

## **Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015, East Budleigh Common & Bicton Church with David Buss**

This walk, ably led by David Buss, began at the junction of Salterton Road and Castle Lane just outside Budleigh. We were six walkers in all.

We were fortunate in that it was a perfect day for walking, bright and sunny with just a hint of an autumnal feel in the air. One felt good to be alive in fact.

After running the gamut of the fast Salterton Road traffic the group headed up into the woods of Knowle Hill and beyond. We saw several different kinds of toadstools and fungi, including those red and white spotted ones so beloved of childrens' book illustrators, and others of varying colours and sizes. However, despite all the rain we have had during this so-called summer of 2015 the ground was surprisingly dry and firm.

Deep in the woods, near a childrens' summer camp site, now empty, we came upon a female walker, completely lost, with no map or compass. She came with us for part of the way and was then directed by our leader and our walks organiser to where she needed to go.

Our walk took us to Squabmoor Reservoir - we were informed that it is 6 feet deep at its shallow end and has 24 feet of depth at its deepest point. Various fish lurk in its depths, including carp. Anglers were to be seen sitting at their ease often in front of a tent. We saw our previously lost hiker again, now back with tent, fishing rods and companion, so all was well.

A coffee/refreshments stop was taken with a good view of the Blackhill Quarry. We could see large lorries busily dropping off their loads onto mounds and then driving away.

Throughout the walk the views were marvellous. Almost 360 degrees all around at times, with just a slight haze on the horizon. Later, as we looked down from our vantage point up above East Budleigh village a pair of buzzards wheeled overhead just to make it perfect.

We descended to East Budleigh, where the writer left the group. The remaining 5 walked on to Otterton to sample the culinary delights of the Kings Arms and then were to catch the 157 bus back from there, thus completing the circle and doing it all either on foot or by public transport as had been the objective.

Thanks to David for making the walk so enjoyable and informative.

***Jacqui Ruhlig***

***14<sup>th</sup> September 2015***