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COUNTRY.

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## **March 2013**



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

DIRECTORY BUSINESS Bideford and

KINGSLEY'S

Accountants. Fogaty, J H, Westcroft Lamerton, J J, 14 Milton place Tucker, J E, 29 Bridgeland st

96

Architects. Hookway, R T, Bath house, Strand Wilson, G Malam, Bridge buildings

Auctioneers.

Braddick, J J & Sons, Mill st DYMOND, SON & BLACKMORE, Mill st Hutchings, H Lee & Co, Mill st Partridge, E, Monkleigh & Bideford

Antique China, &c., Dealers. Bishop, W, Bridge st Friendship, Chingswell st Hopson, G, Mill st Murphy, W C, Mill st

Mineral Water Manufacturers. Arnold, Perrett & Co, High st PHILBRICK, E, Apps brewery

Banks. Devon & Cornwall Banking Co, Ltd Fox, Fowler & Co, National Provincial Bank of England Ltd. (All in High st)

Bakers & Confectioners. Abbott, J. Mill st Brooks, H. High st Colwill, Mill st Curtis, R. Meddon st Davey, M, Honestone st

Ellis, G, Mill st Friendship, C, Honestone st Geen, Thos, Mill st Hookway, R, Clovelly road Kivell, R, Mill st Madge, J, High st Morley, F R, Market place Phillips, Jas, East-the-water Pope, C, Barnstaple st Sanders, J, Allhalland st Stoneman, J, Mill st Westacott, C, Meddon st

District.

Basket Makers. Berry, T D, Allhalland st Berry, C H, Mill st Copp, W, Honestone st

Bookbinders. COLES, W C, "Gazette" Office Pearse, C & Son, Allhalland st Wilson Bros, Mill st

Booksellers & Stationers. COLES, W C, "Gazette" Office CoLES, W C, "Gazette" Office Pearse, C & Son, Allhalland st Tedrake, T, Mill st Thompson, Mrs, High st Trick, Miss, High st WILLIAMS, Miss J H, High st Wilson Bros, Mill st

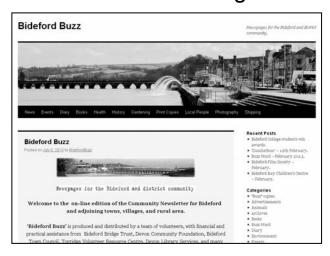
Boot & Shoe Makers. ASHPLANT, W, Northam Braund, W, Mill st Brend & Son, Market place Butler, W, Lower Meddon st Clarke, R F, High st Cole, E, Allhalland st Horn, J, Allhalland st and Mill st Judd, W, Buttgardens Lang, C, Mill st

Thank you Joanne Cloak and Peter Rivers for this item from their family archives which throws more light on those 'lost shops'. Read more on Page 4.

You can discover lost shops for yourselves by visiting your library's local history section. Bideford Library has trade directories and Bideford Almanacks covering several years from 19th century onwards .

This entry is from Kingsley's directory 1894.

# **Our Website** www.bidefordbuzz.org.uk



Don't forget that there are many more items and photographs about Bideford on our website at www.bidefordbuzz.org.uk than are found in the paper version.

Here you can also download your own copy of Buzz - especially useful for Bidefordians living away without access to the paper copy - or you can read the whole newsletter online and help to 'save the planet'.

## Coffee Morning on 8th February



We are especially grateful to all the people who helped to make this event such a success and particularly to Sheila and Dougie Bushby who lent us their house.

We raised £112 for Buzz to assist with printing costs.

Thanks to all who came and supported us.

Bideford Buzz is produced by a team of volunteers with practical assistance from Torridge District Council, Torridge Voluntary Services, Bideford Town Council, Z Z Bideford Bridge Trust, Bideford Bay Children's Centre, South West Foundation, Devon County Council, The co-operative Community Fund & Bideford Freemasons. 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. **m** Email: editor@bidefordbuzz.org.uk, Mobile: 07929 976120 or c/o Torridge Voluntary Services, 14 Bridgeland St., EX39 2QE. Visit www.bidefordbuzz.org.uk.



**North Devon Print** Incorporating Kopy-Kat Printers Unit 4 Daddon Court Clovelly Road Industrial Estate Bideford, Devon EX39 3HN www.northdevonprint.co.uk Telephone: 01237 472277









## **Bideford Bridge Goes to War**

Peter Christie continues his history of Bideford Bridge in World War 2

## More notes from Frank Whiting's reports.

No more war items are recorded for seven months when, in March 1943, the minutes contain the following, 'A matter I have been rather concerned about recently, but for which I cannot see the remedy – is that when large tanks are passing over the Bridge, ordinary traffic cannot pass them, and I have even seen a motor car pull on to the pavement within one foot of the parapet, and about a week ago an unloaded lorry did the same. If a really heavy lorry did this I am not experienced enough to say if it would be safe.'

That he was right to be concerned is shown in August 1943 when he notes 'I know there has been a tank & carrier cross the Bridge the total weight of which was 75 tons.' Given that the current weight limit is 3 tonnes one can only wonder how these leviathans strained the Bridge. Whiting had contacted the engineers who supervised the widening of the Bridge in 1925 for advice and they replied that 'the Ministry of Transport, Bridge Dep. Were rating safe loads of numerous Bridges' and they would ask them to quickly look at Bideford.

That this was necessary is seen in the October 1943 report which notes that the kerbing on the Bridge had been damaged by 'American Tanks' whilst the next month there is a lengthy entry on the same subject, 'On Wednesday Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> last a Convoy of American Tanks went over the Bridge, and appeared to be driving so carelessly that Mr.Eggins the Assistant County Road Surveyor who saw them rushed to the Police Station to see if he could get Police supervision. I happened to see the tanks myself and also Mr.Eggins.' As a result of this Superintendent

Melhuish turned up to view 'this serious damage to Bideford Bridge.' Rather bathetically he only suggested erecting a notice board at the end of the Bridge – presumably requesting military vehicles to drive more carefully. The Trust evidently applied for compensation but on December 27 1943 Whiting could only admit 'I have heard nothing further from the United States Claims Office in connection with the account I sent them in.'

## Opposite.

Newspaper cutting from 1940 shows the extent of the feeling against the publication 'Peace News' in wartime.

## **Bideford Through Time**

Wednesday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2.00-4.00 pm Bideford Library

Peter Christie will be giving an illustrated talk about his latest book of photographs of Bideford 'Bideford Through Time', published in 2012. There will also be a chance to explore some of Bideford Library's own collection of old photographs. Tickets cost £2.00 per person and should be purchased in advance as places are limited. Refreshments provided. See also page 3 for more on those 'lost shops'.

## A model gift. From Bideford Weekly Gazette June 5<sup>th</sup> 1945,

A presentation of great historical and educational value to the town has been made to Bideford Bridge Trustees by Alderman FE Whiting FRIBA, for the past twenty years warden of Bideford's famous Long Bridge. It consists of a 9ft 6 ins scale model of the Bridge showing the various stages of its reconstruction from circa 1280 when it was first built as a wooden bridge.

Alderman Whiting has taken six and a half years to complete the model, embodying all his knowledge gained during the past quarter of a century and all authentic records available. With photographs he has produced an accompanying illustrated guide to the model, and this is the most compact and informative history yet written and is unique in that it represents a visual, as well as literary history of the Bridge .. *(Still on view in the Burton Art Gallery and Museum)* 

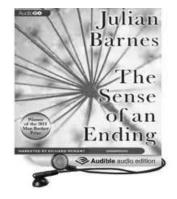
"BIDEFORD READING ROOM INCIDENT" In connection with our report last week of Bideford Town Council meeting, at which it was reported that Major R. B. Denny had removed a copy of "Peace News" from the Public Reading Rooms, as a protest against its exhibition there, we have since received a long letter from Major Denny strongly denying that he removed the publication. As this appears to be a matter that concerns Major Denny and the Town Council we propose leaving it at that. It is of interest, however, to note that the Council after discussion, following the receipt of a letter of protest from Major Denny, have decided not to exhibit the "Peace News" at the Public Reading Rooms in future.

#### 'The Sense of an Ending' by Julian Barnes - this month's book

chosen by Bideford Library Readers' Group.

The book was written whilst the author's wife was losing a four year battle with brain cancer and

stimulated by a chance meeting with an old school friend on the London Underground. Within this meeting he asked if his friend knew what had become of another former colleague only to be told that he'd taken his own life in his mid twenties. With this in mind, it was hardly likely that we would find the story a cheerful one. ('Depressing' was far and away the most heard word throughout the discussion) Lots of opinions and thoughts were shared. Several felt that it read like an autobiography in that it traced Tony's life from his time at Secondary School to when he was approaching his 70s. One of the group felt it was 'a brilliant book that made you think .... but not one that brought rise to positive emotions.' It was certainly well written which served to further highlight the depressing nature of the subject matter - much of the story hinged around two suicides.



The two main characters, male and female provoked mixed responses. Some felt Veronica to be 'horrible' and 'obnoxious' whilst others felt she was a person to be admired in that she was a female who seemed to stick up for herself at a time when that might have been considered unusual.

The writing was clever with the author giving credit to the intelligence of his readers. Many of the group were left thinking about the ending for some time after completing the book and more than one felt they would benefit from reading the book again. (It's quite short, less than 150 pages.) Many were left feeling that the book implied that that there was no way in which one could improve one's lot in life. The group, however, had a more optimistic outlook and felt that individual could improve situations in life.

One of the themes of the story was the nature of memory, raising questions like: 'Do different people have different memories of the same event/experience?' and 'Do memories remain constant or do they change over time?'

Summing up: Of the group, eight were glad they'd read it whilst two hadn't enjoyed it. Tellingly, two members who hadn't been able to read the book beforehand felt that, after listening to the discussion, they hadn't been persuaded to give it a go, largely due to the subject matter. Bideford Library Readers' Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at Bideford Library; (next meeting March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm when we shall be discussing Juliet Naked by Nick Hornby) Further information and copies of the book from Bideford Library on 476075.

## Other Literary events at Bideford Library

Feel Better with a Book. Come and lift your mood through the joy of reading! . The group is led by an experienced facilitator. Every Wednesday 10.30-12.00 at Bideford Library 01237 476075 anniebrierley@thereader.org.uk or

## World Book Day Quiz Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm

A loosely literary guiz to celebrate World Book Day and raise money for Book Aid International who fund libraries in some of the world's poorest countries. £5 per team of approx 4 people, nibbles provided but please bring your own liquid refreshments. Tables should be booked and paid for in advance as space is limited, please phone 01237 476075 or ask at the library

## **Success Stories**

Charlie White of Bideford Amateur Athletic Club Marcus Flavell (form group 10W4 age 14) was & Bideford College rowed in the Junior 15 category the biggest field of the day, 45 rowers, and won the event with a distance of 1504 meters in the allotted 5 minutes. Charlie would like to thank his sponsors who include Bideford Bridge Trust, West End Precision, Braddick's Leisure, Michelle White's Gym & Phillip Corbin

awarded for his piece of Batik based on Maori Design and Isabelle Shaddick (form group 8W3 age 13) at Bideford College, for her piece of Batik based on Van Gogh's landscapes at the annual Burton Schools' exhibition. (Pictures can be seen at www.bidefordbuzz.org.uk)

## More about those lost shops of **Bideford**

You could buy fresh fish from, I think, Pikes in East the Water (not certain about this name or location) They caught their own fish and my brother once went out fishing with them but was so sea-sick he never went again!

Towards the end of the war my husband was responsible for stocking the naval stores at Appledore. He thinks he ordered fresh fish from Macfisheries in High Street and bread from Kivells.

Memory can sometimes play tricks and many of these reminiscences are from some time ago. I apologise if any are incorrect and would be happy for anyone to offer any necessary corrections in the event of any errors in what I've written.

## Other shops

- Hopkins Garage, Meddon Street. We • once came from Wales especially to buy a car from here!
- Wool shop at top of High St. Can anyone • remember the name?
- At the junction of High Street and ٠ Pimlico/Providence Row there was a baker's on one side and a general store on the other? Can anyone remember the names?
- Barber shop at junction of Clovelly Road • and Meddon Street. Can anyone remember the name?
- Ford and Lock, grocers, in Mill Street (any Red Line Shoe Shop, Grenville St. • link to Brian Ford's?)
- Milligan's delicatessen in Mill St.
- Bakery in Meddon Street. Gubbs? •

## **Betty Evans (formerly Youngs)**

Just to throw some more into the mix, these are some of the shops/businesses that I remember.

- ٠ remember the name?
- A Co-op store in Pynes Lane at the top of Rovston Road (later became a shop selling car parts)
- The bicycle shop that used to be in North • Road was owned by Gordon, who still works with bikes and is based in the arcade near the Ebberley Arms in Barnstaple. There are always loads of bikes outside.

- A hardware store at the bottom of Meddon Street. Was it called Mitchells?
- Sports Box in Grenville Street •
- Pridham's in Grenville Street
- Car repair garage in Old Town owned by Lew (?) Violet
- Davies' Stores in Old Town
- Cooks Video Rentals at the corner of Old Town/Abbotsham Road
- There was a garage in Clovelly Road near what is now the entrance to Union Close. Was it called Madges? We used to get our paraffin for heating from there. Peter Evans

Thank you for the interesting publication, one closed shop you missed in the 'M' section is Morris Bros monumental masons, in Meddon Street :the business started in 1885 and continued in the Morris family until 1999 when Plymco bought it and then later closed the masonry side and transferred the funeral department to Trapnell and Sherborne that had also been bought by the Co-op. M Jobson -Scott.

## And here is our next list of lost shops from M Hudson

Orange Tea Rooms, Quay Pridham, Saddler. Grenville Street Princes, Outfitter, Mill Street Pullars of Perth, Dry Cleaners, Quay. Puddicombe, Toy Shop, High St Perkins, Florist, Quav Radclift, Grocer, Chingswell Street Red House Cafe, Quay Ron Lake, Motorcycle, North Road Ridge, Wine Merchants, High Street, (later R H Salmon, Applegates, Westminster Wine, Peter Dominic, and Finally Thresshers (in Mill Street) Rose Birds Glass and China Mill St Red House Antiques Bridgeland St, **Rendles Paint shop** Seage, Butcher, High Street Laundrette in Meddon Street. Can anyone Stephens & Brain, Ironmongers, High St Sanguins Shoes, High St. Scotts Model Bakery quay Schillers Fish and Chips Lower Gunstone and New St (demolished) Sudburys Gloves. Silver St. More next month. (See also Buzz Word.)

> Mrs Hilda Bartlett (ne Pugsley) has sent us her own memories of Bideford. Thank you Hilda for these – we shall try to publish some of them next month (Ed)







Devon Homelink

Emergency alarm system: are you or someone you know worried about being able to contact help in an emergency?

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## SAMARITANS

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 Samaritans offer a confidential emotional support service which is available 24 hours a day. If you are interested in becoming a listening volunteer, please contact Samaritans on: **BARNSTAPLE 01271 374343 Real People – Real Lives - Real Difference Charity No. 261807** Selection Days held regularly throughout the year

## **Family History**

Hello to you all once again and I hope that you are all progressing with your research. This month's tips are very important when trying to track down those elusive ancestors. Bishops' Transcripts are copies of every parish register entry made by the incumbent during the year and sent to his Bishop every Easter. They are invaluable when the parish register has not survived or is illegible, and are usually deposited at the Diocesan record office. The Quarter Sessions are courts that dealt with civil matters as well as criminal trials and you will find most records at county record offices, together with later court records such as Petty Sessions. You can search the Criminal Registers of England & Wales at www.ancestry.co.uk and some record offices. The next meeting of the Bideford Group of the Devon Family History Society will be on Saturday 16th March 2013 at the Burton Art Museum, Bideford, 2pm-4pm. Our speaker will be Andy Taggart who will be talking on visiting WW1 Battlefields.. Meetings are free and open to all. Any queries then please contact me

## Len Collum at 01237 472883

Can anyone help me with my family history query. The lady in white in the front row is my grandmother ( Ellen Mountjoy) and I would love to hear from anyone who can tell me who else is in the photo. Our Telephone no. is 01409 241176

Thank you Mervyn Mountjoy.





## BIDEFORD BAY CHILDREN'S CENTRE PAGE



## Chatter <u>really</u> does matter.

In our range of services communication is a key issue. We plan activities and provide resources that offer rich language opportunities. Never forgetting that the most amazing resource child can have to support their communication is a warm and loving adult. As a parent think about all the opportunities you can make during the day to chat with your child – really allowing time for play and interaction and sharing books.

At the Children's Centre we offer a range of services that you can enjoy with your child which include play and stay groups, parenting courses and outreach support. Our friendly team of staff can offer guidance and ideas to support your child's communication and language development.

Talk to me as much as you can Any time can be song time! Look at books with me every day Keep talking to me even when I'm in my buggy

Turn off the TV and radio when We talk Only give me a dummy at sleep time

Make time to play every day Enjoy spending time with me.



## **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**.

## North Devon Hospice's Big Breakfast is coming to you!

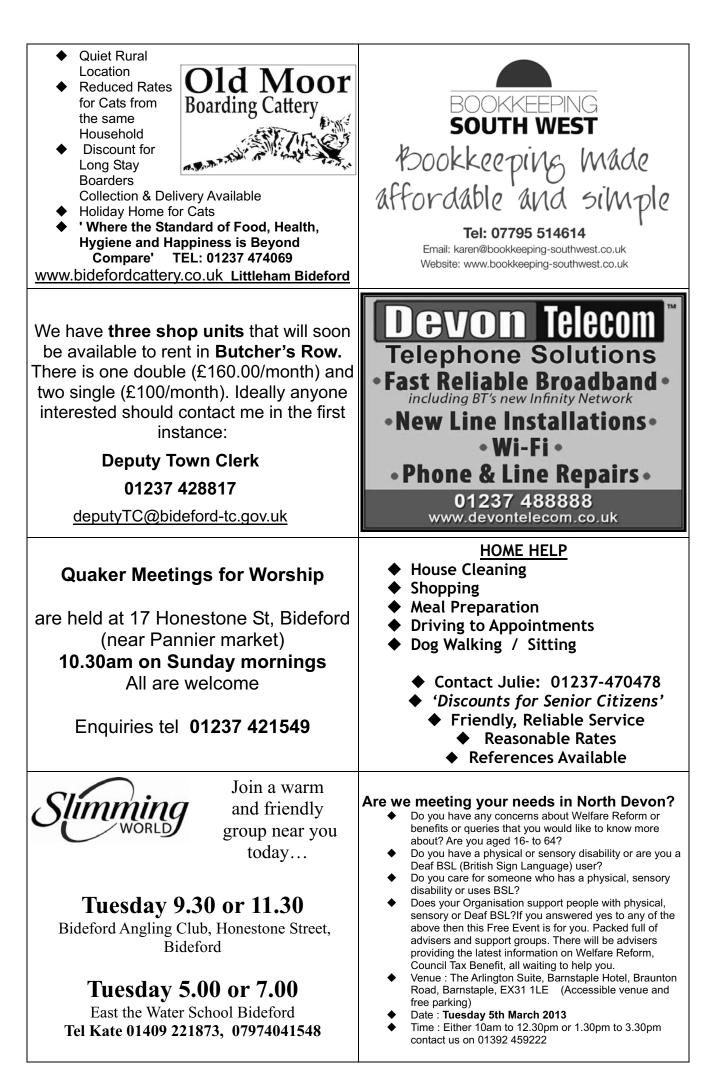
Throughout March and April, Big Breakfasts will be popping up all over North Devon, giving you the chance to enjoy the most important meal of the day with family, friends, neighbours or colleagues, whilst also raising vital funds for your local hospice.

The Beach Café, Westbourne Terrace, Westward Ho! Saturday March 16th 9.00am- 12 noon £5.25p Full English or Vegetarian Platter

Littleham Village Hall Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am- 2.00pm £6.00 Full English or Vegetarian platter



For more information, or to find out about the many other Big Breakfasts taking place in North Devon, please visit <u>www.northdevonhospice.org.uk</u>, or call Gerard Fawcitt on 01271 347224.



## Relative

My dictionary tells me that relative means an individual, subject or fact related to another individual, subject or fact. So why does my aberrational mind, as it does, link the New Acquisitions and Old Favourites exhibition at the Burton Gallery (*12th January to 18th February 2013.*) to a television programme about The Code Breakers of Bletchley Park ?

Of the eight artists named in the Gallery I know or rather knew two. One, who is still alive, I will not embarrass by claiming acquaintance. However, I knew Allin Braund as a well respected member of Bideford Probus. Allin told me his father owned a shoemakers' shop in Mill Street and remembered the lasts on which the customers shoes were shaped. One belonged to a well known lady whose bunion grew ever larger. Over many years extra compensating slivers of wood were nailed to the last until it was itself almost an item of scientific wonder.

Allin, born in Northam, studied at Bideford Art School before winning a scholarship to Hornsey College of Art, returning to Bideford he taught art at Bideford Grammar School. During World War II Allin became a Royal Marines officer and, for a time, was stationed on Crete. When the war ended Allin taught at Hornsey, eventually as Senior Lecturer. Whilst there he designed and made the façade of Paddington Green police station where all the modern day terrorist suspects are taken. His art was influenced by George Braque and a passion for Chartres Cathedral where some of the stained glass is almost a thousand years old. Venice in 1954 saw Allin's lithographs alongside works by Henry Moore and Edward Paolozzi. Numerous items of Allin's work are owned by the British Government, Victoria and Albert Museum, Museum of Modern Art New York and of course the Burton Art Gallery.

So how does the exhibition relate to the television programme? On the morning of May 20th 1941 Crete was subjected to intensive bombing by the Luftwaffe. Food became scarce and neither Allin or his platoon ate for forty-eight hours. On discovering a deserted stone cottage they set about making a grand stew of anything edible in an old pot they found; with its enticing aroma everyone eagerly anticipated their share. However, another raid began and on hearing the loud whistle of a falling bomb everyone fell flat and waited for the explosion, it was very close and gave them all a good shaking. On getting to their feet they discovered their long anticipated stew was stuck firmly to the cottage ceiling; it was another twelve hours before they were fed. When the bombing eased Allin happened to be standing a few feet from Major-General Freyberg VC the island's New Zealand Commander. As they watched the German paratroops descend, one of which was Max Schmelling, ex world heavyweight boxing champion, Freyberg remarked "they're half an hour late".

According to the television programme the German code system had been broken by those at Bletchley Park before the invasion of Crete. Was Crete sacrificed to ensure the Germans did not know we could read their coded messages?

Grampus

## **Bideford Black**

The Burton Art Gallery & Museum in Bideford is presently running a project to uncover our memories and stories about the locally unique earth pigment BIDEFORD BLACK, mined in the town until 1969. With your help the project, led by local artist Peter Ward, aims to bring together fresh historical, geological, artistic and personal stories and artefacts to produce a new permanent display and an online archive for the Burton before the memories fade forever.

The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and will be launched at the Burton at a special SHOW & TELL DAY on the  $20^{\text{th}}$  March, from 11.30 - 3.30. This is an opportunity to come in and share memories and objects with us - we look forward to hearing your stories. The second part of the project is to put together a display on Bideford Black, which has been generously supported by the Friends of the Burton and will become part of the permanent exhibition.

For more information please visit <u>www.bidefordblackblog.blogspot.co.uk</u>. We are collecting stories, pictures and artefacts right now and are keen to hear from anyone who has a story to share. Our email address is <u>bidefordblackblog@gmail.com</u> or contact the Burton on 01237 471455.

The new Gallery brochure is out now, giving details of all the exhibitions, workshops, and events until the end of June. Admission to the Gallery is free: the Museum, Craft Gallery, Cafe & Shop and opening hours are: Monday-Saturday, 10-4, Sunday, 11-4

This month we welcome the return of our popular feature 'Agony Aunt' Send your letters FAO Agony Aunt to <u>editor@bidefordbuzz.org.uk</u> or TTVS 14 Bridgeland St Bideford EX39 2QE marked 'Agony aunt' Bideford Buzz.

### **Dear Agony Aunt**

One of the students in my class at college has really bad body odour. Would I be wrong to tell them about it or should I just try to hint at the problem?

Thanks S.A., Bideford, age 17

### Dear S

I understand that this is an unpleasant problem but I can tell from the fact that you have asked for advice that you are concerned for your fellow student as well as yourself. I don't think that hinting is a good idea as your 'hint' may be misunderstood and there is the risk of really upsetting this person. I would advise you meet up with them somewhere where you can chat in private and tell them straight, stressing that you are only mentioning it because you count them as a friend. Or, if you feel unable to do this, then maybe arrange a shopping trip with them and make sure you visit a chemists' and make a big deal about the toiletries section, especially the deodorants – this could very well prompt a discussion about personal hygiene. Good luck.

## Dear Agony Aunt

I have to get the bus home from school on my own, but I am scared to get off the bus because lots of older people hang around where the bus stop is. They are very loud and drink beer and stuff. My mum has to work so I have to get the bus so that I can walk to meet her at work. What can I do to feel better about this? It makes me very scared.

Thank you Boy from Bideford, age 10

#### Dear young man

Firstly, it is very understandable that you feel nervous about this situation. Sometimes even grown ups can feel a bit frightened of other grown ups. I'm sure you will have spoken to your mum about this but if you haven't then please make sure that you do. Asking for help is a very sensible thing for you to do. The best thing you can do is to act confident. Looking confident, even if you don't always feel it, makes everyone think you are confident and people don't pick on confident people. The grown ups at the bus stop, more likely than not, have never even noticed you, it sounds like they are more interested in talking to each other and drinking than bothering children. Try not to even look at them, just concentrate on getting off the bus and walking on your way safely to meet your mum. Remember that every day that nothing bad happens is proof that you are a brave boy and are able to deal very well with this difficult situation. Keep it up, you are doing very well.

#### Dear Agony Aunt

I am an elderly chap, living on my own since I was widowed 6 months ago, and am feeling pretty lonely. I retired a couple of years ago and don't really have any close friends. Can you suggest anything to help me meet people.

Regards

## Mr T., Bideford

#### Dear Mr T

Well, feeling lonely is a common problem and can make life rather miserable sometimes but I guarantee that you are not alone in feeling a bit isolated. It is still only a short time since you lost your wife and you will find that missing her companionship continues for a long time. However, you are doing the right thing to try to find some alternative social outlet. Some pointers I can give you are

1. Your local library, a great place to learn about local groups and activities for all ages plus you can get access to a computer in there if you don't have your own.

2. www.seniorcouncildevon.org.uk will take you to the website for the 'Senior Council of Devon' where you will find information on the local Bideford & Northam branch which is run by and is for the benefit of people of your age group.

3. Another group to try is U3A (University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age) which is a fantastic group based in Bideford which runs a vast array of different activities, both social and educational, where you will be able to meet loads of folk who would love to make friends – website www.torridgeu3a.btck.co.uk. Good luck.

Lots of organisations featured in Buzz each month as well (ed)



#### Venue Hire Events 2013 Courses

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The Barton, Welcombe, EX39 6HF 01288 331692

www.yarnertrust.org/info@yarnertrust.org

## **SOUNDS INTERESTING CDs and DVDs**

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soundsinteresting@onebillinternet.co.uk

"The only escapes from the miseries of life are music and cats" (Albert Schweitzer)

This month we celebrate our 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary in Bideford. We love being here and would like to thank you all for your support and the many positive comments that we have received. Remember, if we haven't got it or can't source it for you, then it probably isn't out there!

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# North Devon Print<sup>=</sup>

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## **Green News**

From April 1<sup>st</sup> this year, 100% of all Torridge residents – and not just those with green wheelie bins - will be able to recycle their cardboard. All households will be supplied with brown bags to put their cardboard in, which can be left out for collection on the same day and time as their dry recycling – green box and bag, cans, bottles and papers.And at the same time residents can put out small electrical items for recycling as well. In fact, you can do that now!

It will mean a slight change in the way people recycle - cardboard must be put in the brown bags from April - not the green wheelie bins – and put out with the green box and bag - but the long term results will be well worth it.'

Examples of electrical goods that can be left out for collection are: kettles, toasters, irons and other small kitchen appliances, video players, DVD players and remote controls, radios, mini hi-fi's, MP3 players and speakers, cameras and chargers, small electronic toys, remote control cars and hairdryers. For more information on the new cardboard and electrical collection service call South Molton Recycle on 01769 573081.F

## Free plastic bags

I have written a letter to our four main supermarkets in Bideford asking them to consider setting a date when plastic bags will no longer be given out free of charge. This was stimulated, I suppose, by exasperation! I found out some years ago about the existence in the Pacific Ocean of an area larger than France covered in plastic.

Since then, I've learnt about the devastating effects of plastic on marine life, the fact that plastic doesn't disintegrate, but breaks down into small particles which are then ingested by sea creatures and I've understood that there's a fear that these toxic chemicals are entering the food chain. The coastline in the UK is littered with the stuff - and, in many places it's far, far worse. We seem gradually, or not so gradually, to be intent on destroying not just the habitat of marine life but our own. Our government knows these facts and, presumably, far more information is at its fingertips. According to an article in The Guardian this January, they promised in 2012 to insist on a charge for plastic bags. They haven't done so.

So, in this state of heightened awareness, I've stood in queues in all our supermarkets over the past few months and watched customers in front of me accept the offer of plastic bags without 'turning a hair' - how many more would you like? Five? Fine.

- And I think: We're supposedly the most intelligent species on the planet - and yet we seem intent on our own extinction (plastic bags, of course, being only one symptom of this lemming-like behaviour).

Far from 'blaming' the people who are accepting the proffered items, I feel immensely saddened - We lack leadership! At best we're getting mixed messages: 'plastic is very bad for the environment' in one breath, and 'here you are; how many of these noxious items would you like? We're giving them out free!'

I think the general public can be excused for being confused, for thinking: 'surely, if the government believed the information that filters through to us one way and another about the disastrous effects of plastic, then they wouldn't allow it to be given out freely. Indeed, they wouldn't allow people to make the things. They'd put a stop to it! So, presumably, it can't be as bad as all that. There must be disagreement amongst the experts.'

Well, there isn't disagreement among the experts - far from it. SO, since no leadership on this issue is coming from the top, then we, the citizens, have to take the matter into our own hands and, at least, try to do something about it. HENCE THE LETTER. Jacquie Poole

## Local Vocal Concert Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm at Woolsery Community Hall

A great evening of music and song with The Jubilee Singers Ladies choir from Barnstaple joining The Torridge Male Voice Choir in aid of Children's Hospice South West and the NSPCC.

Peter Miller hosts the show in his comedic and inimitable fashion, with refreshments in the break, and the bar also open. Tickets are just  $\pounds 5$ . Call Jan on 01237 431941 from 1<sup>st</sup> March; tickets ordered then or soon after can be delivered.



## News from Bideford Film Society

## Great Expectations (Not so great!)

It is said that 'all comparisons are odious' and I was surprised that most of the film critics spent much time contrasting this recent remake of *Great Expectations* with previous onesl For it is quite different and should be judged on its own merits. As the first sombre shots of grey marshes came on the screen I decided to enjoy the film as a fable; to think of it as fancy rather than fact. Miss Haversham (Helen Bonham Carter) is a cobweb of a character anyway. However her sad condition is explained by her betrayal at the altar. Magwich (Ralph Fiennes) is a larger than life character, again forged by his past. So many players, especially in crowd scenes, seem to have extreme personalities. Jeremy Irvine, the young star of *War Horse* plays the older Pip well, although when we see him professing his undying love for Estelle I did feel he looked at her as if she were his beloved horse. I had forgotten many of the details in the complicated plot but these were later explained.

The photography is beautiful although I did feel that some of the shots lingered too long. But then I thought, 'Where is the story which Dickens wrote? ' Dickens was a social critic who campaigned for children's rights. He fought for better education and work conditions. He campaigned against slavery. Apart from a few close ups of insanitary roads this film showed little of the masses in 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain.

This film disappointed me. Younger viewers who do not know the book will be confused by the many interweaving and seemingly unrelated story lines. Others will look in vain for the serious ideas within the story. It is pretty and flimsy entertainment. So now I can understand the critics.

In its winter programme BFS have included some brilliant films.

Those who enjoyed 'Marigold Hotel' will love 'Quartet which stars Maggie Smith. In early March "Les Miserables" will be screened.

Check for details below and local newspapers as well as the many brochures available from libraries and other venues.

Mavis Blow

## BIDEFORD FILM SOCIETY

Friday 1 and Saturday 2 March Bideford College Les Miserables (12a)							
Friday 8 and Saturday 9 March Bideford College Zero Dark Thirty(15)							
Friday 15 and Saturday 16 March Bideford College Django Unchained (18)							
Saturday 23 March Bideford College Hyde Park on Hudson (12a)							
Friday 29 and Saturday 30 March Bideford College Flight (15)							
Friday 5 and Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> April Kingsley School <i>Hitchcock (12a)</i>							
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 visit our web site <u>www.bidefordfilmsociety.co.uk</u>

## Volunteer Reading Coaches Needed for Read Easy Bideford



Read Easy (<u>www.readeasy.org.uk</u>) is a programme providing one-to-one reading tuition for adults who struggle with reading. Read Easy is already operating very successfully through a North Devon pilot project in Barnstaple – as you will see by visiting water faceback com/ReadEasy/Reasy/ReadEasy/Reasy/ReadEasy/ReadEas

<u>www.facebook.com/ReadEasyBarnstaple</u> - and will shortly be setting up in Bideford, following the appointment of Charles Porter as Volunteer Coordinator.

Our next step is to recruit Volunteer Reading Coaches in the Bideford area. Anyone who can read fluently themselves and can spare a couple of hours or so a week after an initial selection procedure and a one-day training session can apply to be a Volunteer Reading Coach. For more information please telephone Charles on 01805 623245 or email: bookreliefuk@readeasy.org.uk





Ship	Registered Flag Owners	From	То	Arrived	Sailed	Crew	Cargo loaded
Baltiyskiy 202 Built 1994	Valletta Russian	Wismar	Dundalk	09/02/13	12/02/13	Russian	2650 tons timber

#### Loading at Yelland Jetty

At the time of finalizing this report the dredger **Welsh Piper** arrived at Yelland Jetty 15.2.13 at 08.30 to discharge 1180 tons dredged material for Notts Construction ;this is the second cargo to be discharged at the jetty. This is the first time since 1987 the vessel has returned to the area since she was built at Appledore

### Arco Dart 17.1.13, 9.2.13, 12.2.13, 13.2.13

**Oldenburg** at Bideford Quay awaiting start for the season at the end of March. She has made various cargo runs since returning.

The Southern Beaver is still alongside the Oil Jetty at Yelland waiting to be towed away.

I have just returned from a holiday in Liverpool and whilst crossing the Avonmouth Bridge on **4.2.13**. we noticed from the coach the large number of vacant spaces at the vehicle stacking ground well below their total capacity of 100000 vehicles. Returning on **Friday 8**<sup>th</sup> the vehicle carrier **Autopride** was waiting at the lock entrance to dock after the **Autosun** had departed

1.2.13 at 11.25 the cargo vessel Beata 6915 tons d.w, owners Beata Shipping Ltd Tallin Estonia inward bound for Newport. At 11.30 cargo vessel Fivelborg 14603 tons d.w, owners Fivelborg B.V. Delfzijl Netherlands, inward bound for Cardiff . At 12.07 container vessel E.R. Albany 35966 tons d.w, owners ER Albany Schiffahrts Hamburg, outward bound from Portbury, having sailed at 08.06 .
2.2.13 at 16.20 cargo vessel Frisian Ocean 8033 tons d.w, owners Frisian Ocean N.V Sneek Netherlands outward bound from Cardiff, having

sailed at 12.19

**15.2.13** at 10.15 cable vessel **Richard Croze** 2800 tons d.w, owners France Telecom, inward bound for Avonmouth, followed by the container ship **Maersk Windhoek 2**1442 ons d.w, owners Takanawa Line Inc Tokyo Japan, inward bound for Portbury Regards *Norman* 

Welsh Piper proceeding to Yelland and the Baltiyskiy 202 at Yelland (© Noman Hardaker )



## The Kendo Nagasaki of Bucks Cross

Huw Collingbourne dons a mask, grabs a Samurai sword and dreams of the golden age of British wrestling...

If the name Kendo Nagasaki makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up and cheer, I'm assuming you remember the good old days when the highlight of any Saturday afternoon was the wrestling on the telly.

Those were the days when the baddies, such as Mick McManus and Jackie 'Mr TV' Pallo, were really bad and the goodies were, well, not quite so memorable. Kendo Nagasaki was one of the baddest of the bad. From the moment he entered the ring, clad in ceremonial robes

and holding a fearsome Samurai sword, you knew that things were about to turn nasty.But while Nagasaki was certainly a showman, he was also a one of the most skilful wrestlers of the 1970s and '80s. One of his most spectacular – and dangerous – manoeuvres was called the 'Kamikaze Crash'. He would hold his opponent across his shoulders and slam himself (without letting go of the other wrestler) head-first into the floor of the ring. Can you imagine how dangerous that is? At the end of this manoeuvre, one wrestler would be left writhing in apparent agony on the ground while Nagasaki would lithely spring out of his dramatic breakfall none the worse for wear. Now 'breakfalls' are something I know a bit about. When I watched a few of Nagasaki's classic bouts on YouTube recently I started to wonder where he had learned to do such incredible falls. In short, it seemed to me that there was more to his 'Samurai warrior' image than just the costume. He seemed also to have the skill of an expert martial artist. Back in the '70s there was no easy way of verifying this. Nagasaki wore a mask when he wrestled, he never revealed his real name and he never gave interviews.

In principle, Kendo Nagasaki remains to this day a man of mystery. In practice, it doesn't take too long, with the aid of Google and Wikipedia, to discover that when out of the mask, Nagasaki's life overlaps to a considerable degree with a Staffordshire property developer by the name of Peter Thornley. A bit more digging reveals that Thornley trained extensively in the martial arts, gaining black belts in both Judo and Aikido. Kendo Nagasaki himself is reticent about providing full details of his martial arts background (see his website: www. http://kendonagasaki.org) but he does acknowledge being trained by the great Japanese teacher, Kenshiro Abbe Sensei. Anyone who has studied Aikido or Judo for any length of time will know Abbe Sensei's name. He was a highranking expert in both those arts. He arrived in Britain in the mid-fifties and, in addition to promoting serious Judo study, he also helped to popularise Aikido. In short, were it not for Abbe Sensei, I would probably never have learnt Aikido; and our Aikido club in Bucks Cross would not even exist. Little did I guess when I used to sit down to watch those Saturday afternoon wrestling bouts so many years ago that one day I would have something in common with one of the greatest wrestlers of them all. Kendo Nagasaki, I mean. Though if I don't cut down on the cakes and steamed puddings soon, maybe I'll have something in common with Big Daddy too! 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

## Thanks Bideford Freemasons

Bideford Buzz were delighted to receive a cheque from Bideford Benevolence Lodge of Masons to help with printing costs. The photo shows Rose Arno with Brother Colin Lovering and Brother Roger Heffer. Jan Withey representing the Torridge Voluntary Services received the other cheque.After the presentation recipients were invited to see round the Masonic Hall in Bridgeland St, and view its amazing interior décor. *Photo(c) Tom Arno* 



### Buzz Word -

## Our letters page- please send us your Buzzes!! Write to <a href="mailto:editor@bidefordbuzz.org.uk">editor@bidefordbuzz.org.uk</a> or to the address on front page.

#### Volunteers needed

The North Devon Maritime Museum at Appledore urgently needs more volunteers to help run the museum from Easter until the end of October. This involves selling tickets, running a small shop, and showing DVDs. We are a friendly group who enjoy meeting visitors and helping them enjoy their visit. Please phone 01237 477836 to come and meet other volunteers and put your name on our rota!

#### Diana Yendell

#### Wedding Fayre

Are you planning a wedding? If so, why not come along to a Wedding Fayre, hosted by The Appledore Singers, on Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 11am – 4pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Churchfields, Appledore. Here you can meet local wedding suppliers and gather ideas for your special day. All in aid of the North Devon Chemotherapy Appeal. Refreshments, including lunch, will be available. For more information contact Lynda Armstrong on 07969 293047 or la.armstrong@btinternet.com

#### No 'Mace'

I have read (and enjoyed as always) the Feb issue of the Buzz but there is a printing error that needs amending.

On the front cover there is a list of 'lost shops'. Myself and my husband own Complete Computing in Old Town and also had the grocery shop prior to this, so we know the history of the building. It was never called Mace shop as you have stated in your newsletter. Mace was a branding used (eg londis) but the shop was independently owned, run and was called Davies at the time.

In approx 1950's - 1970's the shop was **E.T.Edwards**, it was then **D.E & D Davies** and then it was **Old Town Stores**, and is now **Complete Computing SW Ltd**.

If your readers would like more information there is a display in the shop that highlights all the past tenants from the 1841 - 1911 census, as well as photographs of the shop front through these three different owners. Please can you point this out in your March edition so anybody who is interested has the correct facts about 42/43 Old Town.

**Nickie Baglow** 

#### Wanted, cine film 8mm 400ft reels or 400ft audio reels.

Please contact M.J.Harper on halfpennyacre@btinternet.com or 01271 860711

#### **March Diary**

#### Friday 1<sup>st</sup>

7.45pm Modern Sequence Dancing Kingsley Hall, Westward Ho! 01769 540309 8pm Ceilidh Club Bideford Amateur Athletic Club. 476632 Palladium Club - Basils ballsup band £3 Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Palladium Club – DJ night with Wendy May £3 Monday 4th **10am** Lip-Reading classes at Ethelwynne Brown Close. Heather Smith 07994390807 LipreadingSW@mail.com. 3pm Bideford Methodist Church Monday Club 7.30pm Appledore Singers rehearse at Appledore Primary School. 01769 560034 8.30pm North Devon Jazz Club at The Beaver, Irsha St, Appledore. Tim Thornton Quartet. 421065 Tuesday 5th **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 7.30pm Northam Choral Society rehearses at Northam Methodist Church Hall, 429080

Palladium Club Jam Night

#### Wednesday 6th

10.30am Parkinson's UK Coffee Morning Ethelwynne Brown Close, Common Room 1. 478128.
2.30pm Bideford Library Readers' Group. 476075
7.30pm Bideford Folk Dance Club meets Northam Hall. 423554
7.30pm The Two Rivers Wind Ensemble Rehearsal at Bideford Band Room. 01271 860061
7.30pm Bideford Music Club at Bideford Methodist Church. 477242
8pm Bideford Phoenix Morris Baptist Church, Mill Street, Neil Bennion on 473798 or
n.bennion@btinternet.com Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>
10.15am Northam Men's Forum meets Northam Methodist Church Hall. 'North Devon Yeomanry' by Ken Egan.478123

**2-4pm** See Hear on Wheels (SHoW) bus at Pill Car Park. Mobile service with wide range of sensory equipment to try/borrow. 01271 373236 **7 30 P** Bidsford Sustainability informal get togethe

**7.30 – 9.30 pm** Bideford Sustainability informal get-together Blacksmith's Arms, Torrington Street (continued overleaf)

## March Diary 2013

#### Friday 8<sup>th</sup>

7.30pm Bideford Stamp Club meets at The Old School Room, Kingsley Hall, Westward Ho! 472101 7.30pm Abbotsham WI meets at Abbotsham Village Hall. 474711 7.45pm Modern Sequence Dancing, Kingsley Hall, Westward Ho! 01769 540309 8pm Ceilidh Club, Bideford Amateur Athletic Club. 476632 Devon Hall. Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers 01769 540309 429525 Palladium Club - scholars/the dead betas/oh captive £4 Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm Baby Sale in Abbotsham Village 2.30pm Jumble Sale in Abbotsham Hall. Abbotsham & Alwington Pre-School 7.30pm Wineman's Bluff in aid of St Helen's Church at The Old School, Abbotsham. Tickets £10 475083 7.30pm 'Local Vocal' with Torridge Male Torridge Ramblers afternoon walk. Voice Choir and the Jubilee Singers at Woolsery Community Hall 431941 Palladium Club – the rivals £3 Monday 11th 10am Lip-Reading classes at Ethelwynne Brown Close. Heather Smith 07994390807 7.30pm Appledore Singers rehearse at 7.30pm Appledore Singers rehearse Appledore Primary School. 01769 560034 7.30pm Bideford Stamp Club, Old School Room, rear of Kingsley Hall, Westward Ho! 472101 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 10am-1pm Lavington Church coffee and lunches. 10.30am Macular Disease Society meets at Burton Art Gallery. 01409 231309 2-4pm Epilepsy Action Group meets Corner House Café, Boutport St, Barnstaple. 07875577428 7.15pm Bideford Camera Club meets Ethelwynne Brown Community Centre, East-The-Water. 423242 7.30pm Bideford & District Cacti & Potplant Club, Bideford Methodist Church. perennials. 01271 345246 7.30pm Northam Choral Society rehearses at Northam Methodist ChurchEnsemble Rehearsal at Bideford Band Hall. 429080 Palladium Club Jam Night Wednesday 13th 10.15am Probus Club at Royal Hotel. 473337 7.30pmThe Two Rivers Wind Ensemble Thursday 21st Rehearsal at Bideford Band Room 01271 860061 7.30pm Bideford Folk Dance Club meets Northam Hall. 423554 8pm Bideford Phoenix Morris, Baptist Church, Mill Street. 473798 Thursday 14th 10am-12pm McMillan Benefits Advice drop-in session at Bideford Library. 476075 11am Northam Men's Forum meets at

Merry Harriers. Talk followed by lunch. 478123 2.15pm Thursday Fellowship. Northam Methodist Church Hall. 421956 7pm Hartland Aikido Club for over 18s at Bucks Cross Village Hall. Friday 15th 2pm Devonshire Assn at Burton Art Gallery. 477701/471749 7.45pm Modern Sequence Dancing Kingsley Hall, Westward Ho! 8pm Ceilidh Club Bideford Amateur Athletic Club. 476632 Palladium Club – The Vibrators £8 Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Village Hall. Abbotsham & Alwington Pre-School Palladium Club - Auction for the promise club £3 Sunday 17th 423663 11am-4pm Hartland Abbey Daffodil Day. Refreshments available. 441234 Monday 18th 10am Lip-Reading classes at Ethelwynne Brown Close. Heather Smith 07994390807 at Appledore Primary School. 01769 560034 7.30pm Appledore Amateur Radio Club 473337 at Appledore Football Social Club. 473251 8.30pm North Devon Jazz Club at Beaver, Appledore. 421065 **Tuesday 19th** 10am-1pm Lavington Church Coffee and lunches 7.15pm Bideford Camera Club Ethelwynne Brown Community Centre, East-The-Water. 423242 7.30pm Northam Choral Society rehearses at Methodist Church Hall, Northam. 429080 Palladium Club Jam Night Wednesday 20th 11.30am-3.30pm Bideford Black Show and Tell Day at the Burton Art Gallery. 7.30pm The Two Rivers Wind Room. 01271 860061 7.30pm Bideford Folk Dance Club meets Northam Hall. 423554 8pm Bideford Phoenix Morris, Baptist Church, Mill Street. 473798 10.15am Northam Men's Forum meets Northam Methodist Church Hall 478123 2.15pm Thursday Fellowship at Northam Methodist Church Hall. 421956 7pm Hartland Aikido Club for over 18s at Bucks Cross Village Hall. 8pm Bideford Folk Club at 'Next Door' Cooper St

## Friday 22nd

10am-12pm Northam Memory cafe at Northam Hall. 459337 7.45pm Modern Sequence Dancing, Kingsley Hall, Westward Ho! 01769 540309 8pm Ceilidh Club Bideford Amateur Athletic Club. 476632 Palladium Club - 9 yards £3 Saturday 23rd Palladium Club - beatsworkin £3 Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 11am-4pm Wedding Fayre, St Mary's Church Hall, Appledore Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 10am Lip-Reading classes at Ethelwynne Brown Close. Heather Smith 07994390807 7.30pm Appledore Singers rehearse at Appledore Primary School. 01769 560034 Tuesday 26th 10am-1pm Lavington Church coffee and lunches 7.15pm Bideford Camera Club meets Ethelwynne Brown Community Centre, East-The-Water. 423242 7.30pm Northam Choral Society rehearses at Methodist Church Hall. Northam. 429080 Palladium Club Jam Night Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Probus Club at Royal Hotel. 7.30pm The Two Rivers Wind Ensemble Rehearsal at Bideford Band Room. 01271 860061 7.30pm Bideford Folk Dance Club meets Northam Hall. 423554 8pm Bideford Phoenix Morris, Baptist Church, Mill Street. Neil Bennion 473798 Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm Bideford Library Drop-in event for Bideford Buzz to find out more about your local newsletter. 10.15am Northam Men's Forum meets Northam Methodist Church Hall. Simon Dell on 'Lundy through time'. 478123 2.15pm Thursday Fellowship at Northam Methodist Church Hall. Rev Peter Whatton - Maundy Thursday Communion. 421956 7pm Hartland Aikido Club for over 18s at Bucks Cross Village Hall. Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 7.45pm Modern Sequence Dancing, Kingsley Hall, Westward Ho! 01769 540309 8pm Ceilidh Club Bideford Amateur Athletic Club. 476632 Palladium Club - TV Smith/The Verbals £7 Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 9am-6pm Atlantic Village Food & Craft Fair. Palladium Club - spaced invaders £3 Sunday 31<sup>s</sup> 10am-4.30pm Atlantic Village Food & Craft Fair.