# Farmers market is still going strong 12 years on

Budleigh Salterton Farmers Market is still going strong, 12 years after it started bringing fresh, local produce to East Devon’s shoppers.

It was set up to give the community the chance to buy directly from producers such as Clinton Devon Estates’ Wildlife Ranger Tom Garner, who is responsible for deer management on the Clinton and Beer Estates in East Devon and is behind the award-winning range of Clinton branded venison products which are sold at the market. Hurry though because he normally sells-out within the first hour of the market opening!

The market has built up a good reputation and loyal following of customers who turn out each month.

It is held at the Rolle Mews car park off Fore Street in the town, from 8am until 1pm on the final Friday of each month.

Currently it attracts eight to ten stalls, including those selling pork, lamb, beef and cakes. Ideally, says Tom, he would would like to see 12 to 14 stalls, generally with one producer for each product and would welcome interest from those making preserves, and chicken producers.

He said: “Markets are struggling in general, it started when austerity kicked in and people have the perception that farmers markets are more expensive than the supermarkets when actually they’re not, because you’re missing out the middle man.

“We are keen to attract more stallholders and more customers. We hope the market will attract people from out of the town who will hopefully wander into town to browse the shops too, so far from having an adverse effect on trade elsewhere, we hope it is the opposite.”

You can keep up with the latest news from the Budleigh Salterton Farmers Market on its new Facebook page.