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# The Tiverton Gazette

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## Ancient event proves it again: fun is timeless!

### Music, pony sales, street theatre and much more

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ONE of the oldest surviving charter fairs in the country will take place in Mid Devon next week.

Last year, Bampton celebrated its 750th fair and this year's event on Thursday, October 29, will again bring fun, a festive atmosphere and thousands of visitors to the town's streets.

The fair includes a market, with more than 100 stalls, and a whole host of street entertainment, including the headless Elizabethans Chop and Block, an original Punch 'n' Judy show, Jan's Van, Rattlebox Theatre with Rastus the Rat, Bampton Players, a mummer's play and lots of storytellers.

There is always great excite-

ment at Luttrell Farm, venue for the traditional auction of Exmoor ponies and a collective farm sale from noon.

The line-up of musical acts this year ranges from the Blackdown Hills Samba Band to the West Country Concertina Players. Pennymoor Singaround will also be performing, as will the talented young stars of the Richard Huish College.

Other attractions include a craft fair in Bampton Church, where you can buy that Ecuadorian hammock you've been looking for, or sample tasty local produce, including the rare treat of buffalo meat.

The fun carries on into the weekend, with the 'After the Fair' festivities. There are music and song sessions in local pubs,



Crowds of visitors turned up to enjoy last year's Bampton Fair

The Bridge House Hotel, Blackberries, The White Horse, and The Quarryman's Rest, at various times from Friday, October 30, to Sunday, November 2.

On Saturday, November 1, the variety concert in the public hall offers a varied bill between 3-6pm, including The Saga Louts and performers from the Irish and Breton tradition, and there will be more music, song, dance, and comedy besides.

That morning, there's a chance to join a French Renaissance dance workshop with Annick Gourmelon in the Riverside Hall or morris dancing outside the Quarryman's Rest and the Swan over lunchtime.

Tickets for the variety show cost £5 on the door or in advance from the post office or by contacting Clare Penney on 01884 860023.

Those nursing a sore head on Sunday, November 1, might do well to avoid the Irish drumming workshop with Mog.

■ Both roads through Bampton — the B3227 from the junction at Morebath Hill to the junction at West Street and Brook Street/Briton Street — are closed to traffic on fair day, with diversions signposted.

WHAT'S YOUR VIEW? Postbag, Mid Devon Gazette, 29 Bampton Street, Tiverton EX16 6AG