

OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity no. 278266

[Www.oval.org.uk](http://www.oval.org.uk)



RAY FRANKLIN

ALAN JONES

VOLUME 23/1 JANUARY 2002

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Jan 5th. From Stowford Plantation (GR 057866)
 Sat. 10 a.m. 5 mi/2½ hrs. Moderate: a New Year starter, commons walk, good views,
 can be muddy.
Walk Leader: Stuart Lovett (Tel. 443141)
- Jan 15th. "History of Otterton"
 Tue. 7.30 Otterton Village Hall
Speaker: Gerald Millington
- Jan 16th. From Holman Way c.p., Topsham (GR 970881)
 Wed. 10 a.m. 2-3 hrs. Easy: bird-watching stroll, Topsham, Goat Walk, Bowling Green
 Marsh, overlooking upper estuary mud-flats
Walk Leader: David Jannaway (Tel. 567159)
- Feb 2nd. From White Bridge (GR 076830)
 Sat. 10 a.m. 5 mi/3 hrs. Moderate: White Bridge, river and coast path, hilly in places.
Walk Leader: Ken Watson (Tel. 445859)
- Feb. 13th. From Crook Plantation (GR 057866)
 Wed. 10 a.m. 5 mi/2½ hrs. Moderate: Canterbury Green, Hawkerland, fine views,
 commons, woods.
Walk Leader: Brian Turnbull (Tel. 567339)
- Feb 20th. "Valley of the Kings"
 Wed. 7.30 Newton Poppleford Church Hall
Speaker: Rod Bird: student of Egyptology
- Mar. 2nd. From Broadhembury Village Square (GR 102047)
 Sat. 10 a.m. 6 mi/3 hrs. Moderate: Broadhembury, past gliding school, fine views,
 can be muddy.
Walk Leader: Patricia Doran (Tel. 445954)
- Mar. 13th. From Budleigh Salterton Public Hall (GR 061820)
 Wed. 10 a.m. 4 mi./2½ hrs. Moderate: Bear Lane. former railway line, West Down
 Beacon, spectacular views.
Walk Leader: Glynn Whittle (Tel. 445601)
- Mar. 20th. "How well do you know your valley?"
 Tue. 7.30 p.m. East Budleigh Village Hall
Speaker: Priscilla Hull
- Mar. 30th. From Newton Poppleford c.p. (GR 086897)
 Sat. 10 a.m. 5 mi/2½ hrs. Easy: Riverside, Higher Metcombe-Fluxton, woodland garden
 with spring flowers.
Walk Leader: Marion Nalder (Tel. 442176)
- Apr. 10th. From Mincombe Wood: roadside parking (GR 161934)
 Wed. 10 a.m. 5 mi/2½ hrs. Energetic: Roncombe Valley, green pastures, bluebell
 woods, great views, two testing climbs.
Walk Leader: David Jannaway (Tel. 567159)

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

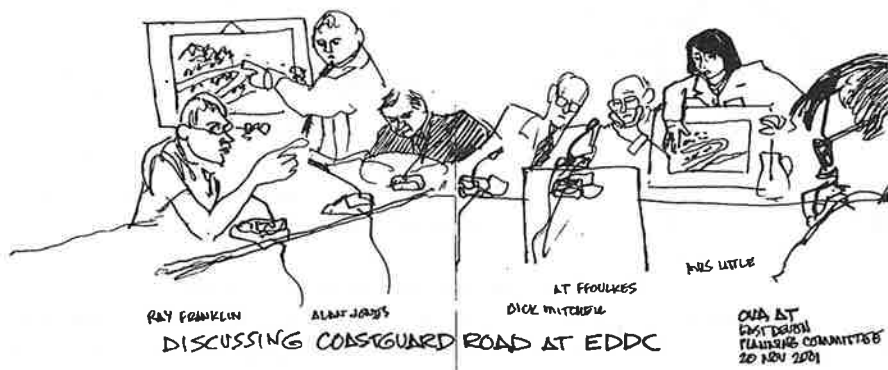
The December Newsletter is produced against the backdrop of Christmas and New Year and marks the end of the year for the OVA. As this will be my last full newsletter, in reviewing the activities of the year, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all of those on the Executive Committee, who in helping me have given sterling service to you, the members of the OVA. Not only the members of the EC but all those members of sub-committees, newsletter organisers and deliverers and many others who provide input to the workings of the OVA

It has been a busy year for the Executive Committee and also for the sub committees. Hopefully the foot and mouth crisis is behind us. FOOTPATHS are now back in full swing, and their walks programme has picked up where it left off. They are also busy rewriting our extremely successful "12 Walks" booklet. This is a lengthy job as every walk must be checked out to make sure that descriptions are accurate and that all signposts are still there. Over the years, sales of this booklet have made a considerable contribution to our funds. BUILT ENVIRONMENT are always very active. In a 'normal' year they monitor dozens of planning applications, write letters to Councils and make site visits. But this year has been something else. During the year there have been many controversial planning applications, with Plymco being the most recent. OVA have been in the thick of all of them, doing a good job on behalf of Budleigh Salterton. IT IS 40 YEARS SINCE HAROLD MACMILLAN COINED THE PHRASE "WINDS OF CHANGE". WELL THE WINDS OF CHANGE ARE BLOWING THROUGH OUR TOWN, AND IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY PERSON TO LET OUR COUNCILLORS KNOW HOW WE FEEL ABOUT OVERDEVELOPMENT, OTHERWISE THE WIND MAY BECOME A GALE.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT were also very much affected by the restrictions imposed as a result of the foot and mouth. The River is often taken for granted because it is there, but a close look reveals it to be in good shape. The banks are sound and that makes the River accessible and the water quality is good, helping to make the Otter Estuary an absolute haven for resident and migratory birds. The Millennium trees were planted in a blaze of publicity, but now that the dust has settled it is the OVA who still checks them out

This newsletter will start out as a stack of reports and articles. Brian Hawkes will knock it all into shape and give us a well produced and newsy magazine. It has been a very good year for our social secretary Maggie Morgan. We have had some entertaining talks, an excellent cruise on the Exe and fresh in our mind an enjoyable Christmas Dinner. I think that we are now getting a fair amount of publicity, mainly in the Journal. Lin Ford has developed good contacts with the Journal editorial staff, which gives us

East Devon Design Guide. No wonder developers are attracted to Budleigh Salterton (and Exmouth) like Vikings to a rich Monastery.



On a brighter note, a feature of the recent planning applications in Budleigh Salterton was the rapid formation of local groups to oppose them, and the way in which the groups have supported each other. An unprecedented number of letters of objection has been sent to the District Council, and at the meetings of the Coastal Area Planning Committee when the applications have been discussed, the councillors have often been outnumbered by interested members of the public.

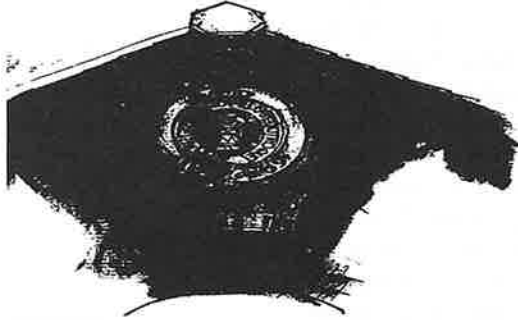
This is highly encouraging, and although the local groups may fade away when their immediate objective is achieved or denied, it is hoped that those who have been stirred up by their local issues will support the Association in its continuing work of seeking to protect our environment over a wider area.

The more individuals get involved in the planning debates the better. And this brings me on to the subject of Village Design Statements. A Village Design Statement is a document prepared by the local community which describes the physical qualities and characteristics that local people value in their village and which they would like to see respected in any future development. The Statements can be adopted by the local planning authority as Supplementary Planning guidance. This gives local people a real opportunity to influence the nature of development in their community. The preparation of the Statement will need the support of the planning authority, but the process can be initiated by an enthusiastic and committed local steering group.

Essentially this is a project to be undertaken by the people of the village themselves, even if it needs some professional input from outside. The Association is

very much in favour of the idea of these Design Statements, and will help and support any local group who wish to initiate one.

I understand from Shan Merritt (01404 812733) that she is discussing the possibilities of a Village Design Statement for Newton Pophelford. I would like to think that our members will get involved in this, and any other similar project that may be proposed in the future.



M-R
NEGRECE NEC-POPULO-SEDUTROQUE

1869

OR IS IT NI-GRECE NEC
OR NEC-RECE NEC

MIXED KIDNAP
SOUTH FLEM

I am sorry that so much of this report has been about Budleigh Salterton, but I assure our members that we are equally concerned with proposals that affect the villages. We consider every application that is submitted throughout our area.

Alan Ford
Chairman,
Built Environment Subcommittee

Actually it is "Ne Grece nec populo". *Editor*

LITTER PICK OTTER ESTUARY

The OVA has kindly offered to organise the Litter Pick on the Otter Estuary this year, as I am unable to do so. It will be held on Saturday March 9th 2002 between 10 am and 12 noon at Lime Kiln car park. Volunteers are requested to wear strong boots or wellingtons and protective gloves. Please give a little time to help make the Estuary litter free.



DRIFTWOOD - BUDLEIGH BANK
AFTER THE STORM.

Dorothy Friend Voluntary Warden

OVA CHRISTMAS DINNER 2001

Nearly eighty people enjoyed the annual Otter Valley Association Christmas Dinner, held, as it has been for the last twenty years, in East Budleigh village hall. The long tables were attractively decorated and balloons blown up in readiness for the evening, by a worthy group of members, led by our Chairman, John Lee. Ruth and Jed Falby ably organised the raffle, whilst Brian Turnbull and Brian Leveridge did a sterling job dispensing drinks. An excellent meal was provided by Mrs. Hazel Sussex and her staff, during which we were entertained with live music by Jim Douglas-Stuart. During the meal there were many furrowed brows as we tried to unravel the excellent quiz compiled by Ken Watson. The evening ended with carols and much fun with balloons !! Thanks must go to Maggie Morgan, our Social Secretary, and to John Lee as Master of Ceremonies.



OVA CHRISTMAS DINNER
TUES 4 DEC 2001

If you did not make it this year you missed a great evening of companionship and frivolity. Do try to come along next year and be a part of it. If you are reading this and are not yet an OVA member, how about a New Year resolution to join us and enjoy the walks and talks we arrange throughout the year. To find out more telephone 01395 445230.

Lin Ford

FROM THE ARCHIVIST

The OVA Archive is growing slowly but surely and I would like to thank Anita Jennings, Alan Jones, Julia Kumick, Barbara Primmer and Ken Watson for their contributions.

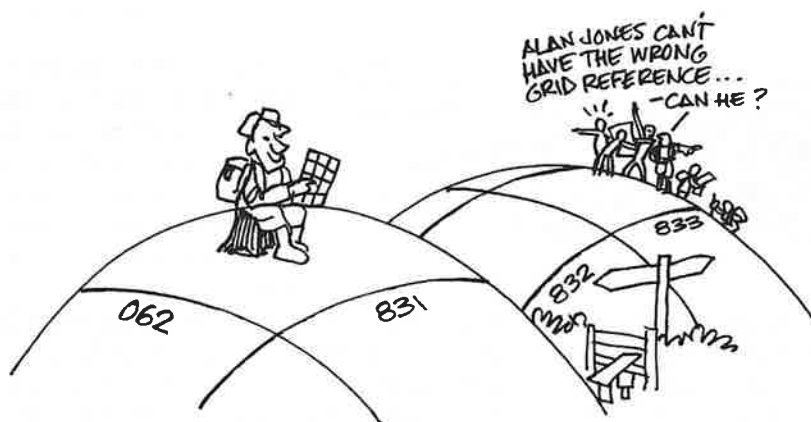
If anyone else reading this has any OVA information or memorabilia that they would be willing to pass into the safe keeping of the OVA Archive please do let me know, my telephone number is 01395 567560. If this is in the form of documentation that you would like to retain, but which I might photocopy, this can of course be arranged.

Thank you. Robin Holt



Some of you were no doubt smart enough to spot that the grid reference in my article in the last issue on how to read a grid reference was incorrect. Some may even have been

smart enough to realise that this was a deliberate mistake: to check whether anyone read my articles. Well you can't prove that isn't so. I was worried at first because I only had one complaint. However 4 others had gone to Jed Falby. I don't know why people raise their complaints with Jed, but I think it's because he has broad shoulders. Now I know that at least 5 people read my articles.



The main subject for the P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) workshop at the beginning of the month was a history of the foot and mouth outbreak. This lost a certain amount in interest because the subject had been fairly thoroughly treated in the preceding workshop. However it enabled the County Council to make the point that they were the quickest to close paths at the start of the epidemic, the quickest to open them again when this became possible, and that they did this without traipsing over land that was closed. Self-advertisement, but justified I think.

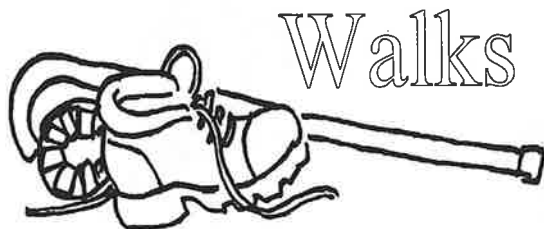
The more interesting part of the workshop dealt with the new act on access to the countryside. I was rather worried about some of the exceptions. They seemed for

example to include almost any land on which there were horses, and there were rather a lot of circumstances in which a path could be closed. Replies to questions on this seemed to express an optimism for which no basis was given. When I can find time I will research this on the web.

We will soon have to order further copies of "12 Walks in the Otter Valley". The members of the footpath committee are checking all the walks for changes which might confuse. For example I have found that a boggy area mentioned in one walk description has dried up. The walker might go miles looking for it!

David Jannaway, our secretary, is looking into the feasibility of a working party to clean up the gunnery observation post on the coast path between Ladram Bay and Budleigh Salterton.

Alan Jones.



Saturday, 28th July 2001 - Passaford Lane and Peak Hill: (accidentally omitted from October issue): Eleven stalwarts arrived (two by bicycle) at Colaton Raleigh Church on a cloudless July morning for a walk billed as "6 mi/3 hr, energetic". It began gently enough,

crossing the sleepy River Otter to Burnt House Farm, and turning left for a short distance along the metalled road to Pavers, with its collection of distinctive Mark Rolle buildings. There we girded up our loins for Passaford Lane. This involved a certain amount of toil and sweat, but mercifully neither tears nor blood. We climbed steadily in the shade, passing through the limit of cultivation and the spring line, buoyed by the prospect of two hours of glorious high level or downhill walking awaiting us at the top. The carpet of purple heather and yellow gorse when we finally emerged into bright sunshine on Mutters Moor was ample reward for our exertions.

After a short break for refreshments, we made good progress across the Moor, crossing the Otterton/Sidmouth road, and continuing through delightful National Trust woodland to join the Coast Path at Peak Hill. Motor boats from Ladram Bay made lazy circles on the translucent waters far below. We followed the Coast Path westwards, looking across the Otter Valley, with the ancient hamlet of Pinn in the foreground and Woodbury Castle on the horizon.

Pausing again at High Peak to look back along the Heritage Coast towards Beer Head, we noted how the tree line corresponds exactly to the beginning of the less fertile chalk strata. Down at Sidmouth, the beach at Jacob's Ladder was proving popular. But we headed down Monks Walk in the footsteps of the Otterton priors. From Sea View Farm, we dived into Chockenhole Lane, disturbing the Red Admiral butterflies basking in the mid-day sun. Rydon Lane brought us to Rickety Bridge, where the River Otter looked particularly cool and inviting. Even the fish were lurking in the shade as we made our way up the riverside path to Colaton Raleigh. Where else can you walk along farmland, woodland, moorland, sea cliffs, green lanes and river bank, and still be home in time for lunch?

Brian Turnbull

All day walk 20th October: Stan Herbert was indisposed for this walk and it fell to yours truly to venture out on several occasions to test out what would make up a reasonable all day walk. After at least fifty miles of trekking up hill and down dell the route was sorted. On a fine autumnal morning eight walkers and a dog set out from Hayes Lane car park. Up Hayes Lane and turning right into Ullage Lane and right again onto footpath No. 12. This path affords great views over Otterton, heading for Shortwood Common through the plantation and on to Shortwood Lane stopping at Dalditch Apiary. Here I had a confession to make. In the October issue of the newsletter I referred to an Arts and Crafts house as Coxen when the house we had been looking at is, in fact, Shortwood House. It is from this vantage point we can see Coxen, now known as Long Orchard. My apologies for this aesthetic gaffe.

We go towards Dalditch farm, past the site of the old mill, following the road round and up the hill. It is here I point out the old disused Quarry on the right hand side just before we turn off into Dalditch Plantation. About three hundred metres along the path can be seen an old stone wall with elements of brick pillared gateways with wrought iron. I had for a long time been baffled by this isolated wall and then I found an old map (1800's) which showed that this was the entrance to Dalditch Brickworks. Following the track onward we come to Squabmoor Reservoir and here we have a welcome coffee break. Bathed in glorious sunshine admiring the autumnal reflections on the still waters we leave the reservoir and head out across East Budleigh Common toward the Fryingpans, all the time going uphill. The ground levels out as we reach the East Devon Way and now we skirt the fringes of Bicton Common. We are constantly stopping to admire the profusion of different species of fungi - we can't name them but we are suitably impressed by their colourings. Passing through Island Plantation crossing Yettington road onto footpath No. 6 through Crook Plantation to Blackberry Marles and here we have our picnic lunch before setting off once again to cross Colaton Raleigh Common. Taking in the prospect looking South toward the sea and North toward Woodbury Castle, I inform my fellow walkers of the time in the 1700's when

the gentry built a small two storey building within the confines of Woodbury Castle so that they might "take the view". Today, the view is generally admired behind closed doors and windscreen wipers.

Up to now it has been uphill all the way, but from here on until we arrive back at our destination it is downhill all the way. Heading toward Colaton Raleigh we experience a very muddy track near Selwood Farm and have to negotiate an electric fence to try and avoid the worst of it. On through the village and down to the river, along the riverside path to Otterton. Between Otterton and Clamour Bridge a passer-by points out some unusual ducks and spying my binoculars enquires whether or not I know what they are. I cannot help him. The ducks had the appearance and size of mallard but each had what can only be described as a pompom on it's head. I guessed that it was some form of domestic duck and a visit to Otterton Mill at a later date confirmed this. They were in fact Crested Duck who are normally resident there but had strayed so that people like me could spend hours pouring over their books trying to discover what they were.

We are on the home stretch and heading back toward East Budleigh when I discover a large edible mushroom which I pick and have with my breakfast next morning. I sit reflecting on a good 12 mile walk on a very pleasant day. And once again I prove to my wife that I do know the difference between a mushroom and a toadstool!!

David Jannaway

10th November 2001 "River and coastal, far-reaching views - 4.5 miles": A beautiful November morning for the 351st walk of the O.V.A., the sun shone, birds and wildlife were out in large numbers and apart from one small muddy section the going was easy. Thirty-one walkers and two dogs set off from the White Bridge along the west side of the river to the Clamour Bridge. Over the bridge and along Collier Lane and then up the track and footpath to the coast. We had fine views of Sidmouth and the coastline with the Golden Cap and as we climbed the South West Coast Path we could clearly see Portland Head over 40 miles away.

We stopped at the derelict lookout building for refreshment and to allow the bird watching group at the rear of the party to catch up. We continued along the coast path and coming over the final rise we saw what must be one of the best views along the entire south coast of England. The sun shining on Budleigh Salterton with the autumn colours of the countryside to the right and the red cliffs with Lyme Bay stretching out to the left

As promised, we were back at White Bridge just after midday although it was some time later when the bird watchers completed the walk.

David Huggett

WARKDONESWAYE

Today spelt Warkidon, it is now a Public Footpath between Greendale Barton (GRO20896) and Hogsbrook Farm, Woodbury and on to the Beacon near Woodbury Castle. On 8th September 2001, this footpath was part of an OVA walk from Woodbury Castle, westward to Cottles Farm and Parsonage House then northwards to Cannon Walls Farm (alluding to the canons of Torre Abbey), then returning south-eastwards via "Warkidons Way" to Hogsbrook and on to the Castle of the first millennium BC. (Walk researched and led by Ken Watson.)

Ursula Brighthouse, in her book "Woodbury, a view from the Beacon" tells us the Public Footpath today was a cart track, "Warkdune" shown on the 1839 Woodbury Tithe Map, and then she gives various references to Deryck Seymour's book, "Torre Abbey".

Seymour Jones' summary of 12 charters from 1188AD when Reginald de Albamara made a gift of land in the manor of Woodbury to William Briwere. Lord William Briwere established Torre Abbey in 1196. About 40/50 years later a charter confirms William Briwere's gift of "Grendel" to the Canons of Torre Abbey. The tenancy or tithe money that was collected from the farms, extending about 3 miles north of Woodbury Castle, southwards to Cannon Walls, eastwards and westwards of Warkdoneswaye, was paid to the Canons of Torre Abbey. The Abbot visited Greendale twice a year to collect the tithe. Seymour has identified the old farms, banks, ditches, woods etc., and tied them in with the charters. Charters 95 and 96 both refer to Warkdoneswaye and confirm that Greendale Manor was one of the first gifts by Lord William Briwere when he established Torre Abbey.

WARK

1. Longman Dictionary of the English Language gives "wark/wawk" - noun - N. England-an ache, pain. [M.E. warke, O.E. woerc; akin to O.Norse verkr=pain]

The Cassell Encyclopaedia Dictionary "wark" = work An obsolete and archaic word.

3. Post Office Survey Gazetteer.

Wark par. and vil. in Northumberland on R North Tyne etc...

Wark vil. with ruins of a castle, Northumberland on right bank of R Tweed. Landranger Map Grid ref. 826385.

4. Atlas of British History.

King John 26 Aug-19 Oct 1216 campaigned from Corfe to NE England, had a battle at Lincoln, then a winter raid north to Wark, Berwick and Dunbar etc. Perhaps Wark castle was flourishing in 1216.

5. So I looked up "Wark" as a family name in Northumberland in the IGI Baptisms and Marriages which starts in 1645, and I found 39 references to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tynemouth, Heddon-on-the-Wall and Earsdon-by-North Shields, but none at Wark. Devon has no Wark marriages or baptisms on the IGI, but in 'Topsham burials is Margaret Wark 23.6.1836, age 63, buried in Mr Markwell's vault in the Meeting House. He lived at Markwell House, Lower Shapter St., Topsham, a merchant seaman and shipowner, perhaps an importer of coal from Northumberland. Somebody might like to trawl through Woodbury records which start in 1557 for the Wark family. The Devon and Cornwall Record Society have published records of services and taxes paid by parishioners, so hunt for Wark family here.

From the fact Greendale seems to have been a Saxon manor, the dictionaries give 'wark' as an Old English word c.1150 and is referred to in Torre Abbey charter of 1196 as a "waye", perhaps we could say it was a workman's cartway from Greendale to Hogsbrook, and perhaps all the way to Four Firs since Saxon times. Certainly the finger post Warkidons Way is in place near the entrance to Woodbury Park Golf Course and the Fire Beacon GR032879.

Julia Kumick 28.10 2001 OVA member

I would like to record my thanks to Julia Kumick for this excellent piece of research and enhancing our knowledge of our local area.

Ken Watson

THE SKY AT NIGHT

Budleigh Salterton is a good place to be an amateur astronomer. Firstly there are no big cities near and so the skies around are fairly dark. Secondly if you go to the seafront then most of the horizon is uncluttered by buildings restricting ones view. Thirdly if you get the bug, there is a first class observatory nearby. Finally the Northern Hemisphere is rich in things to see.

In this series we will give you a three monthly programme of things to look out for. We will show you how to find the main stars and planets. We will also give you a list of any eclipses, transits or occultations which may occur during the period.

Astronomy is one of the oldest sciences. Ancient astronomers had no optical aids and thus all of their discoveries were with the naked eye. Despite these limitations they were able to reason out the basic theories which hold good to this day. The questions which baffled them, still baffle us. We are no nearer answering the most fundamental question-Who made the Universe? - than they were. We are fairly sure that after it was made, there was a "Big Bang" the aftermath of which is still observable. But what exploded, and who put it there we do not know.

The ancients put stars into groups or constellations. Some of the stars in any one constellation, such as Orion (The hunter) are actually near to each other, the majority are merely in the same 'line of sight' and seem to be close. Whatever, groups of stars suggested shapes to them and this plus folklore and superstition ended up with groups being given names. All constellations have a Latin name and a common name eg Ursa Major is also known as the plough. The plough is one constellation which needs no introduction.

Some stars appear brighter than others. A star's brightness is known as its magnitude. First magnitude stars are the brightest in the sky and are brighter than second magnitude stars and so on. With the naked eye, you will be able to pick out down to about sixth magnitude. Using the letters of the Greek alphabet, the brightest star in a constellation (let's keep to Orion for now) is called alpha Orionis, the second brightest beta Orionis and so on. Some prominent stars also have names e.g. in the constellation Gemini (the twins) alpha Gemini is Castor and beta Gemini is Pollux. Castor and Pollux in mythology were twins

When you go out to look for Orion - or any other object - it will be a help if you first of all find out where North, South, East and West are relative to your own garden and remember it.

Orion is in a particularly rich part of the sky. Near Orion is Gemini, Canis Major, Canis Minor and Taurus. Which are which?

In the winter Orion rises about 6pm and sets in the early hours of the morning. It is very prominent right in front of you in the South from about 8pm to 10 pm. These times vary with the time of the year. But that is for another day.



THE FIRST FIVE LETTERS OF THE GREK ALPHABET

alpha = ALPHA, beta = BETA, gamma = GAMMA

delta = DELTA, epsilon = EPSILON

M42 - THE GREAT NEBULA IS VISIBLE WITH A
MEDIUM BINOCULAR AS A HAZY PATCH
OF LIGHT

John Lee

OFFICIALS 2001/2002

Vice-Presidents: Mrs Dorothy Stammers
Mrs. Barbara Primmer

Officers

		telephone (01395)
Chairman	Mr. John Lee	445696
Vice-Chairman	Mr. Alan Ford	445230
Honorary Secretary	Mr. David Leonard	445942
Assistant Secretary	Mr Alan Jones	568339
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Brian Turnbull	567339

Executive Committee

Representing the Parish of:

Budleigh Salterton	Mr Jed Falby	445455
Budleigh Salterton	Mr. Stan Murrell	446079
East Budleigh	Mr Graham Cook	446523
Colaton Raleigh	Mr Alan Jones	568339
Newton Poppleford	Mr. Haylor Lass	568786
Otterton	Mr Philip Greenhow	567996

Membership Secretary	Mr Brian Hawkes	442017
Publicity Secretary	Mrs. Lin Ford	445230
Social Secretary	Mrs. Maggie Morgan	442872

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Footpaths	Mr Alan Jones	568339
Natural Environment	Mr Robert Sellin	443283
Built Environment	Mr. Alan Ford	445230

Newsletter Editor	Mr. Brian Hawkes	442017
Newsletter Distributors	Major Mike Oakley	443791

The Association was founded in 1979 is registered with the Civic Trust and the Charity Commissioners and is a member of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV): it is also affiliated to CPRE. It cares for the environment and any queries should be addressed to your Parish Representative.

Our thanks to Jed Falby for the cover illustration Miss F Matty
Sunrise
Contributions for the next issue by **March 13th** Shepherds Lane
Colaton Raleigh
Sidmouth
EX10 0LP