

# OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

PO Box 70 Budleigh Salterton EX9 6WN  
[www.ova.org.uk](http://www.ova.org.uk)



A small section of Budleigh beach after a storm -  
Join the Spring Litter-Pick on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March

## New Year Newsletter

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The next issue will be published in April 2014:  
copy needs to be with the editor by **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014**, please.

# The Spring Litter-Pick - Sat 29<sup>th</sup> March

Preparations are in hand for the annual Litter-Pick in the Otter Estuary, which the OVA runs in coordination with Clinton Devon Estates, the Area of Outstanding Beauty team and East Devon District Council. The date has recently been decided so, as last year, please enter it on your new calendars that will no doubt be hanging on your walls by the time that you read this! It is **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March**, as usual 10.00am to 12.00noon.

The tides this year are even kinder than in 2013 when we had settled for April 6<sup>th</sup>. On the chosen date High Tide is at 5.12am and Low tide 11.31am which gives plenty of time for the mud to dry a little. Generally we do not like to push the date too far into April for fear of disturbing nesting birds although few, if any, actually nest on the open salt marshes that we scour, preferring the covered river banks above White Bridge where there is shelter from predators. Nor do we wish to be too early in March for obvious thermal reasons. The trick, of course, is to pick the sunniest day and this requires great skill. Readers will be well aware that litter, especially plastic, constitutes a serious hazard for wild life, especially the water birds that proliferate on the marsh throughout the year. It is essential that the threat is removed each year. For this to be done, the efforts of volunteers are crucial, so please come and join us. Participants enjoy this event every year.

In the week before the chosen date it is a good idea to watch weather forecasts carefully and if there is any problem (eg severe flooding), **please visit the OVA website at [www.ova.org.uk](http://www.ova.org.uk)** for last minute information. We will assemble for a briefing at 10.00am in the Lime Kiln Car Park in Budleigh Salterton, where litter pickers may park without charge for the 2-hour period. All should wait for the health and safety briefing before setting off. Wellington boots are strongly advised and, since it is not difficult to get stuck in the mud, it is essential that children are accompanied by adults. It is also a good idea to wear protective gloves. Dogs are not permitted in the salt marshes.

As last year, the OVA is offering a small prize for the most interesting piece of debris collected, so this gives an added interest. CDE and the AONB will again be combining to organize the removal of the collected rubbish and provide plastic bags and suggestions as to where to operate. Both sides of the estuary will be scoured up to the White Bridge.

**Patrick Hamilton, OVA Natural Environment Committee**

# Chairman's Message

**T**HE DISCUSSIONS in your Executive Committee (EC) have, in the time since the last newsletter, been concerned mainly with planning issues. Firstly, it came to the committee's notice that some members thought that the OVA should not be involved with planning matters. This is a fundamental purpose of an amenity society such as ours and embedded in the constitution. The charity was first set up as a response to a planning issue and has commented on significant planning applications ever since. A reading of the constitution (available on the website) shows that planning is just as important part of the charity's duty as conservation, history and education. Contrary to hearsay the OVA's comments are not always negative – see the next paragraph.

Many of you may have noticed the planning application submitted by the Environment Agency (EA) to shape flood defences at the Otter Mouth. We are lucky in the OVA to have many water experts as members and Robert Sellin, a Professor of Hydrology, addressed the EC before a meeting. He and an EC member visited the sites and were in agreement with the proposals. The OVA sent a comment to East Devon District Council (EDDC) supporting the application. We did, however, request the EA to liaise with our Walks Co-ordinators so we can advise OVA members of the works. This is not to be confused with the Clinton Devon Estate's long-term plans to find the best way to allow the constrained river Otter to return to its natural course.

There have been 2 planning applications involving Budleigh Salterton's Conservation Areas, which are areas of notable environmental or historical interest or importance and are protected against undesirable changes. The English Heritage guidance is that "the most important policy is the presumption against the loss of elements which have been identified in the character appraisal as making a positive contribution to the special interest for which the area was designated." In simple terms a conservation area is special for reasons unique to that area and the area should retain that specialness. This is the reason why the EC voted to object to the planning applications in Victoria Place and West Hill Lane. The EC is also worried that the loss of trees and overdevelopment in areas such as this will lead Budleigh Salterton to lose its AONB status. The EC have also sought assurance from EDDC that the mature oaks in Halse Hill have tree protection orders.

The EC have been considering the membership fee. At the present the newsletter and postage are just covered by the membership income. Any increase in postage will result in a dig into reserves. The reserves at the moment are healthy due to grant funding for many projects. This may well dry up and the EC have now given a commitment to fund transport for our local schoolchildren to visit the Pebblebed Heaths. The EC would like to have some input from members about the following. They have made the assumption that members like a published newsletter and we are looking into colour printing. Perhaps this is not the case and members would be content with a digital copy. Would members pay an increased subscription? So please e-mail us – info@ova.org.uk – to let us know your views (or bend the ear of your parish rep!). The EC will discuss this further when we have had your input and then bring it to the AGM.

Interested members are urgently needed to join the Events Committee as some of the existing Committee are retiring after giving many years of service. The Committee would welcome any suggestions and new ideas for events and visits for the Spring Season. Even if you cannot commit to becoming a Committee Member you might like to organise a one off event on our behalf. We know many of you are also members of other organisations and others have a great deal of technical and professional work experience – please do volunteer to share some of your expertise at an OVA meeting. We have suitable venues, projectors and screens, we just need your input, even if it is for only one evening."

Nicola Daniel

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## Notice of AGM

### Otter Valley Association

**The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm  
on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in the Village Hall, East Budleigh.**

The Agenda for the meeting and the Trustees Report of Activities will be published in the April Newsletter

The Trustees Report incorporating the audited Accounts, together with the minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting will be available at the AGM

# Friends of the Commons

**T**HE FRIENDS of the Commons Group was established by the Pebblebed Trust during the summer 2013 to keep local people notified about the conservation work and activities of the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust and the issues impacting on the Commons, to ensure that the Trust continues to develop with public support, and to provide an opportunity to give those that use and enjoy the Commons a voice to influence its management.

Membership is free, and those who join will be contacted about new initiatives, and will have the chance to enjoy one-off events only available to Friends. We currently have 50 'Friends' with the number growing, and are very excited about this new development in the Conservation Trust's evolution. Those who might like to join need only contact me by email. Clearly they can unsubscribe at any time.

Sam.Bridgewater@clintondevon.com

## **Friends Events January/February 2014**

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014. A Walk around Mutter's Moor**

**9am to 11am. Meet at main Mutter's Moor car park on Pinn Lane**

Although an outlier of the Pebblebed Heaths, Mutter's Moor is an amazing conservation area with superb views across East Devon. Join Paul Swain (Commons Warden) and Sam Bridgewater (Nature Conservation Manager) on a walk around the moor and find out about its management.

### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The River Otter Restoration Project**

**9am to 12 noon. Meet at the Limekiln car park.**

The River Otter and its estuary are now largely disconnected from its natural floodplain and struggling to achieve 'good ecological status'. Join Dr. Sam Bridgewater on a walk up the river and find out more about the history of its management, the issues that impact on its health and a restoration project which could help in the face of climate change.

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014. Conservation Trust's Annual Public Forum: 7pm to 9pm. Rolle Estate Office, Bicton Arena, East Budleigh.**

A ½ hour illustrated talk on the Pebblebed Heaths and a review of the Trust's activities in 2013, followed by an opportunity for Friends to put questions to the staff and to raise issues of concern related to wildlife and recreational enjoyment of the heaths.

*Sam Bridgewater*, Nature Conservation Manager, 01395 443881

# Phoenix Cycle

## The impact and response to fire of the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths

*“Earth is a uniquely fire planet, and humanity a uniquely fire creature, and the ecology of their interactions is both ancient and profound. Fire on Earth is a pervasive feature of the living world. Life created the oxygen that combustion requires, and provides the hydrocarbon fuels that feed it. Today, through the agency of humans, life also supplies most ignitions, surpassing the previously dominant source, lightning. Fire takes apart what photosynthesis has put together; its chemistry is a bio-chemistry. Fire is not something extraneous to life to which organisms must adapt, it is something that has emerged out of the nature of life on Earth. Humans hold a species monopoly over the manipulation of fire: we are the keystone species for fire’s ecology.”*

Pyne, S. (2010) The Ecology of Fire. Nature Education Knowledge 3(10):30

Sam Bridgewater used this quote to introduce a December evening at the Clinton Devon Estate Office where a number of those interested in the Pebblebeds had gathered to investigate themes of fire ecology, fire management and our own emotional and artistic response to landscape changes provoked by burning.

The Pebblebed Heathland is essentially a man-made habitat and needs maintaining. Various methods are used – volunteer scrub-pulling, mowing, and fire:– controlled burning (swaling) being an effective and economic agent of regeneration. The new shoots of plants are a vital food for many of the birds and other wildlife. Fire can also be potentially catastrophic and Sam detailed the large fire three years ago, which needed a massive effort to bring under control (but unfortunately not before it had roasted beyond recovery an expensive specialist tractor mower!).

After some seasonal refreshment, Mo Bowman showed her ‘Phoenix Cycle’, a photographic study depicting the devastation and the recovery on Colaton Raleigh Common after this catastrophic burn in 2010.

Organised by the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths in association with the Otter Valley Association, and with members of ‘Local Voices’, this was an excellent and interesting evening which showed the value of co-operation between all the interested parties in the Otter Valley.

# Planning and the AONB

**K**IMMO EVANS of East Devon AONB gave a talk on the AONB's origin and history in this its fiftieth year to a joint audience of OVA and Friends of Fairlynch members on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

He also told us of the extensive work it undertakes in the area and how it manages to bring in funds from other agencies. The questioning afterwards, however, was solely concerned with the pressures of development in the AONB. This set me thinking that, until I joined the Executive Committee, I had a very naïve view of planning and AONB involvement.

I would like to share with you what I have learnt over the years.

I have tried to make it simple so please persevere.

Planning decisions are made by the Local Planning Authority. In the case of the Lower Otter Valley this is East Devon District Council.

**THE POINT I REALLY MUST EMPHASIZE** is that there is a great deal of subjectivity involved so that different councils can make different interpretations of the same set of policies. eg the weight given to the protective policies inherent in an AONB versus the need for housing. It is the **ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS** who decide, on behalf of the community, where the balance lies. This is a very delicate balance which, inevitably, we will not always agree with.

There is very little black and white when it comes to planning. Councils are subject to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and legally have to determine planning applications according to their Local Plan. This Local Plan is drawn up and must conform to the Government Plan - ie the New Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (see extracts below). The Local Plan is revised every few years and is reviewed by the Planning Inspectorate before it can be adopted and which, as I said in the last newsletter, EDDC's Local Plan has not yet been finalised.

However, the important thing is that everything in the plan refers to **POLICIES**. A policy is a very flexible word which means a principle or protocol to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes. This is very different to legal, binding statutes. Policies can be interpreted in many ways and provided they are considered, may be given a great deal or very little weight and some policies even seem to contradict each other. This lack of hard and fast rules means decisions are made subjectively. However, individual Councils should be consistent in their approach.



The local plans have to take into account policies affecting protected areas such as AONB, World Heritage Sites and Conservation Areas. Protected does not mean there is no change but change must be carried out as in the paragraphs of the NPPF and EDDC Local Plan – see below.

There are also Statutory Bodies that must be consulted eg the Environment Agency, English Heritage, Natural England and others. The planning officers should look at and give weight to their advice. But once again, as long as the advice has been considered, they may feel that this advice bears little weight compared to other policies.

When determining a planning application the district planning officers look at all the evidence, look at the comments from the general public and the statutory bodies and then write a report recommending acceptance or refusal of the application for the councillors. The ward councillor for the area can ask that the application be discussed at the Development Management Committee (the old planning committee). If the councillor does not ask for this then the planning officers themselves can decide the outcome under the Vanguard (delegated authority) procedure, and this is subsequently ratified by the DMC. This can produce some bizarre situations. In some cases there are a lot of objections from the general public but if the councillor is in support and he/she does not ask for a DMC meeting then a controversial decision can be made by the officers. eg the cowsheds application in Colaton Raleigh was decided by the planning officers. A very high proportion of decisions are made this way.

The Development Management Committee is made up of district councillors from all over East Devon and normally includes one of our three Budleigh Salterton and East Budleigh councillors. Otterton at the moment is not represented but Newton Poppleford is. They are guided by advice from EDDC planning officers and legal representatives in the planning report and at the committee. However, there is a general sense of grievance that councillors from all over East Devon make decisions on sensitive issues outside their own area.

So where does the AONB fit into this? AONBs are designated in recognition of their national importance and to ensure that their character and qualities are protected for all to enjoy. They are living, working landscapes, much loved and valued by all who enjoy them. The criteria for development in an AONB is that the *development must conserve or enhance the neighbourhood.* (see EDDC Local Plan below)

Although AONBs have the highest level of protection equivalent to National Parks, in all this process the AONB partnership is not even a Statutory Consultee. It merely has an ADVISORY role so it is NOT automatically consulted. It *may* be asked to comment by the planning officers on developments which “may have a *significant* impact on the character of the AONB” There is an agreed Planning Protocol with EDDC and it uses “Landscape Character Assessment” as a template in replying. So, “significant” can have a variety of interpretations and with so many applications lodged the majority are not commented on by the AONB Manager. Therefore, district planner officers interpret for themselves the impact on the AONB of any development, weighing the social and economic benefits with effects to the environment which “*must conserve or enhance the neighbourhood.*”



Remember that the officers should be consistent so look at two articles on planning decisions in the AONB from the Budleigh Journal 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Firstly, a Newton Poppleford restaurant’s change of use (on the main road) was turned down for, amongst other reasons, the height of the development in an AONB – it would fail to conserve or enhance the natural beauty of the East Devon AONB. A few pages further on the district planning officers supported an application for a deliberately out of character modern house in the AONB and a mid-19 century conservation area. The Planning Officer’s Report acknowledges that gradual loss of sites such as this in Budleigh Salterton might lead to an erosion of landscape character but in this instance considers that the AONB would not be harmed by this proposal.

So, there it is. Do not rely on the fact that the whole of the OVA’s area lies in the East Devon AONB and as a large number of people think is therefore magically “protected”. It is not.

I apologise for a mistype in our last newsletter. The AONB was typed as ANOB. Perhaps this was a Freudian slip?

## **Extracts from National Planning Policy Framework**

115. Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage are important considerations in all these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads.
116. Planning permission should be refused for major developments in these designated areas except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated they are in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:
- the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;
  - the cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and
  - any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.

## **Extracts from The New East Devon Local Plan (proposed submission)**

Proposed Strategy 46 - Landscape Conservation and Enhancement and AONBs:

Development will need to be undertaken in a manner that is sympathetic to and helps conserve and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of the natural and historic landscape character of East Devon, in particular in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Development will only be permitted where it:

1. conserves and enhances the landscape character of the area;
2. does not undermine landscape quality; and
3. is appropriate to the economic, social and well being of the area.
4. can be shown that development cannot be accommodated elsewhere outside of the AONB.

When considering development in or affecting AONBs, great weight will be given to conserving and enhancing their natural beauty.

**Nicky Daniel**

# The Scientific Evidence for Climate Change

A talk by Chris Roberts

of the Met Office 's Hadley Research Centre  
at East Budleigh Village Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> October

**A**T THE START of his talk Chris Roberts made a clear distinction between weather and climate. Weather describes hourly or daily changes in elements such as temperature, rainfall and wind. On the other hand climate describes change over much longer periods, eg 30 years. He then showed slides illustrating changes that have occurred in the extent of glaciers and arctic sea ice. Glaciers have decreased in size and much of the arctic ice has melted.

According to a recent IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) report the world's climate during the last three decades has been the warmest time since records began. Arctic sea ice has decreased by 40%, sea level has risen by nearly 200 mm, concentrations of dissolved carbon dioxide in the oceans have increased leading to increased acidity and detrimental effects on corals and other marine organisms. Changes in climate have meant that wet regions have become wetter while dry regions have become drier. More extreme weather occurs in most regions of the world.

The evidence for climate change is unequivocal. The changes that have occurred are almost certainly related to the greenhouse effect caused by an increase in the so-called greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, during the last century. These have increased steadily from a pre-industrial concentration of about 220 ppm (parts per million) to a present-day level close to 400 ppm. There is concern that unless more action is taken to reduce emissions, effects on the planet's climate could lead to widespread floods, droughts and food shortages.

Sceptics consider that climate changes are just part of earth's natural changes. However, the IPCC have stated that it is very probable that at least 50% of the observed global warming of recent years is attributable to anthropomorphic activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels.

Further information on this subject can be found on the Hadley Research website at [www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/hadleycentre](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/hadleycentre)

**Norman Crossland**

# Watermills in the Devon landscape

On 26th of November, 48 of us gathered at the Knowle village hall to hear Martin Watts' lecture about Devon Mills.

Martin is a 'millwright' and he believes to be the last one in Devon. Rather than a 'miller' who just operates the mill, the 'millwright' designs, builds and maintains the mill – built to a very exacting standard. We heard about the different types of wheel, the most common being the 'overshoot design', and where some of the older mills could be found. Alas some are only a reference, such as one at Silverton, constructed during the reign of King Alfred, about 800AD. The Domesday Book (1086) recorded 6000 mills. Of these 96½ were in Devon. Why a ½ you may ask? Apparently for some obscure reason, the ½ signified a mill shared by more than one person, across the county boundary.

We heard how Chaucer had made fun of millers, by making ribald jokes in the Canterbury Tales. One of which recorded a donkey which was becoming increasingly exhausted as it was led home with a large bag of grain on its back.



The miller leading the poor beast took compassion on it, relieved it of the weight and put the bag on his own shoulders. Bravo. He then climbed onto the back of the donkey and proceeded. Obviously a cultural joke as there were no recorded jokes about millwrights.

But to return to the subject. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century cast iron parts were to be found in the mill structure. Also the millstones were replaced by banks of iron rollers. Previously the best millstones were imported from France with the cheapest ones from Dartmoor. The lecture finished with a barrage of questions. Not because Martin had left parts uncovered but because he had created such a great deal of spontaneous interest.

Robert Wiltshire

# Lower Otter Restoration Project

Update: December 2013

Clinton Devon Estates is working with the Environment Agency to investigate how future management of the lower Otter valley might become more sustainable and resilient in the face of climate change. There is clear agreement among interested parties that maintaining the status quo is not viable as existing flood defences become increasingly vulnerable to threats such as heavy rainfall events and sea level rise.

At a meeting earlier in 2013 it was recommended that a managed realignment option should be considered, leading to a more natural and sustainable condition for the river and its estuary. This would mean the present marshes would be allowed to flood regularly at high tide, before draining again as the tide recedes. The earlier proposal to create a freshwater lake below White Bridge will not be progressed.

Mike Williams, who works for the Environment Agency and has considerable experience of this type of project, is now on a part-time assignment to Clinton Devon Estates. His brief is to try and build consensus amongst all parties who either manage or use the land for recreation, with a view to developing a project that ensures a sustainable, adaptable estuary where wildlife can flourish and which people can enjoy.

“At present, there are no firm plans on the table” says Mike, “but we are beginning to talk to all the key stakeholders to understand the constraints and explore possible options”. Mike has had several meetings, including one with the OVA and says that so far, despite the complexity, everyone has been very positive.

There are big issues to overcome, including ensuring future access to the area and the presence of an old tip site within the floodplain. There may also need to be changes to farming practices so that they complement and naturally enhance any future estuarine landscape. Mike says “We know that some people may have concerns about these proposals, but it’s better to be prepared for and manage inevitable change than to have it happen out of our control and watch helpless from the sidelines”.

A partnership of interested organisations, including the OVA, is helping to guide the project and extensive public consultation will take place when clearer plans begin to emerge. It is hoped that a bid for project funding could be made in late 2014, but works are unlikely before 2016.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 10.00am. WALK**

Start at Knowle Village Hall car park\*, SY 052827. 5.5 miles, 2.5 hours. A circular undulating walk over the commons to Bystock Fishponds with varied topography including woodland and heathland. May be muddy.

Optional lunch at the Britannia Inn in Knowle Village.

\*Please note that those wishing to stay for lunch should park at the Britannia Inn because there is a party at the Village Hall in the afternoon.

*Walk leader:* Steve Hagger, 01395 442631

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January – 7.30pm. TALK, ‘Curious Dartmoor’**

**Masonic Hall, Budleigh Salterton.** *Speaker:* Paul Rendell – historian.

Looking at strange or unusual buildings, follies, stones etc.: items which often leave more questions than answers. The history of letterboxing will be explored as well as other crazy and wild things.

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 10.00am. WALK +Picnic**

Start at Trinity Hill car park SY 304 955. 7.5 miles.

Route via Woodhouse Hill, East Devon Way, Musbury and Great Trill (using the permissive path network in Trill farm). Please bring a picnic.

*Walk leader:* Ted Swann 01395 567450.

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 10.00am. WALK****Shane Badham’s Legacy Walk**

Start at Kersbrook (under railway bridge), SY 069 830. 5 miles, 2½ hours.

A pleasant walk at this time of year which will circumnavigate Budleigh and include part of the old railway track and some of the coast path between Budleigh and Exmouth.

*Walk leaders:* Mike 01395 446550 & Chris 01395 444471.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 10.00am. WALK +Picnic****Exeter’s Green Circle 12.5 miles**

Start at the bus stop opposite the Crematorium in Topsham Road, Exeter and proceed around the Green Circle route in a clockwise direction.

Generally flat, but hilly in some parts. A different view of Devon’s capital city. Please bring a picnic.

*Please note that it is possible to complete just one half of this walk if you would prefer.*

*Walk leader:* Bettina Wilson, 01395 578450

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00am. GUIDED WALK**

Start at White Bridge, SY 076830. 2½ miles, 2 hours.

A leisurely walk along the River Otter watching and identifying the winter birds with Doug Cullen, Voluntary Warden of the Pebblebed Heath Conservation Trust. Please bring binoculars if you have them.

*Walk leader:* Doug Cullen, 01395 567574.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00am. WALK**

Start at the Four Firs car park, SY 032864. 5 Miles, 2.5 hours.

A circular walk visiting Woodbury Castle then turning east to Woodbury and returning via the golf course. Includes tracks, paths and wooded areas.

*Walk leader:* Graham Knapton, 01395 445872

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February – 10.00am Joint OVA/Fairlynch TALK  
Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton – People and the evolving landscape in  
the lower Otter Valley**

Dr Sam Bridgewater (Conservation Manager Pebblebed Heaths) and David Daniel (OVA) will talk about the way human settlement and economic activity interact with the underlying geology and ecology of the Lower Otter Valley, to produce the landscape we see today. They will also indicate how this has evolved historically and how we might expect the landscape to change in the future. Their talks will be based on presentations they were asked to give to a group of landscape and engineering third year students from Bath University as background to a project being conducted in collaboration with Bicton College.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00am. WALK**

Start at Knowle Village Hall car park, SY 052827. 5 miles, 2.5 hours

This walk encompasses Shortwood Common, Hayes Wood, Hayes Barton and and returning via East Budleigh Common and Squabmoor.

*Walk leader:* Brian Turnbull, 01395 567339

**Series of Walks for Beginners led by Steve Hagger**

This is a chance for you to try walking in a group. The walks will progress in distance and terrain over four weeks. All walks start at 10:00am from the free car park behind the Budleigh Salterton Public Hall, grid reference SY 061821. All walks are circular and each week the walks will go progressively further and a little higher. ***Boots or sturdy walking shoes should be worn on all walks. Bring a drink with you and possibly a snack on the last two walks.*** (see next page)



**Beginners Walks from Budleigh Public Hall free car park at 10.00am:****Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 10.00am WALK**

**Walk 1, Grade 'Very Gentle', Distance 3 miles, Total ascent 75 feet, Time 1 – 1½ hours.** This is a fairly level walk along the Coastal Path to the River Otter, along the Otter to the White Bridge and return.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am WALK**

**Walk 2, Grade 'Gentle', Distance 3.1 miles, Total ascent 151 feet, Time about 1½ hours.** This walk builds on Walk 1, going to the White Bridge via the River Otter and then following the incline up to the old railway track and back to town via the park.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 10.00am WALK**

**Walk 3, Grade 'Moderate', Distance 3.2 miles, Total ascent 450 feet, Time about 2 hours.** This walk starts with a climb westward out of town. We follow the footpath over the golf course to join the coastal path and return to town.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am WALK**

**Walk 4, Grade 'Challenging', Distance 5.2 miles, Total ascent 594 feet, Time about 3 hours.** This walk starts with a climb westward out of town following the footpath over the golf course and through the woods to Littleham Church. After visiting the churchyard, we will then join the coastal path and return to town.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am. WALK +Picnic**

Start at the Otter Inn car park, Colaton Raleigh SY 078874. 7.3 miles 3 hrs. A pleasant walk along rarely walked tracks and woodland walks to Hawkerland Valley and on Colaton Raleigh Common via Hawkerland Breaks. Crossing the common towards Stowford and onto Colaton Raleigh via Back Lane. Please bring a picnic or have a late lunch at the Otter Inn.  
*Walk leader:* Mike Paddison 01395 446550

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 10.15am. Walk**

Start at Exeter Bus Station at 09:45, 7.5 miles, 3½ hours.  
Outward via bus 50, dep. Exeter Bus Station 09:55, arr. Newton St Cyres 10:09. Leave Village Hall Car Park, Newton St Cyres, at 10:15 for Whiptail Wood, Waddles Down (248m high, Newton Wood, Coombeland Wood & Newton St Cyres. Optional Lunch at the Crown and Sceptre  
Return via bus 50/51 on the hour and at 19 and 39 mins past the hour  
*Walk Leader:* David Buss 01395 442621

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am WALK**

Start at the Otter Inn car park, Colaton Raleigh SY 078874. 3 miles, 2 hrs. If you don't walk much or want to start walking this gives you the perfect opportunity with a short mainly level walk along local lanes and banks of the Otter. Optional lunch at the Otter Inn.

*Walk leader:* George Norman 01395 442307

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March – 7.30pm. TALK, 'The green Lanes of Devon'.  
Otterton Village Hall.**

Valerie Belsey has been researching Devon's green lanes for over 20 years. Learn about their history and purpose, some of the stories attached to them. She is accompanied by folk singer Jim Causley who will sing some appropriate songs for us.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 10.30am DARTMOOR DAY WALK +Picnic**

Start at Haytor Visitor Centre, SY 72659, 9.5 miles, approx. 5 hours. Ten Easy Tors!, not the route of the famous challenge, but a mere 9.5 mile focussed walk across undulating Dartmoor with the prospect of magnificent views throughout. Tors visted are Haytor, Saddle Tor, Pil Tor, Top Tor, Bell Tor, Chinkwell Tor, Honeybag Tor, Hound Tor, Greater, and Holwell Tor.

No public transport available. Please contact walk leader if you want, or can offer a car share. Please bring a packed lunch. Light refreshment available at the end of the walk at the Dandelion Café, Moorlands Hotel near the car park.

*Walk Leader:* David Buss 01395 442621

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00am WALK**

Start at the Joney's Cross car park, SY057898. 5 Miles, 2.5 hours. A walk to Alyesbeare via Randelhayes farm and back via Manor farm and Aylesbeare common.

*Walk leader:* Graham Knapton, 01395 445872

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00am WALK**

Start at East Budleigh Church car park, SY 065849. 9 miles, 4½ hours. A varied walk giving an ever-changing perspective using the coast path, local roads and tracks.

Visiting Ladram Bay, High Peak and Windgate then returning inland via Otterton and Bicton. Some hilly sections, could be muddy.

*Walk leader:* Mike Paddison, 01395 446550

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00am WALK**

An interesting literary walk around the lovely coastal town of Lyme Regis. Details to be confirmed in the next issue of the OVA Newsletter.

Walk leader: Margaret Read 01392 759332

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2.00pm WALK**

The Norman Lockyer Observatory CP SY 139883, 1½ miles, 2 hours.

Guides from the Sid Vale Association will lead us up to Soldiers Hill Wood to view the display of bluebells which are usually their best at this time of year. *Note:* the path to the woods is quite steep with rough edges.

*Walk Leader:* Graham Knapton, 01395 445 665

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 10.00am. WALK +Picnic**

Start at Newton Poppleford CP, SY 086897. 7 miles, 4 hours.

A circular walk on green lanes and commons visiting Venn Ottery, Metcombe and North Hill, returning via Venn Ottery Common and Benchams. There will be a stop for a sociable picnic lunch.

Walk leader: Jan Stuart, 01395 568235

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00am. WALK**

Start at Crookes Plantation, Stowford, SY 057866. 5 miles, 2½ hours.

This is a popular local walk over Woodbury and Bicton commons giving lovely views over surrounding countryside.

Walk leader: George Norman 01395 442307

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00am. WALK**

Start at Joney's Cross CP, off A3052, SY 057898. 5 miles, 2½ hours.

Walk includes Aylesbeare and Hawkerland, footpaths and tracks through the Nature Reserve and woodland, some gradients and rough ground.

Walk leader: John Jones 01395 443651

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 10.15am WALK +Picnic**

Start at Exeter Bus Station at 10.15, 6½ miles, 3½ hours.

We then cross the road to John Lewis to catch a bus to Beacon Heath.

Outward via bus 52B, dep. Sidmouth 09:22, N Pop 09:29 arr Exeter 10:14.

Outward via bus 357 dep Budleigh Salterton 08:55 arr Exmouth 09:12, change to bus 57 dep Exmouth 09:27 arr Exeter Bus Station 10:09.

Variety of footpaths, bridleways fields and tarmac lanes which offer the prospect of scenic views over Exeter and the Exe estuary. Bring a picnic lunch. Return via bus to Exeter Bus Station

*Walk Leader:* Bettina Wilson 01395 578450

# Otterton Church - does it have a future?

Would a traditional English village be a village without its historic Church? It was not long ago that Otterton had a baker, a post office and a butcher. No doubt the parishioners 20 years ago would have thought it inconceivable that they could lose these 'essential' threads of the fabric to village life. But it happened and life goes on with hardly a blink.

St Michael's was built in 1870, incorporating the 13<sup>th</sup> Century tower, by Lady Rolle in the days when the great and good expected all their estate workers to attend the Sunday services. The famous antiquarian Peter Orlando Hutchinson noted in 1873 that both the workmanship and materials were very good. He took rubbings and observed that the tower was curiously placed on the south east corner. What he failed to observe was that the church was rather too big – it holds around 450 people - for the population of Otterton to support.

The current congregation of around 20 cannot afford to maintain and heat such a large building. There is an immediate need to repair the roof, downpipes and gutters. This is expected to be in the region of £100,000 plus and is of course only one of the many pressing issues challenging the Church's finances.

A questionnaire has been circulated to parishioners asking for their active support of see if the Church can be saved from closure. The steering group, comprised of members of the community shop committee and PCC, have obtained agreement in principle from the Diocese to convert part of the inside of the church into a community centre to provide, a large hall, two meeting rooms, kitchen, toilets and community shop as well as a worship area. But this is only a viable option if time, effort and significant fundraising are forthcoming from the community.

This raises a much bigger question in relation to our historic buildings. Are we to live in a museum and try and preserve everything as it is, and inevitably see the gradual and sad physical decline of many of these structures? Or do we all take responsibility for contributing to a debate on how to find ways to adapt our heritage to fit in with modern living. Not everything can have a community use. What compromises are we willing to accept to physically adapt our buildings to be useful and environmentally energy efficient?

Iain Ure, Otterton OVA rep

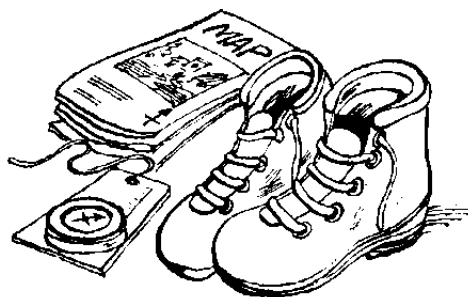
# Walking with the OVA

In order to ensure continuity in the OVA's Programme of Walks, following the change of Walk Organisers in May, we needed to 'hit the ground running!' Now, we have been able to organise the thoughts that underpin our work and, as we enter 2014 and the start of our first complete calendar year, we would like to share our aims with the Membership.

- ❖ It is our *aim* to: plan, deliver, and evaluate an annual Programme of free, led Walks, to meet the needs of the Members of the Otter Valley Association.

## *Specifically* to:

- Organise walks of varied length, terrain and duration, utilising the hills, combes and seaside of the Otter Valley and East Devon.
- Organise more challenging walks utilising the National Parks of Dartmoor, Exmoor and the South West Coast Path National Trail.
- Take advantage of the expertise possessed by our Members or Invited Guests, to promote interest in the architecture, flora and fauna, geology and history of the local area and its surroundings.
- Organise walks on a variety of days, at different times and throughout the year.
- Provide opportunities, training and encouragement for new Walk Leaders.



Do you have any bright idea to improve the Programme, or would you like to lead a walk or do you have a query? If so, please let us know; we are here to help! Happy Walking!

**Mike and Chris**, Walks Organisers.

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**Mike Paddison** (01395 446550 / 07909 606660)

mike.paddison@me.com)

**Chris Buckland** (01395 444471 / 07855 635173;

chris.buckland4@btinternet.com)

# Winter Walks

## The OVA walk on 26 November 2013

On a bright and frosty morning 8 intrepid walkers met at the car park opposite the Norman Lockyer Observatory, East of Sidmouth. After a short briefing, we joined the SW Coast Path and were soon heading down to Salcombe Mouth and up the other side. Our leader, David Buss, stopped at several fine view points and other features such as the Frog Stone and a toposcope (a toposcope is a marker erected on high places which indicates the direction, and usually the distance, to notable landscape features which can be seen from that point) showing the distances to far away places on the horizon and beyond.

After several more steep sections of ups and downs we were delighted to be at Weston Mouth for a peaceful coffee stop on the beach, viewing distant ships on a calm sea. Then it was time for the last strenuous up, heading inland towards Weston and the Donkey Sanctuary, where we stopped for a welcome and warming lunch in the Hayloft Restaurant.

We headed off again across level fields towards Salcombe Regis, briefly diverting to look at the historic Salcombe Thorn at the entrance to the village, before heading back to the car park. Everyone agreed that it had been a most enjoyable and interesting walk, with lots of good humour and local information supplied by our Leader.

### Dee Woods



## OVA Walk on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013

David Buss lead an excellent and varied walk from the Blue Ball at Sidford. A small group followed the Snod Brook up past Boswell Farm to Knowle House. We then headed North contouring along through woods and fields to Lower and Higher Sweetcombe Farms. There were some gentle climbs on the way up to the road near Mincombe where we had a well-earned coffee stop and rest.

Then we turned for home and walked downhill back via a 'living wood' that was being restored, and from where we had great views down the valley towards Sidmouth and the coast.

We walked in warm sunshine through Harcombe Hill plantation and down into Harcombe village before picking up the footpath to Knowle House. Then it was back to the Blue Ball for a late lunch after 8.5 miles of enjoyable and relatively mud free walking on a mild December day that felt more like springtime.



## Dee Woods



## Pre-Christmas Walk, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2013

The cheerful quartet met up at Knowle car park on a rather wet and windy but mild Saturday. A strategy conference ensued and it was decided to walk anti clockwise to take advantage of a predicted drier second half of the walk along the coastal path. The route soon joined the old dismantled railway, which was chock-a-block with dog walkers despite the unrelenting rain. The pace was quick and a well-deserved opportunity to share a flask of mulled wine was taken in the Littleham Church Lytchgate.

The walk continued sloshing along the flooded paths to the outskirts of Exmouth. The recent stormy weather had blown down numerous trees making access impenetrable. Not to be beaten, Mike produced his pocket “Silky” pruning saw and some judicious pruning took place.



The route turned to the coast, but underfoot remained rather wet as the BBC weather report turned out to be a little optimistic. We passed the delights of Sandy Bay caravan site, not looking its best at this time of year. There was obvious recent movement of the cliff edge and nature was doing its best to slide the holiday park into a less obtrusive position next to the water. The route then cut across the golf course which was strangely quiet and then down the lane back to Knowle. A good walk was had by all.

Iain Ure



## OVA Boxing Day Walk

In the middle of a period of very wet and windy weather, David Daniel managed to organise a superb sunny crisp winter’s day to lead the now traditional Boxing Day walk.

Starting from East Budleigh car park at the civilised hour of 10.30, and with a glass of mulled cider, 30 walkers set off in a southerly direction



on an alternative route to avoid the worst of the deep mud.



Then it was turn right up Hayeswood Lane for a steady climb up to the viewpoint into the field by the path 'crossroads' near the top of the hill. On a clear day the view from here is wonderful – across the valley to Otterton and beyond to the marching cliffs leading to Beer Head. In the distance Golden Cap and the great sweep of Dorset coast round to the Isle of Portland. We paused for a few minutes to drink it all in.

Then it was back on the woodland tracks through Wheathill and onto the minor road leading to Hayes Barton. The birthplace of Sir Walter Raleigh looked particularly fine in the winter



sunshine. From there it was but a long half mile back to East Budleigh and the main event of the day – lunch together at the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn. Great company, lots of chat, good food perfectly served piping hot: what better way to enjoy the season of goodwill!

## Haylor Lass



## Naps Lane

The OVA Newsletter description of the walk I led on 7<sup>th</sup> December refers to "Knapps" Lane. Both the current OS map and the footpath map published by the OVA in 1986 (now sadly out of print) call it "Naps" Lane. I looked at the 1840 tithe map to see if "Naps" was a recent creation. The word "Knapps" does not appear anywhere on the tithe map, but there are 14 fields whose name includes the word "Naps" on either side of the lane e.g. Naps Close, Outer Naps, Great Naps, Little Naps, Naps Field etc. You may know something I don't, but it looks as if "Naps" is the correct spelling.

Brian Turnbull

# Oystercatchers at night

*The following piece appeared in the Autumn edition of the Axe Vale & District Conservation Society's Newsletter. Knowing how many of the OVA's members enjoy a winter walk by the estuary, I thought it would be appreciated here. I am very grateful to the author, Humphrey Sitters, and the Axe Vale Society for permission to re-print it for you. – editor*

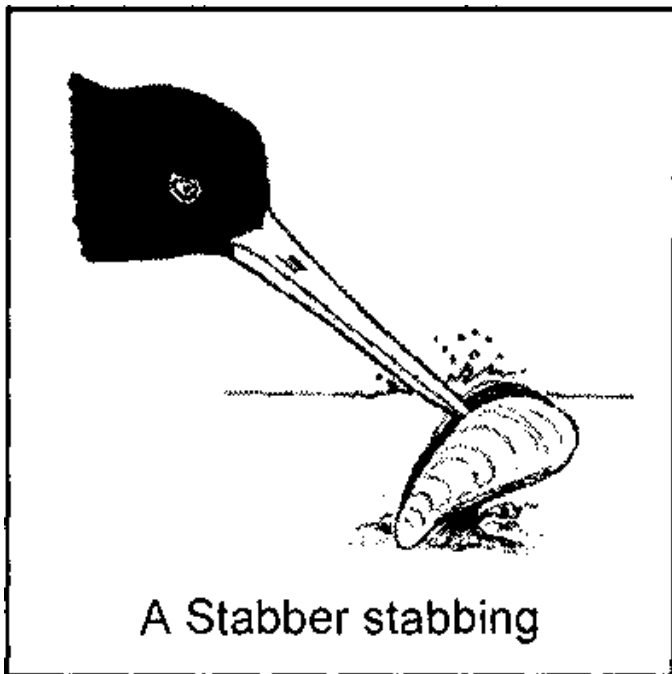
**I**F YOU TAKE A WALK by the Axe (or Otter) Estuary by day at low tide, you can see waders, such as Curlews, Redshanks, Dunlins, Oystercatchers and Black-tailed Godwits, feeding on the mud. They are all feeding on intertidal invertebrates – worms, crabs, molluscs, crustaceans – but mostly they do not compete with one another because they each have a different feeding strategy and a different size bill. But then the tide comes in and they have to stop feeding and gather at a roosting site nearby until the tide ebbs and they can feed again.

If you go to the same place at low tide at night, you cannot see the birds, but you can hear them. They appear to be active. But what are they doing? Are they feeding? If so, how successfully are they feeding? And how important is night-feeding to them in fulfilling their daily food requirement? These are questions that fascinated me so much that 20 years ago I decided to investigate them for a doctorate at Oxford University. I carried out my studies on the Exe Estuary, mostly from a scaffolding tower hide built in the middle of a mussel bed near Lympstone. My plan was to study the behaviour of Oystercatchers feeding on mussels by day and night using a video camera with infra-red illumination to record what the birds were doing in darkness.

But even before I started my project, I knew that feeding at night was vitally important to Oystercatchers. It is one of the best studied birds in the world. Its daily food requirement has been calculated and given that studies have shown that they only ingest about a half of that by day, the other half must be taken at night. In fact the amount they can eat in a low-tide cycle is limited by the rate at which they can digest food. Like us, they can eat more quickly – about three times faster – than their digestive apparatus can process food. This means that while they are on the mussel-beds, they frequently have to stop feeding to let the food go down.

It is also well known that individual Oystercatchers show a strong tendency to specialise on a particular type of prey; there are cockle-feeders, mussel-feeders, worm-feeders, crab-feeders, etc. Among shellfish-feeders individuals have their own particular method of breaking the shell and gaining access to the flesh inside. Therefore some mussel-feeders look for mussels that are themselves feeding and have their shells apart; those birds then stab between the shells and cut the adductor muscle (the muscle that holds the shells together) by biting and then scoop out the flesh. We call those birds 'stabbers'.

I found that by day stabbers locate mussels that are gaping by sight; that is they walk across the mussel bed looking intently at the mussels; then suddenly they plunge their bill into a mussel and in next to no time they are eating the orange-yellow flesh. I found that at night they change to touch-location; they would walk very slowly jabbing their slightly-opened bill in the water until they managed to hit a gaping mussel between the shells.



In September, they were less successful at feeding at night, but success at night increased from autumn to winter and by December they fed more successfully at night than by day. I think (but cannot prove) that the reason is that mussels have to filter-feed (gape) longer in winter because the amount of their food in the water declines at that time of year; moreover they feed more at night than by day because it is safer from predators, such as gulls (but not Oystercatchers!).

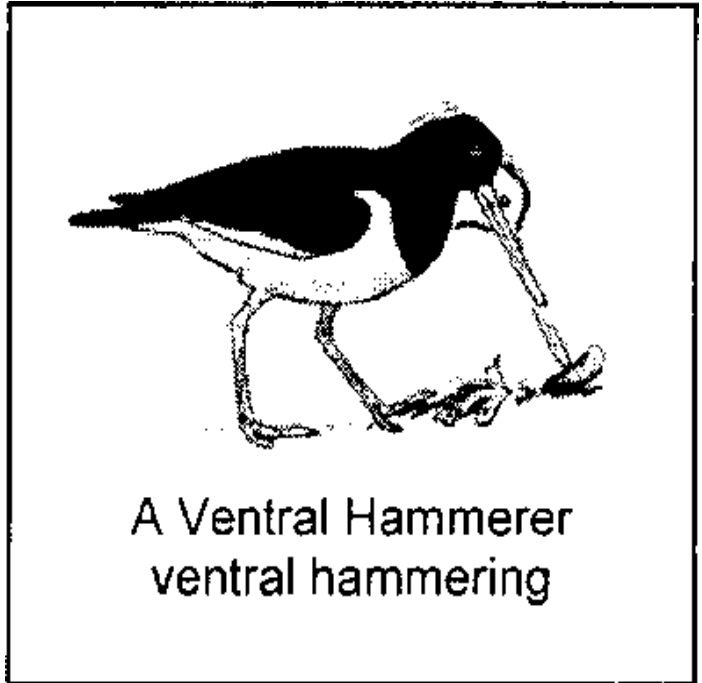
Then there are 'ventral hammerers'. They detach a mussel from the ground; either by dragging it from the weed or stones to which it is attached, or by cutting the byssal thread (the means of attachment) by biting it. Then they usually take the mussel to a place where the ground is reasonably hard, turn it upside down and hammer a hole in the underside of the mussel (the ventral side) which is the thinnest part of the shell.

Like stabbers, I found that ventral hammerers change from sight-location by day to touch-location at night. In darkness they would fork through the seaweed with their bills until they came across a suitable mussel. Then they would open it in exactly the same way as they do by day, except that it would take them longer.

That is not

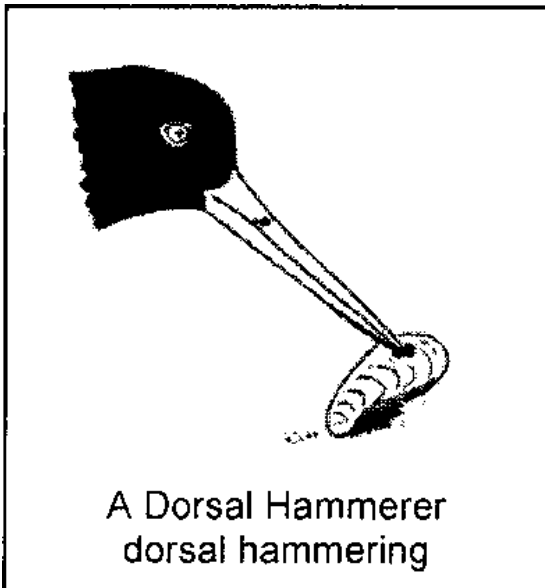
surprising: imagine how much more difficult it would be to accurately hammer a nail in darkness.

Finally, there are the 'dorsal hammerers'. They attack mussels in situ and their aim is to punch a hole in the mussel's shell at the point where the adductor muscle is anchored on the inside. Having made a hole, they insert the tip of their bill and twist it round until they manage to cut the adductor muscle; then the shells fall apart and they can extract the flesh. I found that, unlike stabbers and ventral hammerers, dorsal hammerers locate mussels by sight day and night. On bright, moonlit nights, they were almost as successful as they were by day, but on dark nights they fed more slowly; clearly their technique was particularly reliant on being able to see well.



A Ventral Hammerer  
ventral hammering

As I soon discovered sitting in my hide out there on the mussel-bed, an estuary is a different, more peaceful place at night. There are no bait-diggers or any other people to disturb the Oystercatchers and other waders while they feed; no gulls or crows to steal their hard-won food and no Peregrines to attack and kill them. But there was an occasion when a man ventured onto the mussel-bed just below my hide at 2 o'clock in the morning to collect winkles. I am not sure why he would want to do such a thing at such a time, but you can imagine his surprise and alarm when I spoke to him!



I am grateful to Mike Langman for the drawings he made for me of Oystercatchers at work.

## Humphrey Sitters



The winter gales deal with the new sheds on the re-located Budleigh Salterton allotments.

*picture: Mo Bowman*

# Tailpieces

## Walk Leaders Day

A dozen of us gathered for an interesting day under the tutelage of Tony Burges in East Budleigh Church Hall on a November Saturday. After some 'classroom work' on basic map and compass reading, we had coffee before venturing out into the fields and lanes around the village, where Tony tested us with various scenarios – sudden fog, walk members illness, etc. We were surprised on the outskirts of Otterton to see a specialist rescue vehicle from Barnstaple – a bit out of its range, we thought. Only later did we discover that there had been a person over a cliff nearby – added reality to our earlier discussions of emergency situations. I had to leave after a short picnic lunch, when the others went out on the commons for Navigation checks – I assume successfully, as they all got home!



*Tony navigating a leek field*

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## Branch Lines

### **Main Line to The West. Part Four.**

### **The Southern Railway Route between Basingstoke and Exeter.**

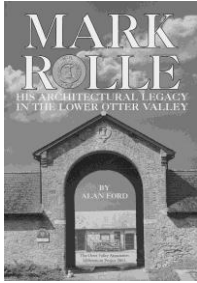
### **The Branch Lines, by John Nicholas and George Reeve.**

A new book from the Irwell Press on the subject of branch lines to Sidmouth and Budleigh Salterton and other similar lines that used to exist along the South coast and going into East Devon.

It is an excellent book, large A4 size hard back and (OVA member) Brian George has contributed words and pictures to it regarding Camping Coach holidays at East Budleigh station in 1960 and 1961, (previously the subject of a two part article late 2008 to early 2009 in the OVA booklet.

Details may be found at your local bookshop, or online at [www.irwellpress.com/acatalog/](http://www.irwellpress.com/acatalog/).

# 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 picture of how a large landed estate was managed in the last 40 years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

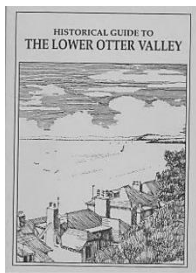
£4.95 from your village rep (or plus £2.00 P&P)



## **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.

£2.50 from your village rep (or plus £2.00 P&P)



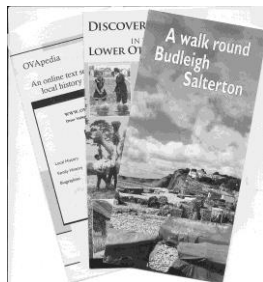
## **Historical Guide to the Lower Otter Valley**

Want to know more about the area you live in or are visiting? This book is packed with detailed information about the places, buildings, people and natural history of this beautiful area, from the very earliest times to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

£3.50 from your village rep (or plus £2.00 P&P)

See our website [ova.org.uk](http://ova.org.uk) or from

Booksales, OVA, PO Box 70, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6WN



## **Leaflets**

The OVA also publish a number of (free) leaflets about the history, flora & fauna and walking the villages of our area of interest in the lower Otter Valley. They can usually be found in the Tourist Information Centre and in other outlets around the valley.

# The Otter Valley Association

## Executive Committee (01395)

|                        |                   |        |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Chairman (acting)      | Nicola Daniel     | 445960 |
| Vice-chairman          | Haylor Lass       | 568786 |
| Hon Secretary (acting) | David Daniel      | 445960 |
| Hon Treasurer          | Trevor Waddington | 443978 |

### *Committee Chairmen*

|                     |                  |        |
|---------------------|------------------|--------|
| Natural Environment | Patrick Hamilton | 445351 |
| Events              | Nicola Daniel    | 445960 |
| History             | David Daniel     | 445960 |

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

|                    |                  |        |
|--------------------|------------------|--------|
| Budleigh Salterton | George Maddaford | 446077 |
|                    | Roger Saunders   | 443248 |
| East Budleigh      | Christine Hadley | 443607 |
| Otterton           | Iain Ure         | 568158 |
| Colaton Raleigh    | <i>vacancy</i>   |        |
| Newton Poppleford  | Haylor Lass      | 568786 |

### *Other EC Members*

|                             |                       |        |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Assistant Minutes Secretary | Robert Wiltshire      | 444395 |
| Membership Secretary        | Clive Bowman          | 446892 |
|                             | membership@ova.org.uk |        |
| Publicity Secretary         | <i>vacancy</i>        |        |

### *Other contacts*

|                         |                     |        |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Webmaster               | Alan Huddart        | 446761 |
| Talks Organiser         | Graham Knapton      | 445872 |
| Walks Organisers        | Chris Buckland      | 444471 |
|                         | Mike Paddimore      | 446550 |
| Newsletter Distributors | Pam and Tony Harber | 445392 |

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Haylor Lass, tel 568786

**haylor@lasses.me.uk**