

OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

PO Box 70 Budleigh Salterton EX9 6WN

www.ova.org.uk



Otters on the Otter!

Autumn Edition

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CONTENTS	Page
Chairman's Message	1
From the Editor	2
Exec Watch	3
Events' Events	4
BECom	6
Poetry	7
Weather	8
A Bit of OVA History	10
OVApedia	12
Christmas Dinner	13
Conundrum	14
Diary Pull-out	Centre
Future Events	15
WI Competition Winner	18
Fire Down Below - Again	20
Reports	21
Application Forms	27
Books and Maps	Inside Back Cover
Contacts	Back Cover

Cover Photograph courtesy of Sue Smith

Photographs: Mo Bowman & Caroline Allen

Sketches: Jed Falby



Chairman's Message



Many of you will be aware that the OVA was one of two applicants who proposed to English Heritage that the complex of maritime buildings in Budleigh Salterton should be listed. 'Not of special architectural or historic interest in a national context' although 'a rare example of a longboat house'. The listing review confirmed that the Longboat Café building is not being included in the national list. Some of the research material should be available on OVApedia in due course and we are grateful for all the investigations carried out by OVA members.

Contributing to recruitment is a key role for all of us but members of the Executive Committee and Sub Committees are well aware of the need for succession planning. We are very grateful for the example set by Norman Crossland who stood down as Chairman of the Natural Environment Committee in September and nominated his successor. Patrick Hamilton was warmly welcomed to the EC, having been actively involved with NECom and in deputising for Norman. We will miss Norman's scientific knowledge and his ability to share it with others which have been a great asset to the OVA. His interest in climate change both globally and locally has been particularly important.

We would like to know your views on whether OVA membership cards actually serve any useful purpose. Their issue involves both volunteer time and printing costs and we do not ask to see them when members pay the lower admission charge for talks. Please contact your parish representative to express your opinion or log your comment via the website.

A small number of volunteers have registered for working parties but so far we do not have anyone willing to undertake the organisational aspects for us. This is an important proposal which emerged from the AGM and we hope there will be sufficient support to take it forward. The OVA needs **you** if we are to maintain and extend our activities.

Helen Tickle



From the Editor



True to form, as I sat down to pull together this edition of the Newsletter the sun broke through, the temperature climbed and the lawn cried out to be cut. I said last time that I would tell the Met Office of the dates in advance but somehow it slipped my mind.

In this issue, as well as contributions from committees and reports of visits etc., we have an interesting piece of OVA history on page 10 sent to me by Anne Horrell and an article on page 18 which, while it won a WI competition, is very characteristic of many OVA members' delight at the wonderful area in which we live. The excellent work of the History Section of the OVA is celebrated on page 12 with David Daniel's reporting of a major milestone reached by OVApedia. Caroline Allen looks forward to a mixed bag of weather for the last three months of the year and the Events Committee continues its fine standard with the promise of walks, talks, trips and, most importantly at this time of year, the Christmas Dinner.

Unusually, we have two advertisements in this edition. The first for Bicton College is something the Executive Committee agreed to as a way to help minimise the cost of facilities that they use there for meetings. The other is for a BECom Local Rep and a Committee Secretary. In the Chairman's Message, Helen speaks of succession planning and I believe that it is this ongoing succession of members and officers that keeps the OVA from becoming stale and moribund. Long may it continue thus!

In the same vein, I also am now looking for a successor to take over as Editor of the Newsletter within the next two issues. I have been involved with the Newsletter now for nearly 5 years; initially by helping Pat Quaife, my predecessor, through the trauma of computerising the Newsletter and latterly as Editor myself and it is now time to pass on the baton to a new Ed. I shall, of course, do all that I can to make the transition as painless as possible for that person. If you might be interested in taking on this role please contact me to discuss it.

Nick Speare

Executive Watch

(Clive focuses on the first of the Committees represented on the Executive)



Of the four committees of the OVA, perhaps the most visible is the Events Committee chaired by Nicola Daniel. Tasked with arranging the talks and walks programmes, the important Christmas Dinner, and a myriad of outside events ranging from the treasure hunt in Gala Week to excursions outside the valley and, sometimes, even the county. This happy group of people organise the wonderful calendar of events we all enjoy.

Their last meeting dealt with the arrangements for the forthcoming Rod Lawrence talk on October 12, and Cressida Whitton's on 11 November. They arranged a trip to Exmoor for the autumn colours (*see page 15*), sorted out who was doing what for the Christmas Dinner and the catering for the Bench Ends workshop on 16 October. And these are just for this year.

Events for next year are also being organised; more forays outside the valley; repeats of over subscribed visits; booking village halls for guest speakers; co-ordinating the walks leaders - the list of jobs just goes on and on.

I joined this committee last year, and was amazed by the range of skills brought to the meetings that make the programme of events apparently run so smoothly. As we get closer to each event, volunteers arrange to man the doors, manage the seating arrangements, check with speakers and organise food and drink. Some organise transport, others the tickets, then there is writing up articles for the newsletter, and the application forms for events.

We all enjoy the output of this committee's work in one way or another, yet seldom give a thought to all those who have worked to provide this in the background. New faces are always welcome on the committee, and if you think you could help, then Nicola would be happy to answer any questions you have or invite you to see just what goes on behind those closed doors.

Clive Bowman

Events' Events



I have heard that some members have been very disappointed recently because they have been unable to obtain a place on some of our visits.

We have been using a “first come, first served” system to allocate places. We are aware that due to our distribution system some people may receive their newsletter before others. Therefore, in future, we will have a cut-off date for applications as we do now, but only allocate places on that date, drawing out of a hat if necessary. Of course that does not solve the problem of disappointed members who do not get on the visit and we do try to repeat the popular visits. Helen Tickle has arranged a return visit to Sidbury Manor on March 22, details and ticket application in the next Newsletter. Caroline Allen is also trying to get a date for the Met. Office next year.

It is that time of the year when you begin to think of Christmas and naturally the OVA Christmas Dinner. Unanimously everyone wished to go to Woodbury Park again. The Dinner will be held on Wednesday 15 December, (6.45pm for 7.30pm). The price will include a glass of wine when you arrive and we hope to provide you with a quiz and carol singing. A mid-week booking means that we have an excellent meal at a very reasonable price at Woodbury Park. We are asking for you to indicate your choice of seating companions. If you are new to the area please come as we are a very friendly society and we do try very hard to sit everyone sympathetically.

Opposite, John Jones has written about the “unusual” walks taking place this autumn and in addition my husband, David, and I will repeat the highly enjoyable Boxing Day walk. To make the lunch successful we will need to know numbers by December 5 so we can sort out the menus with ‘The Sir Walter Raleigh’. If you would like to join us please contact me (details on back cover).

Nicky Daniel

Easy Walks

Do you want to start walking but lack confidence, or are you unable to tackle the moderate walks in our Programme?

This year we have been including at least one walk each quarter classed as 'Easy' – these are between 3 and 4 miles long with no taxing hills.

Coming up we have an attractive walk around the grounds of Powderham Castle (with optional lunch) on October 27 and our annual foray looking for fungi with Marion Nalder on 10 November. Two different walks on the Commons on December 11 and 26 will help to get you through the stressful Christmas period. These provide an excellent opportunity for you to try walking with us. You will be given a warm welcome and find there is plenty of breath left for chatting!

John Jones
Walks Organiser

Advertisement

Events at Bickton House

Coming soon...
Find out about our
upcoming events in
our home

Harvest Festival Saturday 23rd October
Family fun from 10am to 2pm
Apple pressing, den building, seed swapping,
apple bobbing, environmental games & more...
Entry: Adults £2 Children £1 Food available

Wedding Fair Sunday 24th October
11am to 3pm
Plan your perfect wedding with expert
advice from specialist suppliers. Entry £2

Bonfire Night Wednesday 3rd November
Gates open 6pm – Main Event 7pm
A grand fireworks display over the lake, blazing bonfire,
burgers and Quiz competition at Bickton College.
Join us for this spectacular event.
Pre-booked tickets Adults £4 and £2.50 for children
Tickets on the gate Adults £5 and £3.50 for children

Christmas Parties 25th Nov - 16th December
(Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only)
In the Georgian Mansion, bring your
colleagues, friends or family and celebrate
Christmas in style – shared or sole use of
the venue available, up to 70 guests

Call the Events Team on 01395 562311 Email: functions@bickton.ac.uk
www.bickton.ac.uk Bickton House, Bungeigh Saltanton EX9 7BY

Built Environment Committee (BCom)

Are you interested in promoting high standards of planning and architecture? Does the conservation, protection and restoration of buildings of special architectural and historic interest grab you? If so, you might be interested in filling one of two vacancies which will shortly arise on our committee.

Local BCom representative

BCom covers all five parishes in the Lower Otter Valley. In addition to the Chairman and Secretary it has 6 local representatives, one each covering Newton Poppleford, Colaton Raleigh, East Budleigh and Otterton, and two dividing Budleigh Salterton between them.

BCOM's principal responsibility is to review all the planning applications submitted each month. Where we consider that an application could have a detrimental effect on its immediate surroundings or on a wider area, or where significant design issues are identified, our view is discussed within the OVA EC and we send a letter to the Local Planning Authority. Our views are welcomed by them and regularly taken into account in the District Council's decision making process.

The local representative is needed to take over from Colin Nex who shares Budleigh Salterton with George Maddaford. His monthly responsibilities include examination of planning applications for his area at the Town Hall office, a site visit to each, and a short report for the committee. The number of applications he follows up varies but rarely exceeds five in any one month.

Local representatives don't have to have professional experience in architecture, planning, building, or conservation although such backgrounds are much valued. However, some of our members have become involved simply from a keen recognition of the work we do. Where needed, help has been readily available to assist them into the role.

Committee Secretary

The committee secretary will take over from Martin Smith, an IT specialist who has developed the secretarial role over a number of years. His monthly responsibilities include, (a) taking details of planning decisions and new planning applications from the Planning Department website and emailing them to the OVA Exec and BCom members, (b) preparing minutes of BCom meetings, and (c) organising BCom records. Martin will be happy to provide support and advice should it be required.

So it is over to you, folks! The work we do is important, and we do need to be up to full strength to do it really effectively. If you would like to talk over either of the roles, feel free to telephone Martin Smith (442333), George Maddaford (446077) or myself (442951).

Geoff Aplin
BECOM Chairman

Poetry Competition Entries

I promised to publish some of the other entries in the OVA poetry competition. Below is a contribution I received from Rosemary Whiting. It is to be hoped that the coming winter will not be as hard as the last described in Rosemary's poem. *Ed*



The Otter Valley January 2010

Frozen fields reveal foxes footprints.
Single tracks criss crossing the unsafe secret stripping snow.
Rabbits drum, skulking in burrows
Shivering in their cony wraps.

Flash of light brown feather, a wren
Slaloms into a drift front door ajar
Under the snow laden awning of a blackberry leaf.

Granite hard the furrowed earth is split with cleavers steel.
Winter thralls holding all in her cold grip.

Rosemary Whiting

Heavens Above! Autumn 2010

*October gave a party; the leaves by hundreds came
The Chestnuts, Oaks and Maples, and leaves of every name.
The Sunshine spread a carpet, and everything was grand,
Miss Weather led the dancing, Professor Wind the band.
~ George Cooper, October's Party*



The weather in the Otter Valley should be grand too this autumn, at least for some of the time. Summer fades and passes; leaves scurry down the street; blue haze trails upwards; chilly mornings give way to warm afternoons clinging onto the last heat of the sun; the smell of wood smoke; the unexpected sharpness of the first frosts as we reach for woollen sweaters.

The sunshine will live up to his promise and spread an early carpet in our beautiful outdoors, but expect a cool, brisk, and erratic few months to follow. 'Capricious' is the word that springs to mind, with periods of hazy mists and mellow fruitfulness punctuated by maulingly battering gales. Startled seagulls will skid and scudder, screeching at the shouting sea, whilst wind-whipped noses and sleet-stung ankles will send us scurrying indoors. Professor Wind will indeed blow up quite a concerto whilst Miss Weather whirls us giddily through it into next year. It is going to be a bracing three months!

October

October's party will get off to a fine, bright and dry start, with scattered clouds and lusty winds. Expect a sharp shower or two on the 3rd followed by patchy scotch mist or mizzle later in the week. The drizzle gives way to voluminous rain around the 9th/10th when Venus, the celestial tear-jerker, triggers torrential downfall. Skies will clear from the 14th as the temperatures drop, the wind gets up, and the nights get colder. It will be very windy indeed around 17th and I don't discount another spattering of rain. The crisis of the month will be the Full Moon of 23rd; the Hunter's Moon. A nasty week follows when turbulent aspects on the 24th/25th ignite thunderstorms over the whole of the UK. The eastern side of the country should suffer the worst but prepare for a gale here at the least and a tempest at the most – not even our

Weather

mild little micro-climate should escape Professor Wind's ear splitting concerto then!

November

It will feel rather damp and muggy as November arrives. There could be flooding problems for some, but a quieter few days for the rest of us. A blotchy couple of weeks to follow; one or two bright patches in the second week but on the whole expect a darkly wet, sodden and gloomy middle to the month - why is it that when things get wet they get darker, even though water is clear? The Sun should manage to poke his head through after the 18th when rainbows apologise for angry skies, and the Full Moon of the 21st heralds a fine, dry and pleasant end to the month – apart from the last two days that is!

December

A dismal start to December with sagging skies leaking precipitation like an old colander. Violent wet and windy conditions blow up in the second week from 6th – 10th when there is every indication of a hailstorm or possibly even a hurricane! But hold your breath, because as soon as we recover from that there is worse to come; the 17th – 20th could bring a deluge of biblical proportions! Unfortunately these very disturbed atmospheric conditions are set to continue throughout the festive season, and although I am cautiously optimistic that Christmas Day itself should stay mainly fine, I fear that New Year's Eve could be very wet indeed. The rain gods have promised not only to fling open the floodgates on a barrage of heavy rain or sleet then, but also send what looks suspiciously like snow!

Expecting Miss Weather to treat you kindly because you recycle plastic is like expecting a raging bull not to charge because you are vegetarian! It is going to be a wild wet and windy autumn of shrinking days and lengthening nights. But if there were no such thing as night, the Sun would have burnt himself out twice as fast, with no sunshine left to spread across our outdoor carpet next Spring!

Caroline Allen

A Unique Picture

In 1987, when we had only been living in Salterton for a few years, I was asked to be Secretary to the O V A. My agreement gave me six very busy but extremely satisfying years.

The O V A at that time was about half its present size but was already well known and appreciated in the area. We worked closely with the C P R E and with neighbouring Amenity Societies, especially the Axe Vale Association and the Exmouth Society. Our Chairman was a retired Town Planner (Phipps Turnbull) and so the Association was particularly involved with Developments in the area; these included the change of the Rosemullion and Southlands Hotels to flats, the construction of Nigel Mansell's Golf course and the siting of the tip on Exmouth Road amongst others.

When I “retired” in 1993, I was presented with an embroidered map of the Otter Valley which had been designed by Mrs Elizabeth Welch and worked by Mrs Patricia Roberts. It shows some of the distinctive buildings



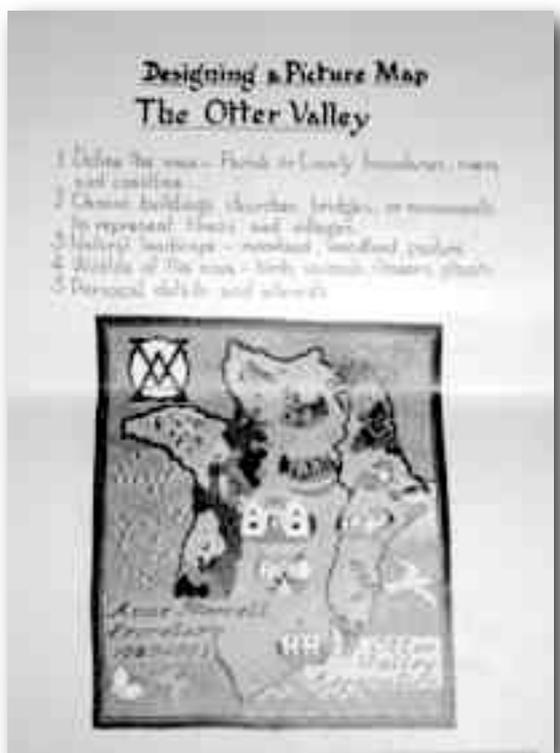
A bit of OVA History

in the area (e.g. Fairlynch and Bicton College) representing the Built Environment Sub-committee; the gorse on the Common with two hikers bearing back packs (the Footpath Sub-committee), the Golf Course (where Phipps could often be found) and apple trees in blossom (my second Chairman Derrick Rowlands' previous occupation). In addition, there are Seagulls, a Dartford Warbler, an Otter, a Kingfisher and Butterflies and so most of the interests of members are represented.

It is only to be expected that the OVA has changed over the years, for example there are now far more walks and fewer talks, but I think that my precious picture still provides a very good representation of the Association.

Anne Horrell

Anne gives the picture pride of place in her home and has the design notes and detailed drawings carefully preserved as above. She has also indicated that if anyone would like to see the picture they would be most welcome. Ed



OVApedia

A milestone reached!

OVApedia reached an important milestone a few weeks ago when I loaded the 100th article, less than a year and a half from launch. In fact it now has 107 articles!

By some rough and ready averaging I reckon this amounts to about 75K words, the length of a novel, with some 64 accompanying images, split 60/40 between biographies and articles of more general historical interest .

This has largely been due to the efforts of a small group of particularly assiduous contributors: Sue Dymond, Roz Hickman, David Jenkinson, Roger Lendon, Harry Lane, Gerald Millington, Anne Speight, and Bungy Williams who has given permission to reproduce a number of articles produced for Clinton Devon Estates.

I would like to give particular thanks to Robin Holt, the OVA Archivist, who not only provided some of the ideas underlying OVApedia's structure, but has proofread every article and provided help when I have found formatting incompatibilities between what is sent to me and the limited word processing function of the website. Thanks also go to Alan Huddart our Web Master who is also always there checking the website, passing on the incoming messages and sorting me out when I get into technical difficulties.

Recently we had an enquiry for more information about the article on the Goodwyn family from one of the curators at the National Library of Australia, Canberra which was passed to the author! So we are beginning to reach across the world. There are interesting potential connections between East Budleigh and Otterton and the eastern seaboard founding settlements in the USA to encourage.

This autumn we intend to focus on publicity, particularly to local libraries with internet connection, and we have drafted a simple brochure. We also intend to discuss with the Executive Committee the possibility of holding tutored introductory sessions using the Budleigh Salterton Library computers next spring.

David Daniel



Christmas Dinner Woodbury Park



The dinner will take place on December 15 6.45pm for 7.30 pm at Woodbury Park. We need to know numbers by October 26 so please send in your application NOW! (*see Page 27*)

The cost will be £26.00 to include a glass of wine on arrival.

PLEASE USE THE HOTEL RECEPTION ENTRANCE
(immediately to your right on entering the carpark)

Menu

Marinated Goat's Cheese Crostini **(G)**
served with watercress salad & red onion marmalade
Curried Parsnip & Apple Soup **(S)**
Woodbury Park Prawn Cocktail **(PC)**
accompanied with Marie rose sauce & iceberg lettuce

Roast Taunton Turkey **(T)**
accompanied with apricot & chestnut stuffing.
Grilled Haddock **(H)**
served with cream leek & chive sauce.
Olive & Walnut Loaf **(OW)**
served with a vegetable gravy.

Individual Christmas Pudding **(CP)**
served with vanilla icecream.
Fresh Fruit Salad **(FS)**
served with lemon sorbet.
Bread & Butter Pudding **(BB)**
served with classic creme anglaise.

Fair Trade Coffee & after dinner chocolates



The Return of the Conundrum

The answer to the conundrum of the age of the three children is as follows:
The only possible combinations of the children's ages which both multiplied together come to 36 and add up to the pupil's age are:-

$$1+1+36=38$$

$$1+2+18=21$$

$$1+3+12=16$$

$$1+4+9=14$$

$$1+6+6=13$$

$$2+2+9=13$$

$$2+3+6=11$$

$$3+3+4=10$$

The pupil knows his/her own age and would immediately know the ages of the teacher's children unless the pupil is 13 when there are two alternatives. In these circumstances the fact that there is an eldest child means the ages must be 2, 2 and 9.

Nick Speare (*Ed*)

Barnstaple answered!

In the last newsletter there was a short article about a lady in Barnstaple looking for a book about Newton Poppleford called "Yesterday in Newton Poppleford". Well, several OVA members responded about the author of the book, Mrs Ray Wilson, who still lives in the area and so we were able to help our correspondent from Barnstaple.

Thanks to all who got in touch.

Alan Huddart
OVA Webmaster

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

 **October 6, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Crook Plantation, SY057866. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Crook Plantation, Bearden Barn, Wheathill Plantation, Hayes Wood and Yettington.

Walk leader: Gordon Wilson, 01395 568594

 **October 12, Tues - 7.30pm TALK**

Ottertton Village Hall. "Beyond Old Harry-the Future for the Jurassic Coast"
Some bold ideas for conservation of our Jurassic coast

Speaker: **Rod Lawrence**

 **October 13, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) Optional Pub Lunch**

East Budleigh CP, SY065849. 4 miles, 2½ hours. Town walk including a visit to historic East Budleigh church. Stan will share his vast local knowledge of bygone East Budleigh. Optional lunch at the Sir Walter Raleigh.

Walk leader: Stan Herbert, 01395 445113

 **October 16, Sat - 10.00am - 3.00pm East Budleigh Bench-ends Day**
(Details in last Newsletter)

 **October 25, Mon. 08.00am - 7.30pm Exmoor Autumn Colours Trip**
(See details on Page 15.)

N.B. Respond ASAP - Application form Page 27

Organiser: Mo Bowman, 01395 446892

 **October 27, Wed - 10.30am. WALK (Easy-NB later start time)**

Powderham Church CP, SY972843. 3½ miles, 2 hours. Circular walk around Powderham Castle, there will be fallow deer to see in the Park and good views of the estuary. Optional lunch at the Orangery Restaurant afterwards. The Castle will be open if you wish to visit it later (admission charge payable).

Walk leader: Tricia Bisley, 01392 410423

 **November 10, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Easy)**

Newton Poppleford Sports Ground CP, SY087900.

Easy walk looking for and identifying fungi including waxcaps.

Walk leader: Marion Nalder, 01395 442176

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER *ctd*

November 11, Thurs - 7.30pm TALK

Peter Hall Budleigh Salterton "The Archeology of East Devon(the work of the Devon County Historic Environment Service)". An anecdotal talk about modern archeological methods in our region.

Speaker: Cressida Whitton, Archeologist, Devon County Council

November 20, Sat – 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

Church Green CP, SY174965 5 miles - 2½ hours. Attractive circular walk with good views in the Farway and Northleigh area.

Walk leader: Peter Hills, 01395 568576

November 27, Sat – 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

Four Firs CP, SY032864. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Visiting Blackhill Quarry, Hayes Wood and Woodbury Castle.

Walk leader: Stuart Lovett, 01395 443141

December 1, Wed – 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) Pub lunch

Colaton Raleigh Church, SY082872. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Green lanes and commons including Dotton, Hawkerland Common and Naps Lane. Optional lunch at the Otter Inn.

Walk leader: Brian Turnbull, 01395 567339

December 11, Sat – 10.00am. WALK (Easy)

Wheathill Plantation SY041847. 3 miles, 2 hours. A short walk on the commons to relieve those pre-Christmas pressures.

Walk leader: David Daniel, 01395 445960

December 15, Wednesday - Christmas Dinner

Woodbury Golf & Country Club

Details on page 13 - Application Form Page 27



December 26, Sun – 10.30am. WALK (Easy)/Pub Lunch.

East Budleigh CP SY065849. Gentle Boxing Day walk across the common with optional pub lunch at the Sir Walter Raleigh –

N.B. Please ring Walk Leader by December 5 to book lunch.

Walk Leader: David Daniel, 01395 445960

2011 JANUARY to MARCH



January 11, Tues - 7.30pm TALK

Colaton Raleigh Village Hall. "East Devon Pebblebed Heathlands." A close look at the East Devon Pebblebed Heathlands and its unique species.

Speaker: Mr David Jannaway



Jan 26, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

Kersbrook (under railway bridge), SY069830. 5½ miles, 2½ hours. A pleasant walk at this time of year along part of the old railway track and back on coast path.

Walk leader: Shane Badham, 01395 567531



Jan 29, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) / Pub lunch

Knowle Village Hall CP, SY052827. 5½ miles, 2½ hours. A circular undulating walk over the commons to Bystock Fishponds with varied topography including woodland and heathland. May be muddy. Optional lunch at the Dog & Donkey.

Walk leader: Steve Hagger, 01395 442631



Feb 9, Wed - 10.00am. WALK, (Moderate)

Donkey Sanctuary CP, SY161892 5 Miles, 2½ hours. The countryside, coast and donkeys. Optional lunch at the Café and an opportunity to see more of the donkeys.

Walk leader: Bettina Wilson, 01395 578450



February 10, Thurs - 7.30pm TALK

Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton. "Devon Place Names, Origin and Evolution." A talk by a freelance writer and photographer with a strong interest in local history.

Speaker: Robert Heskwith



February 24, Thurs Snowdrop Walk

Details in next Newsletter



Feb 26, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

White Bridge, SY076830. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Our ever popular local walk to Otterton via the Coast path and returning along Park Lane. Plenty of fresh air guaranteed.

Walk leader: John Jones, 01395 443651

2011 JANUARY to MARCH *ctd.*



March 1, Tues. 7.30pm - TALK

East Budleigh Village Hall "The history of East Budleigh through its Buildings" Enjoy an imaginary walk through East Budleigh with the Estate archivist for Clinton Devon Estates

Speaker: Gerald Millington.



Mar 9, Wed - 10.30am (N.B. Later start time) WALK (Easy)/Pub Lunch

Otter Inn CP, SY078874 Colaton Raleigh. 3 miles, 2 hours. If you don't walk much or want to start walking this gives you the perfect opportunity with a short mainly level walk along local lanes and banks of the Otter. Optional lunch at the Otter Inn.

Walk leader: John Jones 01395 443651



Mar 19, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)/Picnic Lunch

Tipton St John CP, SY092918. 9 miles, 4 hours. Along the River Otter and a walk up to Fire Beacon Hill and East Hill via the Waxway. Please bring a packed lunch for the sociable lunchtime stop.

Walk leader: Jan Stuart, 01395 568235



Mar 22, Tues - 2.00pm. Sidbury Manor Visit

Details and Application Form in the next newsletter.



Mar 30, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

Joney's Cross CP, SY057898. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Harpford Common, Newton Popleford, Dotton and Vennings Copse. An interesting route over varied terrain on tracks and lanes, may be muddy and stony.

Walk leader: Gordon Wilson, 01395 568594

2011 May 11, Wednesday - AGM

Venue to be announced.

Exmoor Autumn Colours Trip Monday 25th October

By popular demand, we have organised another OVA adventure this year to "*they foreign parts*" with Anthony Burges as our guide. We will be visiting Exmoor around Dunkery Beacon, touring Cleeve Abbey, and then on to Dunster Water Mill for an optional cream tea.

We shall be taking up to three minibuses to Dunkery Beacon, the highest point on Exmoor, to enjoy spectacular views across the moors and Bristol Channel to Wales, Dartmoor, and on a good day even the Sidmouth Gap!



Then we shall descend over the moorland, possible sighting red deer, and follow Dicky's Path to Horner Woods. This wood of ancient pedunculate oak, ash, rowan, hazel and holly should be ablaze with autumn colours. We shall then follow East Water along its cascade of little waterfalls, and join the Horner Water River which will lead us to Horner and our waiting transport.

Future Events

The distance we shall walk will be about three to four miles, on moderate terrain, so please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Please bring a picnic lunch.

On then to Cleeve Abbey, and a conducted tour around its beautiful buildings and grounds, which is included in the cost of the trip. This will last about an



Future Events

hour, and then we will drive to the lovely old Dunster Water Mill for an optional cream tea. This is a working mill, which is very similar in setting and character to Otterton Mill.

We will set out from Budleigh Salterton Public Hall at 8am for Dunkery, hope to be at Cleeve just after 2pm, enjoy our optional cream tea around 4pm, and be back home by about 7.30pm. It will be a busy day, packed with interesting places, all to be enjoyed in good OVA company.

If you would like to join us on this adventure, please complete the application form on page 27 and return it with a cheque for £24.00 and s.a.c. to me as soon as possible, because the trip is only a couple of weeks away !

Mo Bowman
01395 446892

Advance Announcement

A date for your diary!

On Thursday 24 February 2011 we have planned a three mile **'Snowdrop Walk'** winding along the stretch of ancient woodland between Harbertonford and Ashprington in the South Hams. Coach transport there and back, Morning Coffee and Lunch to be laid on by the local WI.

Details in next Newsletter

Caroline Allen

OVA Member Rosemary Jerrard's article wins in WI Competition



“Traveller’s Joy”

When I started to think of what to write about the ‘Otter Valley’, I jotted down thoughts randomly as they came into my head, such as the flora and fauna and the things I loved most about this area. Amongst the plants listed, was Traveller’s Joy, which seemed so aptly to describe how I feel when out and about here.

The River Otter runs for about twenty miles, rising as a spring in the Blackdown Hills in Somerset, gradually widening on its meandering course into a brook, a stream and finally as a river, to the sea at Otter Mouth, Budleigh Salterton. On its journey, place names take in the name “Otter” – Upottery, Otterford, Ottery St Mary, Venn Ottery and Otterton.

The valley was formed during the Ice Ages. It is a very fertile area, mostly farmland and villages with many mills powered by the river over the centuries, the one in Otterton having survived as a working mill to this day.

Of all my walks in the valley, the walk to Otterton from Lime Kilns Budleigh Salterton has to be my favourite. In 1812 thanks to the French Prisoners of War after our victory in the Peninsular War in 1812, Lord Rolle employed them to create an embankment, along which we now walk beside the river. What were their thoughts as they worked? Did they long for their families and homeland or were they just thankful to be out of the noise of battle or the retreat from Moscow and into the safety of our peaceful valley?

The sandstone cliffs on either side of the river are thickly covered with Oak, Willow, Beech, Sycamore and Hazel, the hedgerows mainly Hawthorn and Blackthorn, are a wonderful mass of white blossom in Spring. Birdlife abounds. As well as the more common birds I have been delighted to see Little Egrets, Herons, Reed and Willow Warblers, Sand Martins nesting in the sandstone cliffs near Otterton, Little Grebes, Mallards with broods of chicks and Widgeon. Special sightings were a lone Bar-Headed Goose, a native of central Asia, amongst a flock of Canada Geese. Apparently it comes each Autumn with the flock. On one occasion a Dipper on a sandy edge on the opposite side of the river, numerous sightings of Kingfishers – always special,

WI Competition Winner

a pair of Mute Swans nesting and later with their four beautiful Cygnets and the sound of a Cuckoo, with very rarely a privileged sighting.

I must mention here the many varieties of Butterflies to be seen – Commas, Blues, Brimstones, Peacocks, Clouded Yellows to name but a few. During the summer, Damselflies and Dragonflies hover above the water, showing their bright colours in the sunshine.

Many varieties of wildflowers with evocative country names flourish along the river in the damp and shady places, Himalayan Balsam, now considered a pest, but very pretty, Ragged Robin, Purple Loosestrife, Foxgloves, Lady's Smock, Herb Robert, Kingcups, Meadow Sweet, Cow Parsley and of course Traveller's Joy, or to use its other country name Old Man's Beard.

Although a lot of fish are in its waters, the Otter, namesake of our river has eluded me so far. I will keep looking and hopefully one day be rewarded.

In the Otter Mouth we have an area of salt marsh, which has its own very different atmosphere and plant and wildlife. This area, over the centuries is constantly altering course and always changing, due to the level of the tide at the time, or the amount of recent rainfall. At the time of a Spring or Neap Tide it can appear like a lake and at others almost dry. Sometimes in the early mornings it looks surreal with the mist hanging over it and with just the odd clump of bushes or grasses showing through.

Normally a calm and gentle river, on occasions it has shown a totally different and frightening side. After heavy rain it has caused widespread flooding to homes and farmland, totally transforming the landscape and causing hardship to man, farm animals and wildlife.

I count myself very fortunate to live in our beautiful Otter Valley and hope that future generations don't try to transform it in the name of 'progress' and merely just let it continue to slowly evolve in the way it has for centuries.

Rosemary Jerrard

This article won joint first in a WI competition Ed

**Fire down below!
Again!
7 August 2010**

Remember the Commons fire earlier this year and my pictures, well....

Local fire crews managed to contain another fire yesterday, despite strong northwesterly winds and tinder dry vegetation. Ironically, the same conditions, and even the same area, as the devastating fire in April.



Strangely for me, I was on the commons for the first time in six weeks, recording the slow recovery of places that I photographed during and immediately after the springtime fire. I smelt burning, and Clive saw the plume of smoke and called the fire brigade who were soon on the scene.

Mo Bowman

Walkers leave others in their wake

19 June 2010

Report by Jolly Roger

For the first time ever 23 OVA members took to the high seas after walking to Sidmouth. The 23 buoys and girls, some dressed in navy and others in sea green, launched forth from Lime Kiln car Park in Budleigh Salterton on the 19th of June.

In perfect weather conditions the shipmates made a couple of short



stops along the coastal path before rum rations and ships biscuits were consumed at Ladram Bay. The final stage of the voyage, up steep High Peak, took the wind out of some sails, but soon the fleet footed crew were drifting into Sidmouth, fishing out the tea shops and ice cream sellers. Then



Reports

it was all aboard the Stuart line 'Pride of Exmouth' for a comfortable cruise back to Budleigh viewing the stunning Jurassic coast from the deep.



Captain of the walk Steve Hagger said “Everyone had a really fun day. After Peak Hill it was all plain sailing and our landing on Budleigh beach created quite a splash!”

Steve Hagger

Exmouth Blue Plaque Walk Wednesday 8th September

Twenty-one people set out in brilliant sunshine to take in twenty six blue plaques (and much more besides) in the space of two hours. Using a map based on a Tithe map of Exmouth for 1840, our route first took us through parts of Exmouth unknown to most of the group but with important links to the early history of Exmouth and its development as a seaside town.

After negotiating the chaotic work in progress in the Strand we began to spot many more blue plaques (eight on the Beacon alone) which commemorate the lives and achievements of the town's former residents.

We saw the home of Nancy Perriam the Exmouth woman who had served as a powder monkey on one of Nelson's ships and survived to return to the town and reach the grand old age of 94!

Conrad Martens lived in the house which is now the Library in Exeter Road, he was an artist who contributed to Charles Darwin's researches during part of his historic voyage of discovery on the Beagle.

Did you know that Franz Liszt performed at the Manor Hotel on the Beacon?

We saw the last remaining thatched cottage in Exmouth, and the home of Lt. Richard Sandford a submariner in the 1st World War who won the Victoria Cross.

Links with Nelson and Byron and other notable historic figures came to light giving us a whole new historic perspective on our seaside town of Exmouth.

Although it began to rain on the homeward stretch we had seen all that we had set out to find and my thanks go to those members of the group whose own stories and knowledge added to the enjoyment of the morning.



Hazel Harland

Weston Walk

18 August 2010

Fifteen people turned up at Weston. Not bad for longer journeys than usual from homes to the start point. Many were buoyed by the prospect of a walk in an area relatively unknown to them.

This walk had previously been published for February when, on an appalling day of heavy showers, I dutifully went to Weston hoping no ***** (word left to the imagination!) would turn up! But one ***** did however and the two of us completed the walk arriving back very dirty and wet but proudly proclaiming we had enjoyed it.

So a second effort was put on for the less stoical of the OVA membership; and the ***** came again! The weather was dubious. Early on we stopped for 2 minutes for people to don waterproofs. A moment later we had to have another stop to take them off again!

We had a good clockwise circular walk with beautiful views, culminating in that fabulous stretch of coast part of the way between Branscombe and Weston.

Back in the cars and immediately down came the rain in torrents. Superb timing! Six of us then drove down the road (river?) for our optional lunch at the Fountain Head Inn. Crab sandwiches were a popular choice.

Peter Hills

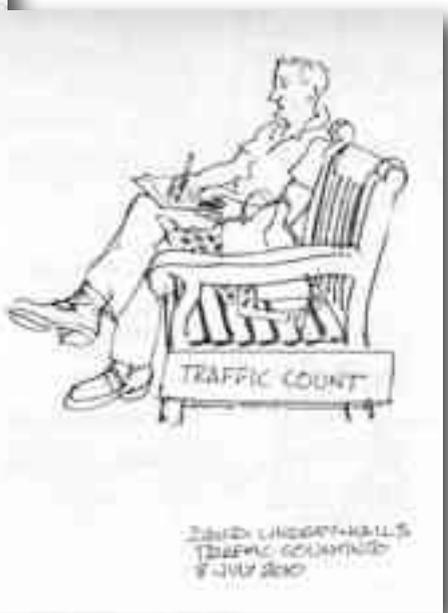
Proof that the OVA is not only walks and talks!

In response to Jed's appeal in the last Newsletter ten keen counters made up the OVA Traffic Turning Count on weekdays and weekends at Pretty Corner (Knowle).



Reports

Peter Quinnel and Stuart Yerrell counting
Sunday 4 July.



David Lindsey-Halls counting
Wed 8 July.

Exmoor Autumn Colours Trip

Monday 25 October

Depart 08.00am Budleigh Salterton Public Hall

Please send me _____ tickets for the Exmoor Autumn Colours Trip

Name	Address, Phone & Email

I enclose a cheque for £_____ (£24 per person) payable to 'OVA' and a

STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

(address for return overleaf)

NB Please reply as soon as possible!



OVA Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 15 December - Woodbury Park

6.45pm for 7.30pm



Please send me _____ tickets for the Christmas Dinner

Name	Menu Choice	Address Phone & Email

Please indicate Menu choices above *(See page 13)*

I/We would like to sit with:

I enclose cheque for £_____ (£26 pp) payable to 'OVA'

N.B. Don't forget the **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

Applications must be received by October 26

(address for return overleaf)

Application Forms

OVA ExmoorAutumn Colours Trip
Mo Boman
9 Hayes Close
Budleigh Salterton
Devon
EX9 6SR



OVA Christmas Dinner
Nicky Daniel
7 Marine Parade
Budleigh Salterton
Devon
EX9 6JH

Just in Time for Christmas

Mark Rolle His Architectural Legacy in the Lower Otter Valley



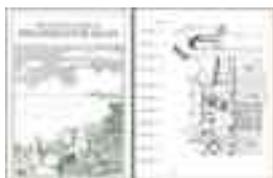
£4.95 via your Rep (or plus £1.00 P&P)

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

or order from:

Booksales

OVA

PO Box 70

Budleigh Salterton

EX9 6WN

Officers *et al*

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(01395)

Chairman	Helen Tickle	443901
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Hon. Secretary	Clive Bowman	446892
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Natural Environment	Norman Crossland	445129
Events	Nicola Daniel	445960
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Parish Representatives (to whom all queries should be addressed initially)

Budleigh Salterton	John Jones	443651
	George Maddaford	446077
East Budleigh	Mitzi Crossland	445129
Otterton	John Winson	568274
Colaton Raleigh	Neville Bennett	567887
Newton Popleford	Haylor Lass	568786

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Speaker Secretary	Susan Chapman	445620
Walks Organiser	John Jones	443651
Newsletter Distributor	Gill Speare	443944
Newsletter Editor	Nick Speare	443944

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