

OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

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www.oval.org.uk



*[A Beginner's Guide to Meadows](#)
[Talk at the AGM \(See Centre Pull Out\)](#)*

VOLUME 30/2

April 2009

Registered Charity No. 278266

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Chairman's Message



The weather exercised a major influence on the OVA's programme in the early part of 2009. The first walk of the year on a pleasant January day attracted very large numbers but the talk on National Parks, due to take place in Otterton, had to be cancelled because of the February snow. Fortunately normal service was resumed in March.

The Executive Committee are very grateful to the enthusiastic members who came to the Members' Forum to discuss the Green Agenda and to Ian Bateman, Climate Change Officer at Devon County Council, who set the scene for us. We are considering a wide range of proposals and have already agreed to use our new website to provide information on green issues (*see Pg. 12*).

Some members may have seen the exhibition mounted by EDDC in the Public Hall in January to invite comments on their consultation document, Issues and Options on the Local Development Framework. The OVA's press release which was aimed at encouraging a wider response from local people was rearranged by The Journal on publication and hence seemed to suggest that the controversial idea for 'an enhancement' of the seafront at Budleigh Salterton came from the OVA! The Journal wrote and published a subsequent item affording some clarification but be assured that the OVA's response to the consultation stressed the need for safeguarding the unspoilt nature of the beach and its environs, as per the Jurassic Coast management measures of which EDDC is a signatory.

The AGM papers are included with this newsletter (any nominations to be received 14 days beforehand) and we look forward to seeing you there and at some of the interesting events and outings planned for this summer.

Helen Tickle



From the Editor



This time's Newsletter is a little bulkier than normal with two pull-outs in the centre. Not only do you have the normal Diary pages but also, this time to save envelopes, we have included the AGM Agenda and Minutes.

Green issues have been much to the fore recently and in this edition we have mention of the Members' Forum and a report of the talk about Ottery's Transition Town movement. At the Member's Forum where we discussed the OVA's Green Agenda, the Newsletter was one of the areas on which we focused.

We obviously consume paper and ink in producing the Newsletter so I have checked with our printer and have established that they only use paper from sustainable sources. Similarly someone told me of a new Eco font which uses 20% less ink and has been made freely available. This article uses that font. However it has no italic or bold setting which makes it impractical for some parts of the Newsletter but I would be interested to hear what you think of it.

One other result of this focus is that with the advent of the new website (see article on Pg.12) we have the opportunity to plan for the future. We have therefore designed the website in such a way that everything that you currently get in the Newsletter will be available, in the not too distant future, on our website. You will then, should you chose, be able to opt out of receiving the printed Newsletter knowing that you will not be losing anything.

On a completely different tack, may I thank all those people who entered the Pirates competition. The answer is on page 13 along with another competition on page 14. I think this edition's may be a little easier but we shall see. Do please have a go and submit your answer by email or snail-mail (addresses on the back cover).

Finally, may I remind you of the 'Bus Pass Challenge'. We have a wonderful award for the person who has done the longest or most innovative journey using their Bus Pass. Entries for this should be sent to the Chairman or myself before the AGM when the award will be made.

Nick Speare

Birds and Hedgerows in Devon

At this time of year we all enjoy watching birds actively feeding and nesting in the garden and most of us will be careful not to damage their nests by cutting hedges during the nesting season. Most gardeners and landowners are sympathetic to the needs of birds and avoid damage to their nests and will be aware that major work on hedges should not be undertaken during the months from March to August, though some clipping may be necessary at this time. However, though farmers are generally well aware of legal requirements regarding their hedgerows, gardeners are generally not very well informed. In this article we explain the law, as we understand it, in relation to birds and hedges, with particular reference to Devon and Cornwall.



The law that applies to farmers and other land owners in the countryside also applies to garden hedges, though it is rarely enforced with respect to hedges. The relevant legislation is under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981. Under this Act it is an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird.
- intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.
- intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.



Recognising the importance of hedgerows to wildlife, local Councils in the southwest advise farmers and other land owners on the laws that relate to hedge cutting. For example, a leaflet “Cornish Roadside Hedge Management” offers advice to landowners on how and when to cut hedges to ensure road safety without affecting wildlife. Council authorities regularly remind landowners in rural areas of the importance of timely maintenance of hedges and some consider that it would be appropriate to extend their advice to urban as well as rural hedge owners. Perhaps the law relating to garden hedges needs to be publicised more widely but clearly it would be difficult to enforce and do we not already have too much regulation in our daily lives? Simply

reminding people not to cut their hedges between March and August, other than maintenance trimming, might be sufficiently effective.

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Annual Litter Pick



The annual litter-pick on the Otter Estuary took place on March 7th. The event took place somewhat earlier than usual this year to take advantage of prevailing low tides. The weather was particularly kind to us and there was a good turn-out of OVA members suitably equipped with wellingtons, gloves and litter bags. Staff from the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust were also there and organised the collection and disposal of litter from the eastern side of the estuary.

The river banks and marshy area between White Bridge and Lime Kiln Car Park were scoured. A motley collection of timber, tennis balls, plastic bags, toys and miscellaneous rubbish was collected, assembled on the Lime Kiln Car Park and picked-up by EDDC's Streetscene. Although a good deal of litter was removed, some regular participants thought that the total amount was less than in previous years, perhaps an indication that our efforts are having a long-term benefit.

Norman Crossland

Shouting over a Bridge

Clammer Bridge, is the local name for the footbridge across the Otter about half way between Otterton Bridge and White Bridge, but is spelled “Clamour” on the OD maps. A number of us agree on the local spelling but have found it difficult to find corroborating evidence. It is difficult to challenge the Ordnance Survey, seen by many as the authoritative source, but if the local spelling comes from a different stem, i.e. implies a different meaning, it is important preserve.

We knew we had seen it somewhere, possibly as a caption on an old photograph. Eventually, written evidence was rediscovered in Walter Scutt’s hand printed booklet produced in aid of the Otterton Church bells, published in 1935, where he used the remembered spelling.

Otterton then being “about a mile from Ottermouth,” the estuary must have been navigable up to the place where the Clammer foot-bridge now spans the river about a mile below Otterton.

The present Ottermouth is over two miles from Otterton, and the people now living in the village can hardly imagine it as a community of fisherfolk with a port for sea-going vessels. But the ‘shippes’ mentioned by Leland were small craft, probably no larger than an old yawl-rigged Brixham trawler.

We know, because it is not shown on the tithe map, that this pedestrian crossing of the Otter post dates the 1840s. So it is unlikely that the name refers to anything locally ancient. The current metal bridge is a replacement of the original narrow wooden one (so the name has nothing to do with the noise made when crossing it).

A number of us have had great fun propounding theories but the most likely explanation is that a “clam bridge” or “clammer” are old Devonian terms for a wooden footbridge. There is an old surviving example of a clam bridge at Lustleigh Cleave, and “clammer” is listed in a book of Devonian dialect, by Clement Marten, as a general term for a footbridge.

Which spelling should the OVA use?

David Daniel

OVApedia

OVApedia (there seems to be a general consensus that this is how we should spell it) has now been launched as part of the new website (*See Page 12 Ed*).

Has anyone got a photograph of the event immortalised in verse by the Otterton poet Redvers Buller Please?

“The League Winners”

A rhyme written to celebrate Otterton Football team winning the League cup - circa 1925

The Rollers of Otterton have had a good run
And this is the reason such wonders they've done

- (1) First there is our “Goalkeeper” Gray
To shoot past him would take all day
While just in front are the brothers Way
Every attack they keep at bay
- (2) Our “Right Half” is called Harry Smith
He always gives the ball a biff
He never lets it upwards soar
But always pushes it along the floor
- (3) Our “Centre Half” we all adore
He answers the name of Harry Tay-lor,
He feeds his forwards with judgement true
And knows exactly what to do
- (4) Our “Left Half” is called Vinnicombe
He never tells of wonders done
But always acts both deaf and dumb
And maps out plans for games to come
- (5) Our “Outside Right” is Bertie Prew
He gets the defence in an awful stew
And when with the ball he starts to run
You know he's not on the field for fun

- (6) At “Inside right” we’ve Edward Till
You never see him standing still
But always dashes to the fore
Ever trying goals to score
- (7) Fred Farrent is our “Centre” chap
He never stops to take a nap
If it’s fine or if it’s wet
He’s sure to get the ball in the net
- (8) Our “Inside left” is Reg Litton
Many a hat trick he has done
I hope he continues to do the same
I know he’s very fond of the game
- (9) At “Outside Left” is Gerry Smith
Oh by gum he makes ‘em shift
His opponents often get quite blue
When find out what he’s going to do
- (10) Now if I’ve only mentioned eleven
You’ll say where are the other seven
So I will try to find a plan
To mention the others if I can
- (11) Hitchcock and Coats are two you know
They’ll always try their best to show
The latter is by no means soft
But the former once was “ordered off”
- (12) Fayter and Collins are two more
Ever trying to increase our score
While in defence they both are grand
?-----?
- (13) Ebdon now must come you know
He caused a sensation by being a ‘Pro’
But meeting galore we will endure
To make him again – an amateur

- (14) I must mention now our treasurer
He answers the name of Frank Baker
He lately has given the game a rest
But keeps us from financial stress
- (15) Our secretary is Reginald Hart
He never keeps back in the dark
He always stands out in the light
Keeping all accounts to right
- (16) There's just one more to go with these
You all know "Sarkey" Bullar Please
Well he has scribbled out this bit
And thinks it not a bit too thick
- (17) Before I close I'd like to say
There'll be some fun on Empire Day
I'm hoping that you'll all turn up
To see the medals and the CUP

R.B.P

Submitted by Roz Hickman

From the papers of her Grandfather: Major W.J. Gray

Whether the Weather - What do the Stars Say? Spring Forecast for 2009

Everybody complains about the weather. The Greek poet Hesiod was grumbling about the effect of the stars upon the weather back in 700 BC but the earliest Astro-meteorologist whose work still survives was the Greek philosopher and scientist Aristotle. He wrote 'The Meteorologica' some 350 years later. Aristotle knew that when the Sun, Moon and planets formed specific angular relationships to the Earth certain known influences resulted, and it is mainly on his work and that of his prolific pupil Theophrastus that I am basing my spring forecast for 2009.

And a miserable forecast it turns out to be my dear fellow OVARians! Forget about global warming: the rest of the world may be suffering from a shortage of water but it looks as though we here in East Devon are in for as wild, wet and windy a spring in 2009 as Hesiod experienced in Greece 2,709 years ago. The weather doesn't seem to change much does it?

The planet Saturn is the culprit in that he tends to concentrate the qualities of the Zodiacal sign he occupies, and so a temperature chart cast for the Vernal Equinox at 11:44 am GMT on 20th March 2009 and depicting gloomy Saturn occupying the lower meridian opposed by windy Mercury, bodes ill, in that England as a whole will experience an exceptionally cold and blustery Spring season with sudden drops in temperature, increased wind velocity, localized storms, overcast skies and intermittent chilly damp drizzles. Like Hesiod, we will all be complaining like mad!

With the Moon in stormy Capricorn squaring up to Saturn at the solar ingress there will be some pretty spectacular thunder storms in and around the Otter Valley this Spring, occurring just when we least expect or want them! The Moon rules moisture and Saturn produces a counter-clockwise airflow of low pressure systems resulting in cold, grey leaden skies with low hanging clouds, east winds and falling barometers, which combined with the volatile wind velocity of Uranus will instigate at least two hailstorms and possibly even unseasonal sleet in the upper

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reaches of the Otter Valley, and less destructive but equally wet rain squalls down along the coast. Strictly *entre nous*, I am worried these subnormal temperatures and the excessive damp and cloudiness will prove injurious to crops and consequently send the price of vegetables and grain soaring.

April will blow in very wet and windy indeed, but temperatures should rise a little around the 8th or 9th, and the winds calm down when Mercury moves out of contentious Aries into balmy Taurus. But volatile planetary aspects will cause several more isolated rain or thunder showers up and down the valley just after midmonth between the 15th and the 20th when there could be torrential downpours; watch those umbrellas from blowing inside out late evening on the 19th! The New Moon on 25th April should guarantee several dry, fair to breezy days for Budleigh Salterton's Jazz week, with clouds scudding along freely in an open sky, but I am not at all confident about the damp keeping totally away for the jazz lovers, especially after sunset.

May arrives and unfortunately so too does the rain again, sweeping in overnight on the 2nd/3rd. On the whole it will feel much chillier than normal for this time of the year with fluctuating temperatures sparking off thunderstorms within the valley, especially in the daytime between the full Moon on the 9th and the last quarter Moon on the 17th. The new Moon of 24th May should herald a gusty start to Gala week in Budleigh Salterton but I am expecting some rather strange, even freakish weather around then. There is an unusual configuration on 26th/27th May that could induce isolated, torrential downpours and flash flooding around this time, so if you live in a low lying area be warned, and if vulnerable take precautions.

June at last! Mercury will now be moving in forward motion bringing softer conditions during the first week but it will still feel much cooler than normal for the time of the year; and with erratic Uranus and Neptune prominent watch out for sudden squalls around the 7th. In fact some of our members could even experience unseasonable hail in the second week! And even though the thermometer should rise towards the end of the month sunshine will be in short supply and we will still

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be clutching our umbrellas in the final week of the month when I don't discount yet more rain and possibly even yet another thunderstorm!



I really do apologise to be the bearer of such bad tidings! This coming spring unfortunately appears to be unusually chilly and overcast, not just for us here in the Otter Valley, but for the U.K. as a whole; but I promise to search very hard to find some summer sunshine for you in the next newsletter!

A very Happy Easter to you all!

Caroline Allen

This is not part of Caroline's forecast but was a picture that was on the internet and which Caroline spotted. Ed



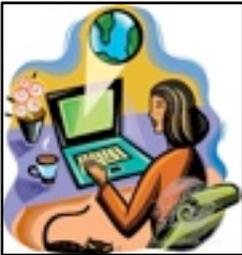
Ice Circle on the Otter

New OVA Website

Our new website went live early in March. We had been working on a redesign of the website since autumn 2008 shortly after the idea of the OVApedia came up from the History Group.



The new website gives us something we never had before – a Content Management System or CMS. This allows me, the Webmaster, and a small web team, to be able to change the content of the web pages. Also we can add and remove pages, put in new photographs and generally be able to refresh the content and keep everything up to date and more interesting. This may not sound very ground breaking stuff but we weren't able to do this before.



The ability to add new pages is exactly what is needed for the OVApedia as more and more historical content is forthcoming. We also have a search facility for the website allowing free text searches just like Google.

The new website has been developed for us by Cosmic of Ottery St Mary, www.cosmic.org.uk, and they have also added in a Message/Forum Board which will allow all members to contribute and discuss ideas. There will be more about this in the next newsletter.



Have a look at the website and keep an eye on it over the coming months as we develop the OVApedia and the Message Forum takes off.

We think we have arrived in the 21st Century.

Alan Huddart

Pirates Answer



The Pirates' Conundrum proved much more challenging (it seems) with only 4 correct answers. First out of the tricorn and winner of the £10 book token is the OVA's own weather girl Caroline Allen.

The answer for anyone still thinking about the puzzle is:

Pirate 1 should propose to give Pirates 3, 5, 7 and 9 one gold piece each and keep the other 96 pieces for himself!

He only needs the votes of four other pirates for his proposal to be accepted. He gets the votes of Pirates 3, 5, 7 and 9 because they realise that, unless they support his proposal, they will end up getting nothing or walking the plank.

Imagine for a moment that there were only three pirates. Pirate 1 should offer Pirate 3 one gold piece and keep the rest. If Pirate 3 does not support Pirate 1, Pirate 1 will die. Then Pirate 2 will propose to keep the lot, vote for his own proposal and Pirate 3 will get nothing.

What if there were four pirates? Again Pirate 1 should bribe Pirate 3 with one gold piece and keep the rest. If Pirate 3 does not support Pirate 1, Pirate 1 will die. With only Pirates 2, 3 and 4 remaining, we are back to three pirates. Pirate 2 will bribe Pirate 4. Pirate 4 will support the proposal for the reasons given in the previous example, and again Pirate 3 will get nothing.

Still not convinced? If there were five pirates, Pirate 1 should bribe Pirates 3 and 5. If Pirates 3 and 5 do not both support the proposal, Pirate 1 will die, and we are back to four pirates. Pirate 2 will then bribe Pirate 4, and Pirates 3 and 5 will get nothing.

Each time you add a pirate, Pirate 1 just needs to bribe the odd-numbered pirates because, if they don't support him, they get nothing when Pirate 2 makes his proposal.

I hope you find *The Masters' Plaza* easier. Ed

April's Puzzle

This edition's puzzle is similar to 'Who Owns the Fish' but hopefully a little healthier. The Masters smoking habits are not considered and so for the sake of the puzzle you may assume that the hotel (The Masters' Plaza) is wholly non-smoking.



You have the chance to take your room in the "Masters Plaza", a hotel in which 5 masters (5 of the most intelligent people who ever lived) are present. The hotel consists of 5 rooms and a small restaurant that contains 5 tables. The four masters present are: Albert Einstein, Galileo Galilei, Hassan Issa and Archimedes.

Each master has a rank which shows his level of thinking with respect to the whole group. The master with the first rank is said to be the head master, and he is not you. Rooms, as well as tables, are successively numbered from 1 to 5 in a way that each master lives in a room and eats on a table different in number from his rank. To avoid confrontation, masters with successive ranks are neither allowed to live in rooms next to each other nor to eat on tables next to each other.

To take up your room in the Plaza, you just have to know your rank, table number and room number knowing that:

- Archimedes doesn't eat on the fifth table.
- Einstein is not the head master.
- Archimedes has exactly the middle rank between Hassan and you.
- Einstein is more intelligent than Archimedes.
- Galileo eats on a table next to that of Einstein.
- Hassan does not eat on a table with the same number as his room.

The Question: What are the ranks, room numbers, and table numbers of the five masters?

Good Luck
Ed.

APRIL - JUNE 2009



April 1, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

Joney's Cross CP, SY057898. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Harpford Common, Newton Poppleford, Dotton, Vennings Copse. Tracks and lanes. May be muddy and stony.

Walk leader: Gordon Wilson, 01395 568594



April 18, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

Crook Plantation, Stowford, SY 057866. 5 miles - 2½ hours. Woodbury and Bicton commons, Yettington. May be muddy.

Walk leader: Shane Badham, 01395 567531



April 22, Wed - 10.00am. TOWN WALK (Easy)

Ottery St Mary CP, SY095955 (charges apply). 2½ miles - 2½ hours. In and around Ottery St Mary; local history, buildings and church; pavements and riverside paths. (*See Jan Newsletter Pg. 15*)

Walk leader: David Nangle, 01404 811752



April 23, Thurs – 7.30pm TALK Newton Poppleford Church Hall - **'The Wildlife of the Exe Estuary and Jurassic Coast'**.

Speaker: Rod Lawrence (*See Pg. 22*)



April 29, Wed - 2.00pm TOWN WALK

The Green, Otterton **by ticket only** (*See pg. 21*)

Walk Leader: Gerald Millington – Clinton Devon Estates Archivist



May 2, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) / Lunch

Peak Hill CP, SY109872. 4 miles, 2¼ hours. Mutters Moor and Bulverton Hill at bluebell time. Easy pace, some gradients. Optional lunch in Otterton.

Walk leader: Phil Ashby, 01395 512339

May 5, Tues – 7.30pm. AGM (*See centre pull-out*)

May 12 Tues - 8.30pm. Bats at Pulhayes Farm (*See Pg. 24*)



May 13, Wed - 2.00pm OTTERTON TOWN WALK

The Green, Otterton **by ticket only** (*See pg. 21*)

Walk Leader: Gerald Millington – Clinton Devon Estates Archivist .

APRIL - JUNE 2009 ctd



May 16, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)

Colaton Raleigh church (roadside parking), SY082872. 7 miles, 3½ hours. Riverside, lanes, Mutters Moor, Passaford Lane (steep).

Walk leader: Brian Turnbull, 01395 567339

May 21, Thurs - 10.00am Visit to Blackhill Quarry, (*see page 17*)

May 23, Sat – BUDLEIGH SALTERTON GALA

May 24, Sun – 10.00am. Young Pirates' Treasure Hunt.

Limekiln CP Under 12s chance to win prizes by finding Golden Pebbles



May 26, Tues - 10.00 am TOWN WALK

Budleigh Salterton Methodist Church car park (donations to Lions).



May 27, Wed - 2.00pm. WALK (Artists' walk, Easy)/Cream tea

Lime Kiln CP (charges apply), SY073820. 4 miles, 2½ hours. Riverside paths and lanes with short stops for sketching and demo's (non-artists welcome!). Optional cream tea at the Long Range Hotel.

Walk leader: Jed Falby, 01395 445455



June 3, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

Colaton Raleigh church (roadside parking), SY082872. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Green lanes, byways, commons, Dotton, Goosemoor, Hawkerland, Kingston.

Walk leader: Brian Turnbull, 01395 567339



June 13, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic) / Pub lunch

Otter Inn CP, SY076874. 6½ miles, 3½ hours. Walk around Colaton Raleigh commons, visiting site of Woodbury Castle. Optional pub lunch

Walk leader: Steve Hagger, 01395 442631



June 17, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Easy) / Pub lunch

East Budleigh CP, SY065849. 4½ miles, 2¼ hours. Fields, lanes, riveside; Bicton, Otterton. Optional lunch at "Sir Walter Raleigh".

Walk leader: Stan Herbert, 01395 445113

June 20, Sat - 8.30am Braunton Burrows Field Trip (*See page 20*)

OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

30th Annual General Meeting

5th May 2009 7.30 p.m.

East Budleigh Village Hall

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 7th May 2008 *
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Trustees Report
(incl. Chairman's and Treasurer's Reports)
5. Election of Officers
6. Independent Examiner
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of next AGM

To be followed by a short talk by David Daniel
"A Beginner's Guide to Meadow Making"

* Minutes of the 29th AGM are on the following pages.

OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting

held at 7.30pm on 7th May 2008 in The Peter Hall, Budleigh
Salterton

1 Present:

Nick Speare - Vice Chairman, Martin Smith - Hon Treasurer, Clive Bowman - Hon Secretary, A further 9 members of the Executive Committee and 49 other members of the Association.

The Vice Chairman introduced the evening and explained that any new appointments would take effect from the end of the AGM

2 Apologies:

Denise Dowling, Derek Rowlands, Patrick Hamilton, Jon Winson, Stuart & Margaret Yerrell, Barrie Papworth, Pat Quaife & Francis Davey, Christine & Brian Hedley, John & Pat Daly

3 The Minutes of the AGM held on 10th May 2007 were taken as read and agreed as a true record, proposed by Christopher Briscoe, seconded by Helen Tickle, agreed by the membership present.

4 Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

5 Annual Report:

Nick Speare explained that as the OVA is a Registered Charity the trustees were required to provide an annual report (copies were available to all present) detailing the aims of the OVA, how it is organised and its management.

He then explained that following Belinda Mountain's resignation as Chairman for health reasons, the Executive Committee had agreed he act as Chairman until the AGM.

He reported that during the year, a review of the Constitution had confirmed that it still met with the current Charities Act requirements and the aims of the OVA. The Rules had also been reviewed, with changes being made to spread the load of managing the OVA's various activities.

He then reported on the various activities of the committees. The EC had agreed to disband the Footpaths committee, to revive the History section and its OVApedia project, and to re-organise the Programme and Publicity Committee into a Social committee and the management of the OVA's publicity. He reported on the continuing success of the Communityscape project led by the Built Environment Committee and their hard work in reviewing the BeCom's working practices. The wild flower meadow at Jubilee Fields under the care of the Natural Environment Committee and the successful Litter Pick at Otter Mouth were also commented on.

The Vice Chairman thanked all the other members and officers of the OVA for their support and hard work over the last year.

The Treasurer Martin Smith read his section of the annual report and presented the attached accounts. Membership was up by 56 paying units, and a further £650.00 had been reclaimed via Gift Aid. Even allowing for the cost of two free events, and the purchase of several pieces of equipment to produce publicity material, the Balance Sheet showed funds of £19365.00 available for suitable projects, an increase of £935.00 on the previous year.

As there were no questions, acceptance of the Trustees' Report and the Accounts was proposed by Robert Sellin and seconded by Jed Falby, agreed by the membership present.

6 Election of Officers:

The Vice Chairman explained that as only one nomination had been received for each post by the required closing date, 14 days prior to the AGM, there would be no Election.

The Hon Secretary read out the Nominations of the Officers as follows:-

Chairman: Helen Tickle

Vice Chairman: Haylor Lass

Treasurer: Martin Smith (3rd Year)

Hon Secretary: Clive Bowman (3rd Year)

The following were nominated to fill the remaining posts on the Executive and being less than the number provided in the Constitution were also declared elected:- Barrie Papworth, Maureen Lister, Susan Tickle, Norman Crossland, Geoff Aplin, Nicola Daniel, David Daniel, Neville Lister, John Jones, Mitzi Crossland, John Winson, and Alan Jones.

7 Independent Examiner:

Thanks were expressed to Brian Leveridge for acting again as Independent Examiner of the accounts. Having agreed to be reappointed for a further year, Mr

Leveridge was proposed by Ken Watson and seconded by Diane Gee, with the agreement by the membership present.

8 Any Other Business:

The Vice Chairman introduced Christopher Briscoe who, representing the Built Environment Committee Design Award Panel, read the details and reasons for the nominations for two awards for 2008, and provided pictorial evidence in support.

The Vice Chairman then presented the Award to John Varley, CEO of Clinton Devon Estates, in recognition of their new corporate offices at Bicton Arena. Unfortunately, the owner/architect of the other Award, the Beach Hut in Budleigh Salterton, was unable to attend.

Mr Stephen Johnston of the Victorian Society invited members of the OVA to join the Society in a dinner at Bicton College on Friday 1st August, which was to be followed by a talk by Alan Ford of the OVA on Mark Rolle.

The incoming Chairman Helen Tickle spoke on her aims during the following year, to continue and build upon the team work within the EC and the sustainability of both the OVA and the valley's environment.

Brian Turnbull then gave a vote of thanks to Nick Speare for stepping in as 'Night Watchman' following the Chairman's resignation, and for his hard work in preparing a strong EC to support the incoming Chairman.

The Vice Chairman then set a challenge to OVA members, a trophy of a die cast double-decker model bus for the person who made the furthest or most innovative journey using the new bus pass.

9 Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 5th May 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, East Budleigh.

There being no other business, the Vice Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm; refreshments and a talk on 'The Jurassic Coast' by Tony Burgess followed.

JULY - SEPTEMBER

July 1, Wed - 11.00am Exeter Canal Cruise

(See Page 19 for details)



July 4 , Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)

Joney's Cross CP , SY057898. 6 miles, 3 hours. Pleasant walk on footpaths across Aylesbeare Common Nature Reserve.

Walk leader: Steve Hagger , 01395 442631



July 11, Sat – 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) Pub Lunch

Budleigh Salterton Free CP, SY061821 5½ miles - 3½ hours. Coastal Path to Exmouth and return along part of old railway track. Optional Pub Lunch at The Powder Monkey, Exmouth or bring own lunch.

Walk leader: Shane Badham, 01395 567531



July 15, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

Woodbury Castle, Estuary CP, SY032872. 4½ miles, 2½ hours. Westward towards Woodbury with fine views over the Exe Valley, some stoney paths, could be muddy after rain.

Walk leader: John Jones, 01395 443651



August 12, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

East Budleigh Hill CP, SY065849. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Hayes Lane, woods and commons returning via Yettington.

Walk leader: Stan Herbert, 01395 445113



August 19, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)

Salcombe Hill CP, SY139882. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Circular walk with some steep steps; coast path to Weston with good views.

Walk leader: Brian Leveridge, 01395 443358

JULY - SEPTEMBER
continued



September 5, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Easy) / Pub lunch
Tipton St John CP, SY092918. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Easy walk viewing the Upper Otter from both banks, might be muddy after rain. Optional pub lunch in The Golden Lion.
Walk leader: Jed Falby, 01395 445455

September 5, Sat WORKSHOP - Researching Local History
Led by Todd Gray - (*see next Newsletter for details*)



September 12, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)
Castle Lane CP (limited parking, share cars if possible), SY043823. 4½ miles, 2½ hours. West Down Beacon, coastal path to Littleham for short conducted tour of church and churchyard. Return along disused railway track, may be muddy.
Walk leader: Hazel Harland, 01395 445665



September 19, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)
East Budleigh CP, SY065849. 6 miles, 3 hours. Interesting route from the village on footpaths and lanes circling Otterton.
Walk leader: Steve Hagger, 01395 442631

A Word for Walkers

What to carry with you.

After asking in the last issue what you carry in your pockets or day sac I've been told a few examples. Most people agree that a Map and Compass are essential. Of course, both are useless if you can't read them; the OVA occasionally runs training evenings if you need some



help. Several suggested a small first aid kit - plasters - Vaseline - tweezers etc. Alan Hinkes, a British explorer, always carries a triangular bandage. He used it to strap his broken arm in 2000 but also as a water filter, a hat, a sunshade, a dust mask, a flannel and a handkerchief – but not all on the same walk I trust!

Another suggestion was a small pair of binoculars, useful for finding the stile across the other side of the field. You may have seen the presenter of BBC's Coast, Nicholas Crane, carrying an umbrella, a habit he picked up after seeing Spanish shepherds with them. He says “It looked a bit strange, but I found out that – apart from the obvious – they use them for shade during siesta and they're also good at fending off wild dogs!”



But what of sustenance I hear you ask. Most people acknowledge that to carry some water or fluid to drink during a walk is vital. Closely following that, and not taking up much space, will be a few sweets or mints of your own preference. Dried fruit and nuts are popular, anything more substantial will depend on the length of the walk; the latest ‘Super Snack’ are those old favourites ‘Jaffa Cakes’. They are light to carry, one is just a mouthful and they contain jam and chocolate to give you an energy boost.

All OVA walk leaders carry a whistle and I've been walking with one for years without ever blowing it. It should only be used in an emergency; the signal being 6 blasts over a minute (i.e. one every 10 seconds) followed by a minute of silence, then repeat until help comes!!





Finally I nearly always carry a walking pole. It certainly gives me more stability on the hills and uneven, sloping and stony paths. It helps prevent and relieve strain on knee joints and leg muscles by distributing some of the weight to other areas of the body. I've not gone to two poles yet but it is said that simply swinging the poles improves your momentum taking some strain from the legs and letting your upper body do some of the work, and if you haven't got an umbrella you can use the pole to fend off those wild dogs!

Have a wonderful walk.

Steve Hagger

Talk Rescheduled

The talk on Our National Parks by Dr George Wilkins scheduled for February 3rd was cancelled because of the bad weather forecast and has been rescheduled for Wednesday October 28th 2009, 7.30pm, at the Peter Hall Budleigh Salterton.

VISIT TO BLACKHILL QUARRY

10am, Thursday 21 May 2009

Many of you may have seen either the quarry sign for Bardon Aggregates on the B3180 or have walked near Bicton and East Budleigh commons and seen the quarry pits and lagoons. But how much do you know about the workings of this local quarry? It is a major supplier of sand for concrete, housebuilding and asphalt production, and of crushed cobbles for chippings to be used in high performance road surfacing products.



The quarry works an outcrop of the Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds at the edge of Bicton Common. Cobbles, sand and gravel are extracted down to 1 metre above the water table. The site has been quarried since 1939 and when the reserves are depleted by the end of this year, 1.87million tonnes of material will have been extracted. Work is being done to restore the site to heathland and will continue until 2012. Bardon will have a liability for the site for a further 10 years after quarrying has ceased.



Today the quarry is run with just nine full-time staff. About 360,000 tonnes are quarried annually - slightly more than in 1939 when it would have been a shovel and barrow job!! Material is extracted, loaded into a 40-tonne dumper truck, carried to the processing plant and transferred into a hopper. From there it drops onto a conveyor belt, the silt is screened out and pumped back into a pond, the aggregate is washed, crushed, size-graded and stored. At the touch of a computer button, the correct grade and amount of material is despatched down a chute into the back of a waiting lorry without the driver even having to get out of his cab!

John Fowler, the quarry site manager, is passionate about his vision for the restoration of the site and is keen to show us that what some

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perceive as a blot-on-the-landscape will be lovingly restored back to beautiful heathland. He will give us a brief history of the site before showing us around the plant and the working areas of the quarry. Toby Taylor from the RSPB, who oversees the restoration, will explain what has been done and the final plans to create a habitat rich for plants, insects and birds. We will learn how the last area being quarried will look at completion, which areas will be filled and revegetated, which lagoons will stay, which tracks will remain, how quickly the bare site will be colonised and by which plants, and when the windbreak conifers will be removed.

This will be a fascinating, enlightening and interesting insight into the workings of what we tend to take for granted - the seemingly unending supply of building materials to fuel our voracious needs. It may also be our privilege to witness the positive restoration of what, not so many years ago, may have been left as a bare hole in the ground. **This will be your last chance to see a local working extraction unit as quarrying will cease later this year.** We will be giving a donation to the RSPB towards their work in this area.

Details of visit: Please arrive at 9.45am for a 10am start. We will meet at the main Bardon Aggregates quarry carpark on the B3180 - on the right just after the first Woodbury turn if going north from Budleigh, or on the left just after the Four Firs crossroad if going south. As a working quarry site, safety will be of paramount importance and it is essential that you adhere to any instructions given by the site staff. The route around the site will be about 3 miles, mainly easy walking but there are some inclines, maybe uneven areas and no seating!! Stout footwear is essential. It is estimated that the visit will take 2½ to 3 hours.

If you would like to attend, please complete and return the booking slip (*see page 27*) as soon as possible and by **3 May latest**

Organiser - Diane Gee 01395 444388

EXETER CANAL CRUISE 11am, Wednesday 1 July 2009

The Exeter Canal runs from Turf Lock to rejoin the River Exe by Exeter Quay. Our Stuart Line cruise will start from Exmouth Marina, and will take us up the river to the start of the oldest shipping canal. There will be a full commentary on the canal's history, on the wildlife and scenery. We will learn about the workings of the locks and bridges as we travel through Turf and Double Locks and by Countess Weir Swing Bridge. The trip will take 2½ to 3 hours. The boat will have inside and outside seating areas, a bar for purchase of light refreshments, and toilet facilities.



Please make your own way to Exmouth Marina (by the marina exit to the estuary) for 10.45am. The boat will depart promptly at 11am. The trip will end on arrival at Exeter Quay and you will be free to spend your own time and to make your way home as you please. Explore the historic quayside, the little shops and take lunch; walk into or take the hourly bus from the quay back into the city and the bus station, or use the train - the choice is yours!



Don't forget your binoculars!

If you would like to join the cruise, please complete and return the booking slip (*see page 27*) as soon as possible and by **9 May latest**.

Organiser - Diane Gee 01395 444388

BRAUNTON BURROWS FIELD TRIP

8.30am June 20

Following the fascinating talk last year when Dr. Tegwyn Harris took us on a digital walk along the Braunton Burrows we have arranged for him to guide us on a field study trip on June 20th, leaving at 8.30am from Budleigh Salterton Public Hall. We will only have a loo-stop, not a coffee stop prior to reaching Braunton, so please bring sufficient liquid and food to keep you going all day.



The cost will be £13.00 which includes coach transport.

Tegwyn has written us a few hints:

1. **What we are likely to see - i.e. “The Biology”!**

From the middle to the end of June seems to represent a good “mean” for the flora of Braunton Burrows. We are, therefore, likely to see a diverse range of plants in flower - including many of the ground orchids, intermediate wintergreen, marsh pimpernel, sand toadflax, dune pansy, dune centaury, rest harrow, sea holly and sea stock - to name but a few! Whether we find the marsh helleborine in flower will depend on the earliness/lateness of the season - but it is often in flower at this time of year. Things are likely to be both interesting and colourful.

2. **Personal comfort!**

- **Clothing.** Hopefully, it will be warm - and if so - VERY warm in the dunes - cool and comfortable clothing should be worn. Shorts and tee-shirt may be recommended. If the weather seems likely to be showery, a light waterproof is advisable. Whilst I HAVE trekked across the Burrows in sandals - firmer shoes (trainers, walking shoes/boots) are more comfortable. Since there is absolutely NO shade or shelter in the Burrows, a hat of some kind is essential - even if the day is not sunny, you can still burn and remember that the sand reflects and intensifies the effect of the sun.

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- **Food & drink.** Braunton Burrows represent wild nature at its wildest! There are no facilities for buying anything - so please bring a picnic lunch and an adequate volume of liquid - wandering about on the dunes can be thirsty work.
- **“Comfort”.** The “wildness” mentioned above also applies to such civilised amenities as toilets. However, there are plenty of dunes for you to hide behind!
- **Effort.** Walking in a sand-dune system is relatively hard work. Walking up a dune can, at times, be a matter of “three steps forward, two steps (slid) back”! We shall pursue our course at a reasonable and gentlemanly/ladylike pace - in any case necessary in order to enjoy the natural history.

If you would like to join us please complete the slip on pg. 27

Organiser - Nicky Daniel 01395 445960

Otterton Town Walks

As announced in the last newsletter we have arranged 2 town walks around Otterton led by Gerald Millington, Clinton Devon Estates Archivist and eminent local historian.

The first walk on April 29th is full but there are a few places left for Wednesday 13th May at 2.00 pm, meeting on The Green at Otterton.

This is a ticketed walk costing £2.00 so if you are interested in joining us please ring Nicola Daniel 01395 445960 for availability.

Gerald has decided that the charity of his choice will be Shandford, so please be generous.

**THE WILDLIFE, ECOLOGY OF THE EXE
ESTUARY & JURASSIC COAST.
A JEWEL IN THE CROWN OF BRITAIN.**

Thursday April 23 2009 7:30pm

Talk at Newton Poppleford Church Hall

Speaker: Rod Lawrence

The area covered by this presentation is arguably the greatest area of bio-diversity in all the British Isles. The incredible variety of plants and animals together with the fascinating geology, that make this England's only natural World Heritage Site, will be described.

The World Heritage Site comprises geologically the Mesozoic (middle period of life on Earth (the time of the Dinosaurs)) which is made up of three geological periods the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous. The presentation will touch on these and describe how the legacy of this ancient past has influenced the ecology of today.

This presentation is about the incredible variety of beautiful, strange and perhaps surprising creatures and plants to be found in this very unique part of the world, above and below the water. 100 million years ago Dinosaurs walked in this area, many creatures occupying the area today are just as exotic and some (you may be surprised to know) are even larger. This area is so important and utterly unique, there is no where else like it in the world. Therefore this presentation will illustrate where to go and how to enjoy the treasures that are on offer.

Perhaps more importantly we will look at ways in which we can use such a well known and well visited area to highlight environmental problems. Perhaps we can use the site as a catalyst to promote the larger conservation issue. Because of the immense popularity of the Jurassic Coast we have an opportunity to enthuse the general public with the excitement and challenge of the huge conservation tasks ahead.

This whole area is a jewel in the wildlife crown of Britain but because of climate change and rising sea levels its bio-diversity is very much under

Forthcoming Events

threat. However it is strategically placed and could be a model for future methods of combating the worst effects of global warming.

Using the World Heritage Site and the rivers which flow into it we could create ecological (wildlife) corridors connecting up areas of wildlife importance. By doing this we could greatly reduce the potential decline in diversity.

Therefore there is a follow up presentation entitled **'Beyond Old Harry'** (*Tuesday January 12th 2010 7:30pm at Otterton Village Hall*). This explains how we can use ecological corridors such as those afforded by the rivers Exe, Otter and Axe to combat loss of diversity due to climate change. Not only that but this presentation puts forward ideas for actually increasing diversity and the re-introduction of certain keystone species such as Beaver and their effect upon the landscape.

We have possibilities to really impact on the problems of climate change and declining bio-diversity, possibilities which could become a model for the rest of the world. We have an opportunity, a really exciting opportunity, let's get it done!

Both these presentations are profusely illustrated with animals, plants and the wonderful landscapes of the Jurassic Coast.

Rod Lawrence

Rod Lawrence is one of the OVA's favourite speakers. He was born in the Exe valley but has spent much of his life travelling and working in the four corners of the world but his work has always been involved with trying to understand the complex ecology of forests and their rivers. With over forty years experience under his belt he now hopes to be able to use this expertise to influence the powers that be in order to improve more and more the environment of the Exe estuary and Jurassic Coast.

LOOK OUT FOR BATS



We have arranged for a bat expert to give a talk and then lead a walk in the dark on a local farm. Not for those with limited mobility or poor night vision but if you wish to learn more about these unique creatures do book now as numbers are very limited. Weather conditions may mean that the wild bats will not appear but the introductory talk will go ahead.



If this event is oversubscribed we will try to arrange another in September.

Where: Pulhayes Farm, East Budleigh Road (Turn into private road , nearly opposite the junction to Knowle, south of the Rolle Arms)

When: Tuesday 12th May 8.30-10.30pm

Cost: £5 per person

Admission by ticket only and at your own risk. *(See page 27)*

Organiser - Nicky Daniel 01395 445960

Ottery St Mary – Transition Town

Thursday 15th January – Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton

Transition Towns are about how communities can respond to the challenges, and opportunities, of Peak Oil and Climate Change and Dr Maureen Fairley and Helen Collinson told us about the activities that have started in Ottery St Mary.

They told us about how a group of Ottery people started working to create a sustainable community, a greener, healthier, more connected place to live, much less dependent on resources and solutions from 'out there'. These are the objectives of the Transition Town initiative (<http://www.transitiontowns.org>) which is taking off all over the world. The talk was well received by the small number of dedicated OVA members present.

Cornwall & West Devon World Heritage Site

Tuesday March 3rd 7:30pm East Budleigh Village Hall

Nearly 40 members turned out on a wet and windy night for an enthralling talk by Dr Bob Symes OBE, FGS, Former Keeper and Head of Department of Mineralogy at the Natural History Museum and now Honorary Curator of Sidmouth Museum. We were taken by an expert through the geology, history, technology and sociology that surrounded the mining industry in Cornwall and West Devon.

World Heritage Status places the landscapes on a par with such international treasures as Stonehenge, the Taj Mahal and the Great Wall of China. The Site consists of the most authentic and historically significant surviving components of mining from the period 1700 to 1914. This cultural landscape is a testament to the profoundly important process of pioneering metal mining, to its industrialisation, and to the innovations which occurred here and had a fundamental influence on the mining world at large during the nineteenth century.

I think we were all surprised at the richness of the minerals and the list of metals that were mined in the area. Dr Symes told us about new mine developments and the visitor centres which are opening to support the World Heritage Site and which he enthusiastically encouraged us to visit.

Alan Huddart

Only 260 Days to Next Christmas Dinner

Our Christmas dinner was held for the first time at the Atrium Restaurant at Woodbury Park. The restaurant was beautifully decorated,



Santa's helpers preparing the raffle

the tables groaned with crackers and party poppers. We had a choice of excellent food and wine, and table plans brought a touch of decorum to the proceedings. We had our usual format with a welcome drink, a

quiz on the tables, a raffle with wonderful prizes and carol singing. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Next year we have already booked the same venue for Wednesday 16th December and we hope to see many of you there.



The Assembled Multitude

Nicky Daniel

Braunton Burrows Field Trip

I /we would likeplaces on the **Braunton Burrows Field Trip** on 20th June at 8.30am at £13.00/head.

I enclose a cheque for £_____ payable to OVA and **a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

p.t.o



Canal Cruise

Please send me..... tickets @ £8.00 for the **Canal Cruise** on July 1 at 11.00am

I enclose a cheque for £.....payable to OVA and **a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

p.t.o



Bats at Pulhayes Farm

I /we would likeplaces on the **Bats at Pulhayes Farm Evening** on 12th May at 8.30pm at £5.00/head.

I enclose a cheque for £_____ payable to OVA and **a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

p.t.o



Blackhills Quarry Visit

Please send tickets @ £2.50. for the **Blackhills Quarry Visit** on 21 May at 10.00am

I enclose a cheque for £_____ payable to OVA and **a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

p.t.o

Braunton Burrows Field Trip

To :	Your Name, Address, Telephone & Email
Mrs N.D Daniel Highbury, 7, Marine Parade, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6NS	

✂-----

Canal Cruise - July 1 2009

To :	Your Name, Address, Telephone & Email
Diane Gee 7 Belgrave Court Northview Road Budleigh Salterton EX9 6BA	

✂-----

Bats at Pulhayes Farm

To :	Your Name, Address Telephone & Email
Mrs N.D Daniel Highbury, 7, Marine Parade, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6NS	

✂-----

Blackhills Quarry Visit

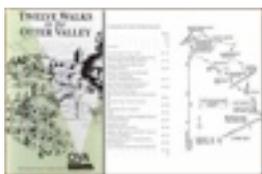
To :	Your Name, Address, Telephone & Email
Diane Gee 7 Belgrave Court Northview Road Budleigh Salterton EX9 6BA	

Mark Rolle His Architectural Legacy in the Lower Otter Valley



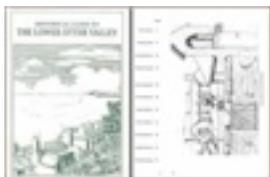
£4.95 via your Rep (or plus £1.00 P&P)

12 Walks in the Otter Valley



£2.50 via your Rep (or plus £1.00 P&P)

Historical Guide to the Lower Otter Valley



£3.50 via your Rep (or plus £1.00 P&P)

1842, 1890 and 1933 Maps of Budleigh Salterton



£8 each or £20 a set (cannot be posted)

Available from your Parish Representative, our website -www.ova.org.uk
or by post from:

Booksales
OVA
PO Box 70
Budleigh Salterton
EX9 6WN

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Vice-Chairman	Haylor Lass	568786
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Natural Environment	Norman Crossland	445129
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History	David Daniel	445960

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	John Jones	443651
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Newsletter Editor	Nick Speare	443944

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The OVA was founded in 1979, is registered with the Civic Trust and the Charity Commissioners and is a member of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. It is also affiliated to the CPRE and a member of the AONB Partnership