

Friday 10th January “Tipton West Bounds” with Ruth and Haylor Lass

A rare dry, sunny morning attracted a large group of 24 keen walkers for the first OVA walk of 2020. After a briefing from our walk leader, checking that we were sensibly shod and ready for the mud on the paths ahead, we set off northwards along the River Otter path. The first question in Haylor’s New Year’s Quiz concerned a 28 Kw Archimedes Screw turbine at Tipton Roller Mills. Other cryptic clues and questions followed during the morning’s walk.



We’d been warned that the first half of the walk was all uphill, but it was fairly gentle, following the ancient ecclesiastical boundary of the parish along a green lane towards Heathlands. Eventually we emerged on Venn Ottery Common, with wonderful views of the Otter Valley below us. We were even able to admire some early snowdrops; the first signs of Spring.

After skirting Aylesbeare Common, (the habitat of Dartford warblers and nightjars, yet another quiz question!) we picked up a short section of the East Devon Way and then wended our way through Southerton and down to the river through a very muddy meadow to Harpford Bridge.



From there it was a speedy, flat walk along the west bank of the river with the thought of lunch at the Golden Lion at Tipton St. John spurring us on!



Thanks to Haylor and Ruth for leading this interesting walk and for keeping us all amused with the quiz as we enjoyed a New Years walk on such a beautiful day.

Rosemary Hatch