



BIDEFORD BUZZ



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



Photo © Dave Green

FREE PARKING DAYS DURING DECEMBER

Thanks are due again this year to Bideford Town Council for their initiative and funding, along with TDC's approval. These are applicable to Bridge Street, Pannier Market, Honestone Street, Manor Park and The Pill after 10am on Saturday 1st December, Sunday 2nd December (Christmas Lights Switch On), then the following Saturdays 8th, 15th and 22nd.

You are never too far away from a Chamber Member. If you have a business in Bideford, Westward Ho!, Northam or Appledore and wish to find out more about joining, just give them a call.

USE THE INDEPENDENTS FOR YOUR GIFT IDEAS

Bideford has a wealth of independent shops where there are some fabulous gift ideas and because they are not the usual chains, the personal service you receive is second to none. And we must not forget the small shops in our neighbouring villages, Westward Ho!, Appledore and Northam. Supporting local businesses keeps our town and villages alive and thriving. **Use them or lose them.**

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, Devon County Council and The co-operative Community Fund. 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.



Bideford Chamber of Commerce

Bideford and District Chamber of Commerce meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at 'Next Door' to Crabby Dicks in Cooper Street at 6.15pm. Some months we have guest speakers who come to talk about issues that concern trading in Bideford and surrounding areas.

Meetings are rarely dull, and this is reflected in the fact that membership has grown and is steadily increasing.

Everyone who joins has a chance to put forward their views on current trading trends. We have a membership benefits package with members' offers available.

CONTACT LIST FOR BIDEFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

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The **co-operative**
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Devon
County Council



Bideford Town Council

Bideford's Christmas Gift and Christmas Sparkle Sunday 2nd December
1pm - 7pm and Wednesday December 12th 6 – 8pm

The Voice Radio Station starts Bideford's Christmas Gift. **Phil Vanstone's Children's Fairground Rides** – Quayside, between Long Bridge and Lundy Office. Fantastic Quayside entertainers, including **Dave Hendy the Magician** and **Abi Falkner's Stilt Walkers**. **Titan the Robot** returns by popular demand, with shows at 2.00pm, 3.00pm and 4.00pm

Bideford Christmas Lights Photography Workshop 3.30pm-6.30pm, £25

Learn to take great photos of the Christmas Lights, Reindeer parade and fireworks. Led by Dave Green .To book a place visit greengallery.co.uk/workshops.htm or call 07530 508681

Christmas Light Switch On 5pm **Reindeer Parade 5.30pm**, (from bottom of High Street, travelling towards Bideford library, turning right up Bridge Street and continuing through Allhalland Street, Mill Street, Bridgeland Street and back along the quay into special viewing enclosure) **Fantastic Firework Display** starting at **6.00pm**. *Performing throughout the day will be: Kingsley School Choir, St. Mary's School Choir , Graham Clarke playing Christmas Carols on his saxophone and Bideford Town Band.* Sponsored by DS Electrical



“Christmas Sparkle” Late night shopping in Bideford on **Wednesday December 12th 6 - 8** Many of the shops and businesses in town are opening this year, offering mulled wine, mince pies and merriment while you do your Christmas shopping ! There will be music in the street and a grand draw with some fantastic prizes raising money for The North Devon Chemotherapy Appeal. Everyone is welcome, so come along, discover something different in our unique independent shops and cafes and join in with the sparkle this Christmas !



Bideford Pannier Market Christmas Events.

Saturday 1 December 2012 :Traditional Market Trading: 8.00 am – 3.00 pm

Sunday 2 December 2012 :

Additional Festive Weekend Trading Day: 12 noon – 5.00 pm

Free Family Joyful Fun:Entertainers throughout the afternoon.

Enjoy a glass of free Mulled Wine between 12 noon – 3.00 pm

Saturday 8 December 2012:

Signing of the Lease: 10.30 am – traditional appearance of the Mayor, Councillors and officers of the Council, providing free mince pies and mead to all Market visitors Trophies and Commendation Certificates will also be presented to the Winners of the Allotment Inter Site/Plot Challenge 2012.

11 & 15 December 2012: Market Trading 8.00 am – 3.00 pm.

'Light up a Life' Service, 6.00 pm.

18 & 22 December 2012: Market Trading 8.00 am – 3.00 pm

29 December 2012: Market Trading 8.00 am – 3.00 pm.

Note: Bideford Town Council will fund Free Parking in the Pannier Market (Honestone Street) Car Park from 10.00 am on Saturday 1, Sunday 2, Saturday 8 and Saturday 15 December 2012. The Car Park will be free all day on 22 December 2012, courtesy of TDC

Scrooge? Poor old boy.

A view of Dickens' Scrooge through different eyes.

"Ah, Christmas is coming", they said.

"Mmm, I don't like Christmas", he replied, but inwardly reflecting that it perhaps wasn't Christmas itself, but how he felt about it and associated tragedies.

"Bah, humbug. You Scrooge! Came a quick, accusing chant, and not without a hint of opinionated bitterness, from the two Christmas lovers, a trait that was absent in his own view on Christmas, it has to be said.

"Ah, poor old Scrooge, how maligned the poor old boy has been portrayed". He said, quietly.

"Rubbish! He was just a mean old man that hated Christmas",

they replied.

Turning to them, he said, "Was he really? What do we know of his suffering, his feelings, and his endeavours; just because Dickens chose, for his own twisted purpose, not to write about them in his book? People only loved Scrooge once he gave them what they wanted ... his money, like spoiled children when they didn't get what they wanted the 'I hate you' syndrome kicked in".

Warming to a task they relished each year they retorted, "What about poor old Bob Cratchit then, trying to feed his family on low wages, and having to work at Christmas?"

"So, Scrooge, who was not the father of any of Cratchit's proliferate children, must provide for a man who hasn't planned to live within his means? How many of us would be pleased to do so? ... And in those dark days of servitude and hunger, was not Cratchit gainfully employed and paid a fair wage ... if he was that good and could have earned more and done better then surely he would have changed jobs?"

"Pah, Scrooge was doing alright for himself and should have er.. should have er ... helped others and joined in at Christmas", they blurted.. ('Oy,' *they complained to the writer, 'you're writing us in a bad way not giving us a chance'. 'My point exactly,' thought the writer.*)

"Look, Cratchit ate better than Scrooge; Scrooge often ate warmed up gruel for his meal, Cratchit would have soon complained if that's what he got ... and so would you too. Scrooge was no hypocrite either, he could have gone every year to his nephew's for a free slap up Christmas dinner, but did he? No, he didn't, true to his values and beliefs his dinner was to be the cheap gruel he usually had, while Cratchit with his whole family had eyes on the butchers for a big turkey that they couldn't afford. In years to come Scrooge's lack of reckless investment and borrowing beyond his means, coupled with his ecologically friendly frugal use of fossil fuels and to live with what we need and not with 'what we want', will be held up as a shining example of humanity and not the pariah as you choose to see him. Scrooge took little for himself, while all around him as Christmas approached, thousands of living trees were to be hacked down, once dead to be discarded, thousands of animals slaughtered to lie half eaten in the bins of merry makers, people sent greetings to those they could hardly remember and looked forward in misery to a compulsory meal with family members they often couldn't stand".

His listeners sighed exasperatedly he continued "and another thing, Scrooge was a leader; it was only through the drive and endeavour of Scrooge that Cratchit even had employment. Not only this, but reading between the lines of Dicken's character assassination, Scrooge at no time asked Cratchit to do anything he would not do himself ... now that is truly a rare man, remember, he was already at work in the cold when Cratchit rolled in late for work; yes, a leader indeed. He didn't have a wardrobe full of Victorian designer clothes, no plush furniture, no servants, and no grand pictures on the wall; he lived a simple life in which he condemned no other ... unlike what was to become of him from the mind and pen of Dickens".

"You old humbug you", they said in unison, "Where's your Christmas spirit?"

"Mmm, Christmas spirit eh? Well at least you won't be plagued with the spirits that visited Scrooge, poor man, no doubt yours are likely to be Baileys and Advocat, and in some excess to boot, meanwhile let us be in good spirit for whatever life we lead. With eyes and minds only on the 'material' of this Earth we might miss out on the 'spiritual', and if not careful will have less time than was given to Scrooge to put it right. Scrooge was surely inherently a good man all his life, it was only when he started his 'handout' spree that others 'saw' it for the first time Or did they see what they thought they saw? If Dickens was to truly espouse the Christmas spirit he would have written in a refusal for payment by the boy sent to the butchers; the child could have said, 'keep your shilling sir, for on this Christmas day I'll gladly help you for free'. But he didn't, did he? And what of that giant Turkey? Did Dickens write in an honest comment from Mrs Cratchit, mmm, I doubt it, more like it went ... 'we'll never cook that blooming thing in time for dinner, and it won't go in the oven, what burke bought this?' One of the children probably said 'I'm sick of turkey, why can't we have some gruel instead'.

You see, Dickens only wrote what he wanted you to know, perhaps he wrote the story as revenge on an old rich uncle who had denied Dickens as a boy for some frivolous Christmas present he had hankered and whinged over who knows?

Scrooge eh? Poor old boy."

Not sure you like this version? Then how do you think Ebenezer felt when that man, Dickens wrote what he did about him in the tabloid of the day? Still don't like it? Then it is simple write your own!

Richard Small



More lost shops of Bideford

Daymans, Hairdresser, High Street
 Dawes Grocer, High Street
 Denis Dymond, Market place
 Devon Creameries, Mill Street
 Devon Trading, East the Water
 Derrigans, Butcher Mill St.
 Daddy Yeos, North Road
 Encore Electrical Mill St
 Eastmans Butcher Mill St
 Freeman Hardy & Willis Shoe shop High St.
 Fogaty Newsagent Mill St
 Ford & Lock, Supermarket, Mill St.
 Florist, Mill St. (opp Gales)
 Fraynes Stores, High Street
 Friendship (then Mitchells) Bakery and Restaurant, Market Place
 Frisby Shoes Mill St
 Gas Showroom, Quay
 Glover, Furnisher, Market Place
 Giddy, Butcher, Old Town
 Gales Sports & Toys, Mill St.
 Gubb, Baker, Meddon Street
 Hepworths. High St.
 Heath, Ironmonger, Market Place
 Hold, Tobacconist, Mill Street
 Holman and Ham, Chemist, Quay
 Hopcraft, Hairdresser, Mill Street
 Home & Colonial, Grocer, High St
 Hold, Butcher, High Street
 Heywood & Cock, Genville St.
 Heards Garage Showroom, Quay
 Heards Garage Service Bay, Cooper St
 Hardings, Blacksmith, North Road
 Hope Hearson, Fancy Goods, Mill St.
 Hutchings Electrical, Pill
 Hair Modes of Mayfair, Bridgeland St.
 Hopkins Garage, Meddon St.
 Insley, Photographer, High Street
 International Stores, Mill Street, (now Co-op)
 Isgard, Cobbler, Meddon St.
 Jon Brown, Furniture & DIY Market Place
 Jenny Forbes Cafe Quay
 Johns Printers Lower Gunstone
 Johns, Saddler, Buttgarden Street
 Johnstone's, Chemist, Mill Street
 Kingsbury Fisheries, Mill St.
 Knighton Delve, Motorcycles, Bridgeland St
More next month

Compiled by **M Hudson**

(Illustration from 'High Street' by Eric Ravillous)



CHRISTMAS

Who are those mince pies for?
 Who's going to drink that sherry?
 No! I don't want to go to bed yet,
 I want to watch the telly.



Will Santa Clause have got my letter?
 Will he bring me everything?
 Will I get my action man,
 And lots of other things?

How will he get down the chimney?
 Or will he come in through the door?
 He'd better take his wellies off,
 Or he'll get snow all over the floor.

I've opened all my presents,
 And I've got my action man.
 I don't like this book
 That I got from Auntie Anne.
 No! I won't say sorry.
 I don't like it, she can have it back.
 Why do I have to go upstairs?
 I want to play with Uncle Jack.

It was a lovely dinner.
 Is there anymore Christmas pud?
 Hey look! Dad's fallen asleep,
 And his arm's lying in his food.

Can we play a game now?
 This new one that I've got.
 It's really very easy.
 Oh come on you lazy lot!

I didn't mean to do it.
 I didn't mean to knock it down.
 It's just a silly Christmas tree.
 Oh, what have I done now?

I don't like anybody.
 It really isn't fair,
 Whenever I do anything,
 I have to go upstairs.
 Well I'm going to stay here forever.
 I'll never go down again.
 I don't care how much they beg me,
 Well...I might just go down for tea time.

Are Auntie Anne and Uncle Jack
 Going home already?
 Do you really think Uncle Jack should drive?
 He doesn't look very steady.

It's been a lovely Christmas Day.
 And I was good wasn't I?
 Can we have another one tomorrow?
 But I don't want to go to the pantomime!

BoB (written a while ago! aged 12)



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Do you have the skills to be a listening volunteer?

Samaritans are recruiting and urgently need people just like you for their branch in Barnstaple, North Devon

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Selection Days held regularly throughout the year

SOUNDS INTERESTING

**17 High Street, Bideford EX39 2AA
01237 238370**

soundsinteresting@onebillinternet.co.uk

“Who hears music feels his soul peopled at once” (Robert Browning)

We don't have a chart wall or the movie released last week because if we did, we would have to change our name to

Sounds Predictable!

What we do have is a large & interesting range of good music and film. Also a selection of band merchandise (mugs t-shirts etc) .

Great Christmas presents!

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PLEASE COME IN AND TAKE A LOOK

On Friday the 21st of December Bideford Bay Children's Centre will be welcoming Father Christmas and his Elves from 10am until 2pm. Please feel free to bring children aged 5 and under to drop in and join us for a mince pie and a visit with the famous man. Bideford Bay Children's Centre would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Keep a look out in the new year for information on new and revised services.



Other Events for Under fives

Burton Art Gallery

Crafty Kids: continues every Monday at 10am. . Always something fun for kids to do. For under fives and families. 01237 471455

And don't forget.....**Young Friends Art Group**

Last Saturday of every month 10am - 12noon, Free, No Booking form required but ring to reserve place 01237 471455

Bideford and Northam Libraries continue to run their under fives story time sessions ; Bideford's is on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9.30am- 10am and Northam's Bounce and Rhyme is every Wednesday morning **9.15 – 9.45.**

Sleepy Heads Story Time at Bideford Library.

Tuesday 18th December. 6:00-7:00 pm

Special late-night Christmas stories for little ones. Age 3+

With biscuits and hot chocolate.

Be sure to wear your pyjamas!

Fabulous Weekends.

What fabulous weekends the gymnasts at the North Devon Display Gymnastics Club have just had! Having only been in their new building since February, it's been a race against time to prepare the gymnasts for the current round of competitions. Gymnasts and coaches have worked their socks off to improve skills and develop routines ready for competition. For most of the gymnasts the Exeter Challenge, a purely recreational competition, was their first competition. In spite of being very nervous they kept their composure and came away with 21 gold, 15 silver and 17 bronze medals. Some of them then went on to take part in the higher level Devon Novices competition where NDDGC gymnasts were awarded 2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal as well as gaining 3 fourth places. This was followed by the Withy King Cup at Baskervilles gym club in Bath where Phoebe Trembl gained silver and Kate Edwards a bronze for their floor routines.

Lead Coach Michelle Gordon Said, "This has been such an exciting time for everyone. The gymnasts have worked so hard on improving their skills, spending hours

practising their floor, vault and trampette routines. Parents have been very supportive, bringing in the gymnasts for extra practises and the coaching staff have been so encouraging, creative and hard working in their preparation of the children. Over forty girls and boys of varying ages have taken part, gained in confidence and had lots of fun. It's been great! " **LP**



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Quaker Meetings for Worship

are held at 17 Honestone St, Bideford (near Pannier market)

10.30am on Sunday mornings
All are welcome

Enquiries tel **01237 421549**

**CHRISTMAS AT
ST MARY'S CHURCH BIDEFORD**

- ✧ **CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE**, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. **Sunday 23 December at 7 pm.**
- ✧ **NATIVITY SERVICE**, Christmas Eve at 4 pm. Especially for families with young children. Children can come dressed up and join in with the Christmas story.
- ✧ **MIDNIGHT MASS**, Christmas Eve, at 11.30 pm. Traditional Eucharist, candlelight, carols and incense.
- ✧ **CHRISTMAS MORNING FAMILY COMMUNION WITH CAROLS** at 10 am Christmas Day.



Join a warm and friendly group near you today...

Tuesday 9.30 or 11.30

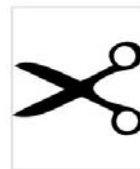
Bideford Angling Club, Honestone Street, Bideford

Tuesday 5.00 or 7.00

East the Water School Bideford
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I would like to thank my clients old & new and wish them a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes in 2013, Thank you for your support through 2012.

News from Bideford Film Society

'Bideford Film Society recently screened "Hope Springs", a film about an empty marriage. Kay (Meryl Streep) and Arnold (Tommy Lee Jones) are a devoted couple celebrating 30 years of a now sterile marriage. Kay, wishing to bring back some real love into their relationship, books a "working" holiday with marriage therapist Dr. Field (Steve Carrell) in far distant Maine. Arnold very unwillingly joins Kay and they begin their work with Dr. Field. At first Arnold appears to be the reluctant and very angry cause of their loveless situation.

As the sessions continue however the tense inhibitions and fears of Kay emerge. She worries that she is no longer beautiful in the eyes of Arnold and that he no longer loves her. He remembers how attractive and popular Kay used to be and he now feels unworthy of her. Hence the stalemate. The slow therapy sessions are funny but very realistic and Steve Carrell plays the part of the therapist brilliantly. Gradually the couple attempt more loving intimacy but without success and they return home to their previous and lonely life . By the end of the film Kay plans to leave but Arnold understands what he may well be losing and he comes lovingly to Kay's bed. The couple later renew their wedding vows on a beach with Dr. Field as special guest. A happy ending?. The acting in "Hope Springs" is superb and a joy to watch. With a restrained smile or lowering of the eyes , fears, hopes and anger are so cleverly expressed by the actors. In my opinion the film was too long but my interest was caught throughout.

To me and other elderly cinema viewers the film felt true to life.

However, younger members of the audience who I spoke to did not entirely enjoy the film.

I feel that "Hope Springs" could usefully be used to train marriage therapists.

For joyous entertainment give me "Mamma Mia" every day. !!

Mavis Blow

Watch out for good films coming soon to Bideford cinema. This includes 4 screenings of "Skyfall"!.

Check details in your local press and see advert below.



Sat 1st **Skyfall 007** at Kingsley School Sat 8th and Sunday 9th December **Skyfall 007** at Bideford College ; Sat 1 December **Take this Waltz** (15) Kingsley School; Friday 14 and Saturday 15 **Argo** (15) Bideford College; Friday 28 and Saturday 29 **The Twilight Saga (Breaking Dawn) Pt 2** (ctba) Kingsley School; Thursday 3 and Saturday 5 January **Private Peaceful** (12a) Kingsley School; Friday 11 and Saturday 12 January **Gambit** (ctba) 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

News from the Burton Art Gallery & Museum

December at the Gallery sees a continuation of the 'Batoni – The Road to Rome', Exhibition, which is of particular interest to us in our part of North Devon, as the main character is John ROLLE Walter, who, apart from travelling around Italy in the 18th century, was Member of Parliament for Exeter and Devon. His family were major landowners, including Lords of the Manor of Torrington. The connection with Torrington in later years was, of course, the Rolle Canal, built by John, Lord Rolle, to carry limestone and coal for kilns, and Marland clay to Bideford for export. This Exhibition came about when Pompeo Batoni's painting of John Rolle Walter was discovered languishing in Torrington Town Hall. Its true value was ascertained, a good valuation given, and it was sold to fund the Town Hall refurbishment. **Read more on next page.**

Bideford College has been chosen as one of the 500 state schools in England to be given the opportunity to build an alumni association with a



company called Future First. For many years, private schools and universities have benefited from the ongoing contact with former students after they have graduated. These 'alumni' have a real affinity with the young people who study in the same place - even if it is years after them - and they feel that they are a part of the same community. We shall now be able to do the same and we want everyone within the community – locally, nationally and internationally - to feel that they can be genuinely involved in College life today. 'Future First' will help us to find and link with former students of the College. They will create a database for us to use to increase the engagement between current and former students. There is a range of ways in which former students can support the Bideford College of today: in-school volunteers, e-mentoring programs, financing school trips, events and other opportunities and providing reliable role models who will support and help our current students in finding their niche in life and encouraging them in their aspirations and hopes for the future. Giving talks on University life, a successful GAP year, what an apprenticeship is really like or the secrets of running a successful local or global business would all be extremely useful to current students – and, possibly, also their parents. We often find that outside speakers have more impact and influence on students' views than we can in certain situations! It would also be good for students to hear about the successes of former students of the College.

So, if any of this interests you - and even if it doesn't but you feel you ought to get involved - we would really like you to sign up and let us know where you are, what you are doing, who you are still in contact with and how you would like to get involved. Please visit www.futurefirst.org.uk and click on the 'former students' section. A short questionnaire follows which will allow us to match your skills and experiences to the activities we provide for the students. Even if you don't want to be involved directly in College life there may be social events that you may be interested in. By signing up you will receive termly emails from the College informing you of what's going on. We hope to see you signing up and coming 'back to school' very soon.

Burton Art Gallery- *continued from previous page*

Batoni painted Walter in Italy, and he brought his portrait back to Devon on his return. Purchased by the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) in Exeter, it inspired their exhibition about the Grand Tour which you can see at the Gallery until 23rd December.

The Open Annual Christmas Exhibition continues until 23rd December, and is managed by the Friends of the Burton as a fund-raising event. Artists were encouraged to submit work for selection in all media, (except photography) and everything must be for sale. Each year produces a delightful variety of art and craft work, and very often solving those problematic Christmas gifts. You may see just the thing.... Entry is free, catalogues are 30p.

The Friends are always busy raising funds for the Gallery, but often have a fun evening – this time it's on Wednesday, 5th December, at 6.30 p.m. when a Quiz Evening has been planned, with a One-Course Supper, courtesy of the Cafe du Parc. Get your brainy friends together and make up a team.

Phone the Gallery on 01237 471455, to book the £12 tickets.

The Shop is brightly stocked with exciting gifts for both children and adults, as is the Craft Gallery – so many unusual items to choose from: jewellery, ceramics, textiles, prints, woodcarvings and metalwork. The Museum upstairs contains Bideford's history, and the Ceramic Collection is unique. The Cafe du Parc will delight you with delicious eats, and the Gallery is open every day – 10am to 4pm, except Sunday – 11am to 4pm. And it's FREE.

Happy Christmas, and a Happy New Year! **Diana Warmington, Friends of the Burton Art Gallery & Museum.**

Growing Old Disgracefully

People tell Huw Collingbourne he should start acting his age. He respectfully disagrees...

When I was young it seemed that I could take knocks and bumps in my stride. As a child, a twisted ankle was nothing. Here today, gone tomorrow. But now I'm more cautious. If I suffer a strain or a sprain, I don't know if it will last a day, a week or the rest of my life. So why the heck do I throw myself around like an idiot by doing Aikido? That might have been OK when I was a youngster. But now? It's bordering on the foolish, isn't it?

Well, yes, on the whole, I have to agree that I would be less likely to injure myself if I took less exercise. After all, anything that involves running, jumping or working up a sweat is bound to be risky, isn't it. The more vigorous the exercise, the greater the chance of doing myself a mischief.

I remember putting exactly that argument to the physiotherapist who was treating my knee injury some time ago. About twenty years ago, to be precise. I was only in my thirties but even so I was already starting to worry about the increasingly frailties of encroaching age. I'd twisted my knee while doing Aikido and I was starting to think that "at my age" it might be better to give up martial arts altogether and do what normal people do in the evenings – go to the pub or watch telly.

The physiotherapist was having none of it. "You'd be a damn' fool if you did!" he said. "The worst cases I have to deal with are people who don't take enough exercise, not people who take too much. Get yourself fit again, figure out how you twisted your knee in the first place and do everything you can to avoid twisting it again. And get back to Aikido as soon as you damn' well can!"

It seemed harsh advice at the time but I think he was right. People get over-cautious with age. The older we become the more excuses we make about why we can't do the things we'd like to do. The fact of the matter is that I know of several people in their 70s and 80s who are still doing Aikido. My teacher even taught a student who was confined to a wheelchair.

There are many inspiring examples of people who have refused to let age or disability prevent them from doing exactly what they want to do. Recently I came across a London martial arts teacher who runs classes for blind people. Then there is the yoga teacher, Tao Porchon, who still does hand-stands at the age of 93. Not to mention the marathon runner, Fauja Singh, who has said "I won't stop running until I die." And if he dies while running – well, surely that must be better than shuffling off this mortal coil while slumped in front of the TV!

These are people who are determined to live their lives to the full. I think that attitude makes them both mentally and physically younger than many people half their age. So, in short, my physiotherapist was right, and I am very glad that I took his advice. Just about anything is possible if you put your mind to it.

Huw Collingbourne is a 2nd dan black belt Aikido instructor at the Hartland Aikido Club which meets at the Bucks Cross Village Hall, Thursday evenings between 7:00 and 9:00. Phone: 01237-441527. Email: hartlandaikido@gmail.com. Web site: <http://hartlandaikido.blogspot.co.uk>

News from the Burton in January

When the Gallery re-opens on 7th January, you will be able to see another selection from the Permanent Collection - always good to see what's behind store doors.

Following in mid-January the Schools Annual Exhibition takes over, a real crowd-puller, and a delight for the eyes.

Happy New Year!

Diana Warmington,

Friends of the Burton Art Gallery & Museum.

Bideford W.I. Wants You!

Bideford W.I. is appealing for new members of all ages to join its ranks.

W.I. President, Sylvia Spiller says "We have a healthy membership in terms of numbers, however, our committee is concerned that a lack of new blood joining our ranks, could ultimately affect the very future of our group."

"We meet at 2.00p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the communal room at Copps Close, Bideford and we usually have a speaker, a raffle, a competition, a bring and buy table (to help raise funds) and of course refreshments."

"There's plenty to do as we have a number of spin-off groups, organised by members at other times during the month, eg. a games/scrabble group, a craft group, a walking group, a lunch club, and a theatre group. We have inter-W.I. skittles and quizzes, and in June or July each year, there's our annual outing that anyone can come on - last year we went to Cothelstone Manor in Somerset and this year to Prideaux Place, Padstow. We also have the opportunity to go to various events organised by other W.I. groups, Federations, (Devon and national.)" So come along and try us out – you will be assured a warm welcome either as a visitor or member! Just turn up at Copps Close communal room on the first Tuesday of each month or ring **Sylvia Spiller on 01237 424946.**

Diva of the violin to give cabaret show to Bideford club

Violinist Beverley Davison has been described by Sir Simon Rattle as "One of the most outrageously gifted musicians and entertainers Great Britain has ever produced..." and she will be entertaining the Bideford Music Club with her Classical Cabaret Show for their Christmas Concert. This not-to-be missed show by such a brilliant musician will be held at Bideford Methodist Church Hall on December 5th at 7.30 pm., tickets are £12 (students free) and available at the door. For further information please telephone 01237 423112.

Schools' Carol Concert for Christian Aid

It's that time of year again! Our Schools' Carol Concert will be taking place at Bideford High Street Methodist Church at 7pm on Tuesday, 4th December. This is always a very enjoyable evening, singing familiar carols and listening to local schools' choirs who work so hard with their teachers at this time of the year. The Appledore Training Band will be accompanying us, and a local flautist, Claire Trewin, will be our soloist. Admission is free and a collection will be taken for the work of Christian Aid.

More information from Carol North, Secretary for Bideford Christian Aid **(01237 425311).**

Torriford Male Voice Choir

Now is a good time for new members to join our choir. When we start again after our Christmas break we will begin learning new pieces for our 2013 programme.

We extend a warm welcome to any men who enjoy singing to come and join us. You do not have to be able to read music nor will you have to endure an audition. Contrary to popular belief you do not have to have grey hair but you do have to be happy in an atmosphere of friendly male banter.

We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7.45pm in the Woolery Village Hall. (transport is shared) Our members come from the Bideford, Torrington, Holsworthy and Hartland areas but one does travel up from Truro.

We will be singing at Atlantic Village on the afternoons of Saturday the 8th and the 15th of December so you could contact us there. Our break begins after we sing at the Union Inn, Stibb Cross on the 18th. Normal practices will restart on the **15th January.**

Please phone our secretary, Phil Pester, on Bideford 470913 for further information.

Bideford Town Band

The band is moving into its usually very busy period over the festive season with 21 playing engagements through December alone. Do look out for us, we'd be happy to see you and if anyone fancies joining us to play carols please do. Our yearly Christmas concert is being held at the Royal Hotel Bideford on **Monday December 3rd** at 7.45pm. For tickets please contact Becky on 01237 475653. A great evening of festive and non-festive music is promised with some solo and feature items to please everyone. We hope you can join us.

Tim Watts, Publicity Officer.



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Bideford Library Readers' Group

'Imperium' by Robert Harris

What makes for a good discussion about a book? Is it when everyone has a similar opinion about the content or is when there is disagreement over it? The latter was certainly the case in our discussion about **Robert Harris' Imperium**, which clearly divided opinion in the group, as seen in the following comments.

It was a book that couldn't be put down/that was a struggle to read, that was thrilling/boring, gripping/tedious, outstanding/disappointing, fast paced/ slow and dull, a triumph/ a disaster, a fantastic read/ a plodding read, that had characters that drew you in/that was full of one dimensional characters.

The book is set at a time near the end of the Roman Republic and tells the story of a small part of the life of Cicero, an ancient lawyer/politician, describing his rise from fairly humble beginnings up through the Roman hierarchy. It gives an insight into the political workings of Rome at the time, with some parallels with modern politics (but without the crucifixions!). Although a novel, Harris has meticulously researched his subject matter and almost given it a non-fictional feel. It is written in the first person as if by Cicero's faithful slave and confidant, Tiro, who is an important person in his own right, being the inventor of the short-hand system of recording events and speech. This ability to use shorthand made him indispensable to his master and was an integral part of Cicero's rise to power. Alongside the politics of the time, many scenes describe Cicero's home life and his relationship with his family and wife.

The group's discussion and divided opinions demonstrated how readers have different tastes and we were able to learn from each other. It was irrelevant that we found so much to disagree about. Such variety in reading tastes contribute to making the group such an interesting one to attend.

Next meeting: Wednesday December 5th 2.30 at Bideford Library when we will be discussing 'My Dear, I Wanted to Tell You' by Louisa Young (copies available from Library)

Mysteries at St Margaret's

Whilst clearing ivy from gravestones in Northam Churchyard recently, we came across a very well-carved stone commemorating two families, the Blighs and the Copners.

Francis Bligh was a lieutenant in the Royal Navy and died in 1825. Also named were his widow Elizabeth, son James, daughter Elizabeth Copner Bligh and nephew William Bligh.

Do the descendants of this family still live in the area? Is it fanciful to wonder if they are related to Captain Bligh of the Mutiny on the Bounty?

Further down the same stone we have a mystery. The deaths of two women are listed:

Mary Elizabeth Copner, wife of James Copner, who died in 1822

and Ann Copner, widow of James Copner, who died in 1825.

So between 1822 and 1825, James Copner buried one wife, married again and then he himself died. But where is he buried? There seems to be no record of him anywhere in the churchyard.

Are there any Copners or their relatives reading this who can solve the riddle?

Some readers may be aware that at the top of Northam Churchyard, near the vicarage wall, is a war grave dated 10 December 1940 and dedicated to a Merchant Navy sailor of the 2nd World War, with the poignant inscription "Known unto God". We will never know who he was, but his sacrifice is not forgotten.

Catherine Webb

Hartland Farmers' Market runs from 10am - 2pm, at Hartland Village Hall. **Sunday December 16**, with stalls selling the best local meat and game (including free range turkeys and geese), fresh and smoked fish, organic fruit and vegetables, bread, pies and pickles, pates and preserves, cakes, honey, cheeses, cakes and plants. You can get more information on the market from Rod Landman on 441 786, or email rod.landman@virgin.net.

Let's go duck hunting !

In January 1992 the Chinese container ship Ever Laurel was carrying 1,810 containers from Hong Kong to Tacoma in America's Washington State. All was well until the tenth of the month when, during a great storm, twelve of the 40-foot containers were washed overboard. One of these held 28,000 plastic bath toys, red beavers, green frogs, blue turtles and yellow ducks each in a plastic and cardboard housing. How the container opened is a mystery but certainly the cardboard quickly deteriorated and allowed the toys to float.

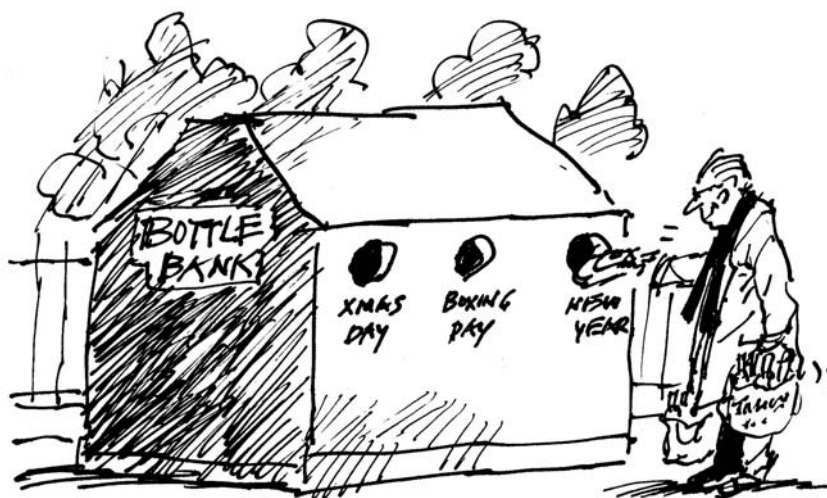


There are two great contra rotating currents in the Pacific and the southerly one carried these 'friendly floatees' as they have been called as far as New Guinea, Australia and the remotest tip of South America. However, our interest is what happened to the floatees caught up by the northerly Sub Polar Gyre in the Bering Sea. Coincidentally, ten months after going overboard, ten toys were picked up near Sitka, Alaska. It was then calculated that the Gyre would carry some through the Bering Gap into the Arctic where they would be frozen in the Polar ice. After six years the ice, drifting eastwards along Canadian coast, would carry any floatees into the Atlantic. Incredibly, in 2001, some duck floatees were tracked in the area where the Titanic sank in 1912. A great deal of scientific interest has centred on these tiny toys whilst helping oceanographers study sea currents. A book written by journalist Donovan Hohn entitled Moby-Duck tells of Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists and the author's own search for them. An American oceanographer Curtis Ebbesmeyer is particularly interested. Ducks and beavers have been bleached white but the turtles and frogs have kept their colour.

In 2003 a lawyer called Sonali Naik on holiday in the Hebrides found a faded green frog marked 'The First Years Inc.' unfortunately, not knowing its significance, she left it on the beach. Calculations then indicated that friendly floatees would arrive on the beaches of Devon and Cornwall by 2007. Recently my friend and neighbour found the two ducks in the photograph floating in the Torridge. Although the smaller has the right appearance it is unlikely to be a floatee because it has been written on and isn't watertight as were the originals. Nevertheless, once the Christmas and New Year celebrations are over, it is time to get out and enjoy some duck hunting in the fresh air whilst walking off those extra pounds along the Tarka Trail. What better place or beyond Westward Ho! where there are little coves that are usually filled with plastic junk. Better still, organise a clean up whilst looking for these friendly toys and improve the environment generally. If you do find one please tell the Editor of Buzz and Curtis Ebbesmeyer on curtisebbesmeyer@comcast.net

Adam Eider

Cartoon © Michael
Darling



Bideford Bridge goes to war

Little has been written on Bideford life during the Second World War. Admittedly we weren't bombed but we did provide facilities for training both British and U.S. Servicemen and the area played host to the top-secret Combined Operations. One source I came across recently adds a few details to our knowledge of a period where news was heavily censored in local and national newspapers. For many years Frank E. Whiting, a local architect who served as a long term town councillor, was the Warden to the Bridge Trust where he looked after the Trust's property. Every month he filed a hand written report and these survive amongst the Trust's records.

Each report is usually fairly short and very much to the point. Thus on July 26 1939 he notes amongst other things 'The pointing to the 12th Arch [of the Bridge] is proceeding satisfactorily, but I have to do rather more to the lower portion of the piers than with most of the other arches.' The next report on August 30 carries the first war-related entry, some four days before hostilities began; 'Under a Ministry Order white lines have been painted on the kerbs to the approaches of the Bridge.' This was designed to help drivers during the 'black out' when both vehicle and street lights were severely curtailed.



On September 27 he notes 'I examined the Bridge after a ship had touched it last week, but except for the fact that it had scraped off a little of its paint, there was no damage to the Bridge.' One wonders if the ship was one of those commandeered at the outbreak of war who didn't know Bideford and the Torridge that well. Whiting completed his report on a personal note, 'I think it is quite possible that owing to the War we shall have to give up our offices; should this happen I should be obliged if the Trustees would grant me this room as an Office for Bridge work.' At this date the Warden and his partner Burnett Orphoot, a noted Scottish architect who had local connections, were running their office from 21 High Street, whilst the Bridge Trust was based in Bridge Buildings.

From this report until June 1940 there are no war related items perhaps reflecting the 'Phoney War' period when nothing much happened between the opposing armies. In May 1940, however, France was invaded and on May 14 Anthony Eden, the new Secretary for War in Winston Churchill's cabinet, called for volunteers to help the regular forces if the Nazis invaded. Known at first as the Local Defence Volunteers the name was soon changed to the Home Guard and in the month of June 800 Bideford men were enrolled – a total which had risen to 1046 by August 1.

The fear of invasion by sea and air was presumably behind Whiting's note in his report of June 26 1940, 'At the request of the Police we are removing the ladders & scaffolding from No.10 Arch'. Presumably it was thought that sea-borne invaders could have clambered up the ladders to capture the Bridge – always seen as pivotal to the defence of Bideford. The following month the Warden noted that 'A representative of Minimax called on me to know if we required any Fire Extinguishers for the Bridge Buildings' – a reminder that many parts of England were suffering heavy aerial bombardment?

In August Whiting records that 'The Ministry of Transport wrote to me to ask if the Bridge was being guarded by the Police, Military or Home Guard. I made enquiries of these bodies and as a result replied that the Home Guard patrolled it from 1½ hours before low water to 2 hours after low water when this occurred during the hours of darkness.'

From then until April 1941 there are no war related entries but in that April it is recorded that 'The fire watcher points out that to get about the roof of the Bridge Buildings he only has the ceiling joists to walk on.' adding 'Shall I get some walking boards put down?'

In June 1941 an odd entry occurs concerning a man arrested by the police 'for taking Mussels from the Bridge.' For centuries mussels were used to help anchor stones placed around the Bridge piers to help prevent scour. The unknown mussel collector had removed 18 lbs of the shellfish – presumably to supplement his food rations. Whiting notes that there was no law to stop him doing this and thus the police 'let him off with a warning.' *More next month*



Good Age Page



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Concessionary Bus Travel

Room 18

Matford Offices

County Hall

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THE SHIPPING NEWS



Ship	Registered Flag Owners	From	To	Arrived	Sailed	Crew	Cargo loaded
Rig Built 1989 Ex Borneiro 05 Lady Anna 00 Amrum 95 Port Sado 93	Valletta Malta Polish	Avonmouth	Wismar	17/10/12	18/10/12	Latvian Russian	2676 tons timber
Porhov Built 1979 ex Baltiyskiy 105	St Petersburg Russian Russian	Belfast	Wismar	11/11/12	13/11/12	Russian	2100 tons timber.

Arco Dart 20.10.12

Oldenburg has completed her sailing programme with passengers. Has sailed to Sharpness, where she will be drydocked, and will then return to do cargo runs only until March.

Well readers after many years on the mud close to the Appledore Shipyard the two trawlers **Silver Harvester** & **Bryher** have finally gone. On the **16 and 17 October** they were moved by the Irish Tug **Nearchtran** to the Richmond Drydock Appledore for scrapping. At the time of going to press the yard is expecting the trawler **Monkleigh** which was being prepared at Milford Haven Various photographs of the shipbreaking activities at Appledore are attached and are on the Buzz website. This is one of the achievements for the River for 2012 - getting rid of the wrecks and bringing work to the area.

Further to last month's edition of the shipping news, the tug **Aicriton**, which was lying at Bideford Quay to tow away the hooper barge **Southern Beaver** sailed on the **2nd November** without her. Will keep readers advised if and when she does leave Yelland Oil Jetty. It was very foolhardy of the person or persons who released the vessel's mooring lines ; under no circumstances should any moorings be touched.

Bristol Channel Observations

15/10/12 at 1145 cargo vessel **Magdalena** 4247 tons d.w, owners Ilze Shipping Co Latvia, inward for Briton Ferry. At 13.23 cargo vessel **Ameland** 6650 tons d.w,owners Briese Schiffahrts GMBH & Co Germany, outward bound from Newport, having sailed at 05.07 hrs.

16/10/12at 11.57 cargo vessel **Seher** 11 2100 tons d.w owners Yagci Denizcilik Istanbul, outward bound from Sharpness, having sailed at 19.37 the previous evening.

17/10/12at **12.20** vehicle carrier **Grande Roma** 14900 tons d.w, owners Grimaldi Line of Italy, inward bound for Portbury.

27/10/12 at 12.50 cargo vessel vessel **Ida** 2019 tons d.w, owners Provence Navigation Germany, inward bound for Newport.

29/10/12 at 15.07 vehicle carrier **Grande Detriot** 12353 tons d.w, owners ACL Ship management AB Sweden part of the Grimaldi Line of Italy, inward bound for Portbury . At 15.35 tanker **Stolt Razorbill** 5797 tons d.w owners Stolt Nielsen BV Netherlands, inward bound for Barry

30.10.2012 at 13.25 tanker **Furenaes** 12924 tons d.w, owners Furetank Sweden, outward bound from Avonmouth, having sailed at 07.58.

31.10.2012 Vehicle Carrier **Opal Leader** 12300 tons d.w,. owners Payton Maritima SA Toyko, in the colours of Nippon Yusen Kaisha of Japan, outward bound from Portbury Also in the bay from mid morning, a Royal Navy fisheries protection vessel which I think was **H.M.S Mersey**.

3.11.2012 at 14.02 cargo vessel **Fortune** 12693 tons d.w, owners Bluewater Fortune Germany, inward bound for Avonmouth.

6.11.2012 at 15.40 vehicle carrier **Graceful Leader** 20986 tons d.w, owners Graceful Maritime Douglas IOM, in the colours of Nippon Yusen Kaisha of Japan, inward bound for Portbury.

10.11.2012 at 09.38 container ship **Endeavour** 9168 tons d.w, owners JR Shipping Netherlands, inward bound for Avonmouth . At 09.58 hrs vehicle carrier **Gran Bretagne** 18461 tons d.w, owners Grimaldi Line of Italy inward bound for Portbury. Seen again on **11.11.2012** at 11.25. outward bound having sailed from Portbury at 08.08.

11.11.2012 at 08.15 cargo vessel **Leopold Staff** 30469 tons d.w, Polish Ocean Lines Poland inward bound for Newport.

13.11.2012 at 13.30 cargo vessel **Isabella** 4218 tons d.w. owners Intersee Schiffahrts GMBH & Co KG Germany, inward bound for Cardiff.

14.11.2012 at 11.45 fruit juice tanker **Orange Wave** 16,700 tons d.w. owners Atlanship SA Switzerland, inward bound for Avonmouth.

As this is my last report for 2012 I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Norman*

One Hundred years Ago (from the Bideford Gazette)

Advertisements for Christmas.

After the jollification of Christmas , the damaged wallpaper and the scratched paintwork will show up – in all these matters Mr R Pye of 8 and 9 Meddon St will be found ready to promptly do all the needful in the best workmanship.

Mr T Pollard of the Steamer Wharf, Bideford is seeing to it that there will be no need of dinner being spoilt for the lack of a scuttle of coal. Of drawing room and kitchen coal he supplies the best.

Christmas Presents – vacuum flasks, safety razors, and boxing gloves- HJ Meredith, 18 High St



BUZZ WORD

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



Remembering after November

Recent conflicts have brought added relevance to annual acts of Remembrance. Increasingly we remember not just battles long past but families in our own communities who are mourning the recent death of a loved one. We also think about the bravery of those who now live with life-changing injuries, and the families that support them.

The North Devon & Torridge Division of SSAFA Forces Help provides a lifetime of support to servicemen and women and their dependants. We're here for them long after conflicts have become history.

So, if you have ever served in our Armed Forces, including as a National Serviceman, or you know someone who has and you need some support then SSAFA's local team is here to help on **01392 254611**

Jackie Avery

The continuing saga of the 'Wonky Conker'.

By the white statue of Kingsley
Stands in bloom a chestnut tree
And, when at their forms you look,
Your heart is filled with glee.
For Kingsley was a glorious man
And lovely is the chestnut tree.
So may both statue and chestnut,
By the Torridge,
Ever and ever be.

Edward Bernstein

*(item taken from Bideford Gazette, 21st May 1946) Thanks to **Mike Davy** for this.*



Reed's Cafe

In your October Bideford Buzz you have an article about the history of the Reed's family baker's shop in Appledore.

Did you know that there is a Reed's shop in Oxford St Swansea selling pasties as well as bread? Of course there are quite a few families in that area who originated from North Devon .

I find the Buzz very interesting, keep up the good work. I am 94 so you must excuse any errors! By the way I was born in Bideford.

Eric Middleton (Carmarthenshire)

Devon Girls Trek China team

Today we come to the end of our 2 year long fund raising. We have successfully raised over £8500. We would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported us, and particularly the editors and advertisers, who have been very kind in placing our events adverts in their parish magazines.



Nicki Bellew and the Devon Girls Trek China team

Soup Kitchen

When I was young during World War 2 I remember visiting the Bideford Pannier Market and not being allowed into the 'soup kitchen', I believe this was located under the main market hall. Can any of your readers recall this ? Please contact me at 19a The Strand Bideford Ex39 2ND , telephone 01237 424229 or through the pages of Bideford Buzz.

Thank you

Cllr Dave Fulford.

First Dog Show

"West Quay Fundraisers First Dog Show was held on Sunday 21st October at St Mary's Church, Appledore. In total we raised £360.00 for local causes and charities. It was a very popular and well attended event with no incident or accident from over thirty well trained dogs. We are sure this will become an annual event Many thanks to all the stall holders, volunteers and especially the entrants themselves for bringing along their owners on an enjoyable day out.

Ildi McIndoe

Wrong Doctor !

I am sure I am not the first to say but the doctor in the picture is Patrick Troughton (November Buzz) who was the 2nd doctor, not John Pertwee who also played Worzel Gumidge and had blonde curly hair. In any event, I get your point in your very informative and well written article.

Jeanette

I imagine the 2nd doctor could do aikido too. He just didn't mention it! (HW) Apologies- my mistake (ed).

Smugglers in Appledore

Visiting Barnstaple for a few days, I had a nostalgic visit to Bideford and Instow ,looking across to Appledore. Whilst in Bideford I picked up a copy of your very interesting magazine.

In 1972 we, myself, husband and children aged 6 to 11 moved into 1 Irsha Street next to the Quay and lifeboat.. Our house and garden faced out to sea and I used to joke that on a windy day my washing might end up on Instow beach.

Talking with my daughters about memories of Appledore, they reminded me of the time we hid in the garden and watched the men on the beach light a bonfire, and a masted boat in the distance signalled several times and eventually dropped anchor near the shore. What we would love to know is:- What were the smugglers bringing in?

Where did the goods go?

Where had the boat come from?

This happened quite often and we'd love to satisfy our curiosity.

Margaret Ives (address supplied)

'Porhov' arrives in Bideford to collect timber. See shipping news.
Photo © Norman Hardaker



True!!

Michael Harper's article (November Buzz) reminds me of a story told me years ago by Tony my neighbour. Tony, from a well to do family, had recently married and was proudly showing off his new bride to all his distant relations. However, one aunt was left until the very last ;she was a deaf elderly spinster who lived entirely alone and was known to 'have a strange relationship with the natural world'. Her house in Yorkshire was in a very remote spot surrounded by a high stone wall, its only entrance being a small postern gate set well away from the house. To gain entry one had to tug at a cord that rang a hanging bell immediately inside the gate. Tony tugged at the cord several times and, although he could hear the bell ringing there was no response. Just as he and his young bride were turning away he heard an excited woman's voice calling "I'm coming, I'm coming!". and a somewhat flustered old lady opened the gate and welcomed them in. Aunt was utterly charming and obviously from a genteel other world and apologised because she had been upstairs and couldn't hear the bell but "Bobby came and told me that there was someone at the gate". "Bobby" enquired the puzzled Tony, knowing that she lived alone. "Yes" explained his aunt "He's one of my little friends, he's a blue tit, he always comes and tells me if there is someone at the gate". "Really?" gasped the incredulous Tony. "Oh yes he came upstairs and told me. Would you like some tea dear?"



Grampus

Bull Hill

Many thanks for your excellent magazine. I read the November issue and then started doing some family history research. Whilst seeking an ancestor I found myself looking at a census page for Bull Hill, and recalled the plea for history help from Andrew Rance. I will pass on a PDF of the page.

Keep up the good work!

Peter Blackaby

Stormy weather.

After all the rain we have had recently I can understand why people go well wrapped in waterproofs, wear wellingtons and carry an umbrella but surely taking a boat with one is going too far even in AllHalland Street!

Robin Stowell



December/January Diary

December 2012

Saturday 1st December

9am -1pm Christmas farmers' market t Big Sheep.

Collection Day at Tesco Bideford for Bideford Foodbank

7.30pm Film 'The Holiday' at Littleham 01237 420372

10.30am Grand Coffee Morning at Copper Springs, Durrant Lane Northam in aid of Help for Rwanda

11am to 4pm Buckland Brewer's Traditional Christmas Market Jim Lowe Tel 451193
Palladium Club – Wendy May's Boom Boom Room.

Sunday 2nd

Reindeer and lights switch on in Bideford

2pm -4pm Wouldcare Christmas Fair Robins' Nest (Bideford Football Club)

Monday 3rd

3pm Bideford Methodist Church Monday Club

8.30pm North Devon Jazz Club, Beaver, Appledore, 01237 421065.

Tuesday 4th

10am-1pm Lavington Church coffee and lunches

Food Collection Day at the Co-operative, Bideford for Foodbank Palladium Club *Jam Night*

Wednesday 5th

10.30am Parkinson's UK Coffee Morning Ethelwynne Brown Close, Common Room 1 01237 478128.

2.30pm Bideford Library Readers' Group.tel 476075

7.30pmThe Two Rivers Wind Ensemble Rehearsal at Bideford Town Band Room. 01271 860061
Bideford Music Club Concert Methodist Church hall tel 423112

Thursday 6th

2.15pm Thursday Fellowship at Northam Methodist Church hall tel 421956

Friday 7th

2pm Devonshire Association meet at Burton Art Gallery tel 477701 or 471749
Palladium Club *Ifunk* - funk/soul pop

Saturday 8

9am -1pm Christmas farmers' market at Big Sheep

10.30am Signing of the Lease: Bideford Pannier Market

7.30 pm Northam Choral Society Christmas Concert at Bideford Methodist Church. Tickets £6 on door Palladium Club *Gang of Thieves* - rock covers

Sunday 9th

12.30 for 1pm Festive Lunch at Littleham, . Tickets: 01237 473338

Monday 10th

10am Lip-Reading classes at Ethelwynne Brown Close Heather Smith heatherathoneywells@hotmail.com 07994 390 807

7.30pm Appledore Singers rehearse at Appledore Primary School, 01769 560034

Appledore and District Amateur Radio Club Christmas party at Appledore Football Social Club. 473251
Bideford Stamp Club meets at Robin's Nest tel 472101

Continued on next page

Diary Continued

10am - 1pm Lavington Church Coffee and lunches

10.30am Macular Disease Society meets Burton Art Gallery 01409231309
2- 4pm Epilepsy Group meets at Henry Williamson Room Barnstaple Library tel 07875577428

7.15pm Bideford Camera Club meets Ethelwynne Brown Community Centre, East-The-Water. 423242

www.bidefordcameraclub.co.uk

Palladium Club Jam Night

7.30pm Bideford Sustainability Group meets at Blacksmith's Arms Palladium Club Jam Night

8pm Tarka Morris Men practise at Bideford Amateur Athletic Club 01237 476632 jwbeblackburn@aol.com

Diary Continued.

Wednesday 12th

6-8pm "Christmas Sparkle" Late night shopping in Bideford

7.30pm The Two Rivers Wind Ensemble Rehearsal at Bideford Town Band 01271 860061

7.30pm Bideford Folk Dance Club Northam Hall tel 423554

8pm Bideford Phoenix Morris Baptist Church, Mill Street, Neil Bennion on 473798 n.bennion@btinternet.com

Thursday 13th

10am Drop in Thursday at Bideford Library MacMillan Cancer Care

10.15am Northam Men's Forum meets Methodist Church Hall, Northam. Tel 470553

2.15pm Thursday Fellowship. Northam Methodist Church Hall 475985

Friday 14th

8pm Ceilidh Club Bideford Amateur Athletic Club, 476632

jwbeblackburn@aol.com

Palladium Club Black Hole Promotions

Saturday 15th

9am -1pm Christmas farmers' market at Big Sheep
Palladium Club *Auction for the promise club* - dj night - cool indie sounds

Sun 16th

3pm Candle light Christmas concert at Holy Trinity Church Westward Ho!! Appledore Band

Palladium Club *The flamin ratrods* - rockabilly - record label signing launch

Monday 17th

10am Lip-Reading classes at Ethelwynne Brown Close Heather Smith heatherathoneywells@hotmail.com 07994 390 807

7.30pm Appledore Singers rehearse at Appledore Primary School, 01769 560034

Bideford Stamp Club meets at Robin's Nest. 472101

Tuesday 18th

10am - 1pm Lavington Church Coffee and lunches

7.15pm Bideford Camera Club meets Ethelwynne Brown Community Centre, East-The-Water. 423242

www.bidefordcameraclub.co.uk

Palladium Club Jam Night

Wednesday 19th

10.15 Bideford Probus Club at Royal Hotel Tel 473 337

2.30pm Memory Lane reminiscence session at Bideford Library 476075

7.30pm Bideford Folk Dance Club

meets Northam Hall tel 423554

7.30pm The Two Rivers Wind Ensemble Rehearsal at Bideford Town Band Room. New players welcome - 01271 860061

8pm Bideford Phoenix Morris Baptist Church, Mill Street, Neil Bennion on 473798 or n.bennion@btinternet.com

Thursday 20th

Drop in Thursday at Torridge leisure Centre. MacMillan Cancer Care

10.15am Northam Men's Forum meets Methodist Church Hall, Cross St. Northam. Tel 470553 for details

5pm Charity auction at Torridge

Auctions tel 471955.

8pm Bideford Folk Club at 'Next Door' Cooper St

Friday 21st

10am.-12pm Northam Memory cafe at Northam Hall 459337

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

Palladium Club *Maybe Naked*

Saturday 22nd

9am -1pm Christmas farmers' market at Big Sheep

Palladium Club *the Rivals*

Monday 24th

Palladium Club Xmas Eve party with Wolfman Radio - the last train to skaville -

Tuesday 25th Christmas Day

Palladium Club Jam Night

Friday 28th

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

Palladium Club *the crude boys*

8pm Ceilidh Club Bideford Amateur

Athletic Club, 476632

jwbeblackburn@aol.com

Saturday 29th

Palladium Club Basil's Blues Band

Sunday 30th

Monday 31st

10am - 1pm Lavington Church Coffee and lunches

New Year's Eve

January 2013

Tuesday 1st January 2013

Palladium Club *Jam Night*

Wednesday 2nd

2.30pm Bideford Library Readers' Group

Thursday 3rd

10.15am Northam Men's Forum meets Methodist Church Hall, Cross St. Northam. Tel 470553

8pm Bideford Folk Club 'Next Door'

Cooper St

Friday 4th

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

8pm Ceilidh Club Bideford Amateur Athletic Club, 476632 or email

jwbeblackburn@aol.com

Palladium Club *Goatfist* plus support -

Saturday 5th

Palladium Club *Boom Boom Room*

Monday 7th

7.30pm Appledore Singers rehearse at Appledore Primary School, 01769 560034

Tuesday 8th

10am - 1pm Lavington Church Coffee and lunches

Palladium Club *Jam Night*

Wednesday 9th

10.30am Parkinson's UK Coffee Morning Ethelwynne Brown Close, Common Room 1 01237 478128.

Friday 11th

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

Saturday 12th

Palladium Club *Spaced invaders*

Monday 14th

7.30pm Bideford Stamp Club meets at Robins' Nest tel 472101

Tuesday 15th

10am - 1pm Lavington Church Coffee and lunches

7.30pm Bideford Sustainability Group meets at Blacksmith's Arms

Palladium Club *Jam Night*

Wednesday 16th

7.30pm The Two Rivers Wind Ensemble Rehearsal at Bideford Town Band 01271 860061

Bideford Music Club Concert Methodist Church Hall tel 423112

Friday 18th Palladium Club

Roughnecks

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

Saturday 19th

Devon Hall *These reigning days*

Michael Roach 429525

<http://www.michaelroach.com/index.htm>

Palladium Club *Wille & the Bandits*

Monday 21st

7.30pm Appledore and District Amateur Radio Club Appledore Footbal Social Club. 473251 ; Appledore Singers Appledore Primary School, 01769 560034

Tuesday 22nd

Palladium Club *Jam Night*

Friday 25th

Palladium Club - *Limehouse lizzy*

Saturday 26th

Palladium Club *9 yards*

Wednesday 30th

7.30pm Gardening club at Bideford Library