



November 2025 Newsletter #011

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## Opening Notes

Hello all!

The last month has been pretty quiet for me bike wise. I've managed a couple of rides, and I've been plodding away at rebuilding my Honda H100 (since ahem last December), which was more an exercise in learning how to balance a 2-stroke crankshaft than anything else.

However, my WhatsApp riding groups, Facebook, and the forum have been pinging with people going out on rides and inviting others which is always nice to see, and our last meeting had a very healthy number of attendees. It seems we appreciate grey skies and mud over sun and dust!

Keep on riding!

Michael

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## TRF Talk

### Last Meeting

The last meeting was held on Tuesday 11th of November at The Swans Nest near Exminster.

The meeting was very well attended with 30 attendees. The main points discussed were:

- Agreeing a voting process for group officers for next month's AGM (see below).
- Newsletter Editor Michael Ollier discussed the possible need for more expenditure regarding the distribution of the newsletter if it is to continue being sent across the country to all TRF members who have Devon group as a secondary group. No firm consensus was reached, but Michael would contact national to gain more info.

- Forum Administrator Doug Piper discussed the issues with allowing forum users access to private areas. The consensus was that in lieu of a permanent solution (which is unlikely to come from the forum's creators), various sections of the forum that are currently private should be made available to all forum users, namely Ride-outs and Lane Clearing.

- Events organiser John Heal stated the dates and prices for our annual Teign-to-Tamar event next year. See the events section further down the newsletter for more information.

- Lane Clearing Coordinator Ian Collins discussed a number of lanes on his radar. Devon County Council have agreed to supply Devon TRF Group with the appropriate amount of stone to fill a very deep ditch along Lower Lye Lane near Stockland if we provide the labour. There were also discussions around Back Lane near Colaton Raleigh, and Ham Lane near Dalwood. See the Lane Closures and Repairs section of the newsletter for more information.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of December at **The Swans Nest, Exminster**, with the room available from around 1830 hours. The meeting itself will start at 2000 hours.

**Please note: for those coming from the A38/A380, the A379 will likely be shut somewhere between Wobbly Wheel (Orange Elephant) and The Devon Hotel roundabout after 1900hrs. Easiest diversion would be to use M5 J30 and proceed via Countess Weir.**

The minutes of the November meeting can be found by pressing the link below.

November 2025 Meeting Minutes

## AGM

The December meeting will also be the annual general meeting (AGM) for our Devon group. Not only does our group Chair, supply a buffet for those attending, but it is a chance for our group to discuss the previous year, what we hope to achieve next year, and to elect group officer roles.

As the TRF is a democratic organisation, both in its local groups and nationally, anyone can be nominated for a group officer role. Our Devon group has 16 officer roles, all of which are up for election each year.

Members old and new have different experiences from life and may feel they have a different vision of how our group could be run. Does this sound like you? If you feel that you have something to contribute to Devon TRF, then why not throw your hat into the ring? There may also be opportunities to work alongside a current officer for a time, allowing you to settle into the role.

As agreed at our November 2025 meeting, all officer positions remain as they currently are, unless someone else nominates themselves, in which case the decision will be made in person at the AGM.

If you wish to nominate yourself, it may be beneficial to discuss this with our Chairperson Trevor or any other group officer. Alternately, you can nominate yourself on the night.

Voting only takes place in person at the AGM. Roles available and their current holder are as below:

**Chairperson:** Trevor Foxon

**Vice-Chairperson:** Noel Squibb

**Treasurer:** Gill Hall

**Secretary:** Sean Comber

**Rights-of-Way:** Ray Tribe

**Map Marker:** Liz Millet

**Run Recorder:** John Leah

**Newsletter Editor:** Michael Ollier

**Forum Administrator:** Doug Piper

**Group Welcomer:** John Heal

**Events Coordinator:** John Heal

**Media Coordinator:** Sean Comber

**Horse Event Coordinator:** Chris Bittlestone

**National TRF Representative:** Chris Cole

**Website and Facebook Administrator:** Scott Harris

**Lane Clearing Coordinator:** Ian Collins

P.S. If you wish to attend the AGM, please let Trevor know on his Forum or Facebook posts so the appropriate amount of mince pies (and other buffet items) can be purchased.

## Stark Varg

Looking forward to 2026, our first meeting of the year in January looks to be exciting for those interested in an electric future. A representative from Stark Future, known for their electric motocross and enduro models, the Stark Varg, will be coming to chat about their company and motorcycles, and will have a demo machine to show us in the meeting space. Put this one in your diary!

## Lane Closures and Repairs

Those of you who frequent the forum may have seen our Lane Clearing Coordinator, Ian Collins (aka Wacky) is compiling a list of known lanes that require substantial work.

Hopefully from November onwards, the Lane Clearing section of the forum should be open to all forum members.

Ian was present at our last meeting and discussed a few lanes on his radar as follows:

**Lower Lye Lane, Stockland 192-024/5174:** This lane has had a bit of attention recently. It was first brought to our attention in June by Jack Delve (of Devon Lane Database fame) who reported on our forum that two walls had been built at the north-western part of the lane, narrowing the entrance. He subsequently reported it to DCC who stated they were in contact with the landowner. Fast forward to the end of July when Devon TRF members attended a clearing session at the lane. Whilst there it became apparent that a very deep channel had been eroded into one side of the lane (over 2m deep in places), and that a contributing factor to this may have been a series of drainage channels that appeared to have been constructed along with the aforementioned walls, allowing surface water from houses around the head of the lane to be channelled directly into it, reminiscent of a sort of concrete and flint Quay West. A picture of the ramp can be seen below courtesy of Jack Delve.



It now appears that to wash their hands of it, Devon County Council are willing to provide the necessary aggregate to fill the water channel if Devon TRF are willing to provide the labour to fill it, with the agreement that the newly built drainage channels and narrow walled entry to the lane remain. This was discussed with Ian by the PRoW officer for that area during his work with a different organisation.

The next steps for our group would be not only to organise a date for the work and delivery of materials, but also to figure out how. The lane is narrow, especially at the point with the drainage channel, and with such a large drop there are obvious health and safety concerns with using plant machinery, which ultimately lead to insurance complications. However, the channel is approximately 150m long and reaches a depth of around 2m in places; the quantity and size/grade of aggregate needed would require a lot of manpower if machinery were not to be used.

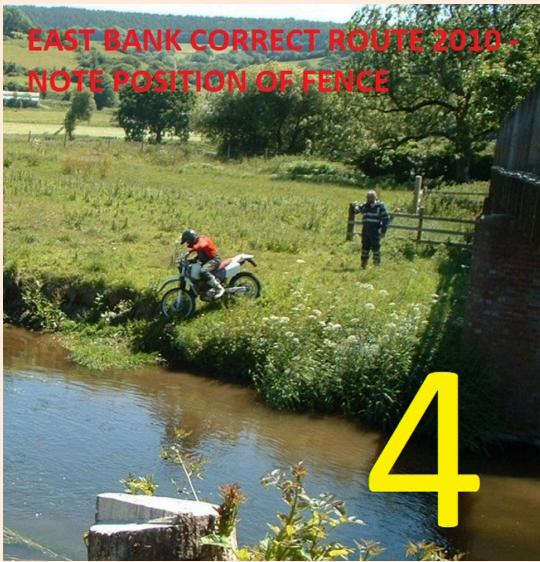
**Does this sound like a problem you'd like to engineer a solution to?** Any help with this job would go a long way to maintaining our relationship with DCC.

**Back Lane, Colaton Raleigh, 192-153/5294:** This lane has been subject to numerous TTROs to all users since spring 2024 when a small landslide narrowed the usable lane and accentuated the drop down into the goyle that runs alongside. It appears the locals don't care much for the TTROs and the fences that are put up are usually moved aside soon after. Furthermore, no apparent work has been carried out except for the installation of two bollards, one at each end of the damaged section, clearly designed to obstruct heavier vehicles and reduce further damage to the bank. We did write a small piece on this lane in August's newsletter pondering whether the bollards indicated an unofficial TRO for cars only. Pictures below show the damage, courtesy of Ian Collins and Chris Cole.



The lane appears to be popular with locals, and the local Rights of Way Warden wishes to reopen it, but there is no approved repair so far. Our group are trying to negotiate a suitable repair that we can assist DCC with. This will likely require extensive volunteering when given the go-ahead.

**Dotton Lane, Newton Poppleford, 192-146/5289:** This is a case of two overlying rights of way succumbing to the same fate. There was a pedestrian bridge over the river Otter, and in the shadow of the bridge upstream a fording route for vehicles. Deterioration of the eastern riverbank has in essence destroyed the bridge, but also made getting into and out of the river unfeasible on the eastern side. DCC and the Environment Agency are drawing up plans to replace the bridge to bridleway standards, possibly at a different location. This may ultimately lead to the loss of the original route and thus the vehicular rights that exist across the river at the original point. There is not much that can currently be done in the physical line here, but any news about a new bridge would be greatly appreciated. Pictures before and after below courtesy of the Greenroad Map.



**Ham Lane, Dalwood, 192-053/5202:** A lane of Devon TRF fame, with a good description of works carried out on our website. Ultimately, water flow along the stream has undermined the digger tracks used to hold aggregate against the bank and has washed them out. Ian has come into some wire mesh which he hopes to envelope the rock sections with to reduce the amount of aggregate washed away. This has been trialled on some of the sections of this lane to great effect. Again, this would require some volunteers to enact, so keep an ear out. Picture of the current setup below courtesy of Devon TRF.



**Lower Ladram Lane, Otterton, 192-184/5322:** A house near this lane exploded back in the summer due to a gas leak. There have been reports of debris on the lane and closure signs, and we are unsure of its status. Can anyone report back? Picture below courtesy of Ian Collins.



**Higher Rill Farm Lane, East Hill, 192-092/5420:** A tree has 'fallen' and blocked the southwest entrance to this lane. To enter the lane requires the ability to lift the front wheel of your motorbike, whereas it is easier to exit the lane due to the build up of debris behind the 'fallen' tree. We hope to clear this soon. Any volunteers would be appreciated. Image below courtesy of Ian Collins.



## **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

Hopefully most Devon TRF members will have received a couple of emails over the last few months regarding a Devon TRF organised trip away. The event, being organised by Julian Harman, is aimed at bringing members from across the county together in another part of the country to ride and socialise together.

The event is now going ahead, and will take place from Thursday 4th to Monday 8th of June 2026. The base for the trip will be Panpwnton Campsite, Knighton, Wales, and allows access to a multitude of lanes around the Welsh Marches and Radnorshire. Members wishing to join us are to book their own accommodation as they see fit, either at the aforementioned campsite or any alternative they wish, and organise their own transport to Wales.

Press the button below for more information.

[Weekend Away Information](#)

## National TRF

National TRF have been busy behind the scenes, with a plan to introduce Community Engagement Officers at a group level. Their role will be to coordinate member communications within parliamentary constituencies. They also plan on recruiting members to become Regional Coordinators, representing multiple counties and groups at once.

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## Stats from the Saddle

### New Members

We had sixteen new members join us in October.

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 October, with four rides led each were:  
Alex Kahn, Sean Comber, and Trevor Foxon.

These three were also the top riders logged this month, although Trevor pipped the other two with five rides, versus four for both Sean and Alex.

There were thirteen lanes tying for the most ridden this month, too many to list, but the majority of them starting with 202 means there have been some committed riders to the south of our county.

Please send your run reports to [johnleah@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto: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

### E-Bikes - What's the deal?

This month's special feature is by Newsletter Editor Michael Ollier.

*'With lighter batteries and smaller motors, electrically assisted pedal bikes, or E-bikes for short, are becoming more popular each year. I go through the specs and chat to Devon TRF forum regular Pete Bull about his conversion and experiences.'*

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

[E-Bikes - Computer friendly](#)

[E-Bikes - Mobile friendly](#)

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

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## 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](mailto:newsletter@trfdevon.org.uk) for consideration.



**09/12/2025 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



**09/12/2025 - Devon TRF AGM – The  
Swans Nest, Exminster**

If you're going to come to a meeting, make it this one. The AGM marks the end of the year for a club, and involves elections for group officer roles, and of course a free buffet.



**24/04/2026 to 27/04/2026 (provisional) -  
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.

**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.



**Devon TRF Weekend Away  
Information**

**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](#)



**Apologies**

The AGM was stated as being on the 9th of November in last month's newsletter. Apologies if you turned up to an empty pub on a Sunday night, and apologies if attended November's meeting thinking it was going to be the AGM.

**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 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**  
Members  
Facebook

**Devon TRF Public Facebook Page**

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

**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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