



BIDEFORD BUZZ

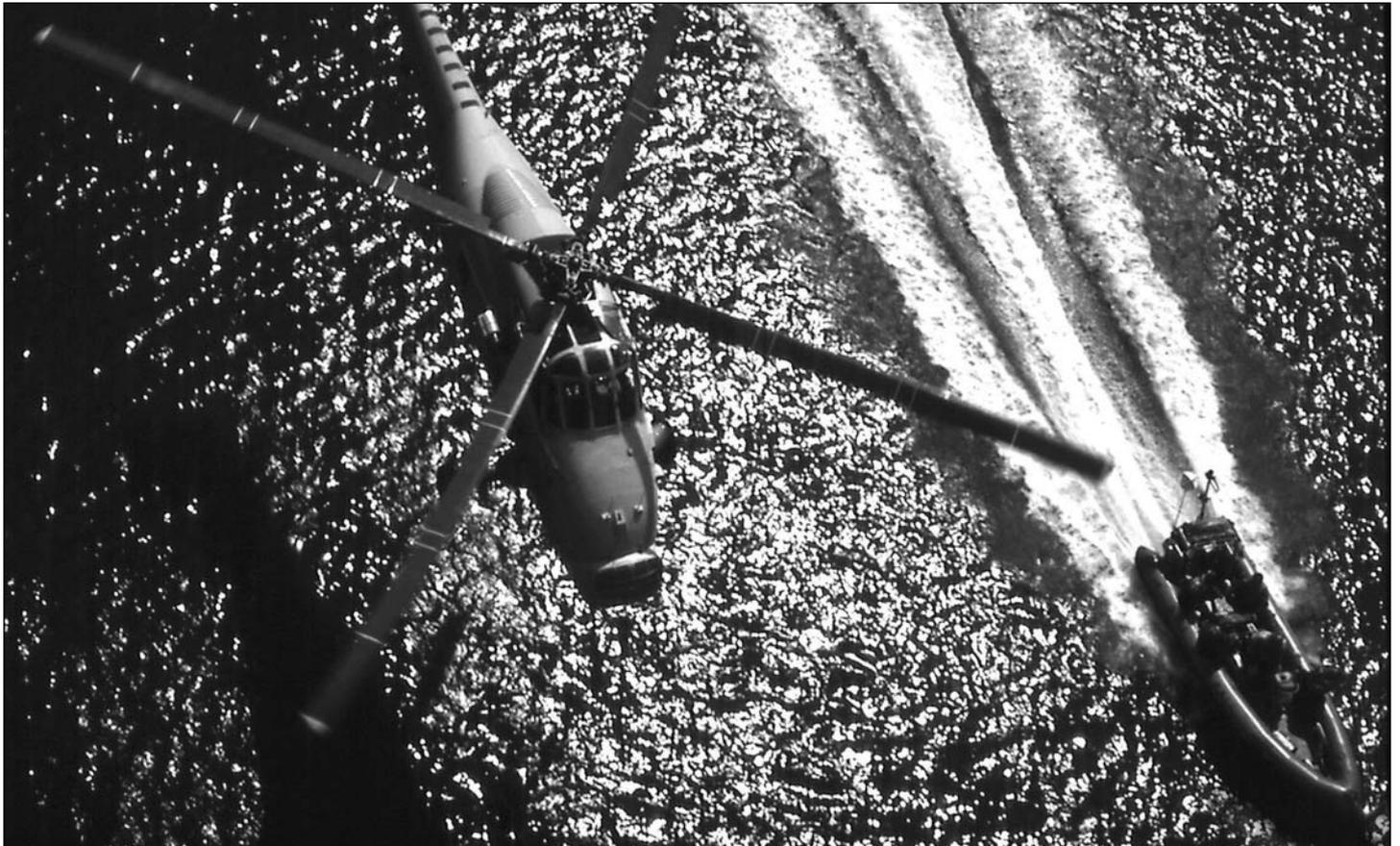


A free community newsletter for Bideford, Northam, Appledore, Westward Ho!, Lundy and villages west as far as Hartland

BUZZ AGM

Bideford Buzz is holding its AGM at Bideford Library on Thursday 24th May at 7pm

All welcome. Refreshments included. Come and support your local newsletter and help us think of some money raising ideas !



Bideford's new Torridge Bridge was opened to the public on May 20th 1987 - 25 years ago this month. This photograph was taken on Sunday 17th May 1987; it was an open day for members of the public to walk across the bridge for the first time and an opportunity to explore the interior service tunnel as well.

Crowds crossed the bridge led by the Bideford Town Band and there was even an elephant involved.

The helicopter and the Appledore inshore lifeboat were demonstrating a rescue, and I positioned myself in the

centre of the bridge to get some shots of this. I had been told that after this demonstration, there was a possibility the pilot might attempt an under-fly and as it flew towards me; I was still expecting it to lift. There was only time for the one shot and luckily the camera got the exposure right.

You could say ... 25% anticipation, 75% luck.

Tony Parsons.

Read more on page 2 

CONTACT BUZZ

Bideford Buzz is produced by a team of volunteers with practical assistance from Torridge District Council, Torridge Voluntary Services, Bideford Town Council, Bideford Bridge Trust, Bideford Bay Children's Centre, South West Foundation and Devon County Council. If you are interested in helping to produce or distribute this newsletter we would be pleased to hear from you. Please note that for advertisements there is a charge from £15 per box per month. Cheques payable to Bideford Buzz Newsletter Group. All items for inclusion should be sent by the 15th of the month to the Editor, Rose Arno.

Email: editor@bidefordbuzz.org.uk, Mobile: 07929 976120 or c/o Torridge Voluntary Services, 14 Bridgeland St., EX39 2QE. Visit www.bidefordbuzz.org.uk.



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The official opening of the Torridge bridge.

Personal memories of the event.

Wednesday the 20th of May, 1987 was a warm, bright and sunny day with a gentle breeze blowing as we ushered children out of St Mary's Church of England school in Chanters Road. My wife and I, along with other volunteer parents, were taking the pupils, including our youngest son Kevin, to witness the official opening of the Torridge Bridge.

We walked along Chanters Road and joined Kingsley Road before climbing up Heywood Road. We then turned right onto the pristine tarmac of the newly constructed link road.

As we made our way towards the bridge, we could see that a large crowd had already assembled. Flags were flying

on both sides of the west end of the bridge and Appledore Band was already in-situ. Our eldest son, Mark, was in the band, which was conducted by the bandmaster, Geoff Abbot.

On arrival at the location, all the children were instructed to sit on the tarmac. I can't remember if they had anything to sit on but one of my photographs would suggest not.

The ceremony was scheduled, I think, for 11am and after the children had settled, I took the opportunity to take a few photographs. As the hour approached, I noted that there were two television crews and strangely only one stills photographer and I could see an opportunity to capture the event close-up.

I made my way around the perimeter, expecting to be stopped at any moment but no one intervened and I found myself standing between the two TV crews and was able to capture the moment the ribbon was cut.

The opening ceremony was performed by the High Sheriff of Devon, records show this to be John Rosewarne Trehair esq, from Ivybridge, and the blessing conducted by, if my memory serves me correctly, The Bishop of Crediton, the Right Rev Peter Coleman.

After the ribbon was cut, the official cars drove across to the east side, flanked by two police outriders and then returned to signify that the bridge was now officially open. The bridge was cleared for normal traffic use about an hour later.

These are my memories, although I am sure others will recall the event slightly differently.

Tony Parsons.

Do you have any memories of that day? Send them to editor@Bidefordbuzz.org.uk or c/o TTVS 14 Bridgeland St Bideford Ex39 2QE.



Farmers' Markets on Bideford Quay

Bideford Quay will once again be transformed into a food lover's paradise when the Farmer's Markets come to town.

Fresh fish, meats and vegetables, cheeses and chutneys, homemade baked goodies, herbs and sauces, preserves, plants, bread, ice cream, fudge, fruit and veg, and pickles and pâté are just a few of the locally produced products that will be on offer in the quayside stalls. And customers arriving by car after midday can take advantage of the 2 hours' free parking in the Pill car park so there's plenty of time to enjoy the Market and town centre together.

This year's markets will build on the success of the previous popular events, showcasing the area's wonderful range of food and drink in the surroundings of Bideford's beautiful quayside. And don't forget there's 2 hours' free parking across the road from the market in the Pill car park after midday on Saturdays! Dates for May are **Saturday 12th May and 26th May 9am – 2pm** Farmers' Markets on Bideford Quay are planned to operate throughout the summer months. For up to date information, or to book a pitch - kelsey.shortridge@torridge.gov.uk www.torridge.gov.uk/bidefordfarmersmarket or contact Kelsey Shortridge on 01237 428743 or

Bideford has a new deli !

Deli s have come and gone in Bideford but the most memorable



one in Allhalland St closed down about twenty three years ago, and is just a fond memory to many people.

Now at last we have a new one. Blazeys has taken over Glovers' bread shop in Mill St and promises a whole feast of culinary and tasty delights from delicious smoked salmon pate and olives, quails eggs, and an extensive range of delicious cheeses The enthusiasm of Steve and Angela, owners of Blazeys lovely cafe further down Mill St is infectious, making me feel sure it will be a great success.

RA

Plaque opposite commemorates the opening of the Bridge

Rolle Canal Volunteer Day

Wednesday May 2nd --

Meet at Vale Cottage, Annery Kiln (Sea Lock) at 10 AM The jobs for the day will include light gardening /archaeological clearance,so gloves, stout footwear, please. Bring packed lunch, if you intend to stay for the afternoon. Meet folk, enjoy being in picturesque surroundings. More details - -- telephone Tony Barnes on Bideford (01237) 473801or just turn up.

Bideford 500 update

We are thrilled to announce that we have a winner and a name for the special Heritage Day Ale that Simon Lacey at Country Life Brewery is brewing especially for us. The winning name is Grenville's Tyger Ale, proposed by Bert Bruins, Well done to Bert who wins the first 3 numbered bottles of the Ale. It will be for sale by the bottle and on draft in Bideford in June and will feature as part of the programme for the Elizabethan Heritage Day on Saturday June 30th.

Bideford 500 invite you to a free event, to find out more about us and what we have been discovering about Bideford's rich and unique history over the last year. It will be held upstairs at the Burton Art Gallery on Sunday May 20th, between 1pm and 4pm. Come and talk to some of the Committee members and volunteers, have a look at our historical information display and buy a copy of our newly revised and expanded Heritage Trail booklet.

More details at www.bidefordheritage.co.uk 07855 760411



News from the Burton Art Gallery and Museum.

The Jerwood Drawing Prize continues until June 11th. The winners of this prestigious prize benefit from large sums of money, no doubt very welcome in these straitened times, when a career in art doesn't bring in a regular income. Drawing, to most people, means putting pencil, crayon or pen to paper, and there is much of that in the exhibition, but some artists interpret that challenge in many different ways, and as well as actual drawings, you will find embroidery and three-dimensional work, which undoubtedly began with a sketch



To assist you in your enjoyment of this collection, you may like to attend the **Talk and Tour** with Paul Thomas, Co-founder of the Jerwood Drawing Prize, on **8th June** – it's **Free** and starts at **7 p.m.** This event is part of the *Appledore Visual Arts Festival, 2012*.

There is another way to draw – and that's with a sewing machine. Rowena Light will show you how on the 12th May, in a day-course, from 10am to 4pm. Cost: £30. The idea is to make a panel to decorate a book cover, or an artwork to frame. You will need to bring your own sewing machine, and various pieces of fabric and thread, but it's best to contact the Gallery for more detail of what you need to provide. Phone 01237 471455 for assistance. Rowena has exhibited nationally and leads workshops throughout Devon and Cornwall.

On 26th May, Karen Hawkins presents 'Life Drawing – A Beginners' Guide'. All day, 10-4, @£30. Using a clothed model, you will learn structure and form, proportions and tone; Karen is well known for her work with adults and children (e.g. The Young Friends of the Burton on the last Saturday of each month – free) – and will give you confidence to tackle quite a difficult subject, the human body.

The Burton has taken on a mammoth challenge – to break the World Record for the longest line of bunting, all for the arrival of the Olympic Torch in Bideford on 21st May. Children, and adults, have been busy already, and you can see their efforts around the Gallery – lots on the stairs and in the Workshop – and it's interesting to see the variety of materials used, some painted on card and paper, but many on fabric, decorated with batik or collage. Colourful and creative, they really will bring a touch of summer to this special event. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to join in with a community project; we don't have the Olympics in the U.K. all that often!

The Friends invite you to join us on 23rd May, when Andy Powell will talk to us on '**Grenville and the Lost Colony of Roanoke**', in the Gallery, at 7.30 p.m. Admission at the door, £5, also a coach trip to the **John Leach Pottery** at Muchelney, Somerset, – phone Marion Sankey, on 01237 472494 to book a seat.

The **Cafe du Parc** hosts Sunday Lunch Jazz with Pete Canter on 13th May – booking essential, phone 01237 429317 to be sure of a place.

As always, such a lot going on at the Burton, Bideford's unique and very special Gallery.

Diana Warmington,

Friends of the Burton Art Gallery & Museum.

Bideford Film Society

Have you visited your local cinema lately? Bideford Film Society has an excellent mix of films for your enjoyment (see their advertisement on page 12) and also read Amy Seaman's excellent review of the Muppets on this month's youth page. Films to come in May include 'Hunger Games', 'We bought a zoo,' and 'Battleship'.



Good Age Page



The Dreaded New Automated Library System.

Quite how I managed to last three weeks without being able to go to Bideford library I'm not sure. At one point I was forced into buying something to read. At last the reopening date arrived. Sunday evening I planned my day for Monday – should I go early in the morning when they had just opened? Hmm, gave it some thought and decided that I might get trampled in the rush! No, I'd go after lunch.



Having got a space in the car park I staggered down the hill with my eight books and arrived outside. Did I really want to do this? Could I get away with just handing in the books and never darkening their doors again? No, I told myself, I may have been born in the 40's but I am a woman of the 21st century, technology should hold no fears for me. With a beating heart I looked through the door. Where was the crowd, the scramble for new books. All was calm.

"Can I help you", a voice cried. "Yes please" said I. Over to the machine we went. "Just put the books in here and they will discharge themselves. Please put them on the adjacent shelf and feel free to choose some more." Could this be all there was to it? I had a quick look round, more space, bright colours, comfy chairs and still the all important librarians around. Wow this was very different. Having selected some books how did I go about getting them stamped. Help was on hand, card in the scanner, books in the slot, a quick removal and in no time at all I was standing outside.

I'd done it! It was really simple and easy. Why was I so concerned, easy peasey, lemon squeezey! So if you've not yet braved the new system have no fears. It's really simple and lots of help is on hand. There, I knew that I was a woman of the 21st century. Technology does not hold any fears for me. Onwards and upwards readers.

Lynne - a woman of the 21st century

Senior Council for Devon (local group)

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the March meeting of Bideford & District Senior Council for Devon had to be cancelled at short notice. However we extend a warm welcome to all at our **AGM on May 23rd at 2.15pm Bideford Town Hall**. Refreshments/All Welcome

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Bideford Bay Children's Centre celebrates its 10th birthday.

May 2012 marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Sure Start Children's Centre in Bideford. To mark the occasion, the Centre is holding 2 celebration events this month.

On Thursday, 17th May, parents, professionals and former colleagues will join the current team at the Children's Centre to celebrate 10 years of working together.

On the afternoon of Saturday 19th May there will be a Family Fun Day in Victoria Park, in partnership with Torrridge District Council. We will be supporting Burton Art Gallery in creating the longest ever length of bunting in the run up to and during both events.

Many readers will remember the Sure Start shop in Jubilee Square. However, the first office was in the Community Arts Network office in Rope Walk. Many thanks to Mary and Athos for the hospitality during that short period. While families could call in to the shop and seek advice and use the Play Library, we were not able to hold play sessions there, and from the earliest days arranged these sessions in the Family Centre, the Bideford Centre and East the Water School. The session at East the Water still runs every Friday morning, and is now also used by the Health Visitors, who hold a local well baby clinic alongside the group every other week. The main baby clinic is jointly delivered by the Health Visiting and Children's Centre teams in the Children's Centre every week.

When we outgrew the Jubilee Square shop we also worked from offices in the High Street. And then in 2005 we moved into the Children's Centre building in Victoria Park.

When we started, we had funding to work with children under 4 and their families in Bideford Town (the electoral wards of Bideford east, North and South).

As the government agenda changed, and the importance of this work with the youngest children and their families became more fully understood, we gradually extended the age range to children under 5 and their families, and the geographical area we covered; this now includes Westward Ho! to Welcombe and nearly all areas between.

There has always been a strong emphasis on working with parents, the local community and other providers, to make the services delivered appropriate, relevant and accessible to the families who may require support at this rapidly changing time in their lives.

Parents have always been heavily involved in the Centre, and are now established as a key part of the community (FABB-Families Action, Bideford Bay). They are involved in identifying needs and proposing ways of meeting them, in the planning and delivery of services, in recruitment of staff and in the governance of the Centre through membership of the Advisory Board. We value their input very highly, and are very grateful to them for the support they give the Centre in so many ways.

If you have a story to tell about your involvement with the Centre, please let us know at sure.start.bideford@actionforchildren.org.uk

Crafty Kids at the Burton Art Gallery on a Monday morning. Our art and craft group is aimed at the Under 5's and their parents or carer. The activities are designed to get parents and children discussing our exhibitions and collections whilst getting creative, messy and most importantly having fun. The idea is to break down the barriers associated with visiting a museum or art gallery for both parents and children and to encourage families to see the Burton as a friendly, welcoming and enjoyable place to visit. The session is overseen by a member of staff but right from the beginning volunteers have played a vital role in delivering and designing the programme of activities we offer. So as a volunteer you can either opt to take on responsibility for helping to plan, come up with ideas and lead sessions or you can simply join in the activity helping the parents and children to participate in the session. If you are interested in becoming a **volunteer for this group** and would like to discuss it in more detail then please contact the Burton Art Gallery on 01237 471455




We are celebrating our 10th birthday
and would like to invite you to join our celebration
at Bideford Bay Children's Centre, Victoria Park
on Thursday, 17th May 2012, 2.00—4.00 pm

Guest speakers: Claire ROCKIFF, Head of Early Years, Devon County Council
Jan Hobbs, Senior Manager (Social Care Commissioning), Devon County Council
Andrew McConochie, Operational Director, Action for Children

Tarka Tots will be open for visits at 2pm, 2.15pm and 3.00pm. Visits will take approx 25 minutes for 5-6 people. Prior booking is necessary.

RSVP by Tuesday, 8th May
Tel: 01237 425752
Email: surestart.bideford@actionforchildren.org.uk

Bideford Bay Children's Centre
Victoria Park
Bideford
EX39 2QS

Bideford Centre of Light
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BIDEFORD FILM SOCIETY

Thursday 3 and Friday 4th May: The Hunger Games (12a) venue Bideford College ; Friday 11 and Saturday 12th May John Carter (12a) venue Bideford College. Friday 18th May We bought a zoo venue Kingsley School; Saturday 19th Hunkey Dory (15) venue Kingsley School; Friday 25th and Saturday 26th May Battleship (ctba) venue Kingsley School; Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd June Mirror Mirror (pg) venue Kingsley School
Doors open at 7.00pm, film starts at 7.30pm.
Tickets: General £5.50 Concessions £5.00 Members £4.00 Family (up to 3 children & 2 adults) £12.00
To avoid disappointment please check local press for confirmation of above programme or or visit our web site www.bidefordfilmsociety.co.uk


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BUZZ WORD

Welcome to Buzz Word- the new updated letters' page. Feel free to send us your Buzzes!

April Buzz

Enjoyed the latest Buzz; thought the cover was a great improvement; nice and bold and attention-getting.

John Henderson

WH Friendship

For the last few years I have been writing the history of photography in North Devon from 1842 to 1914. It started as an article but has mushroomed into a book and should be out next year. Whilst researching Bideford photographers I have become intrigued by W.H.Friendship whose name (and copyright claim) appears on several of the oldest pictures of Bideford including the famous one of the pre-1866 Bridge shown here. Friendship appears in the 1901 Census as the local Tory agent though 5 years later he is identified as an auctioneer. What is most interesting about him is a 'lantern lecture' i.e. with a magic lantern, he gave in April 1905 to the Bideford Debating Society in the Town Hall titled 'Old and New Bideford'. The *North Devon Journal* article recording this noted 'A unique number of photographs recording many old and historical features of the town, were reproduced. These included the Quay, Bridge, and Church, and pictorial reminiscences of parts of ancient Bideford, with the cobble-stone paving.' All told some 170 slides were shown – which begs the question – what happened to them? If you can give any leads please do contact me at Bideford 473577.

Peter Christie



Kathleen and May in Bideford

Whilst on holiday in Liverpool I visited the Albert Dock and saw the Kathleen and May of Bideford looking extremely well with plenty of maintenance being undertaken. She is well suited to her new surroundings in the Albert Dock; if anybody is visiting Merseyside may I suggest a visit to the dock area and also the New Museum of Liverpool at the Pier Head. (Photo © Norman Hardaker)

Norman

Northam Twinning

New members are always welcome, and just now we are looking for two couples to twin with both the French and German groups. We need two families with children, as well as two middle-aged couples, to twin with similar families and couples in both countries. From the children's point of view, this is an excellent opportunity to experience a slice of life with our Continental neighbours, learn something of their way of life and language; for adults, it's much the same, with lots of fun.

Our Twinners are off to Buddenstedt on 4th to 8th May, and the Mondeville visit takes place in October, from 4th to 8th. So if you would like to know more about Northam Twinning, just pick up the phone and talk to either Jenny Rickard, on 01237 473479, or to Marilyn Anscombe, on 01237 478016. Come and join us!

Di Warmington





The Muppets – film review

My name is Amy Seaman; I am a 12 year old girl who went to see the Muppets with my parents and younger siblings.

Previously my thoughts were that the film would be slightly naive and aimed at a very young audience but the movie definitely exceeded my expectations. The film was full of comic genius and hilarity, with many extracts making me laugh out loud, especially parts that included Fozzie Bear. The mix between humans and Muppets was exceptional, and the few problems they experienced you could easily relate to. The songs were a nice touch, which always made you want to get on your feet and dance as if no-one was watching! As usual there were the common good guys and bad guys based around a plot where the Muppets came out of retirement to buy their old studios in order to stop the villain knocking them down to drill for oil ... However a nice twist was that two villains neglected their leader and joined the other team!

To conclude, the Muppets were a phenomenal success, which reached out and warmed your hearts. This film is oozing with infectious happiness that will make even the grumpiest of humans break a beaming smile. This film definitely changed my initial view and I would totally see them again! **Amy Seaman**

From Across the Manche

The Other Presidential Election

Bonjour, I'm Tom, from near Bideford, currently on the year abroad of my undergraduate degree in English and French.

By the time you read this, La République Française will have chosen its new president, after months of tense debates, rip-roaring speeches and pretending to be a man (or woman) of the people. Sarkozy's popularity was wavering, paving the way for an opposition candidate to seduce the French, like a smooth-talking Parisien man with greasy hair.

Not that the French would be whisked away by one particular candidate, of course. On the whole, the French are neither apathetic nor too cynical when it comes to their politics – with level-headed debates taking place in every sphere of life - the staffroom being no exception. But that doesn't mean there hasn't been a little hysteria – even if it just from the rent-a-crowd at the various candidates' arena speeches.

So who exactly were the main candidates to lead the country that owns the largest army in the EU, is the wealthiest nation in Europe and welcomes the most tourists in the world?

Nicolas Sarkozy

Sarkozy has been president for five years, but has chosen this election to announce a whole new range of policies in a very excitable fashion and with his characteristic big grin. 'A strong France' has been his campaign slogan, but it's difficult to ignore the fact that under his government,

France has actually lost a lot of its power, be it economic or political.

François Hollande

Said to be modelling himself on François Mitterand (a popular, long serving president in the 80s and 90s), the

Socialist Party candidate is Sarkozy's main rival, and early on in the campaign announced that his "enemy" is "the world of finance", announcing tax hikes for the rich. But austerity is the name of his game, also (more quietly) announcing cuts in public sector recruitment and more. What's more, he's failed to capture the French's imagination, with his quiet manner.

Marine Le Pen

She wants to bring back power to the people, take back power from Brussels, tax the rich and create jobs. She's good looking, she's a great communicator and she's got a broad range of supporters, from the student vote to the retired. She's almost perfect – until you realise she's the leader of the National Front (the extreme right party famed in the past for its xenophobic stance on foreigners) and that she has alleged links with Austrian neo-nazi parties. Zut alors!

Jean Luc-Mélenchon

Not exactly the catchiest name, but this Left Front candidate has a lot of what a lot of the French are looking for – a radical socialist with plans to dismantle Nato, reform the EU and, of course, tax the rich – without succumbing to austerity. He's great, if we forget that in 2007 he proposed to model the French economy on that of the USA.

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One hundred years ago

Road Conditions - A County Alderman had a tyre of his motor car wrenched off in the road ruts near Monkleigh.

Tidal wave or Bore – a remarkable phenomenon, never seen in the Torridge before, was seen this month. The tide had been flowing for about half an hour when a crested and foam topped bank of water came rushing up at great speed, sweeping along at a height of 4 – 6 feet. Boats were swamped and damaged.

A new lifeboat for the Appledore No 2 station was launched from Bideford Quay and named by the Countess Fortescue. The boat, the **Robert and Catherine** was provided out of the bequest of the late Miss Leicester. The boat will be placed on Braunton Burrows where it can be launched down the beach and into the Bay

Mike Davy

Family History

Hello again. I trust you all had an enjoyable Easter and got into more research. Birth, marriage and death certificates (BMDs) are the building blocks of family history. They contain detailed information about each event, including data about parents, ages, spouses, jobs and addresses depending on which certificate you are ordering. Civil Registration began in 1837 in England & Wales and a little later in Scotland 1855 and Ireland 1864. You can get your relatives' certificates via the General Register Office (www.gro.gov.uk) and there are many sites that you can search the GRO's national BMD indexes. www.freebmd.org www.findmypast.co.uk www.ancestry.co.uk to find a certificate's reference details before you order.

The next meeting of the of the North Devon Group of the Devon Family History Society will be on **Sat 19 May at the Burton Art Museum, Bideford 2pm-4pm**. Sadie Green will be talking about the Bideford 500 project. Meetings are free and open to everybody. Any queries then please contact me **Len Collum 01237 472883**

Local historian, Janet Few, is launching her new book '**Coffers, Clysters, Comfrey and Coifs the lives of our seventeenth century ancestors**' on May 7th. Janet, who is well known in the area for her talks to historical and other societies, also works at Torrington 1646, where she puts aspects of her book into practice. Torrington 1646 www.torrington-1646.co.uk has recently reopened for the summer season and provides an entertaining and amusing insight into life at the time of the English Civil War. It is the place to go if you want to learn the secrets of the bum roll, how to wield a pike or how to cure constipation seventeenth century style. After this you can buy the book and discover more about how we would have lived in times gone by. Janet, also known as Mistress Agnes, will be signing copies of her book at 1646, Castle Hill (the library building), South Street, Torrington between 10.00 and 2.00 on May 7th. Copies purchased on this day will be at special launch prices and all those who buy a book will receive 1 free child admission with every full paying adult to the 1646 'experience' on the day of the launch. For copies after that date contact Janet Few janet@few4.orangehome.co.uk 01237 451305.

The Braund Society 30th Birthday Exhibition

Saturday 2nd June 2012 10.00am-4.00pm

at Merry Harriers, Woolsey

Braund Family Memorabilia, Photographs and Family Trees

Talks at 10.30 and 2.00pm All Welcome

Contact www.braundsociety.org Braund@one-name.org

@BraundSociety 01237 478735



Did you know that you can buy veg. boxes from Grow@Jigsaw based in the wonderful greenhouses in Bideford's Victoria Park? They cost £3.10 and always have hand picked grown @ jigsaw salads and herbs and other fresh local veg. Grow@Jigsaw is usually open 5 days per week 9am – 4pm.

A Real Community Effort – a new gymnastics centre for Bideford.

Does Bideford have a real sense of community? All the members of the North Devon Display Gymnastics Club would answer with a resounding "YES!" Having been based at Kingsley School for nearly 12 years, the club decided it was time to move on. Coincidentally a unit became available on the Caddsdawn site and the decision almost made itself.

However the unit needed a lot of alteration and refurbishment and the club needed the funding to carry it out. This was where local community support began. The financial help from Bideford Town Council, the Bridge Trust and

Alison Boyle, Devon County Councillor [Bideford South] was fantastic and greatly appreciated. In order to minimise the refurbishment costs the call went out for help with building materials and supplies as well as for practical help with the actual work. What a response!

Gymnasts, coaches, parents, grandparents, friends, relations, ex gymnasts, the local tradesmen, sponsors and building supply companies all played an enormous part in getting the project up and running. During the coldest weeks of the winter volunteers carried out demolition work, filled skips, transported materials, begged for building materials, filled in numerous holes, painted in freezing conditions and qualified dads, uncles and grandparents carried out carpentry, plumbing and electrical work as well as booting up the heating system, and doing some of the block work. The builder, Mr Paul Childs and his team went well above and beyond the call of duty and far exceeded our requirements with infinite patience and skill. They were brilliant. Mums provided hot drinks and food for the volunteers as well as producing a mouth watering buffet for the opening ceremony.

All this went on during the coldest part of this year – painting whilst wearing gloves became quite an art! In total over one thousand volunteer hours were counted.

At the opening ceremony in February, a representative from the club commented on the tremendous support given by all areas of the local community, "This has been a community project in every sense of the word. The support given has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. It is wonderful that the people of Bideford and Torrridge have faith in what the club wants to achieve and gave so much of themselves to ensure the project was completed on time. This centre is a real Olympic legacy, providing a first class facility, based in Bideford

and available to everyone in the local area" Since opening in February the club has employed 3 new part time coaches, set two eighteen year old boys on the path to becoming fully qualified B.G. men's coaches, ensured that ten under sixteens completed the course and qualified as B.G. Badge Coaches, increased the membership by 102, introduced numerous pre-schoolers to gymnastics, and supported children and staff from local schools with training for the North Devon Schools Gymnastics Competition. They are also working in partnership with Torrridge Sport and Leisure, providing daytime gym sessions during the Easter and summer holidays.

So does Bideford have a community spirit? Definitely, we've proved it. If you have a project and need help and support ask your local community; they are fantastic!

For further information about classes have a look on the club's web site, northdevongymnastics.org.uk or ring Joy on 01237475131. She can also be contacted by emailing her at nddgymclub@yahoo.co.uk



Parkinson's Disease

The commonest symptoms of Parkinson's Disease are the physical effects it has on the body. This can cause not only the familiar twitches and shakes, but also deep seated muscular "freezing". It can also lead to a stooped bearing, and a tendency to overbalance. The Exercise Classes that we offer help to free up those symptoms and provide a degree of relief. Our qualified physiotherapist ensures that the exercises are specifically designed for people with Parkinson's, and provide a beneficial easing without over taxing the body. Come along and experience these sessions for yourself - the first is free so that you can decide whether they are of benefit to you. Contact Anne Hughes on 01237 475168 .**Tuesdays Weare Giffard Village Hall 2.15 - 3.15pm**

Jubilee Events

Blazeys hog roast will be at the Portobello Pub on **June the 2nd** to join the Jubilee celebrations at the pub and Pannier market. Come and join us for a great day, fantastic food, great beers and wines and more.

Northam Lodge - the Diamond Jubilee Cruise.

We are sailing again on the MS Oldenburg, and this time there is a definite cause for celebration – the Diamond Jubilee cruise. We depart Bideford Quay at 7.45pm on **Friday June 8th** (boarding as from 7.15pm) and return at 9.30pm. There will be flags and bunting and a raffle with some fabulous topical prizes and if you feel so inclined bring a picnic too! Entertainment will be provided by The Alan Lewis All Stars Jazz Band. Tickets are £15.00 each and are available from Annabel Cope on 01237.477238 or annabelcope@northamlodge.co.uk. Hurry up though as they are selling fast. Hope we see you then for a brilliant evening! :

More next month.

North Devon summertime

North Devon summer time

Time is slow Life is lazy

A picturesque scene

just a little bit hazy

Green hills shared with country lanes
Deep valleys awash by summer rains
Moorland and heather that stretch to the sky
Grasslands and meadows where buzzards fly

Mother nature forever giving
To plants and fauna displaying living
Spectacular scenery where rivers run free
Magnificent cliffs that fall to the sea

All over North Devon glorious splendour
Where beauty transcends to a soulful agenda
Tranquil and still in any direction
This natural world steeped in perfection

A place of wonder
While summer holds sway
From all points of the compass
To where the two rivers lay.

Leonard December 2011

Inspired by dreaming of summertime on a cold and wet December day.

Swimbridge Fun Run

The ever popular Swimbridge 10k and 3k Fun Run is now in its fourth year and will take place on the morning of **Sunday 27th May**.

For more details contact Julie Whitton on

01271 830311

News from the Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton TA22 9QE

Please come and support our riders at the **Golden Horseshoe Sponsored Pleasure Ride** on **Sunday May 13th** or if you cannot be there, please sponsor one of them. The main Endurance event will take place on 14th and 15th May. On **Friday 25th May** there will be a **Spring Gala** event at the Green Room at the Centre from 11.00 to 4.00 so please come along and join in the fun. Further ahead on **Thursday 7th June** we will be holding a **Strawberries and Shortcake** afternoon from 1.00 till 4.00.

To see more detail about what we do, please look at www.exmoorponycentre.org.uk

More at www.bidefordbuzz.org.uk

May Holiday

The Rectory Garden in Northam will be the venue for a day of old-fashioned village fun on Saturday, 5th May to celebrate the May holiday. There will be stalls and attractions, including a traction engine, vintage steam launches and childrens' fairground rides. The children of St George's School will be maypole dancing and singing shanties. The May King and Queen will be crowned by TV celebrity Merlin. Teas and refreshments will be served. Further events, including a model railway display, will take place in Northam Community Centre, next to the Garden. Contact Julia Cowell on 01237 459757 for a stall and further details. All monies raised will be put towards the proposed new Car Park which is planned to be made behind the Northam Community Centre.

Bideford Library Readers' Group met at Bideford library on Wednesday afternoon (4th April) to discuss their latest read, *Inés of my soul*. by Isobel Allende

Peter very kindly offered to chair the meeting, which was gratefully accepted by all of us. Keeping the group in order can be quite a challenge when we all want to express our opinions at the same time, and he is very good at ensuring that each person has a turn to speak.

Not everyone (including me) had actually managed to finish the book which was reviewed in the Guardian as a 'lumpy read'; as one person put it 'very heavy indeed!'

The year is 1580, and Inés is recounting the story of her life to her daughter Isabel. She leaves a restricted life in Spain to go to South America in search of her husband, discovers he has died in battle, and fights off dangers and misfortunes to make it to Peru. She falls in love with Pedro de Valdivia, a man with a mission to conquer Chile, and ultimately reaches Santiago. She is a battle warrior, a nurse, a cook, a lover, an outstanding woman in every way and a huge feminist. She rises to the role of governess of Santiago, overseeing construction works, horse breeding, and domestic farming activities. But do we like her? The group unanimously agreed that we don't, and this is one of the reasons why it was hard to like the book, because the main characters are so unattractive. Their ruthless advance at the expense of the native peoples did not endear them to us. Some people felt the gory descriptions of battle actually gave them nightmares with the added disadvantage that there was no warning on the cover!

I found it hard to adjust to the style of writing, and also to a work in translation. However Isobel Allende is generally very well regarded as a writer, so perhaps it is unfair to judge her on one book. Perhaps I should try others - or perhaps not!

RA

*The group meets at Bideford Library on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm; next meeting **Wednesday 2nd May** when we will discuss the 2008 Man Booker winner 'White Tiger' by Aravind Adiga - copies are available from Bideford Library.*

Also this month at Bideford Library.....

Reminiscence Session – Take a trip down memory lane

Wednesday 9th May 10:30-12

Remember back... and look forward to sharing your memories with others - chatting, looking at old items, perhaps creating a book of memories together

Meditation and Relaxation Group

Wednesday 16th May 14:15-15:00

Guided meditation and relaxation group for parents with Nicola MacDonald

Gardening Club

Wednesday 30th May 19:30 Horticultural discussions plus a useful selection of books at close hand!

Carl Herring -internationally acclaimed Guitarist to appear in concert

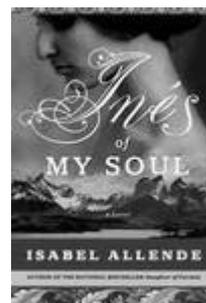
Having graduated from the Royal Academy of Music with first class honours and the Julian Bream prize, Carl has performed world wide and given many solo recitals. He is the grandson of Rev AJ Herring a former minister of Lavington (1951 – 59).

The concert will be held on Friday 1st June at 7pm at Lavington Church

For more information see the advertisement in this month's Buzz and telephone **422858/429645. mobile 07870675231** or call in to Lavington Church on a Tuesday morning from 10.30am – 1pm

Hartland farmers' Market

The market offers a free stall to local charities. We will have a space for two more stalls for so if you'd like to take the chance to make some money, or just promote what you are doing, get in touch. Stall. The markets will run on the first Sunday of the month – September), 10am – 1pm, in the Parish Hall. For more details, or to book a stall, contact **Rod Landman on 01237 441 786.**





THE SHIPPING NEWS



Ship	Registered Flag	From	To	Date arrived	Date sailed	Crew	Cargo loaded
Abis Belfast (built 2011)	Harlingen Netherlands Dutch	Foynes	Rosyth	22.3.12	24.3.12	Dutch Philippino	Parts for HMS Prince of Wales
Vasily * Shuhskin (Built 1995)	Valletta Malta Russian	Glasson Dock	Kunda	28/03/12	05/04/12	Russian	2950 Brick clay
Komarno Built 1993	Limassol Cyprus Russian	Kinsale	Wismar	04/04/12	05/04/12	Russian	2400 tons timber

*The reason for this vessel being alongside the quay for so long was because she arrived on the last possible tide with only a minimal amount of water under the keel and the tide she sailed on was the first to give her sufficient under keel clearance to navigate the river.

Arco Dart 11.3.2012

Oldenburg resumed service to Lundy from Bideford and Ilfracombe

Bristol Channel Observations.

17.3.2012 at 18.06 hrs cargo vessel **Wilson Garston** 2801 tons d.w, owners Wilson Asa Norway, inward bound for Avonmouth.

18.3.2012 at 10.13 hrs cargo vessel **Casablanca** 3002 tons d.w, owners Kapitan Siegfried Bojen Schiffahrtsbetrieb EK Germany, inward bound for Newport

20.3.2012 at 08.00 hrs bulk carrier **Aasli** 6630tons d.w, owners Hans Martin Torkelsen Norway, outward bound from Port Talbot. 21.3.2012 At 08.00 hrs project vessel **Abis Bilbao** 3800 tons d.w owners Abis Shipping Co BV Netherlands inward bound for Newport . At 09.03 hrs cargo vessel **Saffier** 5800 tons d.w owners De Bock Maritiem BV Netherlands inward bound for Birdport.

26.3.2012 at 08.57 hrs vehicle carrier **Grande Napoli** 14900 tons d.w, owners Grimaldi Line of Italy, inward bound for Portbury. At 11.25 hrs tanker **BW Rhine** 76578 tons d.w, owners B.W Shipping Group Norway, inward bound for Avonmouth. At 16.31 hrs vehicle carrier **Baltic Breeze** 28116 tons d.w, owners Wallenius Wilhemiseb Logistics Norway and Sweden, outward bound from Portbury having sailed at 11.45 hrs.

31.3.2012 at 11.30 hrs cargo vessel **Karystos** 27079 tons d.w, owners Karystos Shipping SA Greece, inward bound for Newport. At 16.49 hrs two cargo vessels passing each other the **Aasli** 6630 tons d.w, owners Hans Martin Torkelsen Norway, inward bound for Cardiff and the cargo vessel **Sea Mithril** 2220 tons d.w, owners Torbulk Ltd U.K., outward bound from South Wales. At 17.36 hrs Cargo vessel **Astra** 3570 tons d.w, owners Sia Aquarius Co Latvia, inward bound for for Sharpness ; her next voyage should have been loading timber at Bideford however she was neaped at Sharpness and would have been late for loading and the **Komarno** was chartered in her place.

3.4.2012 at 11.40 hrs vehicle carrier **Tijuca** 75000 tons d.w, owners Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics Norway and Sweden, inward bound for Portbury.

7.4.12 at 09.10 hrs bulk carrier **Auk Arrow** 43952 tons d.w, owners Gearbulk Holdings Ltd Hamilton Bermuda inward bound for Portbury.

13.4.2012 at 15.00 container ship **Laura Schulte** 23579 tons d.w, owners Reederei Thomas Schulte GMBH & Co KG Germany, outward bound from Portbury, having sailed at 1117hrs. Seen off Clovelly by Chris Tolley at 18.30 hrs the sail training ship **Stavros S Niarchos** owners Sail Training Association UK, inward bound for Cardiff. This vessel was built in late 90's at Appledore

15.4.2012 at 07.50 hrs vehicle carrier **Viking Drive** 10817 tons d.w, owners Gramcar Shipping HK Ltd Singapore, inward bound for Portbury and cargo vessel **Aasli** 6630 tons d.w.owners Hans Martin Torkelsen Norway, inward bound for Cardiff. At 08.40 hrs vehicle carrier **Grande Portogallo** 12594 tons d.w, owners Grimaldi Line of Italy, inward bound for Portbury. At 10.17 hrs vehicle carrier **Autosun** 6670 tons d.w owners UECC Unipessoal Ltd Maderia, inward bound for Portbury.

May Diary 2012

Tuesday May 1st

10am Lavington Church coffee and lunches

2pm Bideford Salvation Army Fun and Fellowship Club; Bideford Baptist Church

8pm Tarka Morris at Bideford Amateur Athletic Club 476632

Wednesday 2nd

10am Parkinson's UK Coffee Morning at Ethelwynne Brown Close, Common Room 1 01237 478128.

7.30pm Bideford Music Club AGM 423112

Thursday 4th

2.15 pm Thursday Fellowship tel 421956

8pm Bideford Folk Club Joiners' Arms

Friday 4th

6pm First Friday events in Bideford; Open Mic at Blazey's

Palladium Club Fuzy logik - (original rock)

7.45p.m. to 10.15 p.m.

Modern Sequence Dancing Kingsley Hall, Westward Ho! Cyril Arnold - 01769 540309

8pm Bideford Ceilidh Club. Bideford Amateur Athletic Club 476632

Saturday 5th

Arts and Crafts market at Bideford Pannier market

Clovelly Folk Festival

Torrige Ramblers ' Day Walk 01805 622183 for details

10.00-5.00 Bucks Cross Art exhibition Palladium Club *Boom Boom Room*

Sunday 6th

Clovelly Folk Festival

10.00-5.00 Bucks Cross Art exhibition

10-3. May Day Celebration. Rectory Garden/Northam Community Centre. 01237 45975.

Monday 7th Bank Holiday

Palladium Club *The Downfall Band*

Tuesday 8th

10am Lavington Church coffee and lunches

10.30am Macular Disease soc meets Burton Art Gallery 01409231309

2pm Bideford Salvation Army Fun and Fellowship Club Bideford Baptist Church

;Epilepsy Group meets at Henry Williamson Room Barnstaple Library tel 07875577428

8pm Tarka Morris at Bideford Amateur Athletic Club 476632

Palladium Club Open Mic Night

Wednesday 9th

10.15am Bideford Probus Club 473 337) Royal Hotel, Bideford

11-4pm Buckland Brewer Methodist Church mini market tel 451630

7.30pm Bideford Folk Dance Club meets Northam Hall.: 475138

7.45 p.m. to 10.15 p.m. Two Rivers Wind Ensemble Rehearsal Bideford Town Band Room 01271 860061

8pm Bideford Ceilidh Club.Folk Dancing Bideford Amateur Athletic Club476632

Palladium Club *Breaks Collective*

Holy Karaoke at Crealock Littleham

Thursday 10th

2.15pm Thursday Fellowship tel 421956

8pm Bideford Folk Club Joiners' Arms

Friday 11th

7.30pm Abbotsham WI meets at Abbotsham Village Hall tel 01237 474711

7.45pm Modern Sequence Dancing Kingsley Hall, Westward Ho! Cyril Arnold - 01769 540309

8pm Bideford Ceilidh Club. Bideford Amateur Athletic Club 476632

Saturday 12th

9am – 2pm Bideford Farmers' market

Bideford Quay Palladium Club *Weird Jazz*

10am – 3pm Buckland Brewer plant sale village green

Barn Dance at Parsonage Farm Newton Tracey chemo appeal 01271 858546

Sunday 13th

11am – 3pm Buckland Brewer plant sale village green;at **12.30pm** Methodist

Chapel Safari Lunch Tickets £7Enid Booth (01237) 451655

Monday 14th

10-12noon Lip reading classes at Ethelwynne Brown community room or 07923 536 908

(heatherathoneywells@hotmail.com)

7.30pm Bideford Stamp Club Robins' Nest football club. 472101

Tuesday 15th

10am Lavington Church coffee and lunches

2pm Salvation Army Fun and Fellowship Club; Bideford Baptist Church

Palladium Club – Open Mic Jam Night

8pm Tarka Morris at Bideford Amateur Athletic Club 476632

Wednesday 16th

7.30pm Bideford Folk Dance Club at Northam Hall. Tel: 475138

Thursday 17th

2.15pm Thursday Fellowship outing tel 421956

8pm Bideford Folk Club Joiners' Arms

Friday 18th

7.45 p.m. to 10.15 p.m. Modern Sequence Dancing Kingsley Hall, Westward Ho! Cyril Arnold - 01769 540309

7.30pm Bideford Folk Dance Club meets at Northam Hall 01237 429080.

Two Rivers Wind Ensemble Rehearsal Bideford Town Band Room 01271 860061

Palladium Club *Spaced invaders*

8pm Bideford Ceilidh Club. Bideford Amateur Athletic Club 476632

Saturday 19th

Palladium Club *Auction for the promise club*

Sunday 20th

Torrige Ramblers' afternoon walk 423663

Monday 21st

10am Memory cafe meets at Northam Hall ;**10 - 12 noon.** Lip reading classes at

Ethelwynne Brown community room 07923 536 908 HeatherSmith

(heatherathoneywells@hotmail.com)

10.32 am Olympic Torch arrives in Bideford; Kingsley Rd

7pm Bideford Carers' Support group Communal Room, Marlborough Court 01271 372811

7.30pm Appledore Singers rehearse at Appledore School 01769 560034.

8.30pm Jazz at the Beaver Inn tel 421065

Tuesday 22nd

10am Lavington Church coffee morning lunches (-1.15pm)

2pm Bideford Salvation Army Fun and Fellowship Club; Bideford Baptist Church

8pm Tarka Morris at Bideford Amateur Athletic Club 01237 476632

Palladium Club – Open Mic Jam Night

Wednesday 23rd

10.15am Bideford Probus Club (Tel 473 337) Royal Hotel, Bideford

Thursday 24th

7pm Bideford Buzz Agm Bideford Library

8pm Bideford Folk Club Joiners' Arms

Friday 25th

10am-1pm Lundy Art Group St Mary's Church Appledore

7.45 p.m. to 10.15 p.m. Modern Sequence Dancing Kingsley Hall, Westward Ho! Cyril Arnold - 01769 540309

8pm Bideford Ceilidh Club. Bideford Amateur Athletic Club 476632

Palladium Club *Escape artists*

Saturday 26th

9am – 2pm Bideford Farmers' market Bideford Quay

Torrige Ramblers 10.5 miles 01237 423663

2pm Bucks Cross village hall spring table top sale.

7.30pm Appledore band concert for Appledore Lifeboat Station / Band Fund

Appledore Baptist Church

Palladium Club *9 yards*

Monday 28th

10-12noon Lip reading classes at Ethelwynne Brown community room or 07923 536 908 heatherSmith

(heatherathoneywells@hotmail.com)

7.30pm Appledore Singers Appledore School 01769 560034.

Tuesday 29th

10am Lavington Church coffee morning and lunches (- 1.15pm)

2pm Bideford Salvation Army Fun and Fellowship Club; Bideford Baptist Church

8pm Tarka Morris at Bideford Amateur Athletic Club 476632

Palladium Club Open Mic Night

8.30pm West Country Inn Music/folk session tel 01237 441724/07812751555

Wednesday 30th

Bideford Folk Dance Club meets in Northam Hall. Tel: 475138

7.30pm British Humanists' Assoc Annex of Fremington Parish Hall 01237 477851;Two Rivers Wind Ensemble

Rehearsal Bideford Town Band Room - 01271 860061

Thursday 31st

Torrige Ramblers' Evening Walk 01271 322082

7.30pm Bideford Town Band Concert at Bideford Baptist Church 7.30pm

Ring Becky 475653 or

www.bidefordtownband.co.uk

8pm Bideford Folk Club Joiners' Arms

Friday 1st June

Carl Herring at Lavington URC Church tel 422858