

Saturday 20th February 2016 - Around Budleigh Salterton with Penny and Paul Kurowski

"A Ramble with Temptations"

I had just moved to Devon from Kent and I spotted a small paragraph in the local paper which 'promised!' spotting beavers and otters on a ramble led by Paul and Penny Kurowski. How could I resist? Eight folk turned up in the East Budleigh car park and I was immediately welcomed and made to feel part of the group. Paul had adapted the walk slightly due to the consistent inclement conditions over the winter and we began by walking along Hayes Lane, climbing slowly upwards along rather muddy tracks but with wonderful views of East Budleigh and the coast which made the effort worthwhile.



We needed to keep our wits about us on a short stretch of the B3178 before dipping down through the small hamlet of Kersbrook, early primroses and snowdrops making a spring display along the verges.

From Kersbrook we walked through the outskirts of Budleigh Salterton to the sea front where the 'Temptations' became apparent. For me a caffeine fix was called for but the majority of the group indulged in ice creams, courtesy of A Slice of Lyme.

After the welcome rest we proceeded along the sea front and along the River Otter towards Otterton. Paul was a mine of information on local history (sorry Paul, I can't remember - I'll try harder next time!) and when we arrived at the bird hide several knowledgeable folk were able to point out the various birds on the

marshes. As far as I'm concerned they all have wings and beaks.....!

The highlight of the trip was - you've guessed - the beavers. Not really, they come out to play at dawn and dusk, but we did see evidence of their activities, they cut down saplings to encourage new growth for the following year's meals (easier than going to Tesco).

We enjoyed a welcome lunch at Otterton Mill then returned to East Budleigh around the edge of Bicton Park and across muddy fields (some clambering was required to negotiate a fallen tree).

A very pleasant day - some new friends made - thanks to Paul and Penny for varied walk with lovely views.

Judy Wright

27 February 2016