# Worshipping together in the Blackdown Hi

FOLLOWING a meeting to consider the opportuof church leaders in Dunkeswell, a new ecumenical group has been formed covering the Blackdown Hills and representative of all the main denominations.

Springing from an initial idea by Steven Reed, Pastor of Hemyock Baptist Church, and co-sponsored by local Anglican Vicar David Sherwood. more than 30 leaders met nities presented under the new organisation called "Christians Worshiping Together in the Blackdown Hills" (CWTBH).

"The aim of the new organisation is to encourage, challenge and bless Christian believers in the Hills," said Steven Reed.

"To that end, there will be a series of regular major celebrations and other co-ordinated

#### by Blackdowns reporter

events. The first of these be held Dunkeswell on Saturday, January 30th when nationally recognised author and conference speaker Adrian Plass will be a guest speaker."

Speaking after the first meeting of CWTBH, special guest Bishop Bob Evens expressed his approval.

He said: "I am delighted to be part of this exciting programme in the Blackdown Hills which is drawing people together from their different communities and churches to celebrate the many gifts that God has given us.

"We will find renewed encouragement and fresh vision as we come together and share how God is at work right

across this wonderful area".

going programme was an

inter-church BBQ for

summer 2010, a universal

web site for "Hills"

churches, open air serv-

ices, concerts and bible

teaching weeks.

Another guest, Regional Baptist Minister Jez Brown, said: "I warmly commend this exciting initiative to all churches located within the Blackdown Hills.

"When Christians commit to working together in fellowship and unity in the task of making God known within our communities, he loves to bless such endeavours."

Among the suggestions made for a possible on-

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■ CHURCH leaders meet at the Lakeview Manor Hotel at Dunkeswell





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### THE COMMUNITY JOURNAL FOR THE BLACKDOWN HILLS

# Electric scooter charging posts backed in Taunton

AN innovative Taunton company, which is encouraging emission-free transport in the county town, has been praised by aspiring Taunton Deane Conservative MP Mark Formosa.

Mark was invited by managing director Jim Duncan to visit Reaction Electric, which operates from a converted print works just off East Reach, and which supplies electric cars, motorcycles, scooters, and bicycles.

He tried out a Vectrix maxi-scooter, which is the world's first high-powered electric two-wheel vehicle and is designed to compete with large petrol-powered scooters and motorbikes.

Operating costs of the Vectrix are lower than a traditional petrol motorcycle, it requires minimal maintenance, has zero emissions, virtually no noise, cheaper insurance, and does not attract road tax.



is published in conjunction with the Blackdown Hills Business Association, supported by the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Reaction Electric is currently working closely with Project Taunton and expects shortly to begin installing a series of electric charging posts at locations around the town for people to re-charge their electric vehicles.

Mr Formosa said: "I was hugely impressed at how easily available the technology now is for everybody to be able to travel around Taunton without causing any of the emissions, which are being blamed for adding to climate change.

"A number of councils in London are actively encouraging the use of zero emission vehicles and have already installed charging posts already.

"So I welcome the moves in Taunton to follow suit and hope we will quickly see the charging posts installed and more and more people using electric vehi-

"With the moves which are being made by the Deane council and the county council to become more environmentally friendly, Taunton could become the green capital of the West."

Pictured right is Mark Formosa on a Vectrix maxiscooter watched by Reaction Electric managing director Iim Duncan



#### **Coffee morning**

ST James Church, Sheldon will be holding a Christmas coffee morning which promises to be "bags of fun"

The event will take place on Saturday, December 5th from 10am to 12noon at Sheldon Village Hall.

There will be a "bag" tombola and raffle as well as book stall, produce and plants and competitions.

The Sheldon Craft Club will also have a stall and the 2010 Sheldon calendar will be on sale as well as Christmas cards.

The event will be held in aid of St James Church, Sheldon.

#### Choir's concerts

THE Blackdown Community Choir will be performing a Christmas concert later this month.

The choir will be hosting a free concert at the Wellington Arts Centre on Saturday, December 5th at 7.30pm. All donations made during the evening will go to Macmillan Cancer Care.

The community choir will also be taking part in the "Carols Under the Stars" event organised by the Blackdown Hills AONB on Wednesday, December 9th.

The event will take place at Castle Neroche with singing from 7pm until 8.30pm.

Wrap up warm and join in singing traditional carols under the stars with a warm drink and mince pie. The event is free.

For more information contact the AONB office on (01823) 680681.

# DO YOU REMEMBER?



■ CYCLES were at the ready for one of the events during the Payhembury Church fete in 1961.

Photo by DAVE WHEADON

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# **Christmas tree festival**

VILLAGERS in Churchinford are getting into the Christmas spirit by hosting a Christmas tree festival.

Families, clubs and organisations in the village are invited to decorate a Christmas tree, any shape or size, in whatever theme they wish, to help brighten up the village hall during the festive season.

The hall will be open on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 6pm for all to see and admire the trees.

Refreshments and musical entertain-

day and visitors will be asked to vote for their favourite tree. Prizes will be awarded to the most popular entries.

Admission to the festival will be £3

and children free.
All entries should be placed at Churchinford Village Hall on the evening of Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and be clearly marked with the entrant's

More details and entry form available on www.churchstantonfestivals.co.uk.

# View News

CONTACT OUR pemedia@pemedia.co.uk www.viewfrompublishing.co.uk

# Young farmers pay tribute to member with charity donation

#### by Anna-Lisa Taylor

CULM Valley Young Farmers Club made a presentation of their charity cheques at their Harvest Supper, held at

Chairman for the past year, Emma Greenslade, secretary Emily York, and the members, had chosen the Laura Persey Trust as the main charity and the club had worked hard throughout the year raising money for the cause.

Laura Persey, who was an active member of Culm Valley YFC and a close friend of Emma, died suddenly in October 2007 from Sudden Adult Death Syndrome, aged

The registered charitable trust has been set up by her parents for "the advancement of the education of young people in Devon and Somerset in rural and home crafts and skills, agriculture, equestrianism".

The club are already benefiting from the trust's work with some members taking part in a ploughing course, a foot trimming course, a royal cake icing course and plans are under way for some of the girls to learn tractor driving skills too.

The club held fund raising activities throughout the

year, including carol singing and a cake stall at the pointto-point, but the major event was the restarting of the Blackborough Horse Show in memory of Laura.

This was a huge success, and attracted many people from far and wide who came to support the trust in Laura's memory.

Entries came from Laura's friends as far away as Bath and Ilminster to support this event, with numerous spon-

MORE than 200 people filled the

parish church of St Mary's, Hemyock

for the annual Remembrance Sunday

service, raising over £550 for the

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The service was preceded by a pa-

rade from the parish hall led by the

church choir followed by youth uni-

formed groups, veterans and villagers.

erend Chris Hudson with lessons read

The service was led by The Rev-

Large gathering

remembers war



#### ■ MEMBERS of Culm Valley YFC present a cheque for £3,700 to the Laura Persey Trust

were left at the post office in Blagdon Hill following

web camera.

Police hope that members of the public might

sors donating money and items for the show's fund too. The day provided enjoyment for so many with several local produce and craft stalls and a fun dog show, which attracted a massive entry of dogs of every size and breed. The day was such a huge success that many requests have already been made to the organising committee that it be

run again, and the equivalent date has now been provisionally booked for next September.

The cheques presented for the year were £3,700 to the Laura Persey Trust, with donations of £300 for Blackborough Village Hall and £60 for Blackborough Church from the year's fantastic work.

and successful conviction

of the person/persons re-

sponsible for the robbery.

Anyone able to help is

asked to contact Taunton

police on 0845 4567000.

# New info released on post office robbery

items or have information

to help the police investi-

The Post Office is offer-

ing a substantial reward

leading to information

ther appeal for witnesses following a robbery of a post office in the Taunton They have released photographs of items which

Steven Reed, Baptist Chapel.

Flanders Field.

Remembrance, two minutes silence and the Kohema Epitaph at the War

Appeal Organiser and Tim Barton, by The Reverend Hudson and Pastor

The service ended with an Act of

Tuesday July 21. have been arrested in the connection with the robbery and have been released on police bail, pending further enquiries.

the robbery at 3pm on A man and a woman Following the incident, a number of items were discovered at the scene - a small lump hammer and a purple coloured Unison shop steward's bag which contained a pair of broken spectacles and a computer

■ ITEMS left behind following a robbery at Blag-

### dead in Hemyock by David Bawler, Honorary Poppy Royal Air Force (Rtd) and prayers led

Becky Thomas read the poem In

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#### **Punkie night**

THE Blackdown Hills annual winter celebration, Punkie Night, was cancelled last month due to

severe weather warnings.

The event will now go ahead on Saturday, December 5th at Castle Neroche from 4pm.

Children from local primary schools, including Hemyock, Culmstock, Thurlbear and Churchstanton, have all made lanterns and will take part in a magical woodland procession.

The event is free and open to all, but booking is essential. If you would like to make your own lantern please call the Neroche Scheme office on (01823) 680846.

There will be drinks and food for sale throughout the event and participants should arrive by

#### **Christmas Competition**

HEMYOCK residents and businesses are being encouraged to enter into the festive spirit by externally decorating their homes and offices.

The annual competition draws significant interest, with prizes given by Hemyock Parish Council for both categories.

Devon County Councillor Ray Radford has been asked to judge this year's competition.

Further details may be obtained from the parish clerk Anne Kingston on (01823) 680918.

#### £850 for children's hospice

A COFFEE morning held at Tatworth Memorial Hall raised £850 for Children's Hospice South

Residents turned out in force to show their support of the cause, spending their hard earned cash on one of the many bric a brac stalls or popping in for a cup of coffee.

Helen Meech, an organiser of the event, said: "Many thanks to everyone who gave donations, gifts and much more. "Thanks also to the band of hardworking

helpers and all who supported the event to make it such an enormous success.

"The Hospice table took £240 as well which is

#### Christmas party

DUNKESWELL Methodist Church will be hosting

A bring and share supper will take place at 4 Higher Mead, Hemyock from 7pm until 9pm on Friday, December 4th.

All are welcome to attend.

On Sunday, December 20th at 3pm, the church will be holding their carols by candlelight service followed by tea and mince pies.

The Methodist church have also arranged a Christmas flower arranging course with Barbara Scale on Monday, December 21st at 7pm, Go along and learn to make Christmas flower decorations and take them home with you.

#### Carol service

A CAROL service will be held in Dunkeswell in the lead up to Christmas.

St Nicholas Church will host their Carol service on Friday, December 18th at 7.30pm.

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■ YOUNGSTERS at the Blackdown Children's Day Nursery in their Children in Need fancy dress outfits

# Blackdowns nursery raises money for BBC Children In Need

acters attended a Wellington children's nursery to help raise funds for the BBC's Children in Need annual appeal.

They were all represented when Blackdown Children's Day Nursery asked parents to put their youngsters in fancy dress for the Pudsey Bear event last month.

During the week, the nursery children also made Pudsey Bear biscuits and were encouraged to bring their own favourite games and toys with them in exchange for a donation to the charity

Nursery manager Trudy Kemble and her staff also joined in the fun by arriving for work in various cos-

Money collected by the family-run children's nursery for the BBC appeal totalled more than £50. Blackdown Children's Day Nursery only opened six

in private grounds off the A38 at Chelston, on the edge of Wellington.

It offers childcare from 8am to 6pm on weekdays and has been awarded the maximum five stars by environmental health inspectors for its food and hygiene handling programme.

Nursery owner Graham Brister-Thorne said: "Children in Need is a charity close to our hearts and we were delighted to do our small bit to help the appeal.

'Our nursery children thought it was all great fun - and the Pudsey Bear biscuits did not last very long at all."

Anybody who wants to know more about Blackdown Children's Day Nursery can visit www.blackdownchildrensdaynursery.co.uk or email gbt.bway@talktalk.net or telephone 07754 751750.

#### **Christmas at Willowbrook**

COME and get your Christmas tree at Willowbrook Nursery and Garden Centre this Christmas. We have a wide choice of trees – something to suit almost everyone! We have holly wreaths, mistletoe and holly.

We also sell the National Garden gift vouchers that can be exchanged all over the country - ideal for those those people that are far away.

We have lots of plant gift ideas such as olives, figs and blueberries through to NEW varieties of roses in all sorts of colours! The shop has readymade and wrapped ideas - from chocolates to garden spades. If they aren't wrapped yet - we will gift wrap them free of charge.

We will be serving Christmas Lunches in the café and tea-room from the 1st December until the 24th. We will also be serving our usual menu during these times - so you get even more choice. Why not 'pop-in' for a visit - don't forget the Pet & Bird centre, Bow Aquatic centre, B & M Camping as well, find us on the A38 between Taunton and Wellington.



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# **Tatworth Pre-School** celebrates 40 years



■ FORMER teachers, pupils and friends gathered to celebrate 40 years of Tatworth Pre-School

PUPILS at Tatworth pre-school were celebrating the 40th birthday of their school with a special party.

More than 100 teachers, pupils and friends from the past four decades gathered at Tatworth's Memorial Hall for a special party.

Mayor of Chard, Councillor Jill Shortland, gave a speech and a magician entertained the youngsters as old friends met to reminisce over photographs

#### by Roxanne Cameron

taken throughout the pre-school's history.

Among the guests were founders of the original Tatworth Playgroup, as it was first known, were Gwen Beresford, Daphne Carslake, Helen Meech, Joan Knight and Gladys Duke.



# Blackdowns' businesses win top environment awards

BLACKDOWN'S businesses have been honoured at the 2009 DEBI environmental awards, with Dunkeswell based Woolly Shepherd walking away the overall winner.

Nominated businesses included The Woolley Shepherd and Nu Heat, Honiton, in the Environmental Goods and Services category, and Otterton Mill in the Food and Farming Category

The Otter Brewery were nominated in the Sustainable Devon category.

The Woolly Shepherd was named the overall winner, as well as winning their category. The Otter Brewery also won their category.

The Devon Environmental Business Initiative (DEBI) hosted the awards ceremony at the Met Office in Exeter, where businesses across the region were recognised for their efforts in adopting environmentally friendly policies.

#### by Lisa Bright

Val Baker from the Blackdown Hills Business Association said: "I am delighted to hear that both the Woolly Shepherd and Otter Brewery have been recognised for their commitment to running their businesses in harmony with the environ-

"Both businesses have managed to embrace environmental challenges and turn them into oppor-

"It is crucial that businesses in this special area of outstanding natural beauty feel responsible for

"I am delighted that businesses in this area are leading the way - this is excellent news for business and excellent news for the area."

# volunteers sought for Blackdowns nature reserves

Youngsters pay tribute

on Rememberance day

looking for volunteers in the Blackdown Hills AONB to help with practical conservation work on three of its nature reserves.

The charity has been struggling to find local people to help out at Lickham Common, Ashculm Turbary and The Rough which all lie within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

DWT's Edric Hopkinson who looks after the reserves said: "The Devon Wildlife Trust has a good volunteer base across most of the county, but have few volunteers in the Blackdowns area.

"Because of this we are very keen to find people within the AONB who might be interested in helping out on these nature reserves. It's a great way to

bit of a wildlife workout!"

The call for volunteers follows the news in July of the arrival of two Exmoor ponies to one of the sites. Lickham Common, which sits between the villages of Hemvock and Culmstock.

Edric added: 'The ponies have settled in really well and had a great season on the reserve. The site looks in such good condition, so it would be great to follow up this progress with a renewed burst of manpower to clear some of the trees and scrub that are encroaching upon the open areas.

For more information and how to get involved, call DWT on (01392)

# Play raises £1,000 for SURE

A CHEQUE for £1,000 has been presented to SURE (Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment) by the Combe St Nicholas based Cloverleaf Productions.

The large amount was presented by Andy Treble, who, while in hospital wrote a play for one of the recent productions responsible for raising the money.

Pictured from Left are Andy Treble, Bob Dunn (Cloverleaf chairman), Eric Saffin and Roy Hole from SURE who collected the

### Young farmers get to grips with ploughing

ing was introduced to several local young farmers just one of the many craft skills now supported by The Laura Persey Trust.

A group of 14 young farmers met at Mr Tidball's farm at Clyst William, near Plymtree, with ploughs both vintage and modern.

Three of the county's most noted senior ploughmen - all top judges and champion competitors in their own right - were there to pass on their vast knowledge.

Colin Reed from Cullompton and Mr Kerslake from Tiverton tutored the young ploughmen with modern ploughs, whilst Joe Hill, also from Tiverton, took charge of the vintage ploughs.

The trainees, who came from as far afield as Hol-Rogus, Dunkeswell and Whimple, arrived with a vast by Anna-Lisa Taylor

range of ploughs in age, size and type.

They soon aware of the intricacies of skilled ploughing, whatever the size of plough, and also what would also be expected for competition ploughing. It was soon apparent to the that skilled ploughing is far more than just turning green to brown.

The group have now requested to learn even more of this master skill at a future course and then some are aiming to commatches next spring.

The Laura Persey Trust has been set up in memory of Laura who died in 2007, to advance the education of young people in Devon & Somerset in rural and home craft were delighted at the suc-

cess of this course.
They said: "To see so many young agriculturalists having such a wonderful day learning a real skill, and having fun in the process, was a real delight. And it is just what the trust has been established to promote - and just what Laura would have loved to have done herself.

"The day was fabulous and a great success for all. We have been so fortunate to have had the vast knowledge of three such skilled tutors who made the day work so well. We really hope that the lads ward and maybe enter a local match in the future."

Immediate courses arranged include bovine hoof trimming, very fine' royal cake icing and basic tractor driving for girls. First Aid niques are also being supported through the pony club for more senior members.

Further details of opportunities may be obtained from Devon Young Farmers Club, Exeter, or the



■ YOUNG farmers learn how to plough

# Big turn out for **Hemyock Singers**

■ MEMBERS of the 1st Buckland St Mary Brownie Guides made

arrangements of poppies, which were placed at the memorial inside

Tawny Owl Sandy Potts is seen with twins Evie and Madelaine De-

the Parish Church during the service of Remembrance last month.

Sullivan was enjoyed by almost 100 people at a concert arranged by Hemyock Singers.

Held at the parish hall, the concert began with Trial By Jury with main soloists Tony Grosse (Judge), Glyn Jones (Defendant) and Jenny Doble (Plaintiff) with other minor parts being taken by members of the group.

The interval saw a supper of cheese and pate before the audience were treated to a selection of choruses from The Gondoliers; The Mikado, with soloists Tony Grosse and Anne Monk; of Penzance, soloist Mike Cooper; The Sorcerer and Iolanthe bringing warm applause at the end of the evening.

The group were accompanied on piano by Nigel Atkinson and conducted by Ron White. Sandy Hannaford was the evening's compere

Tickets for the Hemyock Singers Christmas Concert and turkey dinner, to be held on December 19th, are on sale. There is limited seating for this and it is expected tickets will sell out quickly.

IF you've got a news story or photos for **View from the Blackdown Hills** email them to lisa@pemedia.co.uk or phone (01297) 446153, to let us know about your events

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# Pupils get cooking in Buckland



■ LET'S GET COOKING: All food served was made by the children



■ GRUBS UP: Melanie Tuffill tucks into her soup from Jo Salter

www.brookridgegroup.co.uk

HUNGRY residents went along to the second Winter Warmer lunch organised by school pupils from Buckland St Mary.

People tucked into a vegetable soup and roll with apple crumble and cream for dessert.

All the food was cooked by pupils as part of their "Let's get cooking scheme".

Recipes made by children from the school are available to buy from a cook book produced by themselves.

Chard Carnival Princess Karen Salter a former pupil of Buckland St Mary, showed her support by helping to sell the books on the day.



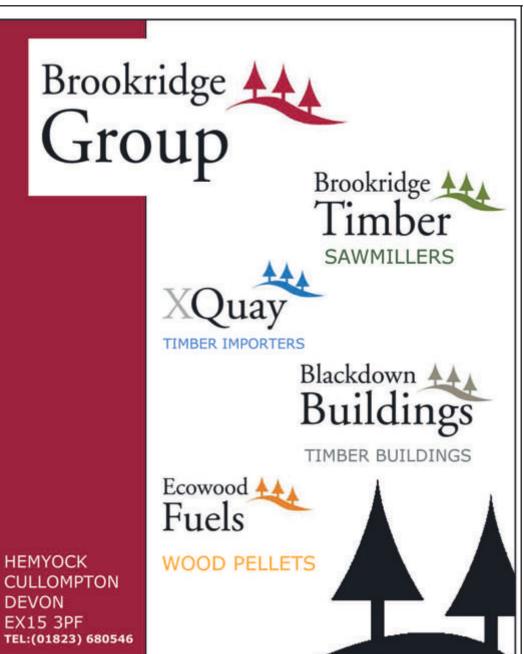
■ CHARD CARNIVAL PRINCESS: Karen Salter came back to her old primary school to help sell books



■ MANY FINGERS: Adults contributed as well



■ AHEAD OF THE REST: Buckland St Mary Headteacher Sue English with husband John





HELP IS AT HAND: Francis Spiller and Sally Hodge



■ ROLL UP: Hilary and Ian Cummings ran the raffle

# Shed plan ends up as a farm shop and restaurant

B ARLEYMOWS is a successful farm shop and restaurant, run by Martin and Rose Burrough, located on the outskirts of Chard.

The name Barleymows comes from Martin's nickname on his old CB radio.

"When we decided we were going to open a farm shop we thought that Snowden Hill Farm Shop was a bit boring and a bit of a mouthful and a friend of ours who knew Martin's nickname said 'why don't you call it Barleymows?' And, the name stuck," said Rose.

Martin's family have farmed in the area for 60 years and own 170 acres of land. Rose married Martin in 2000 and together they began to plan for the future.

The shop business began with planning permission for the shed (now the shop) to become a machinery storage shed, but their plans changed and they began to sell boxes of mixed meat.

This really took off and after some thought Rose and Martin decided the shed would make an ideal spot for a farm shop and the business took off from there.

Barleymows is family run, Martin and Rose's parents are heavily involved with operations, adding to its success. and Janette Curtis, Rose's mum, takes care of the administration paperwork, accounts, wages.

Her role has changed changed from when they opened in 2002. "We just thought it

"We just thought it would be mum and I, a butcher and two others, a nice family run shop," said Rose.

"It was like that for a while, I mean we were everywhere. We worked on the shop floor, we were the

IT is said that from little acorns do big oak trees grow, but for Martin and and Rose Burrough it was a case of planning permission for a shed growing into a successful business. Having started selling boxes of meat the couple soon branched out into a farm shop and now there is a superb restaurant where people can enjoy something to eat and drink while picking up mouth-watering goodies. But it's very much a family run business as reporter ROXANNE CAMERON found out.

cleaners and the book-keepers."

Over the years Rose has reduced her hours at the shop as she is a mum of two, employed a team of staff to run the shop and Janette has become the general manager.

Rose and her family never thought the business would be such a success.

"When we originally opened the shop, we were going to make it much smaller, it was only going to be half the size.

"After a lot of market research and having visited a lot of shops we thought in for a penny in for a pound and went for the whole lot and converted the whole building.

ing.
"We were really glad

we did because it has been a success from the word go."

Janette said: "And, from when we opened people were asking 'Is there anywhere we can get a cup of coffee?"

Natural progression led to the restaurant being opened in Barleymows, which has been serving delicious food and drinks since April.

"Again, it made sense to use the beef and the lamb we produce on the farm in the kitchen to make the meals that are served in the restaurant and to make ready made meals and other products," Rose said.

After five or six years as a working farm shop, adding a restaurant attracts customers from further afield to shop at Barleymows and stay for something to eat.

"We are extremely lucky because most of our customer base are local or repeat customers, we consider passing trade a bonus," said Rose.

Rose is a mother of two young children, Tom aged seven, and Adam, aged three. Tom was just six-weeks-old when Barleymows opened.

Rose recalled: "I was very lucky to have a great support network when we opened. I had my mum, my husband's parents, my mother in-law especially has been very supportive and has looked after the children for me.

"Tom actually spent the first part of his life in the shop. Customers used to love fussing over him and we get some now saying they remember when he was a little baby and how much he has grown."

Rose enjoys working with her mum but finds they are constantly talking about the shop when they are together, even outside of work.

"It's nice because we think in similar ways. Mum will come up with an idea of doing something in the shop and it's either been done or I was thinking of the same idea.

"I think it's because everything I have learnt has come from my parents. We like things done in the same way," Rose said.

Rose credits the business being a success to her hardworking team of employees.

"We've got the best team we have ever had," she said.

"We work really hard but we manage to have fun here, which creates a nice atmosphere for the customers."

Barleymows are entering their busiest time of year, with Christmas lunches available and hampers of meat, parties and Santa's grotto amongst the things happening in the shop and restaurant.

Barleymows really is a family business. Rose's father project managed the building of the restaurant, her father-in-law does the delivery work and her mother-in-law helps with child care.

"I'm really happy it has all worked out. We live in a lovely rural area, I have a wonderful family and have a lovely business." View profile





# Tiverton Kitchen and Bathroom Centre Ltd

Unit 1 Blundells Road Tiverton Devon EX16 6BZ T. 01884 254761 Full kitchen design and installation service.

German quality kitchens on your doorstep

8 December 2009 viewfrompublishing.co.uk

# Christmas Markets around the Blackdowns



TAUNTON is playing host to the best of Blackdowns arts, crafts and produce as the Blackdown Hills Business Association lay out their stalls at the Christmas Markets on Saturday, December 12th and Saturday, December 19th.

**Exhibitors include:** 

ny Excuse For A Cake - Hannah Stringer is passionate about making cakes and loves coming up with new ideas: anything from very plain iced cake to childrens' novelty cakes available in any shape or size.

Every cake is homemade to order and is individual to suit you, cakes can be personalised and special candles provided. Cakes come in many flavours: chocolate, vanilla, fruit, carrot, lemon and anything else you can suggest for all occasions including Christmas, weddings, birthdays, christenings, engagements, aniversaries, retirement, congratulations Hannah also does Cakes by Post- a great gift idea is six cupcakes in a gift box sent through the post with a gift card and, cakes can be mixed and match design and flavoursaccording to your taste.

Gift boxes are from £12.99 each plus postage and payment can be made by cheque or paypal.To see the gallery of goodies visit www.anyexcuseforacake.com

ummerlanes Studios - Mike and Kirsty at Summerlanes Studios offer a range of products and services.

Photography, choose from a range of prints from Mike's extensive catalogue and a range of images are also available on high quality blank greeting cards, postcards and calendars. Also a competitively priced photo service for portrait phtography, weddings, special events or promotional material, just ask. Paintings are availble in many sizes and different supports and are produced in acrylic and sold framed. Jewellery: Kirsty makes custom made jew-

Churchinford, Taunton Tel: 01823 601565 ellery ensuring that every product has a personal touch and she will consider any individual design requirements or jewellery sets for weddings and special occadions. Woodcraft: a range of quality handcarved wood products including walding sticks, bowls and other items; and coming soon isba range of patchwork and needlecraft products. Do contact us and visit www.summerlanesstudios.co.uk

rcana Pottery makes jugs, mugs, vases, olive dishes, salt pigs, money boxes, oil burners, candle holders, garlic pots, bowls, bottle stands, cake stands, utensil pots, plant tags, eggcups, egg holders and egg plates and various other items all in stoneware.

That means that Judith and her team fire the pots to 1240 centigrade to produce durable material. The pots are glazed in a range of rich colours – described as "food safe" by the manufacturers – including sky blue, cobalt blue, dark brown, peacock, coral, green and cream. Judith uses Tenmoku and Chun glazes to produce chestnut-brown pots with dripping ridges of blue. As all the pots are handmade, every piece is unique.

Visit www.aracan-pottery.co.uk to see wonderful pictures and read a description of the making of these pots in an electric kiln which gives consistently good results.

eepers Makers design and source ethical gifts for you and your home. They are a small family business offering a friendly service and collections that are valued, sustainable and beautiful to keep and are hand made using traditional craft techniques.

Visit www.keepersmaers.co.uk to see examples of designed and handmade bags, delicate fair trade scarves and vintage textiles, beautiful home ware, stunning stationery, fair trade jewellery and recycled watering can among other items.

All are treasured keepsakes with stories and histories to be cherished and shopping with Keepers Makers gives the choice to be ethical consumers.

Georgie and Jacquelyn would love to hear from you if there are any questions or requests; perhaps about the Keepers Makers ethos, fair trade and designed items and there is a special page on the website under 'contact us'.

uck Unique proudly boasts over 30 years experience in all aspects of furniture and interior design and construction.

Duck Unique has its own design team and fully equipped workshop which offers an abundance of advice and knowledge on how to turn your ideas into reality. Fitted bedrooms, kitchens, living rooms plus pretty much any kind of furniture required can be designed and purpose made to your specifications.

Visit www.duckunique.com and see just a few examples of what Duck Unique can do and check out the case studies in the 'portfolio'.

Duck Unique emphasises that no job is too small; just contact them and they will work with you to produce quality finish to any space.

**Relations** ocky Point designs and hand makes jewellery and textile bags here in the south west. Returning from travelling and surfing, Rocky Point designer built up a collection of unique and interesting jewellery mixing colours and gemstones.

So these are beach inspired ideas using gemstones, shell, glass, wood and silver; all individual designs and fashion items with a difference to wear and enjoy an individual look.

Rocky Point's interest in art and textiles has also inspired individual design of textile bags in varying shapes and colours. Visit www.rockypoint.uk.com to look and the many photos and designs and be inspired

Rocky Point can be commissioned to make jewellery for any occasion and their stockists, where you can view their work, include Fusion, The Seaside Company, Rebel and Walkuku and they also exhibit at trade fairs across the west country including Bath and Exeter.





email: anyexcusefroacake@gmail.com website: www.anyexcuseforacake.com











# ristmas in the Blackdown

#### **Wreaths, Garlands and Trees**

**CHRISTMAS WREATHS DIRECT** 

Luxury wreaths, swags & garlands

**Heather Stevens and Elise Ellicott create** 

their luxury wreaths, swags and garlands

in the workshop on the Blackdown Hills.

Christmas Trees

at Connetts Farm,

Dunkeswell
Cut, Potted and Rooted

Norway Spruce & non-needle drop Varieties 3ft to 30ft.

Nordmann ◆ Noble ◆ Fraser Fir

Locally Grown Christmas Trees direst from the Grower

EATHER Stevens and Elise Elllicott launched luxury wreaths, swags and garlands business last year to wide acclaim. 2009 is now a special year as they are featuring in Kristy Allsop's progamme " Kirsty's

Telephone Heather

on 01884 841694

Home Made Christmas' showing on 6th, 7th and 8th December on Channel 4. As you can see in the photo, all three had a great time demonstrating their skills. and this is not all: Catherine Walker boutique in London's Syd-

Telephone Elise

on 01884 266465

nev Street, is using their Blackdowns craft for their seasonal window display; where next?

Heather and her husband Nick grow the Christmas trees which form the base of the wreaths, and all other materials are sourced locally. Between them, they have six children who enjoy collecting holly ivy from the hedgerows, and foraging for cones in the woods!

Their aim is sell beautiful wreaths, swags and garlands with a very low carbon footprint, so customers don't feel guilty buying from them.

They are both passionate about creating beautiful wreaths, swags and garlands for your home at Christmas and are always pleased to discuss individual requirements.

For general enquiries and to order bespoke fresh garlands, please contact Heather or Elise on 01884 266465 or 01884 841694 or e-mail info@christmaswreathsdirect.co.uk



**HEATHER** and Elise from Christmas Wreaths Direct will be featuring in Kirsty Allsop's Homemade Christmas programme.

Barleymow's Farm Shop ET in the mood and gear yourself up for Christmas. Come to Barleymow's Farm Shop and Restaurant near Chard for a Traditional Christmas Lunch, meet Father Christmas, choose your Christmas fayre and take home your Christmas tree.

We are taking bookings for Christmas lunches in our new 70 seat licensed restaurant. We can cater for a quiet table for two or a group party or just drop in for coffee and scrumptious homemade cake! The children, whatever the age, can meet Father Christmas in his Winter Wonderland Grotto (see advert for details) with all proceeds going to the RNLI.

Don't forget to order your Christmas meats, hampers and gifts. We will be cutting our home grown Christmas trees every day from the first December and have plenty of wreaths, mistletoe, nets of swedes and sprouts plus our home grown potatoes as usual.

> Telephone01460 62130. www.barleymowsfarmshop.co.uk

#### **Beech Hayes Farm**

ITUATED in the heart of the Blackdown Hills near Churchinford village, Beech Hayes Farm is a small mixed livestock farm which sells direct to the public and cater for all tastes and budgets

The emphasis is definitely on quality and taste, and Ruth and Nick Strange pride

themselves on a good friendly service. Native breed, grass fed, three week hung beef; Gloucester-old-spot pork and home bred lamb form the mainstay of the range of produce, together with free range hen and

Street Ash Nursery

# Christmas Trees

Tree Stands, Holly Wreaths, Indoor Plants, **Planted Bowls** & Gardening Gifts

Combe St Nicholas 01460 234736 Near Eagle Tavern Crossroad A303

duck eggs

Take the hassle out of Christmas and order from Beech Hayes Farm superb, rich, moist and delicious Turkeys, both Bronze and White. Hung for two weeks, these Birds form a brilliant centrepiece for the festive meal. Delicious large Chickens and Geese are also available as alternatives. Home cured hams and bacon, together with Chipolata sausages mean all the trimmings are available. In fact, you can order one of the excellent Christmas selections priced from £35 to £165. Telephone 01823 601565.

# Telephone Nick Stevens on 01884 841694 or 07860 459745 Santa's comi to Chard Come and visit his Grotto: 10am-4pm

Saf 12th, Fri 18th, Saf 19th, Sun 20fh, Tues 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> December



Enjoy a traditional West Country Christmas with the best from our farm and the finest local foods

Christmas Lunch Bookings taken



A Turkey is for Christmas not for life!

so please hurry and order from

#### **BEECH HAYES FARM**

succulent and tasty **Bronze** and White Turkeys, also Geese and enormous Chicken. Home Cured Gloucester Old Spot Hams and Bacon together with Three Week Hung Angus Beef.

Don't forget your

BLACKDOWN BANGERS (as supplied to the Castle Hotel), Chipolatas and Sausage Meat.

ask us about our Christmas Special Selections.

**RING RUTH & NICK** BEECH HAYES FARM, CHURCHINFORD, **TAUNTON 01823 601565** beechhayes@aol.com



Only 1/2 mile west of Chard on the A30. Tel: 01460 62130

# Funding for heathland restoration

A NEW funding agreement has recently been signed that aims to restore Horner Hill to its former glory

The agreement will build on pioneering work already underway in other parts of Stockland Parish to transform carefully selected area of dense scrub into wildlife havens of heathland.

Funds for the work on Horner Hill turbary come from Natural England via Higher Level Stewardship, a Government 'green farming' scheme that encourages farmers and land managers to protect and restore some of the region's most iconic landscapes.

Dr David Allen, representing landowner Stockland Parish Council, said: "This funding will build on work to manage the turbary at Horner Hill that was started almost a decade ago.
"The council very much look forward

to more people exploring the spectaular views over the Blackdown Hills from it." Historically, the Stockland Turbaries were areas of lowland heath and bog where peat turf was dug for fuel and gorse was cut for fodder.

The decline of these traditional practices have led to the land becoming overtaken by scrub and woodland, with an associated loss of diverse heathland

Barry Lockton, Natural England adviser for East Devon, said: "The turbaries are among the most important wildlife sites in the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, containing some nationally rare species.

'Higher Level Stewardship funding will support the re-establishment of a mosaic of valuable wildlife habitats, while increasing opportunities for local communities to access these special

Initially, a programme of scub clearance will take place at Horner Hill.

In addition, an archaeological survey of the hillside will establish the presence of any historic features on the site.

A new circular permissive footpath will be created, bird and mammal boxes will be strategically placed throughout the site and new signage with wildlife and historic information will be pro-

Finally, when the site has been suitably prepared, new fencing will enable local Ruby Red cattle to graze the heathland.



■ COMPLETE Meats owner Shaun Vining (back left) is pictured with representitives of Membury Community School, Avishayes

# Complete support from butchers

CHARD butchers Complete Meats have given a fund raising boost to three local organisations by donating cheques for £50 to each of them.

The happy recipients gathered at Complete Meats shop in Chard last month to receive their cheques from owner Shaun Vining.

Membury Community School, Tatworth it is really worth it when you see how much Playing Fields Committee and Avishayes Combe Youth Football Club all benefited.

Paula Priddle from Avishayes Combe Youth Football Club said: "We are very grateful for all the support we receive from the community, fund raising is hard work but enjoyment the children get from playing footballî.

Membury PTFA is raising money to purchase a small cooker and equipment so cookery lessons can be held in school.

#### ■ New faces welcome at our next LUNCH CLUB Tuesday, 12th January 2010 at the Drewe Arms in Broadhembury

YOU are invited to our next lunch club on Tuesday 12 January, 12noon to 2pm at the Drewe Arms, Broadhembury (www.thedrewearms.com).

All businesses are very welcome to attend this lunch club, and we would particularly like to see you at this lunch club if you have recently joined the BHBA or are interested in joining the BHBA.

The club offers businesses an opportunity to meet informally on a bi-monthly basis.

It is very much a drop in session, even if you can only spare half an hour, see if you can make the next

Cost: FREE - Booking is essential

#### ■ Tourism Group Meeting Thursday, 7th December 2009 The Belfry Hotel at Yarcombe 10.30am to 12 noon

SARAH-JANE Martin of the Belfry Hotel at Yarcombe will host our December event.

This month's event will include a tour of the hotel and also the chance to meet a local photographer, Mike Jones (of Summerlane Studios in Honiton) who is offering a photography service to local businesses.

We hope that you will be able to come along. To attend you need to be a member of the BHBA and have a business in the holiday accommodation or holiday activity industry.

The group is keen to improve links with local food producers too, so if you are local food producer, you are also very welcome to come along. This is a very friendly and informal group.

If you have any queries, please ring Val Baker for more details.

Venue: www.thebelfrycountryhotel.com

Time: 10.30am to 12 noon Refreshments: Tea/coffee Cost: FREE – Booking essential Contact Name: Val Baker

Contact Details: (01823) 681484 or info@bhba.org.uk

Please contact Val Baker for more details on any of the above events on (01823) 681484 or you can email her at info@bhba.org.uk.

Alternatively you can visit the BHBA member website at www.bhba.org.uk.

# Blackdown Hills **Business Association**

#### **Taunton Christmas Markets** III day) – beside the Market House and TK Max

YOU are invited to our regular monthly market in Taunton.

Local businesses and businesses from the region have teamed up with us to provide an array of quality crafts, gifts and jewellery. Many gifts and jewellery items have been

hand-crafted by the stall holders themselves.

#### Saturday, 12th December 2009:

www.bookwormsonline.co.uk www.anyexcuseforacake.com www.bijouxamour.com www.orchardhammocks.co.uk www.arcana-pottery.co.uk www.tinyhandstinyfeet.co.uk www.summerlanestudios.co.uk www.tishtashtovs.com vw.duckunique.com

#### www.woolyandwild.co.uk www.rockypoint.uk.com www.thesomersetwoodworkshop.co www.keepersmakers.co.uk www.sueheysstainedglass.co.uk Bunnies Love Jams & Preserves ■ Saturday, December19th www.bookwormsonline.co.uk www.anyexcuseforacake.com www.bijouxamour.com

www.duckunique.com Bunnies Love Jams & Preserves www.orchardhammocks.co.uk www.arcana-pottery.co.uk www.tinyhandstinyfeet.co.uk www.summerlanestudios.co.uk www.tishtashtoys.com www.heartsandhens.com www.woolyandwild.co.uk www.rockypoint.uk.com www.thesomersetwoodworkshop.co.uk www.keepersmakers.co.uk www.sueheysstainedglass.co.uk

WORKSHOP and Office Space available in Dunkeswell

433 square feet and only £180 per month for excellent workshop based at the Dunkeswell Eco Business Park in Marcus Road.

Office space also available shortly. Tel Val Baker on (01823) 681484 or email

Alternatively, contact Richard Evans on (01823) 680968.

#### Don't forget that **BHBA Members are** offered a 10% discount on advertising with **View From Publishing**

To advertise in the View from The Blackdown Hills call Alex on (01297) 446148 or email alex@pemedia.co.uk www.viewfrompublishing.co.uk

- 8,000 copies distributed every month
- 10% discount for BHBA members
- Free design service
- Cost effective advertising **Complement your advertising** with our weekly titles View from Lyme Regis, Bridport, Dorchester, Beaminster & Weymouth; Crewkerne, Chard & Ilminster and Sid Vale monthly.

# Office space available at eco business park

# Award for volunteers

DAVID and Meg Palmer of Lower Mackham Farm, Hemyock were recently presented with an award by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

They spent time at the Country Living Christmas Fair in the atrium of the Business Design Centre, London before the evening presentation.

BTCV were celebrating their 50th year and had been chosen as Country Living's charity of the year.

David and Meg's award was presented by TV personality Charlie Dimmock, who has long supported the work of the charity.



■ PICTURED are David and Meg Palmer with TV personality Charlie Dimmock (right)

# Ashill Fun Ride huge success

THE Ashill fun ride, which took place in October, was a huge success, attracting a record number of riders from across the Blackdowns to raise money for charity.

This is the fourth year the event has taken place, with almost 200 riders taking part.

The 12 mile ride cross country raised £1,600 for the

Ashill Village Hall Multi-use Games Area and a donation was also made to the Laura Persey Trust Fund.

Organiser and sponsor, Anne Brummitt, praised the Ashill team and especially the local farmers and landowners who not only allowed the riders over their land, but also for setting up optional jumps and allowing participants on the Kittow racing gallops.



■ CHEQUE IT OUT: Beneficiaries with their cheque

# Village benefits from street fayre cash boost

GRATEFUL village organisations were handed over £3,000 after another hugely successful Chardstock Street Favre.

The annual event was held in September and the cheque presentation took place earlier this month.

Evening entertainment at the fayre included The Barrow Boys from Britain's Got Talent and a fire show from Ad Tree Pirate aka Captain Chainsaw.

Representatives from each organisation collected their cheque and were entertained by Chardstock band, The Standing Stones.

Committee member of Chardstock Street Fayre, Donna Jacobs, said: "A big thank you to the band for supplying the entertainment and also a big thank you to Mark and Tracy at the George Inn for the use of the Skittle Alley for the evening."

She added: "A final thank you to all involved in Chardstock Street Fayre 2009. It was a great success, but could not happen without the help and support offered by all our helpers and entertainers.

#### by Roxanne Cameron

"Plans for Street Fayre 2010 are all ready in process so look out for our upcoming fundraisers and news of what we have in store for next years fayre.

"The 2010 Chardstock Street Fayre will be on Saturday, September 4th."

Cheques were presented to the following organisations: £1,000 to Cardiac Risk in the Young, £500 to Chardstock Youth Club, £250 to Chardstock St Andrew's Primary School, £200 to Chard RFC U15's & U16's, £100 to St John's Ambulance, £100 to Chardstock Christmas Presents and Tree, £100 to St Andrew's Church Tree Felling Fund, £100 to Chardstock Parish Plan, £100 to Chardstock Historical Records Group £100 to Devon Air Ambulance, £100 to Childrens Hospice South West, £100 to RNLI Lyme Regis, £100 to Four Aces Bikers for Charity, £50 to St Margarets Somerset Hospice, £50 to Chardstock Parish Newsletter and £50 to Chardstock St Andrews Allsorts





**Proprietor: Andy Cottrell** 



# News from around the villages in the Blackdown Hills

#### **SMEATHARPE WI**

AFTER welcoming several new faces to the November meeting of Smeatharpe WI, president Gill Dennis thanked Pam Parry, Rita Batchelor and Jenny Grabham for their long service on the committee, and on behalf of members, presented them with gifts.

The Stella Cup for winning the monthly competition the most number of times was won by Anne Nicholls, with Fleur Layzell a close second and Lizzie Feehan third.

Following the reading of the minutes, by new minutes secretary Linda Knowles, the allocated duties of each committee member was outlined by the president.

Members described the events they had attended in the local area, including a quiz night, in which Sue Little and her team came fourth.

Secretary Gloria Dobinson read out the correspondence and gave a report on the Autumn Council Meeting in Torquay.

A request had been made by the local Hedge Laying Association for Smeatharpe WI to provide the refreshments once again at their next event in Buckland St Mary.

Anne Nicholls and Patricia Pearson outlined some events taking place during the next month, which included visits to a stately home, theatre trips and a "Beauty Evening" at Debenhams, Taunton.

Dates were arranged to pack Christmas shoeboxes at the home of Meg Sparks and to learn how to make tree decorations at Pam Parry's house, arranged by Pernelle Rowe.

Liz Tucker said that the skittles evening had been well attended and fixtures had been made for the team.

Treasurer Pernelle Rowe listed the financial incomings and outgoings for the past month and reminded members that it was subscription time again. Last month's bring and buy stall had been a great success and the money raised, with a top up from funds, would go to the members' choice of Musgrove Hospital League of Friends.

Jacqui Rees, who runs the local farm deli, brought samples of freshly made Christmas nibbles and gave a talk on how to create them with a little bit of "cheating". She was thanked by Patricia Pearson.

The competition of a home made mince pie was judged by the guest speaker and won by Sue Little with the Flower of the Month being won by Fleur Layzell's Penstemon.

The December meeting will have a seasonal theme with members taking part in a bring and share supper followed by country dancing.

Existing members and visitors will all be welcome at 7.30 pm at Smeatharpe Village Hall on the first Thursday in the month.

#### **DUNKESWELL WI**

THE terrible weather did not deter members from attending the November meeting of Dunkeswell WI. Members were all looking forward to seeing the wonderful birds, which Sharon and her daughter Julie, from the Hawkridge Bird of Prey Centre in Exmouth, had brought along.

They met Ivy the Barn Owl, Coco the Kestrel, Echo the huge European Eagle Owl, Frosty a beautiful Snowy Owl and Tess a Harris Hawk.

Several ladies were delighted when they were allowed to hold the birds, which were all very well behaved.

Jan Harper thanked Sharon and Julie for a wonderful evening.

Maggie Johnson received her birthday buttonhole, and Gladys Thompson's will be passed on to her. As Jan Harper had been absent last month, she was presented with a belated buttonhole for her special birthday.

The walking group with Charles was much depleted this month with only two people taking part. However, they had enjoyed a lovely walk from Luppitt across the fields to the Otter Brewery.

Members are looking forward to their shopping trip to Gloucester, and later in the month their Christmas fayre. Marguerite urged all members to support this, which is the group's major fundraising event of the year.

In March 2010 Dunkeswell will enter in to their 60th year and they have planned many extra events throughout the year. Details will be given out at the next meeting on December 10th, which will a Christmas Surprise Party.

This will be held in the village hall at 7.30pm and new members and visitors are welcome to attend.

Ann Barker won the competition for a poem entitled "Autumn Colours" and Ruth Robinson brought along the Flower of the Month.

#### **BISHOPSWOOD LADIES**

IN the absence of both the president and vice-president, Tricia Taylor welcomed members and friends to the November meeting of Bishopswood Ladies.

The various groups had again been active. Although fun, rather than competition, is the aim of the group, the successful skittlers had again won their matches.

They played at the White Hart, Corfe, and won by 13 pins, and also played Margaret Hill's team, where, in spite of lending the opposition four players, they won by 12 pins.

The Bishopswood Bells had entertained the Acorn club, Hemyock, after three rather out of practice substitutes had been recruited to replace regular group members

Eight ramblers who had braved the weather to walk from Sampford Peverell were rewarded by a later return to sunshine, and enjoyed a varied seven mile walk, led by Penny Gale, along the canal and over the hills

Tricia Taylor and Cindy Beaumont had most generously catered for the Somerset Wildlife Trust's meeting and raised £100 for SURE, this year's BL charity.

Roy Cooney's talk then explained the highly skilled craft of copper engraving, for which he served a six-year apprenticeship.

A skilled engraver was expected to be able to engrave the Lord's Prayer on the reverse of an old style threepenny bit!

Mr Cooney spent the first part of his working life making admiralty charts for the Hydrographic Office in Taunton, but presently makes pictorial images.

He completes the whole task himself, from making preliminary sketches, through various intermediate stages, to printing out the finished paper from the engraved plate. He then showed slides of some of his work, from personal bookplates to bird and animal illustrations, for which he has won many prizes.

Tasty refreshments were provided by Jenny Goddard, Mary Gusterson and Rosemary Robson.

Next month Clem Prior will talk about "Canal History and the Painting of Narrow Boats". As usual, visitors will be very welcome.

#### **SAMPFORD ARUNDEL WI**

FROM the Sun God, through the Green Man, and now at Christmas, this time of year has been celebrated since time immemorial – that was the message that Marion Emery gave Sampford Arundel WI at their November meeting.

She traced the history of the use of evergreens for decoration, fir trees, mistletoe, presents, crackers and cards - for each has had different meanings at different times.

She explained that the accepted appearance of Santa

Claus, aka St Nicholas or Father Christmas, came from the famous poem "Twas the night before Christmas" and, in candle-light read it as a finale.

November being the AGM, there was a packed programme. Kaye and Heather reviewed the year – their 90th - which had been very varied and happy; from visits to London and Windsor to Cookery Capers with three to 13-year-olds.

Thanks to a hard-working and enthusiastic committee and support from members, the WI was thriving; membership had grown, they'd won a group competition, gained an award at the Taunton Flower Show, and provided teas for a Conservation Group. Plus, of course had a fantastic Birthday party!

The recent county meeting was a great success, with speakers ranging from the new Hinkley 'C' to a talk by Sandra Howard about her writing. Most importantly, Kaye had been presented with their 90th Anniversary Certificate.

Here's to the next 90 years.

#### **AWLISCOMBE WI**

AT the October meeting of Awlisciombe WI, Meg Introduced Mrs Parnell of Axminster, who demonstrated crafts made from materials, ribbon and cards. She was thanked by Mandy Foster.

The competition for a buttonhole was won by Mary Martin, followed by Georgette Jameson and Ann Williams.

The evening ended with a bingo organised by Rose-

The 64th annual meeting was held in November. Retiring president Meg thanked all members for the help given during the past four years.

Olive Price was elected president and the committee were returned en bloc with the addition of Heather Penwarden.

The competition for the prettiest plate was won by C Jackson with P Ford in second place followed by G Jameson in third.

The evening concluded with Dunkeswell Hand Bell Ringers entertaining with songs and carols.

Members will be carol singing around the village on Monday December 1st.

#### **HEMYOCK WI**

AT the annual meeting in October Brenda Calcraft agreed to be president of Hemyock WI again with Judith Major continuing as secretary, Sandra Featherstone as treasurer and Lyn Taylor as vice president. Most of the committee were happy to continue with their duties for another year.

Judith reported another interesting year with theatre visits, skittles matches, a treasure hunt and a variety of speakers.

There is now a reading group, which meets each month to discuss a chosen book. This results in interesting debates.

The treasurer reported a satisfactory year thanks to member's hard work and generosity.

The president thanked all for their support throughout the year. It was then time for a Beetle Drive and quiz before enjoying an excellent supper, which included wine.

At the October Meeting Lyn Taylor presided over a most enjoyable meeting. After a short discussion of county and national business, there was a report on the autumn council meeting at Torquay, which had been attended and enjoyed by Judith and Brenda.

Then members were fascinated by the history of Quicke's Cheese well presented by Stuart Dowell. Stuart had brought a good supply of the products, which were much enjoyed. Yet more packs of cheese boosted the usual excellent raffle organised by Barbara Heaton.

In December members will attempt to create a Christmas decoration under the guidance of Judy. There is a competition for an interesting Christmassy item plus favourite home-grown flowers.

In January there will be a meeting on the 5th when Roger Lambert will talk about "Shelter Box". The competition will be for "A Useful Box". There are plans to have a celebratory birthday meal at the Catherine Wheel later in the month. Details will be given at the December meeting.

Hemyock WI meet in Forbes Lounge on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors to all Meetings will be welcome. Contact Brenda Calcraft (01823) 681592 for more information.



CHILDREN at Buckland St Mary raised £78 for the BBC's annual Children in Need appeal by having a non-school uniform day.

All 50 pupils donated to the cause and monies will go directly to helping children around the United Kingdom.

Photo by ROXANNE CAMERON

# ristmas Adventures

#### **Land Rover Experience West Country**

EED a really different Christmas present but no time to search?

Look no further - contact Land Rover Experience West Country just outside Honiton in East Devon. They are offering a Special Christmas Voucher package of one voucher with the second at half price.

These vouchers can be ordered over the phone or internet and are sent through the post in special packaging, or by visiting Land

Dunkeswell Devon, in an historic WWII Bi-plane

West Country. voucher can buy anything from half to a full day, off-roading in a state-of-the-art new Land model to Winching Rover Courses, Trailer Han-Courses and

Experience more. The off-road facilities are second to none, sited on the edge of the Blackdown Hills in East Devon and offering steep slopes; rough terrain; mud and side slopes. The Reception buildings include fantastic facilities with coffee or tea available at all times. So having trouble getting to the shops? Go to www.landroverexperiencewestcountry.com Still not sure?

Call in to Land Rover Experience for a chat, or simply all on 0844 848 4471.

#### Yarak Birds of Prey

UCKED away in the rural East Devon countryside near to Cullompton lies a private Falconry and Eagle Centre with a difference.

What makes Yarak Falconry Centre quite unique is that it's one of only a few private centres in the UK where the public are not allowed to just wander around looking at the birds; all experience days and courses are by appointment only, it is also open all year round which sets it apart from public wildlife and falconry centres who only open seasonally and heavily rely on gate money and visitor numbers. Such centres are generally more entertainment based offering one or two shows per day, with minimal handling making the experience more visual than hands-on.

The Yarak "hands-on" approach is refreshing in these current climes and birds and people alike benefit from what the centre has to offer.

Yarak has 5 different species of Eagles plus a variety of Falcons, Hawks and Owls and all are on view and most are handled and flown. Truly a unique experience not to be missed!

For more information about Yarak Birds of Prev their visit website . www.yarakbirdsofprey.co.uk or contact them direct on: daytime 01884 277297 eves 01884 277291.



#### Dunkeswell

**The Perfect Gift This** 

**Christmas** 

SEE DEVON FROM THE AIR

**DEVON AND SOMERSET** 

**FLIGHT TRAINING** 

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- Take the controls
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- Enjoy the experience of a lifetime with up to 2 friends or family
  - Restaurant and bar with Airfield viewing area
    - Certificate at the end of each flight

#### **GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE**

See the West Country's picturesque Jurassic coastline and Devon's stunning areas of natural beauty from the air as you experience the thrill of flying

**5 Miles North of** Honiton (A30) **Free Parking** 



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This Christmas forget ties, socks, aftershave, perfume and jewellery. Give someone a special gift they'll remember forever.

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www.landroverexperiencewestcountry.com

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Training

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Corporate





Blackdown Hills AONB and Neroche Scheme St Ivel House, Station Road Hemyock, Cullompton **Devon EX15 3SJ** 

> **AONB** telephone: 01823 680682 Neroche telephone: 01823 680846

> > www.blackdown-hills.net www.nerochescheme.org

# Help for Hemyock to gets hands on with history



Blackdown Hills AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) recently helped people in Hemyock get "Hands-on with History" by funding two events in the village.

On Friday 13th November, around 150 school children at Hemyock Primary School received a talk from John Allan from Exeter Archaeology about last year's important discovery of 16th century pottery in the

Archaeologists then worked with the children, washing

ATTENDEES at the Hemyock Hands-on **History Event** 

some of the dirty pottery sherds. Brian Adams, a potter from Dawlish, gave a demonstration of pottery throwing with local clay and the children then made their own Hemyock-style

All the children were given the chance to take home one piece of five hundred year old pottery from the site to remind them of

On Saturday 14th November 2009, an Open Day took place involving a team of archaeologists, including staff from Exeter Archaeology and County Council. Devon

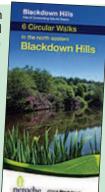
Brian Adams gave another demonstration of the throwing and decorating of Hemyock style ceramics and Anna Booth (Finds Liaison Officer - Somer-Portable Scheme) was present to record finds brought in by the public. The Blackdown Hills AONB and Devon Archaeological Society provided information displays, while a range of 'get involved' tasks for the public included the sorting, weighing and quantification of the pottery shards.

The day was a great success, with about one hundred and fifty interested members of the public braving the November storms to find out more about the pottery.
It was followed with an

evening talk by John Allan in St Mary's Church.

Blackdown Hills AONB and the Neroche Scheme have collaborated on the production of a new leaflet to promote Six Circular Walks in the north eastern Blackdown

The leaflet is the fourth in the 'Six Circular Walks' series, which also features



walks around Hemyock, Stockland and the south western Blackdowns. Get in touch with the AONB office on 01823 680681, or email blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk to request copies of any of the leaflets in the series. Alternatively, you can download each of the individual walks from the website: www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk

HE largest grasshopper in the UK, believed to be extinct in Somerset for 14 years, is set to make a comeback thanks to Somerset Wildlife Trust.

The last known recording of the large marsh grasshopper in the county was on the Peatmoors of the Somerset Levels in

Following the discovery of a lone large marsh grasshopper at the Trust's Ringdown Reserve in the Blackdown Hills AONB in 2006, funding was secured to encourage the insect back to Somerset and the Trust has just completed the project.

Thanks to a £4,160 grant from the Blackdown Hills AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF), Somerset Wildlife Trust has created the right habitat for the grasshopper at its Ringdown, Yarty Moor and Brimley Mire reserves on the Black-

## Countryside events prove popular

HE AONB Autumn/Winter Countryside Events programme has proved popular so far with all the Mushroom Foray events being fully booked.

An event introducing map-reading skills to enable people to explore the Blackdown Hills was also well subscribed and received good feed-

Participants said they had enjoyed the session, and had learned a lot, and would like to come back and spend more time on the subjects covered if a future event was organised.

Halloween Storytelling at the spooky Hemyock Castle attracted around twenty children, some dressed as ghouls, vampires and witches. Clare Viner told fearsome and mysterious stories of wolves, mischievous pixies and the King of the cats.

Nine year old Connor Hutchings, from Wellington, said: "I had a great time and I loved the elder tree story and the other stories too."

Events coming up have a festive theme and include Carols Under the Stars and Midwinter Tales. To request a copy of the events leaflet, call the AONB team on 01823 680681, email blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk or see the full programme online at:

www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk

CHILDREN enjoy spooky stories at Hemyock Castle



#### Forestry operations at Castle Neroche

TREE felling is continuing at Castle Plantation, below Castle Neroche.

The primary reason for this harvesting is to remove a proportion of the growing crop and allow the remainder to develop, encouraging regeneration and benefitting wildlife. No felling will take place on the ancient monument itself.

This constitutes a normal forestry operation, and is similar in scale to the last thinning operation, which took place on the site about 9 years ago. Given the popularity of the area with walkers and riders we are doing our best to minimise disrup-

The stretch of the Herepath Trail, which runs through the plantation, has been diverted during the working period. If you visit Castle Neroche and the woods below it during the autumn please follow the diversion signs and observe the safety notices. If you have concerns or queries, please contact the Neroche Scheme office on 01823 680846.

### **SMALL GRANTS FUND NOW LIVE**

MAKING IT LOCAL has now launched a Small Grants Fund. This will provide smaller amounts of funding for projects between £1,000 and £10,000 and will support projects which focus on either:

- · Small business creation and
- · Strengthening local communities
- Connecting people and the landscape

The first deadline for Small Grants applications is 18th January 2010, and Making it Local is inviting people to submit project ideas now.

Please visit the Small Grants Fund page on the Making it Local website at www.makingit local.org for further information.



**SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS** MAKING it Local has offered funding to six projects so far.

Digital Mentors - providing ICT support to local businesses, organisations and individuals through a network of Digital Mentors (ICT experts).

Pilot Forestry Apprenticeships Programme - creating five two-year forestry apprenticeships in the local area.

East Budleigh Community **Shop** - improving local produce display facilities and promotion.

**Building Sustainable Busi**ness Networks - improving local business skills through business networks, classes and individual training sessions.

Working Our Woodlands improving the woodland economic resource in the project area by developing woodland networks, quality standards and improving the supply of local wood to local markets.

The Otter Brewery Interpretation Centre - building a new interpretation centre in order to engage with a wider range of businesses and communities.

Visit the website www.making itlocal.org to find out more.

### Digital trail guides now available for hire

YOU can now explore Neroche with new handheld digital trail guides (DTGs).

These compact units provide a wealth of information - you can listen to audio commentaries about the history of the area around the Staple Fitzpaine Herepath, identify bird species by listening to birdsong recordings, learn about trees and plants along the way, and keep track of your location using a GPS

The DTGs are free to use, subject to a deposit, and can be hired from the Farmers Inn at West Hatch, or from the Neroche Scheme office. For more information call the Neroche Scheme office on 01823 680846.

The Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership is funded by Natural England, Devon County Council, Somerset County Council, East Devon District Council, Mid Devon District Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council and South Somerset District Council.

The Neroche Scheme is led by the Forestry Commission. It is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, supported by the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership, Natural England, Somerset County Council, Devon County Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council, Mid Devon District Council, South Somerset District Council, the National Trust, Somerset WildlifeTrust, Butterfly Conservation, and Somerset Art Works.





# HOLIDAY tours 20 POPULAR UK, IRISH AND EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS

**5 DAY SCOTTISH & NORTH ENGLAND TOUR** 

**TURKEY & TINSEL** 

DEPARTS: 07.12.09 RETURNS: 11.12.09

DEPARIS. U1.12.U9 DEIDNIS. II.12.U9

Nour break will begin by travelling north to Dumfriesshire and staying 4 nights at the Gretna Hall Hotel at Gretna Green. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

Christmas is around the corner, so why not get into the swing of things early and indulge in a spot of extra Christmas shopping. Your break is inclusive of a mince pie and a wee dram of whisky on your arrival in our lounge bar. Christmas themed dinners throughout your stay with Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day feel. Whisky tasting can be arranged in our blacksmiths Workshop for one night of your stay.

Itinerary: Half day excursion to Dumfries, Carlisle,
Hadrians Wall to Heysham, Lake Windermere, Kirkstone Pass ONLY £99



#### **EXETER**

#### HOLIDAY ON ICE

Thursday 18th (19.30), Friday 19th (16.15), Saturday 20th (16.15) & Sunday 22nd (16.15) February 2010 **WESTPOINT ARENA** 

Super Premier Seat and Coach

Children Under 16 £25



#### **ENGLAND**

DEPARTS: 22.03.10 RETURNS: 26.03.10

ak will begin by travelling north and staying four nights at the Belgrave Hotel. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price. The iment is a family run hotel ideally situated at the quieter more select part

Itinerary: Skipton (Canal Boat Trip), Hawes, Settle III

ALL INCLUSIVE £199 Limited number of NON-SINGLE SUPPLEMENT Rooms



#### **ENGLAND**

DEPARTS: 29.03.10 RETURNS: 02.04.10

Your break will begin by travelling from Southampton to Ryde and staying four nights at the Burlington Hotel, located in Sandown. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

Itinerary: Day trip around the island, Godshill (known photographed village in Britain with its 15th Century and traditional Thatched roof cottages), Time to walk along the seafront at Sandown Ryde, Waltzing Waters

#### HOLLAND

RETURNS: 22.04.10

Travelling from Folkestone to Calais via the shuttle and then staying four nights at the Campanile Hotel, located in Amersfoort North, about 15 minute drive from the city centre. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

**ENGLAND** 

BRIA & THE LAKE DIST .05.10 RETURNS: 21.05.10

RETURNS: 08.07.10

Itinerary: Volendam, Amsterdam, Koetenhoef Gardens, A Cheese Factory, A Handmade Clog Factory, Aalsmeer Flower Market

**ALL INCLUSIVE £399** 

DEPARTS: 17.05.10



#### IRELAND **8 DAYS IN DONEGAL**

DEPARTS: 24.04.10 RETURNS: 01.05.10 DEPARTS: 05.09.10 RETURNS: 12.09.10

Travelling from Fishguard to Rosslare and staying one night at The Whites Hotel, Wexford. Then travelling to Donegal and staying five nights at The Central Hotel, then a further night at The Whites Hotel on the return journey Itinerary: The Giants Causeway, Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Mullaghmore Head, Drumcliff (made famous by Poet W.B. Yates), Enniskillen, Donegal Bay Boat Trip, Silgo, Belleek Famous Pottery, Killybegs, Olencomcile Folk Village, Glengesh Pass, Ardara. Admission charges may apply \$2.599\$

Single Supplements may apply valid passport required.

WALES

NORTH WALES 6 DAY TOUR
DEPARTS: 04.06.10 RETURNS: 09.06.10

Your break will begin by travelling to Caernarfon and spending five nights at the Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price



#### **WALES**

#### **5 DAYS IN TENBY PEMBROKESHIRE**

DEPARTS: 03.05.10 RETURNS: 07.05.10

Your break will begin by travelling to Tenby and staying four nights at the Clarence house Hotel. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price, as well as a 1 hour free house bar every evening on this tour.

Itinerary: St Davids (officially Britain's smallest city with the largest cathedral in Wales, Fishguard (a pretty north Pembrokeshire coastal town and harboun), Tenby (free time in the town and a boat trip to Caldey Island, 3 miles from Tenby where the monks have lived in the monastery for 1,500 years). Admission charges may apply.

£319

Limited number of NON-SINGLE SUPPLEMENT Rooms

#### IRELAND

6 DAYS IN WEXFORD
DEPARTS: 10.05.10
DEPARTS: 10.10.10
RETURNS: 15.05.10
RETURNS: 15.10.10

Travelling from Fishguard to Rosslare then staying five nights at The Whites hotel, Wexford. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the

price.

Itinerary: Dublin, Waterford Glass, New ross, Kilkenny, Avoca (Where popular tv series Ballykissangel was filmed), Glendalough, Wicklow, Hook Peninsula. Admission charges may apply. £479

Valid passport required mber of NON-SINGLE SUPPLEMENT Rooms



Limited number of NON-SINGLE SUPPLEMENT Rooms



#### ALL INCLUSIVE £479

IRELAND

9 DAYS IN TRALE

DEPARTS: 11.07.10 RETURNS: 19.07.10

Travelling from Fishguard to Rosslare and staying one night at The Whites Hotel, Wexford. Then travelling to Tralee and staying 6 nights at The Brandon Hotel then staying a further night back at The Whites Hotel on the return journey. Dinner, bed and Breakfast are include in the price



#### WALES

#### **4 DAYS IN TENBY PEMBROKESHIRE** DEPARTS: 11.06.10 RETURNS: 14.06.10

Your break will begin by travelling to Tenby and staying three nights Clarence house Hotel. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the pri well as a 1 hour free house bar every evening on this tour.

Itinerary: St Davids (officially Britain's smallest city with the largest cathe Wales, Fishguard (a pretty north Pembrokeshire coastal town and harbour), Tenby (free time in the town), Carmarthen, Saundersfoot. Admission charges may apply

charges may apply £279

umber of NON-SINGLE SUPPLEMENT Rooms

### SCOTLAND

9 DAY IN INVERNESS
DEPARTS: 20.06.10 RETURNS: 28.06.10
Your break will begin by spending one night at the Hallmark Hotel, (formerly the Lakes Court Hotel), a further six nights at the Invernes Milton, and one night at the Hallmark on your return journey. Dinner, Breakfast are included in the price.

**ALL INCLUSIVE £699** number of NON-SINGLE SUPPLEMENT Rooms Overnight bag required



# Your break will begin by travelling to Calais via the Shuttle and spending four nights at the lbis Central, Bruges. Continental dinner, Bed and Breakfast Buffet are included in the price.

BELGIUM

**BRUGES 5 DAY TOUR** 

Hitnerary: Dunkirk
Belgian Chocolate Factory
Ypres (where the Menin Gate is located and World
War 1 memorials)
Ostend, Leisure time in Bruges

DEPARTS: 04.07.10

£419



# Itinerary: Dingle Experience, Ring of Kerry, Beara Ring, Lake Cruise and trip by jaunting car, Killarney, Muckross House and Gardens, new Ross, Middleton, Waterford Glass. Admission charges may apply.

#### Single Supplements may apply, Valid passport required. Overnight bag required.

£599



#### **ENGLAND**

Your break will begin by travelling to Eastbourne and spending four nights at the Mansion Lions Hotel, situated on the Grand Parade. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price. Itinerary: Canterbury. Hastings

Beachy Head, Rye, Battle Brighton, Leisure Day in Eastbourne



#### SCOTLAND **8 DAYS IN OBAN**

DEPARTS: 13.08.10 RETURNS: 20.08.10

Your break will begin by spending one night the Hallmark Hotel, (formerly the Lakes Court Hotel) a further five nights at the Royal Hotel, night at the Hallmark on your return journey. Dinner, Bed and Break included in the price.

**ALL INCLUSIVE £599** ted number of NON-SINGLE SUPPLEMENT Rooms
Overnight bag required



#### **IRELAND** 9 DAYS IN LISDOONVARNA

DEPARTS: 22.08.10 RETURNS: 30.08.10

Travelling from Fishquard to Rosslare and staying one night at The Whites Hotel, Wexford. Then travelling to Lisdoonvarna and staying six nights at the Imperial Hotel and one night at the Whites Hotel on the return journey. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

Itinerary: Tipperary, Ennis Town (13th Century Franciscan Friary - The Burren), Aran Island by boat & The Cliffs of Moher (Weather Permitting), Bunratty Folk Park, Killimer, Kilrush, Kilkee, Milltown, Malbay, Galway. Admission charges may apply.

**ALL INCLUSIVE £629** 



Your break will begin by travelling north and staying four nights at the Belgrave Madison Hotel. The establishment is a family run hotel ideally situated at the quieter more select part of Blackpool. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the

imited number of NON-SINGLE SUPPLEMENT Rooms



#### SCOTLAND

7 DAYS IN INVERNESS DEPARTS: 02.10.10 RETURNS: 08.10.10

will begin by spending one night at the Hallmark Hotel, Carlisle Court Hotel), a further four nights at the Inverness Palace Milto Hallmark on your return journey. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast a

in the price.

Itinerary: Pillochry, Lochness Boat Cruise Jacobite Experience
Castle with free time in Inverness) (weather Permitting),
Funicular Railway, Cairngorm Mountains, Aviemore,
baxters Highland Village, Fort Augustus to view the Lochs,
Glien Grant Distillery at Rohes, Pringle Woolen Mill.

**ALL INCLUSIVE £549** ted number of NON-SINGLE SUPPLEMENT Rooms Overnight bag required



#### SCOTLAND

**5 DAY SCOTTISH & NORTH ENGLAND TOUR** DEPARTS: 18.10.10 RETURNS: 22.10.10

Your break will begin by travelling north to Dumfriesshire and staying four nights at The Gretna Hall Hotel, situated in the heart of Gretna Green. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast included in the price.

Itinerary: Half day excursions to Dumfries, Carlisle Hadrians Wall to Heysham, Lake Windermere, Kirkstone Pass. Admission charges may apply. £269



### TURKEY & TINSEL

5 DAY SCOTTISH & NORTH ENGLAND
DEPARTS: 08.11.10 RETURNS: 12.11.10

Your break will begin by travelling north to Dumfriesshire and staying 4 nights at the Gretna Hall Hotel, situated in the heart of Gretna Green. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price Itinerary: Half day excursion to Dumfries

Carlisle, Hadrians Wall to Heyshar Lake Windermere, Kirkstone Pass



#### **BLACKPOOL 5 DAY**

Hinerary: Skipton, Settle, Foulridge Canal Boat Trip (weather Permitting) Hawes Christmas Market Time for Christmas Shopping in Blackpool

**ALL INCLUSIVE £239** 

#### **HOLLY & MISTLETOE**

**4 DAYS IN TENBY** 

BOOKING

DEPARTS: 26.11.10 RETURNS: 29.11.10

Your break will begin by travelling north and staying four nights at the Belgrave Madison Hotel. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.



7 DAYS IN INVERNESS DEPARTS: 04.12.10 RETURNS: 10.12.10

Your break will begin by spending one night at the Hallmark Hotel, Carlisle (Formerly the Lakes Court Hotel), a further four nights at the Inverness Palace Milton, and one night at the Hallmark on your return journey, Dinner, Bed and Breakfast are included in the price.

titinerary: Pitlochry, Lochness Boat Cruise Jacobite Exper Funicular Railway, Cairngorm Mountains (weather permitting), Aviemore, Baxters Highland Village, Fort Augustus to view the locks, Glen Grant Distillery at Rothes Pringle Woolen Mill: Admission charges may apply.

ALL INCLUSIVE £569 ted number of NON-SINGLE SUPPLEMENT R Overnight bag required



#### **TURKEY & TINSEL**

**5 DAYS IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT** DEPARTS: 14.12.10 RETURNS: 18.12.10

Your break will begin by travelling from Lymington to Yarmouth and staying four nights at the Burlington Hotel, located in Sandown. Dinner,Bed and Breakfast are included in the price

Itinerary: Day trip around the island
Godshill, Rye, Waltzing Qaters
We also have time to walk along the seafront at
Sandown. Admission charges may apply.

£259
Limited number of NON-SINGLE SUPPLEMENT Rooms



# **Contact Mr P.G.Forsey on**

Phone for a brochure - door to door pick up N.B. To book a holiday, a non refundable deposit of £50 per person is required. Single supplement charges may apply to some of our

holidays. Admission charges may apply at some venues.

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#### ASHILL INN **FREEHOUSE**

Ashill, Nr Cullompton, Devon EX15 3NL Dave and Kerry would like to welcome you to their charming village pub in the village of Ashill





- \* Real Ales \* Beer Garden
- **⋄** Good Quality Home Made

Pub Grub \* Sunday Lunches

Bookings now being taken for Christmas Parties

All enquiries 01884 840506

# The Old Inn, Kilmington

HRISTMAS at The Old Inn is always a special time, whether it be a little family celebration or a crowd of work colleagues enjoying the festive spirit the atmosphere created by Duncan and Leigh has always been just right. This is their third Christmas at the pub and each year has built on the success of the past. Their Chef Adam will be celebrating his second season there and has come up with a new menu for their guests.

'The new menu offers a twist on some classic dishes' Adam told us. 'This year we are combining the dark turkey meat with the stuffing and roasting it with the breast meat. The combination of flavours and texture is fantastic and we have been practising on our regulars over the last few weeks.' Other items include some old favourites but all cooked with the flare and care that has given this little pub a big rep-

Christmas parties can be booked by calling 01297 32096 and more details, as always are available, online at oldinnkilmington.co.uk

### Christmas Menu

See advert for prices

Cream of parsnip and apple soup Chef's own chicken liver and Madeira pate with red onion marmalade

Smoked salmon and haddock fish cakes with a lemon and dill sauce on crisp leaves

Our own smoked chicken on a crisp salad with straw potatoes and a honey and wholegrain mustard dressing

Turkey breast rolled with bacon and leg meat, onion and sage stuffing with a cranberry jus and honey glazed roasted baby carrots, sprouts and roast potatoes

Slow braised lamb shank in a rich tomato, red wine and rosemary sauce with green beans and creamy mash potato

Baked haddock fillet with lemon, rosemary and thyme butter on a bed of cabbage and crisp bacon

Butternut squash and leek bake topped with a goats cheese and herb crust served with roast vegetables

Sticky toffee pudding with a butterscotch sauce Passion fruit cheesecake

Traditional Christmas pudding served with brandy butter

Filter Coffee served with chefs own mince pies

#### The Old Inn, Kilmington



Enjoy a festive party with friends, fresh food and great atmosphere

#### Christmas Menu

1st - 23rd December 2009

£24.50 per person

includes 1/2 bottle of wine - La Baume Merlot or La Baume Sauvignon Blanc

£19.95 per person

Menu served without the wine

£15.95 per person

2 course menu without wine (available lunch time only)

BOOKINGS OF 10 OR MORE SHOULD **NOTIFY SELECTIONS IN ADVANCE** Call for reservations



Tel. 01297 32096 www.oldinnkilmington.co.uk

# The York Inn

Honiton Road, Churchinford Taunton TA3 7RF Tel: 01823 601333

# nristmas Menu

Rich Roast Tomato Soup with warm bread Or Coarse Country Pate with hot toast

Thai Prawn Fishcakes with chillli dip and salad garnie

Roast Butterred Turkey with homemade stuffing, sausages wrapped in bacon and cranberry sauce

or Prime Topside of Beef with yorkshire pudding and horseradish sauce



Mediterranean Wellington, crips roast vegetables with rich tomato sauce encased in light pastry

Christmas Pudding with brandy sauce or custard

Chocolate Chip Pudding with custard or vanilla sauce Cheese board with biscuits

Followed by coffee or tea served with mince pies

£14.99 available from Tuesday 1st December Please book early to avoid disppointment

#### The Blackbird Inn

#### A38 Wellington -Taunton Road Tel: 01823 461273

www.blackbirdinnsomerset.com

Open lunchtime and evenings every day **Book now for Christmas** 

Lovely log fires / Home cooked food / Daily Specials Restaurant / New Improved Beer Garden / Real Ale Accommodation (6 En-suite Bedrooms)

#### REAL ALES & REAL FOOD

Quiz Night

#### Tuesday Night is Pie Night

Pie & Pud & glass of Wine £12.50, sk for your Pie Club Membership Card

#### Wednesday Night is Music Night

Open Mic/Jam session with Tim Royce or Alex Hart. Just turn up & Join in from 8.30pm

#### Thursday Night Special Menu The Best of British' Sample Local Produce

at its best. 3 courses @ £16 per head

Friday Night for Fish & Chips Eat in or ut in Newspaper £5.95 (between 6-7pm)

Open all day Sundays for food up until 8pm

Half Moon Inn, Clayhidon, Devon
• Tel: 01823 680291

www.halfmoondevon.co.uk Now taking Christmas Party bookings and open for lunch on Christmas Day



Open 7 days a week for lunch and evening meals 0

**Mon to Sat:** 11.30 - 2.30

and 6.30 - 9.30

Sundays: 12 - 2pm and 7 - 9.30pm

Book early to avoid disappointment

The Howley Tavern, **Howley TA20 3DX** 

Tel: 01460 62157

email: howleytavern@btconnect.com

from Chard towards Honiton on the A30 turn right opposite the Turnpike park

# THE MERRY HARRIERS

Forches Corner, Clayhidon, Devon EX15 3TR

#### 2009 Merry Harriers Christmas Menu

#### Starters

Served with a freshly baked baguette Pan Fried Fillet of Sea Bass served on Roasted New Potatoes with Baby Capers

Chef's Chicken Liver and Brandy Pate served with Home Made Chutney and a Wedge of Toasted Bread

Home Made Smoked Haddock Chowder served with freshly baked rolls (v) Lightly Grilled Goat's Cheese served on a

Walnut Salad with a Raspberry dressing Pan Roasted Honey and Mustard Glazed Whole Boneless Quail served on dressed Salad Leaves

#### Main Courses

Served with fresh seasonal vegetables and new potatoes Local Turkey with Sage & Onion Stuffing, Chipolata, all the trimmings and Cranberry Sauce

Roasted Fillet of Salmon served on Confit Tomatoes with a Basil Pesto

Roast Rump of Devon Beef served with all the trimmings and a Red Wine Gravy (v) Wild Mushroom and Spinach Risotto served

Pan Roasted Whole Wood Pigeon served on Mixed Roasted Vegetables with a rich Gravy

with a Seasonal Salad

#### Desserts

Merry Harriers Christmas Pudding served with Home Made Brandy Cream

Home Made Bread and Butter Pudding served with Devon Clotted Cream or Cream Custard Home Made Dark Chocolate Terrine served with

Vanilla Ice Cream and Honeycomb Pieces Mixed Lovington's Ice Cream served with Café Curls

A Trio of West Country Cheeses served with Apple and Crackers

Fresh Filter Coffee or Tea and Mince Pies

£16.00 (2 courses including Coffee/Mince Pies/Crackers)

£19.00 (3 courses including Coffee/Mince Pies/Crackers) NB - A slimline version of the Christmas Menu is available for Children and

Grown-ups with a smaller appetite All dishes are prepared and cooked to order please advise of any special dietary needs



Visit our website for a sample menu and directions on www.merryharriers.co.uk or call us on tel no: 01823-421270



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# Blagdon Inn



Where a warm welcome awaits you!

Christmas Lunchtime & Evening Meals from 1st December 2009

Lunch 2 course - £8.95 or 3 courses - £9.95

Choose from our special menu including dishes like Butter Roasted Turkey with trimmings, Grilled Cod, and Loin of Pork or Vegetarian options, Includes crackers coffee and mince pies

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All produce is completely fresh and sourced from local suppliers.

- Fresh local food all cooked to order Daily lunchtime offers
- Weekly 'Specials' board
   On Sunday's a roast plus normal menu
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\*\*\*Christmas Parties \*\*\*

Four course Menu available throughout December (Bookings only)

\*\*\* Christmas Day Lunch\*\*\*

Fantastic Six course meal with all the trimmings

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Friday and Saturday 8am - 11pm, Sunday 8am - 10.30pm

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Uppottery, Nr Honiton, Devon EX14 9PN

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#### **Starters**

Prawn and Avocado Salad Tomato and Roasted Pepper Soup Chicken Liver Pate served with a sweet and spicy marrow chutney

#### Mains

Roasted Devonshire Turkey with traditional trimmings
Topside of English Beef
Pan Fried Salmon Fillet on a bed of spinach with a creamy dill sauce
Santa's Christmas Nut Roast

All served with seasonal vegetables or salad and potatoes

#### **Desserts**

Homemade Christmas Pudding Sidmouth Arms Boozy Trifle Lemon Cheesecake

Coffee and Mince Pies

Two Course Meal - £15.95 per person Three Course Meal - £19.95 per person

Bookings only please on 01404 861252 Menu runs from 1st December until 23rd December

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# SUNSET CAFE STOMPERS RETURN TO MARTOCK

THE Sunset Cafe Stompers, the West Country's premier New Orleans-style Jazz Band, will be making a return visit to Martock Church at 7.30pm on Thursday, December 17th. The line-up consists of



trombone, trumpet, clarinet/tenor piano, banjo, bass and drums, and they will play well-known tunes from the 1900-1930 period and ragtime and jazz standards. The leader is the renowned pianist Mike Denham who will be making his fifth appearance in Martock Church and his boogie woogie and ragtime solos will please his many fans. Tickets will be £5 in advance from 01935 822706 or £6 on the door.

# FREE ENTRY TO ESCOT during Christmas Treats weekend

COME to Christmas Treats weekend on Saturday 5th and Sunday, December 6th. Bring your friends to our Christmas open weekend with free entry to the Gardens and special surprises in the Coach House Restaurant, along with a visit from Santa! Special offers will be available within the Aquatic Centre and on gifts in the entrance

And why not join in on the Escot Santa Run on Sunday, December 6th? This Cystic Fibrosis Trust event is a 2 mile Fun Run plus a 2km Fun Run for the kids. Registration starts at 11am and all the fun starts at 12 noon. There are prizes for best dressed Santas, both adult and child, and for the best team! There is an entry fee, which includes a FREE Santa Suit. For more information download a leaflet from our web site www.escotdevon.co.uk/events or contact Audrey Williams on 0845 859 1036 or email awilliams@cftrust.org.uk



Escot is just off the Exeter to Honiton A30 at Fairmile.

To find out more about a great family day out, please

see www.escot-devon.co.uk or call 01404 822 188



#### **PART-TIME CLEANER**

Escot needs reliable and efficient cleaner for 2 hours a day 4 days a week. Mornings (before 8.30am).

Applicants should email: info@escot-devon.co.uk with a brief CV and covering letter, or forward their application to: Susan McCaig, Escot Park, Ottery St Mary,

EX11 1LU. Call: 01404 822 188 for more details.

#### Lots to do at Killerton House this December

#### Christmas Lunch

Dates: Sunday December 6th, Wednesday 9th, Thursday 10th, Sunday 13th, Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th, Sunday 20th, Monday 21st. 12pm -3.30pm.

Enjoy a pre-lunch drink in the music room by a roaring log fire, followed by a delicious three-course Christmas lunch in the Garden tea-room. The perfect way to start your Christmas celebrations!

Waitress service. Adult £21, child £13. Booking essential on 01392 881345.

#### **Father Christmas**

Dates: Saturdays December 5th, 12th and 19th 1.30pm - 3pm

Meet Killerton's traditional Father Christmas dressed in green as he would have been in Victorian times. Meet him in Killertons decorated music room by the log fire. With a Christmas gift for each child. Including £2 per child activity charge, includes a gift.

#### **Christmas Harp Concert**

Friday 4 December 7-10pm

Enjoy a magical evening of harp music performed by Elizabeth Jane Baldrey in Killerton's atmospheric music room. Followed by a three-course Christmas dinner in the garden Tea-room. A wonderful way to start the Christmas festivities!

£29 per person. Booking essential on 01392 881345.

#### **Decorating Workshop The House**

Dates: Tuesday December 1st, Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd 10am - 4pm

Help us to decorate Killerton House for Christmas and learn how to make garlands, swags, kissing boughs, wreaths and other imaginative Christmas decorations using all kinds of greenery. £25 per person. Booking essential on 01392 881345.

#### **Wreath Making Workshops with Lunch**

Date: Saturday December 5th. Two sessions per day: 10am-12.30 and 2pm-4.30pm

Make your own stunning Christmas wreath with the guidance of expert florist Sarah Pepper. Including a delicious two course light lunch.

£25 per person. Booking essential on 01392 881345 Sunday 6th, Wednesday 9th. Two sessions per day: 10 am - 12.30 pm and 2 pm - 4.30 pm . Make your own stunning Christmas wreath with the guidance of expert florist Sarah Pepper. £14.50 per person. Book-

#### **Candlelit Tour & Christmas Dinner**

ing essential on 01392 881345.

Friday December 11th and Friday 18th 6.30pm -10.30pm. There are two arrival times: 6.30pm (tour at 6.45pm, dinner at 7.45pm) & 7.30pm (tour at 7.45pm, dinner at 8.45pm).

Enjoy a candlelit tour of Killerton House with a member of our house staff followed by a delicious threecourse Christmas dinner.

Adult £27, child £16 (up to age 14) Booking essential on 01392 881345.

#### **Christmas High Teas**

Saturday December 12th and Saturday 19th from

Enjoy a delicious Christmas high tea in the Garden tea-room. The tea starts with warm punch on arrival followed by delicious sandwiches, home-made scones and mincepies all served with tea, coffee or fruit squash. The perfect way to celebrate the festive

Adult £7.50, Child £5.50 (up to age 14) Booking essential on 01392 881345.

#### An Evening of Christmas Carols

Saturday December 12th 7-10pm.

A delightful performance of Christmas carols intermixed with readings by the Teign Valley Choral Society. This festive concert will be followed by a delicious buffet supper.

£21.50 per person. Booking essential on 01392

Call Anna on 01884 841070 for advertising

# WHAT'S ON

BISHOPSWOOD: Christmas Whist Drive at Otterford Parish Hall from 7.45pm. Telephone 01823 601350 for more details.

#### Saturday, December 5th

**UPOTTERY:** Christmas Market at the Manor Rooms, 10am -12noon, Stalls and 'brunch', Telephone 01404 891328 to book a table or for more information.

#### Sunday, December 6th

**BISHOPSWOOD:** Charity Cream Tea Dance at Otterford Parish Hall from 2pm - 5pm. Telephone 01823 601350 for more details.

Friday, December 11th

**UPOTTERY:** Quiz night at Manor Rooms from 8pm. License bar. Teams of 6 to book. Telephone 01404 891328 for more details. BISHOPSWOOD: Christmas Bingo.

Turkey every house. Eyes down 8pm. At Otterford Parish Hall. Telephone 01823 601350 for more details.

#### Sunday, December 13th

**Axminster:** 5 mile conducted walk with Christmas lunch from 10.30am. Meet at Coombe Lane Car Park, Telephone 01297 34444 for more details.

Thursday, December 17th BISHOPSWOOD: Christmas Whist Drive at Otterford Parish Hall from 2.30pm. Telephone 01823 601350 for more details.

#### Friday, December 18th

LUPPITT: Christmas do "Live Band". 8pm - midnight at Luppitt Village Hall. Telephone 01404 891235 for more details.

#### Saturday, December 19th

SAMPFORD PEVERALL: Whist Drive turkey top prize. From 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall. Telephone 01884 821309 for more details. **LUPPITT:** Christmas Whist Drive at Luppitt Village Hall from 7.45pm prompt. Telephone 01404

891328 for more details.

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#### What's On listings form

Date	
Time	
   Town/Village	I
	Tel No

Send your Diary Dates listings to: View From The Blackdown Hills, View from Publishing Ltd, Unit 3, St Michael's Business Centre, Church Street, LYME REGIS, Dorset DT7 3DB.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a free service and whilst we endeavour to include all entries, we cannot guarantee all listings submitted will be published. Please use one form per event you wish to submit. Photocopies are unacceptable.

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mins drive from M5 makes Stonehayes Farm the ideal base to visit Dorset, Somerset and Devon. Seaside resorts of Branscombe, Lyme Regis and Sidmouth are only a short drive away and there are many golf courses in the surrounding area to suit all abilities.

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The Old Vicarage Bed and Breakfast The Old Vicarage, Broadhembury Honiton, Devon. EX14 3ND Email: enquiries@broadhemburybandb.co.uk

www.broadhemburybandb.co.uk



Stonehayes Farm, Combe Raleigh, Honiton, Devon EX14 4UG

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#### ■ The Old Vicarage B&B

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Anna Lisa Taylor on 01884 841070 or email

# For all advertising enquiries contact Alex Phryce-Jones on 01297 446148 or email alex@pemedia.co.uk or

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# **NEW HONDA CR-V PRICING ANNOUNCED**

nounced competitive new pricing and a generous specification for its new-look Honda CR-V. which goes on sale in January 2010.

Built in Britain at Honda's plant in Swindon, the new model will be available with a new diesel powerplant - the i-DTEC - and an eagerly awaited automatic gearbox for diesel models. The top-selling SUV's popular looks have been refreshed with a distinctive new front bumper, grille and revised rear bumper.

NVH levels are improved, with increased sound deadening around the engine and cabin, adding to the high-quality refinement of the CR-V and making it an even quieter and more relaxing car to drive. Inside the cabin, upgraded fabrics and plastics have been used to give a more premium finish; a new audio console design has been introduced.

Like the previous model, the new 2010 CR-V offers unrivalled equipment levels that, along with its ample cabin, split-level boot and 'car-like' handling, have made it so popular. SE grades now come fitted with newlydesigned 17-inch alloy wheels as standard as well as air conditioning, auxiliary socket, cloth upholstery and powerheated door mirrors.

ES grades get 18-inch 10-spoke alloy wheels, auto-dimming cruise control, doubledeck cargo space, electric mirrors, half folding leather and Alcantara heated seats, headlight washers, front fog lights, leather steering wheel and gear knob, rear parking sensors, unique interior inlay trims and USB connector for an iPod, over and above the SE model.

Top spec EX models are differentiated by full body-coloured bumpers and come equipped with voice-activated satellite navigation with premium audio and subwoofer, full leather upholstery with front heated seats, HID Xenon headlights and auto headlight on function, panoramic roof, rain sensor, reverse tilt mirror and 8-way driver power seat in addition to the ES specification.

The 2.0-litre petrol CR-V is also Euro 5 compliant, but remains unchanged from the previous model, producing 150PS at 6,200rpm and torque of 192Nm at 4,200rpm.

The CR-V has always been recognised for its

high-specification equipment levels and sectorleading residual values, and the new car's valuefor-money package should continue to im-

Technology which include Satellite Navigation and Bluetooth Hands-Free Telephone, are available on all SE and ES grades for £1250.

available as standard.

Two active safety systems continue to be available on the CR-V and are unique to the SUV segment. Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) is a radar-controlled cruise control function which maintains a set distance to the vehicle in front; Collision Mitigation Braking System (CMBS) predicts collisions and warns the driver, before applying braking and re-

packs

Three new paint colours are available for 2010, Premium White Pearl, Urban Titanium and Alabaster Silver. Five other metallic paints are available – Crystal Black, Polished Metal, Sparkle Grey, Deep Bronze and Deep Sapphire Blue. Milano Red is the solid colour

> belts if the situation be-EX models.
> The CR-V will continue

tracting the front seatcomes critical. These systems are optional on

to be built at Honda of the UK Manufacturing in Swindon, where British workers proudly produce the SUV for over 60 countries. The revised CR-V goes on sale on 5 January, 2010 but dealers will be taking orders from 1 December 2009



# IAM flood advice

for drivers

WITH more flooding predicted, the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) has today (18 November) issued advice to drivers.

IAM Chief Examiner Peter Rodger said:

"If the journey is unavoidable, motorists should take extra precautions when dealing with severe surface conditions. Torrential rain brings with it visibility problems as the car mists up in seconds."

#### Advice for motorists considering driving in flood conditions:

- Don't go in if the water's obviously too deep or flowing too quickly: consider an alternative route.
- If you have to drive through water try to drive in the highest section of the road and don't set off if a vehicle is travelling in the opposite direction. Leave time and space for each other, so you don't swamp other drivers.
- Drive only fast enough to create a small bow wave in front of the vehicle driving at speed may be dangerous to other vehicles or pedestrians.
- Keep going once you have started make sure you have a clear run, put the car into first gear, keep the revs high and set off. Don't go in if you can't see a way out on the other side.
- Do not take your foot even slightly off the accelerator, as this will allow water to travel up the exhaust pipe.
- As you go through the water, slip the clutch if you can. After you come out, dry brakes gently before you need them - the best way is to lightly apply the brake as you drive along for a few seconds
- At the other side, keep moving and continue to rev the engine to clear any water from the exhaust



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The property is available to let unfurnished from the end of November for £1,395 per calendar month. For further information or to arrange a viewing contact the agents on 01404 42553. www.stags.co.uk



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