



■ DEAL: Adam and Natalie

Farmers in profitable superstore beef deal

A FARMING couple has been rewarded for producing top quality beef.

Adam and Natalie Stanbury, of Stapleton Farm, Combe Martin, are teaming up with Somerfield supermarket to sell their prime meat.

The deal provides a price above the cost of production, so the future of the couple's business is secure.

Adam is a third-generation farmer and said the scheme meant that everybody wins: "The consumer gets to eat tender beef full of flavour, consistent in quality and fully traceable."

"We have security and confidence in our business by being able to produce a quality product which gives us a fair return."

Somerfield has teamed up with Blade Farming South West and Hilton Meats International to work with a group of 14 West Country beef producers to create the "Best Ever Beef" range, matured for up to 21 days.

A spokesman from the supermarket said: "We're passionate about regional produce and sustainability issues facing West Country farmers."

"This has led us to produce branded premium beef for local customers, born, bred and processed in the region, with a guaranteed margin to the farmer."

Jumble rumble

A JUMBLE sale in aid of Berrynarbor Carnival Committee will take place on Saturday in the village's Manor Hall, starting at 2pm, with books, bric-a-brac and refreshments.



■ CLEAN TEAM: From left: DWT volunteer Sharon Clayson, Bobby Palmer, Mike Dasent, Diana Bolton, Ron Wintersgill, DWT volunteer Joanne Clarke, Phil Estall, Sharon Furnston and DWT marine officer Caroline Roberts.

Beach gets its spring clean from volunteers

A LICK of paint here, a window polish there — but it's not just the shop and guest-house owners who have been preparing for the new tourist season.

Volunteers have been out with buckets and bags to make sure the beach at Ilfracombe harbour was looking its best to greet visitors.

The volunteers, from Ilfracombe Aquarium, Devon Wildlife Trust and people from around the town targeted an area of the beach as part of the Marine Conservation Society's Adopt-A-Beach initiative.

The scheme encourages residents to take responsibility for a favourite stretch of beach or coastline and take part in

quarterly beach-cleans and surveys to monitor coastal pollution.

So the Ilfracombe team recorded the types and quantities of litter found on the beach, as well as removing all the rubbish they found, making sure that the surveyed stretch of beach was rubbish-free.

The result of the clean was that 1,071 items were found.

The five most common litter items recorded on the day were fishing nets, followed by crisp and sweet wrappers, then plastic bags, bottle caps and lids and polystyrene pieces.

More unusual items found included a lot of dog mess and dogfish carcasses.

Lawrence Raybone from Ilfracombe Aquarium explained: "The most common source of litter was fishing items such as buoys, fishing lines and nets which potentially have the worst effect on marine wildlife, because of entanglement."

"Awareness of the issue needs to be raised in the local fishing community."

The group suggested the setting up of port waste disposal facilities.

All the survey data collected from the beach is sent to MCS to be analysed, and the organiser of the survey receives a summary of the results in order to identify the quantities and sources of marine and coastal litter at a local level.

Police to combat town's grot spots in war on ugliness

COMMUNITY policing is about to take the shape of an environmental walkabout.

Police Community Support Officers will walk around the town to identify areas which need attention.

Police Sgt Ian Dawson said: "We'll be looking for the grot spots that need improvement and then working with local

organisations responsible for the area to clear things up.

"We'll be looking out for things like broken street lights, graffiti, broken windows, walls and fences — or that fridge, for example, that someone dumped in a car park and no-one has done anything about."

He said the PCSOs were liaising with the town council, Transform and other local authorities before setting a date.

Anyone who would like to report a grot spot should contact Ilfracombe Police Station reception on 01271 868130 or e-mail Ilfracombe@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Village hall to get a new lease of life

A VILLAGE hall facelift will begin with a costly new boiler — as plans are already in the pipeline to make the hall the hub of the community once more.

Combe Martin Village Hall supporters need the help of the whole community to raise money for the new boiler by attending a fundraising evening on April 21.

Replacing the boiler is part of a regeneration plan for the once bustling village hall.

The Village Hall Management Committee hopes to return the hall to its former status as a hive of activity, but as the revamp begins, the

replacement boiler will cost £9,000, as only specialist plumbers can do the job.

The committee's Tricia Hampson said: "It's still working, but it won't be for much longer. Its very, very old."

The committee has big plans for the hall. Tricia said: "We are trying to get as many people as possible to use the hall. We have painted the annex and sorted out the men's toilets — painting them and levelling the floor."

Tom and Barbara Brown, of Umber Music, are hoping to host a film and song evening in the hall, the date as yet unconfirmed. And the committee are also hoping to screen films in the hall.

Local band The Rockets will be performing at the fundraising evening on Saturday, and there will also be a bar and nibbles.

Tickets cost £5 and are available from Loverings and Woody's Hardware.

Doorstep fire alert for crews

A CREW from Ilfracombe fire station was called to a fire on its own doorstep when a lorry was reported on fire just outside the station in Marlborough Road.

The small fire, believed to be accidental, started when the lining on the brakes of an articulated lorry ignited.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus put out the fire, using a dry powder fire extinguisher.

North Devon Family Mediation Service
 If you can't go back, move forward
 Separation/Divorce
 Child Matters/Finance
 Free 1st Appointment
01271 321888
 The Castle Centre, Castle Street, Barnstaple

COCO
 Designer Ladies Clothing
 SAND Timberland GANT AVOCA

What's the best time to place your ad?
 Our phone lines are always quieter on a **Thursday and Friday...**
 so call **08457 43 33 43** to place your ad for next week's newspaper.
 Phone lines are open from 8am-5.30pm on a Thursday and Friday.
Or anytime at thisisnorthdevon.co.uk

Act, sing and dance at Stagecoach? Come and try it!

FIND OUT more about your local Stagecoach school while your children try the exciting mix of drama, song and dance!

Join us for an **Active Open Meeting** on Saturday 21st April at 11.00am at Pilton Community College, Chaddiford Lane, Barnstaple.

Call **Stagecoach Barnstaple** now on **0800 7831390** to book your place.

There is no charge for this session.

STAGECOACH THEATRE ARTS SCHOOLS
www.stagecoach.co.uk