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August 2013 - Vol 28 No 8

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**...and don't forget**

## **Ilfracombe Carnival on Thursday 22 August**

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What an amazing few weeks of weather we have had, and it's that time of the year again, 'The North Devon Show' will be at Umberleigh on Wednesday the 7th August. Please come and see us, we have our own Marquee with over 20 Tour Operators being represented, and not to mention the £500.00 TRAVEL VOUCHER PRIZE. Just visit us and register your details, and you could be the lucky winner.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Best wishes from Diane, Katie, Pam and Julia



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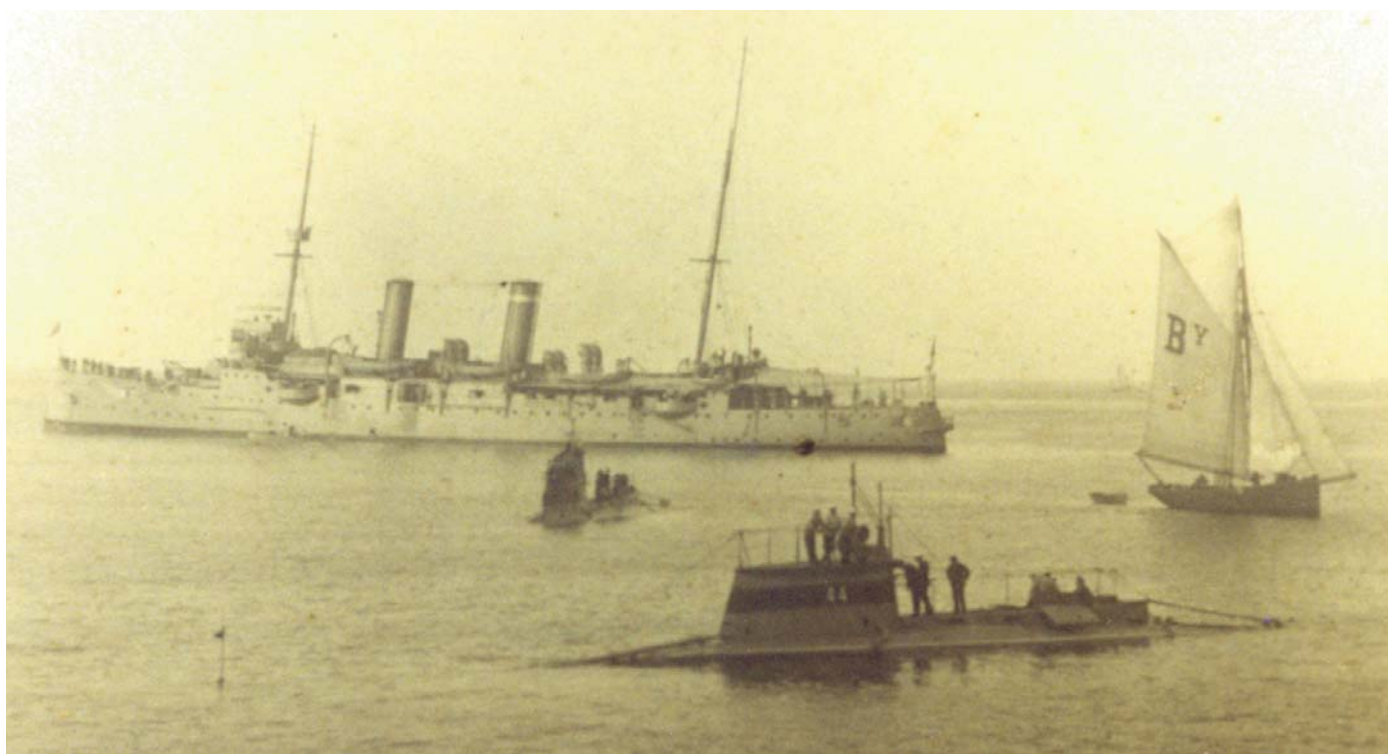


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## Ilfracombe Museum Archives



We unearthed this unusual postcard from our collection this week, and the intriguing title 'Submarines at Ilfracombe' led us to find out more. The postcard is dated July 13th, 1910, and a look at the Ilfracombe Gazette for this date gave us the following information:

“ Warships at Ilfracombe. Considerable interest is being taken in the visit to Ilfracombe of the Cruiser ‘Bonaventure’, The torpedo Destroyers Nos. 8 and 22, and the Submarines 42, 43 and 44. The Ships arrived off the Pier on Tuesday afternoon. The visit was in connection with the Naval Manoeuvres, “war” being declared at 4 o’clock on Wednesday morning. The ‘Bonaventure’ is a second class Cruiser of 7,000 horse power, and with a displacement of 4360 tons. She carries ten guns and has a speed of 19 knots. The large vessel came within a short distance of the Pier, and the smaller craft took up positions on the shore side of her. The submarines were so close in to shore as to afford an excellent opportunity for inspection.

Never before have Submarines been so near to Ilfracombe. The liveliest interest was, therefore, aroused by the appearance of these rare craft.”

This postcard is a perfect example of the escalating arms race taking place between Britain and Germany in the first decade of the twentieth century. Both Nations were flexing their military muscles, increasing the sizes of their Naval fleets, and taking plenty of opportunities to show them off to each other. In July 1904 the German battle fleet was invited to visit Plymouth, and thousands came to the Hoe to watch the German Battleships cruise past. The Mayor of Plymouth gave a banquet to the Admiral and Officers. However, some were unhappy about the visit and claimed that the German naval officers had used it to photograph the defences of Devonport and the dockyard!

By 1910 Devonport dockyard itself was undergoing considerable expansion to cater for the increased number of large naval ships being built there.

HMS Bonaventure had been built in Devonport in 1892 and had served in the Pacific during the third China War, but by 1910 had been converted into a depot ship for Submarines. This explains why she accompanied the Submarines that visited Ilfracombe in 1910. She served in the First World War, and was scrapped in 1920. The submarine in the picture looks like a C class type, and these were used for coastal defence at this time. During the Great War ten of them were lost in action across the North Sea and Baltic Sea.

## ILFRACOMBE and District 1847

### 20th January, 1848.

Suicide: Considerable sensation was produced here on Monday last, by the report that a blind man named James Fosse, who lived by himself, was found in his room suspended by the neck quite dead. An inquest was holden on the body on Tuesday, by Richard Bremridge, Esq., MP, when it appeared from the evidence that deceased had for some days previous shewn symptoms of insanity. A poor old man and woman, who occupied a room under the same roof, finding that the deceased did not get up as usual on Sunday morning, knocked at his bedroom, and receiving no answer, they called some of the neighbours, one of whom got a ladder and looked in at the window, where he saw him hanging at the bedpost. The door was then forced open, and the poor fellow was found to be quite dead. Near the body lay a razor, and a quantity of blood on the floor; and on examination they found an incision in the throat, so that there is no doubt that the deceased first tried to put an end to his existence by cutting his throat, and afterwards completed it by hanging himself. The jury was satisfied from the evidence that the deceased laboured under temporary insanity, and gave a verdict to that effect.

### 10th February 1848

Combmartin Petty Sessions. Before Nathaniel Vye Lee, Esq., in the chair, Rev. John Pike, and Nathaniel Vye, Esq. Thomas Berry, the keeper of a beer house at Ilfracombe, called the 'Braunton Inn' was convicted on the information of George Beer, Constable, for having kept open his house for the sale of beer until half past eleven o'clock on the night of 8th January, being beyond the hour allowed by the statute, and fined 2s 6d and expenses; the penalty being mitigated in consideration of the character given by the constable of the general good conduct of the house. The same complainant exhibited an information against Elizabeth Hancock, the keeper of the 'Ring of Bells Inn,' at Ilfracombe, for permitting gaming in her house on the night of New Year's Day, to which she pleaded guilty, and was fined 2s 6d; the constable in this case also giving the defendant the character of keeping usually a very orderly house.

The chairman left the bench and became the complainant against William Kiff, servant to Mr. John Langdon, of Woollacombe, for riding on his master's cart, and driving at a furious rate through the town of Ilfracombe on the 11th January, without reins to guide the horses. Defendant admitted his guilt, and prayed the lenity of the Bench, in which the worshipful the complainant joined, and he was consequently fined in the mitigated penalty of 2s. 6d and expenses.

Ilfracombe: Sudden Death: An awful instance of the uncertainty of human life occurred on Friday last, to the wife of Mr. John Hill, blacksmith, residing in the village of Heal, in the parish. It appears that Mr. Hill, with his wife and two other women, were returning from Barnstaple market about seven o'clock on Friday evening last, and were within half a mile of Mr. Hill's house, when Mrs Hill complained of being unwell, and fainted away; she was taken out of the cart, and carried into the house, where medical aid was obtained as quickly as possible, but life was extinct before the surgeon arrived. The deceased had for some time suffered from a very bad leg, and the jolting of the cart caused a rupture of a vein in the leg, and she died from the loss of blood, although quite unconscious of anything of the kind; but on examination, a large quantity of blood was found in the cart, and also along the road at a considerable distance. There was no inquest in this case, as the surgeon assured the coroner that the deceased died from natural causes.

### 6th April 1848

The inhabitants of this delightful watering place (which Mrs. Trollope declared to be the pleasantest of all English watering places) are making preparations on a large scale, in anticipation of a full season. Masons, joiners, painters, and upholsterers, are in great requisition. As a proof on onward progress, several new lodging houses of the first class, just finished, are being furnished in magnificent style, and a great number of the old houses, both large and small, have been renovated during the past winter, and considerable additions made to the furniture; so that there will be splendid accommodations for a much larger number than usual of the health-seeking invalids and the pleasure seeking strangers who usually resort to the sea side for recreation during the summer months. The shops are much improved in external appearance, giving an unwonted beauty to the streets; and the stocks of goods have been increased to such an extent as plainly indicates that the shopkeepers hope for a great addition to their list of customers. The hotels present an appearance of much splendour externally, and the comfort of the internal arrangements is beyond all praise indeed, it must be seen to be properly appreciated.

So large a quantity of mackerel has been brought in here from the coast of Cornwall during the last few days, that they have been sold so low at 25 for a shilling.

*The Focus  
Team*

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Advertising Rates are available on request, please contact Erica as above.

**Distribution**

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**Proof Reader:** Stan Sprague

**Deadline**

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Focus is normally available from the beginning of the month, and can be obtained FREE from Ilfracombe Library, Kingsley Printers, and many shops and other establishments in Ilfracombe and the surrounding communities.

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*Organised by Ilfracombe in Bloom*

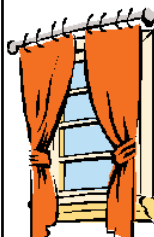
**at the Landmark Pavilion on  
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**Entry Forms available from and  
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meets monthly to offer advice and companionship to people living with memory loss or dementia. It is friendly and informal, offering drinks, cakes and laughter,

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**What will you get in return?**

As well as the enjoyment of attending the Café yourself, dementia awareness training is available and vehicle expenses will be paid.

If you think you might be able to help, please contact: Denise McDonald on 0844 225 3791, or email her at [dmcDonald@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:dmcDonald@parkinsons.org.uk).

**But I can help more than once a month!**

Volunteer Car Schemes are always looking for volunteer drivers to take people to health and other appointments.

**So - what is in it for you? It can help you to:**

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- keep active and feel good about what you are doing
- keep your car on the road by receiving vehicle expenses
- learn new skills and possibly get back into paid work

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Contact Tim or Jo at North Devon Access to Services Project: 01271 866300, or email [jo@ndvs.org.uk](mailto:jo@ndvs.org.uk)

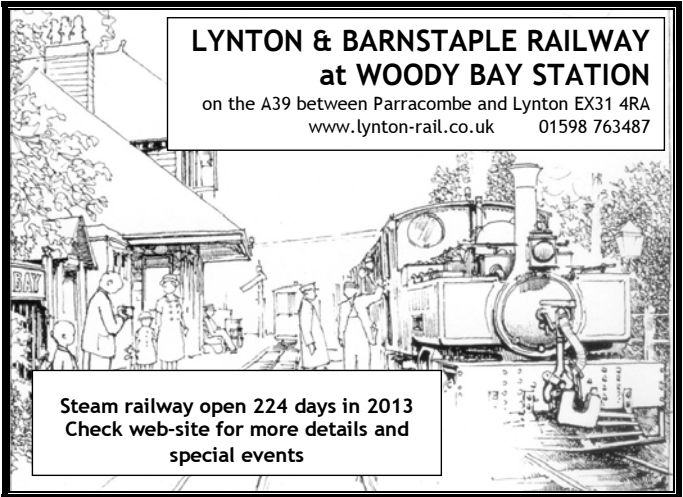
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## THE COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

The community defibrillator that was purchased with funds given from local shops and charities last October is now available 24/7. It had been kept at McColls in the High Street as the shop was open from 0700 to 2300hrs and after an appeal to local businesses the owners of Studio 20, Jo and Mike Walker offered to have the new locked cabinet attached to the wall of the gym under the arches in the High Street. As of June 17th the defibrillator is now in the locked blue cabinet, in the case of an emergency when 999 is called the ambulance control staff will inform the caller that a defibrillator is available and will give them the code number to open the cabinet. If anyone would like more information please contact PCSO Karen Grant on 08456 565 057 or email on [Karen.grant@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Karen.grant@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)



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## ILFRACOMBE CARNIVAL

### Thursday 22 August 2013

#### In the afternoon –

Stalls, music, entertainment, children's rides, bouncy castles, catering. There will be something going on all afternoon.

#### In the evening –

Carnival Parade. Judging will be at Brimlands (Rugby Club) at 6.30 then the parade moves down Portland Street, High Street, Northfield Road, Wilder Road onto the seafront. The floats and walkers will gather in front of Capstone Hill for prize giving at around 8.00. Note that all times are 'Devon Time'.

To enter the Parade:

The categories are...

- Class 1 Motorised Vehicle
- Class 2 Decorated Trade Vehicle
- Class 3 Walking Adult(s)
- Class 4 Walking Child or Children up to age 16
- Class 5 Walking Mixed Group (min 2 people) adult or child
- Class 6 Best in Show.

Ilfracombe Carnival Parade is free to enter and there are cash prizes for the winners of each category.

To enter as Carnival Queen or Attendants:

The Queen and Attendants should live within the Ilfracombe and District area. The queen should be aged 14 or over. Attendants should be aged 8 or over (2 required, male or female).

The Carnival Queen and Attendants will be chosen on Rescue Day (14 August). Free to enter as either Carnival Queen or Attendant.

Application forms for either the Parade or Carnival Queen/Attendants can be picked up from St James' Dairy on St. James' Place, the Ilfracombe Tourist Information Centre at The Landmark on The Seafront or The Ilfracombe Centre on The High Street. Alternatively the application forms can be obtained by emailing [events@visitilfracombe.co.uk](mailto:events@visitilfracombe.co.uk)

**More information can be found at [www.visitilfracombe.co.uk](http://www.visitilfracombe.co.uk)**

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Chess is played on Mondays at Brookdale Church Hall in Ilfracombe. We welcome beginners, moderated players or stars of any age. Why not give us a try?

No obligations - No charge for your first visit so why not? Ring Bob Lock (862662) for details.



## *Ilfracombe Museum*

Have fun at Ilfracombe Museum's Free Children's activity sessions which will be held during the Summer Holidays. We are very grateful for a Grant from the Ilfracombe Town Council which will help towards the costs.

Friday 2nd August 10.30-12.30 **African Adventures**  
Friday 16th August 10.30-12.30 **Rumpus in the Rain Forest**  
Friday 6th September 10.30-12.30 **Pirates**

There is no need to book. Just turn up with an accompanying adult and have a wonderful morning exploring the Museum's Collections, and getting involved in all kinds of activities including crafts, drumming, stories, games, music, trails

If you have any queries, please contact Sara or Jane on  
01271 863541  
or email [ilfracombe@devonmuseums.net](mailto:ilfracombe@devonmuseums.net)  
[www.ilfracombemuseum.co.uk](http://www.ilfracombemuseum.co.uk)

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# Community Announcements

## TORRS LADIES CLUB

As the song goes "Didn't we have a lovely day, the day we went to (Bangor)" or rather Knightshayes Court. I think everyone who went would agree we did. The trip was instead of our usual annual cream tea. Twenty six members set off for Knightshayes on a gloriously sunny day. We arrived about 11-30am, in time for a refreshing drink before setting out to explore the beautiful grounds and formal gardens, the kitchen gardens and the house. Somewhere in between we found time for lunch and a moment or two to sit under a shady tree and relax. All too soon it was time to board the coach for the homeward journey with the addition, I noticed of several pots of plants from the garden shop. Altogether a very enjoyable day.

Our Choir and Keep fit groups have "broken up" for the summer, however we restart again in September at a different venue. The Parish Hall is closing, so we have relocated to the Trinity Rooms (just across the road) same times just a new place. Shirley, our Chairman, hopes to start up a small drama group to meet on Friday afternoons. More news of that and the start date for the above classes in the September Focus. We are back at Brookdale Church hall for our August Meeting and our guest speaker is Debra Bean who before her retirement worked in the Royal Press Office and has some very interesting tales to tell. She calls her talk "On Her Majesties Service" The meeting is on Monday 12th starting at 2-00pm. New members and visitors always welcome.

*Jenny Hodson*

## Ilfracombe Rotary Club held the Startrek 2013

**Awards** recently and made these great donations!

The top fundraising teams were:

1st Time Team £4,014

2nd Marwood Men £1,653

3rd Pludd Plodders £1,209

The teams have made donations to their nominated charities: Time Team - £500 to St Mary Lyncombe Trust (The Exmoor Centre)

Marwood Men - £300 to Amigos

Pludd Plodders £150 to the Multiple Sclerosis Society

Many thanks to everyone. If you would like further information, or to download an Entry Form for Startrek 2014 go to [www.rotary-startrek.org.uk](http://www.rotary-startrek.org.uk)

## BRIAN JAMES POPE

Happy 65th Birthday My Love  
from your wife.

## ILFRACOMBE PENSIONERS' SOCIAL CLUB

Afternoon minibuses by Community minibus will take place regularly either on Monday, Tuesday or Saturday afternoons. Join in to meet new friends. Go out into our lovely North Devon countryside, enjoy afternoon tea. The Community minibus will pick you up at your home and return you there afterwards. Further details from Shirley Jones, 01271 863630.

## STUDIO THEATRE NEWS

We had a great response to our performance of Tom Stoppard's 'The Real Inspector Hound' on 21st June and judging by the laughter, and the comments afterwards, it was thoroughly enjoyed.

(Bet you wish that you had gone now!)

**Our Car Boot Sale** on The Seafront on 23rd June had to be abandoned because of the high winds, and we hope the improving weather will bring in the crowds on **Sunday, 18th August**. The audition evenings for our **Autumn Production 'Allo 'Allo** were well attended, and the Director, Anne Bacon, is busy assembling her cast. If you

missed them there are a few parts still open so contact Anne on 882193 if you are interested.

Rehearsals will start in September for the production on **14th and 15th November**. Help is always welcome with scenery and props and with other aspects of the production so why not give the television a break and join in?

Tickets are now on sale at **The Landmark Box Office 01271 324242**.

## DIARY

### EVERY TUESDAY

RAOB Capstone Lodge 4027 (Buffs) meet in Lodge Room at 7.45pm. Lapsed members especially welcomed back. Contact Brian (Secretary) 01271 373137.

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Salvation Army, Torrs, Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale, 10 until 12 noon. Come and enjoy a chat.

### EVERY MONDAY

Tai Chi in Woolacombe Village Hall, 10am until 12noon. Cost £5 includes tea and coffee. Small, social group, all levels and ages welcomed. Contact Sandy 01271 870563.

### EVERY MONDAY

Ilfracombe Chess Club meet at Brookdale Church Hall. Ring Bob Lock 862662 for details.

**EVERY MONDAY MORNING** 10.30am to 12 noon Befriender Coffee Mornings for over 65s at the Christian Fellowship Church – for people to just pop in for tea/coffee and homemade cakes.

### SINGING FOR THE BRAIN

There will be no Singing for the Brain during August and therefore our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 3rd September followed by Tuesday 17th September.

### Sunday 28 July to 3 August

Ilfracombe Tennis Tournament.

### Saturday 27 July to Sunday 1 August

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION to be held in Lee Memorial Hall from 11am to 5pm each day. Come and visit us in our delightful village, and browse a wide selection of beautiful arts and crafts all created by local artists with an opportunity to purchase unique and unusual items either as a gift, or as a treat for yourself! Delicious refreshments will be available throughout the exhibition and there will be a wonderful patchwork quilt offered as first prize in the Grand Draw along with other lovely prizes. Free admission and ample parking next to the Memorial Hall. Everyone welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Thursday 1 August

Garden Party/Open Day Susan Day Residential Care Home, 2.00pm. The Town Crier will be opening the event. Tea, Cakes, Tombola, Bric-a-brac, Books, Clothes, Games, Museum Gifts Stall and Artefacts Display. Mabel the Vintage Ice Cream Van with Devon Ice Creams and Old Fashioned Sweets.

### Saturday 3rd August

The Ilfracombe Red Hats Ladies' Group will meet at the Landmark Theatre Cafe at 11am. Info: 01271 866288.

### Saturday 3rd August

Farmers' Market, Market Arches, High Street, 10am – 12.30pm. Beautiful fresh local and organic produce. Crafts. Info 01271 864621.

### Sunday 4 August

Ilfracombe Horticultural & Craft Show, Landmark Pavilion - Open from 1pm. Flower arranging demonstrations at 1.30 & 3pm. Presentation of Awards at 4pm, Sale of Produce 4.30pm For more info contact Ilfracombe in Bloom on 01271 864937 or email [stbrannocks@aol.com](mailto:stbrannocks@aol.com)



## Jayne McKenzie Smith

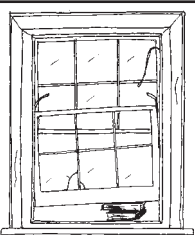
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**1st Ilfracombe (Holy Trinity)**

## Volunteer Vacancy

1st Ilfracombe Scouts Group are looking for two assistant leaders to work with our Cubs (aged 8-10½) and our Scouts (aged 10½ -14).

Ideally they will have some experience of working with children, but full training is provided.

For further information please email [gsl@1stilfracombe.org.uk](mailto:gsl@1stilfracombe.org.uk) or call Sarah on 07791384484

## SEA ILFRACOMBE 2013



Please like us on Facebook.

See [www.seailfracombe.co.uk](http://www.seailfracombe.co.uk) for full details.



## Getting older? Finding it harder to hear?

Come along and join the  
**Hearing Loss Social Group**  
in Ilfracombe

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every month

Next quarter dates  
18<sup>th</sup> July, 15<sup>th</sup> August, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013

**'Hear for You'**

10:30am at the  
**the Ilfracombe Centre**  
**Council Offices**

**corner of High Street / Northfield Road**

For more information contact  
Lyn at the See Hear Centre  
Phone: 01271 373 236  
Mobile: 07831 515 809  
[seehearnd@livingoptions.org](http://seehearnd@livingoptions.org)

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No Open Night this month as the 2nd Saturday  
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Week, and everyone's pretty tired of having a  
good time, and just wants an evening in front of  
the telly.

But we'll make up for it with a great concert on  
24th August with Irish/Yorkshire singer-songwriter  
Anna Shannon. A versatile singer-songwriter and  
multi-instrumentalist, Anna carries the folk music  
tradition forward in her own distinctive style.  
Since winning the local BBC Radio's 'Yorkshire  
Songwriter of the Year' 2006, she has released  
seven albums of her original material, accompany-  
ing herself on guitar and a number of other instru-  
ments.

Coming from a classical musical background has  
given her undoubted advantages, and her variety of  
guitar styles, and her honest voice, win over  
increasing numbers of fans, including the greats of  
the folk world like Vin Garbutt and Martyn  
Wyndham-Read. "A major song-writing talent."  
"A stunning singing voice." "A truly fine  
multi-instrumentalist." Come and find out for  
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Local musicians and singers will, as usual, provide  
talented support to our headline guests.  
Shammick Acoustic takes place at The Pack o'  
Cards, High Street, Combe Martin, from 8 p.m.  
Tickets for the concert are £6 in advance from  
Shammick Acoustic, from the Pack o' Cards, or  
Pets' Pantry, High Street, Combe Martin or online  
via [www.wegotickets.com/event/179799](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/179799), or £7 at  
the door.

More information about Shammick Acoustic can be  
found on our website at  
[www.shammickacoustic.org.uk](http://www.shammickacoustic.org.uk), or contact Tom or  
Barbara Brown on 882366, or by e-mail at  
[contact@shammickacoustic.org.uk](mailto:contact@shammickacoustic.org.uk).

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# Flower Festival

*Theme:* Handel Messiah

**Friday, August 9th**

**Saturday, August 10th**

**Sunday, August 11th**

**Monday, August 12th**

10am - 5pm

(Sunday 12 noon - 5pm)

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The Sea Ilfracombe Festival, Friday,  
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Contact Patricia Hampson on 01271 882915  
or email: [info@seailfracombe.co.uk](mailto:info@seailfracombe.co.uk)

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Do you know an older person, neighbour or friend who is lonely or struggling? If you are concerned you can refer them to us and we can offer support. We are a new scheme, which runs with the help of volunteers from local churches in conjunction with the NHS and Social Services who check it is appropriate for us to visit. We can provide them with a regular visitor [all of whom have had training and police checks] to spend one to one time with someone doing whatever they enjoy.

It may be only short term; following an illness or to regain confidence, going out etc, or it may be for a longer term if someone is alone or housebound and needs company.

We also have a Coffee Morning at the Christian Fellowship Church in the High Street - **every Monday 10.30am to 12 noon** for older people to pop in for coffee and cakes. Chat with friends and pick up information.

**Isolation is one of the biggest killers in today's society so if you are worried don't ignore it do something to help - ring Rachel Holmes on 07818 650566.**

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## LETTER FROM THE CONSORT

When I thought I retired a couple of years ago my day used to start with a cup of tea and the Daily Mail in bed till about 10ish. (I make it a rule to be up by noon), then it was breakfast, followed by coffee and read the rest of the paper.

Since my wife became Mayor my cup of tea seems to arrive about 7ish, before the paper is delivered, then it's up, rushed breakfast and off to some gig, 12 this month. Not that I'm complaining, I feel quite smug being up before other people.

Engagements this month are too many to list, it would fill the Focus but it doesn't make any of them less worthy. There was Victorian Week, with the wonderful Rita and Roy strutting their stuff in the rain to the delight of our visitors. There was the Mayor's Tea Party held in Pip and Jim's play room, due to the weather which had the unfortunate effect of reducing the charity collection which this year is the new **Chemotherapy Unit** at The North Devon Hospital, dig deep.

The Mayor attended the South Molton Old Country Fayre again this year. That's the one where grown men and women wearing chains jig round the town to the Floral Dance tune. I couldn't – my leg, so the Mayor jiggled with David Goodwin the former Mayor of South Molton.

There was the launch of One Ilfracombe, at the Crescent Hotel where all the unpaid directors made themselves known. There was an excellent turnout and buffet. We enjoyed an artery clogging big breakfast that Lis and Steve Long put on every year in aid of Breast Cancer Research. I believe they raised £800.00. Great stuff, Great Breakfast.

I drove the Mayor to the gates of Chivenor at the crack of dawn on Saturday 29th June to watch a display by the 999 Academy Cadets showing their skills after two years training with the Police, Ambulance, Fire Service and the Coastguards. She then presented the certificates of competence.

There was the Home Start AGM at Fremington, doing very worthwhile work mentoring young families. The presentation of the new disabled community minibus was marked by the cutting of a ribbon at the Landmark. We turned out for this one a couple of weeks before, I paid the parking, we put the chains on in the car park, then a breathless Evie saw us and came running over from the Landmark to say it had been postponed – and I couldn't get my £1.00 back.

About the last event was a banquet in St Peter's to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Father Robert Harris' ordination. The Mayor proposed a toast and tried to list the blessings this man and his wife Christine have brought to our church and community. He started by repairing the heating in St Peter's and fixing the roof, then turning the church into not just a place of worship, but a social club. We have breakfast in church on the first Sunday of every month before the service. We have banquets after, there is also beer and hymns in the **Welly and the George and Dragon**. There is a play area for the kids, they can make as much noise as they like, Fr Robert's voice will be louder. With Fr Robert and Christine saving our souls, there could be standing room only for us sinners in St Peter's and Holy Trinity.

## PROGRESS?

This photo was taken in September 1969 just thirteen months before the very last train left 'Combe. Everything was kept spick and span, nature was controlled and wild-life was abundant. All the grass cutting, the growth cut-back and footpaths were property maintained by workmen with pride who used nothing more than elbow grease to wield their hand-held tools to combat the vegetation. The view is fantastic with even the sea in sight.

The other photo was taken at very nearly the same spot in September last year and despite the availability and use of high-powered sit-on hedge trimmers and ear-blasting bush cutters and strimmers, the photo proves that nature is now well out of control and obviously beyond the powers that be. There is no view, the sea can't be seen and the only thing visible is the avenue of trees and overgrowth. The only consolation, as far as yours truly is concerned, is that from this spot Verity is well out of sight and that itself is most definitely progress. *Jack Dawe*





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## Devon Dementia Support Service Supporting people with dementia in Devon

A fantastic new support service for people with dementia in Devon has been launched in March. The Devon County Council-funded service to provide Dementia Support Workers across Devon is run by Alzheimer's Society, and is accessible to all Devon residents who have dementia and their carers. There is a new office in Queens House, Queen Street, Barnstaple. The North Devon team are based here, and can be contacted by telephone, email or post. Telephone 0300 123 2029 for general enquiries and referrals; or email [devon@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:devon@alzheimers.org.uk). The new service has fully trained staff who can provide information, support and advice on any aspect of living with dementia, by telephone, email or home visit. Staff will link with local GP surgeries to make sure that everyone who needs support is aware of the new scheme, and can deliver awareness-raising talks to small groups on request. Alzheimer's Society also provide volunteer befrienders to support people with dementia to continue to take part in their local community. If you would like to volunteer as a Befriender, please contact us on 0300 123 2029. We will pay your expenses, and provide full training and ongoing support.

Alzheimer's  
Society

Leading the  
fight against  
dementia

### WANTED IN DEVON The views of people with dementia

- Do you have dementia?
- Are you interested in being more **involved**?
- Are you **satisfied** with services provided?
- With your help we can **influence** services, and create changes that make a difference to the lives of people living with dementia



Keeping it local - a group close to you

#### ? What will I do on the group?

We will ask you to look at and give your opinion on:

- How best to evaluate services e.g. questionnaires
- Policies that guide on how best to deliver services
- Current ways of delivering services

#### ? Why is the group important?

The **group** will have a **key role** in **improving community attitudes** to people living with dementia.

The views of people living with dementia will offer '**expert by experience**' information and advice to support the design and evaluation of dementia services in Devon.

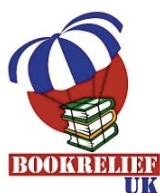
#### ? How do I join?

For more information or to join the group, please call **Claire Tatton** at the Devon Dementia Support Service on 01392 368885 or email [claire.tatton@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:claire.tatton@alzheimers.org.uk)

## WEST DOWN COMMUNITY SHOP The new shop in West Down

West Down Community Shop opened about 7 months ago in the centre of West Down, replacing the former Village Stores. We have a dedicated band of volunteers who help run the shop – but more are needed! If you'd like to join us, please ring the shop on 01271 864264.

The shop sells a wide range of local products as well as lots of other things you'd expect to find in a village shop. Opening hours are: Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm (Bank Hols: 8.30am to 4pm) Saturday 8am to 4pm Sunday 8.30am to 1pm. Post-refit re-opening scheduled for mid-July.



## New Read Easy adult literacy programme coming to Ilfracombe

About one adult in six in the UK struggles with reading, but given the right support, anyone can learn to read quite quickly and easily if they want to. It doesn't mean going back to class - Read Easy is a programme that provides one-to-one help - using quiet, discreet venues where New Readers/Learners can work with a Volunteer Reading Coach without being overlooked but where there will always be other people nearby. And furthermore,

it's free!

Having begun to build a network in North Devon last year in association with local literacy charity Book Relief UK, a new Read Easy group will shortly be set up in Ilfracombe.

The key to starting such a Group is finding suitable volunteers to deliver the programme. Anyone aged 21 and over who can read fluently themselves can apply to become a Volunteer Reading Coach and after an initial selection programme will be given training and then matched up with a New Reader/Learner.

An additional key is finding someone with the time (it could mean some 12-15 hours or more a week - especially when the programme is in its early stages) - and organisational skills - to take on the role of Volunteer Co-ordinator. This will include interviewing Volunteer Reading Coaches and New Readers/Learners, pairing them up, monitoring progress and associated paperwork. Special training for this role will also be given.

To learn more about Read Easy Ilfracombe and the volunteering opportunities on offer - or if you know anyone who could benefit from becoming a New Reader/Learner - please contact Transform 4 Work on 01271 867131 - Email: [transform4work@gmail.com](mailto:transform4work@gmail.com) - or North Devon Voluntary Services on 01271 866330 - Email: [volunteer@ndvs.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@ndvs.org.uk).