

Wednesday 24 February 2016 - "A winding walk" - with Brian Turnbull

At last, a walk where mud was the exception rather than the rule. Could the wet winter be finally drawing to an end and Spring be on its way? 15 people must have thought so as they joined leader Brian Turnbull for this very enjoyable walk from Knowle.

We started on what is apparently a good route from Knowle to the Sir Walter Raleigh pub in East Budleigh, over Shortwood Common. The views were excellent, the way was steep, so any walker would have earned their pint! However it was Sir Walter's birthplace rather than his pub that was our destination - we turned off and headed instead for Hayes Barton.



Dropping down from Hayes Wood we passed a cottage, and Brian pointed out the corbels on the gable ends which, together with the initials MR and a date, are a distinctive feature of Mark Rolle buildings. There are apparently about 87 of these in the area (note to self, buy the OVA book about these buildings!).

After passing some smelly but happy looking pigs (delicious "outdoor reared pork"), we stood and admired the beautiful old building and garden while Brian regaled us with some interesting history.

Then onwards and upwards (or at least that is how it felt), to Wheathill Plantation. Here there were signs of WW2, including old ammunition stores which were now a different kind of battery - they have been converted to hibernaculums (hibernacula?) for bats.



Having reached a high point (and enjoyed beautiful views) we descended to Squabmoor reservoir which Brian could remember skating on back in the 1960s.

A delightful treat appeared just before the end of our walk - a magnificent display of snowdrops and daffodils in Dalditch Lane.

Penny Kurowski
1st March 2016

