

# OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

PO Box 70 Budleigh Salterton EX9 6WN

[www.ova.org.uk](http://www.ova.org.uk)



*Requiem for a Lone Pine*

The lone pine is no more! That blasted tree is down,  
Walkers beware! Unless your SatNav skills are righted,  
brush up your use of compass, map and stars,  
or on the common you may find yourselves benighted.

**VOLUME 30/1**

Registered Charity No. 278266  
Association 2009

**January 2009**  
© Otter Valley

# CONTENTS

	Page
Chairman's Message	1
From the Editor	2
History	3
Environment Agency	4
A Word for Walkers	5
Natural Environment	6
Astro-meteorology	8
Railway Campaign	10
Bits and Pieces	12
Camcorder Presentation	13
Competitions	14
Diary Pull-Out	Centre
Ottery St. Mary	15
Reports	17
Applications	27
Publications	Inside Back Cover

*Photos in this issue courtesy of Mo Bonman & Nick Speare. Illustrations - Jed Falby*

## Chairman's Message



The freak overnight hailstorm centred on Ottery St Mary on 30<sup>th</sup> October brought sudden and serious flooding along the valley and into the home of two of our committee members.

Such a local event had an immediate and significant impact even on those only indirectly affected. Many members will have recollections of particularly memorable sights in their locality, but for me it was the cricket club pavilion, submerged up to its eaves in muddy water. (*See Environment Agency article on Pg. 4*)

OVA's programme for January and February 2009 offers various activities which share an environmental theme.

A talk 'Transition Town Ottery St Mary' to be given by Dr Maureen Fairley and others in the Peter Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> January (*see Diary*) will afford an insight into this movement, a radical response to climate change and peak oil. Come and find out more from activists who are trying to change behaviour and attitudes in one town. Are they pioneers in whose footsteps many will follow or are they trying to turn back the tide of consumption and doomed, like Canute, to fail?

Ian Bateman, climate change officer for Devon County Council, will open proceedings at our 'Members' Forum' on 16<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in the Public Hall, Budleigh Salterton. We hope for a large attendance reflecting the differing viewpoints among our membership as we consider what actions the OVA should take to further the Green Agenda. There will be opportunities for participants to contribute their ideas on the way forward. As an environmentally focused organisation we need to review the way we operate and find out the attitude of members to any proposed changes. Wine and soft drinks will be served to make this a social occasion as well as an opportunity to share views.

There is still time for New Year's Resolutions and we would like to invite members willing to serve on our committees to get in touch. Joining a team of enthusiastic people who share your interest in the local area is a worthwhile activity and we can use a variety of skills in different aspects of the OVA's work. Do give me a ring! Nominations will be needed within a few days of the issue of the next newsletter which will contain the papers for the AGM on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**Helen Tickle**

## From the Editor



As you will be receiving this at the start of 2009 may I wish you a very happy New Year. However, as I write, the Otter Valley is once again mopping up after another bout of torrential rain on 12/13<sup>th</sup> December. The pundits at the Hadley Centre did predict more extreme weather and this issue of the Newsletter has a number of links to that.

We have an item from the Environment Agency and a weather forecast with a difference. On page 8 you will find an Astro-meteorological weather forecast. I must admit to having had a degree of scepticism as Caroline Allen correctly points out in her introduction. However, that has been jarred by her accurate prediction of the storms and rain on 12/13<sup>th</sup>. Her article now deals with the early part of 2009 but initially contained a forecast for December which was very specific about storms on that date.

On Page 14 you will find the answer to the Competition that appeared in the last issue. You may recall that it was headed with a challenge about your being among the top 2% of intelligent people in the world. Based on the number of correct replies the Otter Valley Association membership contains a disproportionately high percentage of those intelligent people. But then we always knew that didn't we? Therefore, I expect the Conundrum which is this issue's competition will present you with no problems and I look forward to receiving as high a number of correct answers to that.

As we enter the New Year may I take the opportunity to thank all those contributors to the Newsletter who make the job of Editor so much easier. From the walk reporters to the event reporters, the regular contributors and the occasional you are the voice of the OVA which I have the privilege to assemble. Thank you!

**Nick Speare**

## OVAPEDIA



Further investigation on implementation, has uncovered the fact that if OVAPEDIA is incorporated into a redesign of the whole OVA website then it effectively comes free. Since a redesign was something that was being considered anyway the Executive Committee, after due consideration, has now decided to go ahead with both a redesign of the website and the inclusion of OVAPEDIA. (More details in the next Newsletter. - Ed.) As a result, History Section members will now need to consider in much more detail just what this involves: from design of the web pages themselves; development of policy and guidance on the content and format of entries; to the setting up of workshops for those interested in learning about how to start researching local history.

As a change from providing an example of a potential OVAPEDIA entry we have included the following anecdote to illustrate how one thing can lead to another when you start digging into the past.

Roger Lendon, who provided the last biographical entry, was in the West Country Studies Library chasing up an elusive hearsay reference to one of Nelson's surgeons having at one time lived in Budleigh Salterton. He came across the following unrelated comment in Richard Woodall's booklet "Budleigh Salterton – as it used to be". "In its early days the Public Hall was used weekly for silent film shows,



*The Cosy -Topsham*

which had earlier been given in the Drill Hall by a Topsham Man. These continued until early in 1931 and at various times were run by Mr W W Daniel and by the Public Hall Company itself."



He surmised that this Topsham man was Henry Charles Gould who married his great aunt Eleanor Lendon in 1901. Henry (who was the post-master in Topsham) had run a cinema called The Cosy and appears to have

been the contractor H. Gould & Son (or the son) when the Matthews Hall was built. Films were shown there till about 1960. His son Lionel Gould told Roger that his father had transported his equipment over to Budleigh in his car and may well have known my grandfather.



(The Drill Hall is opposite the Budleigh Salterton burial ground)

**David Daniel**

## **East Devon Flood**



Cars buried in hail, flooded homes, the A30 shut. The floods in East Devon were exceptional in their speed and impact. Between 10.00pm on 29 October and 3.00am on 30 October an intense localised storm was centred over the catchment for the River Otter. Rainfall figures can be hard to verify but it is thought that in places it was in excess of 150mm and included a remarkable fall of hail. However, a few miles away the weather seemed unexceptional for the

time of year. The Met Office were unable to predict the scale and intensity of rainfall.

So far the Environment Agency has confirmed that over 300 properties were flooded. The figure is still rising as we are informed of more. About 140 of these properties were in Ottery St Mary and Feniton, but we must not forget that about 30 different communities across East Devon were affected. An unusual aspect of this flood was that in many cases there was not a river in sight. Some places flooded that have never flooded before with surface water, flooding from drains and run-off from fields causing around 75 percent of the problems.

The initial clear up was extensive and included removing two cars that had been washed into and become wedged into the Furze Brook. There is a lot of work still going on and even more remains to be done. No single organisation can deal with it, so the Environment Agency is working together with Devon County Council and East Devon District Council to ensure a joint response.

This flood starkly shows how almost anyone can be affected by flooding. To find out more about flooding, including useful tips to protect your property, please call Floodline 0845 988 118

## Walking tips from Steve Hagger - Clothes for the upper body

I dare say a lot of you will have fond memories of string vests! You can't seem to get them now; mind you the same goes for Radio Caroline and Black Jacks! They kept you warm by trapping air in all the little holes (the vests not the Black Jacks). Modern materials do much the same, only better. They wick away the moisture helping to keep you dry. The trick is to wear lots of thin layers, that again traps air between them and also means you can strip off or add layers to keep you comfortable. The 'vests' are now described as base layers and to that you will most likely want to add a shirt and maybe a thin fleece before a wind-proof outer layer.

There are many producers of walking clothing so it's really down to personal preference and how much you want to spend. Generally the more you pay the better you get. Check out zips as they can vary in quality; some have extra material on the puller so you can get hold of them with gloves on.

In these parts you can get a lot of use from a waterproof jacket. Get one made from a breathable material which stops rain getting in but allows sweat out so you stay dry inside the coat. Again coats come in various price ranges, styles and fabrics. Your choice will depend on your budget, taste and requirements. At the very least go for something with a hood (many have stowaway hoods for fine weather). Other features include taped seams, drawcord waists, adjustable cuffs and ventilation zips. Bear in mind that, whilst modern waterproofing techniques are very impressive, exceptionally bad weather will fool even the most high tech waterproof.



If you have micro porous tape in your first aid kit it can also save the day when you rip a hole in your expensive breathable jacket. Use the tape from the inside of the jacket and it will seal the tear and keep everything breathable for a fraction of the cost of a professional patch

Next issue we travel on up the body including advice on what you should have in your pockets.

**Steve Hagger**

## Prospects for Biological Control of Himalayan Balsam



Himalayan Balsam (H.B.) occurs in dense stands along the River Otter and in many of the waterways of the southwest. It competes with the natural vegetation and can overwhelm it, causing erosion of the river banks and reducing biodiversity. Available control methods for H.B. are labour-intensive and difficult to implement.

The habitats of the plant are often inaccessible. Small-scale operations are generally ineffective and need frequent repetition.

Catchment-scale treatments are therefore recommended but are generally impractical and prohibitively expensive. What are the prospects for biological control?

In its native habitat (the foothills of the Himalayas in India and Pakistan) H.B. occurs at an altitude of around 2,500 metres, growing in clusters of only 30 to 60 plants, no more than 1.5 m high and often mixed with the native vegetation. It has various natural enemies, including fungal parasites and insect predators. However, in the U.K. it has no known natural enemies and, since its introduction as a garden ornamental in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it has invaded and become a major problem of waterways in the south and west of England.



In a recent publication (Tanner *et al.* Losing patience with Impatiens: are natural enemies the solution? Outlooks on Pest Management, **19**, 86-91) the authors describe Phase I of a research programme to identify the natural enemies of H.B. and their potential for biological control. In field work, in the Himalayas, various plant pathogens were identified, including leaf-spot, two species of rust fungus, powdery and downy mildew. Various insects, including thrips and flea beetles, were found to cause significant damage to the plants. In Phase II of the research programme some of these organisms will be investigated further, particularly the leafspot pathogen, *Phoma exigua* and the thrips, *Taeniothrips major*. Laboratory and glass-house tests will be



carried out to ensure that any introduced pathogens or insect species are not harmful to native vegetation and crop plants.

Since traditional methods of control are failing to suppress H.B. on a national or local scale, biological control offers an alternative approach. Recent research has identified some promising control agents but further testing is required to find the most effective agents and to ensure that their release in this country will not harm the native vegetation or crop plants. It may be a long while before biological control methods offer a practical solution to the problem of H.B. in the southwest. Nevertheless, we will follow the progress of this research programme with interest.

**Norman Crossland**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Annual Estuary Litterpick**

This year's spring-clean of the Otter estuary will take place on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2009** between **10a.m. and 12 noon**.

Large amounts of debris deposited in the nature reserve by winter storms and thoughtless visitors need to be removed to protect wildlife and preserve the unspoilt beauty of the area. Traditionally a combined effort by the OVA, EDDC and the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust, the annual cleanup depends on the efforts of as many volunteers as possible so please make a note in you diaries now.

Parking in the Lime Kiln car park will be free for litter-pickers between 10 and 12 and rubbish bags will be provided. Last year's activity uncovered, in addition to the usual plethora of plastic bags, crisp packets and drink cans, a 19<sup>th</sup> Century medicine bottle which was donated to Fairlynch Museum.

For a Saturday morning activity with a difference why not turn up with family and friends and have fun helping the environment. It will be muddy so bring Wellingtons/walking boots. Protective gloves are also advisable. Children must be supervised by an adult as deep mud can make parts of the area hazardous even at low tide. Dogs are not permitted in the nature reserve.

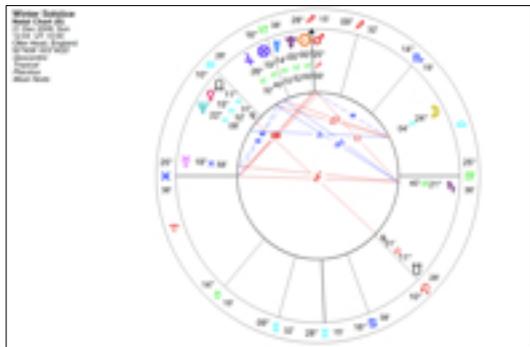
## Whether the Weather?

As a new member of OVA who is also a 'Consultant Astrologer' I have been asked to write a short piece on my subject. Realizing however that the flora and fauna loving OVArians have scant interest in money, sex or health (the three topics most discussed in astrology) I decided instead to write about the weather!

For that I am going to utilize a technique known as Astro-meteorology which is the study of long-range weather forecasting. This is not based on the reproductive habits of seaweed as previously understood by Nick Speare, but instead upon the angular relationships of the planets in our solar system with reference back to us here on Earth in the Otter Valley.

Astro-meteorology if used correctly can provide forecasts for months, years, decades, and even centuries in advance. I am writing this at the beginning of December 2008, but I am told that you, dear readers, will not receive this until early January 2009 when the main 'weather events' of the season will have past; and so in this issue I shall just touch briefly on the overall picture

for the winter season for 2008/2009, and if it proves correct, will present a forecast for the Summer in the forthcoming April edition. Actually, even if it doesn't prove correct you may get it anyway!



For reference  
I cast several charts  
based on  
the co-

ordinates 50 North 38' and 003 West 20' for Otter Head B/S, at the Winter Solstice of 12:10pm GMT, 21st December 2008, and the Lunations immediately prior to and following this Capricorn Ingress of the Sun.



I am afraid it is going to be a record breaking winter this year! Britain as a whole will experience exceptionally cold temperatures lasting throughout the winter months with harsh and freezing conditions especially in the North. And whilst East De-

von usually enjoys a mild climate with lower than average rainfall, a curious line up of planets on the Otter Valley meridian at the start of the season should result in our experiencing fluctuating extremes of temperature producing peculiar, freakish and destructive weather events throughout the season. Although the winter as a whole will be much colder and drier than average, there will be at least three violent storms possibly putting our beautiful little valley back into the TV news headlines yet again.

I expect by the time you read this we will already have experienced the worst of the winter in December when Mars squared up to icy cold Saturn in the Full Moon chart of December 12th, and then again just after Christmas when the New Moon on the 27<sup>th</sup> pulled in a malefic and turbulent low pressure system resulting in storms and possibly more flooding.

January will be bitingly cold with hard ground frosts and freezing fog. And I am afraid that more wet weather in the form of snow will be pulled in mid month just before the Solar Eclipse of January 26th. Gale force winds engendered by Mercury and Mars on the 27<sup>th</sup>, whip up what could be a tornado to the North of us, but result in less destructive hail, sleet, and possibly another snowstorm down here in the Otter Valley.

These disturbed atmospheric conditions will continue throughout the first half of February, especially in the first weeks of the month, and although we will be lulled into a false sense of security by brighter and clearer skies towards the end of February, March reverses this. I am afraid the indications are for a wet, wild and windy month with the probability of yet further storms and gales around the Full Moon on March 11th and the last Quarter Moon on March 18th.

I did state initially that Astro-meteorology if used correctly can provide forecasts for months, years, decades, and even centuries in advance. What I didn't tell you is that although I have been practising astrology for nearly half a century, I have only been studying Astro-meteorology for the past half year. And so if this forecast proves to be incorrect, the fault lies not in the technique itself, but entirely in my interpretation of it.

Happy new year to you all. **Caroline Allen**

*Brian George continues his article.*

## **Efforts to reopen the railway lines to Sidmouth and Budleigh Salterton.**

In 1978, having visited from London (where I was living) and walked parts of the Otter Valley, I made representations to the TUCC (Transport Users Consultative Committee) and to the Department for Transport (DfT) requesting re-opening of the Sidmouth and Budleigh Salterton lines. I received a helpful reply from the local TUCC detailing the considerable number of objections from local authorities, business and the public to closure of the lines in 1967. I also received a long letter from the DfT basically defending their position in rather draconian terms.

In June 2007 I revisited the area specifically to look at the viability of reviving the railways locally. Having put a request in the Exmouth Journal for anyone to contact me if they had heard of efforts to open the railway lines, I had been contacted by a number of people from Exmouth and Sidmouth. I toured the valley and took extensive photographs of the track bed and the traffic congestion.

When I got home I started by writing to East Devon District Council, receiving a reply from the Head of Environmental Services that local people had the use of a bus service from Sidmouth to Honiton railhead and, in any case, it was all up to Devon County Council as lead authority. The Leader of the DCC wrote pointing out their help to rail transport in the 1990's and saying they supported a new railway station on the main line but that neither Budleigh Salterton nor Sidmouth needed any help with rail proposals.

I then got involved in extensive correspondence with the DfT which included preparing a three inch thick ring binder and an audio visual presentation of the transport needs of East Devon. The DfT responded by saying that their recent white paper "did not allow for re-opening old railway lines" and that it was, in any case, all down to local government. I wrote to the Prime Minister's office who informed me that the PM had told the DfT to look into my concerns on the matter. No change from the DfT however.

The Regional Development Authority said that any proposals had to be in a local plan and that they "backed their partners". I had pointed out that they had been allocated nearly a billion pounds in 2006 for Transport Improvements in the West Country over a ten year rolling period.

## The Future

The East Devon Local Plan belatedly recognises the need not to grant planning permission for further building work on railway lines. It even lists the lines in the area recognising that these routes could be used for transport purposes again.

The Budleigh and Sidmouth lines would have to be re-surveyed, but after all the present route was only devised as a result of a Victorian Surveyor deciding on that route in the first place. It is, after all, not set in concrete (like roads)!

I do feel that the railways in East Devon can be rebuilt, either as standard or narrow gauge and provide an excellent service for local people, visitors to the area, businesses and farming communities in the valley. A much enhanced public transport system could help those who have to get to work, and have to make connections with the soon to be enhanced service on the Exeter to Waterloo line.

**Brian George**

*Brian is a member of the North Devon Rail Users Group (supporting the Exeter to Barnstaple line), the Swanage Railway, the Helston Railway and the Railway Correspondence and Travel Society.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Bus Pass Challenge**



Continuing the theme of Public Transport I would like to remind everyone of the Bus Pass Challenge. Entries for this have to be received before the AGM. Remember the award will go to the person(s) who make the longest or most innovative journey using their Bus Pass. Please send your entries to either the Editor or the Chairman by 30<sup>th</sup> April and your mantlepice could be the proud resting place of the OVA Award.

## **Don't let your tax go to waste. Gift Aid it.**

In early 2007 members received a letter from Brian Turnbull (OVA Chairman at the time) entitled 'A Free Lunch'. Brian and Martin Smith (Hon. Treasurer) had just embarked on a project to claim back from HM Revenue and Customs the tax you had paid on your income which you had then used to pay your membership subscriptions. All you had to do was sign a Gift Aid Declaration and the OVA could claim back that tax without your doing anything further.

Since that time, when many of you did sign the form, the OVA has been able to reclaim a magnificent £3780 for the first retrospective claim and a further £696 for the last financial year. That money is to be put to good use by becoming part of the OVA's Community Fund. Martin Smith is to be congratulated on his wonderful efforts in managing this project and reclaiming such a magnificent extra income for the OVA.

If you haven't already signed a Gift Aid declaration and are a taxpayer, please take the time to do so now. You won't have to do anything else: the OVA can make the claim and put the money into the Community Fund. Gift Aid declaration forms can be found on the website or can be obtained through your Village Rep, Membership Secretary or Treasurer.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Email Addresses**

Do you have an email address? Would you be happy for the OVA to send you reminders of walks, talks, events, etc. via your email?

We are currently looking at how we might keep our members up to date with current events as well as the diary pull out pages. If you are happy for us to email reminders to you, please go to the OVA web site [www.ova.org.uk](http://www.ova.org.uk) and email the web-master quoting your membership number. Rest assured you will not be bombarded with spam, only genuine OVA events!

## OVA Present Camcorder to Drakes School



As thanks for the use of Drakes School, East Budleigh for the Tithe Map Training Day, OVA Chairman, Helen Tickle, and Events Committee Chairman, Nicola Daniel, along with East Devon AONB Parishscapes Officer Phil Planel presented the school with a camcorder.

Head Teacher Carron Saunders commented:

“As a school we are delighted to have been able to work with the Otter Valley Association to enrich the children's learning and pleased that the members took an interest in the children's part in the tithe map research. Pupils and staff alike are thrilled with the gift of the camcorder and it will be of great value in the children's future opportunities for historical research as well as in many other areas of the curriculum.

We sincerely thank the Otter Valley Association for their support.”

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Gazebo Box**

You may recall the advertisement for the wooden chest in the last edition of the Newsletter. We did not receive any offers for it and so the Executive Committee agreed to donate it to St. Joseph's school in Exmouth.

## Who Owns the Fish?

From the comments I received this certainly seemed to catch your interest and I received a total of 29 correct answers. The correct answer is:



The German who lives in the Green house, smokes Princes cigars and drinks Coffee.

The first correct answer out of the hat and winner of the £10 book token was **Mrs June Coulson from Exmouth** who should have received the prize by now.

## The Pirate's Conundrum

I have to thank Brian Turnbull for this edition's competition. It's a real brain teaser which took my wife and I quite a while to puzzle out. I'm sure you will do better.

### The Question.

Ten pirates have dug up 100 gold pieces. They decide that each pirate in ascending order of age can propose a way to divide the treasure. After each proposal, a vote will be taken on whether to accept it. A proposal is accepted if half or more the pirates vote for it. The proposer can vote too. If his proposal is not accepted, he walks the plank, dies and it's the Pirate 2's chance. If Pirate 2 loses the vote, he dies and it moves to Pirate 3, and so on until a pirate wins the vote.



Pirate 1, the cabin boy, goes first. He wants to survive but he also wants as much of the treasure as he can get. He knows that the other pirates are very greedy but, unusually for pirates, very logical.

What should he propose?

Answers, as before, to the Editor (*Contact details on Back Cover*) with the winner getting the OVA equivalent of a gold piece - a £10 book token - and the losers walking the plank!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JAN - MAR 2009

**January 10, Sat – 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)/New Year's pub lunch**



Knowle Village Hall CP, SY052827. 4½ miles, 2½ hours. Footpaths and lanes to Bystock ponds and East Budleigh common. May be muddy. Optional lunch at the Dog & Donkey.

*Walk leader:* Steve Hagger, 01395 442631

**January 15, Thurs - 7.30pm TALK - Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton**

'Ottery St Mary - 'Transition Town'

(How to adapt to life beyond cheap oil and gas)

*"The Transition movement is the most exciting, most hopeful, most inspirational movement happening in Britain today."*

*Speaker:* Dr Maureen Fairley (Greenpeace scientist Exeter University)

**January 21, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**



Kersbrook (under railway bridge), SY069830. 5½ miles, 2½ h. Along part of old railway track and back on coast path.

*Walk leader:* Shane Badham, 01395 567531

**January 31, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic) / pub lunch**

**Exeter Green Circle Part 1** - Ludwell Valley Park Entrance SX938908. 6 miles, 3 hours. Varied walk around Ludwell Valley, Mincinglake, Hoopern Valley. Some rough paths and gradients; optional pub lunch. Full details on pg. 16 of last Newsletter

*Walk leader:* Bettina Wilson, 01395 578450

**February 3, Tues - 7.30pm TALK - Otterton Village Hall**

'The history, development and future for our National Parks'

*Speaker:* Dr George Wilkins (Distinguished Astronomer & National Parks speaker)

**February 11, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)** Budleigh Salterton Free CP, SY061821. 4½ miles, 2½ hours. Golf links, Knowle Hill Plantation, Dalditch common, Shortwood Lane.

*Walk leader:* John Jones, 01395 443651

**February 16, Mon - 7.00 pm. MEMBERS' FORUM** *(see Chairman's message)*

Budleigh Salterton Public Hall

The OVA and the 'Green Agenda'

*JAN - MAR 2009 ctd.*

**February 21, Sat - 10.07am. WALK (Energetic) / pub lunch**

**Exeter Green Circle Part 2** - Exeter Bus Station, SX926929.

6 miles, 3 hours. Interesting walk around Redhills, Alphinbrook, River Exe. Some rough paths and gradients; optional pub lunch.

Full details on pg 16 of last Newsletter

*Walk leader:* Bettina Wilson, 01395 578450



**February 28, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)/pub lunch**

Otter Inn CP, SY078874. 5½ miles, 2¾ hours. Circular walk up, over and around Woodbury common. Optional pub lunch.

*Walk leader:* Peter Hills, 01395 568576



**March 3, Tues - 7.30pm TALK** - East Budleigh Village Hall

Cornwall & West Devon Mining World Heritage Site This is a new WHS based on the geology and mining history of the area.

*Speaker:* Dr Bob Symes (Former Head of Mineralogy, Natural History Museum)



**March 7, Sat – 10.00a.m. ANNUAL LITTER PICK.**

Meet in Lime Kiln car park.

Bring wellingtons/walking boots and protective gloves

**March 11, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Newton Popleford CP, SY086897. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Southerton, Venn Ottery, Tipton St John; woods, green lanes, riverside.

*Walk leader:* David Nangle, 01404 811752



**March 18, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Squabmoor Reservoir CP, SY038843. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Commons and woods, tracks and paths. May be muddy and stony.

*Walk leader:* Brian Leveridge, 01395 443358



**March 28, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) N.B. Change of date.**

White Bridge, SY076830. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Coast path (exposed), Monks Wall, Otterton, Park Lane.

*Walk leader:* **Ken Watson, 01395 445859**



APRIL - JUNE 2009

**April 1, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**



Joney's Cross CP, SY057898. 5miles, 2½ hours. Harpford Common, Newton Poppleford, Dotton, Vennings Copse. Tracks and lanes, may be muddy and stony.

*Walk leader:* Gordon Wilson, 01395 568594

**April 18, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**



Crook Plantation, Stowford, SY 057866. 5 miles - 2½ hours. Woodbury and Bicton commons, Yettington. May be muddy.

*Walk leader:* Shane Badham, 01395 567531

**April 22, Wed - 10.00am. TOWN WALK (Easy)**



Ottery St Mary CP, SY095955 (charges apply). 2½ miles - 2½ hours. In and around Ottery St Mary; local history, buildings and church; pavements and riverside paths. (See article page 15)

*Walk leader:* David Nangle, 01404 811752

**April 23, Thurs – 7.30pm TALK - Newton Poppleford Church Hall**



*To be announced – Watch the website*

**April 29, Wed - 2.00pm TOWN WALK**

**(By ticket only See pg. 29)**



The Green, Otterton

*Walk Leader:* Gerald Millington – Clinton Devon Estates Archivist

**May 2, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) / Lunch**



Peak Hill CP, SY109872. 4 miles, 2¼ hours. Mutters Moor and Bulverton Hill at bluebell time. Easy pace, some gradients. Optional lunch in Otterton.

*Walk leader:* Phil Ashby, 01395 512339

**May 5, Tues – 7.30pm. AGM**

Details and agenda in next Newsletter

**May 13th, Wed - 2.00pm TOWN WALK (by ticket only See pg. 29)**



The Green, Otterton

*Walk Leader:* Gerald Millington – Clinton Devon Estates Archivist .

*APRIL - JUNE 2009 ctd*

**May 16, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)**

Colaton Raleigh church (roadside parking), SY082872. 7 miles, 3½ hours.  
Riverside, lanes, Mutters Moor, Passaford Lane (steep).

*Walk leader:* Brian Turnbull, 01395 567339



**May 21, Thurs** - Visit to Blackhill Quarry, its workings and restoration back to heath. Details and booking information in April newsletter.

**May 23, Sat – BUDLEIGH SALTERTON GALA**

OVA Stand and Competition

**May 24, Sun – 10.00am. YOUNG PIRATES' TREASURE HUNT**

Limekiln CP(charges apply) Under 12s chance to win prizes by finding Golden Pebbles

**May 26, Tues - 10.00 am TOWN WALK**

Budleigh Salterton Methodist Church car park (donations to Lions).

**May 27, Wed - 2.00pm. WALK (Artists' walk, Easy) / Cream tea**

Lime Kiln CP (charges apply), SY073820. 4 miles, 2½ hours. Riverside paths and lanes with short stops for sketching and demo's (non-artists welcome!).  
Optional cream tea at the Long Range Hotel.

*Walk leader:* Jed Falby, 01395 445455

**June 3, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Colaton Raleigh church (roadside parking), SY082872. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Green lanes, byways, commons, Dotton, Goosemoor, Hawkerland, Kingston.

*Walk leader:* Brian Turnbull, 01395 567339



**June 13, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic) / Pub lunch**

Otter Inn CP, SY076874. 6½ miles, 3½ hours. Walk around Colaton Raleigh commons, visiting site of Woodbury Castle. Optional pub refreshments.

*Walk leader:* Steve Hagger, 01395 442631



**June 17, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Easy) / Pub lunch**

East Budleigh CP, SY065849. 4½ miles, 2¼ hours. Fields, lanes, riveside; Bicton, Otterton. Optional lunch at "Sir Walter Raleigh".

*Walk leader:* Stan Herbert, 01395 445113



## A Brief History of Ottery St. Mary

The earliest recorded history of Ottery is that in 963, King Edgar granted land to Wolhelm in his Royal Manor of Otheri, which remained Crown property until 1061 when Edward the Confessor gifted the manor and parish to the secular canons of the Cathedral Church of St. Mary of Rouen.

Domesday tells us that Otheri was "let to farm" and was of some significance having 3 mills and a population of 500.

In 1227 Ottery was granted a charter to hold markets and fairs but the granting in 1280 of the "privilege of gallows" no doubt created less merriment.

The church, first recorded as the "Church of Sancte Marie de Otery" in 1259, sits on the hill above the town and was remodelled as a miniature of Exeter Cathedral by John de

Grandisson, Bishop of Exeter. Bishop Grandisson also founded the Ottery College of Canons in 1327. Unfortunately, thanks to Henry VIII, this no longer exists.

Over the centuries Ottery continued to grow into a prosperous market town and by 1524 the population was 1200 and had the strange statistic of being the 39<sup>th</sup> largest tax paying town in the country.

During The Civil War Ottery was a Royalist town but was occupied by the Parliamentary army en route to Exeter. Regretfully they decided to destroy the stained glass and ornamentation in the church.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the layout of the streets had become very similar to how it is today and the population were mainly subsistence farmers with some manufacturing trades including lace making (second only to Honiton).

The 18<sup>th</sup> century saw the birth in 1772 of the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who must rank as the most famous Ottergian. He was the son of the local vicar and was educated at Kings School, Ottery and Jesus College, Cambridge. His most notable work is "The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner".



Between 1788 and 1792 Ottery mill was built. This major enterprise was intended to create employment in a declining Devon wool-cloth industry. The machinery was powered by an 18 foot waterwheel fed by a leat with a rare "tumbling weir". The mill continued in use for a variety of enterprises until closure in 2003 and now stands empty awaiting its future.

Ottery continued to grow until, by the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were all the signs of a flourishing town – Town Hall, Library, Institute, mains drainage, piped water, a gas supply and a railway.



As the 20<sup>th</sup> century progressed, Ottery began to lose its self sufficiency as many trades disappeared but a strong sense of community spirit continues with many societies clubs and organisations still flourishing.

Well known nationally for the "Tar Barrels", Ottery St. Mary may not be a "chocolate box village" but it is truly a "real" town with "real" people

ple

### **David Nangle**

*NOTE: David will be leading a walk in and around Ottery St Mary on 22 April (see Walks Schedule for details). Do come along and join us for what should be an interesting tour of the area. Why not finish off the visit by taking lunch in the town or at the Garden Centre (not pre-organised).*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Future Events**

**Please note in your diary**

**July 1, Wed** - Stuart Line boat trip up the canal from Exmouth to Exeter Quay. Details and booking information in April newsletter.

## MAPS, MUD AND MANURE

Members of the OVA had the opportunity to take a closer look at the history of a rural village when they attended a Tithe Map Workshop in East Budleigh on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Led by Phil Planel and Martin Smith from the Parishscapes project we were able to get ‘hands-on’ experience of using a digitised map of East Budleigh, one of 36 tithe maps of the parishes in the East Devon AONB produced by the project. Tithe maps have long been valued by local historians for their wealth of detail about land ownership and use, but consulting them had previously involved visits to the local Record Office and complicated cross-referencing of fragile maps and documents. With a digitised map it is possible to sit at a computer and navigate around the parish stopping off at sites of particular interest.

All the plots on the map are numbered and by cross-referencing one with an apportionment spreadsheet it is possible to determine ownership, plot name, land use, and the amount of tithe payable. From the 1840s map used, it was fascinating to discover the large number of orchards in East Budleigh in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and that some remnants of the medieval strip system still survived.

Having mapped out the land use on a circular route round Wynards Farm in the 1840s, and fortified by a delicious ploughman’s lunch, the group set out in the afternoon to discover how it had changed. Braving mud and manure but fired with zeal to discover the facts, we found that the orchards had disappeared and arable land had been converted to pasture as agricultural practices changed. Just this small area of East Budleigh raised many question about how, when, and why change happened, and the work being done by the Parishscapes project facilitates research to find the answers.

The group greatly appreciated the enthusiastic leadership and technical assistance provided by Phil Planel and Parishscapes volunteer Martin Smith which enabled them to explore this exciting new local history resource. They were also grateful to Drakes School for their hospitality (*see page 13*). You can visit [www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/parishscapes](http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/parishscapes) where you can get the digitised maps for the parishes of the Lower Otter Valley or you can contact Phil Planel via the website to find out more.

**Susan Tickle**

## OVA VISIT TO LUNDY

The island of Lundy lies tantalisingly close to the North Devon coast but has often given a home to those looking for a refuge from the mainland. Some

in the past have valued its isolation as a place where piracy, smuggling and other dark deeds could flourish undisturbed. Today it offers to visitors a glimpse of peace and seclusion. A limited number of holiday lets are available and, when the weather allows, day visitors may enjoy some of its delights.



On September 20<sup>th</sup> the summer decided to present a perfect day's sunshine and warmth for the 30 members of the OVA who gathered at the Bideford quayside at 8.30am to board the MS Oldenburg for the two hour voyage.

The sea had a gentle swell and the mists melted under the sunshine to get the day off to a promising start. Once landed at the island's jetty we had the pleasure of a guided tour provided by Simon Dell who offered us a splendid mixture of geology, archaeology, history, to say nothing of information on the flora and fauna of Lundy.

All visitors are faced with a steep climb of about 400 feet up from the one beach



to the top of the granite plateau that makes up the majority of the accessible land surface. Improvements to the 'road' are continuing but we were given a glimpse of the challenges earlier inhabitants faced on the goat track that used to give the only access to the castle and settlement near the south end.

The castle may have been modest in size but it was in a commanding position and in the Civil War gave the Royalist cause the last place to succumb to the Parliamentary forces.

In 1819 a lighthouse was built on a high point in the centre of the island which proved to be so often invisible in low cloud that two further lights had to be erected in 1896 to provide better protection to shipping, 137 vessels came to grief on Lundy's shores. In 1863 a company was formed to quarry the high quality granite but rough weather often prevented loading onto cargo vessels and the company only operated for about five years.

Ownership of the island has passed through many hands ranging from pirates to the Revd Hudson Heaven who built the island's church in 1896 and in 1968 the island came into the care of the National Trust who lease it to the Landmark Trust to administer. The church was our final stop before returning to the ship for the return to Bideford. Arrival there at 8.30pm before the drive home gave a long day indeed but one that was immensely enjoyable and rewarding.

**Charles Townshend**

\*\*\*\*\*



## **NEW MEMBERS' PARTY**

### **23 SEPTEMBER - EAST BUDLEIGH VILLAGE HALL**

Readers hardly need reminding of the virtues of the Otter Valley and why they enjoy living here. For me, after a mere three years, I still wallow in an overwhelming sense of wonderment. What a privilege to live or work in such an Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty: a heritage unspoiled by the excesses of human behaviour and peopled by those who are determined to enable future generations to share our sense of place.

None are more determined than the OVA. I've been chastised by one member for referring to "ova" with its gynaecological connotations. But to remain relevant this Association needs to continue to grow and adapt. Witness the brief of the Built Environment Committee (BECOM) "to promote high standards of planning and design" and its choices for the OVA Design Awards this year.

At the party the Chairman of BECOM was one of four Chairmen of the Committees introduced by Executive Chairman Helen Tickle, who tactfully ended their interesting descriptions of the work of their committees upon a welcome signal from the kitchen. There was time for Nicola Daniel to refer to the Association's excellent reputation for its programme of "Walks and Talks"

The invitation to the New Members' party was misleading. What followed were not "nibbles" but a magnificent array of canapes, with the promise of sweetmeats if we ate up our savouries, which wasn't a hardship and we were well rewarded. Our Editor was on hand throughout with liquid refreshment.

The Officers' expositions were enhanced by a number of well presented and informative visual displays, accompanied by an invitation to get involved – the lifeblood of any successful voluntary organisation – but there was no sales pressure (*well hardly any – Ed*).

All that remained for those of us who did not arrive early enough to take advantage of the "ample parking" was to extricate our cars from the front gardens of the residents of East Budleigh and to contemplate, sadly, that that was our first and last New Members' Party!

**Chris Buckland**



## OVA AUTUMN TALKS

### **Beer Caves 2000 Years of History - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

John Scott, curator of the Beer caves, gave us vivid word pictures of the realities of work underground in the ancient caves, which make up the oldest continuously worked industrial site in Britain. (*See Maureen de Viell's account of the OVA's visit to the Caves on the next page - Ed*)

### **The Shallow Seas of Devon - 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

More than 70 people packed into Colaton Raleigh Village Hall to hear Professor David Nichols speak about what is under our feet in the sand. It turns out that the sand is teeming with life; lugworms that anticipated thixotropic paint, sand masons using superglue, predatory sea snails squirting concentrated hydrochloric acid and many more plants and animals all surviving in their own niche. Some have been there unchanged for 600 million years.

Prof. Nichols is an expert on marine life and the author of "The Oxford Book of Invertebrates". He is now a guest lecturer on cruise ships visiting exotic parts of the world so we were privileged to hear him here in his local Devon area.

### **The Axe Estuary Wetland Project – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

Kate Tobin presented the new proposals from East Devon District Council to create a large scale Nature Reserve to more than 70 OVA members. The plans cover most of the western side of the Axe Estuary and the adjacent marshes.

The new Nature Reserve will be one and a half miles in length, extending from Seaton to Colyford. A wealth of new wildlife habitats will be created, making the area one of the best sites for wildlife watching in Devon. Enhancements will include new ponds and scrapes, seasonally flooded fields, a large brackish water lagoon, reed beds, tidal salt marshes and a number of new bird hides. All this will be set against the beautiful backdrop of the lower Axe valley (*see account of visit by tram pg. 24*).

This has been a fascinating series of talks and many thanks go to Alan Huddart for the hard work and effort he has put into organising them.

**VISIT TO BEER CAVES  
22 SEPTEMBER 2008**

## Talk Report

Following on from a fascinating talk by John Scott the previous week, 32 members – all wrapped up in heavy overcoats - joined John again at Beer Quarry Caves. We had already learned that the underground workings were some 2000 years old, started by the Romans in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

What, I suspect, we had not expected was to walk into a vast chamber through a man made entrance which had the feeling of a Roman building. These are the largest underground workings in Southern England, equivalent to 20 football pitches, with large arched halls, first in the round style of the Romans, and then the less well executed Saxon square arches, followed by Gothic arches typical of the medieval period.



The type of limestone found in these caves is ideal for carving, but could never be reached from digging from above, so the men and boys from Beer village who did not work in either farming or fishing had to come underground and work in the caves.



One of the most memorable parts of the visit was the atmospheric picture created for us by John of the appalling conditions that the quarrymen had to endure. They had to work by candle light, with the sound of 500 pick axes hitting stone, drenched in sweat from their endeavours but not daring to stop as this would mean the sweat cooling and they would risk chilling to death. Each man had to produce a perfect piece of stone some 4 tons in weight.

We were shown Roman coins that had been found in the caves, and told of a 13<sup>th</sup> C horse shoe, the oldest in England and now housed in the British Museum, as horses were the means of transport inside and outside the caves; and we saw signatures from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries on the rock faces.



We learnt of the rivalry between the quarrymen and the masons, who travelled to the caves to carve ‘in situ’. The men had to buy their own 5 candles a day, whereas the masons received theirs free and demanded a high price for their work. This antipathy for each other spread beyond the caves, hence the “Masons Arms” pub outside the village, as the

masons did not wish (or perhaps dare) to drink in the same ale houses as the quarrymen. Apparently, there is a difference in the houses down the main street in Beer, grander ones on one side being the houses of the masons, more humble on the other for the quarrymen.

Naturally, much of this beautiful white stone was used for churches and manor houses around East Devon and Exeter – the Cathedral being the most important, but the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries saw the spread of its use to Winchester and to Westminster Hall and Abbey and the Tower of London, even York. During the reformation, the demand for stone for ecclesiastical buildings dropped off, and the quarry was quiet, but a small chapel was created inside for local catholic families to worship, still there for us to see.

Later, the caves were also used to store smugglers’ contraband.

The caves are still being excavated to reveal their history, but all workings have to be done painstakingly by hand as the use of machinery is forbidden by law, the caves being the home to many hibernating bats.

We emerged out into the daylight, wrapped in clothes never known by the quarrymen, and some of us made our way to the village to look at the houses on either side of the street to try to spot the difference, and to see the brook which flows down the main street draining the quarry into the sea.

We had had a splendid morning learning so much about a local part of history, and our thanks to John Scott for bringing the caves alive for us and Maggie Girauld for organising the visit

**Maureen De Viell**

**Axe Wetlands Visit December 7<sup>th</sup>**



## Event Report

Following the coldest night of the year, 32 very warmly dressed OVA members had a beautiful, informative tramride through the glorious Axe valley following the course of the river and through 2 nature reserves.

The white frosted fields and the water on either side of the tram sparkled in the low winter sun. Donald Campbell, Ian Waite and David Jannaway commented on the abundant wading birds by the river and we soon could easily distinguish between lapwings, dunlin, curlew and redshanks with the sun shining on their red legs.



of the had to swim. was the trams by upper parts to feet we Winstons carvery.



The marches were too frozen for many waders and even the swans break the ice in order to The highlight to many of us performance given to the two kingfisher with iridescent blue parts and chestnut under-caught in the sun's rays. After hours, with frozen hands and walked across the road to for an excellent, warming

Thanks to organising morning sun for

**Nicky**



Mo Bowman for this wonderful and thanks to the shining so brightly.

**Daniel**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008 – Tipton St John to East Hill**

A Wednesday walk in October is not usually a high turn-out. But, as the unusually large group assembled in the Tipton St. John Car Park I realised that another group had chosen the same start point at the same hour! After a friendly exchange of jokes and insults, they headed off up-river North and the OVA group, now eight members strong, headed East and then South on the village roads to join the Green Lane that aims uphill from Hayne Barton.

Rain in October is not unusual, but the recent heavy rains, rushing downhill, had carved great trenches in the old tarmac surface which made this long uphill track much harder work than usual. It took an hour of up-hill slog-ging to reach our first goal at Hollow Head Cross on East Hill. The views from here seem to encompass the whole southern Otter Valley (that's all the OVA bits!) from the sea and on up to Ottery St. Mary.

Being unpuffed, the group decided to go for the bonus extra bit by pushing on to White Cross where the views - swept clean by high wind - went all the way to Dartmoor. This impromptu "extra" caused a simple walk to become more of a commando challenge as we tried to rejoin the original route through the jungle of the lower slopes of East Hill.



Eventually we rejoined the Green Lane that washed us down to Coombe and Lower Coombe Farm whose depth of footpath mud must deserve

some sort of award. Leaving muddy boots at the door, we enjoyed our reward for all that effort with a "So-Lunch" in The Golden Lion.

I  
o u t  
  
Jed



think the other group are still there somewhere!

Falby

\*\*\*\*\*

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 - Littleham Church

It began to rain as fifteen walkers crossed the golf course but the views were still there to be enjoyed and the weather improved before we reached Littleham.

After looking at the Moresby Naval plot and Lady Nelson's grave our attention turned to Littleham Church. The present building was constructed in the 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries but the Scratch Dial or Mass Clock on the porch is evidence of an earlier Saxon church and this was examined before going inside. Here examples of features from the three centuries were pointed out as well as Victorian "improvements" and changes made during the re-ordering in 1998.

The walk continued through the extensive churchyard and along the railway track in bright sunshine so everyone arrived back in high spirits.

We would like to thank Marion and Barrie for sharing their knowledge of fungi and railway history respectively with the group. This added to the enjoyment of the walk.

**Hazel and Mike Harland**

### Otterton Town Walk

The History Section, in collaboration with the Events Committee, have arranged 2 town walks around Otterton led by Gerald Millington, Clinton Devon Estates Archivist and eminent local historian.

Several of you may remember that the last time Gerald led a walk around Otterton a large number of people attended and it was difficult for everyone to hear. Hence, to keep the numbers manageable, this time we would like members to apply for places in advance and we will issue tickets. Members without a ticket will be turned away. We know this is contrary to our usual "open door" policy for walks but hope you will understand.

The walks will take place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00 pm and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00 pm.

Meet on the green at Otterton.

Cost will be £2.00 to cover administration and any excess money we collect from our members will be donated to a charity of Gerald's choice.

Please indicate on the booking form your preference of dates.

We will not begin opening ticket applications until 7<sup>th</sup> February.

If you would like to join us please return the slip below with your cheque for £2.00 per person and a stamped addressed envelope to Nicola Daniel, Highbury, 7, Marine Parade, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6NS

✂-----

To :	Your Name, Address, Telephone number & E-Mail
Nicola Daniel Highbury 7, Marine Parade Budleigh Salterton EX9 6NS	

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets at £2.00 each for the Otterton Town Walk on  
 April 29<sup>th</sup>      please indicate preference  
 May 13<sup>th</sup>  
 I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ payable to OVA  
 and **a stamped addressed envelope**

## **Wednesday, 3rd December 2008 – Shortwood Common, Hayes Barton & Squabmoor**

14 walkers set out in brilliant sunshine from Knowle Village Hall on a frosty December morning. After heading up Bear Lane, we admired the spectacular view east from Shortwood Common along the Jurassic Coast before plunging into Hayes Wood. Hayes Barton came into view basking in the winter sun as we emerged from the gloom of the wood. From there, a short climb brought us to East Budleigh Common and a pause for well-earned refreshment.

Continuing through Wheathill Plantation, we passed a WW2 ammunition store now used mainly by bats. Used blank cartridges on the ground were evidence of more recent military activity. There were early catkins, and a fine bracket fungus beside the well-used sandy tracks leading down to Squabmoor reservoir. The reservoir had been one of Haylor Lass's responsibilities in his previous existence - so who better to give us a short talk on its history and function.

From there it was downhill (almost) all the way through Dalditch to the Dog and Donkey for a restoring lunch.

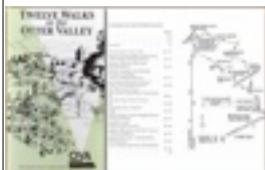
**Brian Turnbull**

## Mark Rolle His Architectural Legacy in the Lower Otter Valley



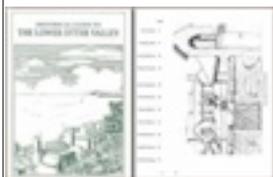
£4.95 via your Rep (or plus £1.00 P&P)

## 12 Walks in the Otter Valley



£2.50 via your Rep (or plus £1.00 P&P)

## Historical Guide to the Lower Otter Valley



£3.50 via your Rep (or plus £1.00 P&P)

## 1842, 1890 and 1933 Maps of Budleigh Salterton



£8 each or £20 a set (cannot be posted)

Available from your Parish Representative, our website - [www.ova.org.uk](http://www.ova.org.uk)  
or by post from:-

Booksales  
OVA  
PO Box 70 Budleigh Salterton  
EX9 6WN

**Executive Committee****(01395)**

<b>Chairman</b>	Helen Tickle	443901
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Haylor Lass	568786
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Clive Bowman	446892
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Martin Smith	442333

**Committee Chairmen**

Built Environment	Geoff Aplin	442951
Natural Environment	Norman Crossland	445129
Social	Nicola Daniel	445960
History	David Daniel	445960

**Parish Representatives (to whom all queries should be addressed initially)**

Budleigh Salterton	Neville Lister	444269
	John Jones	443651
East Budleigh	Mitzi Crossland	445129
Otterton	John Winson	568274
Colaton Raleigh	Alan Jones	568339
Newton Poppleford	Haylor Lass	568786

**Other Officers**

The OVA was founded in 1979, is registered with the Civic Trust and the Charity Commissioners and is a member of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. It is also affiliated to the CPRE and a member of the AONB Partnership

Minute Secretary	Maureen Lister	444269
Membership Secretary	Barrie Papworth	568176
Publicity Officer	Susan Tickle	444211
Talks Secretary/Webmaster	Alan Huddart	446761
Walks Organiser	Diane Gee	444388
Newsletter Distributor	Gill Speare	443944
Newsletter Editor	Nick Speare Pine Rise, 7a Bedlands Lane Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6QH <a href="mailto:nspeare@btconnect.com">nspeare@btconnect.com</a>	443944