



**The Otter Valley Association**  
Celebrates its 40th year!

Reg. Charity  
No: 278266

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[www.ova.org.uk](http://www.ova.org.uk)

**SUMMER**

Newsletter  
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**This issue's 'Ruby celebration' front cover was photographed and produced by Mo Bowman**

## From the Editor

I am very much looking forward to the farm tour of Stantyway on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and learning more about this special place. Recent visits have resulted in two ‘firsts’ for Peter and I. A few weeks ago, a curious leveret came to within just a few feet of us before deciding that we were not particularly interesting and lolloping away. More recently on a (very) early morning visit we spotted two hares enjoying their breakfast and then heard, and ultimately managed to spot, a Cirl Bunting singing lustily in the hedgerow. I have to confess that neither of us was certain as to the identity of the bird until we came upon the OVA’s new information board outside Stantyway’s honesty café (see below). What a brilliant idea! Thank you to Geoff Porter of our Natural Environment Committee for arranging this.

It was lovely to be part of the Ruby Anniversary celebrations last week and to see so many members there to mark this special occasion. Mo Bowman kindly took a number of photographs during the afternoon, a small selection of which are published in this issue and others on the website. If anyone would like copies please email [membership@ova.org.uk](mailto:membership@ova.org.uk).

### Jacqui Baldwin



*The new OVA information board at Stantyway*

## Chairman's Musings

Another newsletter, it seems that only very recently I was writing my 'musings' for the Spring issue. When I retired I naively thought that the conveyor belt of life would slow down. Alas, the control knob isn't working.

The AGM went well in the pavilion at Newton Poppleford, the venue proving to be very suitable. Although the meeting just failed to beat the previous record in terms of duration, we managed to get through the formalities in quick-time. Following the meeting David White, the wildlife photographer, gave us a viewing of his latest pictures of the mammals and birds to be found in our neck of the woods including, of course, the famous polecats. Not only was he able to show us the pictures, but he was able to speak very knowledgeably about the subjects. It really was the highlight of the evening and we were amazed at the variety of creatures in our patch.

The good news is that Nicola has been able to report some encouraging news in her quest to try and ensure that the objectives of our Association, in the planning world, are fulfilled. She has carried out her work painstakingly and with enormous diligence but now, I am sad to report, that after six years in harness she will be stepping down. I hope that we can find another member who will continue her important work.

After early sightings of the dreaded Himalayan Balsam, the Environmental group anticipated an early start to their campaign. However the cooler weather has resulted in the first pull of the season being scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> June. This first meeting is held in conjunction with Clinton Devon Estates and they will always give a warm welcome to new volunteers.

The walks group continue to report successful forays into all manner of places and numbers are continuing to hold up.

The East Devon Local (Heritage) Lists Guide has taken another lurch forward. EDDC has appointed a Planning Policy Officer to deal with this project. She has decided that those compiling this guide should have some formal training. Dee Woods has managed to secure some welcome funding from the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to cover some of the expenses and is presently exploring other possible sources. See below for information about how you can get involved.



We are still looking for a suitable place to store various items belonging to the Association, such as the gazebo and the display boards. We are not looking for a 'spare house', which a group in Budleigh are seeking for a Syrian refugee family, but would settle for a small space in a garage or shed.

**Bob Wiltshire, Chairman**

## **A new Local Heritage Project**



The OVA is very pleased to be working with East Devon District Council to progress one of the actions approved in the new East Devon Heritage Strategy 2018.

EDDC are looking to local communities to do much of the groundwork in identifying what needs conserving as part of their Heritage Strategy.

This is an innovative, capacity building project for the community, involving the training of volunteers passionate about their local heritage.

Training will be given in the assessment of Conservation Areas, using East Budleigh as a pilot. Other tasks, for which training will also be provided, include helping to develop a management plan for the Conservation Area, assessing the external condition of Grade II listed buildings and identifying any local heritage assets. We also hope to work with local schools to encourage the children's interest in the built environment, and inspire future heritage champions.

The OVA is very grateful to the East Devon AONB for the generous funding of this project through their Sustainable Development Fund. A sum of £3,000 has been granted to pay for the initial 3-day training course, due to take place later this year.

If any members are interested and want to learn more about this exciting project, please contact **Dee Woods** (01395 568822) or **Nicola Daniels** (01395 445960) or email : [info@ova.org.uk](mailto:info@ova.org.uk).

## 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Association took place at Newton Poppleford Playing Fields Pavilion on 9<sup>th</sup> May. Any member wishing to see the Minutes of the meeting can access them via the OVA website. One of the main agenda items was the election of a number of new Officers following the departure of our previous Treasurer, Hon Secretary and Talks Organiser. These positions have been filled by the following:

### Honorary Secretary – Roger Saunders



After a career in the Bio-pharmaceutical industry I moved, with my family, to Budleigh Salterton in 2005. I will be a familiar face to many members, having held a number of posts with the Association, including three years as Treasurer and four years as Chairman. I also manage the OVA Facebook page.

Apart from the OVA, my interests include photography, natural history and gardening.

### Talks Organiser – Peter Baldwin



Most of my working life was involved with sales and marketing of machinery and equipment to the UK engineering sector involving extensive travel around the UK and Europe.

Jacqui and I moved to Newton Poppleford 7 years ago after many years living in Stratford-upon-Avon. Within a few weeks of our move we discovered the OVA and joined immediately. We both enjoy walking, wildlife and local history and the OVA offered a good connection to like-minded people. We spend a lot of our free time exploring this wonderful region. Having enjoyed 7 years of OVA membership I am pleased to have the opportunity to make a contribution to the Association. I look forward to

the role of Talks Organiser and hope that you can come along and enjoy the next Autumn/Winter talks programme.

### **Treasurer – Martin Smith**

I have lived in Budleigh Salterton since 2001 following a career in London with BT. In addition to involvement with the OVA (including a number of years as webmaster). I volunteer for several local organisations, such as the Devon History Society, the South West Coast Path Association, East Devon AONB and Fairlynch Museum. I enjoy walking and cycling in the Otter Valley with my family.

### **Why Moths Matter**

Moths are declining in the UK. Studies have found the overall number of moths has decreased by 28% since 1968. The situation is particularly bad in southern Britain, where moth numbers are down by 40%. Many individual species have declined dramatically in recent decades and over 60 became extinct in the 20th century. Sadly, among the species which have declined are many beautiful moths which were previously very common and frequently seen in our gardens.

These alarming decreases in moth populations are not just bad news for the moths themselves, but also have worrying implications for the rest of our wildlife. Moths and their caterpillars are important food items for many other species, including amphibians, small mammals, bats and many bird species. Moth caterpillars are especially important for feeding young chicks, including those of most familiar garden birds such as the Blue Tit and Great Tit, Robin, Wren and Blackbird. A serious decline in moth numbers could have disastrous knock-on effects for all these species. Already, research has indicated that a decrease in the abundance of bats over farmland is related to the decline in the moths that they depend on. Cuckoos may also have been affected. They specialise in eating hairy caterpillars, which most other birds avoid, and it has been suggested that the drop in our Cuckoo population may be linked to the decline in moth caterpillars including the Garden Tiger (pictured).



The wildlife charity, Butterfly Conservation, has therefore launched a campaign called 'Moths Matter' to urge the British public to re-think their generally negative view of moths. Earlier this year the charity carried out a poll which indicated that nearly ¾ of the population view moths as 'pests' or, at best, the dull relatives of butterflies. The campaign will attempt to change this view, highlight the importance of moths as important pollinators and food source. People are being asked to cultivate moth-friendly gardens by planting night-scented flowers and leaving fallen leaves and other plant debris on the ground to provide the moths with a place to hide from predators.

If you have an interest in moths and butterflies make a date in your diary as on 13<sup>th</sup> November Barry Henwood, past Chairman and current member of Butterfly Conservation (Devon branch), will be presenting a talk on the natural history of moths and butterflies. The talk will highlight some remarkable behaviour including defence mechanisms against attack from predators. Much of the content of the talk will be based on original material which will be used in a forthcoming book entitled "Field Guide to Caterpillars of Great Britain and Ireland" co-written by our speaker and Phil Sterling - so if you can't make the talk you will be able to buy the book!

## **Brandy Head – Planning Application**

As many members will be aware, a planning application has been submitted to EDDC to convert the Brandy Head observation post building to a unit of holiday accommodation. At the time of going to press we are in the early stages of discussion. We welcome the input from members who have contacted us and their concerns will be taken into account in our formal response to the application.





## Planning Matters

I am aware that my column on planning matters is often one of doom and gloom so it is wonderful to publicise some good news! We have just heard that an Appeals Inspector has refused an appeal to build a house in a garden in Granary Lane, Budleigh Salterton. The appellant argued that, previously, another Appeals Inspector had interpreted the Budleigh Salterton Neighbourhood Plan policy H3 as a general policy, not one that specified that infill development should reflect the character of an area. This original interpretation was bad news for the town as it could theoretically have opened up some unsympathetic garden development. The Budleigh Salterton Neighbourhood Plan Housing and Environment Focus Group and the OVA wrote strong appeal letters to the Planning Inspectorate regarding this particular proposed development in Granary Lane. So it was with delight that the Inspector wrote:

*“In my opinion this is not a general objective but a prescriptive test which requires site specific application.”*



Following this news I will continue with a positive theme. It is heartening that Abele Tree House (left) was not demolished and the bridge over the brook widened in Fore Street, Budleigh Salterton as was the aim of a submitted planning application in 2017. This was rejected by the EDDC planning committee. The house and garden has been given tender loving care and is now an asset to the Conservation Area.

I would also like to give a good example of garden development but I am very aware that building design is very much one of taste and I have several times been accused of not liking contemporary design. I refute this, as good design is good design but to my mind good design means that a house has to sit comfortably in its setting. This is why the Hatchard Smith houses in Budleigh Salterton and the Samson houses in Sidmouth are examples of cohesiveness; these architects carefully situated their houses in their plots in relation to the sun and view and in relation to the surrounding area. I asked your Executive Committee to give me

their nominations for good garden infill in the area. They came up with examples of the excellent renovation of historic buildings but not garden infill.

So why was everyone so hesitant and why did the BS Neighbourhood Plan Open Day consultations find that the majority of respondents were unhappy with garden infill as the character of the town was being lost? There are some fantastic contemporary garden infill houses.

Is it that many infill dwellings are built within a large, mature garden of a Victorian, Edwardian or 1920 and 1930s house? The new dwelling is invariably very large and built to the plot boundary, thereby losing the mature vegetation. The neighbours are houses with a cohesive group value. Perhaps the answer is summed up in Policy H2 BS Neighbourhood Plan:

*“New housing development should have regard for the scale, density, height, design and materials of buildings in distinctive areas of the town.”*

Many of our infill houses would be superb in a large plot in Poole.

Finally, now is the right time for me to say that I will not be standing for re-election at the May 2020 AGM. My pet Heritage Project is at long last getting off the ground and I am so pleased that the involvement of our volunteer effort with EDDC will bring recognition of our historic environment.

I have been Planning Chairman for 6 years, no planning experience at the start and learnt “on the job”. There must be people in our 800 odd membership who would like to follow in my footsteps. Please feel free to contact me or your Chairman.

Our constitution is our remit:

The Association is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising the civil parishes of Budleigh Salterton, East Budleigh and Bicton, Otterton, Colaton Raleigh, Newton Poppleford and Harpford, which area shall hereafter be referred to as "the area of benefit".

- (a) To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit.**
- (b) To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit.**
- (c) To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.**

(d) The conservation, protection and restoration for the public benefit of the natural resources, natural beauty, animal and plant life, and lands and buildings, of historical interest or of ecological or scientific importance in the Association's area of benefit or in adjacent parish.

Nicola Daniel, Planning Chair

## Otter Estuary Litter Pick

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, more than 60 volunteers turned out on a dull, cold morning to help pick up 30 sacks of rubbish on the Otter Estuary from Budleigh Lime Kiln car park to South Farm Road. As usual, the bulk of rubbish consisted of various forms of plastic including 'nurdles'. Volunteers also dragged up 3 tyres, fishing nets, rope, floats and hooks.

£20 tokens were presented to two volunteers by Councillor Tom Wright for their more unusual finds from a selection that included a divers mask, inhaler, rugby ball, not so cuddly toy dog, boot, flip-flop, plastic duck and much more.

The event was organised by the OVA with support from Clinton Devon Estates. Thanks to Keep Britain Tidy, EDDC and Streetscene for providing equipment and the collection of rubbish and to all who came along to help.



Geoff Porter, Natural Environment Committee

## ... and more Good News

In our Summer 2018 issue we reported that the government had launched a consultation asking the public for their views about creating a new group of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) – areas at sea where wildlife is protected from damaging activities. In total, 41 special places were chosen for the public to comment on, nine of them in Devon’s waters, including our own Otter Estuary and the Axe Estuary.

The DEFRA website states *“The Otter Estuary is a small but important system supporting a number of habitats and wildlife. The mouth of the estuary is almost completely covered by a shingle bank of intertidal coarse sediment extending from the west coast of the river. The sheltered areas behind the bank have created the perfect environment for the formation of highly productive intertidal mudflats and saltmarshes. The saltmarshes within the site are important foraging grounds for wading birds and wildfowl, and provide a sheltered refuge at high tide. The Otter Estuary is one of the most extensive saltmarsh networks in Devon and is home to many species of specialised salt and flood-tolerant flowering plants, as well as an abundance of worms, crustaceans and tiny snails. The intertidal muds are a highly productive habitat and support a wide range of species including ragworm, mudshrimps and the commercially important cockle. At low tide these areas form vital feeding grounds for wading and migratory birds while at high tide, flatfish and others migrate to these areas to forage for food.”*



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On 31<sup>st</sup> May, Michael Gove, the Environment Secretary, announced that 12 new Marine Conservation Zones had been created in the south west including both the Otter and the Axe. The newly-protected areas ranging from Studland Bay, near Bournemouth, to the Goodwin Sands off the Deal coast in Kent will cover 4,633 sq miles (12,000 sq km) of marine habitat, eight times the size of Greater London, bringing the total number of marine protected areas around the British coastline to 355. The expansion of the UK’s ‘Blue Belt’ will help to safeguard precious and diverse sealife and ensure the long-term good health of the marine environment.

**Editor**

## Happy Anniversary OVA!

Our anniversary celebrations took place at the East Devon Golf Club on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June. More than 70 members enjoyed an afternoon of good company, musical entertainment from students at Exmouth College, pink prosecco and a strawberry cream tea – followed by a slice of anniversary cake!



Five of the founder members of the Association pictured above with Chairman, Bob Wiltshire were our guests for the afternoon. They are (from left to right); Miss Dorothy Ormerod, Neville and Patricia Tindale, Alan and Tricia Cotton.



Thank you to George Maddaford for organising such a lovely occasion.

**Editor**



## Supporting the Environmentalists of the future

The OVA assists in promoting activities of a charitable nature throughout its area of benefit. For several years the OVA, Clinton Devon Estates (CDE) and staff of the Pebblebed Heath Conservation Trust (PHCT) have worked together to enable hundreds of youngsters to leave their classrooms for a day to learn about the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the local area.

Since 2015, Countryside Learning Officer, Kate Ponting, has arranged educational visits for all ages, supported by a knowledgeable team with expertise in farming, forestry, land management and conservation. Although the Countryside Learning programme is free of charge, the cost of transporting pupils remains a barrier for schools and colleges. Through a financial commitment of £1,000+ per year, the OVA make a significant impact. With our help many local primary schools are supported with transport costs, enabling them to make the most of the countryside and learning opportunities on their doorstep.



This summer the PHCT will welcome 400 primary pupils to the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths. School visits start near Woodbury Castle. Staff introduce the heritage of the site, ecology and explain how heathland habitats are managed by the rangers with help from specialist machinery, grazing animals and controlled burns. Learning is hands-on and fun. While one group are hunting the edges of a path to find pictures of four key species and matching them to the correct habitat,

others are learning about how the commons came about and specific sites such as the Iron Age hill fort. After a break to eat a picnic lunch outside (a first for some children) they might create natural artwork, hunt for camouflaged objects or act out do's and don'ts to reinforce their responsibilities within the countryside code.

Most primary groups are between 8-11 years old, but some younger classes will visit too, undertaking a welly walk across heath and woods before stream dipping with hand nets to find out about dragonfly lifecycles.



The Estate has recently purchased a new bespoke personnel trailer (above) enabling groups to move between sites more quickly. Pupils and teachers can enjoy a 'safari' experience in a moving classroom. Those of you who took the tour of Stantyway Farm on 3<sup>rd</sup> July will have experienced the fun of bouncing along behind the tractor!

The images are of Pebblebed Heaths Head Ranger, Paul Swain and Countryside Learning Officer, Kate Ponting leading an educational visit with Kingfisher Class from Otterton C of E Primary School on Friday 14 June at Woodbury Common.

**Kate Ponting, Countryside Learning Officer, CDE**



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**A celebration of our heathland heritage**



## Evidence of Stone Age Man uncovered in Newton Poppleford



A rare Neolithic ring ditch which was the focus of a pair of graves containing cremated human remains was uncovered during archaeological works at King Alfred Way, Newton Poppleford. The dig was carried out prior to construction of new housing on the site. In the vicinity of the ring ditch were several pits or postholes, the finds from which indicated that

they were largely contemporary with the ring ditch and graves, although a few finds including a sherd of Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery and some sherds of later Iron Age pottery indicate undefined later prehistoric use of the area. An assemblage of Peterborough-ware pottery, worked flint and a radiocarbon date show that the main use of the site was during the Middle Neolithic period. The **Neolithic** (also known as the "New Stone Age") began about 12,000 years ago when the first developments of farming appeared in the Near East. In Northern Europe the Neolithic period lasted until about 1,700 BC.

## Balsam Bashing Season



The new season has now commenced and if you have any spare time and are able to help us with our project to eradicate this invasive species in the Otter Valley please get in touch. The 'Balsam Bashers' meet at 9.30am on Thursday and Saturday mornings at the entrance to Bicton College. Volunteers will be supplied with coffee and cake!

Contact Patrick Hamilton on 01395 445351

## Sidmouth Tree Trail

A group of eleven met up for this special quest on a cool but dry day on 7<sup>th</sup> May. After admiring some fine red and white Horse chestnuts in front of Kennaway House, we were led through the churchyard, (looking for a mystery myrtle), and into Blackmore Gardens for pleached limes. Iain then took us through back alleyways to the ford, and from there we wended our way uphill, pausing briefly to admire massive Monterey pines and a wildflower meadow, on up through a bluebell wood to the Frog Stone on the SW coast path, stopping briefly to admire the views, and for rest and refreshment. We headed inland through woods and meadows and down to the lovely churchyard at Salcombe Regis. Here we found beautiful specimen trees such as *Robinia pseudoacacia* – Locust tree – *Quercus coccinea* – scarlet oak – *Liriodendron tulipifera* – tulip tree – and a *Liquidambar styraciflua* – American gum tree, as well as an *Acer griseum* - Paper-bark Maple, a *Magnolia grandiflora* and a glorious, spreading 50 year old cherry tree. This made a delightful stop for lunch, after which we headed off for Soldiers Hill, through ancient oak woodland with carpets of bluebells, and a fine beech avenue.

Downhill all the way back to the Byes in Sidmouth, the tree spotters found a *Ginkgo biloba* – Maidenhair-tree – in a garden adjoining the footpath. In Golden Copse in Margaret’s Meadow we were delighted with the special varieties of golden trees. Back down the Byes we detoured through the community orchard, and found a wealth of beautiful large trees, such a holm oaks, sweet chestnuts and an unusual weeping lime. We stopped to admire the foxglove tree – *Paulownia tomentosa* – which had almost finished flowering in the grounds of the Hunters Moon Hotel. Next we took in the fine copper beeches and lovely grounds of Sidholme, where there was a music concert in the Music Room. We made our way up to the cemetery, noting a magnificent red Japanese maple, a weeping birch, and an unusual variegated tulip tree. We entered Peasland Knapp to admire the fine lime trees, and then crossed over into Knowle Gardens which is a fine arboretum in its own right. On the driveway was a flowering old Judas tree - *Cercis siliquastrum* - several hornbeam and a young foxglove tree. We were shown a semi-mature Ginko tree that was to be moved to the new Council offices. A huge Monterey pine had partially collapsed, and a glorious handkerchief tree – *Davidia involucrate* – was in full flower. We then made our way down secretive Glen Goyle and over to the Connaught Gardens for a welcome cup of tea. Many thanks to Iain Ure for devising this very interesting tree walk based on the Sidmouth Arboretum guides.

## Dee Woods



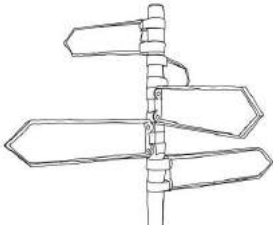
As advertised in our Spring issue, there was a photographic competition for all the participants. There were two themes - the walk in general and anything which surprised us. Stella won the (stiff) competition with her composition of a Handkerchief Tree. Many of the things we saw were a genuine surprise - the wild meadow overlooking Sidmouth, the 'prison wall' and the Frog Stone, its shape being immediately seen when viewed from the right direction. Salcombe Regis churchyard proved to be a special place for specimen trees and a failing Monterey Pine hosting a Rhododendron in the grounds of Knowle House was magical.

**Iain Ure**



**Clockwise from top left:**

- David Hatch - Moss
- David Hatch - Monterey Pine
- Stella French - Frogstone
- Stella French (Winner) - Handkerchief Tree
- Dee Woods - Beech Avenue
- Dee Woods - Bug Hotel
- Heather Fereday - Weeping Tree



## **A Walk for Everyone – Summer Programme 2019**

I am composing this introduction as my husband drives northwards from the Lake District to the Outer Hebrides. Today the weather has been kinder than yesterday and I hope this turn of events continues in East Devon as we reach the peak summer months.

I also hope it is third time lucky for Mike's revised Templer Way Stage 2 which we have postponed twice due to very inclement weather. Mike has now divided the walk into two parts to accommodate October daylight hours and suitable tide times.

We have a mix of short local walks and longer rambles further afield to Dartmoor and over the border to Dorset including some old favourites. A new walk leader has joined us, Ross Hussey, who is leading a local walk on the Commons. We try to mix up the length of walks and days of the week offered to accommodate our members' busy lives.

It is nice to see some new faces joining us on our walks and we make every effort to make them feel welcome and encourage them to join the OVA. I moved to the area with my husband five years ago and I have walked both Devon coasts and across the County from South to North, something I would not have done without the encouragement of OVA members.

Lastly, I have a recommendation for a useful free APP which I have on my phone called "what3words". If ever I was lost or injured, I would be able to notify the emergency services where I was, using the APP.

Happy walking and we hope to see you on one of our walks very soon.

**Heather Fereday**

## Events Programme – July to October 2019

Please consult the OVA Website for late alterations or additional information  
All OS references are to Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Explorer maps.

### **Monday, 8 July - 10.30am - WALK**

Meet at the Sidmouth Arms, Upottery (OS 115 ST 203 076) to catch the **10.14am** No 387 bus to Churchinford, arriving 10.29am.

Start at Churchinford, (OS 128 ST 213 126), 9½ miles

#### **“Otter Source to Mouth Stage 1 – Churchinford to Upottery”**

From Churchinford we walk along a lane and through fields to Otterford, crossing the infant River Otter (the source is a mile or so further north, on private land). We then walk into Otterhead Estate past the lakes, and through unspoilt farmland and quiet lanes and tracks, along the Otter Valley to Upottery. The Sidmouth Arms should be open for post-walk refreshments. Please bring a picnic.

**It would be helpful if you would let us know you are coming on the walk. We will then try to arrange car-sharing/lifts to Upottery so we don't take up too much room in the pub car park.**

In any case, please check the OVA website in case the bus time changes!

*Walk Leaders:* Penny and Paul Kurowski 01395 742942; [pandp@kurowski.me.uk](mailto:pandp@kurowski.me.uk)

### **Wednesday, 17th July - 10.00am - WALK**

Start: Sidbury CP, (OS 115 SY 139 918), 400m ascent, 8 miles, 4 hours.

#### **“Steep and Deep in the Sid Valley”**

This walk starts and ends on some of the highest sections of the East Devon Way, promising good views on a clear day. We begin with a wander through the pretty village of Sidbury, followed by a gradual climb up to White Cross overlooking the Otter Valley. Then we go along the ridge to Fire Beacon Hill and down past Burscombe Farm to Sidford. A fairly steep ascent to the top of Buckton Hill is followed by a decidedly steep descent back into Sidbury, hopefully in time for a well-earned drink in the Red Lion. Bring a picnic lunch.

*Walk Leader:* Jon Roseway, 01395 488739/ 07887 936280

### **Monday, 22nd July - 10.15am - WALK**

Meet at Heathpark, Honiton (park at Homebase, please use lower section of car park so as not to affect trade), (OS115 ST 149 000) to catch the **9.56am** No 387 bus to Upottery, arriving 10.14am.

Start at Sidmouth Arms, Upottery (OS 115 ST 203 076) 9 miles

### **“Otter Source to Mouth Stage 2– Upton to Weston”**

From Upton we follow the road to Rawridge, cross the River Otter then walk along the hillside above the river, skirting Dumpsdon Hill and visiting small hamlets before finally arriving at Weston where we hope the Otter Inn, beside the River Otter, will be open for refreshments. It is then less than a mile back to our cars. Please bring a picnic.

**It would be helpful if you let us know you are coming on the walk. We will then try to arrange car-sharing/lifts to Honiton so we don't take up too much room in the Homebase car park.**

In any case, please check the OVA website in case the bus time changes!

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski 01395 742942; [pandp@kurowski.me.uk](mailto:pandp@kurowski.me.uk)

#### **Tuesday, 30th July - 10.00am - WALK**

Meet: Newton Poppleford Rec CP (OS 115 SY 088 899) at 09.15am to share cars or meet at the start point.

##### **“Walk around Uplyme”**

Start: Uplyme village hall overflow CP, £2 donation to the village hall (SY 323 934), 5 miles, 2½ hours

The walk takes in the East Devon Way, Mill Lane, Rhode Hill, Hodder Corner, Carswell Bottom, Carswell Farm, leisurely but some hills.

Walk Leader: Carole Steen, 01392 873881

#### **Thursday, 1st August - 10.00am - WALK - 5 miles**

Start from East Budleigh (Hayes Lane) CP (OS 115, SY 066 848) 5 miles, 2½ hours

##### **“Raleigh Country”**

Walking on minor roads, rough tracks and footpaths, woods and heaths, some hills, two stiles to climb. Hayes Wood and Shortwood Common, including Raleigh's birthplace and optional lunch at the Sir Walter Raleigh at the end. Reasonable fitness and stout footwear needed - no age limits, providing you can do the distance - dogs only if on short leads - not wheelchair suitable.

No booking required, but I may need to alert the pub at the start if there is a large number for lunch.

Walk Leader: Haylor Lass, 01395 568786

#### **Wednesday, 7th August - 10.00am - WALK - 6 miles**

Start: Four Firs CP (OS 115, SY 032 864), 6 miles, 3½ hours

##### **"Reserve and Reservoir"**

From Four Firs we walk past the ever-changing gravel pits to Fryingpans, then alongside Hayes Wood to Shortwood Common. Return via Dalditch, Squabmoor

Reservoir, and Devon Wildlife Trust's Bystock Nature Reserve. A moderate walk with two coffee stops part way round (so bring a flask).

Walk Leader: Ross Hussey, 01395 227991

### **Saturday, 10 August - 10.20 am - WALK - 11 miles**

Meet at Sidmouth Road bus stop in Honiton (roundabout near Tesco (OS115 ST 153 996) at 10.20 ready to walk about a mile to rejoin where we left off Stage 2 near Weston Cross. For most people, getting the 9.27 No 9 bus from Newton Poppleford which arrives at Honiton at 10.17 should work. Total distance, including walking to Weston is about 11 miles and will take about 6 hours, including stops.

#### **“Otter Source to Mouth Stage 3– Weston (Honiton) to Newton Poppleford”**

From Weston we will take a rather noisy route along the old A30 before heading along quieter footpaths to Ottery St Mary. We are thereafter never far from the river as we go through Tipton and Harpford and finally reach Newton Poppleford. Although there will be an opportunity to pop into Ottery to buy refreshments, and there is the odd pub close to the route, we suggest you bring a picnic.

Please check the OVA website in case the bus time or meeting point changes!

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski 01395 742942; e-mail pandp@kurowski.

### **Wednesday, 14th August - 10.30am - WALK - 4.6 miles**

Meet at the green by the Budleigh Salterton Public Hall for 10.30am start. Buses from Exmouth and Sidmouth directions arrive about 10.15am, free parking by the green to the right of the hall.

#### **“Budleigh to Clamour Bridge and Down the River”**

We walk to the clamour bridge via the old railway track and footpaths then down the river to the sea, looking out for the kingfisher by the White Bridge. Maybe a coffee or ice cream at the East End kiosk before walking back along the seafront. No hills or stiles but paths may be muddy in the event of rain.

Walk Leader: Brian Gannon 01395 443502

### **Friday, 16th August - 10.40am - WALK - 6 miles**

Meet at Exmouth Train Station at 10.15am. Outward via train, dep. 10.23am, arr. Newcourt 10.39am. Weekday buses dep. Budleigh Salterton 9.54am, arr. 10.10am Exmouth, plenty of time to get to the station and to use bus passes. We suggest that if you don't have a railcard, you travel in groups of 3+ to take advantage of a “Groupsave” train ticket - buy a return from Exmouth to Digby and Sowton.

#### **“A walk from the train”**

Start at Newcourt Train Station (OS 192, SX 961 903), 10.40am, 6 miles, 2½ hours plus lunch. The walk leaders will meet the train at Newcourt station. NB: no



parking at Newcourt and the Digby P+R (for the hospital) is now closed to the public and is only for NHS staff.

A walk from Newcourt station over the Clyst River Bridge to the village of Clyst St Mary. Then through farmlands and fields to the village of Sowton with its interesting church and thatched village hall and continue through the grounds of the medieval Bishop's Court Palace. After an optional pub lunch, a gentle half hour or so takes us to Digby and Sowton station for the train back to Exmouth. This is an opportunity to explore in detail places we usually see fleeting from the car or train. The going is easy with only gentle climbs. It may be muddy in places if it has been wet.

Walk Leaders: Rosemary & David Hatch, 01392 444290/07816 128546

### **Wednesday, 21st August - 10.00am - WALK - 6 miles**

Start: Colaton Raleigh Church (OS 115, SY 082 872) 6 miles, 3 hours

#### **“Keble’s Seat”**

Riverside, Northmostown, steady climb to Keble's Seat (fine views), Mutters Moor, returning down Passford Lane. Along the way, we will find out about John Keble, a Victorian poet and divine, after whom Keble College, Oxford is named.

Walk leader: Brian Turnbull, 01395 567339

### **Tuesday, 27th August - 10.30am - WALK - 3 miles**

Start: Roadside parking at Bystock Fishponds (OS 115, SY 034 843) 3 miles, 1½ hours.

#### **“A beautiful bibble beyond the back of Bystock”**

A gentle stroll around this less frequented corner of East Budleigh Common, taking in open common, mixed woodlands and a little slice of farmland. You may wish to bring a snack to enjoy when we finish beside the delightful pond at Bystock.

Walk Leader: Chris Gooding 01395 265707/07852630431

### **Saturday, 31 August - 9.50 am - WALK - 6 miles**

Start at Newton Poppleford Rec Ground CP (OS 115 ST 088 899).

We anticipate people travelling there by bus, as the walk finishes in Budleigh Salterton. Those using the 157 bus, catch the 9.23am from the Public Hall in Budleigh Salterton or the 9.10am from Sidmouth.

#### **“Otter Source to Mouth Stage 4 – Newton Poppleford to Budleigh Salterton”**

From Newton Poppleford we follow paths familiar to many, closely following the River Otter all the way to its mouth at Budleigh Salterton. As it is a Saturday in August there should be plenty of places open to buy a celebratory ice cream and or lunch. We will have bus timetables available for those who need to get the

bus home or to Newton Poppleford.

Please check the OVA website nearer the time in case the bus time changes!

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski 01395 742942; [pandp@kurowski.me.uk](mailto:pandp@kurowski.me.uk)

**Wednesday 4th September - 10.30am - WALK - 3.5 miles**

Start: Mutters Moor CP (OS 115, SY 109 873), 3½ miles, 2 hours

**“Top to Bottom and back again”**

A varied walk, beginning with an easy stroll along the eastern flanks of Mutters Moor, affording glorious views of Sidmouth and the coastline beyond, before descending to Bulverton Bottom where we turn back towards and through the leafy suburbs of the town. On reaching the seafront, we turn west to climb back up to Peak Hill and the start, pausing frequently to gaze back at the views!!

Walk leader: Chris Gooding (07852630431/01395 265707)

**Tuesday 10th September - 10.30am - WALK - 4 miles**

Start: White Bridge (OS 115, SY 072830), 4 miles, 2 hours

**“Brandy Head classic”**

A walk that many people know, but a classic none-the-less. We walk north along the old roadway before turning towards the sea up Colliver Lane. On reaching the sea at Crab Ledge, we begin our return southwards, pausing at the old lookout at Brandy Head for a snack, before continuing along the gorgeous coast path to Otter Head and back to our transport.

Walk leader: Chris Gooding (07852630431/01395 265707)

**Monday, 16th September - 11.00am**

**“Otterton Heritage Walk”**

A heritage walk around the historic village of Otterton, looking at the development of the settlement since Saxon times. A gentle stroll taking about 1½ hours, stopping to admire the wealth of historic buildings and visiting the Church and the old Mill.

Walk Leader: Dee Woods, 01395 568822

**Thursday, 19th September - 10.00am - WALK - 5.5 or 8 miles**

Start: Venford Reservoir north side CP (OL 28, SX 686 713) 5.5 or 8 miles, 3-4 hours.

**“Darting up the Valley - Marching across the Moor”**

For car-sharing, we will meet at Newton Poppleford Rec Ground CP (OS 115, SY 088 899) at 9.00am. This walk combines the delights of the wooded upper Dart Valley with a trek across open moorland. The first section takes us along the rim of the Dart Valley and down into the hamlet of Combestone before ascending to

the Tor of the same name and up onto Holne Moor. Tracking back to Venford reservoir for a picnic lunch ends the shorter walk. Part two comprises a loop through the mystical rain forest deep in the Dart Valley overlooking Mel and Sharrah pools, then returning via Bench Tor.

Walk Leader: Jon Roseway, 01395 488739/ 07887 936280

**Thursday, 26th September - 9.30am - WALK - 7 miles**

Meet at Newton Poppleford Rec Ground CP (OS 115, SY 088 899) at 8.45am to share cars or meet at the start point.

Start: CP in Colyton, Dolphin Street ( OS 116, SY 246 940) at 9.30am. 7 miles, 4½ hours including a picnic followed by an optional guided walking tour of Colyton starting at 2pm from the town car park in Dolphin Street. The tour lasts approx. an hour, cost £3 per person.

**“Crookham Cross & Downhayne Brake”**

We walk along the river Coly, then head for Purlbridge Farm, Crookham Cross and Downhayne Brake Road. There is one long uphill gradient and it could be muddy in places. We can stop for afternoon refreshments after the town visit.

Walk Leader: Heather Fereday, 01395 446796/07484 627312

**Saturday, 5th October - 10.00 am - WALK - 8½ miles**

Start: Langdon Hill CP (DT6 6EP; OS 116, SY 413 931) 2,152 ft of ascent, 5 hours.

**Current CP charge £4, free with NT car**

**“Two for the Price of One”**

The walk starts with a short climb to the top of Golden Cap, descends to Seatown before ascending along the coast path to Thorncombe Beacon. The route then heads inland dropping to Symondsburry before climbing Colmer’s Hill and back through Chideock to Langdon Hill. Please bring a picnic.

Please email Heather Fereday on [feredayh@gmail.com](mailto:feredayh@gmail.com) by 3rd October if you intend to join this walk.

Walk Leader: Vivien Insull, 01404 811267

**Wednesday 9th October - 11:30am – WALK - 6.5 miles**

To accommodate the shortening days and the shortage of suitable tide times, the twice cancelled Revised Templar Way Stage 2 walk has been split into two parts; this walk is the first part, the second is from Newton Abbot Town Quay to Teignmouth along the Teign Estuary on Wednesday, 16th October.

**“Revised Templar Way Stage 2, Part 1”**

Travel to the start is by the 39 bus from Exeter Bus Station (Stand No 12), dep 10.30am arr Pottery Road (House of Marbles), Bovey Tracey (OS Explorer 110, SX 815 772) at 11.23am.

Part 1 of the walk is 6½ miles from Bovey Tracey to Newton Abbot Town Quay via Heathfield Cottages and Locks Bridge near Teigngrace. During the walk we will be able to stop at Ventiford Basin and ponder the workings of the Granite Tramway terminus where the granite was offloaded from carts onto barges that were subsequently pulled along the Stover Canal to Newton Abbot. There will be a picnic opportunity during the walk

Return travel is either by train dep Newton Abbot 3.31pm/4.31pm, arr Exmouth 4.49pm/5.51pm respectively and onward to East Devon by bus 57/157/357 or alight at Exeter Central to catch the 9 bus from the bus station. Alternatively by 7 bus dep. Newton Abbot Bus Station 3.40pm/4.40pm arr Exeter Bus Station 4.31pm/5.31pm respectively.

Please see OVA website for any necessary changes to travel times.

Walk Leader: Mike & Paula Paddison, 01395 446550

### **Wednesday 16th October - 12:00pm - WALK - 6.25 miles**

To accommodate the shortening days and the shortage of suitable tide times, the twice cancelled Revised Templer Way Stage 2 walk has been split into two parts; this walk is the second part.

#### **“Revised Templer Way Stage 2, Part 2”**

Travel to the start is by the 39 bus from Exeter Bus Station (Stand No 12), dep 10.30am, arr Newton Abbot Bus Station 11.37am. A short walk will take us to Town Quay, (OS Explorer 110, SX 869 716) where the walk will commence at 12.00. Part 2 walk is 6¼ miles from Newton Abbot Town Quay to Teignmouth along the Teign Estuary. There will be a picnic opportunity during the walk and a stop at Combe Cellars for afternoon refreshment before catching the Shaldon ferry (£1.60) to New Quay in Teignmouth, the end of the Templer Way. The route is relatively flat, but will possibly be slippery in places, hence the leisurely walking pace.

Return travel is either by train dep Teignmouth 4.38pm/5.22pm, arr Exmouth 5.51pm/6.27pm respectively and onward to East Devon by bus 57/157/357 or alight at Exeter Central to catch the #9 bus from the bus station.

Alternatively the #2 bus dep Teignmouth Triangle (W H Smith) 4.17pm/4.42pm, arr Exeter Bus Station 5.26pm/5.51pm respectively.

Please see OVA website for any necessary changes to travel times.

Walk Leader: Mike & Paula Paddison, 01395 446550

**Monday, 21st October - 10.15am - WALK - 6/7 miles**

Meet: Newton Poppleford Rec Ground (OS 115, SY 088 899) at 9.15am to share cars or meet at the start point.

**“Castles, hills and autumnal colour along the River Teign”**

Start: Castle Drogo CP (NT) (OS 191, SX 725 902), at 10.15am, 6/7 miles, 4 hours + lunch. Note NT Membership cards will be required for free parking.

Described as perhaps the most famous walk on Dartmoor, this walk extends the usual route to take in Cranford Castle - an old Iron Age Fort. We start our walk at Castle Drogo where we follow the famous Hunters Path with panoramic views across Dartmoor and to the Teign Gorge below. Next we descend to Fingle Bridge for a coffee break. It's then a short stroll along the river before heading into Hore Woods and a steep climb up to the top of Cranford Castle for lunch. After admiring the view across to Castle Drogo we descend to the river Teign and walk alongside the river admiring the autumn colours. We then climb back up to Castle Drogo for tea and cakes. Please bring a packed lunch.

Walk Leader: Stella French, 01395 445724

**Saturday, 26th October - 10.00am - WALK - 5 miles**

Meet: Woodbury Village Hall CP (no charge): (OS 115 SY 011 871)

**“Walk around Woodbury”**

Route - Cottles Farm, Rushmoor Wood, Entrance to Woodbury Golf Course, Hogsbrook Farm, Canonwalls Farm, Toby Lane. Leisurely - 5 miles.

Walk Leader: Carole Steen, 01392 873881

**Wednesday, 30th October -10.00am - WALK - 7½ miles**

Start: Church St CP, Sidford (OS 115, SY 135 900). 3½ hours

**“The Two Ridges Way”**

From Sidford, we follow the Snod Brook past Knowle House and continue climbing gradually to say hello to the donkeys at Paccombe Farm then up onto the first ridge, Harcombe Hill. After crossing the Sweetcombe valley we join the East Devon Way and traverse our second ridge through Buckley plantation and descend Buckton Hill back to the start. Bring a packed lunch.

Walk Leader: Jon Roseway 01395 488739/ 07887936280



## Walk Reports

All walk reports and accompanying photographs can be found on the OVA website. Below is just an abridged selection. Many thanks to all contributors.

### In the Footsteps of Samuel Taylor Coleridge – 18<sup>th</sup> March



Despite a rather drizzly day, 16 keen walkers gathered in Newton Popleford and set off for Ottery St Mary, the hard way. We headed East and crossed over the bridge to Harpford, at which point we heard a poem about the River Otter. Then it was upwards through Harpford Wood, and steeply up again into Fire Beacon Plantation where the gradient eased a bit, but again a climb up to Hollow Head Cross. We were then on the ridge, heading for the coffee stop at White Cross, with somewhat misty views to the West. Prizewinning custard tarts were handed out by Rosemary Hatch, and Iain supplied appropriately named 'Rocky Road', for everyone to enjoy. The most well-known section of 'The Rime of the Ancient

Mariner' was read out before we headed downhill, happy that we had done all the uphill parts of the walk.

We walked down to the ancient Waxway Farm and Lane, then across the fields towards Wiggaton. We stopped in a beautiful woodland garden, full of fabulous Magnolias, camellias and early blossom trees, and listened to an abridged version of Kubla Khan. Then down towards the River Otter, where we stopped at the 'Pixies Parlour' and the 'Song of the Pixies' was read out. Sadly, as it was noontide, we did not see any pixies about. Soon we were in Ottery, and called in at 'The Volunteer' for some welcome refreshments. Whilst waiting for the food to arrive, Iain handed each table a short but tricky quiz about Coleridge. Rosemary Hatch's table proved to be the most erudite.

Fully refreshed, we briefly visited the lovely Parish Church, before heading back towards the River Otter, passing the Tumbling Weir, and Mills under renovation, with additional newly built housing. Will this add to the flooding problems? We were interested to see the extensive tree planting in the water meadows, and enjoyed the stroll back to Tipton St John. Unfortunately, the rain that had threatened us all day started to fall on the last leg, but we were almost back, weary but content after more than ten miles. What an enjoyable and varied walk, so many thanks to Iain Ure.

### ***Dee Woods***

## **A Town and Country Walk – 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Given the poor weather forecast a surprising number of us met up in the Parke car park for a walk around the outskirts of Dartmoor. The morning was fairly dry as we walked out along the River Bovey through Bovey Tracey with views of the hills of Dartmoor. We climbed up into Shaptor Woods where it was delightful walking through very green mossy woods with a light scent in the air from the very first bluebells appearing, we even spotted a few early purple orchids beginning to flower. At several points the Shaptor Rocks were visible, peeking through half obscured by tree branches. We walked across hills and through woods to eventually climb down into the picturesque village of Lustleigh for lunch.

By this time however, the rain had set in, fortunately the church porch is very long and we managed to shelter there munching our sandwiches. We walked back through Hisley Woods alongside the river and the picturesque Hisley bridge (right).



It was still raining as we headed up onto the old railway track back to Parke and the welcome tearoom. It was a lovely day out with a great variety of scenery, thank you Vivien for organising such an enjoyable walk.

*Stella French*

## **Butterfly heaven and horsefly hell – 16<sup>th</sup> May**

The title of this walk might have put some people off but unfortunately the butterflies were scarce and fortunately the horseflies even scarcer. The bluebells however were still abundant and there was plenty of variety.

We parked near the Fernworthy dam, walking alongside it and then climbed up to Thornworthy Tor for a coffee break and a look at the splendid views. Then on to Chagford common and a circuit back to the dam where we stopped for lunch and took photos of the bluebells.





*The reservoir is nestled in the heart of Dartmoor National Park adjacent to the village of Chagford. It gravity feeds water into Trenchford reservoir and supplies Torquay with drinking water. Construction was completed in 1942 and the reservoir holds up to 380 million gallons.*



We opted for the extra extension after lunch which took us out on the open Moor and through Fernworthy forest. From this point we also had a good view of the Fernworthy Assycombe stone row (left).

A lovely day for a walk and thank you, Jon, for showing us a new area.

***Heather Fereday***

## **Under the Viaduct - 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

The walk started in pouring rain with a long, steady climb from Okehampton Station to Okehampton Camp.



The sun emerged and we came out on to the open moor, admiring an old granite Cross at Fice's Well (left). According to legend, this marks the site of an old spring where young people came at Easter to discover whether they would be married in the coming year.

From the hilltop there were spectacular views of Yes Tor and Higher Willhays.



Descending to the valley we were shown the remains and spoil heaps of a 19<sup>th</sup> century copper mine next to the stream. The Red-a-Ven brook (left), with its little waterfalls and pools, was so attractive that we decided to stop there for lunch, but were rudely interrupted by another heavy shower of rain.

Onwards to an old quarry where granulite was quarried from the late 1800s to the 1970s to manufacture glass onsite. We followed a lovely grassy path towards and underneath the impressive Viaduct, which once carried the main train line to Plymouth and Cornwall.

The last part of the walk was along the West Devon Way into Okehampton, traversing the golf course and through woods into town, with good views of the Norman castle ruins. A lovely stroll through Simmons Park brought us back to the station and a welcome tea in the platform café. This was a stunning walk, taking in moorland fringe scenery, views of the high moors and glimpse of an old industrial landscape. Thank you Stella!

### ***Rosemary Hatch***

## **Musbury Castle Walk – 11<sup>th</sup> June**

Despite the torrential early morning rain, eight of us joined Paul and Fran Dike at Musbury for what proved to be a wonderful walk.

We followed the East Devon Way from Musbury and then continued steeply up to the Castle; the rain gradually eased, and we were rewarded by far-reaching views from the top. This Iron Age hill fort commands views across to Somerset and Dorset, and of course wonderful East Devon, then out to sea past Axmouth and the white chalk cliffs of Beer Head.





Paul is a geographer and a mine of information about the area. We could clearly see the areas of housing of Seaton, Colyford and Colyton – with only a few green fields separating them – a separation local people are keen to maintain! We could just spot Colyton church, a rare “lantern church” which had a lantern in the tower to guide in the ships from Axmouth in times when the Axe was more navigable than it is now.

From Musbury Castle we continued our circular route along quiet lanes (ignoring the aptly named Pudleylake Lane) past farms and through fields of cattle. Fortified by coffee and flapjacks, we decided not to take the short option, but to keep to the planned 6 miles. We were rewarded with more glorious views and as we walked through an extensive farm area before we rejoined the East Devon Way and a very steep climb back up to the Castle. The view to Seaton had by now cleared. Then it was down to Musbury where pub lunches awaited, pausing to enjoy the banks of gloriously scented roses near the church, the views, and the lovely houses.



A real treat of a walk, even in the rain – we agreed we should return on a clear sunny day sometime.

***Penny Kurowski***

# The Otter Valley Association

## **Executive Committee (01395)**

Chairman	Bob Wiltshire	444395
Vice-chairman	Haylor Lass	568786
Hon Secretary	Roger Saunders	443248
Hon Treasurer	Martin Smith	442333

## **Committee Chairmen**

Natural Environment	David Hatch	01392 444290
Planning	Nicola Daniel	445960
History	David Daniel	445960
Events	<i>vacancy</i>	

## **Parish Representatives (to whom queries should be addressed initially)**

Budleigh Salterton	George Maddaford	446077
East Budleigh	Jon Roseway	488739
Otterton	Pat & Geoff Porter	567055
Colaton Raleigh	<i>vacancy</i>	
Newton Poppleford	Haylor Lass	568786

## **Other Executive Committee Members**

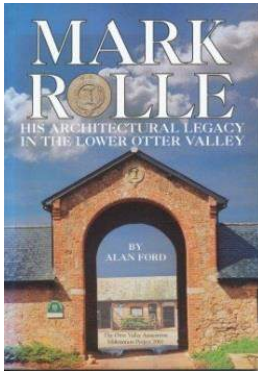
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Publicity Secretary	<i>vacancy</i>	

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	Martin Smith	442333
Talks Organiser	Peter Baldwin	567599
Walks Organisers	Heather Fereday	446796
	Stella French	445724
Newsletter Distributors	Peter & Wendy Youngworth	07718582535
Newsletter Editor	Jacqui Baldwin	567599
	<b>jacquibaldwin@btinternet.com</b>	

**Publications:** Contact Jon Roseway on 488739

## OVA Publications



### **Mark Rolle**

#### **His Architectural Legacy in the Lower Otter Valley**

Ever wondered about the many improved farm buildings and cottages in this area? This lavishly illustrated book gives a very readable overview of how a large landed estate was managed in the last 40 years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

£4.95 from Budleigh Salterton Tourist Information Centre

Or visit [www.ova.org.uk](http://www.ova.org.uk)



#### **Twelve Walks in the Otter Valley.**

The area of the Lower Otter Valley is covered by a network of footpaths, mostly waymarked and in good condition. OVA members have compiled these walks, each with clear directions and illustrated with a sketch map. They range from 4 mile easy walks to a more energetic 9½ miler. There are notes on places of interest to whet your appetite for further exploration.

£3.00 from Budleigh Salterton Tourist Information Centre

Or visit [www.ova.org.uk](http://www.ova.org.uk)

### **Leaflets**

The OVA also publish a number of leaflets about the history, flora & fauna and walking in the lower Otter Valley. They can usually be found in the Tourist Information Centres and in other outlets around the valley.