

# OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

PO Box 70 Budleigh Salterton EX9 6WN

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



*Spring Edition*

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## Chairman's Message



Every aspect of the OVA depends on volunteers to make it happen. We have been pleased to welcome some recruits onto our Events Committee but we do need a regular influx of enthusiastic individuals to sustain our varied activities. Could you play a part in one of our committees? Do contact any of us listed on the back page to find out more about our work.

Another request for help comes from the NSPCC who are organising a sponsored 25 mile walk on 12<sup>th</sup> September starting at Bicton. We have been asked to provide volunteers to man checkpoints, help book in walkers and navigate in vehicles sent out to pick up stragglers. If you can help please contact Donna Statham on 01823 346346 or email [devonhack@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:devonhack@nspcc.org.uk)

Don't forget our AGM will be at 7.30 on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May in the Masonic Hall in Budleigh Salterton. Afterwards Mo Bowman, Photographer to the OVA, will show us some of her wonderful pictures of the area.

A year after our Members' Forum on the Green Agenda, the Budleigh Festival held its first Science Day, focused on climate change, with a series of excellent lectures. What actions could or should be taken by individuals and organisations to mitigate the effects of global warming remains a challenging question. We would welcome anyone who wished to join our sub committee.

The listing in January 2010 of the complex of maritime buildings in Budleigh Salterton, including the Coastguard Cottages, Rocket Cart Shed and steps, by English Heritage was welcome. However, it excluded the Longboat Café because it was "too altered". The report indicated the rarity of such a virtually complete complex, so the exclusion of a key element was hard to understand. A review is currently being undertaken by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

**Helen Tickle**



## From the Editor



In this edition of the Newsletter we have the second part of Pat Hamilton's article on the effects of rising sea levels. I suspect many of us will not live long enough to see some of the impact that Pat predicts but, it seems that yet again, we have to be grateful that we live in such a favoured part of the country. The impact on our valley is much less than can be expected elsewhere.

We have Caroline Allen's weather forecast on page 12 but I have now found an almost foolproof way of forecasting the weather, at least for a few days each quarter.

Whenever I sit down at my computer to pull together the Newsletter the weather improves; the sun breaks through and the rain dries up. This time has been no exception. As I sit here with the garden in dire need of some of my attention the sun is shining out of a brilliant blue sky with a few puffy white clouds. Is it subjective? I don't think so but, if you want to plan a good weekend away, try the 12/13 June. That's when I will be editing the next edition!

It was more than a weekend away for Dr. Graham Taylor whose talk on walking the Camino de Santiago de Compostela is reported on page 21. Those of us who went to the talk will all, I'm sure, admit to being inspired by his description of the walk. Anyone who has done anything similar will also vouch for the life-changing nature of the combination of physical endurance and contemplation that such a venture brings. I fully understand his yearning for another challenge.

In the centre of the Newsletter as well as the usual Diary pull-out we have this month included the AGM Agenda and Minutes. AGMs can be dry and boring meetings but I would urge you to come along, if you can, because the OVA's is one of the few that breaks that mould, especially with the opportunity for some social interaction and a talk after the business. It also gives you the chance, by attending, to thank the people who willingly give their time to make the OVA the wonderful organisation that it is. I hope to see you there.

**Nick Speare**

## Rising Sea Levels: Potential and Local Impact

### Part Two

Part One of this article in the previous edition, focussed upon establishing the potential scale of any sea level rise by 2100. It was written before the Copenhagen conference on climate change last December and the subsequent controversies. These, however, have not altered the conclusions of Part 1.

This second part of the article concentrates on the impact that such rises in sea level would have. It is perhaps self-evident that this impact will depend primarily on the coastal topography. Where land is relatively flat and low-lying, widespread flooding is the obvious danger. Where coastal lands are higher and perhaps undulating, coasts will be cliffed. Here the impact will be restricted to erosion at the new level and flooding will be limited to valley floors where they meet the coast.

#### Flooding

Those with access to the web can explore the website <http://flood.firetree.net> whose database is provided by NASA. On this site it is a simple matter to select any area in the world, at any scale, and produce a flood map for any given sea level rise up to 14m. The impact on the local area is usefully seen in the context of the world-wide problem.

#### *Globally*

The locations that are most under threat are the great river deltas which, because of their great soil fertility, are invariably densely populated and have been cultivated for millennia.

In Asia these include the Ganges-Brahmaputra (most of the state of Bangladesh), the Yangtze and Huang He deltas in China and, in Africa, the Nile delta. Rather different historically is the Mississippi delta in the USA whose vulnerability was so dramatically demonstrated recently in New Orleans.

In Europe most at risk is the North Sea coastal plain which includes the Rhine delta. Even minor rises of sea level show a continuous swathe of flooded land behind the dune coast running from Calais through the Low Countries to Germany and Denmark. The Netherlands is particularly problematic if only because so much of its territory is polderland, below sea

## Natural Environment

level. This is already protected by extensive networks of dykes and much depends upon their efficacy under the pressure of higher sea levels.

Apart from the deltas and coastal plains, other locations that are particularly vulnerable are the world's major ports, which often are located in estuaries. Less flat land is involved than on the deltas but these sites are strategically vital and include port installations, industrial plant and communications arteries. New York, at the mouth of the Hudson, epitomizes this. Although Manhattan Island is relatively safe, the New Jersey side of the river is crammed with industrial and commercial plant and is extremely vulnerable even to a 1m rise which would also be enough to immobilise all three of the city's international airports. San Francisco is in a similar position.

### UK

In the UK the most vulnerable areas are the lowlands on the younger geology of the East coast of England, which mirror their European counterparts across the North Sea. From the Humber to the Wash and then around the Thames estuary, small rises in sea level will flood extensive areas. Also seriously affected would be adjacent low-lying inland areas, including the lower Trent valley, The Fens and, further south, the Norfolk Broads. Closer to home the Somerset Levels are in a similar position.

As to estuaries, much the most vulnerable, after the Humber, is the Thames and London itself, especially downstream from the Thames Barrier in Woolwich. If that barrier cannot handle storm surges when sea level is 1½m higher than it is now, then Central London will be flooded, especially on the south side of the river.

### East Devon

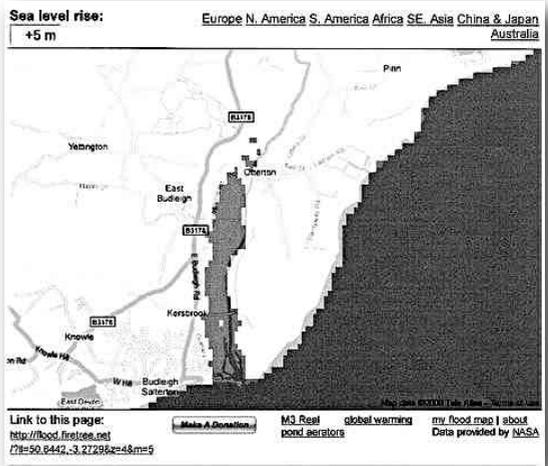
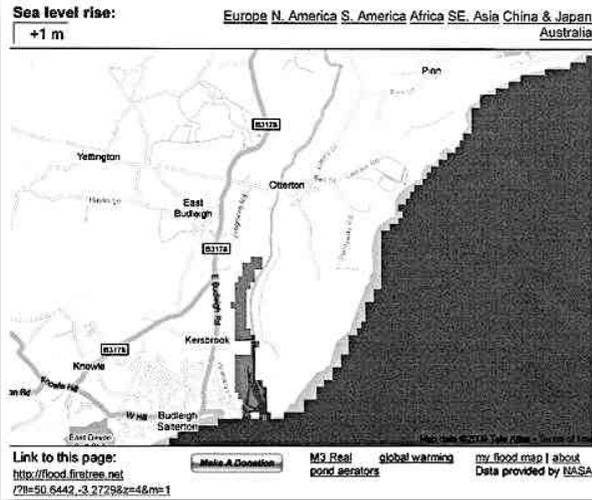
In the context of the examples above, most of East Devon is in a mercifully safe situation. The terrain backing the Jurassic coast is a dissected plateau so that it is only where the three major rivers, the Axe, Otter and Exe, cut through to the sea that low-lying land offers an avenue for marine flooding. Fortunately, for the most part, these areas are not densely populated, although the impact would be by no means insignificant in the case of the Exe. The accompanying maps show the effects of 1m and 5m rises for the Otter and Exe, the former (1m) representing a highly probable situation, whereas a 5m rise is unlikely by 2100, requiring more rapid losses from the Greenland and West Antarctic ice caps than currently seems probable.

## Natural Environment

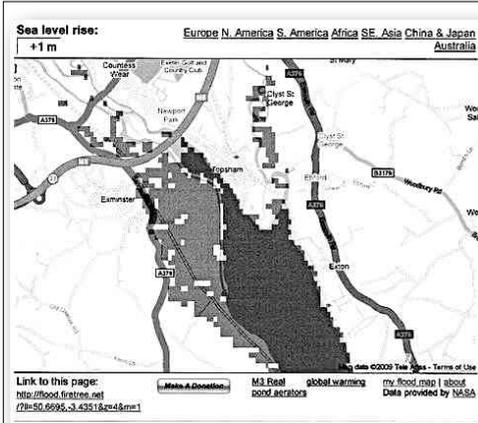
*The Otter Valley* has a relatively narrow floodplain which is almost devoid of housing and roads and is flanked by steep valley sides. The effect of a rising sea level would be to produce a narrow, shallow estuary thus tending to restore the situation that existed prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> century when Otterton and East Budleigh were significant ship-building ports. The distance to which this estuary penetrates inland would depend upon the amount of the sea level rise. A 1m

rise (see map) would see it extend beyond White Bridge (the constriction on the map) to Clamour Bridge (GR078842), although not as far as Otterton. That would take a 5m rise (see map). Even with a 10m rise, most of Otterton, East Budleigh and Budleigh Salterton would remain above sea level, although the estuary would extend almost to Colaton Raleigh.

*The Exe Valley* The areas of low-lying land are far larger than in the Otter valley. Moreover, not only are there some key installations lying only just above current sea level, but there also numerous villages as well as parts of Exmouth and Exeter at this level. Much of the vulnerable land lies towards the head of the estuary including the line of the Clyst. Even a 1m rise (see map) would result in the loss of a large part of the Exminster Marshes and with them the rail link to Plymouth and Cornwall. In Exmouth,



## Natural Environment



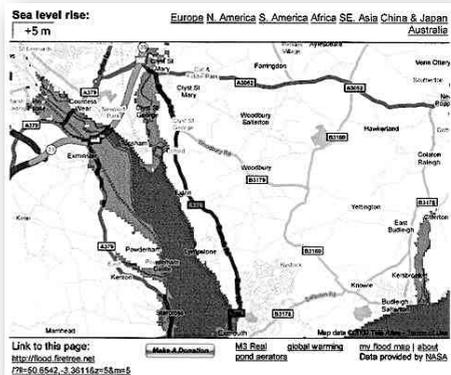
all the low-lying areas between the marina and the railway station would be threatened as also some southern sections of the railway itself.

A 2 metre rise, which is not impossible by 2100, would threaten Marsh Barton and flood the lower Clyst valley eliminating Bowling Green Marsh at Topsham and beginning to threaten the main road link from Budleigh Salterton and Exmouth (A 376) to the M5 motorway and Exeter. It would

certainly eliminate the Exmouth railway.

The much less probable 5m rise (see map) would create havoc as the estuary extended well into the Marsh Barton industrial estate. The arm up the Clyst valley, would certainly cut the A376 link to the M5 junction as well as flooding Clyst St Mary. Down the estuary, Starcross would be largely eliminated and the spit of Dawlish Warren would be lost. Over the estuary, most of the Exmouth railway would be under water from Topsham south and Exmouth would suffer significantly, losing the main shopping area, all of the housing around the harbour, and a large area of housing between Phear Park and the estuary.

A 10m rise, which is even less probable, would be even more catastrophic of course. The extension of the estuary would take it up to Exeter St David's railway station with the complete elimination of the Marsh Barton trading estate en route. The top end of the Clyst valley arm of the estuary would lie just off the western end of Exeter airport, which would be cut off by road from Exeter. But even so, most of Exeter and Exmouth would escape.



## Natural Environment

Before leaving the issue of flooding, it is worth observing that the Firetree maps relate to mean sea levels. Currently the inter-tidal range (the difference between high and low tide) may be up to 4.5m at spring tides though much less, only 1.5m or so, at neap tides 15 days later (or earlier!). Obviously, at times of spring tides, with higher mean sea levels, the flooding could be much more extensive than shown on the Firetree maps. It is at these times that the rise in sea levels will have maximum impact.

### Cliff Erosion

Most of the Jurassic coast is cliffed and it is worth noting, briefly, that beaches protect cliffs from wave attack. Even on a shallow sandy beach this is true as the waves will break far out at sea and lose their impetus as they reach the cliff foot. Waves do most damage at high tides when water close to the cliff line will be of maximum depth and the waves therefore have greatest force. Relating this to rising sea levels, it implies that waves will be passing over deeper water as they approach the cliffs and will be attacking fresh vertical rock surfaces which formerly had been out of their reach. This is a recipe for more rapid erosion and cliff retreat, with obvious implications for users of the cliff top areas, whether agricultural or recreational.

### Conclusion

In the decades ahead, the slow rise in sea level will have important, although hardly catastrophic, impacts on the Otter Valley and adjacent coasts. On cliff faces, as noted above, storm waves will reach ever higher up the cliff face. The spit at the mouth of the Otter will be over-run ever more frequently; and with high tide levels getting ever higher, the back-ponding of river water will produce ever more frequent inundation of the flood plain further up-valley. Low tides will also get higher. In time perhaps the rock ledge at the mouth of the river will be permanently hidden from view. What is certain is that the process of global and oceanic warming cannot easily be slowed down let alone reversed. The Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets will continue to melt and if atmospheric warming cannot be slowed down, the rate of melting could well accelerate and with it would come an accelerated rate of sea level rise. The example of King Canute remains relevant and sombre.

**Patrick Hamilton**

## Interested in Bats?

The OVA has two bat detectors available free for members to borrow. They are very easy to use. We will lend you the detector, (Magenta Bat4 models) with instructions for use and bat identification leaflets from the Bat Conservation Trust. We will also give you a log form to record bat sightings. Filling out the form is entirely voluntary, but will help the OVA to keep a record of bat contacts in the area.



If you would like to borrow a detector please send an email to [budsalt@googlemail.com](mailto:budsalt@googlemail.com) with “Bat Detector” as the subject or contact Roger Saunders on 01395 443248.

When you pick up the detector you will need to provide a form of ID and a £ 60 cheque as a security deposit. The cheque will be returned to you at the end of the loan period.

Initially we are limiting the loan to five days, but this will be reviewed when we get a better idea of demand.

## What do these four pictures all have in common?

*(It's not a quiz and there's no prize)*



**Answer:** They all illustrate topics on the new OVA Forum/Message Board.

There's an article expressing concern about the maintenance of our local footpaths.

And did you know that there are beavers back on the Otter? *See over*

Also you could find out more about research being done on the Pebblebed Heaths.

And following Dr Graham Taylor's talk about his pilgrims' walk to Santiago de Compostela (*see report page 21*) there is now a topic about finding people who would like to undertake the walk.

Have a look at the Message Board (via the OVA website) and perhaps add some comments to the topics.

The Message Board is private to OVA members and cannot be viewed by the general public. You have to register first if you haven't already done so but it's a quick and painless process.



**Alan Huddart (Webmaster)**

## Beavers on the Otter?

Following the heavy rain after the big thaw in mid January, a friend of mine rescued a log approximately two foot long, of willow, at the mouth of the Otter. He had noticed the precision of the cuts which had felled the tree; clearly a sharp axe had been used. Such a change from the traditional chain saw.

He showed it to me, and I duly admired this addition to his log pile. I was then instructed to look at the surface of the cuts. It was one mass of parallel rows of small tooth marks. Immediately it became apparent that this was no chainsaw, no axe, nobody practising with a set of chisels from Christmas, but a beaver which had felled the tree. Hang on. The beavers are in Scotland, not



East Devon! So began a series of enquiries in the area, culminating at the Escot Estate at Fairmile, north west of Ottery St Mary.

Diligent readers of the October 2009 edition of the OVA magazine will recall an article by John-Michael Kennaway about the pair of beavers from Bavaria that produced two kits last summer on the Escot Estate. This estate is located on the River Tale, which flows into the river Otter close to Cadhay Farm Bridge. Undoubtedly this is where the log started its journey to the sea.

Elsewhere in the Spring edition of the magazine are details of an OVA outing to Escot. If anybody is interested, the aforementioned timber is currently available, with kind permission, on the lawn of the Fairlynch Museum, where it may be viewed.

**Bob Wiltshire**

*extracted from the Message Board of the Website. [www.oVA.org.uk](http://www.oVA.org.uk)*

## Whether or not?

2010		
Jan	Feb	Mar
Apr	May	Jun
Jul	Aug	Sep
Oct	Nov	Dec

Two talks have been postponed within a year, both, unfortunately, scheduled to take place in Otterton. The venue was not the problem but rather the potential travel problems of the speakers.

In February 2009 George Wilkins faced steep, snowy hills en route from Sidmouth and in January 2010 Rod Lawrence would have encountered the snow that caused chaos on Haldon Hill and throughout mid-Devon on his journey from Cullompton, had we not taken the decision to put off his talk.

Rod Lawrence's talk has now been rearranged for October 12th and it will be at Otterton Village Hall.



All our scheduled activities must be seen as subject to postponement or cancellation because of circumstances beyond our control. Whenever possible information about alterations to our programme will be posted on the OVA website and amendments will be made to our posters, as we did in the week before Rod Lawrence's scheduled talk in January.

Members will appreciate that ill-health or traffic problems may prevent a speaker or a walk leader attending at short notice or even being unable to notify us by mobile phone.

If you wish to receive an email message to alert you to programme changes please supply your email address via the website [www.oval.org.uk](http://www.oval.org.uk). Our parish representatives and other committee members whose numbers are on the back page of the newsletter can be contacted when weather forecasts for snow or other such extreme conditions suggest a potential postponement.

## Heavens Above! Your Alternative Weather Forecast Spring 2010



*"Break open a cherry tree and there are no flowers, but the spring breeze brings forth myriad blossoms."* Ikkyu Sojun

One thing we can rely upon with absolute certainty in the Otter Valley is the consistency of our climate. We get some kind of weather here nearly every day! However, while no winter lasts forever and no spring skips its turn, the first day of spring is one thing and the first spring day quite another. The difference between them can sometimes be as much as a month; and although it is recommended to take each day one at a time, this spring several days could attack all at once!

Unsettled atmospheric conditions can be expected, especially over the bank holidays. Average temperatures will be below the seasonal norm, with excessive cloudiness and a deficiency of sunshine, and anomalies in temperature will result in squalls and thunderstorms. In short, I am anticipating a cool and windy three months with only intermittent sunny spells to raise our spirits. This spring looks to be one of divine discontent and longing, when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold; when it is summer in the light but still winter in the shade – and wet in both.

March roars out leaving each tree waving and tossing its branches, whilst April slips in underneath recovering its breath. We could however see more rain on April Fool's day and over Easter bank holiday, with blustery squalls on the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>. The third week of April is the most likely time for the first spring day to appear; when Mother Nature decides the risk to remain tight in bud is more dangerous than the risk it takes to blossom. April showers could cause her petals to droop though, and Mercury's backwards flip on the 18<sup>th</sup> could knock them right off; but we should see sunbeams dancing in between the raindrops. Until the 25<sup>th</sup> that is, when chance of a thunderstorm wipes the shine off of the Sun's face.

## Weather

The Full Moon on the 28<sup>th</sup> April heralds a difficult week! Acute weather conditions are indicated not just for us in the Otter Valley but for the UK as a whole; expect a gale when rough winds will indeed shake the darling buds of May!

The Sun will put his hat on in the second week but a blustery shower could knock it off again around the 11<sup>th</sup>. A bright and breezy middle to the month, but the last ten days should cloud over when a low pressure system moves in. Oppressive humidity will be released by squalls and possibly a thunderstorm in the last week. I wonder if we will find ourselves stuck on the wrong side of the jet stream, because slow moving but intense downfall threatens us at the tail end of the month.

A quiet start to June; the lull between storms perhaps? The Sun should poke his head out again, but it will still feel on the cool side with misty skies dripping mizzle and drizzle until the wind gets up around 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> and pulls in the rain. The new moon on the 12<sup>th</sup> looks ominously wet and stormy too but I don't think the hiatus will be reached until the 19<sup>th</sup> which looks to be a very nasty and wet week indeed! Acute conditions around the summer solstice could precipitate torrential downpours causing localized flooding. To add insult to injury this is followed by a dramatic climax at the eclipse of the Full Moon on the 26 June which I anticipate to be the crisis week of the season, with not only very difficult weather expected for us, but possibly catastrophic weather conditions experienced on continental Europe. I would not recommend you travel across the English Channel this week.

I am sorry to be such a harbinger of doom and gloom again! Living on earth seems to be pretty cold and miserable during 'global warming' doesn't it. But look on the bright side; it does include an annual free trip around the Sun!

**Caroline Allen**

To see Caroline's spring report in greater detail please go to: [http://www.caroline-allen.co.uk/weather\\_or\\_not.htm](http://www.caroline-allen.co.uk/weather_or_not.htm)

## Poetry Competition



I was extremely pleased with the number of entries in the poetry competition and would like to thank all the contributors.

The entries were judged by Prof. Martin Sorrel of Exeter University and member of the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival Committee.

I shall try to find space to include as many of the entries as I can in the coming editions but this edition must be reserved for the winner.

The winner and bearer of the unofficial title Poet Laureate of OVA (PLOVA) is:

*Steve Haggart (See page 15 for Steve's entries)*

In his comments on the winner's entries Martin said "Though 'light', they are nicely shaped, genuinely entertaining, and they manage to capture something of the charm as well as the frustrations of a place that is loved by so many, myself included. So that's my winner."

Referring to the other entrants Martin said "they try hard to evoke the physical reality of the land around the Otter and have some nice moments".

\*\*\*\*\*

## AGM

Please note that there is an additional centre Pull -out in this edition. Rather than providing documents at the AGM you will find the Agenda and Minutes as a pull-out in the centre.

Ed

## APRIL - JUNE



### **April 16, Fri & April 20, Tues 10.00am Offwell VISIT**

Meet Forestry Commission Car Park SY191 988

*(See Page 17)*



### **April 17, 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 21, Wed - 10.30am. WALK (Moderate) /Pub Lunch**

Tally Ho Inn CP and local road parking, SX940904. 4 miles, 2½ hours.

Providing an unusual perspective this walk around the pretty Ludwell Valley gives panoramic views over both Exeter and the Exe estuary with optional lunch at the Tally Ho Inn, please note later start time.

*Walk leader: Trish Bisley, 01392 410423*



### **April 24, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)**

Church CP, SY148888. 4 miles, 2½ hours. Local paths around Salcombe Regis including coastal paths with splendid views.

*Walk leader: Steve Hagger, 01395 442631*



### **April 29, Thur - 10.00am. Tale Valley Trust VISIT**

Meet at Escot Park EX11 1LU

*(See Page 18)*

### **May 4, Tues -7.30pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Agenda and Minutes in centre of Newsletter.



### **May 8, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Easy) / Pub Lunch**

Peak Hill CP , SY109872. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Jed Falby's artists' walk , easy going with two short stops for sketching with demo by Walk Leader Jed. Non artists very welcome to come along. Optional pub lunch at the Kings Arms, Otterton.

*Walk leader: Jed Falby, 01395 445455*

## APRIL - JUNE

*continued*



### **May 15, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)**

Colaton Raleigh church (roadside parking), SY082872. 7 miles, 3 hours. Riverside, green lanes, coast path, Mutters Moor, Passaford Lane (steep).  
*Walk leader:* Brian Turnbull, 01395 567339



### **May 26, Wed – 10.00am. TOWN WALK (Easy)**

Budleigh Salterton Methodist Church car park (donation to Lions).  
Learn more about Budleigh's history through its people and places.

## **May 29 - June 5 Budleigh Salterton Gala Week**



### **June 2, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Easy)**

Joney's Cross CP SY057898. 3 miles, 2½ hours. If you're interested in wildlife this is the walk for you. Easy walk across the commons looking for wildlife on the ground and in the air with expert commentary  
*Walk leader:* David Jannaway, 01395 567159



### **June 4, Fri - 8.00am Dorset Jurassic Coast Visit**

Pick-up 8.00 Budleigh Public Hall, 8.15 Newton Pophelford War Memorial  
(See Page 19)



### **June 10, Thurs**

Final Submissions for July Newsletter



### **June 19, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic) and Return Boat Trip**

Lime Kiln CP (charges apply), SY073820. 7 miles, 3 hours. Walk along the coastal path to Sidmouth returning to Budleigh (Steamer Steps) at 4.00pm by Stuart Line Cruise Boat (cost £5 for members and £7 for non members, must have been booked in advance (application in Jan Edition).  
*Walk leader:* Steve Hagger, 01395 442631



### **June 30, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Colaton Raleigh church (roadside parking), SY082872. 4½ miles, 2½ hours. An introduction to Mark Rolle and his architectural heritage (see page 19 in last edition).  
*Walk leader:* Brian Turnbull, 01395 567339

**OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION**

**31st Annual General Meeting**

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2010 7.30 pm**

**Masonic Hall, Budleigh Salterton**

## **Agenda**

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of Previous AGM held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009\***
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 4. Annual Trustees Report**  
**Including 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 presentation by Mo Bowman  
"Picturing the Otter Valley"**

**\*Minutes of the 30th AGM are on the following pages**

# OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting

held at 7.30pm on 5th May 2009 in East Budleigh Village Hall

**1 Present:** Helen Tickle, Chairman Haylor Lass, Vice Chairman, Martin Smith, Hon Treasurer, Roger Saunders, Acting Secretary, a further 12 members of the Executive Committee and 25 other members of the Association.

**2 Apologies:** Clive Bowman, Maureen DeViell, Bob Hack, Rosemary Huggett, Neville Lister, Brian Turnbull, Glen Whittle

**3 The Minutes** of the AGM held on 7th May 2008 were taken as read and agreed as a true record, proposed by Nick Speare, seconded by Maureen Lister, agreed by the membership present.

**4 Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

### **5 Annual Report:**

The Chairman presented the Otter Valley Association Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2009.

She reported that there have been no changes to the aims and organisation of the Association. The management of the OVA is carried out by the Executive Committee and committees which report to the Executive Committee (Built Environment Committee, Natural Environment Committee, Events Committee, History Group and Ad Hoc committees formed as needed). The OVA depends upon the commitment and active involvement of many people, the Chairman expressed her appreciation to all those who contributed in the last year. The revision of the Rules has been completed with brief job descriptions of key positions incorporated. The role of newsletter editor was clarified as remaining outside of the Executive Committee, but liaising with the Chairman, the role of Webmaster is similarly defined. The Chairman noted that the role of the Built Environment Committee, scrutinising all planning applications for the area and deciding whether an OVA response is necessary, can at times be controversial. The committee has worked hard to fulfill its responsibilities. Amongst its other activities, the Natural Environment Committee continues to manage the Jubilee Field wildflower meadow and organised another successful litter pick on the Otter Estuary. The Events committee has done an outstanding job putting together a diverse programme which has been both popular and well supported. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed to commission a new website which is now in operation, allowing easier access to updated information as well as enabling the OVApedia to be viewed online.

The Treasurer, Martin Smith, read his section of the annual report. Most of the financial transactions were in line with last year, with the exception of a one-off cost for the website development. As a result there was a deficit of £ 1,171 this year,

## AGM

leaving a balance of £ 18,194 available to the OVA. Acceptance of the Trustees' Report and the Accounts was proposed by Diane Gee, seconded by Susan Tickle and agreed unanimously.

**6 Election of Officers:** The Chairman reported that no nominations for Treasurer were received before the closing date. Due to the importance of this position to the OVA, the Executive Committee resolved to fill the vacancy by appointing Martin Smith as Acting Treasurer. In response to a question from the floor the Chairman stated that the Executive Committee would be willing to consider other interested candidates, but that they should attend a few EC meetings in an observer status first. The Chairman explained that as only one nomination had been received for each other post by the required closing date, 14 days prior to the AGM, there would be no election. The Acting Secretary read out the Nominations of the Officers as follows:-

Chairman: Helen Tickle  
Vice Chairman: Haylor Lass  
Acting Treasurer: Martin Smith.  
Hon Secretary: Roger Saunders

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:- Geoff Aplin, Clive Bowman, Norman Crossland, Mitzi Crossland, David Daniel, Nicola Daniel, Alan Jones, John Jones, Maureen Lister, Martin Smith, Susan Tickle, John Winson.

**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 Haylor Lass and seconded by John Jones, with the agreement of the membership present.

**8 Any Other Business:** Jed Falby asked what the current membership of the OVA was, Martin Smith reported that it was currently 1,123 members. Jed also asked that the Executive Committee should consider not insisting on the profitability of outings as a precondition of their approval. This issue was referred to be considered at the next Executive Committee meeting.

**9 Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 4 May 2010 at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall, Budleigh Salterton.

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.55pm, with refreshments.

A talk by David Daniel, (A Beginner's Guide to Meadow Making) followed.

*JULY - SEPTEMBER*

 **July 3, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Woodbury Castle Estuary CP, SY032872. 4½ miles, 2½ hours. Westward towards Woodbury using roads and tracks with good views over the Exe Valley, could be muddy after rain.

*Walk leader:* John Jones, 01395 443651

 **July 10, Sat – 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) Pub Lunch**

Budleigh Salterton Free CP, SY061821. 9½ miles, 5½ hours. Coastal Path to Exmouth and return along part of old railway track. Optional Pub lunch at The Grove on the front at Exmouth or bring own lunch.

*Walk leader:* Shane Badham, 01395 567531

 **July 24 , Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Joney's Cross CP, SY057898. 5miles , 2½ hours. An exploration of Aylesbeare Common and the Hawkerland Valley.

*Walk leader:* Steve Hagger , 01395 442631

 **August 7, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

East Budleigh CP, SY065849. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Local walk up Hayes Lane and through woods and over the commons returning via Yettington.

*Walk leader:* Stan Herbert, 01395 445113

 **August 18, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) / Optional pub lunch**

Weston CP, SY166890. 5½ miles, 2¾ hours. See the Jurassic Coast from a different perspective on this circular walk on the east side of the hill and part of the coast path. Optional lunch at a local pub.

*Walk leader:* Peter Hills, 01395 568576

## JULY - SEPTEMBER

### **September 4, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Budleigh Salterton Free CP, SY061821. 8 miles, 4 hours. A three lake walk at this season of mellow fruitfulness visiting the local beauty spots of Bystock Ponds, Squabmoor Reservoir and Black Hill Quarry with a stop for a sociable picnic lunch (bring your own packed lunch).

*Walk leader:* Jan Stuart, 01395 568235

### **September 8, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Easy to Moderate)**

Exmouth Leisure Centre CP (charges apply), SY999811. 2 hour walk on the Exmouth Blue Plaque Trail. Our route will go around the Town Centre and up to the Beacon exploring the history of the town and the people who lived there.

*Walk leader:* Hazel Harland, 01395 445665

### **September 18, 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

## Future Events



### **October 12, Tues - 7.30pm Talk**

“Beyond Old Harry-the Future for the Jurassic Coast”

Otterton Village Hall

*Speaker:* Rod Lawrence



### **November 11, Thurs- 7.30pm Talk**

“The Archeology of East Devon(the work of the Devon County Historic Environment Service)” Peter Hall Budleigh Salterton

*Speaker:* Cressida Whitton, Archeologist , Devon County Council



### **December 15, Wednesday - Christmas Dinner**

Woodbury Golf & Country Club

### **2011 May 11, Wednesday - AGM**

Newton Popleford Church Hall

## OVA Poetry Competition

The winning entry.

### A Storm Brewing?

Budleigh Salterton is a town with a boast  
The prettiest spot on the Jurassic coast

But make sure you're swift if you want some tea  
Order it now; its three fifty three.

There's a butchers, a baker, a tea shop or two  
But here is a warning whatever you do

If you want some tea, don't leave it too late  
The time is approaching three fifty eight.

Look for the cricket pitch that lies so low  
White bridge on the Otter for walkers to go

Poppled beach, crashing waves, quaint fishing boats  
Small children gaze longingly at ice cream floats

But if it's a cuppa you want – then look no more  
You won't get one anywhere 'cause its gone four!!

T. Brewer (Retired)  
a.k.a. Steve Hagger

### Return trip

I want to go to Bud-leigh again; where the cliffs sweep down to the sea,  
I left my shoes and socks there; I'd bought them in Torquay!!

Mike Spilligan (Aged 57 ½)  
a.k.a. Steve Hagger

## Spring Events Programme

The members of the Events Committee have arranged a varied programme for you this spring.

Caroline Allen wished to go on a bluebell walk so she has arranged two in Offwell Woodland and Wildlife Trust with a scrumptious lunch included.

Diane Gee has negotiated a visit to Escot with the owner, John-Michael Kennaway, to include a talk and an insight into the Tale Valley Trust water vole project.

Mo Bowman, with the help of her husband Clive, has arranged a visit over the border into Dorset to Lulworth Cove and the “lost” village of Tyneham with Tony Burges leading.

John Jones, our walks organiser has three walks with a difference on his programme. Brian Turnbull will lead a walk on the Mark Rolle buildings, Steve Hagger has arranged a coastal path walk to Sidmouth returning to Budleigh Salterton by boat and there will be the usual OVA history walk around Budleigh Salterton in Gala Week which appeals to our new members.

Thinking of Gala Week, Gill Speare and her husband Nick will supervise the Pirates Treasure Hunt so please take your children and grandchildren to search for gold pebbles.

Meanwhile other members of the committee are working on autumn events to include a workshop with David Jenkinson on the Bench/Pew Ends of East Budleigh Church and Sue Chapman is working on our winter series of talks. If you have any places you would like to visit or workshops or talks you would like us to arrange please contact one of us.

You will find further details of spring events on the following pages and booking forms at the back of the Newsletter.

I would also like to say it is a joy to work with such an enthusiastic committee.

**Nicky Daniel**

## **Picnic and Guided Tour of ‘Offwell Woodland & Wildlife Trust’ in Bluebell Time”**

**Friday 16 and Tuesday 20 April. APPLY URGENTLY**

Offwell may be one of East Devon’s best kept secrets! But if you join us this coming 16<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of April then you will probably be as enchanted as I was on my first visit! The Offwell Woodland and Wildlife Trust took on the mammoth task of clearing a tangled jungle of alien rhododendron and painstakingly transformed fifty neglected acres into a flourishing managed habitat of lowland heath, wetland, and woodland. These sylvan settings now provide an ideal environment for a rich diversity of species, including rare and endangered animals, plants and fungi.



Starting with a stroll down the bridle path when the bluebells are in bloom, we will be given a three hour guided tour by one of the leaders of the group ‘Action for Biodiversity’ responsible for this transformation.

Biodiversity is a term used to encompass the whole wonderful variety of life on earth which probably started one Thursday around 4 billion years ago. We have more idea how many stars there are in the galaxy than of how many life-forms exist on earth. 1.4 million species have been named and, with luck, we will see as many as we can of them before lunch. Inmates now happily residing at Offwell are the rare and loveable dormouse (he has his own ‘run’ with ensuite facilities in the hazel coppice), the ruddy darter dragonfly, water vole, glow-worm, otter, woodcock, kingfisher, and a myriad of other happy creatures now protected under this active conservation programme.

This leisurely but mind stretching walk is around two miles long but it is over uneven ground which could be muddy and therefore stout footwear and walking poles are recommended. Our ramble is perfected by a slap up picnic lunch in a log cabin in the heart of the woodland.

Using a ‘car sharing’ policy we will meet up at the forestry commission car park map reference SY191 988 at 10.00am on the day, returning to the car park approximately 3pm.

^ The cost is £ 15.00 p.p. including picnic lunch.

**Caroline Allen**

**Visit To Escot Park:  
Work Of The Tale Valley Trust  
Thursday 29 April 2010 - 10am**  
(Restricted numbers so book asap)

Through Conservation, Environmental Education & Regeneration, the Trust seeks to protect this lovely valley. The pilot work to reintroduce water voles has been successful and otters have also returned to the river. By clearing scrub, brambles and wild *Ponticum*, restoring an ancient leat system and installing stock fencing, the watermeadows have been restored and wildlife encouraged. Volunteers are also hard at work reducing the dreaded Himalayan Balsam (which pollutes our own lovely river valley) and associated bank erosion. For more information, see the article in the March issue of 'Devon Life' or visit [www.talevalley.com](http://www.talevalley.com).

We are very grateful to the owner of Escot Park, John-Michael Kennaway, who has kindly agreed to take us to the demonstration site and to lead us around the park. We will see the beaver enclosure by the lake with clues to their presence, look for traces of dormice and see the ancient Champion trees where the bats roost (unfortunately all these animals are nocturnal). We will learn about the watermeadow restoration, encouragement of indigenous species and ambitious red squirrel project. In the historic parkland we will be shown the site of a Saxon village.

After the tour and optional lunch in the Coach House Restaurant, you might like to take advantage of some of the many other things to do and see at Escot, including free Estate walks (leaflets available on site), Aquatic Centre and Seahorse Trust or visit the Gardens and Maze (Entrance fee £7.50, concessions £6.50) to see spring flowers, birds of prey, wild boar and otters.

**Costs:** £5.00 - fee will go towards the Red Squirrel Project.

**Lunch:** selection of sandwiches, baguettes, home-cooked light lunches and puds. To help the restaurant, please arrive early enough to choose lunch before the start of the tour at 10am.

**N.B.** We are talking watermeadows, so wellies would be a good idea.

**Directions:** North of Ottery-St-Mary and the A30 at Fairmile and follow brown signs (Sat Nav - EX11 1LU).

**Diane Gee**  
(01395 444388)

## Guided Trip to the Dorset Jurassic Coast Friday 4th June

Fancy a day out in our own Jurassic Coast exploring its Eastern end?

Tony Burges is leading a trip for us to Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove, the prehistoric Purbeck Fossil Forest, and Tyneham Village. Sounds a lot and it's all time and weather dependant but the walking distance will only be about 5 or 6 miles.

We shall be traveling by minibus(es) leaving Budleigh Salterton early at 8.00am (or 8.15am from Newton Poppleford opposite the garage) to travel 55 miles to our starting point.

We ascend a hill to walk towards Durdle Door, hoping to spot wild flowers and enjoying the magnificent view, then go on to Lulworth Cove. Here we will stop for lunch. There are cafes, loos, visitor centre etc here, but if the weather is good, we suggest bringing a packed lunch, so that we can follow on with a walk around Lulworth Cove beach to the fossil forest, protruding eerily from the cliffside.

We have the use of our minibus(es) all day, so we retrace our steps to



Lulworth and then drive to Tyneham. Here, villagers were forced to abandon their homes and workplaces by MOD during the Second World War, to provide the land for a military range. They were never allowed to return, and indeed visitors like ourselves to this ghost village are only allowed occasional access because

## Events Programme

t h e l a n d i s s t i l l i n c o n s t a n t m i l i t a r y u s e .

We will spend about an hour at the village, then we hope to make a detour to Corfe Castle and enjoy a cream tea before we head home!

The cost for this trip is £20 pp, including transport and the services of our guide. Lunch, and the hoped-for cream tea, are optional extras.

If the weather is kind to us and we keep to a reasonable pace without too many delays, we hope to arrive back in Budleigh around 7.30pm. It's a long day, but packed with interest,

**Mo Bowman**  
(01395 446892)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Talks

Postponed due to wintry January weather, the talk by Rod Lawrence, entitled “Beyond Old Harry-the Future for the Jurassic Coast” is now scheduled for 7.30 pm. Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at Otterton Village Hall.

oooooOooooo

On November 11<sup>th</sup> 2010, at 7.30, Peter Hall, Budleigh Salterton we have Cressida Whitton, Archeologist , Devon County Council, doing a talk entitled “The Archeology of East Devon (the work of the Devon County Historic Environment Service)”

**Sue Chapman**

## “Walking the Pilgrims Way to Santiago de Compostela”

Over a hundred people made the pilgrimage to the Public Hall to hear Dr Graham Taylor show and tell about the 500 mile, 35 day, autumn expedition he made with four companions in 2008. Starting at St Jean Pied du Port in France, our pilgrims, protected by wide brim hats and bearing the Coquille St Jacques symbol, traversed the stony, high paths of the Pyrenees. They marvelled at the art, history and architecture of classic Spanish cities such as Pamplona, Burgos and Leon.



The trip provided Dr Taylor a wonderful opportunity to ponder the meaning of life on the same trail as thousands who have sought spiritual enlightenment over many generations. It was a period of active contemplation following retirement as a local doctor, a time to stop and stare.

Dr Taylor expressed great pleasure in the small joys of his trip; the seller of singed red peppers, the tales of fellow travellers, taverns with and without bedbugs, the safety of the trail, beautiful and varied scenery, the tastes of food and wine shared with new and old friends. He admitted to yearnings for yet another challenge so ideas for other pilgrim trails would be welcome. An OVA challenge perhaps?



Dr Taylor kindly donated his speaker fee to Budleigh Salterton Age Concern.

**Sue Chapman**

## Christmas Party Dinner

On the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009 the OVA gathered together for its Christmas dinner, a very enjoyable annual social bash. One hundred and sixteen of us, in our best bib and tuckers, ready to do justice to the food, the Quiz (such questions!), the raffle and finally harking to all the other angels; a winning combination.



Some of our number decided to hold an impromptu balloon bursting competition, with a brief basketball exhibition match. Fortunately this unseemly boisterous behaviour was forgiven in the goodwill of the occasion.

The venue proved to be more suitable than some previous locations due to the shape of the room. It is hoped that the event will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Our thanks go to the organizing committee who arranged such an enjoyable evening. Also to the staff at the Woodbury Park who looked after us so well, and of course to friends, who sponsored the prizes.

Hope to see you all next year.

**Bob Wiltshire**

## Boxing Day Walk

Twenty one people came on the OVA first Boxing Day Walk. The sun came out as we set forth on the least wet and icy footpaths from East Budleigh carpark (you will remember that the period before Christmas was very wet and the week before was frosty). We walked to Bicton past the Obelisk and



made our way to the River Otter. It was so beautiful out that we extended the walk up to Anchoring Hill before returning to The Sir Walter Raleigh for our pre-ordered, very welcome lunch. They did us proud and we would like to thank them for their co-operation in feeding such a large party on Boxing Day. It was a very companionable, easy walk which, if

we are around, we will repeat this year.

**Nicky Daniel**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Walk Report 3 Feb 2010

Wednesday morning was heavy with snow-laden clouds hovering above the Commons Parking at "Four Firs". In spite of that threat, there were a surprising number of cars snaking through the hard S-bend entrance. Finally there were fourteen of us all dressed to face whatever Woodbury Common could throw at us. Starting off in fine form heading downhill across the

## Reports



common we found more mud than I would have thought possible. The sun had managed to thaw all of last weekend's snow and ice and underfoot the pebbles and clay was not going to let that water drain away.

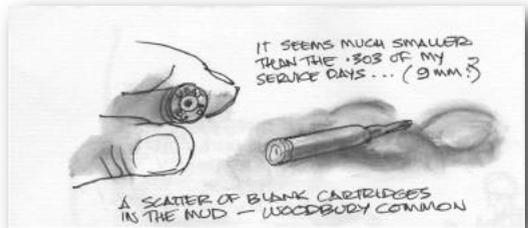
Upham's Plantation was being worked to extract lumber and the necessary heavy tractors and machinery gave added depth to the mud contours.

Crossing towards Stowford and the Kettle Plantation the sun finally won through and stayed with us for the rest of the way onto Colaton Raleigh Common. It was here that

last year Exeter University were excavating one of the Pebble Burial Mounds. The Chieftain or King was buried there four thousand years ago - before there was even an Otter Valley Association! The site has now been carefully recovered and the University volunteers have left on the ground a beautiful bird made of pebbles to mark the site. It may well stay unharmed since, with no paths or tracks anywhere near, it takes very serious effort to reach the site.

Climbing higher to join the East Devon Way we stopped for a coffee-break and discovered the Marines in the bushes there and very large horses slip-slapping through the mud. At this busy junction we found the earliest snowdrops together with a scattering of bright new empty cartridge case.

The Marines tell me that they clear those away as best they can after each exercise.



Heading west on the East Devon Way we passed the Western slope of Woodbury Castle to curve around under that old hill to return south to our waiting cars. Surprisingly, my mud-spattered walkers all thought it had been a good morning, while one lady described it as "Juicy!"

**Jed Falby**

## Offwell Visit Friday 16 or Tuesday 20 April

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the visit to Offwell on: \_\_\_\_\_\*

\*Please indicate preference.e

Name	Address, Phone & Email

Special dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ (£15 per person) payable to 'OVA' and a

**STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

**N.B Applications to be received by April 12**

*(address for return overleaf)*



## Tale Valley Trust Visit Thursday 29 April 2010

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the visit meeting at Escot Park

Name	Address, Phone & Email

I do/do not \* expect to stay for lunch. \*Please delete as appropriate

I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ (£5 per person) payable to 'OVA' and a

**STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

**N.B Applications to be received by 21 April**

## Reports

*(address for return overleaf)*

OVA Offwell Visit  
Nicky Daniel  
7 Marine Parade  
Budleigh Salterton  
Devon  
EX9 6NS



OVA Tale Valley Trust Visit  
Diane Gee  
6 Otter Court  
Budleigh Salterton  
Devon  
EX9 6JH

## Dorset Jurassic Coast Trip Friday 4 June 2010

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the visit to Dorset Jurassic Coast Trip

Name	Address, Phone & Email

I require pick up from Budleigh Salterton at 8.00am /Newton Poppleford at 8.15am

Please delete as appropriate

I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ (£20 per person) payable to 'OVA' and a

**STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

**N.B Applications to be received by Monday 10 May**

*(address for return overleaf)*



\_\_\_\_\_

## Reports

OVA Dorset Jurassic Trip  
Mo Bowman  
Hayeside, 9 Hayes Close,  
Budleigh Salterton,  
Devon,  
EX9 6SR



**Mark Rolle His Architectural Legacy in the Lower Otter Valley**



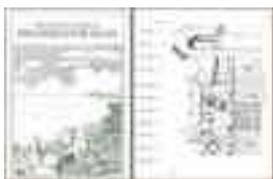
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**Historical Guide to the Lower Otter Valley**



£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](http://www.ova.org.uk)

or order from:

Booksales

OVA

PO Box 70

Budleigh Salterton

EX9 6WN

## Officers et al

### Executive Committee

**(01395)**

<b>Chairman</b>	Helen Tickle	443901
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Haylor Lass	568786
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Roger Saunders	443248
<b>Acting Treasurer</b>	Martin Smith	442333

### Committee Chairmen

Built Environment	Geoff Aplin	442951
Natural Environment	Norman Crossland	445129
Events	Nicola Daniel	445960
History	David Daniel	445960

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

Budleigh Salterton	Clive Bowman	446892
	John Jones	443651
East Budleigh	Mitzi Crossland	445129
Otterton	John Winson	568274
Colaton Raleigh	Neville Bennett	567887
Newton Pophelford	Haylor Lass	568786

### Other Officers

Minutes Secretary	Maureen Lister	444269
Membership Secretary	Martin Smith	442333
Publicity Officer	Susan Tickle	444211
Webmaster	Alan Huddart	446761
Walks Organiser	John Jones	443651
Newsletter Distributor	Gill Speare	443944
Newsletter Editor	Nick Speare	443944

Pine Rise, 7a Bedlands Lane,  
Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6QH  
[nspeare@btconnect.com](mailto:nspeare@btconnect.com)

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