

Exeter Business

THE LATEST FROM EXETER'S PROFESSIONALS

the
Original Surfboard
company

Wave of nostalgia

The Exeter firm that's making a splash

LDV 133

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EXETER CHARITY RUN**

**TOPSHAM DENTIST UNVEILS
'THE SPEED BRACE'**

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roundup

NEWS FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Sally Parkin models one of her wooden boards (photograph by Greg Martin)



A proud tradition upheld

 **The Original Surfboard Company of Exeter has unveiled its new retro-style wooden bodyboard.**

Hand-made in Britain, the Championship board with its inlaid competition racing stripe design has been inspired by the 'surf rider' boards of the 1950s.

Before the introduction of fibreglass and foam boards in the 1960s, most people rode the waves lying down on thin wooden boards.

The invention of the foam boogie board in the 1970s almost wiped out these original wooden bodyboards – but in recent years, these quintessentially British boards have been making a comeback.

Sally Parkin set up the company in 2008, and first used wooden boards at the age of five in the water off Devon's beaches.

She said: "Our family had a set of these wooden boards, bought in the 1960s, but after 45 years or so of regular use they began to break. I started to look around to see if you could still buy them.

"I discovered that an 80-year-old man called Dick Pearce was still making the

boards in South Molton. He had been making them for almost 50 years.

"I began to think if someone didn't start marketing and promoting these boards and their amazing heritage in a different way, they were in danger of being wiped out by the foam bodyboards."

Sally approached Dick with an idea to produce re-styled versions of the boards – and the rest is history.

The Championship board is made from five layers of hardwood – an inner core of Gaboon wood veneered with outer layers of Sapele and Beech wood

Catching a wave with one of these boards is much quicker and easier to learn than stand-up surfing and it's a sport that can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities.

She said: "Because of the history of these boards, they inspire a great feeling of nostalgia from people who used them in their childhood."

Championship boards cost £85 (including UK delivery) and are available by calling 01884 855475

or through Sally's website.

• www.originalsurfboards.co.uk

