

Monday, 28th September 2015, River Otter and Venn Ottery Nature Reserve with Mike Paddison

A Leisurely Stroll before Lunch

In spite of many rising earlier during the night to watch the eclipse of the moon, eleven walkers met on a glorious morning, bright eyed and bushy tailed and ready to enjoy the countryside around Tipton St John. Making our way upstream on the banks of the river Otter, we paused to view the Archimedes Screw



churning away to produce electricity and the salmon run alongside the weir.

We pondered on otters, beavers and fish.

From Fluxton we moved uphill along a hedge lined bridle way to the edges of West Hill where we took what seemed like a secret path over a stream and up onto Venn Ottery Common. Here we had grand views of East Hill, Fire Beacon Plantation and Mutters Moor. A photo call during a refreshment stop caused much hilarity as the camera just didn't want to stay steadily perched on a rucksack! Perhaps the strong breeze played a part.



this pix by paul kurowski, all others by stella

A delightful woodland path took us below the soon to close gravel quarry.



Our boots found some splendid muddy patches but we emerged safely to take another
bridleway down to Venn Ottery, (*but were we happy? Ed*)



We were still chatting nineteen to the dozen but did not neglect sampling the
blackberries on our way back to Tipton St John where the Golden Lion would be the
lunch stop for some.

Thank you to Mike and Chris

Rosemary Dafforn

29th September 2015