



BIDEFORD BUZZ



February 2010
Edition

www.bidefordbuzz.org.uk

FREE

A very Happy New Year to you all !



Pebbles on the Beach - Photo by TA©

This month we say goodbye to Ken at Polypress. Ken has been printing the Buzz for us for most of the ten years we have been in existence. We wish him a long and happy retirement and thank him for all his hard work and support over the years.

Our new printers are North Devon Print, and we look forward to working with Andy in the coming months.

See next page for details of last month's competition 'Footprints in the Snow'.

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'Footprints in the snow' - last month's caption competition

'Honestly sir I didn't push it over' **CD Watkins**

'I've come to give you a hand' **J Williams**

'Come on, own up now- who pushed that tree over?'

F Brown

'I don't think it was a very good idea to hold an outdoor service at this time of year'

J Brown

I hope that there will be a helping hand to hold me up for when and if ever I begin to lean over It can't be my footprints as I have not been off the plinth

DL Barnes

'My tiny quill is frozen but help is at hand'

M Green

Have you taken it yet? It's freezing up here **Stephen Richards**

'Well I didn't expect quite such a little white town '

Anon

'All on my own in the moonlight' **Pauline Davy**

"Mr. Kingsley had just climbed back onto the podium when the photographer arrived..." **Elizabeth Green**

And the winning entry

'Oh no ... my secret night-time exploits are out ..and I'll have to go back for my shoes..my feet are freezing!'

Congratulations to **Marianne Richards** who wins the chance to have her photo taken under the statue by award winning photographer, Graham Hobbs. Graham, who also judged the competition said he chose her entry 'because of its sense of humour, and thought gone into it'



News from the North Devon Record Office (www.devon.gov.uk/record_office.)

The North Devon Record Office, based in Barnstaple Library, houses a veritable treasure trove of information relating to the local history of the northern Devon area. Original, handwritten documents dating from the twelfth century onwards are available for visitors to consult in our public search room and the office forms part of the North Devon Local Studies Centre offering a wide range of local and family history research source material, such as parish registers, local newspapers and census returns.

At the moment we are participating in an exciting new project called the **North Devon Adult Learning Forum** (or ALF for short), which has established a local network of providers of cultural services, including the Record Office, museum service, North Devon Theatres, Northern Devon Coast & Countryside Service and the Yarner Trust. All these services have pooled their resources to provide a variety of informal learning opportunities for adults who may otherwise find it difficult to access such things. The package of learning opportunities includes family history research, looking after the countryside, archaeological investigation work, dance and movement, singing in a choir and trying out rural skills. They are aimed particularly at people who live in a very rural location, lone parents, carers or those with health difficulties and ALF can offer support for things like childcare and transport. The free sessions will take place all across northern Devon and the project runs until the end of March so if you would like to get involved, visit the website at **www.northdevonalf.org** to find out more, view the list of events on offer and book yourself on to the session of your choice.

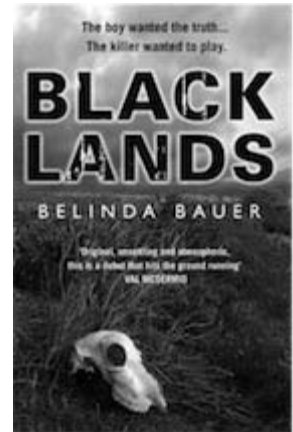
We are part of the Devon county archives service provided by Devon County Council.

Tim Wormleighton

Principal Archivist

Blacklands by Belinda Bauer Corgi (£7.99)

Blacklands :Exmoor in Winter, the heather dark,the drizzle encompassing, and a solitary 12 year old boy,Steven,is trying to dig into the turf. Blacklands; the chilling internal landscape inhabited by Arnold Avery, a paedophile serial killer, who is responsible for the destruction of Steven's family. Nineteen years before, Steven's uncle Billy, then an 11 year old boy, disappeared in the short distance between the newsagents and his house. His body has never been found but it is assumed that he was one of Arnold Avery's victims buried on Exmoor. Steven's nan cannot accept that her favourite child will not come back and stares endlessly out of the front window. Steven's mum,her daughter , who has to try and keep the family together is tight-lipped and resentful. There is not much human warmth circulating in this house. Steven believes that if he can find Billy's body then everything will be alright. And so he digs-obsessively. He remembers what one of the more sympathetic of the 'uncles' who pass through the house said' decide what you want and then work out how to get it'. When his efforts produce nothing but the jawbone of a sheep he decides to write to Arnold Avery in prison to ask for help in finding Billy. So begins a cryptic correspondence between these two . But is an innocent 12 year old who tells no-one what he is doing any match for a ruthless child killer?



The bleakness of the subject matter is balanced by the vividly portrayed,poignant character of Steven. Indeed he has not got much going for him in material terms,but he is determined, resourceful and infinitely courageous. And we root for him. This is a beautifully written novel and deserves its place in the new TV Book Club.

Belinda Bauer has family in Bideford and she says Bideford library helped her to decide on a writing career. She is coming to talk about 'Blacklands' at Bideford Library on Thursday 11th February at 7pm. Free tickets available from the library or phone 476075 to book a place. **HA**



Mishmash is a friendly male and female entertainment group. Some of us do music – some of us do drama – some of us do both. 16 of us perform around the Bideford area in residential homes, seniors' clubs, hospices, etc. We also support social, village hall and charity events. We sing, perform sketches, do poems, readings and the like.

Our meeting place is Alwington Village Hall, near Fairy Cross, on Thursday mornings for singing, and in Woolsery on various evenings to practise drama.

So come along and give us a try. We're a fun group looking to perform for people in less privileged positions than our own, or to help fund-raising for good causes.

We have a pianist who we'd like to move to Musical Director, so if you can play the keyboard , we'd love to chat to you.

Linda and Andy – 01237 440055

email: lindamatherton@aol.com.

Bideford Music Club features local girl Ellie Laugharne

Ellie Laugharne was brought up in Bideford and is a former pupil of West Buckland. She gained a music degree at Birmingham University and then studied at the Birmingham Conservatoire. There she was awarded the Singing Prize and also won the overall interdepartmental performance prize, as well as the Post Graduate course prize for overall excellence. She is currently studying on the Artist Masters Programme at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Joining Ellie are William Duncombe – clarinet and Miriam Leskis – piano. **The concert will be held at HolyTrinity Church, Westward Ho! on February 10th at 7.30 pm. Tickets are only available at the door at £10.50 (students free). For any other information, please telephone 01237 423112.**

The Green Page

The Buzz's new venture! A section devoted to issues related to the environment. Climate Change, with all its alarming consequences, seems to be top of the agenda as we enter 2010. But, if those I've spoken to are anything to go by, most of us feel daunted, overwhelmed and helpless faced with the enormity of the challenge – what can we do, as individuals, to prevent the lemming-like race we seem to be engaged in towards our own destruction?

Then, just to confuse the issue and to add to our dilemma, there are those who tell us it's not really happening. I think our safest bet is to assume that it is and that, to some extent at least, it's 'our fault', because that gives us the power to do something about it.

So, what can we, as individuals, do? Some of you may have heard about 'Transition Town Totnes'. For those of you who haven't or who know very little about it, here is a summary. It shows, I think, what a few determined people can do, if they get together. We could do the same – and more! How about it? **The Buzz would love to have your reactions and comments!**



Transition Town Totnes (TTT)

This was launched in 2006.

In 2005 just two people began a series of informal talks and film screenings relating to Peak Oil and Climate Change. The result was such that the official 'unleashing' of TTT was attended by 400 people in Totnes.

A lot of initiatives have taken place since and are on-going See www.totnes.transitionnetwork.org

The Open Space Technique . Using this, people have come forward to form working 'theme groups' in Food, Energy, Transport, Building and Housing, Economics and Livelihoods,

Local Government, Health and Wellbeing, Heart and Soul, Education and the Arts (so far!) The group leaders sit on the TTT management team.

Their main aim over the next 12 – 24 months is to produce and begin to implement an **Energy Descent Action Plan (EDAP)**

Terminology :

Peak Oil : a term used to refer to the maximum extraction rate of oil, after which point the rate of extraction declines. World discovery of oil peaked in 1964 and has declined ever since. We are currently consuming more than six barrels of oil for every one we discover. There is a growing consensus that we are now approaching or are even at, the world oil peak.

Energy descent : This refers to a time, fast approaching, when the Age of Cheap Oil is over and world energy supplies have entered inexorable decline. It is a term favoured by people looking towards energy peak as an opportunity for positive change rather than an inevitable disaster.

Open Space Technique : Open Space Events bring together a range of people to discuss issues around a central theme. The events are based around workshops that the participants create and manage themselves.

We're hoping to organise a screening of '**The Age of Stupid**' in Bideford in the near future. If you would like to come or are interested in getting more involved, ring **Jacqui Poole on 01237 420372**

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Doors Open **7pm** Film starts at **7.30pm**
**Bideford Cinema has moved to Kingsley
School, Edgehill Theatre, Northdown Rd**

**12th and 13th February "Bright
Star"(PG)**
**26th and 27th February 'Sherlock Holmes'
(12a)**

**Our thanks to Kingsley School for
allowing the Society to use their
Theatre.**
www.bidefordfilmsociety.org.uk

Take the first step to happier, healthier kids

We've got a problem. It's called modern life. We're eating too much. And moving too little. And if we go on like this, 9 out of 10 of our kids will grow up to have dangerous amounts of fat in their bodies. Which could lead to things like heart disease, diabetes and cancer. And eventually to a shorter life. We need to do something. So a movement has started called Change4Life. You can get a specially prepared FREE Action Plan just for your children. It will be full of handy hints to get the kids fighting fit and full of good stuff. They're really easy to do and designed to fit into busy lives. So the kids will be eating better, moving more and living longer in no time at all!

Phone 0300 123 4567, or visit www.nhs.uk/change4life for your Action Plan. Remember if you are a parent or carer of a child under 5 you can use the FREE open access computer in Bideford Bay Children's Centre.

If you would like to find out more about making healthy choices for your family, pop along to the Happy and Healthy Day at East-the-Water School on Thursday 11th February between 1pm and 4pm.

Tomato pasta and chicken



Ingredients:
900g chicken drumsticks
500g dried pasta
Tin of chopped tomatoes
50g Tomato puree
Some mixed herbs

Method:

Take the chicken drumsticks out of the packet and wash thoroughly under cold water. Place them on an oven proof baking tray and put in oven on 180 c for approx 30 mins. Put the pasta in a saucepan of boiling water and cook for 15mins or until soft. In another saucepan put in the tinned tomatoes, tomato puree and mixed herbs and bring to the boil. Then simmer for 15mins or until thickened. Drain the pasta once cooked and put back into saucepan.

Add the tomato sauce and stir well. Check the chicken is thoroughly cooked and get out of oven.

Serve.

This recipe has been taken from the Bideford Bay Children's Centre cookery booklet "Feed a Family of Four for £3.00", available from the Children's Centre for 50p.

Arty Events for your diary

Burton Art gallery On 18th February, **children** are invited to a **Model Making day**, from 10 – 4. £20 also the **Young Friends Art Group** for children between 8 & 12, holds a FREE session on the last Saturday of every month, with Karen Hawkins. Phone 01237 471455 to reserve a place.

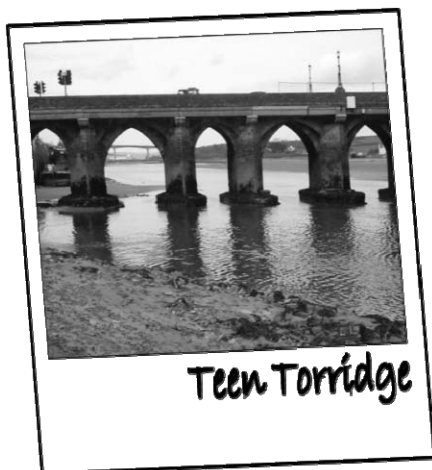
Pots from the Past - Bideford Library

A hands-on session **for 5s and over at half term** Come along to Bideford Library and try your luck as a time detective with a mini excavation, plus get

creative with clay and a chance to see some of the pots from the new ceramics collection at The Burton Art Gallery & Museum. Led by Jo Simpson, Learning and Development Officer at The Burton.

Come dressed for mess! **Tuesday February 16th 10-12. Free event but numbers limited so book your place now at Bideford Library tel 476075**





Auntie's Army

Being at home for the Christmas holiday has meant I've had the luxury of watching proper TV, something I don't do when I'm away at Uni. I say 'luxury', but I think that's probably a bit generous. I turned on the TV last Friday evening to the sound of Phillip Schofield screaming something about how it's going to be great to see lots of celebrities falling when attempting to dance on ice again... and I cringed.

As far as I'm concerned, only two good things come from ITV. The first is Coronation Street- which is simply brilliant (mock me as much as you like)- the second is Harry Hill's TV Burp, which mocks everything else that comes from the TV cesspit of populist nonsense.

That's why I think public service broadcasting is excellent, and I think as a nation we should be proud of the BBC- even if they did put on 600 hours of repeats this Christmas. The TV License, however, is something I believe we shouldn't be proud of. What with the evolution of technology, it has simply become outdated: according to its website, anyone who watches or records programmes 'as they're being shown on TV' needs a license. All very well, but these days if you've got a good internet connection you can watch live channel streams online. And if one of the dreaded enforcers come knocking and see you've not got a TV but have got a computer, they can't prove anything. (By the way, the enforcers- as much as they like to think they do- do not have any sort of warrant to check your home, so you are not obliged to let them in.)

The rule is completely unfair to the commercial companies; even if I choose just to watch non BBC programmes as they're being broadcast, I still have to pay the license fee, even though it's only the BBC that receive the money. Furthermore, the BBC choose to make the majority of their programming available on the iPlayer, which means scroungers-off-the-state like us students can legally download and watch material funded by the license fee, without having to pay it.

The ominously named Capita- the company contracted out to deal with fee collections- has come under scrutiny numerous times after allegations of unfair practice among their employees, the enforcers, who work on commission to go round making sure you're legal.

And the system's horrendously bureaucratic; because our student flat of five comprises five different tenancy agreements, each room (plus the communal area) must have its own license, whereas a five bedroom family house need only have one.

Clearly, it's time for change. A system where everyone pays a TV tax would make more sense; whatever it takes to keep the BBC viable. But if they keep making Hole in the Wall, I might change my mind. **Tom Collins**

Applying for jobs? Need help?

Bideford Library have teamed up with Adult Education to help job seekers or people new to the internet

If you are aged 20 or over and need help writing out Cvs and using the internet this Wednesday afternoon session is for you

The sessions will run on the last Wednesday of the month from 12.30pm- 4.30pm and you need to put your name down as places are limited

Contact Bideford Library for more details

tel 476075



Good Age Page



Aged over 50?

The Senior Council for Devon **could be of interest to you**
The Senior Council for Devon can give older people a voice,
working in partnership to develop practical ideas and action:

- To be a focus for the concerns of older people in Devon
 - with a view to developing and improving services
- To **realise** the potential of older people as a creative and active community resource.

Bideford is one of 25 groups across the county.

We meet every two months - Wednesday 24th March is next.

Come and have your say – or contact us from home

Further details from Alan Rayner (alanr555@waitrose.com) – 01237 479711.

Where are they now?

Following my appeal of where are they now in May, I did find one or two former school friends and a very knowledgeable lady in Mrs Webb who worked for a local newspaper for many years and I would like to say thank you for all her help.

I came down in early October to research my grandfather and find out if he had a military funeral as my mother and aunt insisted, I thought it odd as in 1937 he would have not been in the regular army !.

With the help of two delightful ladies at the Northam Archives in Windmill Lane I finally unearthed an account of his funeral; yes his comrades in the 6th Devon's Battalion (TA) did honour him, (another mystery solved.) I also found the Devon library staff very helpful on another matter. And a teaser for local history buffs does anyone know the names of Sir Richard Grenville's five ships that went to fight the Armada **M Sheppard**

Just as a starter were there five ships or only three? (ED)

A note on Moreton House

Having an interest in the Turnpikes and old roadways I was pleased to read Paul Baker's paragraph in November giving a date to the Yeo Vale Turnpike Rd which I assumed was concurrent with the Torridge Valley Road of about 1825. I am now intrigued by Paul's reference to the 'old road to Catshole' and wonder if he could enlighten us as to where this was and the origin of the name 'Catshole' **Chris Hassell**

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References supplied on request

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*** special offer (may be subject to change)**

**New Group in Bideford available for people who
struggle with diet, weight loss, fitness (and New
Years resolutions!!)**

Have you spent January struggling with the NEW
FOOD REGIME, I WILL LOSE WEIGHT New Years
resolution? Do you, like many people find that diets
don't work in the long term for you?

A short course is coming to Bideford in March for
people who want to break free from stuffing and
starving themselves, yo-yo dieting and struggling with
eating, food and their weight.

The approach is unique and could be the beginning of
a passport to freedom for people who want to break
away from constantly thinking about food and weight
and yo-yo dieting. Previous participants have
developed more clarity as to why they eat as they do,
what triggers them to over or under eat and to create
strategies for managing food and eating on a day to
day basis.

If you want to find out more, have an informal
conversation or receive five top tips about managing
your eating; please contact: Ann Mold on 01837
83511 or e-mail her at ann@changebychoice.co.uk

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RIPSTIX

News from The Burton Art Gallery & Museum

By the time you are reading this, the new Gallery brochure will have been distributed but it will be useful, perhaps, if I highlight a few of the main features; for those who do not yet have a copy, the following is definitely essential.



The main exhibition in gallery 1 from **21st Jan to 22nd February**, is the Annual Schools Exhibition. This is by far the most colourful, creative and enjoyable of the year's events, and every parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin and friend of the children whose work is displayed, can feel justly proud of the talent on show. Apart from drawings and paintings, there is sculpture, textiles, collage, ceramics; every media available has been used to create unique works of art, by young people from 5 to 18 years of age.

In other parts of the Gallery there is a selection of paintings by two artists who lived and worked in the Cabin at Bucks Mills, situated half-way down the slipway to the beach. Their paintings reveal their love of the area, its cliffs and beaches, the landscape and village cottages. Judith Ackland, daughter of a Bideford doctor, and Mary Stella Edwards, her companion, had quite different, and identifiable painting styles, using watercolours to great effect. We consider them as the definitive North Devon style of drawing and painting, followed later by Sheila Hutchinson and many others. We are fortunate to have a large permanent collection of their works. If you would like to know more about the Cabin, now owned by the National Trust, the Friends have invited Steve Mulberry, its Property Manager, to talk to us on February 19th, at 7.00 p.m cost £5. Please let us know if you wish to attend, by phoning 01237 471455

On 20th February, Colin Allbrook, well known artist both locally and nationally, will help you to explore watercolour painting techniques in a Day Workshop from 10.00 – 4.00 p.m. Colin is winner of the Turner Award for watercolour, and the Rowland Prize for landscape painting. Please bring paints, brushes, a landscape image or study to work from (photo) and a packed lunch. A limited amount of watercolour paper will be supplied. Cost: £30. Phone 01237 471455 for a place.

We hope you will enjoy all the Gallery has to offer, and don't forget, if you don't receive the new brochure through the post, you can pick one up at Reception. (Or join the Friends, of course.)
Diana Warmington. (Secretary)

material pigments by James Bell

imagine saffron aroma
stewing plants
the scent of fresh squid

hear stone grind against stone
leaves crushed
the excited chatter

breathe in aloe flavour
taste it at the back of the throat
see stones of brilliant green

deep blue
herbs hung upside down to dry
mussel shells filled

with puddles of rich red
and clear yellow paint -
over against the wall

rows of desks with projects
in states of completion –
grab the bunch of dried weld

hung on the wall
and put it to boil
for a personal vision

the alchemist's art –
not a dark arts pigment -
Potter's pink is lightfast

watercolour by a real potter
ceramic
not considered toxic

You write

Thanks Buzz

Thank you very much for advertising our Coffee Mornings and Candle Light Christmas Concert. We have raised £1,122.00 in 2009 for Holy Trinity Church, Westward Ho!

Also raised £500.00 for the British Heart Foundation at a Coffee Morning, held in Victoria Park Bowling Club which you kindly also advertised.

Audrey Harding



The Appledore Singers would like to thank everyone who came to their grand Christmas Charity Concert – and would welcome any new voices – **please contact Pam Beechey, Musical Director for further information 01769 560034 or Jenny Cawsey, Secretary 01237 424982**

May I take may i take this opportunity to thank all involved with the production of the Buzz for the coverage given to Bideford army cadet force during the year. Publicising the achievements of our young people is my primary aim and i thank you all for helping me to make this possible.

**Staff Sergeant Jim Harvey Company public relations officer
(north) company Devon army cadet force**

Reference John Barry in my article of Buzz! February 2004

What is not published about John Barry is as intriguing as that published. Born in Washfield Tiverton in 1775 he latterly joined the Local Defence Volunteers thus ensuring he would not serve abroad. However, aged thirty-four, he enlisted in the army for seven years. After being wounded, almost certainly at Albuera, he did not return to Tiverton, and for many years he lodged with 'Thomas Clatworthy of the Underway, Northam'. Why didn't he go back to Tiverton what was the medal he returned with, what was it for and why did he warrant the visit of a general?

In the 1851 National Census of Bideford John Barry is said to be seventy-six whilst on the same day in Tiverton there is a Mary Barry, Pauper widow also aged seventy-six. Was she I wonder John Barry's 'widow'? Why did he wait until he was thirty-four before joining the army, did he desert his wife and is that why he didn't return to Tiverton?

When aged ninety-five, he was granted an 'out Chelse pension' allowing him to escape the 'indignity' of being in the workhouse and took lodgings at 2 Cooper Street Bideford. He died there on the thirtieth of January 1875 aged 101.

Roger Sugar

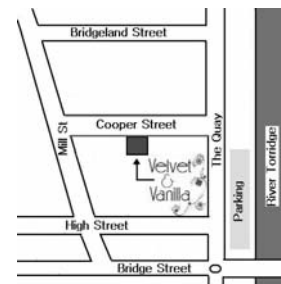
PS Can anyone tell me where the Underway is or was in Northam?

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**Bring this advert in for
10% off in February and March**

CEREMONY OF BIDEFORD MANOR COURT: 20 MARCH 2010 will be held within Bideford Town Hall on Saturday 20th March 2010, and will be followed by a reception at The Royal Hotel. All applicants **must** reside in the Parish of Bideford and appear in the Register of Electors.

BIDEFORD residents are being called on to use an ancient right to make suggestions for town improvements.

Opportunity is being made for members of the public to take an active involvement in the centuries-old Manor Court Ceremony.

Now the Town Council is opening the way for public attendance and is also calling for ideas and projects that would make Bideford a better place for the community and tourists to be put forward. Any member of the public residing in the Parish of Bideford who wishes to submit a 'presentment', should do so by Tuesday 9 March 2010. The envelope should be marked for the attention of the Manor Steward.

Presentments submitted to the Town Council are considered by a chosen jury of 12 respected town residents and the most feasible are presented to the court.

Actions regarding presentments of the previous year are also reported.

Anyone wishing to take part in the occasion is invited to complete the application form and return it to the Town Clerk. If there are too many applicants a draw will be made by the Mayor to fill the available places.

Those chosen will be able to take a guest and will also be invited to the Civic Reception following the Ceremony. Bideford residents who wish to be considered for an invitation to attend the

Manor Court Ceremony, must complete this coupon, and return it to:

The Town Clerk, Town Hall, Bideford EX39 2HS by 9 March 2010.

Name:

Address:

.....

Postcode: **Telephone No**

Signature:

.....

Fair Trade Fortnight - 22nd February - 7th March -

The 2010 theme 'The Big Swap' - encourages us all to swap a non-Fairtrade item for one that is Fairtrade : your usual wine, sugar, chocolate or tee-shirt for a Fairtrade product instead. Traidcraft is focussing on tea and there will be several "Big Brew" events where Fairtrade tea & cakes & biscuits will be served starting with **afternoon tea at Bideford Library on the 22nd February 2-4pm** This year the Bideford Fairtrade Group is linking with Barnstaple and Torrington to bring you a variety of events - do come along to support us all!

Wednesday 24th Feb. 8pm . "The Lemon Tree" - a film about a lemon farmer struggling to keep her farm and land in Palestine. Also, 'Big Brew' Traidcraft DVD plus stall selling fairly traded products from Palestine. **The Plough Arts Centre, Torrington. £5.50/£5/£4.50**

Friday 26th Feb. 7pm . Fairtrade Fashion Show - a chance to see and purchase Fairtrade clothes and accessories, plus a fun evening out! **Christ Church, Bear Street, Barnstaple. £3** - to include refreshments.

Thursday 4th March 7pm . 'A Chocolate affair' - listen to Ghanaian cocoa producer, Nicholas Kwame Adjei-Gyan speak about growing Fairtrade cocoa for Divine chocolate. A chocolate-themed evening, when chocolate fondue & other choccie delights can be sampled and where we will also be announcing the overall winners of our schools competition to design a Fairtrade chocolate bar wrapper **Bideford Baptist Church, Mill Street.** (Free entry but donations welcomed.)

Watch out in the local press for other events that may be taking place in churches, cafes and community places during Fairtrade Fortnight or contact Ann Davis on 01237 425883

Local History group in Northam

We are proposing to form a local history group which can build on the research already undertaken to prepare a history of Northam. Many of its old houses are disappearing and their records lost, so we propose the collation of information on all of them and invite input from present and past owners too, as well as people interested in the area.

If the project is of interest to sufficient people, we will organise an inaugural meeting,

The intended result of the group would be an enhanced archival record of the area and its history designed for easy accessibility on both the web and at the archive offices in Northam.

If this activity is of interest to you or you have information that you would like to share, please contact A and J Barnes at anthonybar@gmail.com or call 01237 473801



Family History.

A Happy New Year to all you genealogists, who are now actively back into your research with all your new equipment and CDs and books. Christmas is wonderful!!! Another much under used set of records are the **Land Tax Assessments**.

For 3 centuries, land tax was levied every year on the value of freehold property. The surviving records, which are known as the land tax assessments, should list both occupiers (tenants and sub tenants) and the land owners from the 18th century onwards. In theory, land tax assessments go back to around 1692 and end in 1963. In practice, however, you are most likely to come across those of the 18th and 19th centuries. The best period is undoubtedly 1780 to 1832, which has a very good survival rate, because in those years a duplicate land tax assessment also served as the electoral register.



Unless your ancestors were land owners, it is unlikely that you will find much of interest in the assessments before 1780 as tenants and sub-tenants were not usually mentioned. I hope that you prove me wrong, so always check!

Far more useful are the assessments from 1780 to 1832. Information usually includes the names of all the land occupiers (from 1786) and a description of the properties (from 1826). With careful use, they can be used as a census substitute as virtually all heads of household will be listed. The main value is as a supplement to the parish records or if the parish registers are lost or destroyed. From 1832 when separate registers of electors came in, we can no longer rely on land tax because of its peculiar system of exemptions. Many bought their way out of it. A duplicate list of taxpayers was sent to London in 1798 and now resides at **Kew Ref. IR23**.

Other records do exist but not in readily available forms, such as bundles of accounts, or arranged by hundred or divisions. Some are arranged in townships and much easier to refer to. So do go and enquire at the Record Office. The list of the whole country for **1798 is at Kew. Ref. IR23** and is arranged by parish. IR22 & IR23 might be more interesting as they include maps, plans and exemptions. Earlier assessments could turn up in Record Offices, Libraries, Parish Chests etc. **The next meeting of The North Devon Family History Group is on 20th Feb at the Burton Art Gallery 2pm -4pm. The talk will be on Stoke Churchyard Burials. Any enquiries please ring me Len Collum 01237472883.**



THE SHIPPING NEWS

Ship	Flag Owners	from	To	Arrived	Sailed	Crew	Cargo
Moormerland							
Built 2005 Antigua	St John's Antigua and Barbuda German	Ipswich	Castellon	30/11/09	2/12/09	Russian	2600 tons ball clay

Arco Dart 16.11.09 She may have made other trips but not seen.

There have been reports in the local papers that the paddle steamer **Waverley** could be making a trip to Bideford in June; this is subject to ongoing discussions with the council regarding port cost. Will keep readers updated

Oldenburg has been to Sharpness for Drydocking and maintenance - returned to Bideford Quay about **7.1.10**

Bristol Channel Observations

16.11.09 at 0800 hrs tanker **North Castle** 7770 tons d.w, owners Gisan Gemi Insa Sanayi Istanbul, inward bound for Cardiff.

At 1355 hrs bulk carrier **Northern Light** 29754 tons d.w, owners Hawaii Shipping Corp Singapore, outward bound from Port Talbot.

17.11.09 at 09.00 hrs bulk carrier UBC **Toyko** 37865 tons d.w. owners, Hartmann Schiffahts GMBH & Co KG Germany, seen from Westward Ho! anchored awaiting berth at Port Talbot

19.11.09 at 17.00 hrs vehicle carrier **Glorious Express** 17212 tons d.w owners, Sagittarus PCTC Pte Ltd Singapore, inward bound for Portbury.

23.11.09 at 14.00 hrs container ships **Petuja** 7200 tons d.w. owners, Petuja Germany outward bound from Portbury.

28.11.09 at 10.25 hrs vehicle carrier **Autostar** 6670 tons d.w owners UECC IOM Ltd Madeira, inward bound for Portbury.

30.11.09 at 10.30 hrs vehicle carrier **Grand Portugallo** 12594 tons d.w owners Grimaldi Line of Italy, inward bound for Portbury

3.12.09 at 08.45 hrs vehicle carrier **Pegasus Leader** 22747 tons d.w owners Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK) Japan, inward bound for Portbury

12.12.09 at 11.10 hrs cargo vessel **Monika Mueller** 3962 tons d.w. Owners, Brink & Wolffel GMBH & Co Germany, inward bound for Sharpness.

At 13.45 hrs chemical tanker **Hada** 5600 tons d.w owners, Mowinchel Tankers Int Ltd Norway inward bound for Avonmouth

14.12.09 at 13.10 hrs vehicle carrier **Grande Italia** 12594 tons d.w owners, Grimaldi Line of Italy inward bound for Portbury.

18.12.09 at 11.50 hrs cargo vessel **Elm** 2890 tons d.w. owners, May International Ship Netherlands, outward bound from Avonmouth.

30.12.09 at 12.30 hrs cargo vessel **Saxum** 3177 tons d.w owners, Saxum Germany inward bound for Newport.

Sorry for the lack of shipping observations. During the Christmas period the ports were empty. Also more recently, due to the bad weather condition, visibility has been very poor.

I understand from the editor that somebody is querying my reported sightings of the vessels. My observations are made from near the top of Lagoon View, West Yelland with powerful binoculars and I have the ships in sight for 20 minutes for the large vehicle carriers and about 30 minutes for the smaller ship. I receive a daily list from a fellow watcher at Lynton and with the use of various websites mainly www.shipais.com to verify the ship's name and deadweight. I trust this fully explains. **Norman**

February Diary 2010

Tuesday 2nd

7pm Duplicate Bridge at the Durrant Hotel tel 476634

7.30pm Northam Choral Society meets at Methodist Church Hall Northam 476454

Wednesday 3rd

2pm Bideford Readers Group Bideford Library tel 476075

Thursday 4th

2.30pm Thursday Fellowship at Northam Methodist Church Hall tel Maggie 421956

7.30pm LGBT night at Tavern in the Port

Bideford Arts Centre- Railway Heritage Centre -talk and slide show

Modern sequence dancing at Kingsley Hall, Westward HO!

Friday 5th

7.45pm Sequence dancing at Kingsley Hall Westward Ho! Tel 01769 540309

Saturday 6th

Torrige Ramblers Day Walk 8 miles Ring 0180 5 622183

Monday 8th

7.30pm Bideford Stamp club AGM at Youth Centre tel 472101

8.30pm North Devon Jazz Club at Beaver Inn Appledore Tony Woods 421065

Tuesday 9th

10.30am Macular Disease Society meets at the Burton Art Gallery tel 01237 474128

7.30pm Northam Choral Society meets at Methodist Church Hall Northam 476454

Wednesday 10th

2pm Bideford Library Group Speaker at 2.30pm for details and transport phone 476075

7.30pm Bideford Music Club Holy Trinity Church Westward Ho! Tel 423112

Thursday 11th

1pm-4pm East the Water School 'Happy and healthy day' tel Pam Hogan 424000

2.30pm Thursday Fellowship at Northam Methodist Church Hall tel Maggie 421956

6.30pm Town Council meeting, Bideford Town Hall

7pm Belinda Bauer author at Bideford Library Tickets free but numbers limited tel 476075

7.30pm Modern sequence dancing at Kingsley Hall, Westward HO!

Friday 12th

7pm Clothes exchange -St Mary's Church Hall Appledore tel 473846 in aid of North Devon Hospice

7pm for 7.30pm Bideford Cinema at Kingsley School 'Bright Star' (PG)

7.45pm Sequence dancing at Kingsley Hall Westward Ho! Tel 01769 540309

Saturday 13th

1.30pm Instow and Yelland WI Jumble sale at Instow Parish Hal

7pm for 7.30pm Bideford Cinema at Kingsley School 'Bright Star' (PG)

Monday 15th

7.30pm Appledore and district Amateur Radio Club meets at Appledore Football club tel 473251

Tuesday 16th

10am-12pm Hands on pottery workshop at Bideford Library tel 476075

7pm Duplicate Bridge at the Durrant Hotel tel 476634

7.30pm Northam Choral Society meets at Methodist Church Hall Northam 476454

Wednesday 17th

10am Building dormouse boxes. Booking essential tel North Devon Coast and Countryside service at 423655

2.15pm Meditation Group at Bideford Library tel 476075

Thursday 18th

2.30pm Thursday Fellowship at Northam Methodist Church Hall tel Maggie 421956

7.30pm Modern sequence dancing at Kingsley Hall, Westward HO!

Friday 19th

7.45pm Sequence dancing at Kingsley Hall Westward Ho! Tel 01769 540309

Sunday 21st

Torrige Ramblers afternoon walk 01237 476454 for details

8pm Charity Quiz Night at Lacey's Ale House

8.30pm Quiz at Seagate Hotel Appledore

Monday 22nd

2-4pm afternoon tea at Bideford Library - Start of Fair Trade fortnight

Tuesday 23rd

7.30pm Northam Choral Society meets at Methodist Church Hall Northam 476454

Wednesday 24th

12.30pm onwards One stop drop in at Bideford Library with Adult Education staff job search and internet help contact 476075 to reserve a place

7.30pm North Devon Humanisits at Fremington Parish Hall

Thursday 25th

2.30pm Thursday Fellowship at Northam Methodist Church Hall tel Maggie 421956

7.30pm Modern sequence dancing at Kingsley Hall, Westward HO!

Friday 26th

7.45pm Sequence dancing at Kingsley Hall Westward Ho! Tel 01769 540309

Sat 27

6.30am North Devon Ramblers. Breakfast Walk Tel: 01271 863727

Thursday March 4th

World Book Day

How to Contact Us

Bideford Buzz is produced by a team of volunteers with financial and practical assistance from Devon County Council's Library Services, Bideford Town Council, Bideford Bridge Trust, Bideford Bay Children's Centre and Devon Community Foundation.

If you are interested in helping produce this newsletter, we will be pleased to hear from you.

Please note that for commercial advertisements, there is a charge from £15 per month - cheques payable to Bideford Buzz Newsletter Group.

Any items for inclusion should be sent by the 15th of each month to Rose Arno, Bideford Library, New Road, Bideford EX39 2HR.

Tel. **01237 476075** or email: **editor@bidefordbuzz.org.uk** or visit our website at: **www.bidefordbuzz.org.uk** (4,000 hits monthly)