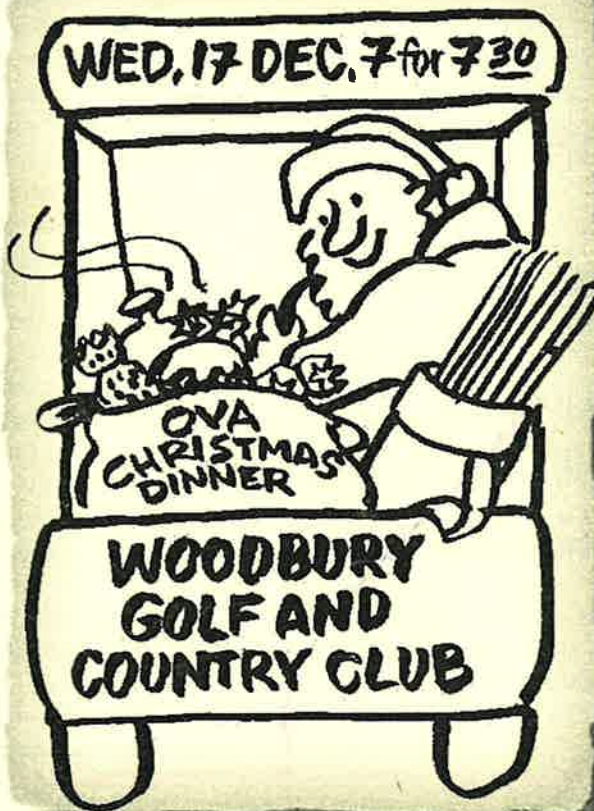


OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

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www.oval.org.uk



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Photos in this issue courtesy of Mo Bowman, Brian George & Nick Speare. Illustrations - Jed Falby & Norman Crossland



Chairman's Message



Climate change, soaring energy prices and the threat of food shortages worldwide require us all as individuals and organisations to decide where we stand on the 'green agenda'. The OVA Executive Committee is currently considering what the response of the OVA should be. The showing of 'An Inconvenient Truth' and Dr Pete Falloon's talk flagged up the issues and many individuals are already taking action to reduce their carbon footprint. The provision of information via the newsletter and talks programme is already under way but we need to know what more our members think the OVA could and should be doing. To this end we are planning a consultative evening on February 16th in Budleigh Public Hall at 7.00pm to share ideas and gauge the level of support for any proposals which emerge. In the meantime please let your parish representative know or contact us via the website or PO Box if you have any suggestions to put forward.

We are currently finalising plans for the OVA Community Fund which is designed to enable groups from the locality to apply to us for the financing of activities which support our aims. We are planning to launch and publicise the scheme in the autumn. We hope to encourage interest in the environment and natural history amongst a wider range of people and thus continue to help protect the area. We will consider every application on its merits and anticipate proposals ranging from activity sessions with a wildlife expert to longer term schemes to create and maintain a wildlife habitat. Using money largely from Gift Aid the maximum award would be £1000.

We have been using a room at Bicton College for our monthly Executive Committee meetings for many years and will continue to do so. The College is charging a modest fee that recognises our shared interests in the environment. In return we are including an advertisement for Bicton College elsewhere in the newsletter.

I am looking forward to the varied and interesting programme that is on offer this autumn and would like to thank all those who work so hard to organise our activities.

Helen Tickle



From the Editor



I would like to thank everyone who was so good as to respond to my request for comments on the last Newsletter. Opinions on the font, as is often the case, were fairly equally divided and so I have fallen back on history for guidance. Not OVA history but Roman history.

Thanks to Derek Bradbury, who sent me extracts from "Design Principles for Desktop Publishers", I now understand that it was the Romans who introduced the serif (the cross-line that finishes off the stroke of a letter). They did this to get around the problem of ending a letter carved into stone without chipping.

"What have the Romans ever done for us?" was the cry in Monty Python's "The Life of Brian". Well, it seems that their technical fudge does make three significant contributions according to Lichty (the author of the "Design Principles"). It cuts down the reflected light around letters, provides a horizontal guideline and helps distinguish letters. The final argument for a seriffed font came from the fact that the Inland Revenue set all their documents in Helvetica (a sans serif font) so, that settled the matter for me; Garamond and Times New Roman it will be; but that's neither set in stone nor as certain as death and taxes!

Thanks also for the responses to the Caption competition in the last Newsletter. Albeit there were fewer than I had hoped, the winning entry is shown on the Competition page along with a brain-teaser allegedly created by Einstein. Do have a go and send in your answer. You might win a prize and as there are just over 700 households who are members of the OVA the odds are a lot better than your winning either "The Times" crossword or the Lottery.

On page 19 you will find an article recalling holidays in the 60's in a railway coach in East Budleigh while Steve Haggard's article on boots in the last Newsletter prompted some memories of boots purchased during and after the war (see page 11). If any other members have memories of the Valley which you think others would find interesting then I should be grateful to receive them.

Nick Speare



Longboat Planning Application

Some members may be concerned about the article on the front page of The Budleigh Journal, 'New plans for Longboat' on 14 August which stated 'The Otter Valley Association said it supported the Hushons' restaurant idea'. In fact, the OVA recommended refusal of the planning application made in the autumn of 2007 and will consider any revised plans in due course.

Geoff Aplin

Announcement

This is an unusual item which would not normally appear in the Newsletter. However, I recently received a call from Oban in Argyle from a daughter of Joan Boardman (member No 322), who joined the OVA in 1981, telling me that her mother had died. Mrs Boardman's daughter was unsure of her mother's connection with the OVA or who would have know her so I agreed let members know of her mother's death and that the family had asked for any donations to go to FORCE (Cancer Charity) or the Northcott Theatre. If anyone wants to contact the family, I have details.

Ed.



OVAPEDIA

We have spent the summer taking further advice and thinking about how to give this project a broader appeal and make it generally more productive. As a result, we think we should include a series of workshop/training sessions for those wishing to start documentary research in tandem with constructing a web site, and will be taking further advice on how to do this. Bearing in mind that the OVA has no permanent storage we shall seek advice from Devon Records Office on how best to achieve permanent archiving in addition to the web and we shall be seeking linkage with interested local organisations. If *you* have any further ideas, now is the time to give them to us as we start in earnest.

The latest potential entry for the archive is:

(Andrew) Stuart Hibberd (1893 – 1983) was born on 5 September 1893 at Broadstone in Dorset, the son of William Henry Hibberd, a farmer, and Mary Catherine Edney. Stuart was educated at Wimborne Grammar School and Weymouth College. He went up to St. John's College Cambridge with an Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences and in 1913 was elected to a tenor Choral Studentship. He cut short his studies to join Kitchener's army in September 1914 but later was awarded his B.A. in 1917, and his M.A. in 1937. He served as second lieutenant in the 7th and 5th Dorsetshire Regiments and with the Indian Army in the 46th Punjabis, attaining the rank of Captain (later Adjutant of the 2/25th Punjabis). He served in Gallipoli, Mesopotamia and Waziristan, retiring from the army when his regiment disbanded in 1922. He married Alice Mary Chichester on 31 July 1923; she was from a Devon family, the daughter of Lt. Col. Gerard Chichester of the North Staffs. Regiment and a first cousin of Sir Francis Chichester.



After his demob, Stuart was accepted by the D'Oyly Carte Company after a voice trial but decided to join the BBC in November 1924 as an assistant announcer at Number 2 Savoy Hill, the then home of the BBC, next to the Savoy Hotel. As well as acting as continuity for the programmes, he also read

news bulletins which always started with "This is London calling, 2 LO calling". He became chief announcer and retained that post for 25 years broadcasting news of many important Royal and wartime events. From 1949 he became the presenter of "*The Silver Lining*" a programme for housebound and disabled listeners until it folded in 1964.

Stuart retired from announcing in 1951. In the previous year he had been author of reminiscence about his BBC years entitled "*This is London*". He describes how in the early days announcers were expected to wear evening dress and he observed: "Personally, I have always thought it only right and proper that announcers should wear evening dress on duty. After all, announcing is a serious, if new, profession, and the wearing of evening dress is an act of courtesy to the artists, many of whom will almost certainly be similarly dressed if they are taking part in a programme from 8 p.m. onwards. There are, of course, certain disadvantages. It is not ideal kit in which to read the News—I myself hate having anything tight round my neck when broadcasting—and I remember that more than once the engineers said that my shirt-front creaked during the reading of the bulletin".

Stuart Hibberd eventually moved to Budleigh Salterton and lived at 2 Westfield Road (which subsequently became a nursing home and has since been re-developed into 3 dwellings). He was an active gardener, and President of the Budleigh Salterton Choral Society. He had been awarded an M.B.E in 1935, and was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and also a member of the Royal Society of St. George. He was President of the Devonshire Association in 1970.

He died on 1st November 1983 in St. Cecilia's Nursing Home in Budleigh Salterton. His wife had pre-deceased him in 1977. They had no children.

Compiled by Dr R Lendon from: the archives of St. John's College Cambridge (who are thanked for their help); "Who's Who" and "Who was Who"; "This is London" A.S. Hibberd (1950).

David Daniel



Wildflower Meadow at Jubilee Park

A few years ago Geoffrey Jones of Bicton College proposed that the OVA might help to create a wildflower meadow alongside the coastal path at Jubilee Park, a short walk up the coast path from the Rosemullion Flats, Cliff Road, Budleigh Salterton. This site was suggested because it had escaped treatment with fertilisers and weedkillers. The soil is nutrient-poor and therefore suitable for the establishment of a variety of wildflowers.

The proposal was discussed with the landowner, Clinton Devon Estates, and East Devon District Council, who maintain the site as public open space. It



was agreed that a strip, alongside the coast path would be left unmown.

Since 2007 a 20m-wide strip, approx 200m long, has not been mowed and OVA have been monitoring the establishment of wildflowers in that strip. Denise Doling has been identifying and recording species of wildflowers throughout the year while Mo Bowman has been keeping a photographic

record. Access to walkers and others is not compromised because only a small part of Jubilee Field is left unmown. This year, we have seen an abundance of colourful wildflowers, including red campion, lesser celandine, speedwell, primrose and bird's foot trefoil.



With the help of EDDC, we are managing the area to increase its ecological value over the years. The 20m strip will be mown only once each year, in the autumn, after plants have seeded. The cuttings will then be removed. This regime will help to maintain low fertility of the soil. However, the strip was not cut last autumn, stronger species, especially grasses, are now dominating and flowers are struggling in the heavy swathe. Hopefully, this situation will improve as we establish a regular autumnal mowing regime. Through managing the wildflower meadow, plant and animal species will increase in number and diversity. Already it is clear that bumble bees, a nationally declining species, are benefiting from the new source of nectar and pollen and we expect to see an increase in numbers of grasshoppers, butterflies and seed-eating birds.

Norman Crossland

Water Quality of the River Otter

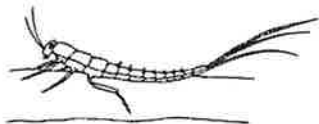
In April this year a golden retriever was left with raw paws and weeping eyes after swimming in the River Otter at Budleigh Salterton. The dog was examined by a vet who found low levels of phosphorous in her system and concluded that these were probably the cause of the dog's symptoms. The Environment Agency then carried out tests to locate the source of the phosphorous and concluded that the dog could not have been contaminated from the water, more likely it had stepped on a phosphorous-containing distress flare. This incident prompted me to ask the Agency what tests are routinely carried out to examine water quality of the river. It turns out that both chemical and biological tests have been carried out at monthly intervals during the years 2004 - 2006 at four sampling stations in The Lower Otter Valley.

Results of the Agency's tests are available on the web at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/maps/info/river>. On the basis of chemical samples the water quality was rated as good or very good. Nutrient levels (nitrates and phosphates) are moderate to high and within a normal range for a lowland river that flows through farmland.

Biological sampling is based on using a "kick-sampling" technique to collect species of invertebrates that live in the bottom sediments (see attached figure). The sediments are disturbed by kicking for a period of three minutes during which time the invertebrates are collected in a net with a mesh size of 1mm. They are then preserved and taken to a laboratory where they are sorted, identified and counted.

Each species is given a score which is dependent on its tolerance to pollution. Sensitive species such as mayfly and dragonfly larvae are given a high score while pollution-tolerant species such as midge larvae and leeches are given a low score. Results from the invertebrate samples are used to derive an index of water quality. Values greater than 5.0 indicate high quality. For the River Otter during the years 2004 - 2006 an average of 28 species per sample were recorded, giving a water quality index of 6.3. These results from The Environment Agency show that the quality of the river water is high, good enough to support a salmonid fishery.

Some common species of stream invertebrates



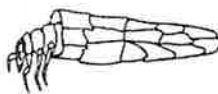
MAYFLY NYMPH



SAUCER BUG



WATER BOATMAN



CADDIS FLY LARVA



WATER SCORPION



DRAGONFLY NYMPH

Norman Crossland

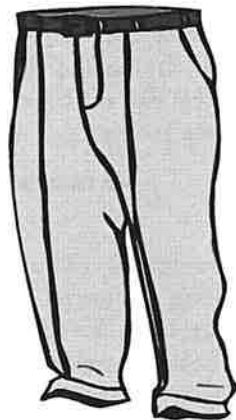
Walking tips from Steve Hagger Gaiters, Trousers and Over Trousers

Gaiters are clever things that keep the bottom of your trousers clean and prevent stones and muck getting in your boots. I'm always amazed that these cost anything up to £40 but for that you are getting a breathable waterproof product with a very strong zip. You can pick up a cheaper pair in canvas that will be hardwearing but may make you perspire a little.

Some gaiters lace up under your instep; some are fitted with heavy rubber stirrups. If you experience a problem tightening them up, give them a spray of WD40, it works wonders and gets them clean to boot!

When choosing over trousers remember that the manufacturers seem to be able to make them attract barbed wire, thorns and any sharp rocks. Mine are all patched with gaffer tape. As long as they suit your shape don't be tempted to spend a lot on a fancy zipped, high specification pair just remember the following handy hint; when carrying your waterproof trousers, pack them in a plastic bag. When you need to put on the waterproof trousers, put your foot in the bag and then your leg will glide effortlessly through the trouser leg. Repeat for the second leg. This also has the advantage of not getting the mud from your boots on the inside of your waterproofs.

The only rule for trousers is NO Denim. This is not an OVA fashion-police ruling, it's just that if they get wet they offer no protection from the wind and cold and take ages to dry. Just invest in a pair of walking trousers from an outdoor supplier that fit comfortably. Frustratingly, clothing suppliers do seem to concentrate on 'average' sizes so the long and short legged may have to search harder to find something suitable. But it is out there in all colours and materials, some convert into shorts, others start as shorts and convert into longs!



Next issue we travel on up the body and include advice on what you should have in your pockets.

Steve Hagger

Following Steve's article on boots, Eileen Stobbs wrote:-

"Aged 90 I still wear my boots to go around Bicton. They are East European, cheap but excellent as they were made to obtain Western currency. Of course "vibrams" only came in after the war and even then we wore triconis on leather soles. During the war we could get our boots nailed with hobs and clinkers at a shop in Keswick for 12s6d."

Ed

For Sale Large wooden chest.

The strong wooden box that housed the OVA Gazebo (as used on the Green in Gala week) is surplus to requirements and is for sale. With interior dimensions of 45x14x14 inches it would make an ideal tool chest, toy chest or storage chest (e.g. for a gazebo). Any reasonable offer accepted with all proceeds going to the OVA coffers. Please contact the Editor (details on back cover)

Earlier versions of this advert read:

- For Sale - An Uplifting Challenge - Buyer collects (both the box and a hernia).*
- DIY Time capsule for sale - Bury Granny, the dog or next door's delightful child and see if they survive the winter under ground.*
- Want a bigger chest? - Don't get a chest expander buy our surplus gazebo box!*
- Yo Ho Ho - Have we got a dead man's chest for you?*

.....and many more which fortunately we decided not to use!

(Please note this is an OVA item which the Exec wish to offer for sale to the membership - we are not starting a "For Sale" section in the Newsletter. - Ed)

Newton Poppleford Poet

Webmaster Alan Huddart was recently contacted by John Hagger of Newton Poppleford who had turned up a small book of poems and some prose by local poet Arthur Welshman (1820-1880?). Below is an **example**.

TO MY SWEET OTTER VALE

Talk not to me of other lands,
Of sunny skies and tropic flowers,
The sweetest spot on all the earth
Is this bright smiling Vale of ours.

'Tis here the Otter pours its stream
On, ever on, to join the sea
The "English Rhine" is rare to some,
But Otter Vale is all to me.

'Tis here the flowers deck the meads,
And pine trees crown the hilltops round.
Such downs and dales and sylvan scenes,
Away from here cannot be found.

'Tis here that Spring doth always spread,
Her choicest robes of varied green,
And those who seek for pleasure here,
Are raptur'd with the beauteous scene.

'Tis here that lovers like to roam
In pixies' paths in twilight hours;
To tell their threadbare tale of love
Mid green leaf screens and summer flowers.

'Twas here that I first saw the light,
'Twas here my childhood days were pass'd,
'Tis here I live in manhood's prime,
And here I hope to breath my last.

Arthur Welshman

First printed in the "Devon Evening Express", June 15th, 1903

WHO OWNS THE FISH?

Are you in the top 2% of intelligent people in the world?

Solve this riddle, find out and you could win a £10 book token.

Albert Einstein wrote this riddle early in the last century. He said 98% of the world's population would not be able to solve it. Can you?

There are no tricks, just pure logic, so good luck and don't give up.

- 1 In a street, there are five houses each painted a different colour.
- 2 The person in each house is a different nationality.
- 3 These five homeowners each prefers a different kind of drink, smokes a different brand of cigar, and keeps a different pet.

The question is: **WHO OWNS THE FISH?**

(Send your answer, giving the fish owner's nationality, house colour, brand of cigar and preferred drink to the Editor - details on the back cover)

HINTS:

The British person lives in the red house
The Swede keeps dogs as pets
The Dane drinks tea
The green house is on the left of the white house
The owner of the green house drinks coffee
The person who smokes Pall Mall rears birds
The owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhill
The man living in the centre house drinks milk
The Norwegian lives in the first house
The man who smokes Blends lives next to the one who keeps cats
The man who keeps horses lives next to the man who smokes Dunhill
The man who smokes Blue Masters drinks beer
The German smokes Princes
The Norwegian lives next to the blue house
The man who smokes Blends has a neighbour who drinks water

Caption Competition



and the winner is:
**"It's definitely
not an
albatross"**
*sent in by Mr
Mark Follett,
from Sidmouth*

Considering
what a
wonderful
summer we have
had I was also
taken by Jed
Falby's caption
which was:

"Look that's sunshine! I remember sunshine from when I was a boy."

***Bicton College are pleased to be working with the
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Bicton College

Call 01395 562400 for all enquiries

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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, Tues – 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, Tues – 7.30pm. TALK

East Budleigh Village Hall

Axe Estuary Wetland Project

Speaker: Kate Tobin of EDDC

OCT - DEC 2008 *ctd.*



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 15, Sat - 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Bicton College Higher Education Open Day



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 Estuary from Seaton Tramway

Follow up to Talk on Nov 4

See page 17 and application on page 25



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

Woodbury Golf and Country Club

7.00 pm. for 7.30 pm.

See page 15 and application on page 27

JAN - MAR 2009

January 10, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) / New Year's Pub lunch



Knowle Village Hall CP, SY052827. 4½ miles, 2½ hours. Footpaths and lanes to Bystock ponds and East Budleigh common. May be muddy. Optional lunch at the Dog & Donkey.

Walk leader: Steve Hagger, 01395 442631

January 15, Thurs - 7.30pm TALK



Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton
Ottery St Mary – Transition Town

Speaker: Dr Maureen Fairley & others

January 21, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)



Kersbrook (under railway bridge), SY069830. 5½ miles, 2½ h. Along part of old railway track and back on coast path.

Walk leader: Shane Badham, 01395 567531

January 31, Sat - 10.00am. WALK, Exeter Green Circle Part 1 (Energetic) / lunch



Ludwell Valley Park entrance (opposite crematorium), SX938908. 6 miles, 3 hours. Varied walk around Ludwell Valley, Mincinglake, Hooper Valley. Some rough paths and gradients; optional pub lunch.

See full details and bus travel suggestions on page 16

Walk leader: Bettina Wilson, 01395 578450

February 3, Tues - 7.30pm TALK



Ottertton Village Hall

Speaker: tba

February 11, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)



Budleigh Salterton Free CP, SY061821. 4½ miles, 2½ hours. Golf links, Knowle Hill Plantation, Dalditch common, Shortwood Lane.

Walk leader: Stuart Lovett, 01395 443141

February 16, Mon - 7.00 pm. Members' Forum



Budleigh Salterton Public Hall
The OVA and the 'Green Agenda'

JAN - MAR 2009 ctd.

February 21, Sat - 10.07am. WALK, Exeter Green Circle Part 2 (Energetic) / lunch



Exeter Bus Station, SX926929. 6 miles, 3 hours. Interesting walk around Redhills, Alphin Brook, River Exe. Some rough paths and gradients; optional pub lunch. See full details and bus travel suggestions on page 16

Walk leader: Bettina Wilson, 01395 578450

February 28, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)/pub lunch
Otter Inn CP, SY078874. 5½ miles, 2¾ hours. Circular walk up, over and around Woodbury common. Optional pub lunch.



Walk leader: Peter Hills, 01395 568576

March 3, Tues - 7.30pm TALK



East Budleigh Village Hall

Cornwall & West Devon Mining World Heritage Site

Speaker: Dr Bob Symes

March 7, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)



White Bridge, SY076830. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Coast path (exposed), Monks Wall, Otterton, Park Lane.

Walk leader: Ken Watson, 01395 445859

March 11, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)



Newton Poppleford CP, SY086897. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Southerton, Venn Ottery, Tipton St John; woods, green lanes, riverside.

Walk leader: David Nangle, 01404 811752

March 18, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)



Squabmoor Reservoir CP, SY038843. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Commons and woods, tracks and paths. May be muddy and stony.

Walk leader: Brian Leveridge, 01395 443358

OVA Christmas Dinner

Following feedback from some of the members who attended last year's Christmas Dinner it was decided to have a change of venue.



This year the Christmas Dinner will take place on Wednesday, December 17, 7.00 for 7.30 pm at the Atrium Restaurant, Woodbury Park.

We do appreciate the help the management at Woodbury Park has given us in arranging this lovely venue and menu.

The format of the evening will remain the same with a welcome drink, a dinner, a quiz, the raffle and ending with Haylor and Ruth Lass leading the carol singing. The change of venue means that we are able to have smaller tables, a seating plan, a choice of dishes and of course a beautiful setting, complete with a grand piano.

We do hope you will be able to join us!

The cost of the meal and welcome drink is £22.50 (Drinks during the meal are not included)

Please complete the form on page 27 indicating on the back of the form your choices of food and any friends you may wish to sit with and return it to Gill Speare by 30 October.

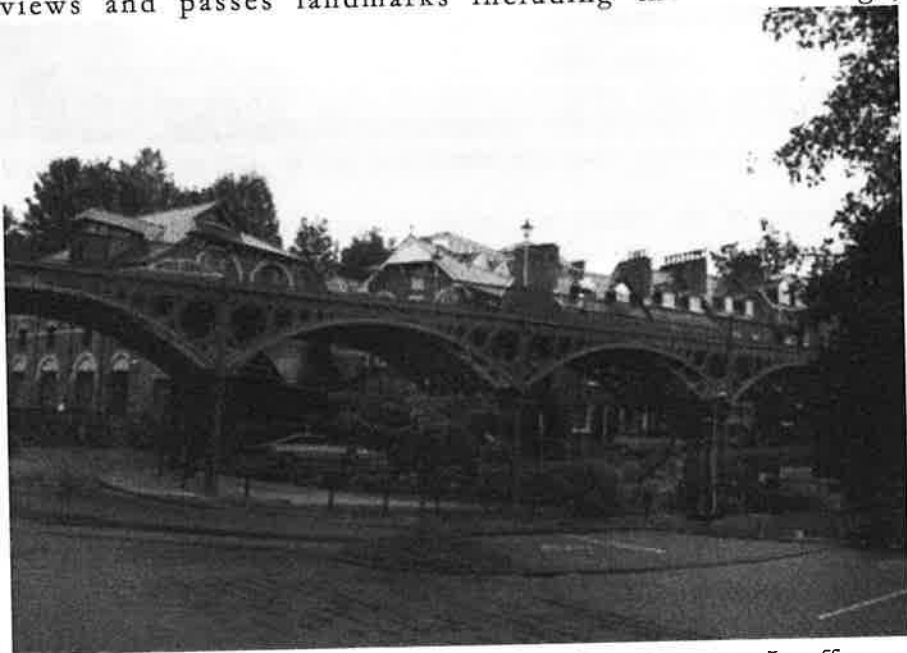


Nicola Daniel

"EXETER GREEN CIRCLE" WALKS

Join us as we explore the Green Circle in two walks of approximately six miles and three hours each, finishing with an optional pub lunch.

This circuit, suggested, researched and lead by Bettina Wilson is a 12-mile route around Exeter. Winding through parklands, taking in age-old lanes and modern housing estates and touching the countryside, it offers panoramic views and passes landmarks including the Iron Bridge,



sections of the Roman wall and the University arboretum. It offers an opportunity to see how the city has grown over centuries, gradually encroaching on the surrounding fields and absorbing once separate villages. If all you know of Exeter is the city centre, you will be amazed at its diversity!

The terrain will be mainly street pavements, public footpaths and bridleways, grassy tracks and gravel paths, with level areas and some hills to negotiate.

In keeping with the Green Theme, we suggest you travel to the start by bus and have shown details from the Public Hall, Budleigh Salterton. An "Exeter

Future Events

Green Circle" pack containing five colourful information guides is obtainable from Tourist Information Centres. Perhaps obtain one in advance?

WALK 1, Saturday January 31 - Ludwell Valley Park entrance SX938908

Take 08.55 Bus no 357 from the Public Hall to Exmouth Strand. From same bus stop, take next Bus no 57 (09.14 if on time!) to Exeter Crematorium; cross the road to the Ludwell Valley Park entrance for the start of the walk at 10.00. Along valley park paths and through the leafy suburbs of eastern Exeter, through a countryside park with flower meadows (reclaimed landfill site), superb views down the Exe estuary, through a nature reserve, arboretum and historic district of St Davids, finishing near the Millers Crossing footbridge over the Exe.

WALK 2, Saturday February 21 - Exeter Bus Station SX926929

Same Bus schedule as Walk 1 continuing onto the Bus Station, arrival 10.07 for the start of the walk. Through gardens to the impressive Millers Crossing footbridge, cross the Exe flood plains and climb up to green areas on the western fringe of the city with panoramic views, rural footpaths on the farmland fringes of S.W. Exeter, through historic village of Alphington, over the ship canal and river Exe, pass Countess Wear Mill and arrive back at the crematorium.

Axe Wetlands Guided Tram Trip and Lunch Sunday 7, December 10.00am

The Axe estuary is large and fascinating, and what better way to both see and learn about it than a conducted tram trip led by conservationist Donald Campbell, Vice Chairman of the AONB.

He will be telling us about the natural (and actual) history of the area, including the setting up of a large and nationally important nature reserve within the estuary, and helping us to enjoy the spectacle of thousands of migrant bird visitors plus spotting estuary residents such as kingfishers. Plus, our very own expert David Jannaway will be on hand!

ctd.

Future Events

This will take place on Sunday 7 December, departing from Seaton tramway station at 10am after making our own way there, and will last about two hours. The double decker tram will be open topped so warm clothing is



essential, but it will provide a bird's eye view!

The trip will be followed by lunch in the warm and comfortable Winston's Restaurant just across the road from the tram station. Our table is reserved for 12.30pm, and we will enjoy their excellent carvery which is included in the ticket price. Drinks and puddings have to be purchased individually.

Closing date for applications (See Page 25) is Monday 3, November.

Prior to our trip, a **Talk about the Axe Wetlands Nature Reserve** will be given by EDDC's Project Officer Kate Tobin (previously Great Tree Project Officer - remember our OVA Tree Day?) on Tuesday 4 November 7.30pm at the Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton. Kate will explain about this ambitious local but far reaching project. Even if the tram trip and lunch don't appeal this should be of great interest to all of us as East Devon residents.

Mo Bowman

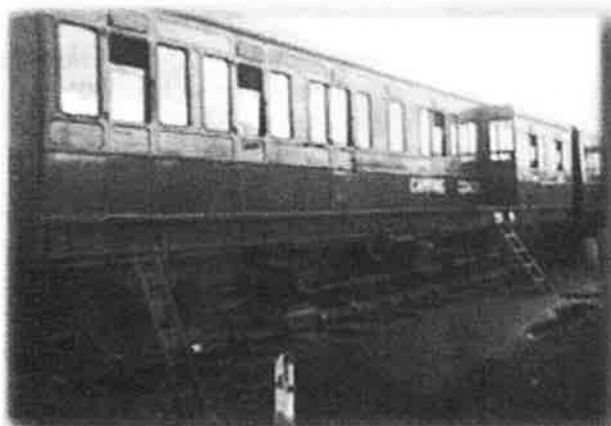
Memories of Camping Coach holidays at East Budleigh August 1960/1961.

Brian George, a new member of the OVA and currently living in Nottingham, recalls his childhood camping coach holidays at East Budleigh station.

In August 1960 and at the age of ten I was the youngest of a family of four children living at Hemel Hempstead. My father was an aircraft inspector for Hawker Siddeley (later British Aerospace) and my mother a manager with 18 staff at John Dickenson and Son, paper and printing stationers.

We began our holiday with a journey from Apsley Mills station near Hemel Hempstead to London, then across London by taxi to Waterloo and onto a holiday relief train, fully steam hauled, to Exeter Central.

The journey took six hours (so my mother - still alive at the age of 95 - always tells me) and we eventually fetched up at East Budleigh station, where the station master, or perhaps it was leading porter only by then, showed us round the camping coach.



Camping Coach at East Budleigh c 1960

The coach was quite primitive, I remember, and a school friend Peter Potten and I slept in bunk beds with the only modern convenience, a fold down wash stand! The kitchen and dining areas were very basic indeed.

Lots of holiday memories flood back; visiting Ladram Bay and playing there amongst the rocks; walking down to Otterton to get the milk

and newspaper for my parents; picking blackberries from the side of the road up to the station; walking along the River Otter, and rail trips to Lyme Regis. In the evening, after we were sent to bed, I particularly remember the sound of the crickets in the field opposite by the river. Every evening they set up a cacophony. Cows wandering down to the river and standing in it. The translucent waters and the fish, lots of them to look at.

As a family we returned the following year and repeated the whole thing at East Budleigh. Both holidays were a complete success from the family's point of view.

Shocking to think that six years later the whole line, like so many, were dealt the death blow by Dr Beeching. The system and the whole railway community ripped apart, even though the lines were doing very healthy business. This is recorded in the double DVD "Branch Line Video" series: Memories of the Sidmouth and Budleigh Salterton Branches, by Ian Pringle.

However, being nostalgic for old railway lines and doing nothing about it is not good enough for me and in the second part of this article I will show the efforts I made both in 1978 and again in 2007, to get these lines re-opened.

Brian George.



*The Author Age 12
at Budleigh Salterton Station*

To be continued in the next edition (Ed)

Bystock Nature Reserve – Field Trip Saturday 19 July 2008

Following the very successful talk given in April by Roger Hamling and David Brock of the Devon Wildlife Trust about the Bystock Nature Reserve, 23 members attended the follow up field meeting at the reserve, on a cloudy and windy morning, not the best conditions for viewing the many species of butterflies and moths that inhabit this area. However, the early birds had great views of Silver Washed Fritillary, which flitted around the bramble, close to the car park.

We parked at the northern access to the reserve which adjoins the Meadow. Roger gave us a brief history of the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths and the part played by the Devon Wildlife Trust to manage the reserve. With Roger leading, ably assisted by his wife Liz (who had gone in search of, and found, Spotted Orchid) and backed up by David, we went into the meadow to look at plants and butterflies. The meadow had once been carpeted with Ragwort, but with the help of volunteers, all but a few remnants had been eradicated, just enough to attract the colourful Five Spot and Six Spot Burnet Moth, of which we saw quite a few. Numerous species of plants could be seen, notably the tiny orchid-like flowers of Eyebright, Yellow Rattle and the pink flowers of Common Century. The star plants had to be the Pale Flax, which is usually found only by the sea, and the Trailing Tormentil so easily overlooked.



Five Spot Burnet Moth

We meandered on through the Copse into the Valley and the boggy areas where flowering Sundew and bright mounds of Sphagnum Moss flourished. An Emperor Dragonfly patrolled one of the small ponds, Golden Ring Dragonfly also put in an appearance but the highlight was the sighting of the rare Red Damselfly.



Bog Pimpernel

During our visit, the one thing that impressed us all was the enormous amount of work that must have gone into creating and managing the reserve as we see it today.

If you want to see rare plants such as Bog Pimpernel, Lesser Skullcap, Bog Pondweed, Bog Asphodel and many others, plus rare species of butterflies,

damsel and dragonflies, then a visit to this reserve is a must.

We are very grateful to the Devon Wildlife Trust and to the team who led us on this very enjoyable field trip.

David Jannaway.

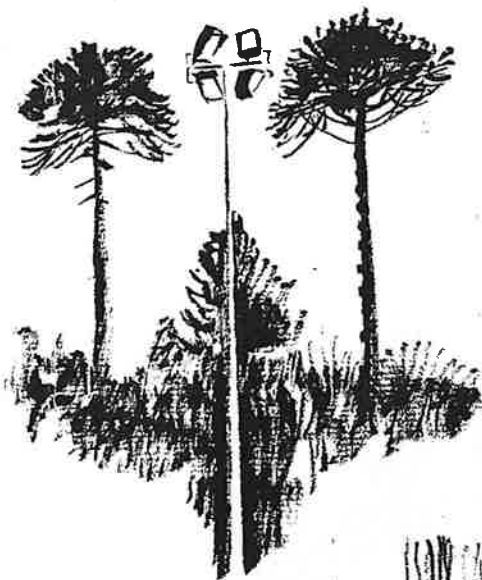
Midsummer Picnic Wednesday 25 June 2008

Not a murder victim in sight; or is that a different Midsommer? However, nine willing walkers joined Diane for the OVA's first evening, picnic walk all enjoying the warm evening (yes we did have some).

We met at the Public Hall in Budleigh and followed a route along the old railway track to the river, then upstream to cross Clamour Bridge and back downstream to arrive at the beach for a well earned glass of wine and food. A good time was had by all.

Nick Speare





OVA Artists' Walk

Sat. 6 September 2008

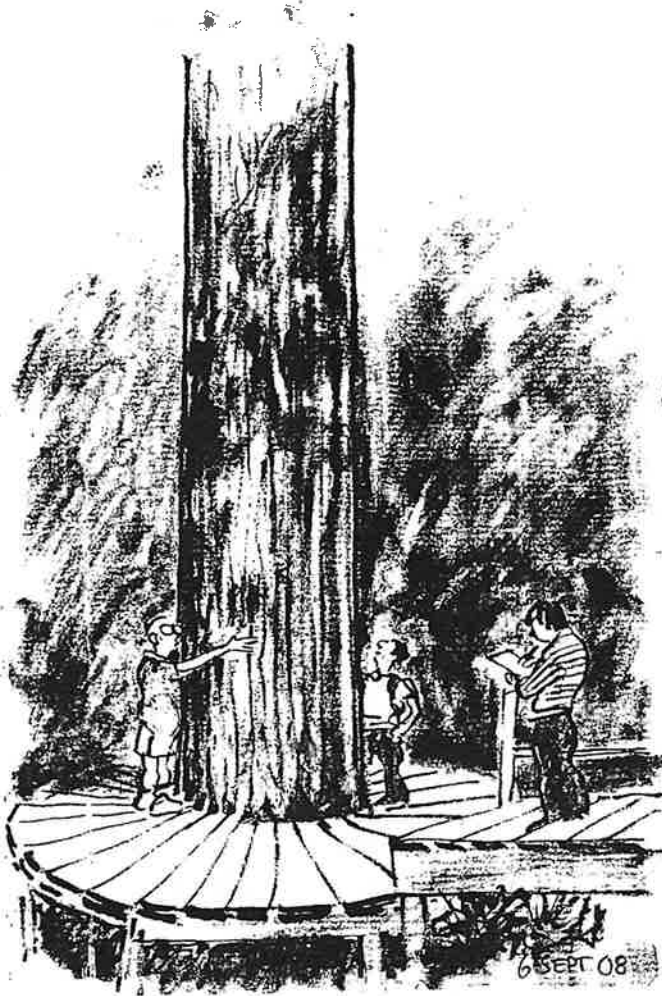
Friday saw monstrous storms, wild winds, rain and good excuses not to brave Saturday's 'Artists' Walk.' But - the calm after the storm - Saturday morning was blue sky calm.

Sadly we had to change the start point from the old St. Mary's Church to Bicton Park and in doing so 'lost' several loyal OVA walkers despite the revised signs at St. Mary's. Some of these 'lost' walkers caught up with us deep in the forest; but for the rest I can only apologise for this last minute hiccup.

The 'Artists' Walk' discovered many unusual plants and trees in the Bicton Arboretum - once a public path but now sadly neglected. The



DIMFIS DRAWING & CENF!
6 SEPT 08
OVA ARTISTS WALK



centuries of old trees made noble subjects for our quick sketches. We could have filled a whole day and several sketchbooks but we moved on down to the lake. There some brave fishermen, camped out in their tents, were glad to explain their quiet world of ducks, geese and fine fat fish. And so, by overgrown footpaths and shaky stiles, back up to Bicton House.

As we drove away from the 'Social Lunch' the clouds opened and

back came the torrential rain - a truly good bit of OVA luck for my 'Artist Walkers'.

Jed Falby

Application Form

Axe Wetlands Guided Tram Trip and Sunday Lunch Application Form

Sunday 7 December 2008, travel independently by car, depart 10.00am from Seaton Tramway Station, returning after approx. 2 hours, then lunch 12.30pm at Winston's Restaurant

Cost - £20.00 to include guided tram trip with Donald Campbell commentating and Sunday carvery lunch

If you would like to join us please return the slip below with your cheque for £20 per person (payable to OVA) and a stamped addressed envelope to

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



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

I / we would like places at £20.00/ head on the Axe Wetlands and Sunday Lunch Trip on 7 December 2008 departing 10am from Seaton Tramway Station

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to OVA plus a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

Deliberately Left Blank

OVA Christmas Dinner - Wednesday 17 December 2008

Menu

Starter

A - Wild Mushroom Soup

B - Denham Ham with rocket and fresh fig salad

C - Prawn Cocktail with baby gem and chilli mayonnaise

Main Course

D - Roast Turkey and all the trimmings

E - Devon Blue and Walnut Tartlet on red onion and rocket salad

F - Exmouth Fish Risotto with rocket and parmesan

Roast seasonal Vegetables & garlic and thyme roast potatoes

Pudding

G - Individual Christmas Pudding with clotted cream

H - Pistachio Crème Brûlée

I - Selection of Ice Cream and Sorbets

Coffee and Mints

Please return the form by 30th Oct



Please send me ____ tickets at £22.50 for the OVA Christmas Dinner.

I enclose a cheque for £_____ payable to OVA and a STAMPED
ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.

From	To
Name	Gill Speare
Address	Pine Rise 7a Bedlands Lane Budleigh Salterton EX9 6QH
Phone	Tel: 01395 443944
Email-	

**NB. PLEASE INDICATE YOUR MENU CHOICES AND
SEATING PREFERENCES OVERLEAF**

Menu Choices

Name				
Starter				
Main				
Pudding				

If possible I/We wish to sit with:-

Perfect Presents for Christmas:

Available from your Parish Representative, our website www.ova.org.uk or from:-

Booksales
OVA
PO Box 70
Budleigh Salterton
EX9 6WN

Mark Rolle His Architectural Legacy in the Lower Otter Valley



£4.95 via your Rep (or plus £1.00 P&P)

12 Walks in the Otter Valley



£2.50 via your Rep (or plus £1.00 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

Chairman	Helen Tickle	(01395)-443901
Vice-Chairman	Haylor Lass	568786
Hon. Secretary	Clive Bowman	446892
Hon. Treasurer	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

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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
nspeare@btconnect.com

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

1711

Mr & Mrs R Wiltshire
12 Marine Parade

Budleigh Salterton EX9 6NS

B25