

Wednesday 27 April 2016 , West Down Beacon, Hayes Wood & Colaton Raleigh with Chris Buckland

"Circumnavigating Budleigh Salterton"

Rain, good! That's what the shipping forecast says.

We did have a bit of rain - and hail. But we did have some glorious sunshine too. It was a good temperature for a walking a fair distance.

Eight of us set out on this beautiful escapade from Budleigh Salterton but sadly Edward had planned to leave for home before we'd really warmed up, so seven of us continued onward.

We walked initially taking in coastal views, then commons and woods, continually enjoying our wonderful rural East Devon landscape, with frequent sea glimpses. It is such a lovely time of year to walk when the flora and fauna is so abundant but spotting a stoat, a deer and later a kingfisher on the River Otter were really quite thrilling. Roads and tracks were simply edged with banks of bluebells and primroses and then later we had marsh marigolds beside a babbling brook with a backdrop of flags to provide a later show of nature.

We met very friendly people along the way including the 'WalkieTalkies', a ladies walking group. Ting Tong was very pleasant and later came the small hamlet of Stowford, leading on to Colaton Raleigh with its ancient yew in the churchyard.

Before the final leg along the river Otter into Budleigh Salterton we stopped at Otterton Mill. A couple of us indulged in a cream tea whilst others witnessed a murder over their teacups! Crows provided an aggravated flying display and swallows glided in the air.

David proved to be a great wildlife spotter and Chris was a humourous leader who had gallantly taken over the leadership role from Brian Turnbull. Also, Rosemary, Jacqui, Joyce and Debbie - thank you all for your lovely company.

Yvonne Cox
28th April 2016.