

## A Walk for Everyone – Winter Programme 2017

Who knows what the weather will be like when you read this preview of our winter programme, so let's make a mental leap to the sights and sounds of *Spring*.

Our first opportunity is likely to be Viv's visit to Exmoor and Snowdrop Valley on 15 February, while Brian is issuing a cautious invitation to enjoy the "signs of Spring" on the Commons on 20 February. Chris will be testing the rumour that Blackbury Camp is the place to see bountiful bluebells on 11 March, and we shall certainly be expecting the coast path at St. Ives to be sprouting with pink thrift when we make our annual away trip in March. Margaret is confidently advertising her "Bluebell Walk" on 29 March, and on the 15 April we won't be far away enjoying springtime in unspoilt woods and farmland, with Jon. By the time of Viv's walk up the iconic Colmer's Hill on 22 April, we will be expecting (after last year's memorable experience!), the most stunning banks of bluebells. Finally we end the month with another confident prediction from Margaret, of bluebells at Columbjohn on 29 April.

But we are getting ahead of ourselves, since we have a whole variety of walks to enjoy both within, and occasionally outside, the Otter Valley. We are out on the Commons with Steve in the New Year, tackling seasonal slothfulness on 7 January, and we will be returning to our much loved 'back garden' at the end of the month (25<sup>th</sup>) for Jon's walk out of Colaton Raleigh, Graham's Woodbury dominated walk on 8 February, and his gentle stroll to Aylesbeare on 8 April. On 12 April, Mike reminds us that we really do have it all in East Devon when he shows off the best of our coast and country. Ted takes us along the route of not one but two rivers, from oft neglected Ottery St Mary on 11 Jan. Not to be outdone, Mike leads us into Mid-Devon on 4 February for the "Two Rivers Way", and more riverside walking around the Coly, with Ted on 1 March.

It is usually the villages that hog the limelight, but on 18 January, Chris leads the first of three walks that lead through and round, to and return from with Penny and Paul on 3 April, or go around with Brian on 26 April.... Budleigh Salterton, which is also the subject of our special themed walk that Paul has arranged on 6 March to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closing of the Budleigh Salterton Branch Line. We have another themed walk on 19 April when Margaret shows us parts of Mid-Devon that inspired Jane Austen to write "Sense and Sensibility".

For our more adventurous members we shall be walking down (yes, down!) from the heights of Haytor Quarry to the sea at Teignmouth following the historic Templar Way, in two stages, on 15 Feb and the 15 March. Hope we've got the tide times correct! We shall be back to Dartmoor on 18 Feb, when we are invited to join Rosemary and David as they follow in Dr Blackall's footsteps. On 25 Feb Iain provides an opportunity to calmly visit the Wellington Monument, and enjoy the views, rather than race by on the M5 with barely time for a cursory glance up!

As always we hope there is enough variety of distance, location and terrain to entice all of our walking members, and if you are not one already, do please join our very convivial group.

AND..... As this is the last occasion on which we will be presenting the OVA's Programme of Walks, we would like to say how much we have enjoyed being your Walks Organisers, and thank you for your interest, feedback and support. Now, after four years, we will be standing down at the AGM in May, after which time we are delighted that OVA walking will receive a new impetus from **TEAM OVA WALKING**, six enthusiastic and experienced walkers who will share the role of Walk Organisers. They are Heather Fereday, Jon Roseway, Paul Kurowski, Penny Kurowski, Peter Paine and Stella French, and they have already begun planning for their succession, and the Summer Programme. In the meantime general enquiries will be handled by Peter ([p.paine555@btinternet.com](mailto:p.paine555@btinternet.com); 01404 815214) and specific enquiries regarding the programme by Heather ([feredayh@gmail.com](mailto:feredayh@gmail.com)). We wish all of them every success and fulfilment.

Happy Walking!  
**Chris and Mike**

# Events Programme – January to April 2017

Please consult the OVA Website for late alterations or additional information

## **Saturday 7th January, 10:00am - WALK**

Start: Newton Popleford Rec Ground (OS 115, SY 088 899), 6+ miles, 3 hours.

### ***“Walk in the New Year”***

A circular walk with one gentle climb. We use minor lanes and old tracks before joining the East Devon Way for a pleasant walk through quiet countryside.

Optional lunch at The Cannon Inn

*Walk Leader:* Steve Hagger, 01395 442 631

## **Wednesday 11th January, 10:00am - WALK**

Start: Canaan Way CP, Ottery St Mary [payment required] (OS 115, SY 095 995), 7½ miles.

### ***“A walk to the site of an ancient conflict and a country park”***

The walk heads north from Ottery and follows the River Otter, before crossing the A30 at Fenny Bridges, taking in Escot Park and the River Tale on the route back. Please bring a picnic.

*Walk Leader:* Ted Swan 01395 567 450.

## **Thursday 12th January at 7:30 pm - TALK**

Budleigh Salterton Masonic Hall.

Nick Loman presents a selection of his ever expanding photographic collection about Budleigh Salterton, the Otter Valley and growing up in the area.

## **Wednesday 18th January, 10:00am - WALK**

Start: OVA Jubilee Shelter on the Budleigh seafront, (OS 115, SY 067 818), 7 miles, 3 hours.

### ***“Byways and Boundaries”***

A devious figure of eight route along the alleyways and byways of Budleigh and its boundaries, including part of the old railway track and some of the coast path between Budleigh and West Down Beacon. Finish with an optional lunch in Budleigh Salterton.

*Walk leader:* Chris Buckland 01395 444 471

## **Wednesday 25th January, 9:30am - WALK**

Start: The Otter Inn, Colaton Raleigh (OS 115, SY 0778 8734), 8 miles, 4 hours.

### ***“Pop goes the Weasel”***

Bus 157 from Budleigh Salterton Public Hall (8:58) to Colaton Raleigh (9:20) for 9:30am start. Car parking at the Otter Inn. This walk circumnavigates Newton Pop on river banks, footpaths, green lanes and quiet roads. We start out along the River Otter to join the East Devon Way at Harpford Bridge. Then climb gradually to Joney's Cross before descending to Stoneyford, along Naps Lane with rapidly increasing anticipation of refreshment at the Otter Inn. No steep slopes, rough ground or steps.

*Walk Leader:* Jon Roseway, 01395 488 739/ 07887 936 280

### **Saturday 4th February, 10:15am - WALK**

Start: Stoke Cannon (OS Explorer 114, SX 9384 9793), 6 miles, 3 hours.

Meet at Exeter Bus Station at 9:45am. Outward via bus 55, dep. 10:00am, arr. Stoke Cannon 10:11am.

#### ***“Two Rivers Way”***

Walk north from the village along the Exe Valley Way to Burrow Farm from where we follow the banks of the River Exe to Bramford Speke. We then head further west along the Devonshire Heartland Way, crossing several tributaries of the Rive Exe, to Upton Pyne. From this point we head downhill to the River Creedy whose banks we follow all the way to Newton St Cyres and lunch at the famous Engine pub & brewery. A short walk takes us to the A377 where buses run to Exeter every 15 minutes.

*Walk Leader:* Mike Paddison, 01395 446 550

### **Wednesday 8th February, 10:00am - WALK**

Start at the Four Firs car park (OS Explorer 115, SY 032 864), 5.5 miles, 2.5 hours.

#### ***“All things Woodbury”***

A circular walk visiting Woodbury Castle then turning west to Woodbury and returning via the golf course. Includes tracks, paths and some wooded areas.

*Walk Leader:* Graham Knapton, 01395 445 872

### **Saturday 11th February 2017, 10:00am – WALK**

Meet at Newton Popleford Rec Ground at 8.30am to share cars.

Start at Wheddon Cross CP (OS Explorer OL9, SS 924 338), 8 miles, 4-5 hours.

#### ***“Exmoor Highs”***

A lovely walk taking in Dunkery Beacon, the highest point on Exmoor at 519 metres, and returning through the famous Snowdrop Valley, before a warming drink in the pub or café to end.

*Walk Leader:* Vivien Insul, 01404 811 267

### **Wednesday 15th February, 11:30am – WALK**

#### ***“Templer Way Stage 1”***

The Templer Way follows, as closely as possible, the historical export route of granite from the Haytor Quarries to the sea port at Teignmouth. It is 18 miles (29km) long and winds through a wide range of scenery from open moorland to estuary foreshore. The walk is ‘nearly’ downhill all the way! Please bring a picnic lunch.

The first stage is 8 miles between Haytor Information Centre (OS Explorer OL28 & 110, SY 766 772) and Drumbridge Roundabout on the A38 where we will catch the 39 bus back to Exeter.

Travel to the start is by the 39 bus from Exeter Bus Station (Stand No 12), dep 10:30, arr Bovey Tracy 11:14 where we will collect prearranged taxis to Haytor. Provisional booking has been made at a maximum cost of £5.00 per head. If you intend to come, please make a firm commitment to Mike by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Nearer the time, please see OVA website for the latest bus times.

*Walk Leader:* Mike Paddison, 01395 446 550

### **Saturday 18th February, 10:30am - WALK**

Rendezvous at Newton Poppleford CP, (OS Explorer 115, SY 088 899) at 9:15am to share cars, or make your own way to meet at the start. Start at New Bridge CP, Nr. Ashburton. (OS Explorer OL28, SX 711 709), 6.5 miles, 3.5 hours approx

#### ***“Who was Dr Blackall?”***

This invigorating and undulating route combines moorland, woodland and riverside walking, with splendid views of the Dart Valley and surrounding tors, taking in part of the Two Moors Way and Dr Blackall’s Drive. Who was Dr Blackall? All will be revealed when you come on the walk! Please bring a packed lunch.

*Walk Leaders:* Rosemary and David Hatch 01392 444 290 / 07186 128 546

### **Monday 20th February, 10:00am - WALK**

Start at Knowle Village Hall CP (OS Explorer 115, SY 052 827), 6 miles, 3 hours

#### ***“A Winding Walk”***

The walk winds its way across the commons encompassing Shortwood Common, Hayes Wood, Hayes Barton, the birthplace of Sir Walter Raleigh, and returns via East Budleigh Common and Squabmoor, observing Mark Rolle buildings, WWII remains and signs of Spring.

*Walk Leader:* Brian Turnbull, 01395 567 339

### **Saturday 25th February, 10:00am – WALK**

Meet at Newton Poppleford Rec Ground at 8:45am to share cars.

Start at Wellington Monument CP (OS Explorer 128, ST 143 167) 10 miles, 5 hrs.

#### ***“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

### **Wednesday 1st March, 10:00am – WALK**

Start at Seaton Water Tower (OS Map Explorer 116, SY 233 913.) 7.5 miles.

#### ***“River Coly and Around “***

This inland walk takes us through Holyford Woods nature reserve and ascends high ground affording good views. We then descend into the Coly valley and along the river to Colyton for a possible pub stop. The route is then via water meadows and over the hills back to the start. Please bring a picnic lunch.

*Walk leader:* Ted Swan 01395 567 450

### **Monday 6th March, 10.30am – WALK**

A linear walk that starts and ends on the 157 bus route.

Start at Otter Reach, Newton Poppleford, on the A3052, by the bus stop opposite Back Lane (which leads to the Rec. Ground CP) (OS Map Explorer 115, SY 084 897) 10 miles, a leisurely 7 hours, to the finish at Exmouth Station, with the opportunity to stop at Otterton or Budleigh Salterton and return by bus.

#### ***“Budleigh Salterton Branch Line Commemorative Celebration”***

To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closing of the Budleigh Salterton Branch Line, the walk follows the route of the original branch line from Newton Poppleford to Exmouth. We will be guided across the Cinton Devon Estates' land and have lunch on the old East Budleigh station platform, with the chance to have a ride on Mr John Edmonds' miniature railway. On to Budleigh Salterton, where the Fairlynch Museum will be opened for us to see an exhibition about the line, before following the old track to Exmouth Station.

An interesting and educational walk is in store as members of the Railway Ramblers have been invited to join us. Please bring a packed lunch, or plan to buy something at Otterton Mill or the village shop.

The number of walkers will be limited to 50. Please book your place with Paul as soon as possible, by phone or email: [pandp@kurowski.me.uk](mailto:pandp@kurowski.me.uk).

*Walk Leader:* Paul Kurowski 01395 742 942

### **Saturday 11th March, 10:30am - WALK**

Start at Blackbury Camp Hill Fort CP (OS Explorer 115, SY 188 924) 6 miles

#### ***“Blackbury Camp Hill Fort”***

A last minute vacancy in the Programme has provided an opportunity to explore an area unfamiliar to me. I'll put some enticing words on the website, when I've been to look around, or you could just turn up for a Magical Mystery Tour!

*Walk Leader:* Chris Buckland 01395 444471

### **Wednesday 15th March, 11:30am – WALK**

Travel to the start is by the X38 bus from Exeter Bus Station (Stand No 12), dep 10:45, arr Drum Bridge Roundabout (OS Explorer 110, SX 837 739) at 11:15.

#### ***“Templer Way Stage 2”***

The second stage is 9½ miles between Drum Bridge Roundabout on the A38 and Teignmouth via Newton Abbot Quay. A picnic lunch at Newton Abbot Quay will be followed by tea at Combe Cellars before catching the Shaldon ferry (50p) across the estuary to New Quay in Teignmouth. Definitely downhill all the way! Return travel by train dep Teignmouth 16.38/17:22, arr Exmouth 17.50/18:29 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. Please see OVA website for any necessary changes to travel times.

*Walk Leader:* Chris Buckland, 01395 444 471

### **Thursday 23rd March to Monday 27th March – OVA Away Days in St Ives**

We shall be staying at the walker-friendly Treloyhan Manor Hotel a few minutes from the centre of St Ives, right on the SW Coast Path and ideally placed to enjoy four days of convivial springtime walking or the delights of St Ives in the off season. If you are quick, there is still time to join us. Please refer to your last Newsletter (Vol 37/1, Oct 2016), the OVA website, or get in touch with me. You will be very welcome.

*Organiser:* Chris Buckland.

### **Wednesday 29th March, 10:00am - WALK**

Start: Clifford Bridge roadside parking (OS Explorer 110/OL28 SX 782 898), 5 miles, 3 hours.

#### ***“A Daffodil Walk”***

Starting at Clifford Bridge, near Dunsford and walking uphill through Cod Wood to Smallridge Farm and then down to Steps Bridge walking adjacent to Woodcock Wood. Return is a delightful walk alongside the River Teign through Dunsford Wood. There is a short steep climb. Please bring a picnic. Sorry no dogs.

*Walk Leader:* Margaret Read, 01392 759 332

**Monday, 3rd April, 10:15am - WALK**

Start at East Budleigh CP (OS Explorer 115 SY 066 849) on bus route 157  
6 miles, about 4 hours, including stops for refreshments

***“A Ramble with Temptations”***

Through East Budleigh village, then fields and tracks on a hilly back route to B Salterton, and perhaps a break for an ice-cream or a coffee, and a stroll along the beach. Returning alongside the Otter, looking out for otters, beavers and interesting birdlife, before a break for lunch at Otterton Mill. Finishing along back roads to East Budleigh.

*Walk Leaders:* Penny and Paul Kurowski, 01395 742 942 / 07792 619 748

**Saturday 8th April, 10:00am - WALK**

Start: Joney’s Cross CP (OS Explorer 115, SY 057 898) 5.5 miles, 2.5 hours.

***“Gently does it”***

A gentle walk to Aylesbeare via Randelhayes farm and back via Manor farm and Aylesbeare common.

*Walk Leader:* Graham Knapton, 01395 445 872

**Wednesday 12th April, 10:00am - WALK**

Start: East Budleigh Church CP (OS Explorer 115, SY 065 848). 9.5 miles, 4.5 hrs.

***“Coast and Country”***

A varied walk giving an ever-changing perspective using the coast path, local roads and tracks. Visiting Ladram Bay, High Peak and Windgate returning inland via Otterton and Bicton. Some hilly sections. Please bring a picnic lunch.

*Walk Leader:* Mike Paddison, 01395 446 550

**Saturday 15th April, 10:00am - WALK**

Start: Knapp Copse Reserve CP (OS Explorer 115, SY 155 957) 9.5 miles, 5 hours.

***“Over the hills and Far(a)way”***

This walk gives us the opportunity to enjoy springtime in the unspoilt farmland and woods around Farway. There are a few hills to climb (maximum ascent of 100m) but the views of the Holcombe and Coly valleys make it worth the effort. Bringing a packed lunch is recommended, although refreshments are available afterwards at the Hare and Hounds.

Anyone who can offer others a lift or needs one should contact the walk leader.

*Walk Leader:* Jon Roseway 01395 488 739/ 07887 936280



### **Wednesday 19th April, 10:00am - Jane Austen themed WALK**

Start: Upton Pine Village Hall CP, (OS Explorer 114, SX 910 978), 5 miles, 3 hours

#### ***“Sense and Sensibility”***

An interesting literary walk in mid Devon discovering the inspiration that Jane Austen found to write her novel. From Upton Pine Church to Woodrow Barton, Pynes and Lakes Bridge returning via Bamford Speke for lunch. No dogs please.

*Walk Leader:* Margaret Read 01392 759332

### **Saturday 22nd April, 10:00am – WALK**

Start: Newton Poppleford Rec Ground CP, (OS Explorer 115, SY 088 999) at 9.30am to share cars to the walk start point.

#### ***“Colmer’s is watching you!”***

The walk starts at Higher Eype Service Area (OS Explorer 116, SY 452 922) at 10.30am (café opens at 6.45am and free parking!), 8 miles, 6+ hours.

This is a walk requiring some appetite for hills but, boy, is it worth it! There are plenty of opportunities for refreshment stops to restore body and soul. We start out through Lower Eype, skirting Eype Down heading towards Symondsburly and an excellent café. After refreshments, the highlight, a short climb up the iconic Colmer’s Hill which affords extensive views in all directions. The day ends over the sea cliffs from Seatown, and a cream tea at Down House Farm.

*Walk Leader:* Vivien Insull, 01404 811 267

### **Wednesday 26th April, 10:00am - WALK**

Start at Lime Kiln CP (OS Explorer 115 SY 073 820). 10 miles, 6 hours.

#### ***“Circumnavigating Budleigh Salterton”***

The walk commences along Marine Parade and the South West Coast Path to West Down Beacon and heads inland to Dalditch Farm via Castle Lane. It continues through Hayes Wood and across the common, past Yettington to Colaton Raleigh. After a well-earned break, the return journey follows the riverside path past Otterton to Lime Kiln car park. Please bring a picnic lunch.

*Walk Leader:* Brian Turnbull, 01395 567 339

### **Saturday 29th April, 10:00am – WALK**

Start at Columbjohn CP (OS Explorer 114 SX 959 998). 4 ½ miles, 3 hours.

#### ***“A Bluebell Walk”***

From the car park we visit Columbjohn Chapel en route to Columbjohn Wood and then via a gentle climb to the enclosure in Killerton Wood, and a convoluted walk will then lead through the grounds and woods of Killerton Park. Returning to Columbjohn alongside the River Culm. No dogs please.

*Walk Leader:* Margaret Read 01392 759 332