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THE
OTTER VALLEY
ASSOCIATION

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Founded 1979

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Information Sheet No.1.

October 1979

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Charles Snow (B.S. 5375)
Vice-Chairman: Col. Edward Potts (Otterton)
Secretary: Mrs. Kathleen Mason, 12 Marine Parade,
B.S. 3225
Treasurer: John Parnee, National Westminster Bank,
Budleigh Salterton.

MEMBERS: Burgess Attwood (Colaton Raleigh)
George Compton (Newton Poppleford)
Leslie Drake (Otterton)
Mrs. Helen Gavin (East Budleigh)
Mrs. Priscilla Hull (B.S.)
Dr. Anita Jennings (B.S.)
F.A. Tunmer (B.S.)

<u>SUB-COMMITTEES:</u>	<u>CHAIRMAN:</u>	<u>SECRETARY:</u>
Planning:	H.S. Staveley	Walter Steedman (in his absence, K. Newton Jones)
Footpaths:	F.A. Tunmer	Mrs. Stammers
Local History, Archeology, etc.:	Mrs. P. Hull	To be appointed
Programme & Publicity:	G.J. Stagg	Dr. Anita Jennings
Pollution:) Nature Study)	To be appointed	To be appointed

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mrs. Margaret Staveley,
1 Sherbrook Close,
B.S. 2503.

(Please note that membership forms are always
available at the Cane Shop, opposite
Salterton Post Office.)

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Association is gradually taking shape. The first few months of any organisation are beset with problems. Your Executive Committee has resolved them as they appeared.

The Civic Trust has accepted our application for Registration. We have also been granted Charity Status by the Charity Commissioners, within three months of applying for it. Members are now able to pay their subscription, or make donations, by means of Covenant Forms (available from the Secretary or Treasurer), quoting our serial number 278-266.

Four of the six projected Sub-Committees have been formed: Planning; Footpaths; Local History and Archeology; Programme and Publicity. The names of the officers are given on p.2, and their reports follow. Progress has been made in finding officers for the Pollution Sub-Committee. Its terms of reference will be submitted to the next Executive Committee Meeting. The Nature Study Sub-Committee is as yet to be formed.

The outstanding achievement has been the formation of a strong Planning Sub-Committee. The major problem facing it is that planning consents for most current projects in the area were granted before the Association was formed. It will be some months before members will be able to see any real results from the labours now being shouldered by the Committee.

A large proportion of our finances has had to be spent on the purchase of stationery, booking of halls, advertisements and the purchase of an appropriate insurance scheme. It is hoped to increase the balance in hand by fund-raising efforts. The Treasurer is always happy to receive donations, large or small.

Membership is growing steadily, and currently stands at about 250. Please tell your friends who wish to join that membership forms are always available

at the Cane Shop, opposite Salterton Post Office. In the villages, forms may be obtained from members of the Executive Committee resident there.

It is hoped that future information sheets will be embellished with a cover page designed by a local artist.

The Executive Committee is grateful to the Fairlynch Museum for generously allowing the Linhay Room to be used for its meetings.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION IS NOT UNTIL NEXT MAY, IN THE MEANTIME, THE CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY WILL WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS OR CRITICISMS.

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REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

(i) PLANNING

The terms of reference of the Planning Sub-Committee have now been established and include assistance in the promotion of civic pride in the area of benefit; comments on the future development of the area and, on occasion, proposals; consideration of recommendations under various Acts and Orders, and liaison, where necessary, with Town and Parish Councils on planning applications made to the District Council.

We are, at present, commenting on several matters of general interest within the area such as, for example, the use of the car parks and access roads by heavy goods vehicles and the question of pedestrian safety and visual amenities in the West Hill and Exmouth Road areas of Salterton.

In connection with the Devon Structure Plan, we have registered an objection with the depart-

ment of Environment and the Devon County Council on the grounds that the whole of the flood-plain of the river Otter is not included in the Heritage Coast, the boundary being the East bank of the river. We have pointed out that this is illogical and have suggested a revised boundary along the line of the Budleigh Salterton/Newton Poppleford road, and along Granary Lane within the Salterton Town Boundary.

(ii) FOOTPATHS

The Footpath Sub-Committee is now in operation. A programme of guided walks has been arranged, the first of which took place on Sept. 26th 1979. It was attended by 37 people, and led by Mrs. Stammers. Starting from Colaton Raleigh Church, the group proceeded along Shepherds Lane and Naps Lane to Hawkerland, across the Common to Little Mead Copse, and 'home' along Back Lane and Institute Lane.

The next walk is arranged for October 24th, meeting at the Playing Field, Newton Poppleford at 2.15, to be led by Mr. G. Walker.

Col. Oswald will lead the walk on 21st November starting from the Free Car Park, Budleigh Salterton at 2.15.

At the request of some members for a walk on a day other than a Wednesday, Mr. P. Tunner will lead a walk starting at 2.15 from East Budleigh Village Car Park on:-

SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER

On 27th September, the Footpath Sub-Committee, together with some members of the Executive Committee, were invited to meet the County Footpath Warden, Mr. Arthur Tenniswood. This was a very informative and worthwhile meeting.

For the information of members wishing to report any matters concerning footpaths, the following are the names and telephone numbers of

the Footpath Wardens of each Parish:

Budleigh Salterton	Colonel Oswald	B.S.2057
East Budleigh/Bicton	Mr. P. Tunner	B.S.3352
Ottertton/Col.Raleigh	Mrs. Stammers	Col.Ral. 68176
Newton Poppleford/ Harpford	Mr. Walker	Col.Ral. 68401

iii) LOCAL HISTORY, ARCHEOLOGY AND ARCHITECTURE

This Sub-Committee is still in its infancy and is seeking a secretary. Its work will be closely allied to the Fairlynch Museum.

Members are asked to bring any pieces of local history, supported by documents where available to the Fairlynch Museum for the Sub-Committee's persual.

(iv) PUBLICITY AND PROGRAMME

A programme of six lectures and meetings has been arranged, two in Salterton and one each in the villages.

The first lecture was on Sept. 7th, at the Masonic Hall, Salterton, when over 100 people listened to Alan Cotton's talk "Artist in Landscape: The Otter Valley". The lecture was very well received, and many people felt that they had gained a new dimension in their appreciation of the scenery around them.

The second lecture was by Trevor Bartlett on "Badgers and other Mammals of East Devon". It was the first gathering of the Association outside Salterton, in East Budleigh Village Hall (Oct. 2nd). It was very encouraging that as many as 90 people turned up. Comments have been extremely favourable, and clearly the large audience enjoyed the outstanding slides and splendid commentary.

THE REMAINING PROGRAMME IS:-

- Nov. 14th: Otterton Village Hall.
Stan Davies (R.S.F.B.) on "Birds of
East Devon".
- December: No lecture has been arranged, but it
is hoped to have a social evening.
Date to be announced.
- Jan. 16th: Colaton Raleigh Village Hall.
Jim Furze on "Park Trees of Bickton".
- Feb. 12th: Temple Methodist Church Hall,
Salterton. Geoffrey Hoare (Univ. of
Exeter) on "The Spirit of the Place".
- March 12th: Newton Poppleford Village Hall.
Priscilla Hull on "The People of the
Valley".

All these lectures will be at 7.30 p.m. Entrance
free, with silver collection to cover hall,
advertisements, etc.

Posters are being distributed throughout the area
giving the details of these lectures, and also of
the guided walks. These posters are printed on
pale blue paper, reserved by local printers for
our exclusive use. They were ordered in bulk,
in order to reduce costs, and each month the
dates etc. are overprinted on a standard poster.
Members are urged to READ these posters; they
look alike, but each month the "middle bit" is
different.

Members are also urged to save petrol by offering
lifts to others, and sharing cars, for lectures
and walks away from home. This applies part-
icularly to Salterton drivers. Please meet at
7 p.m. (lectures) or 1.45 p.m. (walks) out-
side the Salterton Public Hall (facing the
Green), pick up non-drivers and leave surplus
cars in the Free Car Park.

Anyone with suggestions for titles and lecturers

for next year's programme is invited to get in touch
with the Programme Secretary. The topics should, of
course, be of local interest.

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FAIRLYNCH MUSEUM

An Exhibition entitled "Artists of the Otter Valley"
opened to the public on October 6th and continues
until October 31st. Fourteen artists living within the
area covered by the Otter Valley Association were
invited to submit work. Forty-seven works are on
view.

The Christmas Exhibition will include a display of
twelve large wildlife paintings by Donald Wallace.

FRIENDS OF FAIRLYNCH

A series of lectures open to non-members (35p.) has
been arranged for the second Thursday each month
December excepted) at the Masonic Hall, Salterton.
Names of speakers and titles are displayed on posters
in the town.

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SONNET
TO THE RIVER OTTER

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Dear native Brook! wild Streamlet of
the West!
How many various-fated years have past,
What happy and what mournful hours,
since last
I skimmed the smooth thin stone along
thy breast,
Numbering its light leaps! yet so deep
imprest
Sink the sweet scenes of childhood, that
mine eyes
I never shut amid the sunny ray,
But straight with all their tints thy
waters rise
Thy crossing plank, thy marge with
willows grey,
And beaded sand that veined with
various dyes
Gleamed through thy bright transparence!
On my way
Visions of Childhood oft have ye
Beguiled
Lone manhood's cares, yet waking
fondest sighs:
Ah! that once more I were a careless
Child!

Samuel Taylor Coleridge
(Written ca. 1793 at the age of 21)