

Tuesday, 13th April “The Mystery Walk” with Iain Ure and Dee Woods

The weather was great, the two teams of six were raring to go and the first OVA walk since the release of lockdown started with much enthusiasm. During the lockdown Dee and I had decided we needed to vary our walks whilst still setting off from Otterton. We scrutinised the OS maps and were surprised by the number of paths we were unfamiliar with. The challenge was to find as many new paths as possible whilst completing a circular walk.

We started from The Green going up river to Bridge End, crossing the main road and walking through the middle of the Four Elms orchards, past the deliciously intoxicating smells of apple juice from the reject pile.



Crossing back over the main road we circumnavigated Bulverton Hill with great and far-reaching views of Fire Beacon Hill, Core Hill and a birds-eye view of Sidmouth and its outliers.



Crossing down into the upper reaches of the Bickwell valley brought us to the only serious climb of the day - up Greystone Hill for lunch overlooking the golf course clubhouse and Sidmouth sea front. The convenient pile of lunch seats - large logs - was vacated by the first group just in time for the following team to enjoy the same location.



Peak Hill Wood was then followed by a twisty route around Otterton's lesser known lanes, avoiding the busier coastal path as much as possible. In fact we hardly passed anyone else the whole day.

Otterton Parish Council have replaced many of the waymarkers and finger posts with memorials to the soldiers lost in World War 1 (16 in number) and have started on remembering those lost in World War 2. Two out of seven so far being funded. Our route passed nine of these new posts.

This 10 mile walk was enthusiastically completed with a keen team which included 4 new walkers to the OVA.

Iain and Dee