



# OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

**AUTUMN**  
2021 Newsletter

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**This issue's cover 'Reflections' was photographed and  
produced by Mo Sandford**

## From the Editor

It seems incredible that we are already in October with the nights drawing in and a distinctly autumnal feel to the early mornings. September has been fabulous and I am sure the many visitors to the area have been able to really appreciate what East Devon has to offer. The OVA has some good things to offer too as our Talks Programme commences, the Walks Programme gathers pace and we also have news of our Christmas Party. I hope that you will find something of interest in this latest (my penultimate) issue.

*Jacqui Baldwin*

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## The Acting Chairman's Musings

It is quite frightening how quickly the time goes before it is time to pen another entry to the Newsletter. After months of relative inactivity, our diaries are starting to lose their blank pages and are beginning to show a normality. The effect of this is to make one think that we are rushed off our feet.

Talking of feet, we have just returned from a glorious holiday in Greece, staying in a rustic cottage with limited facilities on the island of Kos. I now have a renewed understanding of why we have been blessed with 'little toes'. The reason is that when we navigate our way, in the dark, to the conveniences in the middle of the night, the 'little toe' is able to detect whether the furniture is in the same place as when one went to bed.

I am happy to report that there has been some encouraging response to my call for recruits to help run our Association. Thank you to those who have raised their heads above the parapet. If all offers reach fruition we are on the road to recovery. However, in the immortal words of Oliver Twist, 'please Sir, we want some more'.

Other organisations are returning to their normal activities and you will find that, exercising usual precautions, our Talks programme is resuming. Read more about the two potentially very interesting talks in this edition (page 7). Thinking further

ahead we are currently organising our Christmas party, sadly missed last year. It is to be held at the East Devon Golf Club, Budleigh Salterton on December 9th. The menu looks very inviting, the entertainment is being arranged and the price is not significantly different from previous years. Socially spaced seating has resulted in available places being limited for members and their guests to 70 persons.

I realise that attending this event is a very personal decision, but believe that with suitable care, this will be a goer. It would seem reasonable that in the event that it is cancelled, monies would be refunded to those who had paid. The point is that it takes months to organise such an event, but it can be cancelled at relatively short notice before significant costs have been incurred. Details of the party can be found in the centre of the Newsletter. As numbers are restricted, please note that bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis so don't spend too long thinking about it. Bookings should be made by 18th November.

Further to my comment on our normal activities being resumed, of course, amongst these are our flagship walks for which we are so well known. You will see the list of walks at the end of this issue. Many of our members may not be aware of the planning and preparation that takes place before each walk. A walk leader will propose a walk and then try it out. They will then report back to the Walks Organisers with details such as rendezvous points, details of public or private transport, the time that the walk is likely to take, the severity of the walk and any suggestions for feeding. If the walk is suitable, the Walks Team add it to the quarterly programme which is published on the website, in the Newsletter and on posters in various places in our area. Very shortly before the walk, the leader will carry out a recce to ensure that there are no bulls in the fields to be crossed or restrictions when footpaths are found to be closed. Such things that could ruin the whole day for our intrepid walkers.

Members will already be aware that our inspirational Patrick Hamilton is retiring from his role as the coordinator of the Himalayan Balsam campaign (page 16) which was initiated by the OVA many years ago. Latterly the work has been carried out in close harmony with Kate Ponting from Clinton Devon Estates. No-one from the OVA has agreed to carry out future coordination of this valuable work and thus the OVA volunteers will now be fully integrated with those from CDE.

I hope to see as many of you as possible on December 9th

***Bob Wiltshire, Acting Chairman***

## Annual Estuary Litter Pick

Despite repeated forecasts for wet weather, the annual Otter estuary litter-pick took place at low tide on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September. This was the second year running that the pick had to be re-arranged for September due to Covid restrictions the previous Spring. Prior to the event, conversations took place with Kier to ensure that their ground work on the estuary would not be problematic.

Just over 20 volunteers picked litter along with support from the organisers. In order to maximise volunteers' safety in relation to Covid-19, pickers entered the estuary once they had received information and registered in. It was good to welcome new volunteers alongside old hands.

However, two new volunteers very quickly found themselves in difficulty when they got well and truly stuck in the mud whilst trying to cross a creek. A third volunteer raised the alarm. This is the first time that organisers could remember volunteers getting so stuck. Three event organisers and a volunteer were quick to respond and with the aid of a wooden pallet and some plastic boxes managed to free them. Digging out their deeply sunken wellies proved to be an equally challenging task. All involved were unscathed but rather muddy. To their great credit the two volunteers were undeterred by this experience and continued to help collect litter.

Some volunteers voiced their disappointment at not finding more litter, but surely that's good news? This may be due to a combination of fewer flooding events on the Otter this year combined with increased litter picks on Budleigh beach. It was noted that less agricultural plastics were found. It's also become evident that Autumn picks are more difficult to undertake as there is more plant growth. This tends to hide litter and makes walking more difficult. This is especially the case in the reed beds higher up the estuary. It is very much hoped that, Covid permitting, next years' pick will revert to its usual Spring slot.

At the end of the event less litter resulted in fewer unusual finds. It was interesting that no children attended this years' event. The OVA are very grateful to Mr. Derek Wensley, Chairman of East Budleigh Parish Council, for attending for the first time. As well as participating in the pick, Derek selected the 2 most unusual items found. The two winners were Brian Hodges who discovered a very large boat fender toward White Bridge and Iain Ure who found a punch ball on the mud flats. Iain's



find of a wooden pallet also proved a very useful aid to rescuing the two volunteers!



**Brian Hodges with his unusual find**

Both received a £20 voucher. Another volunteer had found a toy 'Nemo' but on return discovered that their slippery find had escaped through a hole in the collection bag and awaits re-discovery next Spring.

Special thanks to Neil Hembrow from Keep Britain Tidy for providing bag hoops and pickers, to E.D.D.C. Street Scene for arranging waste bags and litter collection and Kate Ponting from East Devon Pebblebed Heaths for helping to organise and support the event.

***Geoff Porter, Natural Environment Committee***

## Autumn Talks Programme

The events below will be held at the Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton. Doors will open at 7.00pm.

### Mapping the Otter Valley – 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th October

Historical maps can provide wonderful insights into the ways in which land has been used and settlements have developed over many centuries. In a talk illustrated with images of the maps, Brian Carpenter, Archivist and Community Learning Officer for the Devon Archives and Local Studies Service, will talk about the range of maps and plans which the Devon Heritage Centre holds and describe the ways in which the Otter Valley has been mapped over the last 300 years.

### The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site - Lessons from The Past - 'Every rock has a history, every fossil tells a story' – 7.30pm on Tuesday 23rd November

In 2001 UNESCO officially designated the land stretching from Orcombe Point at Exmouth, Devon, to Studland Bay in Dorset as a World Heritage Site. This means it has been globally recognised as having ***Outstanding Universal Value*** in relation to ***The Natural History of the Earth and its Processes***.

The rocks that make up this extensive stretch of coastline and the fossils contained within, when interpreted correctly, offer us a high-definition narrative of the events and processes that have taken place over a period of some 186 million years of geological time. Charles Lyell's *Principles of Geology* (published between 1830-1833) introduced the famous maxim, ***'The present is the key to the past'***. Today, with the insight we now have in relation to the geology of the Jurassic Coast, perhaps it is highly appropriate that we now ask the question ***'Is the past the key to both the present and future?'***

The intention of this illustrated talk by Chris Woodward, Jurassic Coast Ambassador, is to put this immense stretch of time in to something that is, at least in part comprehensible, as well as highlighting key elements from each of the geological periods that distinguish them from each other. Accompanying the above will be a selection of rock and fossil specimens that are material examples from across this expanse of time.

It is important to state that this talk is most certainly ***not*** aimed at a specialist audience level but more specifically at individuals with a general interest in the World Heritage Site who also wish to find out a little more about the what's, why's, when's and how's of its past and the probable relevance of this to the future of life on this planet.....and all within an hour!

## **The Building of Exeter Cathedral, Part 2: Bishop Grandisson and Beyond.**

**7.30pm Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

**Speaker :- Mr John P. Allan - Exeter Cathedral Archaeologist**

*Please note that to comply with current social distancing recommendations seating will be suitably spaced, the hall will be ventilated and, to avoid close contact, no refreshments will be served. We would request that you wear a mask to enter the hall and have the correct entry fee available (£2.00 for members, £3.00 for non-members).*

## **More dragonflies are gaining than losing from climate change, but is this good news?**

The State of Dragonflies in Britain and Ireland 2021 report, just published online by the British Dragonfly Society (BDS) at [www.british-dragonflies.org.uk](http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk), shows that dragonflies are bucking the trend of declining species in Britain and Ireland. In the dragonfly world there have been far more gains than losses. Over 40% of resident and regular migrant species have increased since 1970, while only 11% have declined. Although this sounds like good news for dragonflies, it is in fact yet another indicator of climate change. Dragonflies are a mainly tropical group of insects, so most will benefit from rising average temperatures.

**In total, 19 of our 46 resident and regular migrant dragonfly and damselfly species have increased in Britain and Ireland, while just five have declined.**

In addition, we have gained eight new species since 1995 and two others have reappeared after a long gap in their records. Some of these species have since colonised with Small Red-eyed Damselfly, Willow Emerald Damselfly and Southern Migrant Hawker spreading most rapidly in recent years. This increased rate of immigration and colonisation by species with a more southern distribution in Europe is unprecedented in modern times and clearly shows how our climate is changing to one more commonly found on the Continent.



## Smuggling and the Coastguards in Budleigh Salterton

Smuggling is tax evasion. The higher the tax, the greater the incentive to evade it. To pay for wars with Spain and then France vast increases were made to customs duties levied on tea, spirits, tobacco and silk during the eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth century. Most members of the public didn't regard smuggling as a criminal activity, as smugglers provided them with goods they could not afford and provided employment.

Smuggling was highly organised. Teams of local families specialised in "creeping" the contraband ashore, hiding it and swiftly transporting it inland, using pack horses. Both Rev. Matthew Munday vicar of All Saints' and Rev. Samuel Leat of the Chapel, East Budleigh, were involved.

*"Upwards of 56 horses loaded with brandy and tobacco passed my house yesterday. They are too powerful for the Revenue Officers to contend with"* is what John Rolle MP wrote to Prime Minister Pitt in 1786 whilst staying in Tidwell Manor.

Smuggling occurred throughout the Devon and Cornwall coastline and Budleigh Salterton was no exception. The first record of an RN officer being posted to Budleigh Salterton dates from a 1773 lease. A "King's Boat" was certainly stationed in the town by 1786 because in an advert placed in the Exeter Flying Post where HM Customs offered a reward of £5 for its recovery, having been "lost???" from its moorings on Tuesday 5th December of that year.

Around 1820 an early Preventive Service watch house, later the first Coastguard station and boathouse, was built at the midpoint of the beach. The reason that a structure was provided for the boat, when all other boats were left on the beach in the open, was obviously for security, as evidenced by the report of the lost boat in 1786. From census records, we know that the Coastguards themselves occupied lodgings in the town.

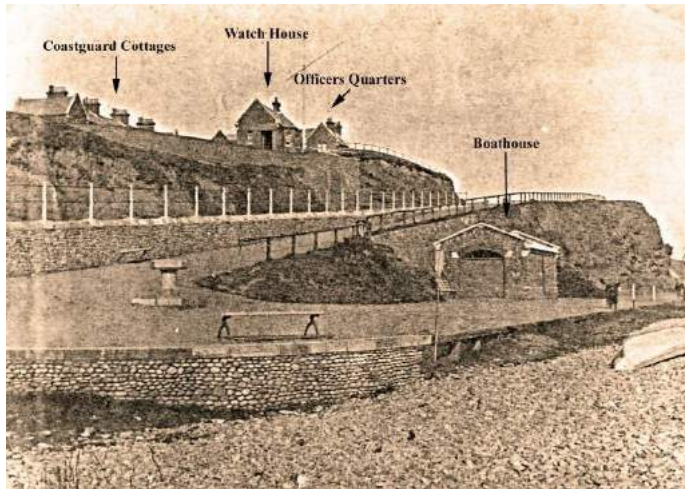
In 1866 the Clinton Estate gave notice that it wished to end the current lease of the Coastguard station in exchange for a new site, in order to extend the road and "develop" Marine Parade. This coincided with a decision in the Admiralty during the 1860s to stop renting Coastguard Stations and to buy them outright as part of cost control. In 1872, it was agreed that a new, and larger, Coastguard station should be built on land owned by Lord Rolle, linked to a boathouse on the seafront by a set of brick steps.



**First Coastguard Station c. 1860 showing location of new site**

The replacement site chosen on the top of a small prominence at the eastern end of the town was highly appropriate. There was room to provide a watch house and custom-built accommodation for the officers and men. From here the Coastguards would be distanced from the townsfolk and could dominate and survey the whole bay. It also provided an ideal signalling site. Plans for the complex, signed by John Haite, assistant civil engineer to the Admiralty and based at Devonport, are dated 20 February 1873. Exactly when the complex was built is uncertain. Ironically, most smuggling had been stopped by this time but the Coastguard maintained coastal surveillance and life-saving roles and provided a source of RN reservists.

The complex included a terrace of eight coastguard cottages, two Petty Officers' cottages, and a larger Officer's House with associated WC and coal sheds to the north and east of the site. There was a watch house and a flagstaff to the south (now demolished), and a rocket cart house and a wash house to the north. It was enclosed by a boundary "modesty" wall which is higher to the north of the site to conceal the outdoor privies from Coastguard Road. This was a stipulation made by Lord Rolle. This Coastguard Station is one of the best and complete surviving examples in the country.



**The 1872 complex realised**

The rocket cart was used for firing emergency lines to ships in distress. There are some Budleigh residents who remember witnessing rocket practice in the 1940s across the Otter at Otter head.



**Rocket cart on exercise at Otter mouth**



### **Rocket practice at Otter mouth**

To prevent collusion with the smuggling fraternity Coastguards were forbidden to engage in any form of trade, or to own or possess a share in any public house or shop, or to own a boat. Latterly, they could only be recruited from more than 30 miles distant. Life was hard, Coastguards frequently worked a 16-hour day, mostly at night. Instructions were issued just before a duty period but could not be communicated to families. No man had charge of the same guard on successive nights. Uniform was obligatory and all men received musket and cutlass drill. Coastguards did receive prize money shared according to rank on a published scale. Coastguards were also held responsible for all smuggling in their district. *“A list will in future be kept of every person serving at a station within which a run took place, and that no such officer or man will be considered eligible for promotion or entitled to any mark of indulgence or favour.”* (From orders 1829). It must have been hard in the earlier years living under these conditions and at odds with the local community.





### The Coastguards

Here are some examples of local Coastguard actions. In 1835 The Chief Officer of Coastguards at Budleigh Salterton was Lt. Clay. With his Chief Boatman they were assaulted on Budleigh Salterton beach by smugglers but managed to seize 52 tubs of brandy and geneva; a William Rattenbury was arrested. In 1820 HMS Scourge (Revenue Cruiser) recovered 80 tubs of spirits off Otterton Ledge which had been dropped by John Rattenbury from the boat "Hannah". The Scourge caught up with the Hannah off Salterton and drove it onshore by gunfire below High Peak. John Rattenbury (father of William above) got away. In 1824 Philip Hodnett, boatman stationed at Salterton was violently assaulted by a gang of smugglers on Chiselbury (inaccessible from land). This action-packed first half of the century set the context for the subsequent increase in Coastguard establishment though the second half was rather tame by comparison.

*This article is drawn from research papers published by David Daniel, Roger Lendon and Gerald Millington in [OVApedia](#) (the OVA online local history archive). These papers contain the source references and much more information.*

## Ragwort, love it or hate it?

Few wild flowers in this country divide opinions like ragwort, *Senecio vulgaris*. As a child, I don't really remember it. Farmers worked hard to control it and a good word was never said about it. Currently, the plant is having a heyday, visible almost everywhere you go. On any recent trip along a motorway it will have been especially evident growing in central reservations where it's provided with perfect growing conditions and a constant wind to transmit its airborne seeds; ragwort heaven. A single plant can produce thousands of seeds.

Ragwort contains toxins, pyrrolizidine alkaloids which if eaten in sufficient quantities by farm animals can prove poisonous. Horses are especially at risk as, if they eat enough of it, it results in irreversible cirrhosis of the liver and death, though it's suggested that a horse would have had to have eaten 7% of its bodyweight over time for it to become fatal. Cattle are thought to be less vulnerable and sheep relatively resistant to the plants toxins.

Because of these known dangers, Ragwort is referred to in both the Weeds Act 1959, The Ragwort Control Act 2003 and Government Code of Practice 2004. Whilst Local Authorities and DEFRA have the powers to serve notice on landowners to remove the plant, the Acts do not specify compulsion to control it. The Code of Practice does expect landowners to prevent its spread especially if it's growing close to grazing land. This all seems very contradictory and the plants abundance suggests that authorities seldom use their powers.

Walking alongside nearby fields of dairy cows, it's interesting to note that the plant is allowed to grow suggesting that the modern farmer does not see it as such a hazard. The plants alkaline toxins apparently make the plant taste bitter so generally, animals don't eat it. As a result, ragwort plants stand proud amidst closely grazed pasture. The plant poses a greater threat to animals when contained in hay. I'm advised that it loses its smell and perhaps its bitterness and so is more readily eaten. This must cause anxiety for horse owners buying in winter feed.

Once established, the plant is hard to get rid of. In the past farmers pulled plants up or cut them down but from a small amount of remaining root a new plant will grow. If allowed to seed, all is lost. Plants can be sprayed when young with



glyphosate but that herbicide is now feared to be carcinogenic to humans and must never be used near water courses.

Many however see the plant in a more positive light. Most wildlife organisations praise its virtue as a source of food for insects at a time when many of our native plants are in decline. The Wildlife Trusts say that ragwort is one of the most used wildflowers by butterflies and that more than 200 species of invertebrates have been discovered on it. Others say that some 30 species of bee, beetle and other insects regularly use it, the most common being the black and red cinnabar moth. This moths black and yellow caterpillars can be seen devouring both flowers and leaves. By ingesting the plants toxins the caterpillars themselves become poisonous and their striking colours advertise this fact.



Although mainly forgotten now, the plant has been used for a number of human ailments and even my recent herb book mentions its use for eye and skin inflammation, ulcers, rheumatism and gout. This is based on long-standing remedies suggested in my copy of *The British Herbal* by Culpeper, first written in 1653. Culpeper also refers to the ragwort as St. James' wort, stagger wort,

stammer wort and segrum and suggests its use for various human ailments including 'to wash the mouth or throat that hath ulcers or sores', 'for swellings, hardness, or imposthumations', and 'for the quinsy and the king's evil'. He states that 'the plants juice is found to be singular good to heal green wounds', 'and heal old and filthy ulcers in the privities' as well as 'stayeth the malignity of fretting and running cancers and hollow fistulas' and so its list of virtues and applications go on. So, next time I get swellings, hardness or problems with my privities, perhaps I should visit my wildflower garden for a sprig of ragwort, or perhaps not.

***Geoff Porter, Natural Environment Committee***

## **The end of an era but not an end to the balsam just yet!**

Up-stream the Himalayan balsam management effort has seen a successful season with volunteers continuing to make a difference on the river Otter's tributaries. Several OVA members are active participants and volunteer weekly to remove this invasive non-native plant from the Colaton Brook or other areas in the valley, as part of a wider catchment plan with the PHCT or other groups. A cold spring allowed pullers to stay ahead of the seed for much of the summer.

After a decade of sustained progress, the Back Brook and Colyton Brook, can now be managed with a few dedicated volunteers, from source to floodplain. The Budleigh Brook, Knowle Brook and Shortwood Common still have sections to keep larger volunteer groups busy, but it is satisfying for all involved to see the impact simple hand pulling is having across all the current sites. Despite the good work new volunteers are always needed to support the effort. Do think of getting involved, even occasionally, next season.

Patrick Hamilton is stepping down as volunteer co-ordinator for the OVA's balsam project after over a decade. Leading his band of stalwarts since the beginning of the project in 2010 and with no successor his dedication, organisational skills and attention to detail will be much missed. However it is good to know that although the formal OVA involvement will end, some of his team are still keen to continue ... and we doubt Patrick has hung up his wellies completely, just yet!

Patrick received a token of appreciation from *Clinton Devon Estates*, for all the hard work he has put in for the last 11 years. A voucher for him and wife Gill, to



Your invitation to the

**OVA  
CHRISTMAS  
PARTY**

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December

East Devon Golf Club



## *OVA CHRISTMAS PARTY*

*The Executive Committee is delighted to invite you and your friends to the OVA Christmas Party to be held at East Devon Golf Club on Thursday, December 9th. It will be a great opportunity to participate in the social side of our organisation, spend time with old friends and maybe meet some new ones. We particularly extend a welcome to single members and new members. Please feel free to invite non-members to join in the fun.*

*The evening will commence with drinks at 7 pm, followed by a traditional three-course meal. As well as delicious food and good company, there will be musical and other entertainment, a fiendish quiz and a prize raffle.  
Why not book some places right now!*

*The cost is £32.50 per person. This will include a welcome drink (prosecco or fruit juice), a Christmas meal with choices to suit most tastes followed by coffee and mince pies.*

*Tickets are available until November 18th and will be mailed to you on receipt of: (1) a completed application form (multiple forms for large groups), (2) a cheque payable to the Otter Valley Association (not 'OVA'), and (3) a stamped sae. Send these to: Christmas Dinner, OVA, PO Box 70, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6WN. Also indicate each person's choice of food plus any dietary requirements and the name of anyone you would like to sit with (tables of 8 to allow for social distancing).*

*Alternatively, download the application form from:  
[www.ova.org.uk/event/thursday-9-december-ova-christmas-party](http://www.ova.org.uk/event/thursday-9-december-ova-christmas-party)*





### **Starters**

*Creamy Garlic Mushrooms topped with Stilton and served with crusty bread.*

*Traditional Prawn Cocktail served with wholemeal bread and butter*

*Goats Cheese Fritters served with a Roasted Red Pepper Sauce*

### **Main Courses**

*Traditional roast Turkey with all the trimmings*

*Individual Salmon en Croute*

*Mushroom, Spinach, Brie and Cranberry Wellington*

*All served with seasonal vegetables and roast potatoes*

### **Desserts**

*Traditional Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce*

*Chocolate Profiteroles with Baileys Cream*

*Selection of local Cheese and biscuits with grapes and celery*

*Coffee & Mince Pies*



# Christmas Party – Application for tickets

Please send me ..... Tickets

Name(s) ..... (2).....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Tel: .....

Email address .....

I enclose a cheque for £ .....

Menu selection (please tick)

**Starter**

- Mushrooms\*
- Prawn Cocktail\*
- Goats Cheese

**Main Course**

- Turkey\*
- Salmon
- Wellington

**Dessert**

- Christmas Pudding\*
- Profiteroles
- Cheese

Person 1	Person 2

Please add 'gf' or 'df' if you require the gluten/dairy free version of starred items. A Vegan menu can be prepared on request.

I would like to be seated with .....

Any queries? Please email [info@ova.org.uk](mailto:info@ova.org.uk)

***Don't forget to include a stamped, SAE with your application form.***



enjoy a meal at the Pig at Coombe, was presented by the Countryside Learning Officer, Kate Ponting.



**Volunteers from the OVA and the PHCT teams enjoyed a joint pub lunch in late September, to mark the end of the pulling season and the end of an era.**

Kate explained “Patrick’s relentless drive to get the job done has been an inspiration to me and co-ordinators in other areas. I have only been involved for a mere seven years but I learned a lot early on from Patrick. I can only hope to maintain his levels of enthusiasm”.

## **Public Rights of Way: Definitive Map Review - Budleigh Salterton Parish**

An open meeting at the Public Hall on September 1st marked the start of a review of public rights of way (PRoWs) in Budleigh Salterton. Following the review, the Definitive Map will be updated in line with all the approved PRoWs. These are divided into four categories: footpaths, bridleways, byways restricted to people, horses and non-mechanised vehicles, and unrestricted byways. The current PRoWs are shown on Ordnance Survey maps and on the Devon County Council website interactive map which can

be found at [www.devon.gov.uk/prow/](http://www.devon.gov.uk/prow/). The speaker did point out that although there are around sixty public footpaths registered in Budleigh Salterton the majority are short alleyways that connect roads in the built-up areas covering much of the parish. The review will be further simplified by the lack of any bridleways or byways and a declaration in 1925 by the then Lord Clinton that all existing paths on large areas of Clinton Devon land be given the legal status of public footpaths.

The County Council has been carrying out map reviews parish by parish since the late 1980s and the parishes of the lower Otter Valley are among the last to be tackled. There is a national deadline of January 1st, 2026 for changing the status of paths based on historical evidence alone, but the speaker, Alison Smith (DCC Definitive Map Coordinator) assured the meeting that any path a member of the public wants to be reclassified will be considered as long as she receives (preferably by e-mail to [alison.h.smith@devon.gov.uk](mailto:alison.h.smith@devon.gov.uk)) the suggested change and supporting evidence by the 2026 deadline. This is important for other parishes in the lower Otter Valley as there may not be enough time for their map reviews to be completed by the final deadline.

The Ramblers Association has been particularly active in the process of saving 'lost paths' through its 'Don't lose your way' campaign (<https://dontloseyourway.ramblers.org.uk>). Ramblers' members were asked to compare new and old maps and to highlight paths illustrated on the old versions but missing on the current map. This was done for each grid square (one square km) over the whole of the UK via a user-friendly interactive map display on their website. Members are now being asked to prioritise the paths identified, as there is no point in reinstating paths that no longer serve any purpose. Designated volunteers will investigate whether a particular path can be saved and prepare an application to change the Definitive map.

For our members living in Budleigh Salterton, now is the best time to submit information about paths you are aware of that were used in the past and you have some evidence of this, or are currently in use, but are not shown as PROWs on the Definitive Map. The information that should be

part of a submission includes User Evidence forms (as many as possible), Landowner Evidence forms and any documentary evidence such as old maps, estate plans, photos, parish meeting minutes and so on. The deadline for submissions to the Budleigh Salterton review is October 24th this year.

***Jon Roseway***

### **Lower Otter Restoration Project - *what you can expect this autumn.***

Work on the new cricket ground is well underway. The new pitches have been levelled and drainage work completed. Power has been brought to site to enable irrigation of the newly seeded grass. All this will ensure the playing surface is ready to play on in two seasons time.



***Aerial Photo courtesy of Rekord Media***

Vegetation clearance began last month, as planned, to enable the construction of the new road and for work to excavate creeks on the northern end of the site. This work is being timed to avoid bird nesting and dormice breeding season with ecologists present to monitor wildlife and oversee all clearance works.

To enable machinery, cars, delivery lorries and agricultural vehicles to use the road through the work site safely, parking on South Farm Road is now unavailable, although businesses at South Farm Court remain open as usual. Please make alternative parking arrangements for the duration of the works such as Lime Kiln car park (1km to the south) which enables straightforward level access to the reserve for those unable to walk far. Anyone leaving vehicles on the road edge on either side of the bridge or in passing places is likely to cause an obstruction and the police will be informed. Closing the informal spaces to the east of White Bridge has been unpopular with some local people but in addition to the safety considerations, any cars parked here were encroaching onto the SSSI reserve. These passing places attracted overnighting campervans and littering has been a problem. Towards the end of the project in 2023, visitors will be able to make use of the new car park, which is more appropriately sited for the benefit of wildlife and enjoyment of this special site.

A short section of Budleigh Salterton footpath 12 on the western edge of the valley is closed, close to where it joins South Farm Road, but the majority of the length can still be accessed from the bottom of Granary Lane up to the closure. This maintains an 'out and back' route. The eastern path (Otterton footpath 1) which takes the Southwest Coast path is unaffected. Public access will be maintained throughout the project although some paths may have temporary closures or be re-routed to keep walkers safe. Advance warning will be shared in local press and via onsite signage and project notice boards.

The outline programme looks like this:

- Autumn 2021 – main vegetation and tree clearance, start of new South Farm Road, western side of new bridge structure
- From 2022 – embankment earthworks, creation of tidal creeks south of South Farm Road, road and bridge construction, footbridge construction.
- Spring 2023 - completion of the Lower Otter Restoration Project.

A LORP Liaison Group has been established to provide effective and timely two-way conversations during the delivery phase, enabling the local community, specialist groups and wider public to be knowledgeable and well connected to the

project and the team delivering it. The group will meet regularly, with a broad membership including representation from the OVA along with county, district and town/village councillors, residents' groups or representatives, local businesses and other organisations. Meeting notes and actions will be shared on the LORP website: [www.lowerotterrestorationproject.co.uk](http://www.lowerotterrestorationproject.co.uk) and additional members are welcomed who can share updates and information with their communities and the wider public to maintain a productive dialogue with feedback to the project team. The next meeting will be in November.

The *Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust* (PHCT) are keen to build their volunteer network to support their work on the Otter Estuary as they already do on the Pebblebed Heaths. Anyone interested in early exploration of what this volunteer offer might look like is invited to express their interest by emailing [kate.ponting@clintondevon.com](mailto:kate.ponting@clintondevon.com) or look out for further details on social media over the next few weeks.

**Have you seen the new interpretation board, which is now in place on Budleigh Salterton sea front?**

It showcases how special this area is for wildlife from the spot where so many take in this iconic view. With original artwork by Mike Langman showing the estuary at mid-tide, information about the planned habitat improvements and how visitors can enjoy the area whilst ensuring they give wildlife space.



Thanks go to Budleigh Salterton Town council for suggesting the redundant plinth, East Devon District Council for permissions, Freeline Graphics for design work and Neil Simpson for crafting and installing the bespoke oak surround.

***Kate Ponting, Countryside Learning Officer, Clinton Devon Estates***

## **‘Nature Positive 2030’**

The **Joint Nature Conservation Committee** (more commonly known as JNCC), is the public body that advises the UK Government and devolved administrations on UK-wide and international nature conservation. It is the forum through which nature conservation bodies in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland discharge their statutory responsibilities across the UK and internationally.

The JNCC brings together, under an independent Chair, members from the nature conservation bodies for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and independent members appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to provide a shared scientific nature conservation service for the UK. It is the mechanism for the UK Government and devolved administrations to pool their resources to obtain evidence and advice on nature conservation and natural capital.

Their new report **‘Nature Positive 2030’** which was launched on 22 September 2021 shows that achieving nature commitments will deliver huge benefits to human health, well-being and our economy, and will require transformative change across society and in the way we protect, value, use and engage with nature.

The report also showcases the importance of utilising natural solutions to tackle climate change, highlighting the essential role of nature in helping us survive our uncertain future, and emphasising that nature’s ability to do so depends upon biodiverse ecosystems that are resilient to the changes ahead. Delaying action for nature will lead to greater economic costs, and increased environmental risks.

The headline message of the report is that it is not too late to become Nature Positive by 2030 provided we act now. Becoming Nature Positive means reversing the current declines in biodiversity, so that species and ecosystems begin to recover. This is an essential first step on the path to full nature recovery. The UK has committed to become Nature Positive by 2030 and this can be achieved, as described in this report. However, what happens in the next few years is critical: if species populations are to begin recovering by 2030, wildlife habitats need to be restored and created now. Nature recovery is within our grasp: we know what to do and how to do it. The time to act is now!

**For further information and to read the report go to: [www.jncc.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.gov.uk)**



This leaflet has been produced by the OVA as part of the East Budleigh Heritage Project which was set up to review the Conservation Area with the involvement of the local community. Local or non-designated heritage assets were also identified and listed, and a management plan was produced and the review was adopted by East Devon District Council. The design is down to the artistic skills of Jacqui Best, an OVA member, who produced the leaflet.

### Summary of Special Interest

A distinctive, quality streetscape with a consistent line of buildings, rooflines and chimneys, giving a sense of unity.

An unchanged scene, including unspoilt frontages, intact chimneys and cobbled verges, offering a feeling of stepping back in time. A lack of intrusion from parked cars, modern adverts or shop signs.

Many good examples of simple vernacular architecture, including terraced cob and thatch cottages, often in groups, with a high proportion of traditional rendered plus whitewashed front walls.

A wide variety of local materials used in the buildings, surfaces and boundaries, including rendered cob, fine brickwork and flint, which add identity and richness to the scene. Attractive iron railings and several small bridges over a brook offer further interest.

Landmark buildings including All Saints' Church and Wynards House which provide focus and prominence at either end of the finely proportioned, steeply rising High Street.


A sense of enclosure and tranquility with extensive boundary and retaining walls, reinforced by views glimpsed out towards the undulating open countryside which is in close proximity.

The churchyard is an important green open space with many fine specimen trees as well as those on Vicarage Road, whilst important hedgerow trees form the south-western boundary of the conservation area.



*A full statement can be read on page 2 of the Conservation Area Appraisal.*

For further information, please see:  
 East Devon District Council: [www.eastdevon.gov.uk](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk)  
 The Otter Valley Association (OVA): [www.oval.org.uk](http://www.oval.org.uk)  
 Historic England: [www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk)

*\*The project was organised by the OVA supported by East Devon District Council, kindly funded by East Devon AONB (SDF) and the Norman Family Charitable Trust.*



### EAST BUDLEIGH CONSERVATION AREA

**Conservation area boundary**  
**Grade I Listed Building**  
**Grade II\* Listed Building**  
**Grade II Listed Building**  
**Locality Listed Heritage Asset**

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#### East Budleigh Heritage Project

This leaflet has been produced by the Otter Valley Association as part of the "East Budleigh Heritage Project," which was set up to review the conservation area with the involvement of the local community. Local or non-designated heritage assets were also identified and a management plan was produced.

The designation of East Budleigh Conservation Area in 1973 indicates the district council's positive commitment to the area. An appraisal sets out what is special in terms of the area's architectural quality and historic interest, to ensure its character is preserved or enhanced. This special character helps to form a sense of place and identity, which is a positive factor for people's wellbeing, whilst encouraging a place to be more highly valued and sustainable in social, economic and environmental terms.

The 'East Budleigh Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan' adopted by the district council in 2020 includes detailed maps showing the area's important features. A 'Statement of Special Interest' helps to inform decision making, a summary of which is provided on the back of this leaflet. The management plan sets out how the area's special qualities can be preserved or enhanced without compromising the quality of the historic environment.

Full details can be viewed on East Devon District Council's website, under 'Conservation areas' or 'East Devon Heritage and Local Heritage Assets'.

#### Living in a conservation area

Conservation areas are not open-air museums, but living communities which must be allowed to change over time, in order to remain vibrant and prosperous. Consequently the emphasis is to guide and control development rather than to prevent it. It is important though, that all new development is sympathetic and complementary to the special qualities of the area, particularly in terms of siting, scale, design, use of materials and the space between buildings.

East Devon District Council has statutory powers to control changes within its conservation areas. The main requirements are, for:

**New development:** Planning permission and a very high standard of design sympathetic to the existing environment, which must make a positive contribution to the character of the conservation area.

**External alterations to buildings:** Planning permission for alterations including the installation of exterior cladding, windows, satellite dishes or solar panels, the installation, alteration or replacement of a chimney, flue or soil and vent pipe visible from the highway, laying paving, building walls or the addition of a conservatory or extension.

**Permitted Development Rights** that may apply to dwellings elsewhere do not usually apply within conservation areas but it is always advisable to check what the current rights are. Listed Building Consent is also needed for any alterations to listed buildings, including any curtilage listed structures.

**Demolitions:** Planning permission to demolish the whole or part of most buildings and structures, including walls and outhouses. It is advisable to check on current requirements.

**Trees:** Six weeks notice in writing to the district council if you wish to fell, lop or top, or uproot trees.


**Maintenance, repairs and energy efficiency**  
 The success of a conservation area depends on the care owners take with the maintenance and repair of their properties and any alterations they make. Cumulatively, even small changes can detract from the special character of an area, devaluing its significance. For example, original windows and doors should be repaired, or replaced with new ones to match the originals in terms of materials and design.

There are many small jobs that can be done every year to keep properties in good condition, including:

- cleaning gutters and other rainwater goods
- removing weeds from masonry, and
- retouching paintwork on doors and windows

These can help to prevent damage, maintain value and save costs in the long term. Some tasks could be organised as a community project.

There are also many sensitive ways to improve the energy efficiency of an historic building, helping to lower carbon emissions and fuel bills whilst improving comfort. Through these methods, the breathability of traditional materials, which are highly sustainable, can be maintained. Historic England has an excellent range of advice and guidance notes on its website.



Cobblestone paving and granite setts, High St

Dee Woods, Heritage Asset Project Coordinator

# WALKING



Welcome to our Autumn and early Winter programme of walks, there is plenty of variety within the routes and a selection of distances so we should all be able to find something to suit.

We have walks on a Saturday to accommodate those who are working or have commitments during the week.

We are heading further afield to the Monument at Wellington and Iron-age Hillfort at Castle Neroche. Nearer to home there is a lovely selection of local walks which cover coast, countryside and commons.

From now on we are moving from a centralised booking system to a hybrid approach and many walks will not require any prior booking, although some will necessitate booking with the Walk Leader direct. Please check the individual walk details for guidance.

Finally, a huge thank you to the wonderful Walk Leaders who have maintained a Walk programme whenever the guidelines have permitted it. They have adapted their approach to comply with the changing rules and the time and effort they put into compiling, reconnoitring the walks and writing up the description and information are all much appreciated

Many thanks for your support

***Jane Connick and The Walks Team***

## Walks Programme – October to December 2021

Please consult the OVA Website for late alterations or additional information.

All OS references are to Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Explorer maps

**Saturday 9 October - 10.00am - 5.2 miles, 3 hours**

***'An early Autumn foray'***

Meet: Newton Poppleford School Lane car park (OS115, SY 088 899)

We head out of Newton Poppleford onto Harpford Common and then onto Venn Ottery with a stop for coffee.

**Walk Leader: Sarah Westacott 01395 277644**

*No booking required*

**Tuesday 12 October - 10.00am - About 10 miles, 5 hours plus lunch.**

***'A Monument to Wellington'***

Meet: Wellington Car Park (OS128, ST 143 167)

Outstanding views from the monument, followed by a delightful walk down into the Culm Valley for lunch at the Culmstock pub, Riverside. Return via a ridge walk overlooking Clements Common.

**Walk Leader: Iain Ure & Dee Woods 01395 568158**

**Booking required** *Bookings open 10 days before the walk by e-mail to [urewoods@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:urewoods@globalnet.co.uk). Numbers for the table reservation are required by Friday 8 October 2021 at the latest.*

**Wednesday 20 October - 10.00am - 6miles, 3 hours.**

***'A walk on three commons'***

Meet: Uphams Plantation CP (OS115, SY 041 861)

A circular walk around Woodbury, East Budleigh and Bicton Commons using roads, tracks and paths, some of which may be less familiar. Bring a flask for a coffee stop.

**Walk Leader: Graham Knapton 01395 445872**

**No booking required**

**Thursday 28 October - 10.00am - 7.5 miles, 4 hours plus lunch**

***'A glide around the Blackdowns to whet your appetite'***

Meet: Rhodendron Walk car park (OS115, ST 095 068). Please car share, if possible, as parking is limited

A woodland and quiet lane walk around the hills above the Culm Valley taking in some hamlets you've probably never heard of! (We hadn't). There should be spectacular views and hopefully the leaves will be turning, you may even get a chance to watch the gliders taking off above North Hill, weather permitting. Please bring a picnic.

**Walk Leaders: Paul & Fran Dike 01297 20695 / 07977 057546**

**Tuesday 2 November - 10.00 am - 7.5 miles, 4 hours plus lunch**

***'Beautiful Escot'***

Meet: Ottery St Mary, Canaan Way Car Park (£) (OS115, SY095 955)

The walk follows the River Tale into Escot Park and onto Feniton. The return route to Ottery is via the River Otter. Please bring a picnic

**Walk Leader: Ted Swan 01395 567450**

**Saturday 6 November - 10.00am - 5.2. miles, 3 hours**

***'Autumnal stroll around Stowford and Naps lane'***

Meet: Colaton Raleigh Church (OS115, SY 081 872)

We leave Colaton Raleigh and head out first to Stowford, touching the edge of Woodbury Common, followed by Naps Lane and with a stop for coffee.

**Walk Leader: Sarah Westacott 01395 277644**

**Wednesday 10 November - 10.00am - 5.5 miles, 2.5 hours**

***'A circle around Fire Beacon'***

Meet: Bowd lay-by (west of pub on A3052) (OS115, SY 104 898)

The walk starts by following the old railway line through Harpford Wood to Tipton St John. We then begin our steady climb to Hollow Head Cross before returning via Core Hill Wood and the edge of Harpford Common to our cars. We will be stopping for coffee so bring a flask.

**Walk Leader: Graham Knapton 01395 445872**

**Wednesday 17 November - 10.00am - Just over 5 miles, 3 hours**

***'Littleham Large'***

Meet: Budleigh Salterton Public Hall CP (OS115, SY 061 820)

Follow quiet roads and footpaths to Littleham where we visit the Churchyard of Saint Margaret & Saint Andrew, the location of Lady Nelson's tomb. Then after passing through the Devon Cliffs Holiday Park, we return to Budleigh Salterton along the South West coast path.

**Walk Leader: Steve Hagger 01395 442631**

**Tuesday 23 November - 10.00am - 5.5 miles, 3 hours.**

**'Otter and Coast, but which way?'**

Meet: The Green, Fore Street, Otterton, parking in nearby roads (OS115, SY 081 852) What3words ///ranted.fork.prune.

This walk will take in the River Otter and the coast path, but which way we go will depend on how waterlogged the paths are at the time of the recce. Floods permitting, we will do a loop northward via Seaview Farm and Peak Hill returning via Ladram Bay. If the green lanes north of Otterton are deep in water, we will go south via the White Bridge and follow the coast to Brandy Head and back past Stantyway Farm. Anyone keen to do one route but not the other can contact the leader a day or two beforehand to check which one we will be taking. In either case we will pause on the coastal section for coffee so bring a flask.

**Walk Leader: Ross Hussey**

**Booking required** *Book with the Walk Leader by e-mail or phone. Bookings open a week before the walk. 01395 227991 e-mail [rdandamhussey@hotmail.com](mailto:rdandamhussey@hotmail.com) (or contact on the day 07902 255915)*

**Tuesday 30 November - 10.00 am - 8.5 miles, 5 hours.**

**'Castle Neroche Iron-Age Hillfort'**

Meet: Car Park (OS128, ST 274 157)

Easy walk, mostly good tracks (one wettish bit), short length of road, mainly forest and farmland. Bring lunch.

**Walk Leader: Iain Ure and Dee Woods 01395 568158**

**Booking required** *Booking opens 7 days before the walk by e-mail to [urewoods@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:urewoods@globalnet.co.uk).*

**Saturday 11 December - 10.00am - 9 miles (day walk)**

**'Around the Commons'**

Meet: Uphams car park (OS115, SY 041 861)

A day walk with stops for coffee and picnic lunch. Starting at Uphams Plantation car park on Woodbury Common we will head to Uphams Plantation, Hawkerland, Stoneyford, Colaton Raleigh Common and Castle Plantation.

**Walk Leader: Sarah Westacott 01395 277644**

**Wednesday 15 December - 10.00am - 5 miles, 3 hours**

**'Wheathill, the Gibraltar Stone and Stowford,'**

Meet: Wheathill Plantation car park (OS115, SY 041 847)

A bracing walk through WW2 remains of Dalditch Camp returning along the eastern fringe of the Common above Yettington.

**Walk Leader: Brian Turnbull 01395 567339**

***The following walks took place in accordance with the guidelines and restrictions in place at the time. All Walk Reports appear on the website - many thanks to contributors.***

### **Wednesday, 7th July “Sid Valley Ring - Part Two” with Viv Insull**

Viv led Part One (the western half) of this relatively new official walking route in February 2020, but unexpected events then took over and it was only possible for her to take us on Part Two nearly 17 months later. After that long wait, three members of the party nearly missed the proceedings as they failed to get off the bus from Sidmouth when it stopped in Sidbury. They would have been on their way to Honiton if the bus driver hadn't taken pity on them and stopped again almost immediately!

The route ascends gradually from Sidbury on lanes and tracks around Buckton Hill to Harecombe Farm, where it crosses the Snod Brook. After that we passed through the grounds of the imposing Knowle House and climbed up through fields and woods to the always busy main coast road, which we crossed with great care and trepidation. Here the route leaves the Sid Valley and heads south towards the sea, joining the SW coast path at Dunscombe. The display of flowers on the grassy clifftop was wonderful with a good number of Pyramidal Orchids showing off their beauty.



Heading westwards towards Sidmouth we stopped for lunch at the bench with the “best view in East Devon” according to one of our group. It's certainly a good spot to see the fresh scar on the cliff beyond Weston Combe that resulted from a large rockslide the previous Autumn. We continued along the coast path, but soon diverted inland to contour round Salcombe Regis and rejoined the coast path at the Frog Stone thus avoiding a steep ‘down and up’. From there it was straight down into Sidmouth and across the impressive new footbridge over the Sid.

It was well worth the wait to experience this walk through varied and beautiful scenery and we expressed our thanks to Viv for leading it.

***Jon Roseway (with photo by Heather Fereday)***



## **Wednesday, 21st July “The Path Less Travelled” with Brian Turnbull**

It was quite a challenge to lead a walk on the hottest day of the year - especially as it was the first time there had been a Met Office Amber Warning of Extreme Heat - but Brian was ahead of the game. He'd decided to reverse his original route so that most of the uphill part came first, leaving the shady paths for later in the morning.

Eleven walkers, kitted out with sun hats and plenty of water, set out on the East Devon Way, passing through the apple orchards into Southerton. From there the path slowly ascended through dappled woodland to a sun-drenched Harpford Common where the heather was in full bloom. Past Benchams, a quick head count revealed four missing, but the walkers who'd stopped to take photographs of a Silver Studded Blue butterfly were quickly rounded up and our walk continued to Venn Ottery Hill where we skirted the quarry on a shady path, emerging on to a lane with wonderful views in all directions.

Then a sunken green lane brought us into Venn Ottery, where we had a short stop to admire St. Gregory's church with its Saxon tower and round doorway, the only part of the church which survived a fire in the 18th century which also destroyed most of the village.



The final part of the walk was an intriguing network of little-used and rather overgrown paths, passing a “badger city” and through shoulder-high bracken and wildflowers. We saw several other butterfly species along the way – speckled wood, peacock, silver washed fritillary and meadow brown. This was a very enjoyable, intriguing and varied walk – the perfect length for such a sizzling day.

It was good to walk with friends again and to enjoy a relaxing morning together after such a chaotic period in all our lives. Our thanks to Brian Turnbull for planning and leading this lovely walk.

***Rosemary Hatch (with photo by Stella French)***

## **Tuesday, 3rd August “Otter and Orchards” with Ross Hussey**

After all the downpours in the previous few days it was great to start off our walk from Newton Poppleford in sunshine. There were 8 of us joining our leader Ross for a 5 mile walk, advertised as a walk taking in hamlets west of the Otter.

We did start off along the western side of the River Otter towards Tipton St John then continued into the Recreation Grounds turning to our left to climb on our way towards Venn Ottery. Some of the paths were rather muddy but we all managed to clamber up the slopes and then stopped near St. Gregory’s Church in Venn Ottery village. What an amazing 15th century tower to admire and so hidden behind modern houses.



Here we stopped for a drink before continuing back to Newton Poppleford via Southerton mostly on the East Devon Way. My phone app said I had walked over 16,000 steps and 9.5 km. An enjoyable walk with great people to chat to.

***Lucilla Phelps***

## The Otter Valley Association

### Executive Officers (01395)

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

### Executive Committee Members

Natural Environment Chair	Chris Hodgson	01404 815604
Planning Chair	<b><i>vacancy</i></b>	
Membership Secretary	Clive Bowman	446892
	<a href="mailto:membership@ova.org.uk">membership@ova.org.uk</a>	
	George Maddaford	446077
	Jon Roseway	488739
	Philip Jones	
Talks Organiser	Peter Baldwin	567599
Events Organiser	<b><i>vacancy</i></b>	
Minutes Secretary	Rosemary Jerrard	442050
Newsletter Editor	Jacqui Baldwin	567599
	<a href="mailto:jacquibaldwin@btinternet.com">jacquibaldwin@btinternet.com</a>	
Natural Environment	Geoff Porter	567055

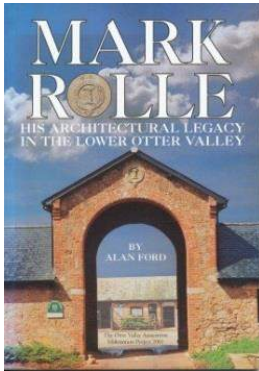
### Parish Representatives (to whom concerns should be addressed initially)

Budleigh Salterton	George Maddaford	as above
East Budleigh	Jon Roseway	as above
Otterton	Pat & Geoff Porter	as above
Newton Poppleford	Haylor Lass	as above
Colaton Raleigh	<i>vacancy</i>	

### Other Contacts

Webmaster	Martin Smith	as above
History Advisor	David Daniel	445960
Walks Organisers	Jane Connick	233614
	Jon Roseway	as above
Publications	Jon Roseway	as above
Newsletter Distributors	Philip Jones	

## 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.