

**Wednesday, 17th June 2015, Stockland Hill with Margaret Read**

***“Walking to Paradise”***

Yes we really did, it was an uphill slog, but we did reach Paradise Farm on our walk around Stockland and there was a comfortable bench to sit on and admire the view of the Yarty valley.

Stockland is a chocolate box village with one of the oldest farmhouses in Devon. According to Pevsner there are soot stains in the roof dating from open-hearth days. At one time Stockland was on the main Exeter to London Road and still has a transportation bridge. A sign warns that anyone removing stones will be transported!

Stockland has endless footpaths. The one we took down from Beacon Hill was overhung with lovely mature trees and there were a few orchids in the grass, not to mention hogweed, stitch wort, red campion and foxgloves. The river Yarty was appreciated with its little pools and water weed, as were the desirable residences scattered along its length including a very upmarket barbecue.

Fortunately none of the cattle met on the recce, which included a herd of frisky bullocks, were on our path this time. We did have an animated discussion as to the best way to deal with over friendly bullocks, then it was back to the car park and picnic lunch in the grounds of the village hall.

***Margaret Read***  
***29 June 2015***