

## OVA walk on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 with Chris Buckland

### *Mince Pies and Mulled Wine*

After two days of almost constant rain, the weather looked very promising for the 15 walkers who gathered at Knowle village hall for the start of our 7.5 mile walk taking in Littleham church, Orcombe Point and West Down beacon. The first half of the walk to Orcombe point was all new territory to me and chatting to new members and old, after volunteering to write the report, I didn't digest the entire route. I was concentrating on staying upright and not slipping up in the mud.



We set off towards Littleham church via the old railway line and on reaching the church, famous for being the final resting place of Lord Nelson's estranged wife, Frances Nisbet.

I did mention to the group that I had stayed at the Montpelier plantation Inn in Nevis in the Caribbean where Horatio and Frances were married in 1787 and Frances lived her final years alone in Exmouth while Horatio was having his affair with Emma Hamilton.

The normal coffee stop held in the churchyard was a very seasonal affair with mulled wine served from a flask and 26 mince pies consumed by the group. Laden up with all those extra calories, we easily made our way along tarmac roads, paths and flooded fields climbing to the cliffs at Higher

Orcombe to our lunch stop at Orcombe point where we managed to find some seating out of the wind. The views over the Exe estuary were not bad considering how overcast it was.





This is the site of the famous Geoneedle unveiled by Prince Charles in 2002 and comprises different rocks along the Jurassic coast.



The remainder of the walk was quite familiar to me, heading along the South West coastal path towards West Down Beacon, skirting the expanding mobile home complex, the Commandoes training camp at Straight point and the ever crumbling

cliffs. We reached the sign post, Knowle, 1 mile and two members of the group decided to part company and follow the coastal path to Budleigh. The rest of us crossed the golf course and when we reached the Britannia Pub in Knowle, the new owners were just

putting a sign on the blackboard stating it was opening for business at 6pm that evening so we were a few hours too early.

Thanks to Chris for leading us on this walk, one I will definitely repeat, and the weatherman for keeping the rain at bay throughout the whole walk.

***Heather Fereday***  
***17<sup>th</sup> December 2015***