

Five years funding for folk week

SIDMOUTH Town Council is to support folk week, the town's most important cultural event of the year, with £20,000 worth of funding over the next five years.

The support, which was agreed in principle at the last council meeting in December, is awaiting formal approval at its next budget meeting. Meanwhile, Sidmouth

by Huw Hennessy

Folk Week has announced a new "strengthened management team", with a glit-

tering line-up of artistes booked for 2010 – the 55th year of the highly successful festival of folk music and dance, which runs from Friday, July 30th to Friday, August 6th.

FolkWeek artistic director, Joan Crump, said, "I'm very excited about the artists that we've already booked. But there are plenty more guests to add to the line-up over the next few weeks."

"Work is progressing on further improvements to the Sidmouth Folk Week venues, including the campsite, to reflect comments from festival goers and in order to enhance the festival experience."

Headline acts at the Ham Marquee next year include Blue Murder, the vocal "super-group" collaboration between Martin and Eliza Carthy, Norma and Mike Water-son, as well as the a

capella trio Coope Boyes and Simpson.

Martin Carthy will also be appearing with the highly-acclaimed quintet Brass Monkey.

A special Peace Concert for Hiroshima Day will feature Roy Bailey, David Ferrard, Sandra Kerr and acclaimed melodeon player Andy Cutting, formerly of Chumbawamba.

He has been the lynchpin of many a classic folk line-up, and in Andy Cutting and Friends, he will be joined on stage by some of his best musical mates, including Martin Simpson, Chris Wood, Ian Carr and June Tabor.

Other highlights include: Bellowhead, the award-winning 11-piece Big Band; and Cordelia's Dad, "the much-missed purveyors of punk-tinged Americana" - both at the Bulverton campsite; Salsa Celtica, Shooogenifty, Belshazzar's Feast, Kerfuffle, Jon Boden and the Rem-

nant Kings, and many more.

Full details of all the acts are listed on the new FolkWeek website: www.sidmouthfolk-week.co.uk, which launched on December 14th.

Tickets are available online from January 2nd, 2010, or from January 4th by post and telephone.

Season tickets offer excellent value for money if you're planning on going to a lot of events,

plus there are discounts for young people and children, and reduced rates for bookings before April 1st.

There will be a booking fee for all ticket sales telephone 01395 577952.



■ **TREE O'CLOCK:** Volunteers gathered at Harcombe Hill Woods to plant trees as part of the BBC's Tree O'Clock campaign. Pictured are just some of the people who helped to plant more than 100 as part of a Guinness World Record attempt.

For full story and photos see page 5



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Tree o'clock at Harcombe Hill Woods

By Lisa Bright

VOLUNTEERS gathered with their spades at the ready at Harcombe Hill Woods, near Sidmouth, to take part in a national record-breaking tree-planting event, to help celebrate National Tree Week and to return Harcombe Woods to its former glory.

Organised by the Sidmouth Vision Group, and local forester Jon Westwood, the tree-planting event formed part of BBC's "Tree O'Clock" campaign to get the nation planting as many trees in one hour, in an attempt to break a world record.

More than 20 volunteers turned up to help out and in total, more than 100 trees were planted.

Secretary for the Sidmouth Vision Group, Jeremy Woodward, was pleased with how the event went.

He said: "It is important that like-minded bodies can work together on local projects and planting trees is a wonderful way of bringing people together."

He added: "It was a great way to spend a couple of hours. We will definitely be back to work with Jon on his projects, and we will definitely be working with

Sidmouth in Bloom as well as the District Council in similar projects in future."

The event also formed part of Mr Westwood's plans to regenerate the woodland and return it to a natural ancient broadleaf forest.

Before the tree planting could take place, Mr Westwood and his team of volunteers, including Jeremy Woodward from the Sidmouth Vision Group and Joyce Seward from Sidmouth in Bloom, cleared the site along the Bridleway, removing conifers to make way for the new broadleaf saplings.

Mr Westwood said: "We have been doing a lot of work adjacent to the bridleway to remove some of the Lodge Pole Pine, which is not very well suited to this climate and is dangerous to have near the bridleway."

Some volunteers brought their own trees to plant, while others were donated by Kaieteur Renewable Energy Specialists.



■ TREE O'CLOCK: Volunteers gather at Harcombe Hill Woods to plant trees as part of the BBC's Tree O'Clock campaign



■ MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK: Volunteers get to work planting trees



■ THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT: Forester Jon Westwood helps Sidmouth Vision Group Secretary Jeremy Woodward



■ FINISHED: Another tree planted



MARK SMITH
MASTER THATCHER

MEMBER OF THE DEVON & CORNWALL MASTER THATCHERS ASSOCIATION

LOCAL THATCHER MARK SMITH REACHES THE TOP

After many years working his way up the ladder, Mark finds himself literally at the top, at the Fairlynch museum in Budleigh Salterton thatching the famous turret, originally built by a ship owner to see his ships arriving with their loads of Limestone. The museum is being completely re-thatched in water-reed, which has been used for many years in East Devon. Next years challenge will be Sidmouth Cricket Pavillion.

When asked what do you do when you've reached the top? Marks reply was, 'enjoy the view.'



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MARK:
38 ASHLEY CRESCENT,
SIDMOUTH, DEVON EX10 9UG

Telephone: 01395 578879 Mobile: 07971 446810

▲ Fairlynch Museum