

Monday 2nd November 2015, Passaford Lane & Mutters Moor with Brian Turnbull

"a wonderful walk, well worth the effort"

The title of this walk in the OVA Magazine; "a wonderful walk, well worth the effort" certainly lived up to this glowing description.

Six walkers, and Brian, assembled outside Colaton Raleigh church on a morning which was to be dogged by fog throughout, giving the day a mysterious quality.

We proceeded across damp fields to the steep Passaford Lane, admiring the superb autumn colours as we went. All around us there seemed to be armies of plump pheasant, flying off noisily as we approached.

Once we had completed the main climb of the morning, we reached Mutters Moor which Brian believes could be named after some local 'entrepreneur' in the past who would have probably been involved in the 'import' of various luxury items from across the Channel. We were also shown the site, a bit further along, of the mysterious and ancient seven stones which were removed by Lady Rolle and placed in the gardens not so far from the now disused Bicton Church: what their original purpose was one can only conjecture.

Once at the Peak Hill carpark we crossed the road and entered an area maintained by the National Trust and then finally reached the Coastal Path - where one normally looks out at an awe-inspiring vista of sea stretching to the far horizon. Not this time, however, the fog had blotted it all out completely - one could just hear waves breaking far below.

Later we broke away from the Coastal Path and turned inland, exploring a picturesque, but run down, apple orchard as we went.

Back then to the River Otter, across the quaintly named 'Rickety Bridge' and then along the river bank. As we walked one could not help thinking of 'our' beavers who have apparently left their usual place. One can only hope that they are safe and have found somewhere more secluded and away from people and unrestrained dogs.

Back then to Colaton Raleigh, where we started off at the church, and time for a late lunch.

Thanks to Brian Turnbull for taking us on this enjoyable walk and regaling us with his extensive knowledge as we went.

Jacqui Ruhlig
4th November 2015