

## Friday 6th May 2016, Poltimore, Broadclyst, Columbjohn Church & Killerton with Joyce Thomas

### *"Can You Hear It"*

Five very keen walkers arrived early at the starting point for today's walk and took full advantage of the offer of tea and biscuits in Joyce's delightful garden. At the appointed starting time another two walkers joined us and a total of eight set off on this hot sunny spring morning.

The residential environment rapidly gave way to countryside with views to the airport and the hills beyond. As we passed around St Michael and All Angels Church further views across Exeter to the hills of Dartmoor in the distance were visible. Crossing green fields we settled into our walk enjoying the warmth of the sun, the sounds of bird song and the natural bouquets of wild flowers scattered around us - Bluebells nestling with Pink Campion, white Ladies Smock and patches of Stitchwort. A field of some unusual sheep was passed and later on Alpacas were seen.



*a happy group admiring the bluebells*

Skirting around a farm we crossed the bridge over the M6 and headed across the fields towards Broadclyst. Here we stopped for lunch and a drink in the scenic garden of the Red Lion Inn. Suitably refreshed we headed off across the field to eventually cross another footbridge back over the motorway. From here it was a stroll across fields and through woods full of bluebells.

Further on we came across an old stone gateway into the Killerton Estate. Passing this we headed for Columbjohn chapel situated in a very quiet picturesque spot beside the river Culm.



***Columbjohn Chapel - a private family place for worship***

Then as we turned the corner footpath we all stopped still, for in a field at the side of the pathway was a cow that had just given birth. We very quietly passed by into woods, again clad with bluebells but in this case lined with white wild garlic flowers. The smell of the garlic flowers overpowered the bluebells.



*no more than an hour old!*



*up the hill to Killerton House and welcome tea and cakes from the café*

Ignoring the 'Be aware of Walkers' sign we climbed up the embankments of Dolberry Iron Age Hill Fort and around the top of Killerton Park.



*a warning to horse riders, or something more sinister?*

Here we stopped to look at the glorious views across the countryside and noticed a large wooden frame. It formed an ideal photo opportunity and a nice place to rest in the sun.



*framed for posterity!*

It was then a short stroll through the grounds to Killerton Chapel and the tearooms where we took a well deserved break for tea and cakes. There was still a bit more walking to do as we headed back along lanes and roads to Broadclyst where a bus was caught back to Pinhoe.

Many thanks to Joyce for leading and sharing one of her favourite local walks with us.

**Stella French**  
**20<sup>th</sup> May 2016**