

Village voted in top ten gems

by **Sophie Heaviside**
sophie.heaviside@bullivantmedia.com

BIDFORD has been voted one of England's hidden gems.

In a poll run by coach company National Express, the village was voted as one of the country's top ten best kept secrets for its 'quintessentially British charm'.

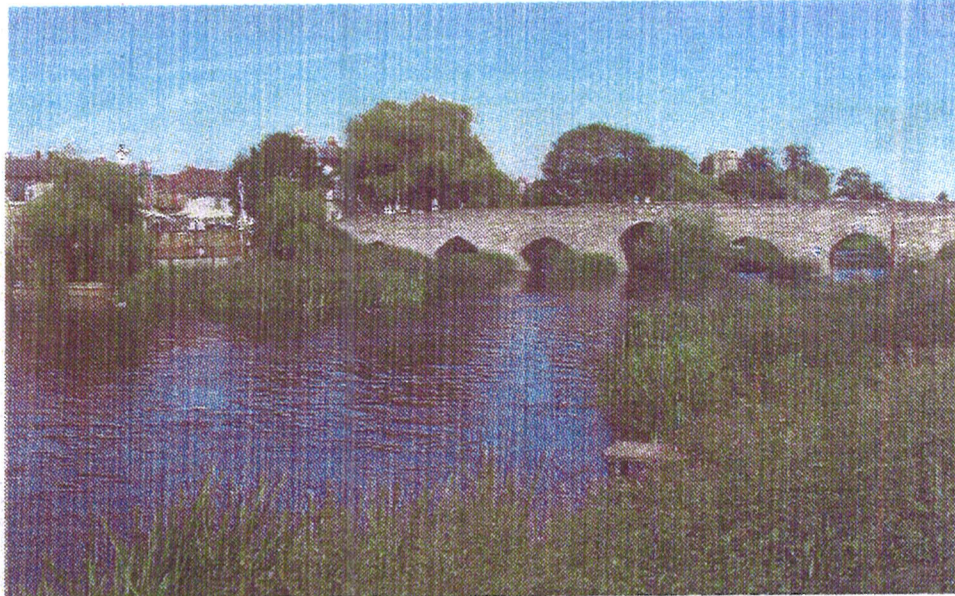
Patrick Marshall, owner of the Bridge Riverside Eaterie in Bidford told The Observer: "The village really is a hidden gem - most people drive on the bypass it and don't realise we're here.

"We're on the river with our beautiful Saxon Bridge only six miles from Stratford.

"I hope more people will come to visit as there's far less traffic than in town and plenty of parking."

And National Express' managing director Tom Stables said he hoped the poll of 1,000 passengers would offer summer travel inspiration, and encourage people to visit somewhere new.

He added: "People in the region



A hidden gem - Bidford has been named one of the top ten best kept secrets to visit this summer by National Express. Image: Philip Halling (Creative Commons Licence)

will no doubt be well-acquainted with Bidford as a great place to live and visit but we hope our list helps reveal its charms to people further afield.

"For many people the village, with its picturesque riverside location, truly is a hidden gem."

Other destinations listed in the top ten were Liskeard in Cornwall, Wells in Somerset, Bakewell in Derbyshire, Thirsk in North Yorkshire, Grange-over-Sands in Cumbria, Starcross in Devon, Mablethorpe in Lincolnshire and Frinton-on-Sea in Essex.