

OVA



The Otter Valley Association

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year ended 31 March 2013

Aims

The Otter Valley Association was established in 1979 as a civic amenity society covering the civil parishes of Budleigh Salterton, East Budleigh with Bicton, Otterton, Colaton Raleigh, Newton Poppleford and Harpford.

Its principal aims are:

- To promote high standards of planning and architecture
- To educate the public in local geography, history, natural history and architecture
- To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest
- To conserve, protect and restore natural features of ecological or scientific importance.

Organisation

The OVA's activities are governed by a written Constitution, which sets out its objects and regulations. It is registered with the Charity Commission, and is subject to the legislation applicable to charities, in particular The Charities Act 2011.

A copy of the Constitution is always available on request and can be downloaded from our website www.ova.org.uk.

Management

The management and administration of the OVA is carried out by the Executive Committee, which this year met ten times. This Committee normally consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, and up to twelve other members of the Association. Members of the Executive Committee, all of whom are Charity Trustees, are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. They include representatives from each parish.

The names of those who served as Trustees during the year under review are listed elsewhere in this report. Much of the OVA's work has been carried by sub committees which report to the EC but the Constitution makes it clear that the Executive Committee is responsible for all the decisions made on behalf of the Association.

Trustees Report of Activities

Chairman' Introduction

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to all those who have contributed to make this a very rewarding year in these difficult times. I would like to especially thank the Executive Committee members who have helped me in so many ways. We also have approximately 70 members who help the OVA in some role, be it big or small; 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, etc. etc. We find however that, like a lot of organisations a few people are having to double up their jobs. We need more enthusiastic volunteers so I ask members again, to come forward and help, in a small, large, job-sharing capacity or any other way that they can contribute to maintain our success.

I feel I must address two major concerns of the Executive Committee (EC) which are interconnected. Firstly, the potential impact the new planning policies at both national and local level will have and are having now in our area of benefit. The EC has always felt we had protection living in the East Devon AONB with a World Heritage coastline, but it is deeply disturbed at the way events are unfolding. We get advice from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, of which the OVA is a member, and from Civic Voice, the Civic Trust replacement. The EC have been very complimentary of some planning applications which have taken the setting and effect on the local environment into account, but has had to object to many which have not. Budleigh Salterton and Otterton have town and village design statements, the area is in the AONB and the applicants and indeed the planning committee of EDDC have ignored these policies.

We would very much like anyone with an interest in planning and conservation to help the committee with the avalanche of planning applications. The Otter Valley Association is an organisation which has an important role to play in this beautiful part of the world.

The other great concern of the EC is that of the water quality of both the River Otter and the Budleigh Salterton and Ladram Bay beaches. The European Union will have tougher regulations in place in 2015 and there is the possibility that Budleigh Salterton will become one of the south west's 20 failed beaches. The problem has, of course, been accentuated by the wet weather but the EC are very aware that building more houses in all the communities from Ottery St Mary to the Otter-mouth with more water drain-off plus the intensification of farming can only make the water quality situation worse with accompanying flooding problems.

This year the OVA initiated a project to install Interpretation Panels with information on the World Heritage Coast, the River Otter and the town of Budleigh Salterton in the revamped Jubilee Shelter on Budleigh Salterton seafront. I must thank the Project Manager Helen Tickle who secured funding from several agencies and Clinton Devon Estates and supervised the layout of the panels. These panels have proved very successful with visitors studying them intently in the summer months.

The OVA were very pleased to receive a legacy from Barbara Primmer and the EC have used some of this money to help fund 2 Interpretation Panels at the Ottermouth. The panels are illustrated with beautiful pictures of birds. This is very apt as Barbara did illustrations for the OVA in the past.

The EC agreed to combine with Colaton Raleigh Parish Council to fund and install a plaque in memory of Alan Jones on the new bridge over the Otter near Colaton Raleigh. Alan served on the EC and the Parish Council for many years and was active on Footpath committees.

The OVA, after representation from members, sponsored a very successful day before the Literary festival focusing on local amateur writing talent.

Events

The Events Committee have put together a very varied programme which has been well supported. I must thank John Jones for all his hard work in organising the local walks programme. He has carried out this task for over 4 years and has put together an interesting mix of walks, suitable for all ages and fitness levels. He will pass on the baton to Chris Buckland and Mike Paddison, both keen walkers. This year has been particularly difficult for walks leaders with the rainfall making the footpaths so wet and sometimes impassable.

Out of our area Tony Burges led a walk, this time to Abbotsbury and Lyme Regis with the customary cream tea, organised by Mo Bowman. Haylor Lass bravely explored the Exe estuary twice by public transport and did manage to get everyone safely home. Caroline Allen and Rosemary Jerrard organised a Bronze Age walk led by Phil Planel.

5

Walks in our area but slightly different to our usual programme have included a Walk with Words, taken by Michael Downes around Budleigh Salterton, in conjunction with Fairlynch Museum; the Boxing day Walk with pub lunch; a tour of Littleham Church and Churchyard with Hazel Harland; Robin Harford led a group of foragers along the banks of the Otter, organised by Caroline Allen; a Budleigh Salterton Town Walk in conjunction with Active Budleigh Festival led by David Daniel. Lizzie Everett-Wright repeated the Map and Compass course with Tony Burges but this time nearer home on Woodbury Common. The East Devon Golf Club was the venue for the Midsummer Buffet, a superb buffet but unfortunately dreadful weather.

Graham Knapton has organised a stimulating programme of talks varying in subject from the Restoration of Castle Drogo to 3000 years of History from the Sea. The Migratory Birds on the Exe Estuary talk was arranged in conjunction with a boat trip on the estuary looking at the birds with a RSPB guide. The Beach Care talk was organised to take place a couple of weeks before the Litter Pick. Graham again arranged a Saturday morning series of 3 Talks on the Environmental Aspects of the River Otter with speakers from Clinton Devon Estates and other agencies. The St. Peter Church accommodated the large audience. The OVA has joined with Friends of Fairlynch Museum to have a series of talks which would interest members from both our charities and this has proved very successful with sharing costs and increasing audiences.

I thank all the committee members and regretfully say goodbye to Gill Speare who has worked so hard for 11 years on the committee. We would welcome new members with new ideas. It is a very enjoyable committee, very informal with tea and cakes at the meetings.

Nicola Daniel

Natural Environment

Spring 2012 saw the initiation of the Otter Valley Himalayan Balsam (HB) Project, managed by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG-SW) for the Environment Agency. They focussed this year on “our patch” and OVA volunteers put in 234 man-hours of pulling, along with groups from the Probation Service and Bicton College in a largely successful attempt to clear the Colaton Raleigh brook.

Our Minutes Secretary, Bob Wiltshire did likewise with volunteers from “Budleigh in Bloom” on the Knowle Brook, while Rob Jones and Ted Swan (OVA members) attacked the Hawkerland and lower reaches (respectively) of Newton Poppleford’s Back Brook, with the RSPB working on the Aylesbeare reach of the tributary. In 2013 the aim will be to consolidate while FWAG move on to the headwater zone of the Otter. Volunteers are again needed so that last year’s efforts are not wasted! Progress will be reported on the OVA website, as last year.

Contacts made during this activity came together in the OVA meeting focusing on the Otter’s ecology, held in St Peter’s church in February. Discussion was lively.

In early February a new Ecology group was set up by Scott West and representatives of environmental groups throughout the valley, including the OVA.

The Natural Environment Committee has lost two members this year and would welcome anyone with an interest in environmental issues.

Patrick Hamilton

Policy on Reserves

The OVA aims to build up sufficient reserves:

1. to meet occasional shortfalls arising from its regular activity
2. to be responsive to local needs and opportunities as they arise
3. to fund worthwhile projects up to £10,000 from time to time.

Risk management

The major risks to which the Association is exposed are reviewed on a regular basis. Policies and controls have been established to mitigate those risks. These include appropriate property and public liability insurance. In addition, all payments over £100 are countersigned by two Trustees, one of whom is normally the Hon. Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report

The Otter Valley Association has had another strong financial year, ending with a surplus of £2726. Talks, visits, book sales and a generous bequest of £2000 from former OVA member Barbara Primmer all contributed to the surplus. As can be seen from the Statement of Financial Activities, incoming resources and expenditures were similar to last year for most items. While the accounts show a profit for the Budleigh shelter interpretation panels this financial year, this must be balanced against the expense in the previous year, in addition costs were lower than anticipated due to VAT not being owed. This year a donation was made to the Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society (£700) to install new interpretation panels along the River Otter, a donation was made to Otterton village hall (£100) to help with re-roofing expenses and money was given for a plaque in honour of Alan Jones in Colaton Raleigh. The OVA purchased new audio-visual equipment and a display banner to help with events.

At the end of the year membership numbers were little changed from last year with 1139 members.

I would like to thank Brian Leveridge for examining the accounts again this year and ensuring that everything is in order.

The year- end balance sheet shows a balance of £23,008, which will be available for suitable projects in the Lower Otter Valley.

The OVA's cash balance is held in a Scottish Widows account (that currently does not pay interest) and that account is covered by the Financial Services Authority guarantee.

Roger Saunders
Treasurer

Otter Valley Association ~ Registered Charity No: 278266
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
Incoming Resources		
Subscriptions	2974	3011
Donations received	2835	712
Surplus on talks	161	428
Surplus on visits	130	454
Deficit on other events		
Surplus on Jubilee Buffet	90	
Surplus on Christmas Dinner		223
Surplus on book sales	301	199
Interpretation Panels	760	
Gift Aid	700	689
	<u>7951</u>	<u>5716</u>
 Resources Expended		
Newsletters	1662	1716
Publications	0	522
Affiliation fees	153	153
Insurance	252	250
Website maintenance	90	258
AGM/New Member party	110	75
Jubilee Field		40
Donations given	855	
Other administration	743	785
Interpretation Panels		532
AudioVis, Banner Purchases	1360	0
	<u>5225</u>	<u>4331</u>
 Net Surplus/Deficit for Year	 2726	 1385
 General Fund		
Balance at start of year	<u>20282</u>	<u>18897</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>23008</u>	<u>20282</u>

Otter Valley Association ~ Registered Charity No: 278266

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
Current Assets		
Stock of books	1255	1406
Debtors & prepayments	795	857
Cash at bank	<u>21697</u>	<u>22301</u>
	<u>23747</u>	<u>24564</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors & accruals	<u>739</u>	<u>4282</u>
Net Assets	<u>23008</u>	<u>20282</u>
Represented by:		
General Fund (Unrestricted)	<u>23008</u>	<u>20282</u>

Notes:

1. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention.
2. The stock of books is recorded at the lower of cost or realisable values.
3. No remuneration has been paid to any Trustee during the year.

Approved by the Committee on 30th April, 2013
and signed on their behalf by:

Roger Saunders
Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of The Otter Valley Association
Charity No: 278266

I report on the accounts of the Otter Valley Association for the year ended 31 March 2013.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Brian Leveridge
29th April 2013

Reference and administrative information

Name of Charity: Otter Valley Association
Correspondence address: PO Box 70, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6WN
Registered Charity No: 278266
Independent Examiner: Brian Leveridge, 44 Honey Park Road,
Budleigh Salterton EX9 6EG
Bankers: National Westminster Bank Plc, Budleigh Salterton
Scottish Widows Bank Plc, Edinburgh

Trustees

The following people served as Trustees during the year:

Nicola Daniel	Chairman (Acting) and Events
Haylor Lass	Vice Chairman and Newton Popleford
Roger Saunders	Hon. Treasurer
David Daniel	Hon. Secretary (Acting) and History
Patrick Hamilton	Natural Environment
Robert Wiltshire	Assistant Minutes Secretary
Clive Bowman	Membership
Lynne Wright	Publicity
Mo Bowman	Publicity
<i>vacancy</i>	Otterton
<i>vacancy</i>	Colaton Raleigh
Christine Hadley	East Budleigh
George Maddaford	Budleigh Salterton
John Jones	Budleigh Salterton (and Walks Organiser)

By order of the Trustees

Chairman (Acting)