

NEWS

SOUTH MOLTON DEVON

Antiquexplorer talks with Michael Buckingham about his new antiques market just minutes from the North Devon link road and only 30 minutes from Junction 27 on the M5.

South Molton had a national reputation as an antiques centre about 30 years ago – and it looks like it's set to regain that reputation!

What attracted you to South Molton?

“It has been a pleasure to set up an antiques market in the historic Pannier Market. Although my family come from South Molton – some members have never moved away – it's only recently that I have lived here. Having witnessed changes throughout more years than I care to admit too, I was struck by how underutilised the public buildings are. Rather than just moan about it I determined to do something – hence Pannier Antiques!

“I also feel it's important to work with local charities and, building on the success of our inaugural market in November, where we raised funds for North Devon Hospice, each date will raise funds for a different local charity.”

How often do you intend to hold them?

“In order to build a solid position in the market place we have committed to a monthly event throughout 2015 – every third Sunday in fact, from February to November, with a Christmas special on Sunday 13th December.

How will your events differ from others?

“To keep the events fresh, once a quarter the market will specialise on a particular area – this will be in addition to the regular traders. For example, the 15th March market will focus on jewellery and I'm looking to provide additional features such as talks on the subject and perhaps an exhibition. The June market will focus on ceramics, which is my particular area of interest. Again I'm looking to arrange talks on local potters and hopefully a ceramics demonstration and workshop, while September will focus on fabrics with talks and demonstrations regarding the importance of fabric throughout the ages.”

What's new for traders?

“Traders who are interested in taking a stand should contact me – I'm always open to new ideas and if you feel that you can add value to a fun day out I'd love to hear from you! In addition to operating a physical market, Pannier Antiques is being developed as a virtual market place where antiques may be bought and sold via the internet, with long-term plans to market it in other parts of the world.

“Finally, we have an excellent coffee shop onsite, parking is free, and the town has numerous ATM's. There are lots of other places of interest nearby, or you can simply take in the beauty of Exmoor and the North Devon coast.”

www.pannierantiques.com