

# OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

PO Box 70 Budleigh Salterton EX9 6WN  
[www.ova.org.uk](http://www.ova.org.uk)



Memories of winter storms?

## Spring Newsletter

**Volume 35/2**

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The cover photo, and most others in this edition,  
were supplied by Mo Bowman. Thank you, Mo.

The next issue will be published in Mid July 2014:  
copy needs to be with the editor by **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014**, please.

# Editor's Jottings

**W**ITH the spring flowers all around us, we can look forward to another year full of interest in the Lower Otter Valley. Another bumper edition of the newsletter, packed with reports of walks and talks and long lists of forthcoming activities. Something there to please everyone. Please note the events which need a response from you in advance – you won't want to miss out!

Usually at this time of year I've arranged both the Trustees Report and the Activities listing to be on pull-out centre pages. It's just not been possible this time – another measure of the busy-ness of your OVA.

I draw your attention to the AGM, notice and agenda below: do show your support for the hardworking committee and volunteers. The Trustees Report incorporating the audited Accounts, together with the minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting will be available at the AGM

A formal reminder – nominations for Officers and Executive Committee must be lodged with the Secretary (see back page) fourteen days before the meeting. There are some gaps – see Nicky Daniel's plea on page 7/8.

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## Otter Valley Association

**The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in the Village Hall, East Budleigh.**

### AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 15 May 2013
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Report including Trustees Report and Accounts
5. Election of Officers
6. Election of Executive Committee Members
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Consideration of membership fees.
8. Any Other Business
9. Date of next AGM

**The meeting will be followed by refreshments and an illustrated talk by Mike Williams on the Lower Otter Restoration Project (see p.14)**

# Keble's Seat

**A**N UNUSUAL (but particularly English) gathering of about forty people took place on 7<sup>th</sup> March for a tree-planting ceremony at Keble's Seat on Mutters Moor.

Keble's Seat is located on the northern end of Mutters Moor near Bulverton Hill at OS grid reference SY 1055 8900. Some years ago, a bench was placed there in memory of John Keble (1792-1866), poet and churchman, after whom Keble College, Oxford is named. Keble first came to East Devon as a young man in 1812, staying at Myrtle Cottage, Sidmouth. He became a regular visitor drawing poetic inspiration from the landscape.

His book of poems "The Christian Year" appeared in 1827, and has been called "the most popular volume of verse in the 19<sup>th</sup> century" with ninety five editions appearing during his lifetime. Several of the poems were subsequently set to music, and are still sung as hymns today.

In recent years, larch plantations have obscured the spectacular view over the Lower Otter Valley to Woodbury Common and Dartmoor beyond. As a result, few people know about Keble's Seat, and fewer still have been there.

The plantations have now been harvested revealing again the view which Keble once enjoyed. To mark the occasion, Elizabeth Cummings gave a short talk, and read an extract from one of Keble's poems. Three copper beeches were planted by, respectively, Lord Clinton, Sir Jonathan Phillips, Warden of Keble College, and Diana East of Sidmouth Arboretum. Finally, the Revd Handel Bennett, President of the Sid Vale Association, led a short service to bless the trees. So, the next time you feel like a bit of exploring, why not seek out Keble's Seat?



Perhaps you will be inspired too!

**Brian Turnbull**

# Guided Farm Tour

**A guided tour with George Perrott, Farms Manager - Clinton Devon Estates on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

We are privileged to have this unique opportunity of being taken around areas of Clinton Devon Estates by trailer, to view some of their recent and topical projects. With commentary from George Perrott and his colleagues we shall learn about their stewardship and approach to care of the countryside. There will be opportunity for discussion. The covered trailer will take about 30 of us, and the evening tour will begin at 6.00pm, from Pophams Farm, Colaton Raleigh. There is plenty of space for car parking at Pophams Farm, Hawkerland Road, Colaton Raleigh, EX10 0HT. The tour will take about two hours and the cost will be £5 per person. The tour will go ahead even if it is raining.

As there is limited space on the trailer, applications for the tour will be opened randomly on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014. Please complete the form below and return to Lizzie Everett-Wright, together with a cheque payable to 'OVA' and a stamped self-addressed envelope.



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**Guided Farm Tour from Popham's Farm, Colaton Raleigh  
6.00pm Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Please send me ..... tickets

Name(s) .....

Address .....

.....

and postcode .....

tel: ....., email .....

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... (£5.00 per person) payable to OVA  
and a **Stamped Addressed Envelope (reply address overleaf)**

# AONB Historic Environment Conference - Saturday 12 April

The 2014 East Devon AONB Historic Environment Conference builds on six years of similar annual conferences generated by the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Parishscapes Project and the recently completed Peter Orlando Hutchinson Project.

The theme of this year's conference, 'Capturing the Past in the Present' echoes the way in which English Heritage and other organisations tackle the past in our landscape, taking what is actually there today as their starting point. The presentations at the conference showcase two strands of current AONB involvement in the historic environment of East Devon: the HEAP project (Historic Environment Action Plan), featuring Woodbury and Branscombe (financed by English Heritage), and the work on historic orchards that the East Devon Local History Societies Group, meeting under the aegis of the AONB, have carried out in the last three years.

09.30 ~ 16.30 £12, **booking essential** from the AONB team, 01404 46663  
info@eastdevonaonb.org.uk – see also [www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk)



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Ticket Application for **Guided Farm Tour**

**Lizzie Everett-Wright**  
**9 East Terrace,**  
**Budleigh Salterton,**  
**EX9 6PG**

**And don't forget the SAE**

# Trustees Report of Activities

## Chairman' Introduction ~ Nicky Daniel

**T**HIS YEAR has been a very active and productive year for the association with the walks, talks and events being very well supported by the members and the fight against Himalayan Balsam and the monitoring of the River Otter continuing apace. This success has only come about with the volunteer efforts of so many members. The walks leaders, newsletter editor, the newsletter co-ordinators and distributors, talks organiser, technical equipment organiser, events organisers, web-site monitor, wild life monitors, village representatives, monthly posters producer and distributors in the villages, Himalayan Balsam pullers etc. etc. The Trustees would like to give a massive thank you to them all.

I would also like to thank the Trustees, ie the Executive Committee members, who have supported me this year where planning matters have taken up an ever increasing amount of the Executive Committee time. The committee has also discussed at length the issues of flooding along the Otter and elected Haylor Lass to represent the OVA on discussions on the Lower Otter Project, initiated by Clinton Devon Estates. The committee also responded to the planning application by the Environment Agency for flood defences at the Otter mouth. It has kept abreast of developments of the water quality issues at Ladram Bay and Budleigh Salterton beaches which may fail the EU designated safe bathing beaches criteria next year.

The committee have collaborated once again with other charities. Fairlynch Museum joined with the OVA in two very successful talks, one on the East Devon AONB and the other on the influence of the environment on the lives of people in the valley and conversely how people shaped the environment. The committee also have collaborated with the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust to finance local schoolchildren to visit the heaths, learn of their origins, their plants and wildlife and then to produce exciting written and art work. The Himalayan Balsam project is a joint project with the Pebblebed Heaths and many groups from along the river. The annual Litter Pick involves the Pebblebed Heaths, the East Devon AONB and EDDC Street Scene.

The OVA again sponsored a very successful evening of local writers reading their work to a large and enthusiastic audience.

This is my third Trustees Report and I once again ask for more volunteers to sit on our Executive Committee. We need new blood and new ideas. We need a representative for Colaton Raleigh, an Events Committee Chairman and a Publicity Officer. Also, if you are worried about the pressure on building in our part of the AONB please come and join me in a Planning and Built Environment Committee.

## **Events Committee**

The Events Committee have organised a very varied programme which has been well supported. Graham Knapton, our Talks Organiser, has put together, to large audiences, subjects such as Climate Change, Curious Dartmoor and the Green Lanes of Devon as well as the joint Fairlynch/OVA talks. The Trustees thank him and Clive Bowman, our technical expert, for their hard work. Clive has spent a long time trying to improve the presentation of our talks and the OVA has invested in a new screen, a much improved sound system (it's first test being in St Peters Church in 2013), and a more mobile control of visual projection.

The Trustees are very grateful to the two Walks Organisers, Chris Buckland and Mike Paddison, who have enthusiastically given members walks for those of varying physical prowess. They set up an introductory workshop for walks leaders. Of course, this winter has not been the ideal time for walking, with very muddy footpaths, but already there is an exciting programme in place for the summer months. Chris and Mike have collaborated with the Kings Arms, Otterton, to devise walks for the pub's new venture of walking holidays.

Lizzie Everett-Wright organised a very interesting afternoon at Poltimore House. Members were given a tour of the house and gardens followed by tea and cakes. We hope to go again in a few years' time to see progress.

## **Planning and Built Environment**

This year has seen unprecedented pressure for housing development in the lower Otter valley due to the local authority not having an approved Local Plan in place. The OVA objected to housing developments in Newton Poppleford as the village lies within the East Devon AONB. Similarly the OVA has responded to the Village Developments Plan as East Budleigh villagers voted for a brownfield site and the local authority have instead ignored their vote and chosen a prime agricultural site. Once again contrary to policies in an AONB.

The OVA, along with over 30 others, objected to an application for a house in the garden of a row of mid-nineteenth century houses in a conservation area in Budleigh Salterton. This was passed by EDDC which makes your Trustees query the value of a conservation area designation as they also question the value of the AONB designation. The policies in place to protect these areas are ignored by the local authority.

## Natural Environment Committee in 2013

This was the second year of the Otter Valley **Himalayan Balsam Project** sponsored by the Environment Agency and the NEC's annual report (illustrated with maps and photographs) appears on the OVA website. We continued to play a role in the Lower Otter, again focusing on the Colaton Raleigh brook where we consolidated last year's achievements in the upper valley and extended downstream to the village. A most encouraging development was the emergence of a residents' group in East Budleigh (Dr Nick Ward) that has made excellent progress. We have close relations with this new group and continue to cooperate with groups on the Back Brook, both in the lower reaches (Newton Poppleford; Ted Swan) and the upper (Hawkerland; Rob Jones). Another encouraging development was the appointment of Dr Sam Bridgewater as Conservation Officer to Clinton Devon / Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust. He arranged the participation of some 40 Royal Marines in the Opening Day assault; organized an excellent seminar for all volunteers at The Otter Inn (CR) in late August (OVA contributed financially as well as conceptually); and has produced a digital map of progress in 2013. In 2014 it is planned to complement these efforts in the tributaries with a demonstration plot on the main river banks to heighten awareness of the campaign; and to invest in a brushcutter to improve the efficiency of field activities.

Late in the year (and into early 2014) the **Water Vole Project** was disrupted by flooding which stranded or destroyed rafts. EDDC's Jim Hunter has been replaced by Nathan Robinson, but financial cuts are making it difficult to maintain the level of support for this project.

In June 2013, the OVA (with both finance and helpers) supported Dr Sam Bridgewater (Clinton Devon Estates) in an imaginative project for Primary Schools which involved **field ecology seminars** on East Budleigh Common. Much enthusiasm was engendered.

The **annual litter pick** on the Otter Estuary in early April 2013 was again a successful and very worthwhile exercise.

## History

Our history archive, OVApedia, continues to expand steadily and to attract enquires from researchers overseas. The latest was from Christopher Long who lives in Normandy. He and French colleagues are researching the history of the Abbey at Mont Saint-Michel in Normandy and its mediaeval 'daughter' priories in the Channel Islands, Mont Saint-Michel in Cornwall and at Otterton. In March Christopher came to stay a few days to meet our local experts, Gerald Millington and Roger Lendon, and to exchange historical research.

## Web Site Update

It is now six years since we launched an OVA website we could manage ourselves, ie a web site which OVA volunteers could keep up to date with news and events and which, therefore, incurred low running costs.

Although it still serves its purpose, technology has moved on. As a result, although we have updated the software, we are finding it increasingly time consuming to load new articles, especially if illustrated by photographs.

The Executive Committee has decided that the time is right to redevelop the site, once again using the local social enterprise company COSMIC.

This is a company that returns its profits to the community by way of encouraging IT projects.

The new site will have a new look, making greater use of images, and will adapt automatically to provide an optimal display on widescreen PCs, tablets and smartphones in both landscape and portrait modes. Our web site is our shop window and vital to recruiting new members. We use it to promote our role in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and it is increasingly being accessed. Keeping it looking professional and up to date is important. You have to do nothing except be prepared for a new look in due course – all the old contents will be retained but we will find it easier to add more in the future.

## Membership

The membership of the OVA is now 1078. Our diligent Membership Secretary, Clive Bowman, keeps track of members as they move around, join or leave the OVA and has had a good spring-clean so we know the number is accurate. Over the last year or so, a new database has been built that meets with the latest data protection requirements, and is also able to offer additional information reports to the Trustees of the OVA.

The essential requirement of this new database has been meeting the more rigorous Data Protection Act requirements, and at the same time providing more reporting options for the OVA EC to identify and contact specific types of members, eg inviting those members who had not been to a 'New Members Party'.

## **East Budleigh**

There are 100 OVA members in the village.

During 2013 restoration work at Hayes Barton was completed in accordance with listed building consent.

In May the Village Shop moved into new purpose built premises and is much used and appreciated by villagers and visitors.

The Bellringers of All Saints Church are aiming to raise £30,000 for the restoration of the church bells.

The free "Walk around East Budleigh" leaflet has been updated and is available from the East Budleigh Village Information Room, Budleigh Salterton Tourist Information and Budleigh Salterton Library.

East Budleigh has been asked by EDDC to find suitable development land for 15 houses to meet future housing needs. Villagers were asked to consider potential sites and the Parish Council has recently made representation to the East Devon Villages Plan.

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## **Arranging talks in the village halls**

One of the other caps I wear besides being Membership Secretary and part of the Executive Committee, is that of Technical Support, meaning I look after the technical equipment of the OVA, which includes a large projection screen, a digital projector, a very versatile sound system offering several options, and then make these available at the various talks/workshops that are held throughout the colder months of the year.

I have been doing this now for over 4 years, and in that time have learnt a lot about our village halls. What facilities each hall has and how we can make use of it, the needs of different speakers, and how our equipment works best at these events. I hope that my efforts have normally not been noticed too much, as you come to listen and enjoy the talks, not to see someone fiddling with knobs all the time.

But as the attendance at some of these talks/events have shown, the OVA's increasing membership means we need to look at housing larger numbers.

And these increasing numbers mean we also have to look very carefully at the hall's capacity in respect of its insurance, and seat-wise. As a licensed Fire Marshall, this is also very much part of my role at any OVA event.

So, following the packed house on the Monday evening at Otterton Village Hall (24<sup>th</sup> March), this subject came up at the following evenings' Executive Committee (EC) meeting. As Trustees, part of our responsibilities are the care and safety of our fellow members at organized events, which includes talks. And we also have to consider if, by holding a talk, we are going to cause problems or inconvenience for the residents in that village not attending the event.

As a Committee, we reviewed each of the halls available within the area of benefit, and had to make some hard decisions as to which ones we can continue to use, and the reasons for why not. But rather than keep these choices known to just the EC and the Events Committee, the EC agreed last night to explain our decisions to our members. The agreement has resulted in the following choices:

For major events like the annual Saturday Workshops, we will continue to use St Peter's Hall in Budleigh Salterton (BS). For talks where we feel we can forecast high attendance (we can be proved wrong), the choice is East Budleigh Village Hall (EB) and again St Peter's Hall (BS). For talks with perhaps less interest due to more specific detail, there is Otterton Village Hall and the Masonic Hall in BS. Where we arrange an all day Saturday workshop that includes the morning and afternoon, East Budleigh Church Hall is a popular choice through experience.

So, this leaves out Newton Poppleford, who's village Rep gave good descriptions of both the facilities and location of both available halls, but fell short of the needs of a full OVA talk, and Colaton Raleigh, which although the hall has both good sound and vision facilities, would struggle with 40 cars suddenly arriving to park without annoying residents.

Your Executive Committee has therefore agreed on continuing to use both East Budleigh Village Hall and St Peter's Hall in Budleigh Salterton for our major interest talks and events, with The Masonic Hall in Budleigh Salterton, East Budleigh Church Hall, Knowle Village Hall and Newton Poppleford Pavilion for events with restricted numbers. As a committee, we hope the OVA membership appreciates how hard these decisions have been.

**Clive Bowman** – Technical Support & Membership Secretary

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April – 10.00am WALK**

Start at the Joney's Cross car park, SY057898. 5 Miles, 2.5 hours.

A walk to Aylesbeare via Randelhayes farm and back via Manor farm and Aylesbeare common.

*Walk leader:* Graham Knapton, 01395 445872

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – 10.00am WALK**

Start at East Budleigh Church car park, SY 065849. 9 miles, 4½ hours.

A varied walk giving an ever-changing perspective using the coast path, local roads and tracks. Visiting Ladram Bay, High Peak and Windgate then returning inland via Otterton and Bicton. Some hilly sections which could be muddy.

*Walk Leader:* Mike Paddison, 01395 446550

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April – 10.00am WALK**

Start at Ashton CP, SX 844841. 4½ miles, 2½ hours.

Walk via the church with lovely screen, along footpaths, through fields and woods with a view of Canonteign Falls, returning to the car park via the riverside path bordered by wild daffodils. Food available at the local pub. Sorry no dogs.

*Walk Leader:* Margaret Read, 01392 759 332

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April – 10.00am-12.00noon – Friends of the Commons\***

Meet at Uphams car park (E of Yettington); SY041861

Get to know ... Bicton Common! Join natural Conservation Manager Dr Sam Bridgewater and find out about the habitats and wildlife of this Common, the history of its management and the conservation challenges ahead.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May – 10.00am. WALK**

Start at Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground CP, SY 088899. 8 ½ miles, 4+ hours.

“Beating the bounds” a circular two part walk following, wherever possible, the Newton Poppleford and Harpford parish boundaries. Some of the route will be ‘off path’ and may be steep and rough underfoot.

**Part 1** – walk to Joney's Cross returning to the start using the 52 bus.

Please bring refreshments.

*Walk Leader:* Ted Swan 01395 567450

**\*Friends of the Commons events need to be booked** – see page 20

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – 2.00pm WALK**

The Norman Lockyer Observatory CP, SY 139883. 1½ miles, 2 hours. Guides from the Sid Vale Association will lead us up to Soldiers Hill Wood to view the display of bluebells which are usually their best at this time of year. *Note:* the path to the woods is quite steep with rough edges. *Walk Leader:* Graham Knapton, 01395 445 665

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May – 10.00am. GUIDED WALK**

Start at White Bridge, SY 076830. 2½ miles, 2 hours. A leisurely walk along the River Otter watching and identifying the winter birds with Doug Cullen, Voluntary Warden of the Pebblebed Heath Conservation Trust. Please bring binoculars if you have them. *Walk Leader:* Doug Cullen, 01395 567574.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May – 7.30pm East Budleigh Village Hall  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The meeting, agenda on page 3, will be followed by a break for refreshments and an illustrated talk by Mike Williams (Environment Agency and Project Manager for Clinton Devon Estates) on the Lower Otter Restoration Project.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May – 8.00am to 10.00am – Friends of the Commons\***

Meet at Warren car park (ca. 1 km N of Woodbury castle on the B3180). Dartford Warbler Walk. Join Ed Lagdon (Commons Warden) on Colaton Raleigh Common for a walk in search of the elusive Dartford warbler, and find out about the changing fortunes of this iconic species.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May – 10.00am. WALK**

Start at Newton Poppleford Church bus stop towards Exeter, catching 52 bus at 09.49 to Joneys Cross CP. Alternative start point, Joney's Cross CP SY 057898 at 10.00 hrs. 5miles.

“Beating the bounds” a circular two part walk following, wherever possible, the Newton Poppleford and Harpford parish boundaries. Some of the route will be ‘off path’ and may be steep and rough underfoot.

**Part 2** – walk back to Newton Poppleford. Feel free to bring refreshments, but we should be back by lunchtime.

*Walk Leader:* Ted Swan 01395 567450

**\*Friends of the Commons events need to be booked** – see page 20

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May – 10.00am. WALK**

Start at Sidbury CP (behind Sidbury Social Club), SY 139918, 7 miles, 4 hours. A fairly challenging walk following part of the East Devon Way, using footpaths, woodland trails and green lanes. Some steep climbs and stunning views before a steep, downhill section towards the end. Can be very muddy in places following rain. Bring fluids and a packed lunch.

*Walk Leader:* Jan Stuart 01395 568235

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May – 10.00am. WALK**

Start at Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground CP SY 088899. 10 miles 5+ hours Walking up the River Otter to Ottery St Mary, the home of Coleridge. Historic town walk, lunch at the Volunteer Inn, returning eastwards via White Cross. Can be muddy, easy start but more challenging uphill sections on the return.

*Walk Leader:* Iain Ure 01395 568158

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – 6.30pm to 8.30pm – Friends of the Commons\***

Meet at Woodbury Wood (B3179 between Four Firs and Woodbury SY020865. Meet Clinton Devon Estates' Head of Forestry, John Wilding at Woodbury Wood and find out how woodland management has changed over the centuries and how future woodlands may differ from today.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June – 10.00am. WALK**

Start at Crookes Plantation, Stowford, SY 057866. 5 miles, 2½ hours. This is a popular local walk over Woodbury and Bicton commons giving lovely views over surrounding countryside.

*Walk Leader:* George Norman 01395 442307

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June – 10.00am. WALK**

Start at Newton Poppleford village CP, SY 086897. 7 miles, 4 hours Circular walk on green lanes and commons, visiting Venn Ottery, Metcombe and North Hill, returning via Venn Ottery Common and Benchams. There will be a stop for a sociable picnic lunch, bring you own

*Walk Leader:* Jan Stuart 01395 568 235.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June – 13.00 to 15.00 – Friends of the Commons\***

Meet at Uphams car park (E of Yettington); SY041861 Butterfly Walk. Join local heathland ecologist and butterfly expert Lesley Kerry on Bicton Common and find out why the heaths are such a good place for butterflies, how we monitor their fortunes, and what conservation work can be done to safeguard their future. *This event will be weather dependent.*

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June – 10.15am. WALK**

Start at Seaton Sea Front Gardens, SY 245899. 7 miles, 4+ hours. Not the “Tunnel of Love”, but this unique under cliff coastal route, patronized by the Victorians, spends much of its distance enclosed by overhanging trees and vegetation. Love it or loath it, but like any visit to the Jurassic coast, an experience not to be missed. Please bring lunch.

**Outward** travel by bus X53, dep Exeter 09:00, arr Newton Poppleford 09:32, arr Seaton Sea Front Gardens 10:07, and the start of the walk.

**Connecting** service: bus 157, dep Sidmouth 08:45 arr Newton Poppleford 09:01. **Connecting** service: bus 157, dep Exmouth 0840, arr Budleigh Salterton 09:00, arr Newton Poppleford 09: 24. For those using cars, the Playing Fields car park at Newton Poppleford can be used, as can the CP by the tramway station in Seaton.

**Return** by bus X53 dep Lyme Regis 17:10, arr Seaton 17:34, arr Newton Poppleford 18:12 and Exeter 18:40. Please check the bus times against the latest timetable, usually published in May. See note on page 19.

*Walk Leader:* Chris Buckland 01395 444471

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June – 7.00 – 9.00 pm. Local Voices**

Budleigh Salterton Playhouse *details later on* [www.ova.org](http://www.ova.org).

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June – 10.00am. WALK**

Start at Broadhembury, and park by the pub ST 101048. 5 miles, 3+ hours. Walking along minor roads and paths to the glider aerodrome. Return to this very pretty village via minor roads, paths and woods. Lovely ‘spring’ flowers may still be evident. Food is available at the village pub, or bring your own as there are many pretty spots to picnic. Sorry, no dogs.

*Walk Leader:* Margaret Read 01392 759332

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – 10.00am. WALK**

Start at Joney's Cross CP, off A3052, SY 057898. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Walk includes Aylesbeare and Hawkerland, footpaths and tracks through the Nature Reserve and woodland, some gradients and rough ground.

*Walk Leader:* John Jones 01395 443651

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – 6.00pm to 8.00pm – Friends of the Commons\***

Meet Pophams Farm (E of Colaton Raleigh); SY072878 Meet farm manager George Perrot for a tour of Home Farm and find out about how the farm is managed, how farming practices are designed to protect the environment; the challenges, benefits and legislation of organic farming.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – 10.00am. WALK**

Start at Knowle Village Hall CP, SY 052827, 10 miles, 5+ hours.

“Pushing the boundaries” a circular walk around Woodbury Commons enjoying all that terrain offers, along some lesser used paths going north and east around Crooks Plantation with splendid views towards the sea; north to Hawkerland; west past the castle; south and east of the B3180 through the quarries, across Lymptone Common, past Bystock Ponds, then Dalditch Plantation overlooking Squabmoor reservoir to return to Knowle Village and the Britannia Inn for those who feel they deserve it! Please bring refreshments.

*Walk Leader:* Chris Buckland 01395 444471

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – 6.00pm. Guided Farm Tour**

**Popham’s Farm, Colaton Raleigh – must be booked, see page 5**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – 8.30pm to 10.30pm – Friends of the Commons\***

(in association with the OVA) Meet at Mutter’s Moor car park, nr Sidmouth SY109873 Nightjars at dusk! (dusk is at 21.39) A summer visitor to Devon, the Nightjar is a nocturnal bird that can be seen hawking for food at dusk and dawn. Its churring call is one of the rarely heard but quintessential sounds of summer. Join Dr Sam Bridgewater, the Conservation Manager of Mutter’s Moor on a search for this elusive bird, one of our heathland’s most enigmatic species. *Bring a torch, appropriate clothing to keep warm and a flask of something hot to drink!*

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July – 10.15am WALK**

Start at Exeter Bus Station at 10.15, 6½ miles, 3½ hours.

Crossing the road to John Lewis to catch the bus to Beacon Heath.

Variety of footpaths, bridleways fields and tarmac lanes which offer the prospect of scenic views over Exeter and the Exe estuary.

Please bring refreshments.

**Outward** travel by bus 52B, dep Sidmouth 09:22, arr Newton Poppleford 09:29, arr Exeter Bus Station 10:14. Or, **Outward** travel by bus 357, dep Budleigh Salterton 08:55 arr Exmouth 09:12. Change to bus 57, dep Exmouth 09.27, arr Exeter Bus Station 10.09.

**Return** via bus to Exeter Bus Station. Please check the bus times against the latest timetable, usually published in May.

*Walk Leader:* Bettina Wilson 01395 578450

**\*Friends of the Commons events need to be booked – see page 20**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July – 11.00am. WALK**

Start at Charmouth seafront Information Centre SY 365930. 6 ½ miles, The Jurassic coast at its best! Enjoy the pleasure of climbing Cain's Folly, Golden Cap, the highest point on the south coast at 191m and Thorncombe Beacon with their outstanding panoramas as well as descending to Seatown, Eype mouth before finally being rewarded with the culinary delights (cockles, mussels, winkles and fish & chips) of West Bay harbour. Please bring refreshments.

**Outward** travel by bus X53, dep Exeter 09.00am, arr Newton Poppleford 09:32, arr Charmouth 10:48. From the bus stop walk south down the lane to the seafront Information Centre and the start of the walk.

**Connecting** service: bus 157, dep Sidmouth 08:45, dep Newton Poppleford 09:01. Or, **Connecting** service: bus 157, dep Exmouth 08:40, dep Budleigh 09:00, arr Newton Poppleford 09:24. For car users, the Playing Fields car park at Newton Poppleford can be used or the CP at the Charmouth Information Centre

**Return** by bus X53, dep West Bay 16:20, arr Charmouth 16:57, arr Newton Poppleford 18:12 and arr Exeter 18:40. Please check the bus times against the latest timetable. See note on page 19.

*Walk Leader:* Chris Buckland 01395 444471

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July – 10.00pm-midnight – Friends of the Commons\***

Meet at Uphams car park (E of Yettington) SY041861 Moth trapping on Bicton Common Led by moth enthusiast Kim Leaver, this night-time event is a unique opportunity to view this under-appreciated group. *This event will be weather dependent.*

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July – 10am to 12 noon – Friends of the Commons\***

Meet at Stowford car park (E of Colaton Raleigh Common) SY056865 Meet the Commons' grazing herd. Join Senior Commons Warden and experienced grazer Paul Swain on Colaton Raleigh Common and find out how the presence of cattle benefits the heaths.

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July – 10.00am. WALK**

Start at White Bridge, SY076830. 5 miles, 2½ hours. A pleasant walk covering both coast and river to Otterton and return. Coast path (exposed), Monks Wall, Otterton and Park Lane.

*Walk Leader:* George Norman, 01395 442307

**\*Friends of the Commons events need to be booked – see page 20**

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July – 10.00am. WALK**

Start at the Otter Inn CP, SY078874. 6 miles, 3 hours.

Circular walk through Back Lane, Stowford and on to the Commons including a visit to Woodbury Castle.

*Walk Leader:* John Jones, 01395 443651

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August – 6.00pm to 8.00pm – Friends of the Commons\***

Meet at Joney’s Cross car park SY058898. Discover Hawkerland Common with staff from the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust and local wildlife expert Lesley Kerry and learn about its past and present.

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August – 10.00am. WALK**

Meet at 10.00 am at the entrance to the Visitor Centre at the Donkey Sanctuary, grid ref: SY 160893. This is adjacent to the car park and 6-7 minutes’ walk from the bus stop on the A3052.

Best way of getting there is by the X53 bus from Newton Poppleford at 09.32, Sidford Spar at 09.39, and alight at the Donkey Sanctuary bus stop : or the 52A bus from Sidmouth Triangle at 09.21, Sidford Spar 09.31, Donkey Sanctuary bus stop (just past the large bend at the top of the hill).

**“The Mason’s Trail”**. A 5½ - 6 mile cliff top and countryside walk, exploring the rich legacy of stone working, which helped build a Roman fort, Exeter Cathedral and the detailed tracery of many local churches. We will walk from the Donkey Sanctuary along the coast path to Dunscombe inland through Branscombe and past the quarry caves to Beer.

The walk finishes at Beer, where you could catch the 899 bus at 12.57, arriving Sidmouth Triangle at 13.33; and then onward to Newton Poppleford and Budleigh Salterton **OR**, optionally, have lunch in Beer (picnic, fish & chips, pub) and catch the 13.47 X53 bus (via Sidford and Newton Poppleford) to Exeter, where we will walk to the Cathedral to look at where some of the local stones were built into the towers.

Buses back from Exeter to Newton Poppleford and Sidmouth every ½ hour, or to Seaton (for the Donkey Sanctuary) every hour.

I’ll have some copies of the East Devon AONB leaflet about this route, or you could pick up a personal copy from a Tourist Information Office.

*Walk Leader:* Haylor Lass, 01395 568786

**Please note for all walks – there have been recent landslips on the coast path: also bus times may change. Do check before setting out.**

# Friends of the Commons

**T**HE FRIENDS of the Commons Group was established by the Peblebed Trust during the summer 2013 to keep local people notified about the conservation work and activities of the Peblebed Heaths Conservation Trust and the issues impacting on the Commons, to ensure that the Trust continues to develop with public support, and to provide an opportunity to give those that use and enjoy the Commons a voice to influence its management.

Please contact Dr Sam Bridgewater by phone (01395) 567138 or email [sam.bridgewater@clintondevon.com](mailto:sam.bridgewater@clintondevon.com), to become a Friend of the Common and **book your place** on any of the events. Being a Friend of the Common is free, as are the events. Spaces are limited. Some events (e.g. butterfly walk) will be dependent on the weather. *Please bring suitable clothing/boots for the day's weather and binoculars if you have them.*

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## Beavers on the Otter

**T**HE RECENT nationwide media coverage on television, national and local newspapers and radio with headlines such as that in the Daily Mail stating "First wild beaver spotted in England for 800 years" made a good stories, but unfortunately, were factually incorrect. BBC Spotlight Southwest 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011 showed a film and an interview with Michael-John Kennaway (who has beavers in a secure area at Escot) and me about the beaver which visited, and I watched, on my large pond, on at least two days 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> July, when it was filmed there by a friend. The story was also reported in The Sidmouth Herald in its 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011 edition. There was also an article in August/September Tipton Times. At the time of 'my' beaver visit, I was reliably informed that beavers had been seen in the Otter Valley since 2007 and there were further sightings in July 2011, near Otterton Mill and a bridge in Ottery St Mary. There was the sad story of a beaver which was rescued, but died, near Ottery in May 2012. Its body was sent to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Bristol: the post mortem confirms that was an adult male, weighing 18.5 kg and it died from acute pneumonia. Which leaves mystery – was it 'my' beaver that has been the subject of the recent publicity, or was it the one that died?

Wendy Pounce. Beatlands Farm, Metcombe, Ottery

# Knowledge is Power

**W**HEN I WROTE in last autumn's Newsletter, extolling the benefits of walking on our lives and what might motivate each of us to participate, I could of course have been describing any one of our OVA programme of walks. Certainly all the criteria to be able "to enjoy one of life's best experiences" were met by "Shane's Walk". A dozen members (excluding one who jumped out from behind a hedge to join us half way through, before leaving early) set out one glorious January morning, under blue skies and warm sunshine. We had gentle exercise (about 5½ miles, including 3 climbs), good (and knowledgeable, if you read on) company, splendid views over Budleigh, and along the coast to the east and west, although not simultaneously, as well as, for some, the barely contained excitement of discovering new paths and the alleyways and byways of Budleigh. (Sorry Shane, I know it's Salterton, but that's not alliterative!)



But, in my catalogue of virtues that appeared last October, I omitted to include that walking with the OVA can also be a learning experience, although I grant you, rarely a shopping experience. So it was, as we turned inland from West Down Beacon, I happened to mention that for many years I had been intrigued to observe that not every holly leaf exhibits its characteristic and painful spikes, indeed some are quite smooth. (I know, but you can't say I need to get out more!) Others admitted that they too had been sorely troubled by this phenomenon. Lo and behold, up popped David (one of two in the party), from within our midst, to explain the wonderful logic of nature and enlighten all of us. So, there you are, never a dull moment on an OVA walk.



Oh, so you want to hear the explanation? Well, I'm afraid David demanded that this remain privileged information, muttering something about ... "Knowledge is power ... and he wasn't going to give it away to those lazy ... who couldn't be bothered to come on the walk ... etc, etc"

Chris Buckland

# Footpaths on the Commons

**O**N THE SUNNY Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March morning in the Joney's Cross car park just before 9.00am, Richard Spurway from Devon County Council and I found a group of 15 bullocks crossing the road from Hawkerland Common and heading in the direction of the main A376. I was there at the invite of Dr Sam Bridgewater of the Pebblebed Heaths Trust as a 'Friend of the Commons' to join the morning 'footpaths' workshop with Richard, whose duties including inspecting the status of the various public footpaths and bridleways across East Devon.

The idea was to learn how DCC judge the quality or lack of it across a wide range of path types and conditions, and then on our own walks across the 7 Pebblebed commons, provide feedback to Sam and his team on some of the paths they had not been able to inspect themselves. Sam and his colleagues Paul Swain and Ed Langdon are hard pressed just to keep monitoring the main paths used across this large area, so this was a chance for 'Friends' to make a contribution during our walks across the common, to the wonderful job they do in maintaining them for us to enjoy. More about the cattle later.

Joined by a few more 'Friends' and Sam, and before we set off, Richard provided some history to the work of DCC and the responsibilities of both DCC and the land owner, in this case Clinton Devon Estates, in maintaining the various pathways we enjoy to trundle along. From public footpaths to bridleways, these have to be inspected and where necessary, repair work carried out to prevent more damage and make the path safely usable again.

We crossed the road into Hawkerland common heading west, down to where there was a meeting of the ways. A half fallen tree blocked the footpath to our north, something to be dealt with. A myriad of signs started a discussion on how they could be reduced and replaced by signs perhaps more in keeping with the area. I said a sunny morning, but that didn't mean everywhere was dry, and we were soon sloshing through a few wet and muddy stretches as we headed south towards Canterbury Green.

On the way, several conversations covered the work of DCC and their responsibilities, and discussions about how 'Friends' activities could be a valuable asset to commons management. This was the third workshop style outing for the 'Friends', and the first one in warming clear sunlight.

Much was made of the views towards High Peak across some of the other common land. But what about the bullocks? – patience.

We reach the stile into Canterbury Green where Richard explained the different forms these access points could take, dependant on the types of users and the frequency of use. As we moved into the tree covered area of Canterbury Green, we slowed in pace as we took turns stepping over fallen trees and round boggy spots until we reached the wooden footbridge just at the edge of the Green before you come out on the main road from Half Way House to Exmouth and Budleigh. And now, the bullocks.

Checking round this area was a farmer's son and his friend, looking for signs of where some missing cattle had gone. Sam passed on information that we had found 15 bullocks and chased them back onto to Hawkerland, only to learn there were another 25 missing. So with his friends on foot, the son took his 4x4 up the muddy bridle path back towards Hawkerland, and unfortunately, just where we were now headed.

Trying to walk through mud is bad enough, but we now had mud made deeper by the 4x4, so we carefully picked our way out of muddy Canterbury Green and back onto the drier areas of Hawkerland. As we stood listening to Richard's explanation of balancing access and firebreaks, with the needs of walkers, we found frogspawn and little black water beetles scurrying round in the deeper puddles.



We now headed towards drier paths along the side of adjacent farm land, passing the farmer's son looking for his friends who were now driving the missing 25 bullocks back home. Further on, we came across the farmer waiting to herd his escaped band back into their field. And then we climbed back up into the warm sunshine, where, at a crossroad of bridle paths, discussed the visible erosion of the stone based path, and how we could pass this information back to Sam and his colleagues.

We then made our way back up this stony path, and eventually back to the car park. Three hours seemed to have flown by, but in that time I, like my fellow 'Friends', had learnt how to judge whether signage could be improved, how muddy bridledways could be improved but the problems that in itself causes, the needs to balance public use with public safety, and how our walks could contribute to helping Sam and his team maintain the commons we all enjoy.

Oh, all the cattle were found and put safely back in their field, we changed our muddy walking boots for dry shoes, and Richard agreed to come and do a talk for the OVA early next year, about the work of DCC Footpath Officers. If you want to find out more about the activities available to the 'Friends of the Commons', then please contact Sam via email at: [sam.bridgewater@clintondevon.com](mailto:sam.bridgewater@clintondevon.com). There is no commitment or cost, just the chance to help maintain the wonderful landscape we have on our doorstep, and learn more about how it came about and its future.

Clive Bowman OVA member and 'Friend of the Commons'.



## The Growth of OVA Walking

**M**EMBERS will already be aware of collaborative ventures between the OVA and other organisations who share similar objectives, in order to enhance the opportunities for members to increase their knowledge, skills or understanding of the Otter Valley. There have been joint presentations with the Fairlynch Museum in Budleigh Salterton, for example.

Similarly, we are considering working with organisations that will provide our members with a choice of led walks, in addition to those that we organise ourselves. You may have already seen the OVA logo acknowledging our support for a Walks Festival organised by The Kings Arms at Otterton, while other overtures have come from groups such as the East Devon Countryside Team and the Jurassic Coast / East Devon Way Group who, like us, are keen to encourage people to walk our coast and countryside.

We would welcome their supporters to join our walks, and we know that some of you also walk with, for example, the Sid Vale Association, while of course different organisations sometimes share the expertise of the same walk leader. As a result of all this collaboration, we have added another objective to the list published in the last Newsletter (January 2014). viz:

**“To collaborate with individuals and organisations who share the aim and objectives of the OVA, in order to enhance the range of walking experiences available to our Members.”**

Chris Buckland & Mike Paddison

# Celebrating Our Local Writers

The OVA is sponsoring a number of 'Local Voices' events in 2014 in the spirit of encouraging writing and the pleasure of reading (both prose fiction and poetry) inspired by our local Devon landscape and natural heritage.

Following a successful creative workshop collaboration with **Clinton Devon Estates, and the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust** earlier this year – around themes associated with the 'Phoenix Cycle' and Mo Bowman's stunning photography – a second Writers' Workshop has been organised for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Local writing groups including: East Devon Writers, Budleigh Writers' Circle, Salem Players and Exmouth Writers will be taking part. A number of our OVA members are also actively involved in these local writing groups.

Dovetailing into this creative programme for 2014, 'Local Voices' will be reaching out to individuals in the community who may also be interested in submitting writing for an event taking place at the **Budleigh Salterton**

**Playhouse** later in the year on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 7.00 – 9.00 pm**. This event will be an evening of readings, wine and socialising, featuring writing linked to the local

environment across an open theme: "the local natural environment explored and celebrated".

We're hoping to encourage and present a variety of writing which explores and celebrates what we have around us, and in a way which opens up the imagination and is experimental with language and metaphor.

More information about this June event, tickets and the writing submissions process for anyone who would like to take part will be posted on the **OVA web site in April**.

Katherine McDermott-Darley



# Spring Litter Pick

**T**HE MISERABLY COLD, wet and windy conditions of the preceding week had boded ill for the annual OVA Litter Pick on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March but, in the event, the wind dropped and, although the sun rarely appeared, it did not rain and a thoroughly agreeable morning was enjoyed by some 50

volunteers. We were joined by a contingent of 20 children from St Andrews School, Cullompton, who just happened to be having a beach school session on Donkey Turn, and started collecting the litter around them!



This annual event is very much a team effort. It is organized by the OVA who depend upon the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and their links to EDDC (East Devon District Council) who in turn organize Streetscene who remove all the litter once it has been assembled in bags at the Limekiln Car Park. Clinton Devon Estates provide a Land Rover to take volunteers over to the east side of the river and Cllr Tom Wright of Budleigh Salterton Town Council presents the two prizes for intriguing finds. But of course, the success or failure of the enterprise depends, as always, on volunteers appearing by magic in the Limekiln Car Park at 10.00am on the appointed day! Wonderfully, they always do.



The area covered by the sweep consists of the river banks, salt marsh and reed beds between Otter mouth and White Bridge, as well as the line of the footpath between the two. Given the appalling state of our litter-strewn UK coastline as a result of the unusually windy winter, it is a pleasure to see our estuary now completely free. More than this, the area constitutes an important wetland ecological niche for large numbers of geese, duck, gulls and waders and for them litter, above all plastic, constitutes a serious hazard. It is immensely satisfying to have protected them for another year. Well done the team!

## Dr Patrick Hamilton

Chairman Natural Environment Committee, Otter Valley Association.



The Prize-winners for the Best Find: Daniel Ward and Millie Lewis are presented with their tokens by Cllr Tom Wright, BS Town Council.

We are grateful to Neil Hembrow, the Beach Care Officer SW of the charity 'Keep Britain Tidy'. Once again they have lent us a large number of 'litter pickers', both adult and children's sizes. Also this year they have lent us a number of 'bag rings'. They really do make the job so much easier and saves the backs of some of us who are becoming a little creaky. Many thanks Neil.

# People & Landscape in the Valley

**O**VA AND THE FAIRLYNCH MUSEUM held a jointly sponsored pair of lectures, given by David Daniel, who describes himself as a scientist rather than an historian, and Dr Sam Bridgewater, Conservation Manager of the Pebblebed Heaths, at Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton on 15<sup>th</sup> February. This was the third annual event of this nature and numbers were a healthy 80 attendees. The theme this year was ‘The people and the evolving landscape in the lower Otter Valley’.

The talks took us from the Bronze age, 2500-1000BC, through the Iron Age, Saxon times, Roman times and through to the present day. An historic adventure which although crammed into 2 hours was presented with such lucidity that we were able to keep up. Subjects covered included salt production, maritime shipping, fishing, working on the land, wool, lace, smuggling and the production of lime. We even heard that in 1226, Newton Poppleford, which was the new town at the ford over the Popple was a classic 13<sup>th</sup> century market town.

We then heard about the history of the heathland and specifically earthworks such as Woodbury Castle and were brought up to date with the arrival of diseases to trees which are blighting our countryside. Such a whirl of information that your correspondent was at a loss to record all the topics covered. The pace of the lecture seemed like Smetana’s ‘the Moldau’, as we raced through history and slowed down as we reached the present age, a likely comparison to the River Otter.

We learned such gems that Budleigh Salterton only started to become a seaside town in 1720, when people found that the health-giving qualities of seawater were equal to that of a spa and hey, guess what, were considerably cheaper. However, it is likely that the Environment Agency were not taking such accurate readings as they do today. The south coast of Devon was beginning to have destinations called ‘exotic towns’.

Oh, so true.

Both speakers kept our attention as they skipped through the history of our area and showed an astonishing depth of knowledge of their chosen subjects.

*These talks were based on a presentation made to 3<sup>rd</sup> year engineering students from Bath University, held at Bicton College last year.*

# Curious Dartmoor by Paul Rendell

**O**N 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014 a packed, enthusiastic audience were kept enthralled by a talk by Paul Rendell (historian) on curious Dartmoor.

Weird and some spooky happenings were explained to us, like two people who died in suspicious circumstances, possibly members of a secret society. We were told of horse mounting blocks made of granite and of a PINK granite stone found abandoned in the 1880s when the natural colour is GREY. There were workings on Dartmoor – black tin is what they were after.

Circles of stone can be found on the moor. Burials would often be found in the middle of the circles. Gun powder making was carried on, using the power from over shot water mills. Railways were used for carrying products and were laid using granite as sleepers instead of wood on the tracks. Trees were in short supply.



Trees were in short supply.

It was interesting to learn that granite from the moor was used for “London Bridge” and stones cut and not used can still be seen resting on the moor. Granite stones were placed to signify the boundaries of rabbit warrens cared for by Dartmoor farmers. (A very important food supply)

We were shown a photo of Sabine Baring Gould, the composer of ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’, over-seeing the position of a granite slab of rock with the use of a tripod and pulley blocks. Letter-boxing and the Clampitt Graveyard for Quakers were two other curiosities shown us.

Altogether it was an extremely interesting evening. Well worth turning up for at the Masonic Hall Budleigh Salterton on a wet and miserable night in January.

John Payne

# The green green lanes of home

**O**N THE 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014, at the Otterton Village Hall, 82 brave and hardy souls, despite a day of atrocious weather, attended a talk given by Valerie Bolsey. All chairs in the hall and adjoining rooms were searched for and duly requisitioned. In fact there was standing room only at the back. We were obviously due for a treat. Not only were we to be 'edericated' but also to be entertained by folk singer Jim Causley who recited poetry and sang songs about local heroes as poachers and smugglers, accompanied by his faithful squeezebox.

Valerie's talk was about 'the Green Lanes of Devon'. The definition of a green lane is a thoroughfare of unmetalled surface and bounded on either side, be it by hedge, fence or wall. There are more miles of roadway in Devon than any other county, some 8,000 miles. Also 3,500 miles of public rights of way. Many of the lanes are now purely recreational. Apart from distant destinations, they also led locally to such places as the sea for marine passage and for fishing. To water courses, to quarries, to hillforts, to markets, to lime kilns, to churches and even a private route for the clergy.

We were treated to dozens of wonderful pictures of green lanes all over Devon and particularly the flora, fauna and insects found therein.

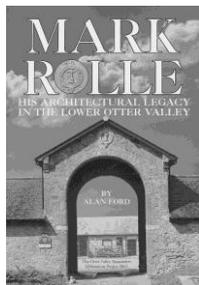
Valerie used to work for Devon County Council and remarked that as local

governments were starting to feel the pinch, like us all, she wondered whether some of the lesser used highways might revert back to green lanes. The evening was well worth the effort to brave the elements.



**Bob Wiltshire**

# OVA Publications



## **Mark Rolle**

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

Ever wondered about the many improved farm buildings and cottages in this area? This lavishly illustrated book gives a very readable picture of how a large landed estate was managed in the last 40 years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

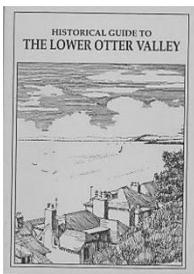
£4.95 from your village rep (or plus £2.00 P&P)



## **Twelve Walks in the Otter Valley.**

The area of the Lower Otter Valley is covered by a network of footpaths, mostly waymarked and in good condition. OVA members have compiled these walks, each with clear directions and illustrated with a sketch map. They range from 4 mile easy walks to a more energetic 9½ miler. There are notes on places of interest to whet your appetite for further exploration.

£3.00 from your village rep (or plus £2.00 P&P)



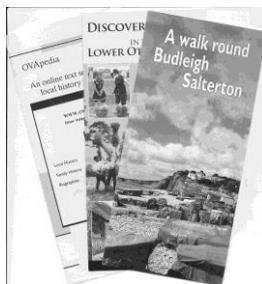
## **Historical Guide to the Lower Otter Valley**

Want to know more about the area you live in or are visiting? This book is packed with detailed information about the places, buildings, people and natural history of this beautiful area, from the very earliest times to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

£3.50 from your village rep (or plus £2.00 P&P)

See our website [ova.org.uk](http://ova.org.uk) or from

Booksales, OVA, PO Box 70, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6WN



## **Leaflets**

The OVA also publish a number of (free) leaflets about the history, flora & fauna and walking the villages of our area of interest in the lower Otter Valley. They can usually be found in the Tourist Information Centre and in other outlets around the valley.

# The Otter Valley Association

## Executive Committee (01395)

|                        |                   |        |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Chairman (acting)      | Nicola Daniel     | 445960 |
| Vice-chairman          | Haylor Lass       | 568786 |
| Hon Secretary (acting) | David Daniel      | 445960 |
| Hon Treasurer          | Trevor Waddington | 443978 |

### *Committee Chairmen*

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

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

|                    |                  |        |
|--------------------|------------------|--------|
| Budleigh Salterton | George Maddaford | 446077 |
|                    | Roger Saunders   | 443248 |
| East Budleigh      | Christine Hadley | 443607 |
| Otterton           | Iain Ure         | 568158 |
| Colaton Raleigh    | <i>vacancy</i>   |        |
| Newton Poppleford  | Haylor Lass      | 568786 |

### *Other EC Members*

|                             |                       |        |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Assistant Minutes Secretary | Robert Wiltshire      | 444395 |
| Membership Secretary        | Clive Bowman          | 446892 |
|                             | membership@ova.org.uk |        |
| Publicity Secretary         | <i>vacancy</i>        |        |

### *Other contacts*

|                         |                     |        |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Webmaster               | Alan Huddart        | 446761 |
| Talks Organiser         | Graham Knapton      | 445872 |
| Walks Organisers        | Chris Buckland      | 444471 |
|                         | Mike Paddison       | 446550 |
| Newsletter Distributors | Pam and Tony Harber | 445392 |

Interim Newsletter Editor  
Haylor Lass, tel 568786

**haylor@lasses.me.uk**