

Tuesday 27th June, A stroll to Venn Ottery Common with Stella French

On a day of good walking weather, ie cooler than the recent hot spells, ten of us and two dogs set off for a walk around Tipton St John. We headed past the Church along lanes and tracks towards Venn Ottery Common. Here we stopped for an early coffee break and to admire the views of the surrounding countryside and hills.



Refreshed we ambled through woods, across a stream and then along tracks with barley fields ripening on either side. At one point a fine looking bank of Rosebay Willowherb was commented on.



Skirting the edges of nearby villages and passing through small hamlets we came to the final stretch which was across the old railway track. Just before the old track Haylor gathered us around to tell of an aeroplane that made an emergency landing in a nearby field 30 - 35 years ago. The fuel gauge on the engine was faulty and the plane had less fuel in it than anticipated! Fortunately it made a safe landing with no casualties.

We then wandered back along the River Otter and under the railway bridge. This bridge was apparently one of three that survived when the river flooded in 1968. Although the train line was only a branch line the bridge was very soundly built.



From here it was a short walk back through the village to the Golden Lion for an enjoyable lunch and drink.

Stella French