

OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

PO Box 70 Budleigh Salterton EX9 6WN
www.oval.org.uk



Spring Edition

Volume 33/2

April 2012

Registered Charity No 278266

© Otter Valley Association 2012

Contents

| | Page |
|---|--------------------|
| Editor's Jottings | 3 |
| Coming Events & Activities | 4 - 8 |
| Activities Diary, April - June | 9, 10 |
| Chairman's Report and Notice of AGM a pull-out section to bring with you | 11, 12 & 17, 18 |
| Reply Slips for coming events a detachable centrefold | 13-16 |
| Activities Diary, July - September | 19, 20 |
| Comings and Goings | |
| Himalayan Balsam | 21 |
| Litter Pick report | 22 |
| Dartmoor Talk | 23 |
| Interpretation Boards | 24 |
| Local Voices, Autumn Explore | 25 |
| Blue Plaques | 26 |
| Publications, inside back cover | 27 |
| Committee & Contacts | 28 |

~~~~~

The cover photo, and most of the others in this edition, are supplied by Mo Bowman.

This picture is the prize-winning pan from the litter pick!

The editor welcomes photos from members, particularly of walks, preferably by email in jpg format.



# Editor's Jottings

As I write this, the central heating cuts in to remind me that, despite our brief flirtation with a March 'early summer', this is an English Spring – soft apple blossom blended with bitter north-easterlies. Still, the glorious spring flowers herald better days to come, and herald this edition of the OVA News, packed with activities, walks and events to take you through the spring and into summer.

First up, spring means it is time for the OVA's Annual General Meeting. Formal notice is given with the Chairman's Report in a pull-out section towards the centre of the newsletter. Do come to the meeting, and bring the agenda with you – this is more than a formality, it's an opportunity to show your hard-working committee that you value the work they do on your behalf. It's also an opportunity to share a glass of something, a nibble, an informal chat with any member and see Patrick's latest on the hot topic of Himalayan Balsam.

**A formal reminder** -: nominations for Officers and Executive Committee must be lodged with the Secretary (list on back cover) fourteen days before the meeting, so get your skates on! We particularly need village reps for Otterton and Colaton Raleigh. If you feel you could help in a small way, but don't want to make a full commitment, have a word with any of the committee members about sharing the work of one of the interest groups.

I have been asked about the validity of the bus pass on the 9.11am X53 for the day out walk on 30<sup>th</sup> May. Devon County have a list of Exceptions to the 9.30am rule when the next available bus is after 11.00am and more than two hours later. At the time of going to print, this bus qualifies for bus pass use, but check the web-site ([devon.gov.uk](http://devon.gov.uk)) nearer the time in case the cuts bite deeper. Also check the bus times – First Bus haven't yet published their summer timetable.

Talking of buses, I have added a couple of Exe Estuary Explorations in August to the activities listings. Of course, you could do this route any time on your own or with a friend, but not only check the bus times, check the tide tables – the first section of path is under water at high tide! Also OVA togetherness adds an extra dimension for the group outing.

Finally, just space to say don't miss the grand Jubilee Party on 6<sup>th</sup> July and get your applications for tickets to the Outings lodged as soon as you can.

**Haylor Lass**

# Events

The OVA will celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in style. We are having a Jubilee Buffet Supper at the East Devon Golf Club on 6<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm. We hope you will be able to join us and also hope the weather will be warm so we can enjoy the lovely terrace at the Golf Club. We will have a glass of Kir Royale on arrival and assigned seating so please indicate who you would like to sit with on your form.

We also hope that our Interpretation Panel will be in place for the Jubilee, set in the Budleigh Salterton Longboat Shelter. The Town Council is having the shelter painted and the OVA inspired panel will add not only information but be a visual delight. A big thanks to Helen and Susan Tickle who have had to negotiate with so many interested parties and have also produced the ideas and words.

~~~~~

Fancy Foraging for Food for Free?

Thursday 17th May 2012

10.00am ~ 1.00pm

Walk on the 'wild side' around the River Otter with Robin Harford from Northmostown and rediscover the lost art of foraging. We will learn what plants are edible and how to use them in our meal preparation.

The walk will last for approximately 3 hours starting out from the Village Green in Otterton. Please wear suitable footwear as it may be muddy and uneven in places. A backpack, polythene bags or containers are advisable, so that you can collect your weeds! It promises to be an interesting and very pleasurable day!

Cost: £10

Meeting on Otterton Village Green at 9.45am by Car-Sharing if possible to avoid traffic congestion.

20 Maximum - so early booking is advisable. If over-subscribed a second or even a third Forage will be arranged later in the year, when fruits and berries will be in season.

(booking form on centre pages)

The Perfect Game

Sunday 13th May 2012

2.00pm - 5.00pm

Croquet is a very old game, widely known and practised in France since the XI century under the name of 'jeu de mail'. Borrowed by the British around 1300, it was adapted over the centuries. The Scots made golf out of it, and the English turned it into croquet and called it 'pall mall' from the Latin paille-maille (ball and mallet). Louis XIV unable to play ball during the winter miniaturised it on an indoor table thus apparently inventing billiards! Or so Google tells me.

They have been playing Croquet in Budleigh Salterton for the past 130 years and so no doubt I will be put right about this and a few other facts on Sunday 13th May. Because that is the date that the Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club have invited some of our members to pay them a private visit. The club will provide all the necessary equipment for the game and after a brief explanation coaches will guide us beginners through an afternoon of very enjoyable Golf Croquet; followed of course by tea and cake in the clubhouse afterwards.

If you are as nosy as I am, and want to know what goes on upon the hallowed turf high above the town then fill in the booking form and look in the back of the wardrobe for pair of flat rubber soled shoes.

("The Perfect Game" is one of the stories in G.K. Chesterton's 1909 book Tremendous Trifles)



~~~~~

## Swiftly Winging

– no, not the angels of the Christmas carol, but an appeal to our members by Pete Youngman of the AONB to raise awareness of Swifts in the Lower Otter Valley and encourage people to take part in a survey of the area. See [www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk) and search on 'swifts' to find out how you can help.

# OVA Trip to Abbotsbury (without a swan in sight!) and Lyme Regis on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June

This is another adventure to *they foreign parts* with our professional guide Tony Burges, with the use of a coach all day, and our traditional optional cream tea to round it all off before we wend our way home!

We depart from Budleigh Salterton Public Hall at 8.00am, for a two part tour of about 5 miles, done at our usual leisurely pace, with time to enjoy the wonderful scenery and learn about the historical places that we encounter. We shall be in a mix of town and country, and with luck the sun will shine on us, but please dress with the vagaries of English summers and coastal footpaths in mind.

After a loo stop at Bridport, we start our walk from Ashley Chase, with wonderful views of Dorset and wildflower meadows, and gradually head towards Abbotsbury. Here we see the Abbey ruins and one of England's largest tithe barns, and go up to St Catherine's chapel, built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.



After enjoying our packed lunches (don't forget to bring them!) we depart for Lyme Regis, beginning a short town tour with Tony by enjoying a spectacular view of the Cob and the coast, followed by indulging in a little history .... James, Duke of Monmouth began his ill-fated attempt at ousting his uncle, King James II and claiming the crown for himself. Judge Jeffreys was sent to West Country to teach the rebels a lesson - 12 hung on the beach. "Lyme, although a little place, I think is wondrous pretty. If 'tis my fate to wear the crown, I'll make of it a city" .... as we briefly view the town.

Then, more refreshment ! We head for the Alexandra Hotel, where you could indulge yourself in an optional cream tea, followed by return to our coach, and home by about 6.30pm.



All this for £18, plus the cost of a cream tea !

Want to do a bit of prepping before you go? See Dorset Geologists Association Group web-site "Exmouth to Milford on Sea" for an array of amazing photographs. Or, for another brilliant web-site, tap in "Geology of the West Coast of Southern England by Ian West".

**Mo Bowman**

**Don't forget the application form in the pull-out centrefold**

# The OVA Jubilee Celebration Party!

## East Devon Golf Club

### 6.30pm, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952 King George VI died, and his daughter Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen of England and Her Dominions and Commonwealth Realms. On her accession the average worker picked up a weekly wage of £8.68, not enough to buy a round of drinks in the pub today. Yet it was enough to live on when a loaf of bread or a pint of milk cost six old pence, and the average price of a three-bedroom house just £2,000.

Rationing was in force but to celebrate the Coronation everyone was given an extra pound of sugar and four ounces of margarine. The OVA are going to do much better than that to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee!

We are going to give you a **FEAST!**

Come join us to celebrate this historic and festive occasion. Be made welcome by a glass of Kir Royale before dining on tables of 8 from a buffet table of poached salmon, coronation chicken, vegetarian quiches, roast hams, cheeses, umpteen salads and scrumptious desserts. Swoon to the CD strains of Perry Como and Satchmo or tap a toe or two with Bill Hayley on the dance floor. Hurry, and fill in the booking form because places are limited and this is going to be THE event of the Jubilee Year!



The OVA Jubilee Celebration Party!  
East Devon Golf Club  
6.30pm, Friday 6th July 2012  
Dress Code Smart:-  
1950's Fancy or 2012 Celebratory!  
(Tiaras Optional - Fascinators Encouraged)

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Upton Pyne Village Hall CP (at rear), SX910978. 2½ miles, 2 hours. An interesting literary walk following in the footsteps of Jane Austen who stayed with friends in the pretty village of Upton Pyne in the early 1800's. Margaret will identify and explore Jane's inspiration for Barton Valley, Barton Park and the local church where Eleanor and Edward were married in her first novel "Sense and Sensibility" published in 1811. Will not take place if it's raining (drizzle ok) please check with Margaret if in doubt.

*Walk leader:* Margaret Read 01392 759332

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April – 7.30pm TALK "OWLS "R" US"**

Masonic Hall, Budleigh Salterton (NB - this hall has acquired new chairs!) A talk on the rehabilitation and conservation of birds of prey, with flying guests.

*Speakers:* Nigel and Jo Palmer of OWLS "R" US.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Joney's Cross CP SY057898 off A3052. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Aylesbeare and Hawkerland. Footpaths and tracks over Nature Reserve and through woodland, some gradients and rough ground.

*Walk leader:* Steve Hagger 01395 442631

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Crookes Plantation, Stowford, SY 057866. 5 miles 2½ hours. This popular local walk over Woodbury and Bicton commons, via Yettington. May be muddy.

*Walk leader:* Shane Badham 01395 567531

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – 7.30pm. OVA AGM**

Ottertton Village Hall *Agenda etc in this Newsletter*

Refreshments provided, followed by illustrated talk on Himalayan Balsam by Patrick Hamilton, Chairman, OVA Natural Environment Committee

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May – 2.00pm – 5.00pm – The Perfect Game!**

Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club, Westfield Close, EX9 6ST

Introduction to Croquet ~ see details on page 5

Cost £5 – **must be booked**, see centre pull-out pages

### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May - 10.00am. NATURE WALK (Easy)**

Budleigh Salterton Free CP SY061821 3 miles, 2 hours. A local nature walk around woodland, field edges and arable land identifying different habitats. Marion will be looking for Spring flowers and plants, listening out for bird song and will welcome questions from walkers.

*Walk leader:* Marion Nalder 01395 442176

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 9.45am – Foraging Food for Free**

Meeting Point Otterton Village Green, see details on page 4  
£10 guided discovery walk – **must be booked**, see centre pull-out

### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)**

Sidbury CP (behind Sidbury Social Club), SY139918. 8 miles, 4½ hours including a shortish lunch stop. Fairly challenging walk following part of the East Devon Way using footpaths, woodland trails and green lanes. Returning to Sidbury by rejoining the East Devon Way. Some steep climbs and a sharp down hill towards the end of the walk. Can be very muddy in places following rain. Please bring sufficient fluids and a packed lunch.

*Walk leader:* Jan Stuart 01395 568235

### **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May - 9.11am. BUS WALK (Energetic)/Picnic**

A day out in West Dorset. X53 bus from Newton Poppleford. Walk coast path from Burton Bradstock to Abbotsbury – level, but brisk. Return 15.57 bus from Abbotsbury or optional visit to Swannery for fluffy youngsters with return 18.12 bus (arrive N.Pop 20.08) Bring packed lunch and cash for bus & cafe tea. **This is a public service bus** – limited capacity, first come/first served. Subject to revised summer timetable – check online.

*Walk leader:* Haylor Lass 01395 568786

(ring to give numbers in advance would be useful).

### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)/Lunch**

The Donkey Sanctuary CP, SY161892. 4 miles, 2½ hours. Circular walk visiting Salcombe Regis and Weston Mouth includes some coastal paths with splendid views, there are some steep climbs. Lunch at the Donkey Sanctuary if desired.

*Walk leader:* John Jones 01395 443651

# Chairman's Report

It is now nearly a year since I became acting chairman of the OVA. I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to all those who have contributed to a very rewarding year. I would like to especially thank the Executive Committee members who have helped me in so many ways. We also have approximately 70 members who help the OVA in some role, be it big or small; the walks leaders, newsletter editor, the newsletter co-ordinators and distributors, talks organiser, technical equipment organiser, events organisers, web-site monitor, wild life monitors, village representatives, project managers for interpretation panels, monthly posters producer and distributors in the villages, etc. etc. We find however that, like a lot of organisations a few people are having to double up their jobs. We need more enthusiastic volunteers so I ask members again, to come forward and help, in a small, large, job-sharing capacity or any other way that they can contribute to maintain our success.

**The Natural Environment Committee's** role is the protection of the important habitats and natural beauty of the area in which we are fortunate enough to live. Patrick Hamilton and his team are actively pursuing the goal of eradicating the River Otter of Himalayan Balsam. This is a very difficult task which can only be achieved by the cooperation of many agencies and organisations and we hope we are progressing this year in getting everyone to talk to each other. The water-vole project is still ongoing. The annual litter pick on the Otter Estuary was very successful attracting many volunteers and the EDDC Public Amenity, Beach and Foreshore Member Champion, Tom Wright, judged the most bizarre objects found.

## **Events Committee**

This committee have put together a very varied programme which has been well supported. John Jones has continued to organise the local walks programme and has attracted some new walks leaders. Some members have walked the length of the Otter from Otter Head to Otter Mouth, led by Bettina Wilson and now have a certificate stating their accomplishment. Other members have ventured even farther afield with Tony Burges to walk and discover Dartmoor's history and again with Tony, on a stunning day walked from Looe to Polperro. Mo Bowman organised both visits. Caroline Allen and Rosemary Jerrard organised a fossil hunt at Lyme

Regis and also the walk around the Axe wetlands, a lunch at Colyton Station and the train back to Seaton. We have had a Map and Compass Day on Dartmoor, organised by Lizzie Everett-Wright, where the skills learnt in the morning had to be applied in the afternoon mist on the moor. The Christmas party moved to the East Devon Golf Club. Numbers were slightly diminished but everyone had a wonderful evening.

Sue Chapman has provided a stimulating programme of talks varying in subject from Bees to Devon Inns. She tried a new format with a Saturday morning series of 3 Talks on the River Otter. It was so successful that the Peter Hall was filled to capacity and people were turned away. We thank Sue for all her hard work and wish her well sailing the oceans. We welcome Graham Knapton who has come forward to be our Talks Organiser. If you have any ideas for talks please contact him.

The OVA is a charity firmly rooted in the community. For many years it has participated in the events of Budleigh Salterton Gala Week, organised by the BS Lions. Since the inception of the Music Festival it has led a BS town walk and this year was asked by the Literary Festival committee to lead a walk focusing on notable writers, artists, scientists, etc who live or had lived in the town. This was done in collaboration with Fairlynch Museum. The showing of the film, The Great White Silence was a joint venture with the Film Society who supplied all the technical expertise, film equipment and loan of wine glasses and Fairlynch Museum who did all the publicity.

### **History Group**

OVApedia continues to expand with David Daniel's commitment and enthusiasm. Articles are still being picked up across the world. A group of 30 members had coffee at Tuckers' Hall, Exeter, and listened to a fascinating talk on the mediaeval wool trade.

Contacts via the website are increasing both for OVApedia and general OVA matters. Our Webmaster, Alan Huddart, emails updates about the programme and other matters to those who have supplied their contact details. We are pleased that people wishing to volunteer are using the website to contact us.

### **Planning Consultation**

The activity that has, however, consumed so much time and debate in the Executive Committee is the unprecedented number of planning applications that have warranted our attention. These are the ones deemed

**Croquet – The Perfect Game**  
**Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 ~ 2.00pm – 5.00pm**  
**Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club, Westfield Close, EX9 6ST**

Please send me ..... tickets (*cost includes tea and cake*)

Name(s) .....

Address .....

.....

and postcode .....

tel: .....

email .....

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... (£5.00 per person) payable to OVA  
and a **Stamped Addressed Envelope**

Numbers limited to 32 so reply before 1<sup>st</sup> May to **address overleaf**



-----  
**Come Foraging – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012,**  
**Meeting Point Otterton Village Green 9.45am**

Please send me ..... tickets

I/we can offer ..... seats in our car. I/we would like a lift with others.....

Name(s) .....

Address .....

.....

and postcode .....

tel: ..... email .....

I agree to my email/phone being used by OVA for car sharing

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... (£10 per person) payable to OVA  
and a **Stamped Addressed Envelope**

Numbers limited to 20 so reply before 1<sup>st</sup> May **to address overleaf**

Ticket application for **Croquet – The Perfect Game**

**Caroline Allen  
Pebbles Edge  
2 Marine Parade  
Budleigh Salterton  
EX9 6NS**

and don't forget the **SAE**



Ticket application for **Come Foraging**

**Rosemary Jerrard  
20 Swains Road  
Budleigh Salterton  
EX9 6HT**

and don't forget the **SAE**

Ticket application for **OVA trip to Abbotsbury and Lyme Regis**

**Mo Bowman  
9 Hayes Close  
Budleigh Salterton  
EX9 6SR**

and don't forget the **SAE**



Ticket application for **The OVA Jubilee Celebration Party!**

**Caroline Allen  
Pebbles Edge  
2 Marine Parade  
Budleigh Salterton  
EX9 6NS**

and don't forget the **SAE**

**OVA trip to Abbotsbury and Lyme Regis with Tony Burges  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

Depart coach 8.00am Budleigh Salterton Public Hall

Please send me ..... tickets

Name(s) .....

.....

Address .....

and postcode .....

tel: ..... email .....

Remember a packed lunch and wear suitable clothing and footwear

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... (£18 per person) payable to OVA  
and a **Stamped Addressed Envelope**

**Reply by 20<sup>th</sup> May to address overleaf**



**The OVA Jubilee Celebration Party!  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012 – 6.30pm  
East Devon Golf Club**

Please send me ..... tickets (*includes welcome drink and dinner*)

Name(s) .....

.....

Address .....

and postcode .....

tel: ..... email .....

I/We wish to sit with: .....

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... (£26 per person) payable to OVA  
and a **Stamped Addressed Envelope**

Numbers limited to 96 so reply before 1<sup>st</sup> June **to address overleaf**

to be significant. Some in a way that just impacts on a few people e.g. the proposal to build a house in a floodplain which would be built higher than its neighbours and overlook them. Others impact on a large number of people e.g. the BS Greenway Lane Allotments; the large pig farm in Venn Ottery, the expansion of the dairy unit in Colaton Raleigh with a new road in the valley; an estate on the edge of Otterton; I could go on and on. It has been a difficult task to make a decision on many of these. We are aware of the OVA's constitution to promote high standards of planning and architecture and for the conservation, protection and restoration for the public benefit of the natural resources, natural beauty, animal and plant life, and lands and buildings in the Association's area of benefit. We are also aware that the whole of our area lies within the East Devon AONB, including all the villages and Budleigh Salterton. Theoretically this should provide us with the same legal protection for the landscape as National Parks. Any planning decision must respect the distinctive qualities of the area; must contribute to its visual appeal and amenity quality and enhance or conserve the character of the area. In these circumstances development should only take place if there are no other alternative sites available elsewhere and that it is in the National interest.

On the other hand the Executive Committee knows that we all have to have a thriving economic community. Tourism plays an important role in this (although with nearly 50% of all jobs dependent on it we would seem to be over exposed to this poorly paid sector). Tourism is driven by the outstanding environment, in particular the internationally important coastline and the quality of the AONB. We are generally supportive of traditional farming enterprise and know the importance that this plays in the maintenance of the landscape and work in the Lower Otter Valley. However, we are concerned at the effects that industrialisation of farming has by subjecting our narrow Devon country lanes to an increasing frequency of very large farm vehicles and on the impact on the surrounding villages. We are also aware that there is a need for affordable homes in the area but are concerned that insufficient studies have been done of the needs of the local people and we are not just building for people who would like to live in our area but have no connection with it.

So you can see how difficult our decisions are. The OVA is occasionally criticised for being "against" all planning applications. In fact the vast majority of applications attract no adverse comment from us and already this year we have actively supported two particularly well thought out

planning applications, one of which was in the Grade I listed Bicton landscape. There can be no doubt that if more applications were of the quality of these two, we would be able to support more. I am sure there are some members who would be interested in helping us solve these dilemmas by joining a Planning Advisory Committee and reporting their thoughts to the EC.

It is now time for our AGM and election of officers. Please come and join us as you can see the work we do is so important. AND MORE IMPORTANTLY WE HAVE ALL HAD TO LEARN FROM SCRATCH ON THE JOB. We desperately need new blood on our committees. The Otter Valley Association is an organisation which has an important role to play in this beautiful part of the world.

### **Summary of Finances**

The OVA has taken in £15,667 and paid out £12,663 for the financial year 2011/12. The cash balance is £20,971. The difference is mostly committed to the funding of the Interpretation Panels.

### **Trustees Reports**

The Trustees Report, incorporating the audited Accounts, together with the minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting will be available at the AGM

## **Otter Valley Association**

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm  
on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012 in the Village Hall, Otterton.**

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 11 May 2011**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Annual Report including Trustees Report and Accounts**
- 5. Election of Officers**
- 6. Election of Executive Committee Members**
- 7. Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 8. Any Other Business**
- 9. Date of next AGM**

The meeting will be followed by refreshments and a short illustrated talk on Himalayan Balsam by Patrick Hamilton.

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June – 10.30am. TOWN WALK (Easy)**

Sidmouth Museum, Church Street. 1½ hours. A chance to explore Sidmouth town centre with local guide Mike Till. Please take particular note of day and time. *Walk leader:* Mike Till 01395 519338

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June - 10.00am. All Day WALK (Energetic)/Picnic**

Knowle Village Hall CP, SY052827. 12 miles, 6 hours. Circular walk with a packed lunch stop including Squabmoor Reservoir, Woodbury Castle followed by a 3 mile loop to the north west before returning via Colaton Raleigh Common, Yettington and Shortwood Common. Mainly flat on paths and tracks with two short sections on metalled roads. Don't forget your packed lunch and drinks!

*Walk leader:* Mike Paddison 01395 446550

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June – 8.00am OVA coach Trip**

**to Abbotsbury and Lyme Regis with Tony Burges**, see details page 6/7  
Depart coach 8.00am BS Public Hall, Remember to bring a packed lunch  
Cost £18 – **must be booked**, see centre pull-out pages

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July – 6.30pm Jubilee Celebration Party**

East Devon Golf Club, come and enjoy a feast! See details page 8  
Cost £26 – **must be booked**, see centre pull-out pages

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

East Budleigh CP, SY065849. 6 miles, 3 hours. On lanes and tracks visiting Squabmoor Reservoir and East Budleigh Common, includes some hills.

*Walk leader:* Steve Hagger, 01395 442631

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) / Pub Lunch**

Otter Inn CP, SY078874. 6 miles, 3 hours. Circular walk through Back Lane, Stowford and on to the Commons including a visit to Woodbury Castle.

*Walk leader:* George Norman, 01395 442307

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July – 10.00am. TOWN WALK (Easy)**

Festival of Music Week Town Walk

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

*Walk leader:* David Daniel, 01395 445960

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Colaton Raleigh church (roadside parking), SY082872. 4½ miles, 2½ hours. An introduction to Mark Rolle and his architectural heritage, visiting a selection of local “MR” buildings, led by local enthusiast.

*Walk leader:* Brian Turnbull, 01395 567339

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wed 29<sup>th</sup> August – 10.20am – Exe Estuary Explore**

**Tally-Ho Inn, Countess Wear** – X53 Bus Newton Poppleford 9.52 or 157/57 buses Budleigh 9.29 via Exmouth. Bus – Walk – Ferry – Walk – Lunch Powderham Castle restaurant – Walk – Ferry to Exmouth – Bus, 157 home to Otter Valley or 57 back to start. £9 for ferries + lunch & bus.

**Limited to 16** – hence 2 dates – book with Haylor Lass 01395 568786

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

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

*Walk leader:* Stan Herbert, 01395 445113

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic) / Packed Lunch**

Newton Poppleford CP, SY086897 7 miles, 4 hours. Circular walk on green lanes and commons. Visiting Venn Ottery, Metcombe and North Hill and returning via Venn Ottery Common and Benchams. There will be a stop for a sociable picnic lunch (bring your own packed lunch).

*Walk leader:* Jan Stuart, 01395 568235

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September - 10.00am. WALK (Energetic)**

Otter Inn CP SY078874, Colaton Raleigh. 8 miles, 4½ hours. Climbing up to cross High Peak, Peak Hill and Bulverton Hill and then down to return along the Otter’s west bank. Mainly on tracks, also a minor road, includes some short energetic climbs. Bring a snack to keep you going!

*Walk leader:* Mike Paddison, 01395 446550

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September – 10.00am & 2.30pm “Walk with Words”**

from Fairlynch Museum, explore literary, artistic and scientific BS links

*Walk leader:* Michael Downes, Fairlynch Museum

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)**

Budleigh Salterton Free CP, SY061821. 4½ miles, 2½ hours. A walk over varied terrain visiting the Golf links, Knowle Hill Plantation, Dalditch Common and back down Shortwood Lane. Some muddy areas in the wet.

*Walk leader:* John Jones, 01395 443651

# Otter Valley Himalayan Balsam Project 2012-15

For those who missed the litter pickup on 24<sup>th</sup> March, there is interesting news on the Himalayan Balsam front. There is a distinct possibility that there will be a project this summer to tackle the infestation of our catchment with this invasive plant. It will be co-ordinated by the Environment Agency and a bid for funding has been submitted by them which will be decided upon by Defra on 15<sup>th</sup> April. If successful, the OVA will be launching an attack on “our” tributaries (the Colaton, Bicton and Budleigh brooks on the west bank; and Otterton brook on the east bank), from source to confluence in May, June and July. Clinton Devon Estates are playing a lead role and we wish to keep the attack going for three successive years.

If the bid is successful, we will be looking for volunteers. The plant is not difficult to pull and if you feel that you would like to help, whether for a day, a morning, or just an hour or so, please contact me or David Halls, our Volunteers organiser and, if possible, **watch for news of dates, times and venues on the OVA website.** Venues and dates will depend upon how the work progresses and this will be updated on our website.

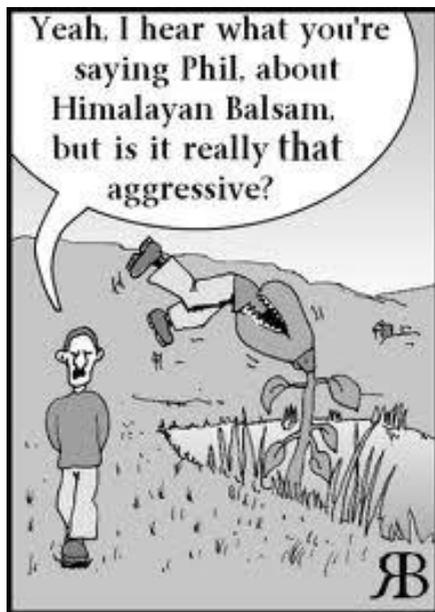
Contact details:

- My telephone 01395-445351
- David Halls 01395-278310
- My email address: pat@bishopdams.f2s.com
- David’s email address: dlindseyhalls@yahoo.co.uk
- OVA website: www.ovapedia.org.uk

Thank you to those who have already responded.

**Patrick Hamilton**

Chairman, OVA Natural Environment Committee



# Annual Otter Estuary Litter Pick

## Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March

Our litter pick took place on a beautiful day, not a cloud in the sky, showing our estuary and seafront off in their very best light. Dozens of volunteers came to help, and equipped with bags and wellies, joined forces to help pile a Streetscene lorry high with rubbish. It was a very successful day, as the accompanying pictures show.

Clinton Devon Estates, EDDC, AONB, and the Otter Valley Association, joined forces again to make this event happen, and to help scour the estuary and nearby beach for rubbish, and remove it.

Those of us who frequent the Otter all year round had noticed an increase in discarded fishermen's net and lines, complete with hooks, on Donkey Turn. As well as being a hazard for beach users, these are potentially lethal for our river and sea bird population, causing slow and painful death by strangulation or starvation. This is something in particular that we looked out for, as well as the usual plastic and metal waste, and sometimes, we even find treasure!

In his capacity as EDDC Public Amenity Beach and Foreshore Champion, Councillor Tom Wright judged our most weird and wonderful find contestants, and presenting the winner and runner up with their prizes, £10 and £5 book tokens donated by the OVA. Runner up prizewinner was "Ollie", with his "busy beaver dog toy", and the winner was, Caroline Allen, with her ... toilet pan! This has pride of place amongst our trophies.

Our Litter Pick has been taking place for many years, because people love to come help look after a place that we all love. One of our longest standing helpers, Dave Palmer from EDDC, reckons he's been there for at least twenty! Generally, we felt that there was less litter than in previous years, especially supermarket plastic carrier bags which used to be blown around the central boggy areas and stuck fast by the mud.

Litter picking does give a great sense of satisfaction, through actively doing something so obviously worthwhile, and, you can't beat that unique experience of having a bird's eye view from mid-estuary!

**Mo Bowman**



A merry band  
of litter-  
pickers

## Dartmoor - footsteps in the wilderness

Mo Bowman's talk was a pictorial journey, using historical remains as our footsteps across a wilderness which is largely man made.

This makes some of the places that we visit very accessible, being settled by man from prehistoric times to modern day, with layers of medieval and 17/18<sup>th</sup> century tinner occupations, and 19/20<sup>th</sup> century granite quarrying, in between. Paths which became roads mean that a trudge is not always necessary, there can be gain without pain! Endurance though is sometimes necessary, to access remote places which retain a sense of their original identity, places which open a dream-like window back in time through which we can step..

The man-made moor came at a cost though, especially in modern times. Gone are the forests of pedunculate oaks that originally covered the moor. Instead we have pine plantations, marching in hard alien lines across bare contours. In our own lifetimes, thanks to the Forestry Commission, prehistoric remains that have survived their historic layering have been covered, then stripped out, damaged and laid raw, in stump-littered clearings which make nonsense of the complex settlements they are part of.

Strange how fragile a place with such a harsh reputation can be! Also, how wonderful that at its heart, the moor remains fascinating and profoundly beautiful. Mo's theme was conveyed through a sequence of wonderfully evocative pictures and, despite some technical problems with the equipment, we left wanting to get out there and explore. A successful talk attended by 80 members.

Mo's photos can be viewed on the OVA website picture gallery.

## Coming soon to Budleigh Salterton ..... the OVA's interpretation board

By one of those happy accidents of timing that happen occasionally in life the idea that the OVA should create an interpretation board for Budleigh Salterton coincided with the decision of Budleigh Salterton Town Council to renovate the seafront shelter as a Diamond Jubilee Project. Once the two sides were brought together it was clear that a symbiotic relationship could be established and thereafter progress was rapid. The back wall of the shelter was seen as an ideal location for a large interpretation panel which would in its turn enhance the renovated building.

Chairman Nicola asked Helen Tickle to be project manager and her requests for funding and support brought an enthusiastic response from Devon County Council, the Jurassic Coast team, East Devon AONB and Clinton Devon Estates. At a meeting with Thorn Tree Design and fabricators, Lamart, the OVA team tested its ideas against the practicalities of the location and a vision of what was possible began to emerge. All were agreed that the backdrop should be a panoramic view of the town seen from the beach and that three information panels should be superimposed on this.

Over the next few weeks the scheme for the panels gradually evolved. They were to cover the history of Budleigh Salterton, the Jurassic Coast and the Otter Valley and include a mixture of modern photographs, historic photographs and explanatory text. The magnificent town panorama was put together by David Daniel, other photographs were supplied by Mo Bowman, David Jannaway and Clinton Devon Estates and the historic prints were selected from the collections of Nick Loman and Fairlynch Museum. The research and text writing were a collaborative effort by Susan and Helen Tickle with specialist input from the Jurassic Coast team. As always with such projects space was at a premium and tough decisions had to be made about content. The task of converting all the material into an attractive display fell to Giles Sadler, our designer but having seen examples of his work in Sidmouth we were quietly optimistic.

At the time of going to press we have seen a virtually complete version on PC and are confident that it will be an eye-catching and informative addition to the seafront. We hope it will be installed in May.

Watch that space!

**Susan Tickle**

# Local Voices

Local Voices is an opportunity for local writers to present their work. It is sponsored by the Otter Valley Association in consultation with the Budleigh Literary Festival and takes place on the day before the Festival opens. Emerging details are available now on <http://www.ova.org.uk> and in the Library, Fairlynch Museum and Tourist Information Centre nearer the day.

Before that, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, morning and afternoon, Michael Downes, Fairlynch Museum, will repeat his “Walk with Words” exploring the many literary, artistic and scientific connections with the town.

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September in the Church on the Green there will be a workshop in the morning on memoir writing led by author Sophie King (£5, places limited, book on 01395 232486). In the afternoon Iris Simantel Jones will discuss her recently published autobiography, and four local writing groups will present their work. Entry will be free.

In the evening, BBC broadcaster Tony Beard (the Wag from Widdecombe and about as local a voice as you can get) will be giving an encouraging talk. This will be followed by an “open mic” session, chaired by Jed Falby where anyone and everyone can have their five minutes of fame. Entry to this will also be free. This is your opportunity to contribute and listen to “local voices”.

David Daniel

~~~~~

Autumn Exploration

A date for your diaries: Saturday 13th October – a follow up to last year's Map & Compass Reading Course with Tony Burges, and this time the challenge is not to get lost on Woodbury Common! Further details in the next Newsletter.

~~~~~

## Budding journalists

 – if you go on a walk or to an event and enjoy it, why not write a short report for the next Newsletter? All contributions welcome and published subject to space/legality – copy date by 9<sup>th</sup> July, please. And I'm still only **Interim** editor – Haylor Lass

# More thoughts out of the blue

How many interesting people do you know who lived in Budleigh?

Blue plaques schemes are a useful way of reminding us. Our neighbours in Sidmouth and certainly in Exmouth have certainly made good use of such schemes. Visitors to both towns enjoy learning about illustrious former residents from reading the plaques on buildings which can tell a story.

Budleigh's approach to blue plaques has been more idiosyncratic judging by what's been written at <http://budleighbrewsterunited.blogspot.co.uk/2011/01/thoughts-out-of-blue.html>

More towns in the UK may be adopting a systematic approach to the scheme following English Heritage's policy of being actively engaged in providing advice on commemorative plaques to individuals and groups across the country. Currently its blue plaques scheme is limited to the London area.

"We did run a pilot scheme aiming to branch our activities out nationally but it was withdrawn not only due to lack of resources but also because we ended up treading on the toes of other schemes. It's a tricky one!" its Blue Plaques Coordinator Jane Biro told us a few years ago.

However English Heritage recently published a comprehensive guidance document at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/celebrating-people-and-place/> which indicates that it would like to see blue plaques schemes extended.

It's also compiling a database of all known plaque schemes in England which it proposes to publish on its website later this year.

In the Budleigh area the Otter Valley Association has been responsible for erecting at least three blue plaques. It responded recently to an English Heritage survey, results of which will be used for compiling the database.

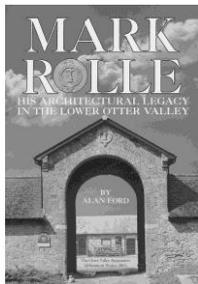
"We hope that this will raise awareness of different schemes, share information about key stages such as carrying historical research and sourcing a manufacturer, and also strengthen dialogue between all those engaged in plaque projects, both large and small," comments Jane Biro.

**Michael Downes**

~~~~~

PS don't forget the AGM on Wednesday 2nd May at Otterton Village Hall all the documents will be on the website in due course – www.oval.org.uk

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 19th century.

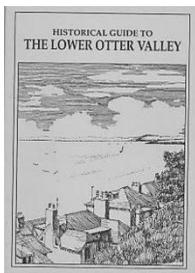
£4.95 from your village rep (or plus £1.50 P&P)



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 £1.00 P&P)



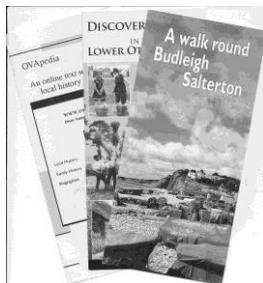
Historical Guide to the Lower Otter Valley

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 20th century.

£3.50 from your village rep (or plus £1.50 P&P)

See our website 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 (acting) | Haylor Lass | 568786 |
| Hon Secretary (acting) | David Daniel | 445960 |
| Treasurer | Roger Saunders | 443248 |

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 | John Jones | 443651 |
| | George Maddaford | 446077 |
| East Budleigh | Christine Hadley | 443607 |
| Otterton | John Winson | 568274 |
| Colaton Raleigh | <i>Vacancy</i> | |
| Newton Popleford | Haylor Lass | 568786 |

Other EC Members

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------|
| Assistant Minutes Secretary | Robert Wiltshire | 444395 |
| Membership Secretary | Clive Bowman | 446892 |
| Publicity Secretary | Lynne Wright | 442703 |

Other contacts

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Webmaster | Alan Huddart | 446761 |
| Speaker Secretary | Susan Chapman | 445620 |
| Walks Organiser | John Jones | 443651 |
| Newsletter Distributors | Jenny Young | 444090 |
| | Chris Hagger | 442631 |

Interim Newsletter Editor

Haylor Lass, tel 568786

haylor@lasses.me.uk