

## **Wednesday, 15th April 2015, Glass Hill and the Coastal Path, with Mike Paddison**

On a bright and sunny morning so typical of the weather we have been so lucky to have during April, 16 walkers gathered in East Budleigh for the walk that would show all the countryside aspects that so typify the Otter Valley.

After the normal H & S chat from the Walk Leader, he reminded us that one critical success factor for a successful walk was to finish with the number of walkers that you started with and the second one was to start off in the right direction. At this point one local resident pointed out that our proposed route out of the village was closed to pedestrians and motorists. After some discussion we started out in the opposite direction to that originally planned under the temporary joint leadership of 'local people' who knew the area. All was going well until another 'local' pointed out that we had missed an important turn. Although we were still in the village, maps and gps's were consulted, and a consensus formed as to the way forward. Thankfully there were no route surprises along the rest of the walk as the route had been reconnoitered the week before.

The walk continued in bright sunshine at a steady pace via Clamour Bridge, Colliver Cross, and immaculately cultivated fields until the South West Coastal Path (SWCP) was reached. A coastal walk along the SWCP brought us to Ladram Bay and the prospect of a "convenience stop" and coffee. Some walkers immediately headed for the beach for a rest in the sun, others preferred the comfort of picnic tables. Only too soon our Walk Leader was marshalling us together for the long climb to High Peak.

After reaching the top of the SWCP, there was some discussion and a consensus view that we should all try to get to the trig point at the very top of High Peak. With mutual support and encouragement, we all made it to the very top. For many it was the first time, for some it was a major achievement, but for everybody it was well worth it for the splendid views.

After this, the walk down the SWCP, across Windgate and Peak Hill and up Seven Stones Lane, seemed relatively easy and we all looked forward to lunch on Mutter's Moor. The Walk Leader had promised us logs to sit upon; we had visions of sitting in comfort. What transpired was a pile of logs more suitable for the fire grate; but we improvised, moved the logs into the shade and had a very convivial lunch.

After lunch we set out for Otterton via Passaford Lane and a riverside walk along the Otter from Colaton Raleigh to Otterton Mill for a well-earned cup of tea and

cake. We did not see any beavers!

The next and final stage took us back to East Budleigh via the remains of St Mary's Church in Bicton, around the obelisk and through the East Budleigh sports field. At the end we were four down in number, but that could be explained

In summary, this was a walk encompassing villages, agriculture, coastal path, climbing hills, forest cultivation, riverside walks etc., all those aspects of the Otter Valley that we love, but hopefully not take for granted.

***"Back marker"***  
***25 April 2015***