

OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION



AUTUMN

Newsletter Vol. 40/4 2019

Reg. Charity No.
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www.oval.org.uk
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**Front cover image of this beautiful tree on Budleigh Green
photographed and produced by Mo Bowman**

From the Editor

It seems incredible that it is already time to start talking about our Autumn/Winter Talks Programme and Christmas Party when I haven't even been on my Summer holiday! However, in this issue you will find both and, hopefully, you will be able to support one or more over the coming months. The format of the Christmas Party will be slightly different this year as attendees will be asked to assist with solving a Murder Mystery! So channel your inner Morse and come along. Details and booking form in the centre pages and the date for your diary – **Monday, 16th December**

Jacqui Baldwin



A 24/7 milk-vending machine has opened at Otterton Mill giving local residents the chance to buy fresh organic milk produced by cows grazing the Otter Valley significantly reducing food miles and single use plastic. Pictured are children from *Otterton Primary School* filling bottles to share the milk with their classmates.

Chairman's Musings

Another summer has passed by. It wasn't up to last year's standards, but nevertheless was pretty good all the same.

Patrick Hamilton tells me that the Himalayan Balsam eradication project has been going from strength to strength, with the number of volunteers at each week's plucking increasing. They have been so successful working on the Colaton Raleigh brook that they have been able to start work on another challenge - namely, the brook running from Squabmore Reservoir to Budleigh Salterton. I do have a sneaky feeling though that the supply of cake by Rosemary Hatch each week may be influencing their numbers. Maureen and I have just returned from a river cruise holiday from the Rhine to the Danube. I can report that even on the continent HB is alive and well. On a more positive note, we were introduced to a short British film called 'Dinner for One', which can be found on Youtube. It is very amusing, so much so, that the Germans show it every year on New Year's Eve. It's worth a look.

The visit to Stantyway Farm, by kind courtesy of Sam and Nell Walker, in July, was a great success. It was enjoyed by a capacity number of members on a beautiful summer's evening. Apart from the farm itself, we were briefed on the proposed refurbishment of the observation post on Brandy Head. To reflect the concerns of many of our members about the suitability of the project, we raised an objection with the planners at EDDC. However they subsequently approved the proposal. I raised the subject of a storage area for our small items such as the gazebo and other things that we wheel out for promotional purposes. Delighted to report that we had two offers of help. Thank you.

Our membership numbers continue to increase and now stand at 864 persons. Well done to those who have been actively recruiting. Also well done to those members who turned out on two Sunday mornings to carry out weeding on the seafront at Budleigh. I asked for volunteers in a fit of frustration and of course the request was only aimed at local residents. At least our work was appreciated by many passing walkers and it made a huge improvement to our 'shop window'.

You will find the programme of talks for this winter arranged by our new Talks Organiser, Peter Baldwin, in this newsletter. They sound to be pretty interesting and many readers will be particularly pleased to see that the talk about Dalditch Camp has been rescheduled.

The Local Heritage Project has lurched back to life. Thanks to Dee Woods and Nicola Daniels, the funding has been assured, the location booked and the dates of the Assessor training have been set (see below).

Finally, you will find in this edition, your invitation to the Christmas Murder Mystery Dinner. The plot is being tailor-made for our delectation by Steve Hagger. The Christmas parties over the last two years have been great fun and we anticipate a repeat.

Bob Wiltshire, Chairman

East Budleigh Heritage pilot project

The OVA is very pleased to be working with East Devon District Council on an innovative community project involving the training of volunteers interested in their local heritage.

Training is being provided for 12 volunteers in East Budleigh Village Hall on 23rd and 24th October 2019. It covers legislation, significance values and building condition used in the assessment of Conservation Areas, using East Budleigh's Conservation Area as a study area. Other tasks include helping to develop a management plan for the Conservation Area, assessing the external condition of Grade II listed buildings and identifying any local heritage assets. The training involves presentations, workshops and surveys around the Conservation Area. We also plan to work with local schools to encourage the children's interest in the built environment, and inspire future heritage champions.

The OVA is very grateful to the AONB for the generous funding of this project through their Sustainable Development Fund. A sum of £3,000 has been granted which will pay for the two days of training. Funding from the Norman Family Charitable Trust has also been granted, which is covering various other costs, such as the hire of the hall etc.

If any members are interested and want to learn more about this exciting project, please contact Dee Woods (01395 568822) or Nicola Daniels (01395 445960) or email : info@ova.org.uk.

Dee Woods

Brandy Head Gunnery Research Range Observation Post



OVA walkers will be familiar with the Brandy Head Observation Post, situated on a lonely stretch of the coast path between Budleigh Salterton and Ladram Bay. The farmer, in collaboration with Clinton Devon Estates, recently applied for – and was granted – planning permission to convert it into holiday accommodation.

In my 9 years of being involved with OVA planning matters this has been the application which has produced the most response from members. As a result of this I have researched the history of the post and have found some interesting facts:

This structure played a unique role in WW2. It was an essential part of aircraft gunnery research and not the ordinary “run of the mill” pillbox or observation post. Research shows that Brandy Head Observation Post is the only structure that can be attributed with an offensive role of this experimental nature surviving in Devon and I cannot find any others recorded in the rest of the country.

It was situated on the coastline to monitor weapons testing in Lyme Bay. It was used by the Exeter based Gunnery Research Unit, attached to Number 10 Group RAF based in Exeter. Exeter Airport was the most important RAF station in the southwest and played a part in many campaigns, including D-Day. The Gunnery Research Unit was an established unit of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, which was dispersed to Exeter in September 1939.

The Brandy Head Gunnery Research Range was opened on 13th July 1940 and tested turret-mounted guns as well as wing-mounted cannons and latterly nose-mounted cannons and gun sights. A number of different types of targets including flags and mild-steel structures were placed out in the bay. Aircraft, including Typhoons, Hurricanes and Spitfires, would fly overland from Exeter and over East

Budleigh seawards to test their weapons. From the Observation Hut strikes made by the different aircraft on targets could be observed.

Lyme Bay was used extensively as a gunnery range during the war years. Ranges were used for air-to-air and ship-to-air firing. Communications aircraft flew from the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment at Boscombe Down. The navy fighter school at Yeovilton (HMS Heron) made use of the area, flying from Haldon airfield. Local divers used to collect gun cases from the seabed when out scalloping, some of which were sold on the beach at Ladram Bay. The cases were all individually engraved with details of the ammunition being tested.

In the latter part of the war, Redpath Brown Ltd built an armour-plated target for use with cannon ammunition and placed it in the fields behind this hut to be used as a target. Strikes made by different aircraft on this target could be observed from the hut.

Local folklore reports that throughout training and attacks by enemy forces a number of aircraft crashed or were shot down along the coast near Budleigh Salterton. One such enemy plane landed at Home Down, just east of this Observation Hut. Home Down was the location of an emergency landing strip for RAF aircraft and was even served by its very own fire tender.

The hut itself is interesting because the standard RAF design has modifications which reflect its different roles in its structure. Three bays were modified as a range observation post with blast walls at the rear. Alignment of the rear blast wall suggests it was designed to protect against projectiles rather than bomb blasts. The presence of the viewing balcony looking seaward, which remains intact, together with its railings makes this building stand out from other structures of this sort.

I think I had so many phone calls as the hut, in its isolated setting on the cliff edge now silhouetted on the cliff top at Brandy Head, is a fitting memorial to the role played by the RAF and also to those living on the coastal margins who were vulnerable to invasion. Budleigh Salterton was thought to be a prime target and 4 pillboxes used for the defence of the beach are still present and intact.

It was expressed very forcefully that holiday accommodation was an inappropriate use of the building and other ways should have been sought to maintain it.

Dr Nicola Daniel, Planning Committee Chair

Pebblebed Heaths – Public Consultation

We have been provided with details of a 6 week public consultation regarding proposed improvements for visitors and wildlife on the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths. The consultation period started on 23rd September and closes on 4th November.

It is suggested that if the vulnerable features could be protected the heaths could potentially support a higher number of visitors without affecting its wildlife. Some proposals for improvements are outlined below and have been designed to provide an enhanced and enjoyable visitor experience:

- *Improved access for emergency vehicles to improve response times.*
- *A programme of education to help people enjoy their experience through new interpretation boards, route markers for suggested routes.*
- *Improving general accessibility and layout of car parks for more efficient use and helping to protect ancient monuments and wildlife with no overall loss of car park spaces across the heaths.*
- *Improving surfaces and entrances to car parks, which will improve safety and visibility when entering and leaving car parks.*
- *No introduction of car parking charges.*
- *Increasing visibility in car parks to reduce theft, criminal incidents and antisocial behaviour.*
- *Preventing roadside parking to improve safety, reduce damage to roadsides and improve the look and feel for visitors.*
- *Changing the use of one car park, reserving it for school visits and military use.*
- *Closing one or two smaller, more remote car parks to reduce antisocial behaviour. The areas of the Heaths accessed by these car parks would still be accessible from other car parks with some parking spaces reallocated to nearby areas. Public rights of way would not be affected and remain open.*
- *Provision of extra dog bins in a way which keeps with the landscape.*

In order to give people the opportunity to learn more about the suggestions the consultation period will include public drop-in events as follows:

- Joney's Cross car park: Thurs 17th October, 1-5pm
- Exmouth Town Hall: Thurs 10th October, 2-8pm

On-line surveys regarding this consultation are also available at www.pebblebedheaths.org.uk

Autumn/Winter Talks Programme

Wartime Dalditch Camp – Wednesday, 23rd October

Venue – Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton @ 7.30pm

Speaker - Mr Simon Fogg – Local Historian

An illustrated talk on the World War II Royal Marines Training Camp on Woodbury Common. The talk tells of life on the camp and the various training which took place (rifle ranges, land mines, flamethrowers, tank range). Simon also talks about the bombing decoys on Woodbury Common, a mock airfield representing the RAF base at Exeter. Simon will also show some photographs of the various finds he has made on the site and how they can give us more insight to the type of training carried out.

The Natural History of Moths and Butterflies – Wednesday, 13th November

Venue – Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton @ 7.30pm

Speaker - Mr Barry Henwood (Devon Branch of Butterfly Conservation)

A talk given by Mr Barry Henwood past chairman and current committee member of Butterfly Conservation, Devon Branch. The talk is about the life histories of moths and butterflies including some remarkable behaviour and their defence mechanisms against attack from predators - mainly birds.

Much of the content of the talk is based on original material which will be used in a forthcoming book entitled “Field Guide to the Caterpillars of Great Britain and Ireland” co-written by Barry Henwood and Mr Phil Sterling, with illustrations by Richard Lewtington to be published in 2020.

Mapping the Otter Valley – Thursday, 12th December

Venue - Otterton Village Hall @ 7.30pm

Speaker - Mr Brian Carpenter, Community Learning Officer Devon Heritage Centre

Brian Carpenter, Archivist and Community Learning Officer for the Devon Archives and Local Studies Service, will talk about the ways in which the Otter Valley has been mapped over the centuries and how historical maps can illustrate the ways in which land use and settlement patterns have changed through the years.

The Seaton Down Hoard – Wednesday, 15th January 2020

Venue - Peter Hall Budleigh Salterton @ 7.30pm

Speaker - Mr Thomas Cadbury, Curator of RAMM Archaeology Collections



An illustrated talk on the Roman Hoard discovery by an amateur metal-detectorist near Seaton consisting of over 22,000 Roman coins, the largest such find in Devon, the third largest ever found in Britain. Why was it buried? Who buried it? Curators at RAMM say that the coins are now one of the most important parts of the museum's archaeology collection.

The Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project – Wednesday, 19th February 2020

Venue – Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton @ 7.30pm

Speaker Ann Mitchell, Devon Wildlife Trust

The talk will give information on Greater Horseshoes and why their numbers have fallen dramatically to the point where Devon and some parts of South Wales are the only places in this country where they can now be found. Ann will describe the work of the project and what is being done doing to raise awareness of the species and to increase their numbers. Bats are an important pollinator and indicators of a healthy environment. They are also an iconic species that also have perhaps a ghostly reputation!

The Building of Exeter Cathedral - Wednesday 11th March 2020

Venue – Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton @ 7.30pm

Speaker - Mr John P Allan, Exeter Cathedral Archaeologist

In his illustrated talk, John Allan will describe the structural history of the cathedral and its place in the story of English medieval architecture, as well as describing new research insights in understanding the church.



Behind the scenes the Environment Agency and Clinton Devon Estates continue to make progress with the Lower Otter Restoration Project, to secure this important site for people and wildlife.

Consultants Jacobs are focussed on the detailed design and environmental assessment of the restoration of floodplain at Big and Little Marshes. We are aiming to submit the planning application, environmental statement and marine licence application together this autumn/winter.

OVA members will appreciate the complexity of the project. Key issues for us currently are ensuring the works will not impact on South West Water’s drinking water abstraction in the Otter valley, consultation with tenants affected by the proposals, dialogue with Natural England and the World Heritage Site about potential impacts in the estuary and shingle ridge and the AONB partnership on landscape and opportunities for putting electricity cables underground.



We have been carrying out environmental surveys during the spring and summer, the results will accompany the planning application, as will mitigation plans for any species or habitats of high value. Another important aspect is our draft Visitor Management Strategy. This is to help ensure that visitor enjoyment is enhanced while nature is protected. OVA members were consulted alongside Otterton PC,

EDDC, Natural England, RSPB, Devon Wildlife Trust and local ornithologists. The strategy is available at www.lowerotterrestorationproject.co.uk

You will be aware that the application for the relocation of Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club was made in July. The relocation of the club depends on successful resolution between the Lower Otter Restoration Project and FAB Link. We are continuing to work with FAB Link to agree engineering solutions and timetables that satisfy all parties.

Funding is, of course, crucial. One of the key elements in the finance jigsaw is our application for European funding from the Interreg V programme. Our original application was well received but needed some amendments. We are now on track to re-submit the Lower Otter Restoration Project proposal during October 2019.

We intend to have some further public engagement opportunities through the planning submission, dates and venues of which will be publicised.

Bridget Beer, Dip CIPR, Customer Engagement Specialist, Environment Agency

Update on OVA Local Heritage Asset Listing Project

Members will recall that in 2014 a small team embarked on a local heritage asset listing project, in partnership with EDDC, Devon County Council's Historic Environment Team and the Fairlynch Museum.



Nominations were sought from the public and two exhibitions were held providing information about the 279 nominations that had been received for the draft list of local heritage assets. These included street scene features, Victorian, Edwardian and Arts & Crafts style houses, as well as rural buildings and landscape features such as the brick pillars of Otterton Park (left).

The next stage of the project was to assess the nominations against the agreed English Heritage selection criteria. These included rarity, age, aesthetic value, group value, historic association and evidential value. Further research was done,

and one of the team undertook a detailed analysis of Budleigh Salterton's unique and distinctive character, to help inform the process. We had meetings with EDDC officers with responsibility for local listing, and were pleased that a planning policy, EN8, in the new Local Plan 2013-2031, specifically mentioned local listing:

EN8 – Significance of Heritage Assets and their Setting

When considering development proposals the significance of any heritage assets and their settings, should first be established by the applicant through a proportionate but systematic assessment following the East Devon District Council guidance notes for 'Assessment of Significance' (and the English Heritage guidance 'The Setting Of Heritage Assets') or any replacement guidance, sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the asset. This policy applies to both designated and non-designated heritage assets, including any identified on the East Devon local list.

In April 2016 the details of 239 local heritage assets in the lower Otter Valley were sent to EDDC for further consideration. The Sid Vale Association also undertook a similar exercise in their local area. The Council then had to check them, and if they agreed, had to ratify the list of local heritage assets. Unfortunately, no further progress was made on this important planning matter due to lack of staff resources at EDDC. However, in 2018 East Devon District Council published their Heritage Strategy. Following on from this, they have now approved a Guide to Local Listing of Local Heritage Assets that can be viewed at:

eastdevon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/heritage-strategy-and-local-heritage-assets/local-heritage-assets/

So it is hoped that the local heritage assets list produced in 2016 can soon be considered by EDDC. If approved, the 'local heritage asset list' will in future be used when development proposals are being considered for planning permission.

All the nominations can be viewed on the OVA website under the 'Built Environment' section.

Dee Woods

Visit to Stantyway Farm

On 3rd July a group of members enjoyed a lovely summer's evening tour of Stantyway Farm followed by a picnic in fields overlooking Lyme Bay.



The weather was perfect and we were made extremely welcome by tenants, Sam and Nell Walker. They are justly proud of their 264 acre organic farm and before the tour we watched a video about the farm, heard about its history and the aspirations that Sam and Nell have to create a commercially successful, productive, organic farm, and to support and encourage wildlife on the farm. In addition to the video and the tour of the farm, Cath Jeffs of the RSPB gave us an update on the project to support the endangered ciril bunting which has been particularly successful at Stantyway and John Wilding from Clinton Devon Estates provided some rather more depressing information about Ash die-back and other pests and diseases currently threatening our woodland (see page 16).

Using CDE's 'state of the art' personnel trailer we toured the farm and Sam explained the uses of the various organic crops – oats for breakfast cereal, barley for brewing and, of course, lucerne for the giraffes at Paignton Zoo! In many of the fields margins have been left or seeded with wild flowers to encourage pollinators and insects such as grasshoppers which are the favourite food of the ciril bunting.



Sam explained the importance of herbal leys - a complex seed mixture of grasses, legumes and herbs, which bring a range of benefits to livestock health and soil fertility. Herbal leys can often include a mixture of up to 17 species, depending on the aims of the ley, location and soil type. In mixes, grasses provide carbohydrates and clovers contribute protein. Adding forage herbs such as chicory, ribgrass and burnet improves the quantities of vital minerals in the forage and build soil fertility and promote biodiversity across whole fields. The deep rooting species in the mixture add drought tolerance when grown on thin soils or during dry summers, remaining green and palatable for much longer than other forage mixtures. The organic beef certainly looked well on it!



A very interesting and educational evening. **Editor**

Ash Dieback in the Lower Otter Valley



Ash dieback, *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, is a fungal pathogen, believed to have originated in SE Asia, that has been devastating Ash trees across Northern Europe. First identified in Poland in 1992 the fungus spread westward across Europe arriving on the east coast of the UK in 2008. It was also introduced on imported ash planting stock and distributed widely across the country

from the late 1990s and foresters have recognised it as being present in the West Country since 2012.

Our first sighting was in woodland near Woodbury only 3 years ago and it is now widespread throughout this area, especially on roadside trees where the transport of fungal spores on air movements from vehicles played a role in the initial spread. The speed of decline of an infected tree is influenced by it being repeatedly exposed to the fungal spores and to other stresses, such as drought or water logging. Our experience in the Lower Otter valley is that it is pretty swift, with trees in severe decline and requiring removal on safety grounds within two years of first infection. Taking action now is a priority as a significant complication is the speed Ash timber with this disease degrades and loses its strength. Trees with advanced infection, often compounded by secondary infection with Honey fungus, are highly dangerous to fell with a chainsaw as they can collapse on the feller. There have already been tragic incidences of this and new mechanised approaches of dealing with this challenge are being developed.

Learning from experiences of dealing with Ash dieback in the Eastern counties, Devon County Council convened an *Ash Resilience Working Group* to get ahead with the planning and logistics of what will be a major challenge for the counties transport infrastructure. The Estate has been playing an active part in both this and *Landscape and Environment Resilience Group* to plan and advise on what we replace ash with and how we do it. A wealth of useful information has been produced by these groups and can be found on - www.devonashdieback.org.uk.

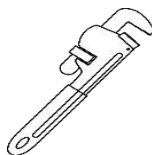
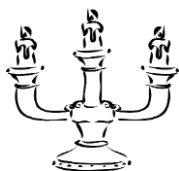
Ash is a significant landscape tree across the Estate especially within hedgerows. Following the loss of elm from the valley in the 1970s the Estate encouraged the
(cont'd page 21)



*The Executive Committee are delighted to invite
you and your friends to the*

OVA CHRISTMAS MURDER MYSTERY

Monday, 16th December
Woodbury Park Golf Club



OVA CHRISTMAS PARTY

The evening will commence at 6.30pm followed by a three course dinner, there will be piano accompaniment by Anthony from Ace music and, of course, a prize raffle.



*However, one important member of the committee is missing and foul play is suspected! Has he or she met a gruesome end? Your dining experience will be enhanced as you join sleuths on the trail of the **murderer**.
(No persons or animals will be hurt during the staging of this performance)*

This will be an ideal opportunity for you to participate in the social side of our organisation, spend time with friends and meet new people. New members and single members most welcome and please feel free to invite non-members. If you need assistance with transport let us know - we may be able to arrange a car share. Don't forget there will be no strangers. Only friends who have never met

The cost remains the same as last year at £30.00 per person. This will include a welcome glass of prosecco, a three course Christmas meal and coffee. Wine can be pre-ordered via Lauren at email: woodburypark.events@theclubcompany.com

Tickets are available until November 9th and will be mailed to you on receipt of: (1) a completed application form (multiple forms for large groups), (2) a cheque payable to the Otter Valley Association, and (3) a stamped sae. Send these to: OVA Christmas Dinner, PO Box 70, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6WN. Also indicate each person's choice of food plus any dietary requirements and the name of anyone you would like to sit with (tables of 8-10).

Alternatively, you can receive an application form by e-mail (if you've given us your address), which should be filled in and returned. You will receive an e-ticket once you have made a Faster Payment to the OVA bank account.



Starters

Roasted Parsnip Soup with pickled Apple (VE,GF,DF)
Chicken Liver Parfait with Redcurrant Jelly and toasted Brioche
Cured Salmon and Prawn Salad with Dill Mayonnaise,
Fennel and Cucumber

Main Courses

Roast Devonshire Turkey with Seasonal Vegetables, duck fat Roast Potatoes, Smoked Bacon Bread Sauce and all the trimmings
Baked Sea Bass
Exmouth Mussel & Chorizo Chowder with confit Baby Potatoes
Winter Squash & Sage Ravioli, roasted Squash Broth
and crispy Kale (VE,GF,DF)

Desserts

Traditional Christmas Pudding with Clotted Cream
Salted Caramel Tart, Chocolate Mousse and crispy White Chocolate
Chilled Coconut Rice Pudding with spiced Apple & Pear compote
and Cinnamon Crumble topping
Almond Milk Pannacotta, Maple Glazed Pineapple, Toasted Almonds (VE,GF,DF).

Coffee

Note: VE = Vegan, GF = Gluten Free, DF = Dairy Free



Ash Dieback in the Lower Otter Valley (continued from page 16)

leaving of hedgerow coppice shoots to grow on to recruit into hedgerow trees. Much of what has succeeded is ash, as elm regrowth succumbs to the cycle of Dutch Elm Disease, and Oak, Beech, Sycamore and Maple to the ravages of grey squirrels. This is particularly noticeable on the home farm where the hedgerow treescape is defined by 200-year old oaks, planted as part of the wider Bicton Parkland designed landscape and 30-40 year old ash coppice groups.

The landscape will look very different when the ash is removed, and we have started a long-term planting programme for replacement hedgerow trees. The Estate are using a range of native species with an eye on climate change resilient species from Southern Europe, such as Sweet Chestnut and Turkey Oak. Whether this wider range of species survive to help create a more resilient landscape will greatly depend on effectively controlling grey squirrels, an altogether bigger challenge for the future of our trees than ash dieback.

John Wilding, Head of Forestry and Environment at Clinton Devon Estates



The Glover Review of Designated Landscapes

In May 2018 the government asked for an independent review into whether the protections for National Parks and AONBs are still fit for purpose. In particular, what might be done better, what changes will help and whether the definitions and systems in place are still valid.

The OVA made a substantive submission to the review which looked at:

- the existing statutory purposes for National Parks and AONBs and how effectively they are being met
- the alignment of these purposes with the goals set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan
- the case for extension or creation of new designated areas
- how to improve individual and collective governance of National Parks and AONBs, and how that governance interacts with other national assets
- the financing of National Parks and AONBs
- how to enhance the environment and biodiversity in existing designations
- how to build on the existing 8-point plan for National Parks and connect more people with the natural environment from all sections of society and improve health and wellbeing

- how well National Parks and AONBs support communities
- the process of designating National Parks and AONBs and extending boundary areas, with a view to improving and expediting the process

The review's final report was published on 21 September 2019 and is an interesting read. You can find the whole report at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>. It suggests that there is a strong case for a new National Park to be formed from the combined Dorset and East Devon AONBs and recommends that Natural England and DEFRA consider this but perhaps the most pertinent section is the one printed below followed by Proposal 24.

“As we have set out in previous chapters, we think the existing purpose for AONBs and the purposes and duty for National Parks need reform. We have found the current direction our landscapes are given in law to be variously too vague, outdated and lacking urgency, with consequences for the way they are taken forward. And the early distinction between National Parks and AONBs has created an unhelpful two-tier system. This is reinforced by differences in governance, finance and administration and by a misplaced perception that AONBs are somehow second grade.

The reality is that on the ground the vast majority of AONBs are indistinguishable from National Parks and their statutory purpose for natural beauty is only different in minor detailed wording. They account for more of England's landscape, making up 60% of the total area of national landscapes, contain just as much important nature as National Parks and are even more popular with visitors. They all do vital work to promote understanding and enjoyment of their places, but without the recognition in law or support in resources. At present, AONBs work as part of local government, but have no independent statutory status of their own. We have heard repeatedly how their planning officers play a role and give advice but the extent to which their advice is listened to varies extensively. With so few resources of their own, they rely on Natural England as a statutory consultee, but it too lacks the resources or the local expertise to express an opinion in many cases. We heard how Natural England's silence, or reference to the importance of hearing the views of AONBs, is often taken as consent. This system leaves AONBs incredibly vulnerable. Finally, we have found their name holds them back. While descriptively accurate, it's a rambling title, often shortened to an acronym few know and many get wrong.”

Proposal 24: AONBs strengthened with new purposes, powers and resources, renamed as National Landscapes

AONBs should be strengthened in law, policy and resources. We are not the first to say so. A 2001 review of AONBs concluded that “a new agenda is required to address their shortcomings and to ensure that AONBs are firmly at the top of the conservation tree, alongside National Parks, as a key part of our national heritage”. Nearly 20 years later, this is even more pressing. We think the family of national landscapes should be a varied

one, with different powers, funding and names. We should retain differences where they add flexibility and strength. To properly strengthen AONBs, we propose:

- *Giving them the same reformed statutory purposes as for National Parks. This reflects the reality that AONBs deliver the same purposes as National Parks.*
- *Increasing their funding.*
- *Giving them statutory consultee status to strengthen their role in the planning system.*
- *Renaming them 'National Landscapes'. Their national importance should be properly reflected by something much less unwieldy that elevates them alongside National Parks.*

Editor

A Walk for Everyone - Winter Programme 2019/20

Our walk leaders have put forward their suggestions for the next walk programme and we hope everyone finds something to entice them out into our fabulous Devon Countryside.

Mike and Paula are leading their revised Templer Way part 2 which has been split into two days owing to the shorter days. Please note the revised day for Stella's River Teign Walk in November. We have several new walks to tempt you, the Two Ridges Walk with Jon, a Dartmoor Walk starting in Belstone with David and Rosie and around Dalwood with Paul and Fran followed by lunch in the local pub and another chance to eat in a pub after Ruth and Haylor's Tipton walk. We hope somebody is in at the pub at Doddiscombeigh after Penny and Paul's "There's nobody in" walk.

We have the opportunity to go bird watching on the river Otter with our local expert, Colin, and a riverside walk with Rosemary and David with another chance to observe the migrating birds on the Exe estuary. Iain is leading a Sunday walk on 24th November and hopes to encourage those of you who are unable to join us on other days of the week due to work and school commitments. We have some shorter walks of 5½ miles and under to suit those of you who prefer just a morning walk, around Woodbury with Carole, Fire Beacon Hill with Graham, Otter to Peak Hill with Ross and Squabmoor and Dalditch with Brian following on from Simon Fogg's talk on Wartime Dalditch camp. Paul and Penny are leading the two parts of the Exeter Green Circle again this year but have changed the direction of travel so the views will be different. Finally, we have two seasonal offerings, a local

mince pie walk with Paul and Penny and a Boxing Day ramble with Jon with the option of lunch afterwards.

None of these walks would be possible without the dedication of our walk leaders and if anyone would like to volunteer to be a walk leader, please don't be shy and speak to one of the Team.

Finally, given the advanced notice the Newsletter provides, please always check the OVA website for any late and unavoidable alterations to the walk schedule and travel arrangements. We look forward to seeing you on a walk somewhere soon.

Heather Fereday and the walk team, Stella, Jon, Paul and Penny



Events Programme – October 2019 to January 2020

Please consult the OVA Website for late alterations or additional information.

All OS references are to Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Explorer maps

Wednesday 9th October, 11.30am – WALK - 6½ miles

To accommodate the shortening days and the shortage of suitable tide times, the twice cancelled Revised Templer Way Stage 2 walk has been split into two parts; this walk is the first part, the second is from Newton Abbot Town Quay to Teignmouth along the Teign Estuary is on Wednesday, 16th October.

“Revised Templer Way Stage 2 Part 1”

Travel to the start is by the #39 bus from Exeter Bus Station (Stand No 12), dep 10:30, arr Pottery Road (House of Marbles), Bovey Tracey (OS 110, SX 815 772) at 11:23.

Part 1 walk is 6½ miles from Bovey Tracey to Newton Abbot Town Quay via Heathfield Cottages and Locks Bridge near Teigngrace. During the walk we will be able to stop at Ventiford Basin and ponder the workings of the Granite Tramway terminus where the granite was offloaded from carts onto barges that were subsequently pulled along the Stover Canal to Newton Abbot. There will be a picnic opportunity during the walk.

Return travel is either by train dep Newton Abbot 15:31/16:31, arr Exmouth 16:49/17:51 respectively and onward to East Devon by bus 57/157/357 or alight at Exeter Central to catch the #9 bus from the bus station. Alternatively by #7 bus dep Newton Abbot Bus Station 15:40/16:40 arr Exeter Bus Station 16.31/17:31 respectively.

Walk Leader: Mike & Paula Paddison, 01395 446550

Wednesday 16th October, 12.00pm – WALK - 6¼ miles

“Revised Templer Way Stage 2 Part 2”

Travel to the start is by the #39 bus from Exeter Bus Station (Stand No 12), dep 10:30, arr Newton Abbot Bus Station 11:37. A short walk will take us to Town Quay, (OS Explorer 110, SX 869 716) where the walk will commence at 12.00.

Part 2 walk is from Newton Abbot Town Quay to Teignmouth along the Teign Estuary. There will be a picnic opportunity during the walk and a stop at Combe Cellars for afternoon refreshment before catching the Shaldon ferry (£1.60) to New Quay in Teignmouth, the end of the Templer Way. The route is relatively flat, but will possibly be slippery in places, hence the leisurely walking pace.

Return travel is either by train dep Teignmouth 16.38/17:22, arr Exmouth 17.51/18:27 respectively and onward to East Devon by bus 57/157/357 or alight at Exeter Central to catch the #9 bus from the bus station. Alternatively the #2 bus dep Teignmouth Triangle (W H Smith) 16:17/16:42, arr Exeter Bus Station 17:26/17:51 respectively.

Walk Leader: Mike & Paula Paddison, 01395 446550

Saturday, 19th October, 10.15am - WALK - 6-7 miles

NB CHANGE OF DATE FOR THIS WALK

Meet: Newton Pop Rec CP (OS 115, SY 088 899) at 9.15am to share cars or meet at the start point.

“Castles, hills and autumnal colour along the River Teign”

Start: Castle Drogo Car Park (NT) (OS 191, SX 725 902), at 10.15am, 6/7 miles, 4 hours + lunch. Note NT Membership cards will be required for free parking.

Described as perhaps the most famous walk on Dartmoor, this walk extends the usual route to take in Cranford Castle - an old Iron Age Fort. We start our walk at Castle Drogo where we follow the famous Hunters Path with panoramic views across Dartmoor and to the Teign Gorge below. Next we descend to Fingle Bridge for a coffee break before heading into Hore Woods and a steep climb up to the top of Cranford Castle for lunch. We descend to the river Teign and walk alongside the river admiring the autumn colours. We then climb back up to Castle Drogo for tea and cakes. Please bring a packed lunch.

Walk Leader: Stella French, 01395 445724

Wednesday 23rd October – TALK – Wartime Dalditch Camp – see page 9

Saturday 26th October, 10.00am - WALK - 5 miles

Meet: Woodbury Village Hall car park (free): (OS 115 SY 011 871)

“Walk around Woodbury”

Route - Cottles Farm. Rushmoor Wood, entrance to Woodbury Golf Course, Hogsbrook Farm, Canonwalls Farm, Toby Lane. Leisurely - 5 miles.

Walk Leader: Carole Steen, 01392 873881

Wednesday 30th October, 10.00am - WALK – 7½ miles

Start: Church St CP, Sidford (OS 115, SY 135 900). 3½ hours

“The Two Ridges Way”

From Sidford, we follow the Snod Brook past Knowle House and continue climbing gradually to say hello to the donkeys at Paccombe Farm then up onto the first ridge, Harcombe Hill. After crossing the Sweetcombe valley we join the East Devon Way and traverse our second ridge through Buckley plantation and descend Buckton Hill back to the start. Bring a packed lunch.

Walk Leader: Jon Roseway 01395 488739/ 07887 936280

Monday 4th November – 10.00am – WALK – 9 miles

Start: Belstone CP (OS OL28 621 938) or meet at Newton Poppleford Rec CP (OS 115 SY 088 899) at 9.10am to share cars.

“Town, Tors and the Taw”

From Belstone we walk down to Okehampton where we stop for coffee. From there it is a long pull up on to the moor via Cullever Steps to Oke Tor (466m). Then we walk down to the valley below and follow the young River Taw back to Belstone. Please bring a picnic.

Walk Leaders: David & Rosie Conner 01395 443757; 07831 406959

Thursday 7th November, 10.00am - WALK - 5 miles

Start: Dalwood, by the church (OS 116 ST 247 004), post code, EX13 7EJ

“Hidden ways, river valleys and views around Dalwood”

Please car share as roadside parking near the church is limited. Lunch afterwards at the Tuckers Arms, Dalwood.

Starting from Dalwood (near Axminster) with its centuries old inn, we explore hidden ways, river valleys and view rich tumbling hillsides. Be prepared for some uphill stretches but it will be worth it. Please arrive a little before 10.00am in order to pre-order food and use pub facilities.

Walk Leaders: Paul & Fran Dike, 01297 20695/07977 057546

Wednesday 13th November, 09.30am – WALK – 6-7 miles

Meet at Newton Poppleford Rec Ground (OS 115, SY088 899) at 8.45am to share cars, or meet at the start point.

“There's nobody in!”

Start at the Nobody Inn car park, Doddiscombsleigh (OS 110 SX855 866) at 9.30am, 6/7 miles, about 3½ hours.

The easiest way to drive there is via the M5 and A38, taking the Exeter Racecourse turn, then follow signs to Haldon Belvedere, where you turn left into Tick Lane towards Doddiscombsleigh (about 35 mins from Newton Poppleford).

A circular walk from the Nobody Inn in Doddiscombsleigh, climbing to the hamlet of Higher Ashton and then Haldon Forest and Belvedere. On a clear day there will be some fine views. Then a descent to the Nobody Inn at Doddiscombsleigh for lunch. The walk is mostly on lanes and tracks, but there may be muddy sections, so please wear appropriate footwear.

If you are intending to stay for lunch at the pub it would be helpful if you could let us know so we can give them an idea of how many people to expect.

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski, 01395 742942 pandp@kurowski.me.uk

Wednesday 13th November – TALK - The Natural History of Moths and Butterflies – see page 9

Thursday 21st November - 10.00am - Guided Bird Watching WALK

Meet at the South East corner of Lime Kiln Car park (at the corner by the beach/estuary) at 10.00 am.(OS 115, SY 073 819).

A leisurely walk along the River Otter watching and identifying the arriving winter birds with Colin Randall, a local member of Devon Birds. No equipment or knowledge necessary, although a pair of binoculars would be useful if you have them. Wrap up warmly as it's not a vigorous walk, rather a stroll with lots of stops.

Walk Leader: Colin Randall, 01395 444302

Sunday 24th November - 10.00am – WALK – 10 miles

Meet at Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground at 8.45am to share cars.

Start at Wellington Monument car park (OS 128, ST 143 167), 10 miles, 5 hours.

“A Monument to Wellington”

Outstanding views from the monument, followed by a delightful walk down into the Culm Valley for lunch at one of the two pubs in Culmstock. Return via a ridge walk overlooking Clements Common.

Walk Leader: Iain Ure 01395 568158

Thursday 28th November - 10.30am – WALK – 6 miles

Meet at 10.30am at the start point outside the M & S foodhall in Exmouth (this gives time for walkers from Otterton/E. Budleigh/B. Salterton to get there on the 157 bus).

“A riverside walk from Exmouth to Darts Farm”

Stop for coffee in the café/pub in Lympstone (seats by the river for those who prefer to bring their own drinks) and finish at Darts Farm, returning to Exmouth by the 57 bus. However, you could make your own arrangements from Darts Farm, e.g. remaining for lunch there or to walk in Topsham itself. The 57 buses run regularly, four each hour. It's a flat, relatively clean and familiar 3 hour walk to most of us but the bird watching in the winter on the estuary can be interesting.

Walk Leaders: Rosemary and David Hatch 01392 444290

Friday 6th December - 10.45am – WALK – 6½ miles

Start Topsham Road, Exeter bus stop just past the Crematorium entrance (OS 115 SX, 939 907) at 10.45am, 4 hours (including lunch stop).

“Exeter Green Circle the other way round – Part One”

After 2 years of walking the Green Circle anti-clockwise, this time we will go clockwise, and see the green outskirts of Exeter from a different viewpoint. This walk takes us from Topsham Road to the river and canal, then through the old village of Alphington and up into Redhills before recrossing the river to arrive at Iron Bridge in the city centre. You can then either travel straight home (we will have bus and train timetables with us) or pop into the city centre for a bit of Christmas shopping. Please bring a picnic lunch unless the weather is awful, in which case we will find a pub instead.

The start point of the walk is on the 57 bus route. You can take the 9.40am number 58 bus from Budleigh Salterton Public Hall and change at Exmouth Road for the 57. If travelling from Newton Poppleford, take the 9.49am number 9 bus and change at Livery Dole, taking the 57 towards Brixington.

The start time for this walk is dependent on the bus bringing the walk leaders from Budleigh Salterton, if you are travelling by another means please be at the start by 10.45 and wait for us!

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski, 01395 742942 pandp@kurowski.me.uk

Thursday 12th December - 10.00am – WALK – 4 miles

Start: Dalditch Farm (OS 115, SY 047 835)

“Squabmoor and Dalditch Camp”

A shortish (2 hour) walk beginning with a gentle climb past Squabmoor reservoir onto East Budleigh Common, discovering WW2 remains at Dalditch Camp, and returning via Hayes Wood.

Walk leader Brian Turnbull 01395 567339

Thursday 12th December – TALK – Mapping the Otter Valley – see page 9

Tuesday 17th December - 10.00am – WALK – 5-6 miles

Start: Budleigh Salterton Public Hall

“A Mince Pie Walk”

Join us for a 3 hour walk along the byways and coastal paths eastwards from Budleigh Salterton, with a stop for a mince pie en route. Please bring your own drinks – mince pies provided!

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski, 01395 742942

Thursday 26th December - 10.30am - Boxing Day WALK – 4 miles

Start: East Budleigh car park (OS 115, SY 066 849)

A leisurely Boxing Day amble at this time of good cheer, skirting around the charming village of East Budleigh. Followed by lunch (optional) at the Sir Walter Raleigh pub. Or forget the walk and just join us for lunch, it's up to you!

Walk Leader: Jon Roseway, 01395 488739 or 07887936280

Send an e-mail to me at marilyn_jon@tiscali.co.uk expressing interest and I'll return one with the lunch menu for you to make your choice, as the food must be ordered beforehand. Why not do it now, so you don't forget. I'll close the list on 10th December.

Friday, 10th January, 10.00am - WALK - 7 miles

Start 10.00am in Tipton St John Playing Fields CP (OS 115 SY 091 917)

“Tipton West Bounds”

A 3 hour walk around the western boundary of the parish of Tipton St John with Venn Ottery: green lanes, tracks and paths, embracing Fluxton, Metcombe and Venn Ottery and fringing West Hill, Newton Poppleford and Harpford. Light hearted new-year quiz about places visited. Bring elevenses: Optional lunch at the Golden Lion at the end.

Ruth & Haylor Lass, 01395 568786

Wednesday 15th January, 10.00am - WALK - 5½ miles

Meet at Bowd lay-by (west of pub on A3052) Grid Ref OS 115 SY 104 898

“A circle around Fire Beacon”

The walk starts by following the old railway line through Harpford Wood to Tipton St John. We then start our steady climb to Hollow Head Cross before retuning via Core Hill Wood and the edge of Harpford Common to our cars.

Walk leader: Graham Knapton 01395 445872

Wednesday 15th January – TALK – The Seaton Down Hoard – see page 9

Wednesday 22nd January - 10.00am – WALK – 5½ miles

Start: The Green, Fore St, Otterton, parking in nearby roads (OS 115, SY 081 852)

“From Otter to Peak”



We walk northwards beside the Otter to cross using the new Rickety Bridge (hopefully no longer rickety and therefore to revert to the original name of Bicton Bridge) seen left being put in place by DCC's contractors. After a long gradual ascent we reach the top of Peak Hill, with fine views over Sidmouth. There's a pause there for coffee, so bring a flask.

We then follow the coast path south through Ladram Bay, returning via Colliver Cross to Otterton. Approx 3 hours.

Walk Leader: Ross Hussey, 01395 227991

Friday, 31st January - 10.50 am - WALK – 6½ miles

Start underneath Iron Bridge (OS 114, SX 915 928) at 10.50am

“Exeter Green Circle the other way round – Part Two”

Following on from Part One, this walk takes us from Exeter city centre through the beautiful university grounds and the Duryard, Mincinglake and Ludwell Valley parks (now managed by Devon Wildlife Trust). We plan to stop en route at St Katharine's Priory Community Cafe for lunch. Our finish point is Topsham Road and we can then travel back to Exmouth by the 57 bus. 4½ hours including lunch. The start point of the walk can be reached by taking the 9.40am number 58 bus from Budleigh Salterton Public Hall (arrives city centre 10.35am), the 9.48am number 57 bus from Exmouth (arrives city centre 10.33am) or the 9.49am number 9 bus from Newton Poppleford (arrives city centre 10.24am), and then walking to Lower North Street, which is under the Iron Bridge.

Nearer the time, please check the OVA website (or contact the walk leaders) for the latest bus times and to make sure St Katharine's Priory will be open for lunch.

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski, 01395 742942 pandp@kurowski.me.uk

Walk Reports

All walk reports and accompanying photographs can be found on the OVA website. Below is just an abridged selection. Many thanks to all contributors.

National Meadows Day Walk – 6th July

Seventeen of us met in front of the beach café at Charmouth, mingling as we did so with the runners who were about to start the Charmouth Challenge, an 8 mile fell race. We started on our own challenge – tackling the neglected footpaths of west Dorset.

After a stroll through Charmouth, we entered the unspoilt countryside around Wooton Fitzpaine. This was clearly an area seldom walked – there were fences to climb where there should be stiles, overgrown paths, nettles and brambles to negotiate and a “trespass” through a farmyard. However the views were magnificent.

We were so near to East Devon, but the landscape has a different character, still hilly, but more open. Butterflies and other insects flew about us, including a beautiful golden ringed dragonfly. After lunch, we walked through flowery meadows with more butterflies, then a long, steep but thankfully shady hill, ending at the A35. Thus ended part 1 of our day.

Part 2 was a visit to Hogchester Farm, as part of National Meadows' Day, arranged by Heather. A false start took us to The Tunnel, which turned out to include a rifle range, archery, and a rope trail through the trees. A happy meeting with a dad and his son pointed us in the right direction and we found the wildflower meadows of Hogchester and, in the distance, a red umbrella and the promise of

free ice-cream. After admiring the meadows, butterflies and the view to Charmouth and the sea, we hurried to the umbrella which shaded Rob (the farmer) and his ice cream cart. He happily dispensed cones of delicious ice-cream and then launched his drone to take a group photo – what a good idea. He then explained how he’d bought the 75 acre farm and was now



learning about making meadows, and re-wilding, creating what was, in effect, a nature reserve. Thanks to Vivien for the walk and Heather for the Hogchester visit. A super day.

An Intrepid Explorer

'Keble's Seat' - 21st August

Thou rustling breeze so fresh and gay,
That dancest forth at opening day,
And brushing by with joyous wing,
Wakenest each little leaf to sing;

'Morning' by John Keble

Fifteen walkers set off in breezy sunshine from Colaton Raleigh church at 10 o'clock ... rather later in the day than John Keble had in mind when he penned those lines! Keble (1792-1866) was a poet, priest and theologian who gave his name to Keble College, Oxford. He was a leading light in *The Oxford Movement* which promoted high church ideals as opposed to protestant leanings within the Anglican Church. A regular visitor to Sidmouth, he drew poetic inspiration from the landscape.

After crossing the Otter at Ashtree bridge, we noted the site of Dotton Mill demolished in 1968, and the trackbed of the branch line from Sidmouth Junction to Budleigh Salterton opened in 1897 and closed in 1967, now used as a farm haul-road. Nearby, at Pitson Farm, Brian pointed out a fine barn, part of Mark Rolle's architectural legacy, and shortly afterwards at Northmostown another Mark Rolle building now converted to residential use and appropriately named "Keble Court".



Then it was time to steadily climb the 200 metres or so out of the Otter Valley, up Back Lane to Keble's Seat on the western side of Bulverton Hill. Vacuum flasks emerged and we shared the view over the valley that had so inspired Keble. Tony mentioned that William Butterfield, the architect of Keble College

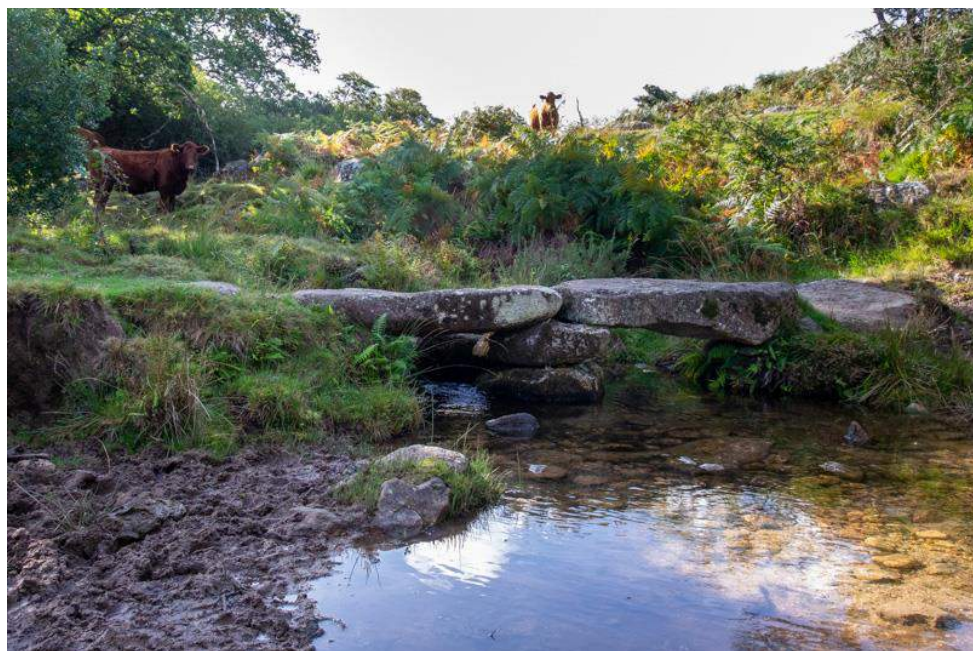
(and another member of *The Oxford Movement*) had also undertaken the refurbishment of Ottery Church where he designed the font. Butterfield introduced the use of polychromy – the distinctive use of multi-coloured brickwork - used to pick out string courses and quoins which can be seen at Exeter School, designed two years after Keble College.

All too soon it was time to turn south on the return journey across the heathland of Mutters Moor, and descend to the valley by Passaford Lane, re-crossing the Otter into Colaton Raleigh.

Tony Venning

Darting up the Valley – 19th September

A small group of us met in Venford Reservoir on this glorious autumnal day. The sun was out, the sky blue and it was a great temperature for walking. Heading off along the rim of the Dart Valley we marvelled at the beautiful views across the valley to Sharp Tor and beyond. Rowan berries were ripening in the trees as we ventured along a footpath into an area of small woodland. Stepping over a fallen tree we came out into an area of open heathland and some rather splendid red heifers grazing beside a small clapper bridge over a stream.



We passed several trees dripping with moss, as we continued on our route passing the remains of ancient hut circles towards Combestone with its farmhouse and barns. We continued along the pathway heading for Combestone Tor where we had a coffee break surrounded by more magnificent views.



Next we headed out across Holne Moor towards the restored Horn's Cross. We passed through areas of old tin workings on our way back catching a lovely view of Venford Reservoir. Fully refreshed after a picnic lunch we headed past the reservoir and northwards up to Bench Tor catching glimpses of Haytor in the distance. Here we were treated to even more wonderful panoramic views. We couldn't resist climbing to the top of the tor and looking down into the valley below and maybe glimpsing the Mel and Sharrah pools.

We then descended into a picturesque woodland area with very steep slopes down into the river valley below. Although we could hear the river flowing we only caught the odd view of it far below. The hillside to one side of us was covered with mounds of moss and lichens, and probably forms part of the Coastal Temperate Rainforest biome. As we made our way out of the woods we crossed the Venford Brook and made our way back to the cars.

A lovely day out, thank you Jon for devising such an interesting walk that we all enjoyed immensely.

Stella French

The Otter Valley Association

Executive Committee (01395)

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Vice-chairman	Haylor Lass	568786
Hon Secretary	Roger Saunders	443248
Hon Treasurer	Martin Smith	442333

Committee Chairmen

Natural Environment	David Hatch	01392 444290
Planning	Nicola Daniel	445960
History	David Daniel	445960
Events	<i>vacancy</i>	

Parish Representatives (to whom queries should be addressed initially)

Budleigh Salterton	George Maddaford	446077
East Budleigh	Jon Roseway	488739
Otterton	Pat & Geoff Porter	567055
Colaton Raleigh	<i>vacancy</i>	
Newton Popleford	Haylor Lass	568786

Other Executive Committee Members

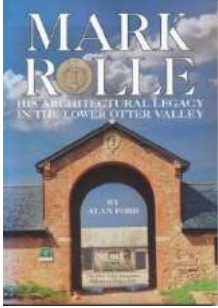
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Publicity Secretary	<i>vacancy</i>	

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Publications: Contact Jon Roseway on 488739

OVA Publications



Mark Rolle

His Architectural Legacy in the Lower Otter Valley

Ever wondered about the many improved farm buildings and cottages in this area? This lavishly illustrated book gives a very readable overview of how a large landed estate was managed in the last 40 years of the 19th century.

£4.95 from your village rep (or plus £2.00 P&P)



Twelve Walks in the Otter Valley.

The area of the Lower Otter Valley is covered by a network of footpaths, mostly waymarked and in good condition. OVA members have compiled these walks, each with clear directions and illustrated with a sketch map. They range from 4 mile easy walks to a more energetic 9½ miler. There are notes on places of interest to whet your appetite for further exploration.

£3.00 from your village rep (or plus £2.00 P&P)

Leaflets

The OVA also publish a number of leaflets about the history, flora & fauna and walking in the lower Otter Valley. They can usually be found in the Tourist Information Centres and in other outlets around the valley.