

Markets full of buzz and bargains

A good market is full of variety – embracing everything from local produce to antiques

Barnstaple Pannier Market

A trip to Barnstaple isn't the same without visiting the town's historic Pannier Market.

Conveniently located on the busy High Street, the bustling market is open six days a week throughout the summer.

Largely unchanged in 150 years, the market has a wide range of stalls, with everything from fresh local produce, flowers and crafts, to prints and pictures, gifts, homeware and much more.

Open Monday to Saturday from 9am-4pm, there are specialist market days focused on arts, crafts, antiques and collectables, with Friday's farmers market a highlight of the week.

The market boasts two cafes each offering varied menus at great prices and a relaxed atmosphere, where you can sit and watch the world go by.

The market's High Street location makes it an ideal venue for events. When it isn't in use for its regular markets, the building hosts a variety of events throughout the year, including the annual North Devon Foodfest, classic car show and North Devon Beer Festival. There is also a monthly REAL food market on



Business is brisk at Barnstaple Market – an attraction that always draws the crowds to buy and browse

Sundays, showcasing the best local food producers – a treat for all foodies.

Step outside the market and you'll find yourself on the town's historic Butchers Row, where a selection of quaint shops specialising in local foods will further tempt your appetite!

You can now become a fan of the market on Facebook and Twitter. Go to www.facebook.com/BarnstaplePannierMarket or twitter.com/BarnstapleMkt for information about upcoming events.

Trading days:

General markets – Tuesday, Friday and Saturdays (all year round)

Craft and general markets – Monday (April to Christmas), Thursdays (all year round)

Antiques and collectables – Wednesdays (all year round).

South Molton Country Pannier Market

At the gateway to Exmoor and on the River Mole, South Molton is in one of the

last remaining rural areas of Britain. At the centre of this historic market town stands the Pannier Market, which was built in 1860.

The vibrant and busy country markets are held every Thursday and Saturday throughout the year. They feature a wide range of local stallholders including locally sourced foods and meats, and locally grown plants and flowers.

South Molton is also a centre for antiques in the region and both markets feature several very knowledgeable antique specialists and a well-known book-seller.

There are monthly Sunday Antiques Fair's every third Sunday of the month. With a range of traders and dealers from across the South West attending, South Molton comes alive with people travelling for a day out and hunting a bargain. There is free entry and free parking.

South Molton also hosts several food festivals throughout the year and tomorrow, Sunday the May 24, it welcomes the Exmoor Food Fest.

Featuring more than 40 stalls from across the Exmoor National Park, this event also has free entry with free parking.

The market also boasts several local artisans, from Sea on Glass with their fantastic glass artworks, to micro businesses for homewares and gifts.

There are monthly events with June's Olde English Fayre and a Country Living event on July 23 and 25. The market also protects its customers with its recently installed Shopper's Charter.

Antiques revival in South Molton

Once noted as the epicentre for antiques in the South West, South Molton is currently enjoying a revival.

Pannier Antiques, www.pannier-antiques.com, hosts an antiques and collectibles, vintage and nostalgia market on the third Sunday of each month.

Traders from across the region make their way to South Molton with a huge variety of goods to suit every pocket and every home or business.

The market opens at 10am and with free parking and free entry the public are presented with a smorgasbord of products from large country house furniture to delicate jewellery, from hand painted furniture to ceramics, from collectibles such as cigarette cards to vintage clothes.

When tired of browsing there is a first class café selling teas and coffee with hot and cold food.

"My personal interest is North Devon ceramics and it was interesting that a lady browsing asked whether they were new!" says event organiser Michael Buckingham.

"Although they came out of the kiln over 100 years ago, the glaze is so strong they do look freshly minted!"

John from Exeter specialises in large country and town furniture, ideally suited to many of the high ceilinged properties in the area.

Local antique dealer, Andy specialises in smaller, elegant furniture and high quality, interesting pieces which would never go out of style and can be successfully integrated within a modern interior.

Stephanie transforms everything from tables and chairs to standard lamps with specialist paint finishes, and finds that this vintage style suits many of the individual cottages across Devon.

And to compliment any purchase for the home Paula stocks the most amazing fabrics and cushions. Rummage through her stall and ask her expert opinion for the perfect match including curtains and blinds.

Along with other traders, Mark stocks that perfect piece of jewellery to gladden any heart!

If cigarette cards, old film posters and comics are your interest competing specialists Paul and Barry may have just what you're looking for.

Many traders stock a range of items and the fun of browsing through their goods, which change each month, is a great pleasure. You never know what you will find!

Many traders are interested in buying or advising so if you have an item you no longer require, or want to know a value, bring it along.

The next date is June 21. If you're interested in taking a stall call Michael Buckingham on 07973 803740 or contact Michael via www.pannierantiques.com

Crocadon Market

Mike Mann held his first Christmas market in this location in East Cornwall way back in 2002. Although a one off at that time it was obvious to Mike that Crocadon offered a great venue for local growers and producers.

With planning consent for the retail of farm produce, timber products and tree culture Crocadon started to grow and develop. Once the conversion of the then disused courtyard farm buildings began, an atmospheric courtyard was created and Mike restarted his markets in 2011 with a Producer Fair.

A 'Produce Fair' rather than a farmer's market in order to include not just local growers and producers but the skilled makers of arts and crafts in Devon and Cornwall too.

This time, however, it was not a one off and the producer fair has run every third Saturday of the month since then – and continues with great success, winning last year's Taste of the West Gold Award.

Indeed the venue has proved so popular that Mike has established his Brocante fairs, an antiques market including vintage and retro items, bric-a-brac and collectables held every first Sunday of every other month.

Crocadon's traditional stone courtyard has become a fantastic venue for markets and events with a great friendly atmosphere; live music and on-site café, hot food caterer and, weather permitting, ice cream.

A truly local venue for the local community, 'Drawn To The Valley' art exhibition ran throughout August last year. Local business AromAware used the venue to hold their holistic and well being event, which due to popular demand, is back again at Crocadon this year for a two day event on June 13 and 14.

