

## Tuesday, 2nd November 'Beautiful Escot' with Ted Swan

On a beautiful sunny morning in November; 15 walkers left Ottery St Mary car park to follow two rivers, the Tale and the Otter one of which is very familiar the other less so.

Our route passed in front of the Tudor mansion, Cadhay House, and we were surprised to learn that two of our group had been married there a few years ago.

We then walked down a lovely avenue of Lime trees and eventually reached the River Tale. All would normally be fine, but unfortunately the sheep had got to the bridge first and blocked it completely. A few of the walkers attempted to become shepherds - without any success - the sheep would not budge. We can only assume they had accessed the bridge from either side, met in the middle, and did not know how to reverse back down the steps!



A few intrepid walkers managed to cross the bridge by negotiating the rails but the majority of the group consulted their maps and found a simpler route via a lane.

Once we managed to get past the sheep, we crossed a field only to be met with a huge puddle which stretched right across the gateway - there was no other choice than boots off and wade through amongst much laughter - those who were wearing wellies laughed the most.



We re-joined the diverted group and continued on our way through Escot past the original railway line which used to run to Exmouth.

We stopped for lunch on a lovely sunny bank and it was so warm we could have stayed all afternoon, but onwards to follow the River Otter which was lovely but uneventful.

Many thanks to Ted for a great walk which had lots of laughter and sunshine.

Jane Connick (photos by Heather Fereday and Iain Ure)