

# OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

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



*Spring Edition*

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## Chairman's Message



The impact of the pre-Christmas snow was very considerable even delaying the distribution of our newsletter although leaving our winter events unscathed. Fortunately the development of our new guide to the area, *Discover History in the Lower Otter Valley*, financed by the grants scheme, 'Making it Local', was able to continue uninterrupted as team members and the designer were only ten minutes walk apart. We are very grateful to all involved and hope the introductory guide will encourage further research and contributions to OVApedia as well as enhancing appreciation of the area.

The volume of planning applications to East Devon District Council is at present relatively limited and the Executive Committee is able to discuss the significant ones each month. It was resolved not to seek to recreate a Built Environment Sub Committee at present. Accountability to the OVA membership for any action on planning matters is a key principle for the Executive Committee. We were sad to learn of the death of Alan Ross whose knowledge and expertise in architectural and planning matters were much appreciated by the OVA over many years.

After the AGM on May 11 the Executive Committee will change with the Chairman, Minutes Sec. and Publicity Officer standing down. Maureen Lister has given sterling service, first as a parish representative then as Minutes Sec. Sue Tickle shouldered the task of researching and writing the text for the new guide as well as producing displays and press releases. Martin Smith has already handed over the baton of Membership Secretary to Clive Bowman. We welcome Christine Hadley as the new representative for East Budleigh. The services of the many people who contribute to our activities are much appreciated but we always need new volunteers to take an active role.

This will be the last newsletter under the distinguished editorship of Nick Speare but his wife, Gill, has nobly volunteered to continue as distributor for another year. Both have a wealth of experience to share with new members who could contribute to this important aspect of our work. We are very grateful to Haylor Lass who has offered to take over as *Interim Editor* in addition to representing Newton Poppleford. Nick and/or Haylor would be pleased to discuss the part **you** might play in the newsletter team.

**Helen Tickle**



## Goodbye from the Editor



This is the last editorial and Newsletter that will have my name on it and I would like to thank everyone who has previously made my job that much easier. More than anything else, the success of the Newsletter is predicated on the quality of the contributions. I have been most fortunate in having contributors who have written both serious and erudite articles and amusing and fun items. Whether it was poetry or prose, photographs or sketches that you sent in - thank you all!

That's it! I'm not going to write an Oscars like list of thanks; you all know who you are and how grateful I am.

In this issue you will find that there are two pull outs in the centre; the usual diary section which seems to get fuller each time we go to print, and the AGM agenda and minutes of last years meeting. Please make sure you take these along to the meeting and play your part in the OVA.

It is an old saw that you get as much out of an organisation as you put in but, to confound the saying, I have got much more out of editing the Newsletter than ever I have put in. You could be doing the same. Your OVA needs you so why not think about volunteering.

I am obviously disappointed that no-one has come forward to become editor before I finally retired. However, I am very grateful to Haylor Lass for stepping into the breach and taking on the role in the interim. The Newsletter is the primary communication channel from the Executive Committee to the members and between members and without it you would have no sight of the future programme. On another level I also like to think that we made it entertaining as well. Please keep the contributions coming and make Haylor's job as enjoyable as was mine.

**Nick Speare**

## Executive Watch

*This edition you get two for the price of one!*



Acting as the business manager of the OVA Executive is the Honorary Secretary. One of the four elected Officers of the OVA, the Hon Sec is responsible for the minutes, ensuring all correspondence is either replied to or dealt with, drafting the monthly agenda and making sure all papers for consideration are circulated ahead of the next meeting. When a Minutes Secretary is appointed, this eases their duties but the Hon Sec must be prepared to accept the role if need be.

Over the four years that I have been Hon Sec, I have worked with three different chairmen. Each one has been a pleasure to work with, and has led the OVA forward to meet the challenges of changing times. I have been part of the sub-committee reviewing the Rules mentioned in the last newsletter, and have guided the EC through some difficult periods ensuring adherence to both the Constitution and the 2006 Charities Act. Perhaps daunting but a wonderful chance to gain an insight in to the workings of the OVA.

As you might guess, the Membership Secretary's role is to maintain the membership records of the OVA and over the last few years has been in the capable hands of Martin Smith. During his tenure, Martin has transferred the records from an Excel spreadsheet, used previously, to an Access database. This is a major change in recording membership details which has made adding and updating records, recording subscriptions and printing the all too important address labels for the newsletter much easier.

April is the busiest month for the Membership Secretary, when time is spent trawling through pages of bank statements identifying standing order payments to ensure member's subscriptions are renewed each year. I am not sure how membership records were managed when the OVA first began, perhaps in a ledger book or card index, maybe one of our older members can enlighten me. One thing I do know is that this is a very important role in managing the OVA. As we become more computer oriented, thanks must be given to Martin for his time keeping the OVA records up to date in both senses.

Now the special two for one offer. Until the AGM on May 11 (please note the date and change of venue to East Budleigh Village Hall due to the fire at Newton Poppleford), I will not only act as Hon Sec, but I have also taken over from Martin as Membership Secretary. I will continue this role, hopefully, after the AGM. I have enjoyed my years as Hon Sec and have learnt and gained a lot from them and hope that who ever steps forward before the AGM will do the same.

**Clive Bowman**

### Events' Events



The Events committee are very pleased that the snowdrop walk and the two Slapton Ley visits have proved to be so popular with members. However, it does mean that several of you are disappointed and were not able to get a place. We hope to repeat them next year so if you wish to be put on the waiting list please contact either Caroline Allen or myself. We do have problems arranging so many visits as we have to have a responsible member who will check people on and off coaches and handle difficult situations if they arise, and we are all busy people on the committee.

We can never be sure how successful each activity will be. We had thought the Dowsing workshop would have been oversubscribed and to our surprise we had a few spare places.

Bettina Wilson and Diane Gee have organised a series of four walks from the Otter source to the mouth at Otter head. This has involved a tremendous amount of work sorting out public transport and, once again, we have no idea of the popularity and uptake of the walks. We would like you to contact Diane if you wish to go (see her article) as we do not know if we will be over or underwhelmed. This involves no charge or enforceable commitment and last minute attendees would be welcome but a telephone call is advisable.

In contrast, Mo Bowman has organised an unusual coastal walk outside our familiar Otter valley to Looe and Polperro, led by Tony Burgess. She has, so far, arranged the sun to shine on her previous visits and we hope it will do so on this occasion.

**Nicky Daniel**

Western  
Gazette  
12 Aug 1910  
p 2 c

*I was unsure which heading to include this under but am grateful to Brian Turnbull for sending it to me*

*I am sorry if it is indistinct but it is 100 years old! The author's name is certainly ironic!*

Ed

## OTTER HUNTING IN EAST DEVON.

### OTTER HUNTING IN EAST DEVON.

Otter hunters feregathered in large numbers for the Culmstock Hunt Week, but the ungenial weather and scarcity of otters reduced the sport to a procession along the valleys on four days out of the six on which hounds met. Mr. Courtney-Tracey brought down his Hampshire pack for three days' hunting, accompanied by a number of his followers, their head-quarters being at the Shute Arms, Seaton Junction, for the week. Unboxing hounds at Chard Road on their way down on the Monday, they unfortunately put in a blank day, drawing down stream to Axminster. The day was wet, and a lot of water was coming down. The next day the Cheriton Hounds met at Stoke Canon, but an absolute blank day resulted, the River Culm being drawn as far as the island above Silverton without a sign of an otter. Similar luck befel the Hampshire pack on the Wednesday, neither the Axo nor the best six miles of the Yarty producing a whimper, even from the rough hounds. No better luck attended the meet of the Culmstock pack at Ottery St. Mary on the Thursday but a long uneventful walk to Honiton—four blank days in succession.

The lower reaches of the River Otter was the draw for Friday. Mr. Tracey's hounds and a considerable following detrained at Otterton Station within a couple of hundred yards of the river at Otterton Bridge, and had some rare sport.

On Saturday the Culmstock met at Chard Road to draw up, and were lucky enough to find almost at once in the small cove at Forde Grange. He was a good, bold otter, and there was a rare scent on the water. Up stream he went into a drain, and took some shifting. Then came a rare hunt up to the Abbey, through beautiful water, the quarry trying hard to reach the drains, but was headed back just in time. He then went down stream for a long way towards Chard Road Station, constantly laying up, but hounds worked admirably, fresh finding him all down the river. Now he took to land, making across country, evidently for Mr. Freeman-Roper's fishponds. Unfortunately the pack got away after this game otter a shade too quick for him to reach his goal, for they caught him, after crossing several fields, just short of the ponds—a dog otter, scaling 21lbs. This will rank as one of the best hunts among the many that most of us can remember in the Abbey waters, and amply atoned for lack of sport during the early days of the week.

These Hunt weeks are very interesting, bringing sportsmen from all over the South of England, and the intermingling of the varied hunt uniforms make a picturesque scene. One met representatives from the Dartmoor, Tetocott, Cheriton, Cowhurst, Bucks, and Hawkstone, while Mr. Tracey brought many of his followers with him and several Masters of Otterbounds, but all spoke of the scarcity of otters this season. I fancy that the Culmstock during their recent summer visits, to Ireland must have killed more otters than all the South Country packs put together for the present season. On the rivers of co. Cork otters were numerous, and a blank day the exception. The Master might with advantage have put a few in his pocket and brought them back to provide sport and a change of sort in the Culmstock country, where the gallant animals are for some reason getting scarcer every season.

"HAVE-A-CARE."

## OVApedia

Last September I wrote that OVApedia had reached an important milestone with 100 articles. Now I can report that, with the help of our faithful band of contributors, it has reached 125, with sufficient in the pipeline to top 130! Recent additions include: more on secret pricing codes; more on the coastguards and smuggling; an illustrated guide to making a withy crab pot;



articles on the history and architecture of the Salem Chapel to balance those on the bench ends of All Saints; and at last we have found a past resident who fought at the battle of Trafalgar (Waterloo was easier).

We held two very successful training sessions in the Budleigh Salterton Library. I now have an appointment to discuss long term archiving with Anne Howard, Librarian of the Westcountry Studies Library and to ask that OVApedia is added to their list of online resources.

We have somehow managed to achieve “Google” search ratings that many organisations pay good money for. Just type “ovapedia” into Google to see that we have top billing. As a result we are getting a steady flow of enquiries through the web site. One of Gerald Millington’s articles on the history of the Otter estuary is now quoted as a Wikipedia reference!

**David Daniel**

## Jan 20 - Recycling Talk

### EDDC

Naomi Firth and Steve Joyce of East Devon District Council Waste Management team gave a presentation to about 40 people interested enough to brave a chill night. Questions were largely concerned and polite, which, considering earlier circumstances over a snowy, holiday period was appreciated. Whilst many questions were answered about where our waste actually ends up, quite a few were not.

*SOME FURTHER QUESTIONS* These were raised after the talk and the answers are summarised from information provided by Naomi Firth and a representative of Waste Management, Devon County Council.

**Q.** What happens in 7 years when Cullompton landfill site is full?

**A.** Landfill is generally reducing but further landfill sites will be needed. Planning permission on various sites will be required. See [www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk) for the Waste Core Strategy.

**Q.** Is it actually worth getting into a car and driving cardboard boxes and yoghurt pots to the Recycling centre?

**A.** Not in small quantities but yes if you are delivering bulky items such as garden waste and cardboard.

**Q.** What is being done about investing some of the money that may disappear in EU fines into additional treatment plants for recycling waste?

**A.** At present, Devon concentrates on reducing our amounts of recyclables by marketing and PR. Recyclable materials are processed elsewhere, glass in Yorkshire, paper in Kent, textiles abroad, plastics mainly in China and metals in a variety of places. In Devon we mainly collect for redistribution. It is unlikely that companies in Devon will set up recycling plants.

**N.B.** The information given in the talk indicates that EU targets for reduction of landfill are:

25% by 2010, 50% by 2013 65% by 2020.

East Devon is achieving 51% reduction at present and is reaching beyond present targets. Fines for not meeting these objectives are £150/tonne.

**Sue Chapman**

**Talk Report**  
**The Pebblebed Heathlands,**  
**David Jannaway, Tuesday Jan 11.**

David guided seventy, across ancient pebblebed .

We wandered, treading gently as with camera he led.

See ghostly yomping soldiers emerge from time and mist

Share splendid views with runners and the heaving cyclist.

The heathland blackens, suffers careless, sweeping fire,

Hand dug gravel pits, pine plantations, land management wire.

Such wonders on the moorland, purple heather, golden gorse.

Life adapts to every hoof print, cattle poo, bog watercourse.

Opalescent beetles, adder, fox and camouflaged nightjar.

Stride alertly, step with reverence, gaze from our moor afar.

**Sue Chapman**

2011 APRIL to JUNE.



**April 2, Sat - 10.00 Dowsing Workshop**  
(See Jan. Newsletter Page 13)



**April 2, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Medium)**

Lower Way, Harpford SY092899 (Postcode for satnav EX10 0NQ). 6 miles, 3 hours. Harpford Common and Bowd. Hilly terrain over wild heathland and returning along old railway track.

*Walk leader:* Steve Hagger 01395 442631



**April 13, Wed - 10.30am. WALK (Moderate) / Restaurant Lunch**  
**N.B. Later start time**

Escot Park CP, GR080983. 4 miles, 2½ hours. A circular walk with good views of open countryside from local paths and lanes. Optional lunch at Escot Park Restaurant.

*Walk leader:* Trish Bisley 01392 410423



**April 16, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Crookes Plantation, Stowford, SY 057866. 5 miles 2½ hours. Woodbury and Bicton commons, Yettington.

May be muddy!

*Walk leader:* Shane Badham 01395 567531



**April 26, Tues - 08.00am VISIT Slapton Ley**  
(See Jan Newsletter Page 11)



**May 4, Wed- 08.00am VISIT Slapton Ley**  
(See Jan Newsletter Page 11)



**May 7, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Easy) / Pub Lunch**

Peak Hill CP, SY109872. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Jed Falby's artists' walk, easy going with two short stops for sketching with demo by Walk Leader Jed. Non artists very welcome to come along. Optional pub lunch at the Kings Arms, Otterton.

*Walk leader:* Jed Falby 01395 445455

2011 APRIL to JULY *ctd.*

**May 11, Wed - 7.30pm AGM 2011**

East Budleigh Village Hall

Agenda and Minutes in centre



**May 13, Fri - Looe to Polperro Cornish Coastal Path Adventure**  
(See Page 9 for details)



**May 18, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)/Picnic Lunch**

Lime Kiln CP SY073820 (charges apply) 10 miles, 6 hours. A varied and interesting walk to Colaton Raleigh via cliffs and commons with a leisurely return along the river Otter. Bring a picnic for lunch at Colaton Raleigh.

*Walk leader:* Brian Turnbull 01395 567339



**June 8, Wed – 10.00am. TOWN WALK (Easy)/Pub Lunch**

Newton Poppleford Playing Field CP SY088090 4 miles, 2½ hours. Easy route around back lanes and footpaths of Newton Poppleford with time for a brief look at some of the historic features in the village. Optional lunch at the Cannon Inn.

*Walk leader:* Haylor Lass 01395 568786



**June 15, Wed - WALK Otterhead to Ottermouth  
Section 1 - Churchinford to Upottery**

Please see article on page 11 for full details of walk and contacts.



**June 22, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)**

Salcombe Regis Church CP, SY148888. 4 miles, 2½ hours. Circular walk around Salcombe Regis visiting Weston Mouth and the Donkey Sanctuary. Includes some coastal paths with splendid views, there are some steep climbs.

*Walk leader:* John Jones 01395 443651



**July 2 , Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

The Warren free CP, SY041882. 6 miles, 3 hours. Woodbury Common visiting sites of Tumuli. Walking on footpaths on the common, some rough ground.

*Walk leader:* Steve Hagger , 01395 442631

# **OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION**

## **32nd Annual General Meeting**

**7.30pm 11th May 2011**

**Village Hall, East Budleigh**

(Newton Poppleford Church Hall not available due to fire damage)

### **Agenda**

- 1. Apologies:**
- 2. The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Annual Report including Trustees Report and Treasurer's Report**
- 5. Election of Officers**
- 6. Election of Executive Committee Members**
- 7. Independent Examiner**
- 8. Any Other Business**
- 9 Date of next AGM**  
Thursday 3rd May 2012 - Colaton Raleigh Village Hall

To be followed by a Pictorial Quiz  
devised by Haylor Lass

**OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting**  
**held at 7.30pm on 4th May 2010**  
**in the Masonic Hall, Budleigh Salterton**

**1 Present:** Helen Tickle, Chairman, Haylor Lass, Vice Chairman, Martin Smith, Acting Treasurer, Roger Saunders, Hon Secretary, a further 7 members of the Executive Committee and 35 other members of the Association.

**2 Apologies:** Geoff Aplin, David and Nicky Daniel, Alan Huddart, Phillip Greenhow, Alan Collier, Frank and Marjorie Burton, Robert and Margaret Sellin.

**3 The Minutes** of the AGM held on 5th May 2009 were taken as read and agreed as a true record, proposed by Clive Bowman, seconded by Maureen Lister, agreed by the membership present.

**4 Matters Arising:** In response to item 8 in the previous AGM minutes, the Chairman reported that each OVA activity proposal would be considered on its own merits, and that the OVA would consider running events that may lose money.

**5 Annual Report:** The Chairman presented the Otter Valley Association Trustees' Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. The OVA's activities are governed by a written constitution which sets out its objectives and regulations. She reported that there have been no changes to the aims and organisation of the Association. The management of the OVA is carried out by the Executive Committee (which met ten times this year) and committees which report to the Executive Committee (Built Environment Committee, Natural Environment Committee, Events Committee, History Group and Ad Hoc committees formed as needed).

The OVA depends upon the commitment and active involvement of many people, the Chairman expressed her appreciation to all those who contributed in the last year, and commented on the need for a regular influx of volunteers prepared to become actively involved in the association. The Chairman thanked Alan Huddart for his work on the OVA website, and also Nick Speare for editing the quarterly newsletter. Alan Jones stood down as parish

## AGM

representative for Colaton Raleigh this year, Helen thanked him for his long service, Neville Bennet was welcomed to the Executive Committee as his replacement.

The Chairman noted the busy role of the Built Environment Committee, scrutinising nearly 200 planning applications for the area this year. There were no candidates of sufficient quality to be considered for the OVA Design Award. Amongst its other activities, the Natural Environment Committee continues to manage the Jubilee Field wildflower meadow and organised another successful litter pick on the Otter Estuary. A small prize was added to the event this year for the most unusual item retrieved. The NEC is participating in the Devon Water Vole Recovery Project on the Otter River. The Events committee has done an excellent job putting together a varied programme, which has been both popular and well supported. Over 100 members attended the OVA Christmas Party at Woodbury Park.

An excellent workshop on local history research by Dr Todd Gray was hosted by the History Group. Currently over 90 articles have been loaded onto the OVApedia to be viewed online. In other matters the Chairman discussed the opposition of the OVA to the Longboat Restaurant planning application, and explained the steps that the OVA has taken on this controversial matter.

The Acting Treasurer, Martin Smith, read his section of the annual report. The OVA had a satisfactory financial year, ending with a surplus of £308, with most transactions broadly in line with the previous year. Martin thanked Alan Collier for his 8 years as the OVA's publication salesman, he is retiring from this role. Acceptance of the Trustees' Report and the Accounts was proposed by Neville Lister, seconded by Haylor Lass and agreed unanimously.

**6 Election of Officers:** The Chairman explained that as only one nomination had been received for each post by the required closing date, 14 days prior to the AGM, there would be no election. The Hon. Secretary read out the Nominations of the Officers as follows:-

Chairman: Helen Tickle

Vice Chairman: Haylor Lass

Treasurer: Roger Saunders

Hon Secretary: Clive Bowman

The following were nominated to fill the remaining posts on the Executive

## AGM

and being not more than the number provided in the Constitution were also declared elected:- Geoff Aplin, Neville Bennett, Norman Crossland, Mitzi Crossland, David Daniel, Nicola Daniel, John Jones, Maureen Lister, George Maddaford, Martin Smith, Susan Tickle, John Winson. Acceptance of the Election of Officers was proposed by Gill Speare and seconded by Mr. Daley

**7 Independent Examiner:** Thanks were expressed to Brian Leveridge for acting again as Independent Examiner of the accounts. Having agreed to be reappointed for a further year, Mr Leveridge was proposed by Robin Holt and seconded by Nick Speare, with the agreement of the membership present.

**8 Any Other Business:** A member asked why there was no report on the latest public meeting about the Longboat planning application in the OVA newsletter. The Chairman explained that the meeting was held after the press deadline for the newsletter, and a report will be in the next newsletter. There was discussion about the role the OVA could play in maintaining footpaths given the cutbacks at the local government level. In the past the OVA has been active in keeping footpaths clear by means of working parties. It was agreed that this issue would be considered at the next Executive Committee meeting.

**9 Date of next Annual General Meeting:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 7.30pm in the Newton Poppleford Church Hall. (Post meeting Note : venue changed to East Budleigh)

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.05pm, with refreshments. A presentation of photographs (Picturing the Otter Valley) by Mo Bowman followed.

Signed:

Date:

*JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2011*

 **July 13, Wed - WALK Otterhead to Ottermouth,  
Section 2 - Uppottery to Honiton.**

Please see article on page 11 for full details of walk and contacts.

 **July 20, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic) Pub or Picnic Lunch**  
Morcombelake, Dorset. 7 miles, day trip. Walk from Morcombelake to West Bay on the coastal path via Golden Cap returning to Morcombelake by bus at around 1600. Travel options to Morcombelake: by X53 bus (0911 from Newton Poppleford) or independently by car (share where possible).  
*Walk leader:* Peter Hills, 01395 568576

 **July 25, Mon – 10.00am. TOWN WALK (Easy)**  
Temple Methodist Church car park (donation to OVA & Music Festival).  
Learn more about Budleigh's history through its people and places.  
*Walk leader:* TBC

 **Aug 10, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Easy)**  
Exmouth Railway Station (charges apply). 3 miles, 2 hours. One way easy walk to Exton on footpath and cycle path. Travel back to Exmouth via bus, train or walk, it's up to you!  
*Walk leader:* Peter Hills, 01395 568576

 **Aug 10, Wed - WALK Otterhead to Ottermouth  
Section 3 - Honiton to Tipton St John.**  
Please see article on page 11 for full details of walk and contacts.

 **Aug 20, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**  
East Budleigh CP, SY065849. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Local walk up Hayes Lane and through woods and over the commons returning via Yettington.  
*Walk leader:* **Stan Herbert, 01395 445113**

 **Sept 7, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic) / Pub lunch**  
Otter Inn CP, SY078874. 6½ miles, 3½ hours. Walk around Colaton Raleigh commons, visiting site of Woodbury Castle. Optional pub refreshments.  
*Walk leader:* John Jones, 01395 443651

 **Sept 10, Sat: Compass and Map Reading Day (Tony Burges)**

The High Moorland Visitor Centre, Dartmoor.

More details in the next Newsletter.

 **Sept 10, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic) / Packed Lunch**

Peak Hill CP, SY109872. 8½ miles, 4 hours. "Town and Country". Walking to Sidmouth along the coastal path and then following the river Sid to Sidford. Returning to Mutters Moor via farms, hills, woodland and some road. Energetic and muddy in some places. There will be a stop for a sociable picnic lunch (bring your own packed lunch).

*Walk leader:* Jan Stuart, 01395 568235

 **Sept 14, Wed - WALK Otterhead to Ottermouth  
Section 4 Tipton St John to Budleigh Salterton**

Please see article on page 11 for full details of walk and contacts

 **Sept 24, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Newton Poppleford CP, SY086897. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Newton Poppleford to Venn Ottery returning via Southerton. Interesting exploration of lanes and paths with constantly changing views

*Walk leader:* Steve Hagger, 01395 442631

 **Sept 30, Fri - Dartmoor Layers of History Adventure**

Details in next Newsletter.

 **Oct 4, Tues - 7.30pm TALK**

Ottertton Village Hall. "Coastwatch." Not RNLI, not coastguards, what exactly are they doing in the water tower in Exmouth?

*Speaker:* Bill Nash, Ex Station Manager

 **Nov 17, Thurs - 7.30pm TALK**

Colaton Raleigh Village "Bees" Why are honey bees so important to the environment and what can we do to help?

*Speaker:* Roger Lacey, President of Devon Beekeepers.

 **Dec, 15, Thurs. - 6.30 for 7.00pm  
Christmas Dinner. East Devon Golf Club**

2012

**May 3 Thurs, 7.30pm AGM**

Colaton Raleigh Village Hall

## Cornish Coast Path Trip from Looe to Polperro Friday 13th May

We shall be traveling to *they foreign parts* by coach for another of our OVA adventures with Tony Burgess.

May is felt by many to be the loveliest month of the year, and if the weather is kind to us, we shall be enjoying the views and wild flowers along a beautiful stretch of the Cornish Heritage Coast.



We depart from Budleigh Salterton Public Hall at 8am and arrive in Looe mid-morning where we begin our walk of 5.7 miles taking three to four hours. It will be taken at a pleasant pace, but some of the path is quite rough, and there are some slopes to negotiate, so proper footwear and a little stamina will be needed. Tony will be commentating and we shall often stop to study and admire our surroundings, including of course a stop for lunch. (N.B Don't forget a packed lunch).

When we reach Polperro in the afternoon, we shall do a little local exploration, and then at tea time, visit the Plantation Tea Room overlooking

## Future Events

the harbour for our traditional optional cream tea. After this at around 5pm we shall depart for home, returning to Budleigh Salterton at about 7.30pm.



*Hendersick Point*



*Portnaldar Bay*

This day long treat will cost £18.00pp. The price does not include the optional cream tea, but who can resist trying one to see how the Cornish version compares to our very own Devon speciality ?

**Mo Bowman: 01395 446892**

**WALK:**  
**Otterhead to Ottermouth**  
**The Big One!**

We have had some exciting walks and events further afield recently, so here is a chance to concentrate on our own valley - **all of it!!** We will split the walk of approximately 30 miles into four sections and will present a Certificate of Achievement (no expenses spared!) to all those who complete the whole length!!

Transport will be by car and bus. As parking is limited and to economise on petrol costs, we will try to link up people in a similar area to arrange to share transport. Picnics to be taken on each walk.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in taking part, whether you can offer or need transport and if you are willing for me to pass on your details to others.

Bettina Wilson has kindly offered to lead the walks, details of which are given below.

**Diane Gee: 01395 444388**

**The Walk** will follow the course of the River Otter as closely as possible, using footpaths and minor roads, starting from close to its source in Somerset. We will see it swell from a tiny stream to its final confident encounter with the sea at Budleigh Salterton. Please come and enjoy our beautiful, diverse valley.

**Section 1: Wed 15 June.**

**Park:** Upottery, near church, GR: SY202075. Bus stop opposite The Sidmouth Arms, **Bus 387 at 10.03 to York Inn, Churchinford, Somerset.**

We will cross the infant Otter, before it reaches the man-made lakes and nature trails of the Otterhead Estates. Then along quiet lanes with a timeless quality, stepping back into Devon and crossing the river again before field paths lead to Upottery.

### **Section 2: Wed 13 July.**

**Park:** Far end of Old Elm Road, Honiton, GR: SY146995 Just south of Honiton at the roundabout, if coming from Sidmouth direction take left turn into Old Elm Road (signed for The Heathfield Inn). Keep on Old Elm Road to its end. Walk through the pedestrian cut to Hayne Lane, turn right, under railway bridge to the corner of Hayne Lane and Devonshire Road. **Bus 387 at 09.44 to The Sidmouth Arms, Uptonery.**

Along the road to Rawridge and past the Otterfalls leisure complex. On to Mohun's Ottery, originally established in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, now rebuilt, but with the remains of the 16<sup>th</sup> century gatehouse. Passing cottages in Beacon, we climb towards Dumpdon Hill with its iron age fort and splendid valley views. Through the hamlet of Wick, the village of Combe Raleigh, on to Weston and yet again over the river.

### **Section 3: Wed 10 August.**

**Park:** Tipton St John car park, GR: SY093918. Walk up to the Sidmouth / Ottery St. Mary road at Coombe Cross, GR: SY096919. **Bus 387 at 09.18 to Hayne Lane, Honiton.**

We have a choice of routes to Fenny Bridges but will probably opt for the quietest one. The route traverses a section of the old A30 before heading back down to the river, which is spanned by Gosforth Bridge built in 1824. Continuing beyond Cadhay Bridge Farm to the outskirts of Ottery St Mary and its Tumbling Weir, we follow the river path back to Tipton St. John.

### **Section 4: Wed 14 September.**

**Park:** Tipton St John car park, GR: SY093918. **10am:** we will start our walk to Budleigh Salterton. Transport will need to be arranged for drivers to be returned to their cars, hopefully by those who have shared the outward journey, or by arrangement.

This walk will be on familiar territory along the river bank. As we pass through Otterton, we will remember that it was once an important port. Finally we witness the exit of our magnificent River Otter into the sea at Budleigh Salterton. A satisfying end to our journey!

**Bettina Wilson: 01395 578450**

## SNOWDROP WALK

24 February 2011

On a dry bright morning 32 members set off by coach via Totnes through the leafy and muddy lanes of the South Hams to the village of Harbertonford. At the village School, we were greeted by the local WI with Coffee and biscuits to sustain us for our walk.



Our Guide for the day was the WI County Chairman herself, Linda Carew. The route was roughly 3 miles, mostly following the meandering course of the River Harbourne. Drifts of various species of Snowdrops, or Galanthus for the more Botanically- minded amongst us were all around – on the banks at the sides of the lane, under hedgerows and trees and either side of the river. We saw many different varieties including a very rare one with yellow parts inside. Some were quite small, others with long stems and large double ones.

The weather was beautiful, the sun came out and became quite warm. Apart from Snowdrops we saw Celandines, Daisies, Dandelions, Primroses,

## Reports

Eyebright and Periwinkle as well as my first Brimstone Butterfly this year at the edge of woodland! Along the way Linda pointed out points of interest including a farm with a Saxon history, water mills, one Painsford, which once had beautiful Italian gardens.



After a stiff final climb we reached Ashprington, which was once an Estate village (Sharpham). In the Village Hall we enjoyed a wonderful lunch provided again by the WI. Fully sustained we then visited the Church, St David's and were given a brief history of the church and the village.

We then made our way back along the same route, some branching off to visit Tuckenhay on the banks of Bow Creek, to Harbertonford for further refreshments before the returning home.

All in all a lovely day, everything running very smoothly and I think enjoyed by all. A repeat may be possible next February!

**Rosemary Jerrard**

## **Christmas Celebrations Past and Future.**

The 2010 OVA Christmas dinner at Woodbury Park was a wonderful start to our Christmas celebrations. The company was convivial, the food was delicious, the quiz exacting, the raffle prizes intoxicating, the carol singing angelic AND it took place before the snow descended.

We have canvassed a lot of members' views and some wanted this year's celebration to continue at Woodbury Park but fractionally more thought that after 3 years in one venue we should have a change. So please pencil in your diaries **December 15<sup>th</sup> at East Devon Golf Club, 6.30 for 7.00pm.** We will have a new quizmaster who is a regular attendee of our talks so expect some questions on Devon place names, recycling etc.

The 2010 Boxing Day walk was cancelled due to the snow. However, half the proposed number battled through the terrible conditions, some walking, some skiing and some sliding in their cars to have a well deserved pub lunch at the Sir Walter Raleigh. We are sorry that some were unable to come having been marooned in their homes. We hope this year we will have better luck.

**Nicky Daniel**



*address for application overleaf*

**OVA Cornish Coast Path Walk  
Mo Bowman  
9 Hayes Close  
Budleigh Salterton  
EX9 6SR**

## Application Form

*Top half left blank intentionally.*



### **Cornish Coast Path Trip**

**Friday 13 May**

**Departing 08.00am Budleigh Salterton Public Hall**

Please send me \_\_\_ tickets

Name	
	Address:  Phone: Email:

I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ (£18 per person) payable to 'OVA' and a

**STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

**Please give names of all guests**

*(address for return overleaf)*

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



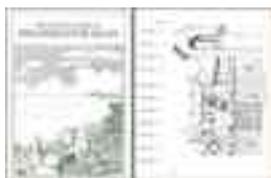
£4.95 via your Rep (or plus £1.00 P&P)

## **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)

Available from your Parish Representative, our website -[www.ova.org.uk](http://www.ova.org.uk)

or order from:

Booksales

OVA

PO Box 70

Budleigh Salterton

EX9 6WN

## Officers *et al*

### **Executive Committee** (01395)

<b>Chairman</b>	Helen Tickle	443901
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Haylor Lass	568786
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Clive Bowman	446892
<b>Treasurer</b>	Roger Saunders	443248

### *Committee Chairmen*

Natural Environment	Patrick Hamilton	445351
Events	Nicola Daniel	445960
History	David Daniel	445960

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

Budleigh Salterton	John Jones	443651
	George Maddaford	446077
East Budleigh	Christine Hadley	443607
Otterton	John Winson	568274
Colaton Raleigh	Vacancy	
Newton Popleford	Haylor Lass	568786

### *Other Officers*

Minutes Secretary	Maureen Lister	444269
Membership Secretary	Clive Bowman	446892
Publicity Officer	Susan Tickle	444211
Webmaster	Alan Huddart	446761
Speaker Secretary	Susan Chapman	445620
Walks Organiser	John Jones	443651
Newsletter Distributor	Gill Speare	443944
Interim Newsletter Editor	Haylor Lass	568786
	<a href="mailto:haylor@lasses.me.uk">haylor@lasses.me.uk</a>	

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The OVA was founded in 1979. It is a member of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. It is registered with the Charity Commissioners and is also affiliated to the CPRE and a member of the AONB Partnership.