

# Herald Express Devon 2.12.06

## Stewart's volume is like a train spotter's guide to the sea

THE FISHING BOATS AND PORTS OF DEVON by W. Stewart Lenton (Channel View Publishing £14.90)

HERE'S a handy volume for the maritime equivalent of train spotters.

This is not a derogatory dismissal of Stewart Lenton's most worthy "I-Spy" volume.

Indeed the Herald Express archivist has expressed a strong desire to add this labour of love to the paper's ever-growing library of worthy reference works.

And there it shall remain until some sea-based story comes our way and a bright spark finds a much-needed image of a boat which forms part of the tale to be told.

We learn this is not the first time the Plymouth-based scribe has taken a keen note of floating matter off the South West coast.

Already available is volume one, which gives more of the same about the fishing boats to be seen in the nook, crannies, coves and harbours of Cornwall.

As our guide's wife Liz observes in the introduction: "The book should give the reader a more interactive experience in exploring the coastal area and encourage them to build up a knowledge about our fishing and coastal heritage, rather than just admiring the fishing boats as the colourful and picturesque addition to the wonderful scenery of the Devon coast that they undoubtedly are."

The study is nothing if not exhaustive.

We are told the type of fishing each vessel pursues, its dimensions, engine kilowatt power, year and country of manufacture and even whether it's made of wood, steel or fibreglass.

Pilot

The author, a former airline pilot, lives in a property overlooking Plymouth Sound and is a volunteer watch keeper at Rame Head's National Coast Watch Institution station in Cornwall.

George Hogg, honorary archivist at Falmouth's National Maritime Museum, says in the foreword: "I am most grateful to Stewart for writing this book and providing me, as a historian, with a unique and most valuable insight into fishing activities in the region."

Here, here.

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