

Monday 10th May, “Sidmouth tree trail and Salcombe Regis walking trail” with Iain Ure and Dee Woods

On a dry, but chill and blustery, morning twelve of us set out from the Sidmouth triangle. Following the Western Town brook and through various alleyways, we arrived at the Sidmouth arboretum, where we inspected the fascinating collection of trees, including a tulip tree, ginkgo and ancient Monterey pines.

From there we made our way, via the Knapp woodland and its line of limes to the cemetery, where again there were a number of fine specimen trees. Next to the Byes, where we stopped for coffee and then had the privilege of viewing the foxglove tree, in full flower, in the grounds of the Hunter’s Moon hotel. In the Byes behind the hotel, we saw some fine holm oaks and were lucky to spot a treecreeper on one of the oaks.



Having spent much of the morning on the flat, time for a change as we mounted the long ascent of Soldier’s Hill, emerging at the top to walk through a stand of stunted oaks before making our way down to Salcombe Regis, where we stopped for lunch in the churchyard with great views down Salcombe Mouth to the sea. There were a number of fine trees in the pretty churchyard, including Irish and English yews and a wonderfully shaped cherry tree, as well as a number of very welcome benches.



After lunch, we made our way up the side of the combe to Salcombe Hill, where we inspected the frogstone and admired the splendid view from its location. Following the coast path, we descended to Sidmouth and passed by the last remaining wall of the old Sidmouth jail to reach Sidmouth parish church. We caught the scent of the unusual scented Myrtle in the churchyard and then on to the Sidmouth Triangle to conclude an excellent, interesting and varied walk.



Many thanks to Ian and Dee for leading such a good walk.

David Conner