 AGM Minutes

Lane Closures and Repairs

As discussed at the AGM, Ian Collins will no longer be coordinating lane clearance. However, we strongly encourage members to post any issues found on our network to the forum, whose Lane Clearing section should be open to all forum members from now. This gives members a chance to organise working parties to clear lanes.

There hasn't been much activity regarding the state of the lanes, which is surprising given the ferocity of the storms and rainfall through the month so far. The following is a message from Group Chair Trevor

'Don't forget that the current weather will be effecting our lanes badly, especially the large amounts of water.'

It is great to go out for a ride but spare a thought for the longevity of our lanes.

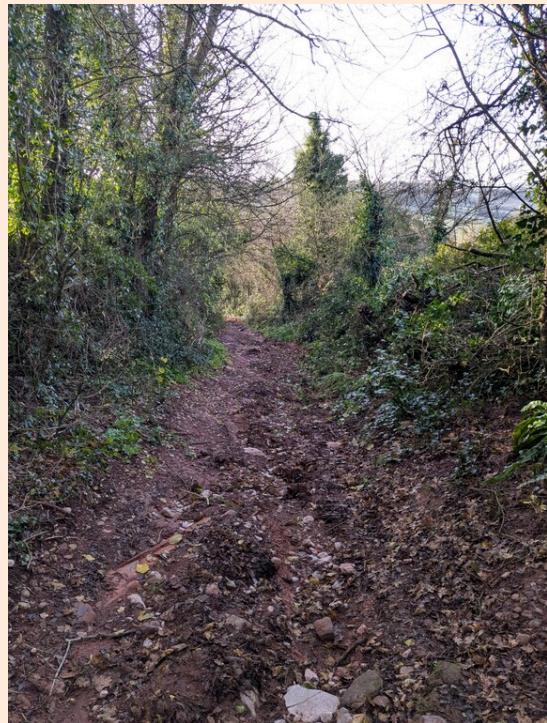
It is important that any major damage is identified, and reported so that potential problems can be repaired or at least monitored.

Take your hand saws with you and instead of ducking under branches, stop and trim them back; the next rider will be eternally grateful (especially me as I don't bend so well now)!'.

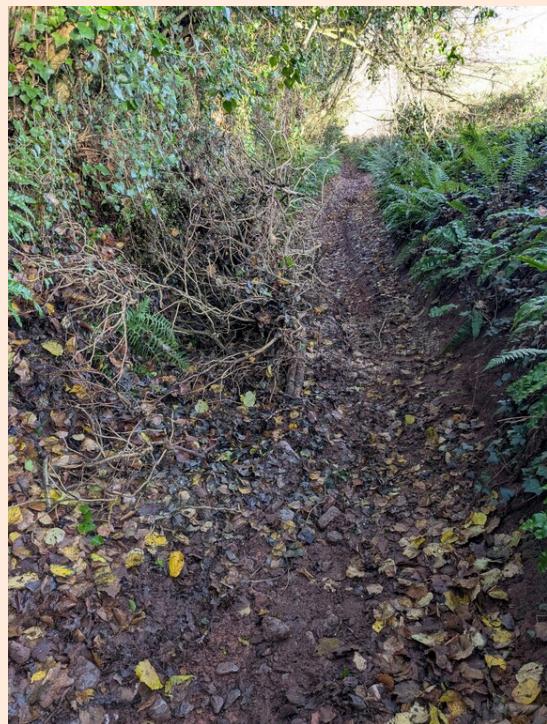
Trevor

However, there have been some damage reports and clearing efforts going on:

Downaway Lane, Coffinswell (nr Kingskerswell) 202-061/5577: Neil Morgan found a fallen tree on this lane and has kindly cleared it. The before and after pictures are shown below, courtesy of his forum post.



He also cleared some logs and branches laying in 202-082/5598, Woodpark Lane near Kingskerswell. Again the pictures below show the work done. A big thank you to Neil for his efforts!



Colesford Bottom, Stoodleigh, 181-021/4939: This lane was originally reported last month, the issue being a couple of fallen trees. If anyone is in the mid-Devon area and can check what the lane currently looks like, then please report to Doug Piper on the forum. The original picture is as below, courtesy of Ray Tribe:



Bake's Wood, Stoodleigh, 181-066/5960: Around the corner from the above is this lane, which again has a fallen tree on it. Any info on the current state of the lane would be greatly appreciated by Doug. The fallen tree is pictured below, courtesy of the forum.



Rights of Way

We have had no concerns regarding rights of way this month.

Identifying Future Lanes

Run recorder John Leah has asked for those submitting run-reports to also include any roads that aren't logged on the GRM, but are starting to break up, have 'Road Closed, or 'Not Suitable for Vehicles' signs.

This request applies to all, but more specifically those who send their run-reports in as a GPX file. John's software cross references the GPX file with known lanes, but he needs additional written information to note these lanes down.

If DCC neglect to maintain these roads, they may well become the trails of the future, so it is beneficial for us to log them.

Local News

On Saturday 20th December we had reports of a large group of Santa's riding bikes around the South Hams area. There was also a sighting of a unicorn and The Grinch.. This was of course our group Christmas charity ride for Devon Air Ambulance.

22 riders attended, and with **£400** raised on the day and **£50** raised through our JustGiving page, we have a total donation of **£450** to give to Devon Air Ambulance. If you didn't attend but would like to donate, you can do so using the link below via our JustGiving page.

[Donate to Devon Air Ambulance](#)

The winner of the best dressed was **Martin Holroyd**. He won a pruning saw for his excellent costume and bike decoration



The route took riders on some easy lanes between Teignmouth and Totnes and back, and given the recent weather the lanes didn't appear to be in terrible condition. A selection of pictures from the event are shown below, but to see the full gallery, use the link below.















Santa Run 2025 Photo Gallery

National TRF

The following did the rounds on Facebook a couple of months ago but still remains true, especially over the winter. Wiltshire TRF along with the TRF CEO attended a meeting with the MoD (Ministry of Defence) regarding Salisbury Plain. The general gist of the meeting was that the MoD are frustrated with the damage caused by motor vehicles across the plains, especially with vehicles not sticking to the designated byways at all and riding across open terrain, and vehicles bypassing mud holes and large puddles by making routes around them. As stated in the memo, *"Their tone in the meeting was not friendly but it was consultative"*.

Many riders from Devon will at some point consider a days riding around Salisbury Plains, or will transit it whilst following the TET. If you have plans to go up there, please consider yourself an ambassador for the TRF and for Devon and ride with care. The rights of access in that area are mostly permissive and can be removed - try not to be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

It is well worth reading the full summary.

To read the full summary, use the link below (you will require your TRF Trail login).

Stats from the Saddle

New Members

We had nine new members join us in November.

We hope to meet all of you at either one of our monthly meetings (currently held at The Swans Nest, Exminster), or out on the lanes.

You should have received a welcome pack email from Ray Tribe. Please check your junk email folder if you haven't received it. It is worth reading - it is very informative and may answer some questions you have. However, if you still require assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us, either through [the forum](#), our [private Facebook page](#), or through [email](#).

If no one is posting any rides, just ask on Facebook or the Forum!

Lane Stats and Run Reports

The top run leaders for November were:

Sean Comber with five rides.

Trevor Foxon with four rides.

Alex Khan with three rides.

The most ridden lane last month were 191-077/5107 - Little John's Walk near Bovey Tracey.

Tried in second place were 192-216/5354 Haldon Lane near Ideford, 192-238/5369 Twist Gates Lane near Upottery, and 191-081/5111 Furzeleigh Lane near Bovey Tracey.

Thank you to everyone that submitted a run report.

Please send your run reports to johnleah@blueyonder.co.uk

To prepare your run reports, you can either prepare a GPX file from your navigation device, or create a table of the lanes you've ridden. Please also include the names of the riders on your run, along with some basic information such as their address and/or TRF number (don't worry if you can't get all the info). You can also add photos and descriptions of the lanes if you wish.

By submitting run reports, we have the data on our side to show that we are using the lanes. This then helps us fight against their reclassification!

The button below will take you to a word document saved on a Google drive with a template table you can use to create your run report. Please save the file as a word document (.doc/.docx). When you are ready, attach the file to an email and send it to John.

[Run Report Template](#)

Tales from the Trails

Classic Bike Trail Riding in Spain

This month's special feature is by frequent contributor and group Secretary Sean Comber. Sean visited the Picos de Europa back in Spain on his Honda Dominator. Read all about his travels in his write-up.



'As a group of trail riding mates, we had talked about an overseas trip for a while but finally Stuart managed to lure me into arranging a trip on our trail/adventure bikes to the Picos de Europa in northern Spain. We identified September as a Goldilocks so three very different Hondas, straddling 3 decades. On paper Pete's CRF would be best off road, Stuarts AT best on road and maybe my Dommie the best all-rounder.....'

We are trialling a more mobile friendly version of our long-format PDF articles. Choose the link below which best suits your device.

Classic Bike Trail Riding in Spain (Desktop Edition)

Classic Bike Trail Riding in Spain (Mobile Edition)

Have you got something you want to share with our group and further afield? Send your submission to newsletter@trfdevon.org.uk for consideration.

Other News

The UK distributors for the GPX brand of motorcycles are holding test ride days in three locations across the country, with one in the north, one in the south, and one in south Wales. The southern event is in the area between Portsmouth and Farnborough, and the south Wales event is in the valleys north of Cardiff. Whilst these are some distance from Devon, at £7 per ride per motorbike, the chance to test these bikes (which are well regarded and offer incredible value for money) is well worth the drive if you're in the market for something new. Use the link below to find out more.



GPX Test Day Information

Local Events

Teign to Tamar

Next year our annual Teign to Tamar event will take place from the 24th until the 27 April, so save the date!

Teign to Tamar is Devon group's annual event, with guided ride outs on Saturday and Sunday over the South Devon and Dartmoor areas. Attendees can stay at our base for the event, Parker's Farm Holiday Park near Ashburton. A choice of touring pitches or static caravans are available, and paying attendees will receive two breakfasts over the weekend, and a two course meal on the Saturday evening.

Prices this year are as follows:

Static caravan for two nights, two breakfasts, Saturday evening meal - £215 per person.
Touring pitch for two nights, two breakfasts, Saturday evening meal - £165 per person.

We are currently waiting for the Eventbrite booking page to be ready. In the meantime, if you require any more details, please contact our event organiser John Heal using the button below.

If you are a Devon TRF member and you'd like to volunteer for the event as either a leader or a TEC (tail-end-charlie), please let group chair Trevor know.

[Email John Heal](#)

If you know of a local event that you'd like to see advertised here, please email newsletter@trfdevon.org.uk for consideration.

09/01/2026 to 10/01/2026 - Exeter Trial – The MCC – Sparkford to Kingsteignton.

One of the MCC's three long distance trials of the year. Applications are now closed but spectating the event may still be of interest.



[The Exeter Trial](#)



19/04/2026 - Forest Ride Day – Somerset TRF – Combe Sydenham
Somerset TRF are back with another of their forest ride days. Various loops on a private course provide opportunities for riders of all skill levels to exercise their bikes and themselves in a safe environment. Booking link to come soon.

24/04/2026 to 27/04/2026 - Teign to Tamar – Devon TRF – Ashburton
Join Devon TRF for their annual Teign to Tamar event. Let Devon TRF lead you around some of the best lanes in the county, with camping and lodges available.



17/05/2026 - Jubilee Long Distance Trial - Somerset TRF
Join Somerset TRF for their annual Jubilee Long Distance Trial. The event will take you across some of the finest Somerset landscapes, crossing private and public land with 25 trial sections. Limited to 170 riders. More information to come soon.

05/06/2026 to 08/06/2026 - Devon TRF Weekend Away – Knighton, Powys, Wales

Join Devon TRF for their organised weekend away. This year we are based in Knighton in Wales, just on the border with England, and will be running rides around the area for three days for people of all abilities.



National Events

Just like our Teign to Tamar, other TRF groups around the UK want to show you their trails through organised events. See the TRF events page to find out what's available.

[See Events](#)



Staying in Contact

There are many forms of communication in both the national TRF and the Devon TRF. Please see below to find what might suit you best. Click the green text to follow the link.



[National TRF Website](#) - The public website for the national TRF. Used to sign up to membership and give the public information about what we do nationally.

[TRF Trail Website](#) - The member's section of the national TRF. Use this to see national events, Trail Magazine editions, manage your membership and local groups, membership discounts, member news and more. This is accessed with the email and password you used when you first signed up to the TRF.

GREENROADMAP

[The Green Road Map \(GRM\)](#) - The GRM is an interactive map that allows you to see all the known legal lanes in the country. The GRM requires a separate



DEVON



DEVON
Forum

login which is made on the GRM homepage.

Devon TRF Website - The Devon TRF website. Used to showcase the work we do to the public. Also has links to our forum, and the dates of our events.

Devon TRF Forum - The Devon TRF forum. Used a message board for members to discuss everything bike and trail riding related and more. Find rides, lane clearing events, and news here. This requires a separate login which is created on the forum. We are currently experiencing difficulty with new members creating logins - we hope to solve this soon.



DEVON
Facebook

Devon TRF Public Facebook Page - The public Facebook group page of the Devon TRF. Used to broadcast news and messages publicly.



DEVON
Members
Facebook

Devon TRF Members Only Facebook Page - The members only Facebook group page of the Devon TRF. Used to privately discuss trail riding, bikes, news and more. Requires verification to join (you will require your TRF membership number).



Devon TRF

Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF), 218 Strand, London, WC2R 1AT

This newsletter was sent on behalf of the Devon Trail Riders Fellowship (DTRF). You have received this newsletter because you are a member of the DTRF, or you have chosen DTRF as an alternate TRF group.

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