

# thingstodo

## Places to walk and explore nature

- 1 Bideford Bay and Hartland [NT] nr Bideford
- 2 Blackdown Hills AONB
- 3 Croyde, Woolacombe and Morteohoe [NT]
- 4 Dartmoor National Park
- 5 Exmoor National Park
- 6 Jurassic Coast north from Exmouth
- 7 North Devon AONB
- 8 North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve\*
- 9 River Dart Estuary start at Totnes
- 10 The South West Coast Path start anywhere
- 11 South Devon AONB
- 12 Tamar Valley AONB
- 13 English Riviera Global Geopark Torbay
- 14 Tarka Trail Braunton to Meeth

## Places to Learn More

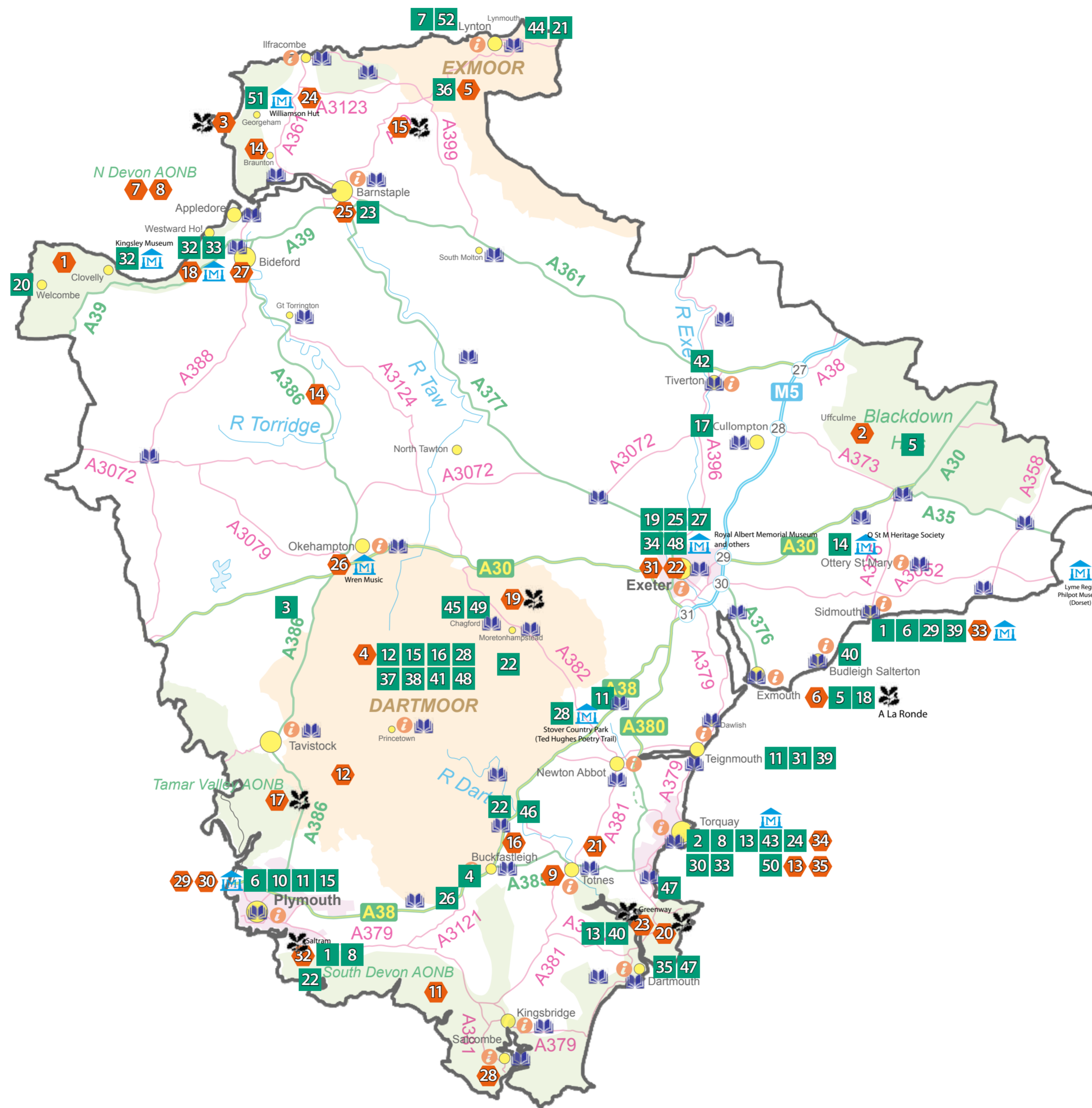
- 15 Arlington Court [NT] nr Barnstaple
- 16 Buckfast Abbey nr Buckfastleigh
- 17 Buckland Abbey [NT] Yelverton
- 18 Burton Art Museum Bideford
- 19 Castle Drogo [NT] Drewsteignton
- 20 Coleton Fishacre [NT] Kingswear
- 21 Dartington Hall nr Totnes
- 22 Devon Record Office Exeter
- 23 Greenway [NT] Galmpton
- 24 Henry Williamson Museum Georgeham (EX33 1HX)
- 25 Museum of Barnstaple and N. Devon Barnstaple
- 26 Museum of Dartmoor Life Okehampton
- 27 North Devon Record Office Barnstaple
- 28 Overbecks [NT] nr. Salcombe (TQ8 8LW)
- 29 Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery Plymouth
- 30 Plymouth & W Devon Record Office Plymouth
- 31 Royal Albert Museum & Art Gallery Exeter
- 32 Saltram [NT] Plympton
- 33 Sidmouth Museum Sidmouth
- 34 Torquay Museum Torquay
- 35 Torre Abbey Torquay

# maplegend

- Museum or other centre with significant literary information
- National Trust property with significant literary information
- Public Library
- Public Information Point
- Motorway Junction
- Places associated with writers (see website for more detail)
- Other places of literary interest or information

- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- National Parks

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# writers and associated places

- 1 Jane Austen Sidmouth / Saltram
- 2 Elizabeth Barrett Browning Torquay
- 3 Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould Lewtrenchard
- 4 Djuna Barnes Buckfastleigh
- 5 Patricia Beer Exmouth / Uppottery
- 6 John Betjeman Plymouth / Sidmouth
- 7 R D Blackmore Exmoor / Lynton
- 8 Fanny Burney Saltram ["Fanny's Bower"]
- 9 Richard Francis Burton b. Torquay
- 10 Victor Canning b. Plymouth
- 11 Charles Causley Plymouth / Teignmouth / Trusham
- 12 Beatrice Chase Dartmoor
- 13 Agatha Christie Greenway / Torquay
- 14 Samuel Taylor Coleridge Ottery St Mary
- 15 Arthur Conan Doyle Plymouth / Dartmoor
- 16 William Crossing Dartmoor
- 17 E M Delafield Cullompton
- 18 R F Delderfield Exmouth area
- 19 Charles Dickens Exeter
- 20 Ronald Duncan nr Welcombe
- 21 George Eliot Lynton
- 22 John Galsworthy Wembury / Manaton
- 23 John Gay Barnstaple
- 24 Philip Henry Gosse St Marychurch
- 25 Thomas Hardy Exeter ("Exonbury")
- 26 Robert Herrick Dean Prior
- 27 W G Hoskins b. Exeter
- 28 Ted Hughes Dartmoor / Stover
- 29 Peter Orlando Hutchinson Sidmouth
- 30 Henry James Torquay
- 31 John Keats Teignmouth
- 32 Charles Kingsley b. Holne / Westward Ho! / Clovelly
- 33 Rudyard Kipling Torquay / Westward Ho!
- 34 Allen Lane (Penguin Books) Exeter St Davids Station
- 35 Christopher Robin Milne Dartmouth
- 36 JHB Peel North Devon / Exmoor
- 37 Eden Philpotts Dartmoor
- 38 Sylvia Plath Dartmoor
- 39 Beatrix Potter Sidmouth / Teignmouth
- 40 Sir Walter Raleigh East Budleigh / River Dart
- 41 Samuel Rowe Dartmoor
- 42 J D Salinger Tiverton
- 43 Mary Shelley Torquay
- 44 Percy Bysshe Shelley Lynton
- 45 Freya Stark Chagford / Dartmoor
- 46 Rev. John Swete b. Ashburton
- 47 Flora Thompson Brixham / Dartmouth
- 48 Anthony Trollope Exeter / Dartmoor
- 49 Evelyn Waugh Chagford
- 50 Oscar Wilde Babbacombe
- 51 Henry Williamson Georgeham / Exmoor
- 52 William Wordsworth Lynton

# more information

- [www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk](http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk)
- [www.visitdevon.co.uk](http://www.visitdevon.co.uk)
- [www.devon.gov.uk/index/transport/cycling/leisure/\\_cycle\\_routes.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/transport/cycling/leisure/_cycle_routes.htm)
- [www.cartogold.co.uk/Devon\\_Transport/Devon.htm](http://www.cartogold.co.uk/Devon_Transport/Devon.htm)
- [www.englishriveria.geopark.org.uk](http://www.englishriveria.geopark.org.uk)
- [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)
- [www.information-britain.co.uk/tlist?ctm?county=28](http://www.information-britain.co.uk/tlist?ctm?county=28)
- [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)
- [www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk](http://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk)
- [www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk](http://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk)
- [www.southdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk)
- [www.southwestcoastpath.com](http://www.southwestcoastpath.com)



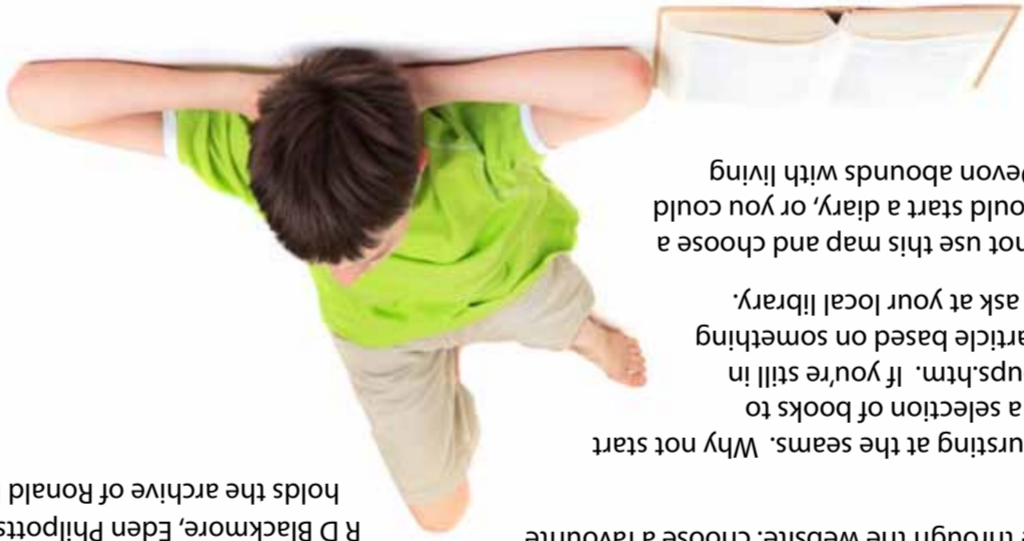
Visit [www.wordquestdevon.info](http://www.wordquestdevon.info) and download a podcast and see if you can build a journey based on it. It might be a stroll along Queen Street in Exeter, a cycle tour around Buckland Monachorum on the edge of Dartmoor, a visit to Plymouth Hoe to see where (so we are told) Francis Drake played a game of bowls as the Spanish Armada sailed up the Channel towards London.

Explore the places writers have used as inspiration – and explore in more depth on the website – and see if you are inspired to write something. It doesn't need to be a complex piece of poetry or a lengthy work of fiction. There is plenty of wonderful descriptive writing about place you can explore through the website: choose a favourite piece or place as your starting point to explore your own descriptions.

Devon abounds in reading groups and writing groups. We would encourage you to join one, but we hear that they're almost all bursting at the seams. Why not start your own? You can find more information about this at <http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/culture/tourism/libraries/booktalk/readinggroups.htm>. If you're still in school, ask your teacher about making a reading group at school; or perhaps your school has a magazine and you could write an article based on something you discovered through this map. There are reading groups for young people already available at some of Devon's libraries – just ask at your local library.

Writing is for everyone. We can all find ways to express what we feel about ourselves, our families and the world around us. Why not use this map and choose a place to visit, exploring the authors whose works are listed on the website, and then trying to write something for yourself? You could start a diary, or you could send a postcard home, or to a friend, or across the world. Although this printed map focuses on writers who are no longer alive, Devon abounds with living writers, and there are plenty of writers groups who will encourage you to find your own voice. Make this your quest.

...and wherever you go, watch out for performing poets! Throughout the year and across Devon there are literature and poetry festivals, poetry slams, poetry flash mobs, formal readings... all kinds of ways to experience words, words, words.



holds the archive of Ronald Duncan.

quoted in *Devonshire Scenery: Its Inspiration in the Prose and Song of Various Authors*, edited by Rev. William Eweritt, 1884 (from the DCC Westcountry Studies Collection). Edward Capern was from Bideford. This book was republished in facsimile in 2009 by Bibliofile and is available for purchase.

*A land of honey, milk and cream  
Where showers are sweet as rose's tears:  
Romantic as a poet's dream,  
And fresh, as the primeval years:  
A region rich in fairy tales,  
Where happy mortals go in quest  
Of rarest joys: such are values  
Of my dear love-land in the West.*  
(Edward Capern 1819-1894)



Universities often hold the archives of writers and **University of Exeter** is no exception, holding the archives of Henry Williamson, Ted Hughes, R R Blackmore, Eden Philpots, Agatha Christie and Rf Delderfeld. Contact Special Collections for more information. **Plymouth University**

There are a number of extremely important collections in Devon that are worth a visit and a veritable treasure-trove of rare books, manuscripts and twentieth Century literary papers. These include the **West Country Studies Collection** at Exeter Central Library (EX4 3PQ). Treasures held here include such items as the manuscripts of the great Victorian eclectic Sabine Baring-Gould; *Devonshire Scenery: its inspiration in the prose and song* edited by Red William Eweritt, 1884; and *Ship of Fools* by Sebastian Brant, the first printed book written by a Devonian and published in 1570. The **Devon Record Office** (there are three branches across the county) exists to collect and preserve the historical records of Devon and to make them available to all who wish to study them. They hold, for example, a substantial collection of papers of Sabine Baring-Gould, as well as correspondence and papers of R.D Blackmore among others, as well as a dizzying array of private and local archives such as those of Dorothy & Leonard Elmhirst, the founders of modern **Dartington Hall**. The **Devonshire Association**, which has branches across Devon, also has an outstanding collection of papers and books about Devon's botany, buildings, history, literature, folklore, and dialect.

**Lorna Doone** (R.D Blackmore), **The ABC Murders** (Agatha Christie), **The Rime of the Ancient Mariner** (Samuel Taylor Coleridge), **The Hound of the Baskervilles** (Arthur Conan Doyle), **Where I Live** (Ronald Duncan), **Jude the Obscure** (Thomas Hardy), **Tarka the Otter** (Henry Williamson), **To Serve Them All My Days** (Rf Delderfeld), **Westward Ho!** (Charles Kingsley), **Moortown** (Ted Hughes), **Widcombe Fair** (Eden Philpots), **Mr Finchley** (Victor Cannings), **Stalky and Co** (Rudyard Kipling), **Sense and Sensibility** (Jane Austen), **Endymion** (John Keats), **Still Sidmouth: The Lost Poem** (Sir John Betjeman)

There is a plethora of books and writings about Devon, set in Devon or inspired by Devon, and nowhere near enough space here to create a definitive list. However, here are just a few suggestions to whet your appetite for literary Devon:

# things to read

Devon is a rich tapestry of coast and countryside, ancient market towns, villages and hamlets, and bustling culture-rich cities. Its landscapes are so prized that the county contains more protected sites than any other county in the UK. Dewy mornings, hazy hot sunshine, cool damp mists, heavy rain and the occasional snow and ice make this landscape glow, breathe, and come alive. This is a land of smugglers, fairies and pixies, ravening beasts and deadly mires. Explore it on foot, on a bicycle, by bus and train — enjoy life in the slow lane for a while.

Devon has for centuries been the inspiration for all kinds of writing and all kinds of writers, some of whom lived or were born here, and some of whom visited regularly. Wordquest Devon celebrates wonderful places and wonderful words, and this map is to encourage you to get out and explore them.

Use the map to lead you to places that have inspired a vast array of literary styles and genres: in addition to novels and poetry, there is a rich history of writing *about* Devon — the Victorians in particular produced some splendid and inspired writing about Devon's special places and landscapes. Visit some of these places and perhaps you too will be inspired to take up your pen.



This map is just the tip of the iceberg. Go to [wordquestdevon.info](http://wordquestdevon.info) to discover much more about living writers and other writers not represented here, about books you can read, and about places to go in Devon. It's just another place to explore...

## About this map

This map **isn't a reliable substitute** for a proper map! It's just a guide - so make sure you have a proper map with you before setting out.

You won't necessarily find a blue plaque or even any kind of marker to indicate where the author lived, or wrote. Instead, the places shown here are associated with the authors, and many of the places speak for themselves in showing how they inspired the work they created.

Go to [wordquestdevon.info](http://wordquestdevon.info) for more information about the authors and the places. You can also download a series of podcasts to help guide you in your journeys of discovery.

## Literature Links and Events

- Apples & Snakes [www.applesandsnakes.org](http://www.applesandsnakes.org)
- Appledore Book Festival [appledorebookfestival.co.uk](http://appledorebookfestival.co.uk)
- Arvon [www.arvonfoundation.org](http://www.arvonfoundation.org)
- Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival [www.budlitfest.org.uk](http://www.budlitfest.org.uk)
- Centre for South West Writing [exeter.ac.uk/southwestwriting](http://exeter.ac.uk/southwestwriting)
- Cyprus Well [www.cypruswell.org](http://www.cypruswell.org)
- The Devonshire Association [www.devonassoc.org.uk](http://www.devonassoc.org.uk)
- Devon Libraries [www.devon.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.devon.gov.uk/libraries)
- Devon Museums [www.devonmuseums.net](http://www.devonmuseums.net)
- Devon Record Office [www.devon.gov.uk/record\\_office.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/record_office.htm)
- Exeter Poetry Festival [www.exeterpoetryfestival.com](http://www.exeterpoetryfestival.com)
- Heritage Special Collections [as.exeter.ac.uk/library/about/special](http://as.exeter.ac.uk/library/about/special)
- North Devon Festival [www.northdevontheatres.org.uk/north\\_devon\\_festival.asp](http://www.northdevontheatres.org.uk/north_devon_festival.asp)
- Torbay Libraries [torbay.gov.uk/libraries](http://torbay.gov.uk/libraries)
- Torbay Poetry Festival [www.torbaypoetryfestival.co.uk](http://www.torbaypoetryfestival.co.uk)
- Plymouth Libraries [www.plymouthlibraries.info](http://www.plymouthlibraries.info)
- Plymouth Summer Festival [www.visitplymouth.co.uk](http://www.visitplymouth.co.uk)
- Poetry Archive [www.poetryarchive.org](http://www.poetryarchive.org)
- Ways With Words Festival [www.wayswithwords.co.uk](http://www.wayswithwords.co.uk)
- West Country Studies Library [www.devon.gov.uk/localstudies](http://www.devon.gov.uk/localstudies)

# wordquestdevon

## FREE

a literary map for devon

wordquestdevon.info

