

Wednesday April 4th 2018, “Keble’s Seat” with Brian Turnbull

There must be something about Brian Turnbull that attracted a group of six women to join him for an energetic walk up to Mutters Moor from Colaton Raleigh, especially as the weather forecast was not at all encouraging. He lead us across the soggy valley floor, after crossing the river, and up Passaford Lane, having warned us that it would be wet and muddy, and he did not lie.



Glad to arrive at the top of the hill we headed north to find Keble’s Seat, where we stopped for coffee. As the mist had cleared we had a superb view over the Otter Valley and beyond.



Brian told us a lot about Keble, who had been very famous in his day, but is sadly now almost forgotten. He had come to Sidmouth for holidays, and was inspired to write poetry at this spot, and one can see why. The seat had been replaced in 2014 with much ceremony, and thankfully now the view point was mostly clear of trees.



We set off down Back Lane to Northmostown, and Brian pointed out the old coach road to Sidmouth. We stopped to look at some barn conversions, and some unaltered Mark Rolle barns and outbuildings up a side road.



At Ashtree Farm we headed back across the valley to return to our starting point via Shepherd's Lane. Sadly we got caught in a heavy downpour shortly before we got back, but it had been a very enjoyable and informative morning, as one expects when out walking with Brian.

Dee Woods