

# OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

PO Box 70 Budleigh Salterton EX9 6WN

[www.ova.org.uk](http://www.ova.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 278266

*Can you spot  
the differences?*



See Full Story - Page 21

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*Photos in this issue courtesy of Mo Bowman, Haytor Lass, Anne Grieve and Phil Planel. Illustrations - Jed Falby*



## Chairman's Message



Although my active involvement with the OVA is of relatively short duration, my connection with the Otter Valley goes back many years. I was a frequent visitor to the area before becoming resident in Budleigh Salterton in 1999 and I worked in Exeter, Colyton and Bicton before qualifying to take up Nick's bus pass challenge this year. (see page 9 - Ed)

I first visited the area as a student at Exeter University on an Out of Doors Society walk from Budleigh Salterton to Exmouth and was impressed by its scenic beauty as well as the steepness of the climb up to West Down Beacon. A desire to protect it motivates me now.

Sustainability is an overused word but I believe we need to focus on it both in the context of taking action to safeguard our environment and to ensure the continuation of the OVA in the long term. If we can build our membership from about 1100 currently to 1500 or more our voice will be heard more clearly where it matters.

The OVA is fortunate in having many people playing a part in its activities as walk leaders, sub-committee members, newsletter distributors and members of the executive Committee but there is always room for more. Active involvement helps you to get to know the OVA and its members better. Whatever your skills and interests are I am sure we could use them. Helping with running the next Communityscape or lending a hand on an OVA stall would be much appreciated, and we can all try to recruit new members among our friends and neighbours. Please contact your parish representative as a first step.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at some of the varied events in this year's programme.  
(See Diary pages Ed.)

**Helen Tickle**



## From the Editor



Free at last to concentrate on the Newsletter with the role of Acting Chairman just a fading memory, I sat down to pull this edition together and decided that one of the first things I would like to do is find out what you want from your Newsletter.

For many of you this is the primary, if not the only, communication you get from the OVA so what do you think of it and what would you like to see more of, less of or that you don't see already? I would love to hear from you so please either call write or email your comments to me (full details of how to reach me are on the back cover).

You may remember that last year we explored the options around colour in the Newsletter. Sadly that was rejected on the basis of cost but that will not prevent me from exploring other ways to improve the layout and readability of the Newsletter. Again I would like to hear what you think. In this article I have used a san serif font (Helvetica). I think it is easier on the eye than Times New Roman or Garamond which has been used in the rest of the Newsletter. However, beauty is in the eye of the beholder - so beholder what do you think?

As for editorial policy I will continue the good work of my predecessor, Pat Quaife, and will be as unbiased as I can neither favouring Walks, Talks nor Events; neither BECom, NeCom nor History. In truth, I will be grateful for any and all articles and contributions from whatever source. So if you feel like putting pen to paper or finger to keyboard please do so in the knowledge that your contribution will be gratefully received.

Nick Speare



## OVA Design Award 2008

One of the ways in which the Built Environment Committee (BECOM) tackles its remit, “to promote high standards of planning and design in the Lower Otter Valley”, is through the OVA Design Award which may be given every two years for new buildings or the redesign of existing buildings.

This year our panel of judges, two architects (Christopher Briscoe and Morton Taylor), two specialists in conservation (Tony Colmer and George Maddaford) and a member of EDDC’s Development Control Committee (Cllr Andrew Dinnis) considered four impressive new buildings. In each they were looking for originality of design, sensitivity to setting, and the imaginative use of quality materials. Attention was also given to green credentials, particularly conservation of resources and low energy use.



*John Varley, Clinton Devon Chief Executive receiving the 2008 Design Award from Nick Speare, Acting Chairman*

It was clear that all four buildings were worthy to receive the award. However, it was felt that two were quite outstanding. These were the “Beach Hut”, Coastguard Road, Budleigh Salterton, and the new Clinton Devon Estates HQ at Bickton Arena. As it was impossible to choose between them, both received the Design Award at the AGM on 7th May.

Parade. It is set into the crown of the cliff with large windows and projecting balcony areas, one of which comes to a point seemingly like the prow of a ship. This maritime theme is continued by four large canvas sheltering sails attached to angled masts which can both protect against the sun and insulate against heat loss. The attention to detail and the overall effect is fascinating.

The Beach Hut is a rebuild of an earlier modernist house above Marine



*Beach Hut*

Clinton Devon HQ



The Clinton Devon HQ has an oval ground plan, self-programming windows and a flat roof covered in sedum. The imposing entranceway is approached by a massive oak bridge and the walls are variously made of glass, red sandstone, and of oak cut from the estates. The building is filled with a wide range of interesting detail. It is heated by a state-of-the art wood-chip

system, while electricity is supplied by a nearby wind turbine. This is truly a 21st Century building.

It is not feasible to arrange visits to the Beach Hut, nor is it visible from Coastguard Road. It is best seen from Budleigh Beach below the Longboat Cafe. The Clinton Devon HQ is even more difficult to see, however it is anticipated that a tour for OVA members will be arranged later in the year.

**Geoff Aplin**

### **Communityscape Project 2008-9**

Readers may recall how Drake's School pupils used the 2006-7 Communityscape Project to search for East Budleigh "treasure" such as special doors, windows, chimneys, roofs, gardens, open spaces, street scenes and views which they believed should be preserved for future generations.

The Built Environment Committee is now looking into the possibility of a further Communityscape Project to run during the 2008-9 school year in another of the Lower Otter Valley's Schools. This time round in contrast to the previous project which continued for three terms culminating in a substantial exhibition we are proposing something more modest.

We are looking for OVA members who enjoy working with and for children and who would be willing to assist us in the planning and running of this project. Please contact me for more information at [giaplin@onetel.com](mailto:giaplin@onetel.com) or call 442951.

**Geoff Aplin**



**PARISHSCAPES - TITHE MAP TRAINING DAY**  
**SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Tithe Map, what's that? A difficult question to answer succinctly, but for most villages in England these large maps provide a unique window into the evolution of local landscapes at the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign, around 1840.

We will be using the East Budleigh Tithe Map and the village itself as a training day – part indoors and part outdoors, as an introduction to the use of this fascinating resource. No cartographic or indeed any other skills will be needed to enjoy and learn from this day.

We will be humbly walking in the steps of the children at Drakes School, East Budleigh who, following on from the 'communityscapes' work completed with the help of the OVA, have since used the tithe map to assess change in the village. We will also be building on the work of Martin Smith from the OVA who has transcribed all the apportionment data from the tithe exercise onto a digital database.

Apportionment? The tithe map was drawn up to fairly apportion tithes, a tax of a tenth of all agricultural production payable to the church, to the landowners in the village. In a cash economy it was no longer feasible to pay tithes in kind or to stack up produce in tithe barns, and so the Tithe Commutation Act (1836), commuted tithes to a cash payment, but required an accurate mapped assessment of every field, garden and plot in a village.

Each plot of land on the map was given a number and the apportionment document tells us who the plot was owned by, occupied by, what was growing there, what the plot name was, what size it was and what tithes were payable. We can use this information, in conjunction with other evidence as diverse as census data, landscape painting, oral history, the built environment, literary sources and artifacts to reconstruct the 1840 landscape and attempt to account for landscape change between then and now.

The East Devon maps have been digitised in conjunction with the Devon Record Office to enable us to zoom in on the parts of the map that interest us, project the image on a wall or screen and print off images of particular farms, holdings or larger parts of the map. Of course there is nothing new

about tithe map research and it has always been the first port of call for landscape historians. The digitisation process, however, does allow us to see patterns in the landscape that are impossible to see using conventional analysis. In some cases, as emerged in the Branscombe and Beer Parishscapes project two years ago, hitherto unknown tenurial fault lines emerge from the map, reflecting earlier forms of tenure and land use fossilised in the tithe map.

In case all this sounds a little dry, landscape change also tells countless human stories. The fact that one of the key changes in East Devon villages was a gradual conversion from arable to pastoral farming might not at first glance seem significant but it accounted for the abandon of many a house and the migration of many a family into Exeter; the less labour intensive pastoral economy employed far fewer people. The landscape itself looked different and of course every part of it was used as a resource for those who remained on the land. Here is a glimpse of changing biodiversity, provided by J.G. Cornish looking back on Salcombe (Sidmouth). Could this picture be applied to Colaton Raleigh, East Budleigh or other OVA parishes?

"Partridges were plentiful then [c.1870], for nearly all the red marl on the west side of Salcombe Hill was under the plough and much of the poor light land on the hilltop, while further east and north where the hilltop clay is deeper there were few grass fields. So the partridges reared fine broods on the hillsides and the light land. And the country was far more interesting, for there was the change of crops, wheat, barley, oats, rye-grass, fallow, mangolds, turnips, where now we find only one or two arable fields to six or eight of grass. It seems strange to me now to look at a steep hillside covered with bracken or even gorse and brambles, and to think how I saw oats being sown by hand on it and the carter standing at a perilous angle to harrow in the grain."



**Philippe Planel,**  
**Parishscapes Officer, East Devon AONB**

Picture over: a detail from the East Budleigh Tithe Map





Part of East Budleigh Tithe map.

Copyright Parishscapes and Devon Record Office

Phil Planel has kindly agreed to give us a workshop on the Parishscapes Tithe Maps, centered on East Budleigh. It will involve both theoretical and practical instruction and will be tailored to both novices and those with some knowledge.

It will be held in Drake's School, East Budleigh, where the work undertaken by the schoolchildren will be on show to inspire us.

We will assemble at 10.00 am on Saturday 13th September for theoretical work. Coffee and a Ploughman's lunch will be provided. After lunch we will go outdoors.

Price-£10.00 to include coffee and lunch



## A Word for Walkers

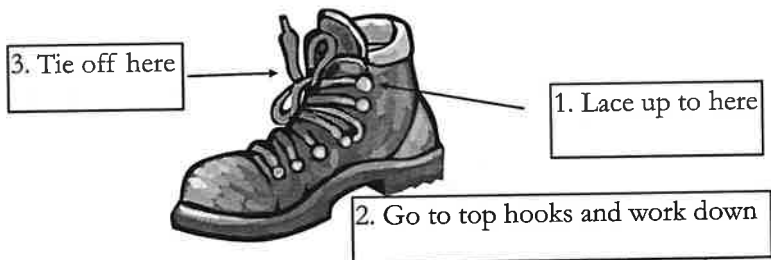
### Footwear

There is a vast array footwear for you to choose from. Bitter experience has taught me that buying cheap is the wrong way to go, so buy the best boots you can afford preferably from a retailer that offers a boot fitting service by qualified boot fitter. If you thought bespoke fitting of a suit was tedious this will test your patience but I promise it will be worth it. They measure the length, width, depth, volume, elongation and flex points of your feet. Then they can personally tailor the boots to your feet by using amazing footbeds. These are like insoles that you heat in the oven then mould to your feet – (once out of the oven)!

Tell the boot fitter what type of walking you intend to do and they should recommend the most suitable footwear. Boots give you ankle support and I have always opted for them over shoes. Gortex and leather both have advantages and it's down to personal preference.

If you have gone for the economical option you may need to 'Break in' the boots by going on several short walks before attempting anything over 3 miles. In well-fitted boots you should be able to tackle anything straight away! If you have spent all your beer money on a top of the range pair you will want to look after them. Clean off mud and dirt, as the acid in soils will start to eat at them. Put screwed up newspaper inside to help dry them out.

Once a year fill up the boots with water and leave them over night. Copious amounts of moisture from your feet ladies (and sweat from men) will have gone into the boot lining. The acids and salts will be doing no good at all and this annual treat will clean them out.



Now we've learnt how to tie our laces we will work up the body to gaiters and over trousers in the next issue.

**Steve Hagger**

## Bus Pass Challenge

One of the pleasures I have experienced has been the freedom that comes when you are backpacking with no predetermined destination or time constraints. A few years ago Gill and I went backpacking around the Greek Islands. Planning before the holidays consisted of booking return flights to Athens and working out what we needed to pack (much less than we actually took). The rest we left to chance - we would make our way to the port and catch a ferry to an island whose name sounded interesting and once there we would find a room for as long as we cared to stay.

When it was announced that we were to get a Bus Pass that meant we could travel England for free we decided that this would give us exactly the same freedom as the Greek backpacking holidays had. Catch a bus to a destination we didn't know and rely on B&B lodgings or hotels for accommodation.

When I retired as Acting Chairman I wanted to encourage others to enjoy this freedom as well and so was born the Bus Pass Challenge which I announced at the AGM.



The Challenge is to make either the longest or most innovative journey using only your Bus Pass. Sorry to the younger members of the OVA - this is for over 60s only! I have been deliberately vague in describing the journey to be as inclusive as I can. Judging will be carried out by the Chairman and myself from entries submitted prior to the AGM and the winner will receive the OVA Bus Pass Challenge Award to keep for one year.

The best of luck and enjoy the journey as much as the destination!

**Nick Speare**



## OVAPEDIA

As a result of a very positive response to the last newsletter article, particularly from Roz Hickman and John Hagger, we know that there is sufficient interest across all five communities in the Lower Otter Valley in pursuing this idea.

With advice from our Archivist, Robin Holt, Alan Huddart our Web Master and COSMIC, a local web site design social enterprise company, we have come up with a very exciting, but eminently practical idea. This is not just to create pages with OVAPEDIA information within our web site but also to add a Google search of these pages. Using free text search of our archive with all the power of a normal Google search means we could store all sorts of historical information, gleaned by members, and easily search it. For example, the archive could contain biographical portraits of individuals who had done something notable or collective histories for families with long historic connections but who were in the main very "ordinary", or could be just a record of an historical incident.

The Executive Committee have agreed that we should seek a grant under the "Awards for All" scheme supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, for this project. Because of this the project cannot formally start until we know the result of the application. However, we still want to keep the interest alive.

So here is another potential entry for the archive, this time from Otterton.

### **George Vernon Northcott (1891 – 1963)**

Was born at Otterton the son of a Blacksmith. At the outbreak of WW1 he joined the Royal Navy as an officer in Iron Duke, Jellicoe's Flagship, under Admiral Lord Beatty and fought at The Battle of Jutland.

After the war in 1918, he formed a partnership with his sister Lucy's husband Frederick George Pile starting a building business at Alverstoke Gosport Hampshire Northcott and Pile, Builders. Later he started Brighter Homes, bought a factory, and opened shops all over England, becoming the largest wallpaper manufacturing company in Britain. He eventually became a millionaire, and bought the large estate and farms at Nutwell Court, Lymington, Exmouth, Devon, which he substantially renovated in the 1940s.

## History

In 1953 he bought a piece of land in Otterton and gave it to the village to be used in perpetuity as a playing field.

In 1961 to mark his 70th birthday he gave £500,000 to set up The Northcott Devon Foundation, which distributes help to many smaller charities. In 1962 he established The Northcott Devon Medical Foundation and in 1963 he founded The Northcott Theatre, on the University Campus at Exeter. In 1965 he was awarded the CBE.



An extract from a compilation by **Roz Hickman** from notes by **Verena May Bendall**, niece, The Times and parish records.

**David Daniel**

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### TRUSTEES' REPORT

Members who attended the AGM were given a copy of the Annual Report of the Trustees of the OVA.

If you did not attend the AGM and would like a copy of the 'Trustees' Report please send your request with a stamped addressed envelope (preferably A5) to:

Hon Secretary. OVA, PO Box 70, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6WN.

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### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

You should find your Membership Card enclosed with this Newsletter.

If it is not then our records show that we have not received your subscription.

If you have decided not to renew your membership then we are sorry to lose you and would like to thank you for your past support.

If this is an oversight and you wish to continue with your membership then please send your subscription to: Hon. Treasurer, PO Box 70, Budleigh Salterton EX9 6WN as soon as possible.



## East Budleigh Development of a new 300m hedge at the village hall

An old fence behind the village hall needed to be repaired or replaced. However, since this would have been a very expensive undertaking, the Village Hall Committee decided to replace it with a hedge. Contractors were employed to clear away old fencing materials and prepare the ground for planting. This work was funded by a matching grant from AONB.

The new hedge, 300m long, comprises indigenous species such as blackthorn, hazel, spindle, guelder rose and hawthorn and will be easily managed to a height of 2.5m. Planting was carried out in February and was a Community effort involving the Village Hall Committee, the Britain in Bloom Committee (who will enter the hedge for a Royal Horticultural Society's Community Award) and pupils from Drakes School. The hedge will be more aesthetically pleasing and cheaper than a fence. It will also help the village entry for the National Final of The Britain in Bloom Competition in 2008 by demonstrating biodiversity and community involvement. For further information see [www.eastbudleighinbloom.org.uk](http://www.eastbudleighinbloom.org.uk).

Norman Crossland

He  
that planteth a  
Tree  
is the servant of  
God

He provideth a  
kindness  
for many generations

And faces that  
he hath not seen  
shall bless him

Thanks to Ann Hack who found this amongst her papers recently and sent it to me. Ed

## **Beer Caves Double Bill** **September 15th and 22nd**

No, no not a pub crawl - but there was a fair deal of smuggling of wine and spirits going on.



## **Beer Quarry Caves Talk**

*The oldest continuously worked industrial site in Britain*

Monday, September 15th – 7.30pm at Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton

*Speaker:* John Scott FRSA



Started by the Romans in 50 AD and only ceased full scale working in 1920, but some work still goes on, with demand for the beautiful white limestone still coming in from all over the world.

The quarry men who worked, or slaved, in Beer Quarry Caves have always come from the small coastal settlement. There are written records which take us back to the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> century, when the limestone was being used in Saxon churches and palaces.

Following the Norman Conquest in 1066, the caves came into huge demand, with the stone from the Quarry being used in at least 24 of the 44 great Cathedrals of the Norman period. By the 1300s the stone was being shipped around the coast to London, where it was used in the Tower of London, Hampton Court and the old Palace of Westminster. Between the parish records in Beer and the Cathedral of Exeter, whose Bishop leased the Quarry for centuries, there are detailed written accounts of the money paid and the work done by the workers at the Quarry.

There are also tales of smuggling, fights, accidents and deaths. Come and hear the full story of Beer Quarry Caves told by John Scott, a resident of Beer and the saviour and curator of the caves.

### Beer Quarry Caves Visit

To follow John Scott's talk 'Beer Caves – 2000 years of History' on **September 15th**, we have managed to arrange a dedicated OVA tour of the caves on the following Monday, **September 22nd**. The tour will also be led by John who has lived in Beer all his life, and became fascinated by the caves as a boy. It was his determination, which saved the caves from being blasted out of existence in 1983.

Owned by Clinton Devon Estates, the caves have been leased to him for many years, and in that time much has been done to document the history of the workings and the surrounding natural environment. Two thousand years of quarrying has produced the famous creamy Beer stone, which has very particular qualities, most notably a durability combined with a soft surface, which is ideal for carving. Famously used in Exeter cathedral, Beer stone has been employed right up to the present day, and is even incorporated into the new administration offices of the Clinton Devon Estates – which recently won the OVA Design Award.

A documentary about the caves has recently been made (with John as narrator) but at the time of writing the transmission date has not been fixed, so watch your television schedules in case it pops up soon.

The tour will be held on Monday, 22nd September at Beer Quarry Caves, and will cost £4 per head. Please meet at 10.50 in the Quarry Car Park. For tickets use the Booking Form on page 27.

The journey from Budleigh takes about 35 minutes, with directions to the Quarry Caves clearly signed from Beer village. You will need a coat as the temperature in the caves is a fairly constant 12 degrees, and of course sensible shoes. The tour will last about an hour and then (and only then) you can visit the pub for lunch and Beer!

**Maggie Giraud**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY JULY - SEPT 2008



**July 2, Wed - 10.00am. Day WALK (Energetic)** bring lunch.  
Budleigh Salterton free CP, SY061821. 9½ miles, 5½ hours. Coast  
path to Exmouth, returning via old railway line.  
*Walk leader:* Shane Badham, 01395 567531



**July 9, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Easy)**  
East Budleigh, CP, SY065849. 4½ miles, 2¼ hours. Riverside, fields,  
Otterton, brief tour of St Mary's church, Bicton.  
*Walk leader:* Stan Herbert, 01395 445113



**July 19, Sat - 10.30am. FIELD TRIP, Bystock Nature Reserve**  
Northern access Car Park, SY 030849. 2 - 2½ hours. Follow-on to  
the talk by the Devon Wildlife Trust on Bystock Nature Reserve in  
April. Some narrow paths, may be muddy; no dogs. Cost - £2  
donation for DWT. *Contact:* Diane Gee, 01395 444388



**July 26, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) / Pub lunch**  
"The Otter" CP, Colaton Raleigh, SY078874. 4½ miles, 2½ hours.  
Lanes, tracks and footpaths; fine views of Otter valley, mainly flat.  
Optional pub lunch.  
*Walk leader:* Steve Hagger, 01395 442631



**July 29th Budleigh Salterton Town Walk** (in conjunction with the  
Music Festival) Methodist Church Car Park, 10.00am.



**Aug. 1st Budleigh Salterton Town Walk** Methodist Church Car  
Park, 10.00am.



**August 2, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**  
Woodbury Castle, Estuary CP, SY032872. 4½ miles, 2½ hours.  
Westwards towards Woodbury. Exe Valley views; two climbs, stony  
paths, muddy after rain.  
*Walk leader:* Ken Watson, 01395 445859.



**August 13, Wed - 9.00am. WALK (Moderate) / "Brunch"** on beach  
Budleigh Salterton free CP, SY061821. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Kersbrook,  
East Budleigh, riverside. Optional "brunch" at the beach cafe.  
*Walk leader:* Stan Herbert, 01395 445113

## JULY - SEPT 2008

### August 20, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)



Salcombe Hill CP, SY139882. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Circular walk with some steep steps; coast path to Weston with good views.

*Walk leader:* Brian Leveridge, 01395 443358.

### September 6, Sat - 10.00am. Artists' WALK (Easy) / lunch



Old Bickton Church CP (SY073857), entrance from road SY073856. 5 miles, 3 hours. See the great trees of Bickton Park and the China Tower. Ten-minute stops for sketching and demos; non-artists very welcome! Optional lunch in Otterton.

*Walk leader:* Jed Falby, 01395 445455

### September 10, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)



Colaton Raleigh Church, roadside parking, SY082872, 5 miles, 2½ hours. Kingston, Hawkerland Brakes, Stoneyford; commons and riverside. *Walk leader:* Gordon Wilson, 01395 568594

### September 13 Sat - 10.00am Tithe Map Workshop



Drakes School East Budleigh -

Organiser Nicky Daniel 01395 445960

### September 15 Mon. - 7.30pm. TALK



Peter Hall BS

"Beer caves - 2000 years of History".

*Speaker:* John Scott. FRSA

### September 20, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)



The Green, Otterton, SY081852. 7 miles, 3½ hours.

Countryside, river, Mutters Moor, coast path, fine views, some strenuous climbs. *Walk leader:* Steve Hagger, 01395 442631

### September 20 Sat - 8.30am. Lundy Island Guided Tour



*Leader* Simon: Dell MBE.

Organiser Mo Bowman 01395 446892

### September 22 Mon. - 10.50am. Beer Quarry Caves Visit



*Leader:* John Scott.

## OCT-DEC 2008



**October 4, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Joney's Cross CP, SY057898. 4 miles, 2½ hours. Autumn walk on Aylesbeare Common.

*Walk leader:* Robert Sellin, 01395 443283



**October 14 Tue. - 7.30pm. TALK**

Colaton Raleigh Village Hall

"The Shallow Seas of Devon"

*Speaker:* Prof. David Nichols



**October 15, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) / Pub lunch**

Tipton St John CP, SY091917. 5 miles, 3 hours. Riverside to East Hill; one steep climb for great views of the Otter Valley. May be muddy. Optional lunch at the "Golden Lion".

*Walk leader:* Jed Falby, 01395 445455



**October 22, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Castle Lane, SY043823 (limited parking, share cars if possible). 4½ miles, 2½ hours. West Down Beacon, coastal path to Littleham for short conducted tour of church and churchyard. Return along disused railway track. May be muddy.

*Walk leaders:* Hazel & Mike Harland, 01395 445665



**November 1, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Four Firs CP, SY032864. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Blackhill Quarry, Hayes Wood, Woodbury Castle.

*Walk leader:* Stuart Lovett, 01395 443141



**November 4 Tue. - 7.30pm. TALK**

East Budleigh Village Hall

Axe Estuary Wetland Project

*Speaker:* Kate Tobin of EDDC

**OCT - DEC 2008**



**November 12, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Easy)**

Newton Poppleford Sports Ground CP, SY087900. 2½ hours.

Looking for and identifying fungi and waxcaps.

*Walk leader:* Marion Nalder, 01395 442176



**November 22, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Crook Plantation ( Stowford), SY057866. 5 miles, 2½ hours.

Circular walk on commons mostly in Parish of Colaton Raleigh. May be muddy.

*Walk leader:* Ken Watson, 01395 445859.



**December 3, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)/Pub lunch**

Knowle Village Hall CP, SY052827. 5 miles, 2½ hours.

Shortwood Common, Hayes Barton, Squabmoor; muddy after rain. Optional lunch at the "Dog & Donkey".

*Walk leader:* Brian Turnbull, 01395 567339



**December 7, Sun - Axe Estury from Seaton Tramway**

Follow up to Talk on Nov 4

Details in next Newsletter



**December 13, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

White Bridge, SY076830. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Coast path to

Crab Ledge, Colliver Cross, Clamour Bridge, riverside. Two short climbs. May be muddy/exposed.

*Walk leader:* David Daniel, 01395 445960



**December 17. Wed - Christmas Dinner**

Details in next Newsletter

### Lundy Island Guided Tour



Will take place, we hope, on Saturday 20th September, if the weather is good!

The ship that should take us to and fro' the island will only sail in good conditions, so please note that the trip may be cancelled at very short notice, on the evening before (phone me on 446892 Friday evening to check), or, less likely, but just possible, on the quayside. If this should happen, a full cost refund will be

given.

So, if you are willing to take this risk, here are the details!

Cost £30.00 for ship and island guided tour with Simon Dell MBE.

This includes sailing on the Lundy Island Trust's own characterful vessel (a two hour voyage each way with fine views of the North Devon coast, and commentary by our guide), and the guided tour of the island.

The ship has a buffet, and the island has a shop and a pub, but bringing a picnic lunch is advised. The walk around the island will be taken at an easy pace, but there is quite a steep path up from the harbour to negotiate first!

Travel independently by car (sharing where possible) to Bideford Quay to arrive by 08.30am. (Long stay car parking costs £2.50 for the day.) We then board MS Oldenburg to sail at 09.30am.

Interested? It could be a beautiful day.....

Complete the Application at the end of the Newsletter.

**Mo Bowman**



### **March 19th East Budleigh Village Hall "A Natural History of Branton Burrows"**

There was a good turn out for this talk and slide show at East Budleigh Village Hall by retired biologist Dr. Tegwyn Harris.

Dr. Harris passed his enthusiasm to us about this beautiful part of North Devon, we learned about the formation of dunes and the different highly adapted plants and grasses that make up the biology of the area. The plants have to tolerate a lot of salt and some are even washed over by the sea, a number of the plants you may know from your gardens although different varieties, such as stocks, euphorbia, common wild thyme and some orchids. A number of insects live on the dunes and one we probably know from the beach is the common sand hopper and apparently there are thousands of these to every square metre.

Some beautiful photography helped to enhance the talk and a number of people expressed the hope that Otter Valley could make a visit to the area in the future.

**Andy Mack**

(Plans are afoot for a visit to Branton Burrows in June 2009 - Ed)

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### **April 10th Newton Poppleford Church Hall "Discover Bystock Nature Reserve"**

April's talk at Newton Poppleford was attended by about 45 members to hear a talk about Bystock Nature Reserve given by Roger Hamling and David Brock of Devon Wildlife Trust.

Firstly, Roger gave a fascinating virtual computer tour of the reserve through woodland, heath, meadow and ponds. He explained the importance of providing and maintaining varied habitats for birds, insects, plants and reptiles and the ways in which the Trust manages the natural environment.

Recording events such as bird migration and breeding is done weekly by Roger and Liz Hamling. They also keep records of plants, dragonflies, butterflies and moths. This small nature reserve of only 45 acres is home to 19 species of dragon and damsel flies, 30 species of butterflies, more than 100 moths, 122 species of higher plants and 62 bird species of which 33 breed here.

A very different view of Bystock pools was given by David Brock. He gave the audience a close up view of leaves, plants and fungi. Most of the subjects are small and could be missed by the casual walker but were displayed in breathtaking beauty. David clearly demonstrated his skills as an accomplished photographer.

**Alan Huddart**

(N.B. There is a follow up visit arranged for July 19th - See Diary - Ed)

### **Admission Charges**

The membership subscription to the OVA is a small sum and there is a policy that all events, including talks, organised by the Social Committee are self-funding. Due to the increased Hall and Speaker charges some talks are making a small deficit. The admission charge to the talks has been £1.00 as long as most of us can remember. The Executive Committee has, therefore, decided to increase the charge to £1.50 for members and £2.00 to non-members.

Any profits made will not go into the general sinking fund but go towards a Community Fund which will finance projects in the Otter valley (the details of which are being finalised).

Our Talks Secretary, Alan Huddart has arranged an interesting and varied programme for the autumn with some talks followed up by visits. We hope you will join us.

**Nicky Daniel**

### Caption Competition



I received this photo of the group out on the walk on Easter Saturday from Haylor Lass with the suggestion that it would make a wonderful subject for a caption competition. I completely agree and therefore the writer of the best caption for this photo sent to me will win a small prize and I will publish the most amusing answers in the next edition. Address details on back cover - Ed.



## May 3rd Conducted Walking tour of Foggintor Quarries and the Merrivale Antiquities

35 OVA members very much enjoyed a Saturday exploring Dartmoor in the expert hands of Tony Burges (Exeter and Dartmoor guide) on May 3rd.

It was very warm if not actually sunny as we set off in the coach from Budleigh that morning and the weather continued kind all day.



We descended from the coach near Merrivale into a strong warm wind and began our circular walk. Visibility was very good and we saw plenty of wildlife – Dartmoor ponies, skylarks and buzzards as well as beautiful baby lambs. The going was quite steep at times over the tussocky grass and rather boggy in the lower areas, so I was glad I was wearing my Wellingtons!

We first of all visited the exposed site of the Foggintor school which served the children of the quarry workers for about thirty years early on last century. It was a pleasant enough spot on a warm spring day but we imagined how bleak it must have been for the children in the wintertime.



On the way to the granite quarry workings at Foggintor, which Tony explained had been productive for a hundred years,

we were shown some examples of the remains of bronze age 'Round Houses' which are plentiful on Dartmoor. One of our party expressed surprise that the bronze age people should have lived in such numbers on the moor but Tony explained that in those days the area was much warmer than it is now, and covered with woodland.



CORSEBUSH CUT BY HAND  
FOR LONDON BRIDGE  
(NOW SEATS FOR THE QUEEN)  
3 MAY 1881

We ate our picnic lunches in the sunshine in a

## Dartmoor Outing



very pleasant spot beside a man-made lake at the quarry site near the Manager's House at Foggintor, quite glad of a small rest and a good chat together before proceeding on for the afternoon's walking. We inspected the railway tracks which are still clearly evident all round the quarry site and the huge granite carved blocks which are still lying about – surplus to requirements when Dartmoor granite had been used to construct London Bridge.



Then it was on to climb up one of the Dartmoor Tors – Kings Tor. We took a photograph of the group for posterity and enjoyed the scramble to the top of the Tor and the great views all round.

Then after crossing various streams lower down nearer Merrivale to look at the tin mine workings we went on to admire the Bronze Age Menhir Stone and the Stone Road (also from the Bronze Age). We had a try with Dowsing Rods near the menhir – great fun was had by all with this.



Once back on the coach we were looking forward to our cream teas at Badger's Holt at Dartmeet. On the way there the coach driver took us past the gates of Dartmoor prison and Tony told us some interesting facts about that too. I for one did not know it had been built by French prisoners of war in Napoleonic times. The cream teas at Badger's Holt were exceptionally good by any standards, and everyone agreed we'd had a great day out on Dartmoor and learned a great deal.

Anne Grieve

## **Saturday, 22nd March 2008 – Colaton Raleigh by cliffs and commons, returning by the river**

This was the earliest Easter Saturday since 1913, and it certainly felt like it as a Force 6 northerly whistled across Lime Kiln car park. Round the corner and out of the wind by the ice-cream kiosk, eight stout-hearted walkers gathered at 10 am in spring sunshine.

As we strode along Marine Parade and up the coast path to West Down Beacon, the well-known views to Berry Head and Golden Cap opened up with sparkling clarity. Golfers were having difficulty judging distance and direction in the windy conditions as we crossed the course. In contrast, it was peaceful walking through the old railway cutting from Castle Lane. The display of daffodils at Long Orchard was breath-taking.



From Dalditch Farm, the route climbed onto the commons skirting Hayes Wood by the massive brick wall of the old WWII shooting range. At Bearden Barn, a well-signposted Permissive Path emerged to cross the road above Yettington. Leaving Crook Plantation on our right, we crossed the leat taking water to Bicton and headed down Back Lane to Colaton Raleigh for a well-earned break.

Enlarged by some additional walkers and copious picnic lunches, the group set off again in snow flurries and sunshine. The return journey followed the delightful riverside path by Otterton to Lime Kiln car park. We made good time helped by the fresh following wind, and completed the 10 mile circular walk by 4 pm, tired but exhilarated.

**Brian Turnbull**

## **Jed's Marauders - 2nd April 2008**

There were Explosions!!

There were shots - lots of shooting !!

Then, out of the smoke came Jed's Marauders - brave OVA Walkers; eight of them

Eight women joining Jed on a tour of The Common on



## Walk Reports

the very same day as a major Marines' exercise. Undaunted by such military competition we climbed Woodbury Common to Woodbury Castle.

Sitting on these over two thousand year old ramparts we read the story of this original iron age settlement. It seems the modern main road did not just cut through the old ramparts - the gaps that the road goes through were the original gates of this well defended "fort".

So on to the East Devon Way as it crosses Colaton Raleigh Common with the sea shining silver on the horizon and the gorse exploding in yellow flower.

A coffee break at Hawkerland, then round the lower levels of the common to the multiple ponds by the Kettle Plantation and back to the cars parked by Uphams Plantation where the Marines were preparing their lunch under canvas while our social lunch waited for us at the Sir Walter Raleigh in East Budleigh

**Jed Falby**



### Walk on the Haldon Hills - 7 May 2008

Sixteen walkers met on a lovely sunny spring morning at the southern Haldon Hills car park. We set out along the forest paths with the sun shining through the trees which were just coming into their new spring foliage. We stopped alongside the headwaters of Dawlish Water for our coffee break and afterwards came into more open country looking down to Gilpin Bottom.

Then on through another wooded area before arriving at the Obelisk and the picnic site for our lunch. We had superb panoramic views across the river from Topsham to Exmouth. After our leisurely lunch, we returned to the car park by a circuitous woodland route, passing several hand-carved benches and signposts which depicted various birds and animals that could be found in the area. Nobody had opted to return by the alternative shorter route and I think everyone enjoyed visiting a different area only 30 minutes drive from Budleigh.

**John Daly**

## Parishscapes Tithe Map Training Day

September 13th 2008, 10.00am at Drake's School, East Budleigh

Cost- £10.00 to include tuition, coffee and Ploughman's lunch (please indicate cheese or ham)

If you would like to join us please return the slip below with your cheque for £10 per person and a stamped addressed envelope to

Mrs N.D. Daniel, Highbury, 7, Marine Parade, Budleigh Salterton. EX9 6NS

Closing date for applications - 4th August 2008

✂

To:	Your Name, Address & Telephone number
Mrs N.D Daniel Highbury, 7, Marine Parade, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6NS	

I /we would like .....places on the Parishscapes Workshop

on 13th Sept. 2008 at 10.00am at £10.00/head

I/we would like a CHEESE/HAM ploughman's lunch.

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to OVA and a STAMPED  
ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

Application Form

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## Application Form

### Lundy Island Guided Tour

Saturday 20th September 2008, travel independently by car, meet 08.30am at Bideford Quay N. Devon

Cost - £30.00 to include ship MS Oldenberg to and from island and guided tour with Simon Dell MBE

(A full refund of £30.00 will be given if trip cancelled due to bad weather)

If you would like to join us please return the slip below with your cheque for £30 per person (payable to OVA) and a stamped addressed envelope to

Mrs MJ Bowman, OVA, P.O. Box 70, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6WN

Closing date for applications - 4th August 2008



To:	Your Name, Address & Telephone number
Mrs MJ Bowman OVA P.O. Box 70 Budleigh Salterton Devon EX9 6WN	

I / we would like ..... places on the Lundy Island Guided Tour  
on 20th Sept. 2008 meet 08.30am at Bideford Quay N. Devon at £30.00/ head

I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ payable to OVA and a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

I would like to car share if possible ..... driving / as a passenger

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## Beer Quarry Caves Visit

Monday 22nd September 2008, 10.50 at Beer Quarry Caves

Cost- £4.00

If you would like to join us please return the slip below with your cheque for £4 per person and a stamped addressed envelope to

Beer Quarry Caves Visit, OVA, PO Box 70 Budleigh Salterton EX9 6WN

Closing date for applications - 4th August 2008

✂

To:	Your Name, Address & Telephone number
Beer Quarry Caves Visit OVA PO Box 70 Budleigh Salterton EX9 6WN	

I /we would like .....places on the Beer Quarry Caves Visit

on 22nd Sept. 2008 at 10.50am at £4.00/head

I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_payable to OVA and

a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

Application Form

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## **Publications:**

Available from your Parish Representative or from  
Booksales  
OVA  
PO Box 70  
Budleigh Salterton  
EX9 6WN

### **Mark Rolle His Architectural Legacy in the Lower Otter Valley**



£3.50 via your Rep (or plus £1.00 P&P)

### **12 Walks in the Otter Valley**



£2.50 via your Rep (or plus 50p P&P)

### **Historical Guide to the Lower Otter Valley**



£3.50 via your Rep (or plus £1.00 P&P)

### **1842 1890 and 1933 Maps of Budleigh Salterton**



£8 each or £20 a set (cannot be posted)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICE HOLDERS

### Executive Committee

<b>Chairman</b>	Helen Tickle	(01395)-443901
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Haylor Lass	568786
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Clive Bowman	446892
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Martin Smith	442333

### Committee Chairmen

Built Environment	Geoff Aplin	442951
Natural Environment	Norman Crossland	445129
Social	Nicola Daniel	445960
History	David Daniel	445960

### Parish Representatives (to whom all queries should be addressed initially)

Budleigh Salterton	Neville Lister	444269
	John Jones	443651
East Budleigh	Mitzi Crossland	445129
Otterton	John Winson	568274
Colaton Raleigh	Alan Jones	568339
Newton Poppleford	Haylor Lass	568786

### Other Officers

Minute Secretary	Maureen Lister	444269
Membership Secretary	Barrie Papworth	568176
Publicity Officer	Susan Tickle	444211
Talks Secretary/Webmaster	Alan Huddart	446761
Walks Organiser	Diane Gee	444388
Newsletter Distributor	Gill Speare	443944
Newsletter Editor	Nick Speare	443944
	Pine Rise, 7a Bedlands Lane	
	Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6QH	
	<a href="mailto:nspeare@btconnect.com">nspeare@btconnect.com</a>	

The OVA 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. It is also affiliated to the CPRE and a member of the AONB Partnership