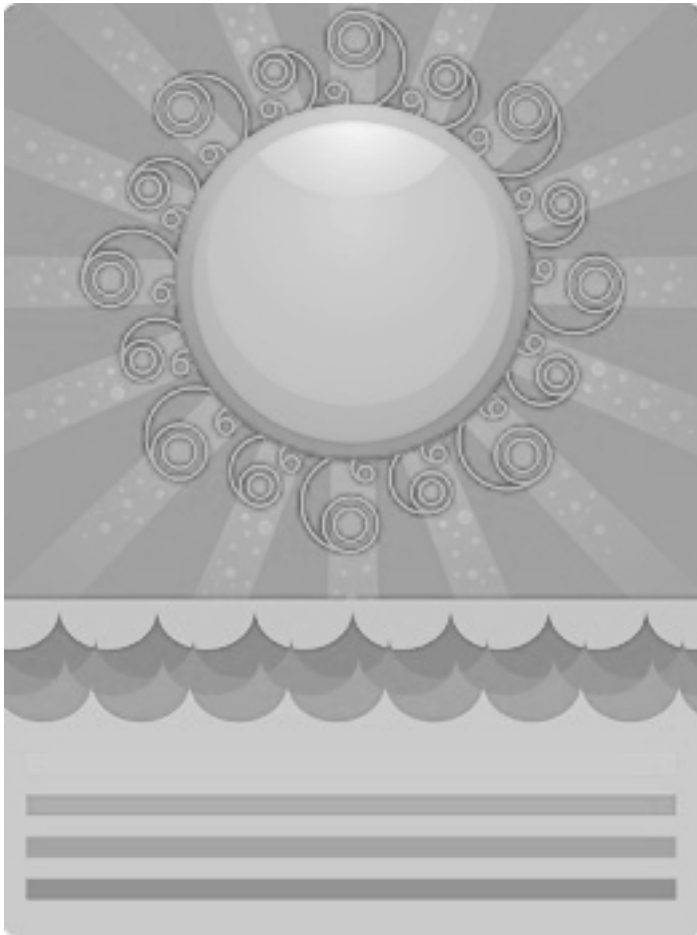


OTTER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

PO Box 70 Budleigh Salterton EX9 6WN

www.ova.org.uk



Summer Edition

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Photographs courtesy of Mo Boman, Haylor Lass & Caroline Allen and Barbara Farley

Sketches: Jed Falby & Nick Speare



Chairman's Message



Our AGM was well attended despite unforeseen clashes for many members with ecclesiastical and horticultural activities. Thanks to all involved, especially Mo Bowman for her inspirational talk on 'Picturing the Otter Valley' and Gill Speare and her team for the refreshments. We were able to clarify why the OVA contribution at a meeting about the Longboat application held on 24 March had not been reported. It was because the April newsletter went to press several days earlier.

The potential role of volunteer working parties was raised, especially relevant in view of changes to footpath management by Devon County Council. There are complex issues involved including the inevitable health and safety ones and the attitude of local landowners. As a first step we are inviting volunteers to register via the website (*see page 4*)

Please don't wait for an AGM to ask a question or make a suggestion, parish representatives will be happy to hear from you. I would like to welcome back Clive Bowman to the role of secretary and express our appreciation to Martin Smith for his sterling work as treasurer. We are very grateful to Roger Saunders for undertaking this important role and to the rest of the Executive Committee members for continuing to give generously of their time for the OVA.

Having checked the probability of rain for the Gala Week fete in Budleigh Salterton after three fine years we wisely decided not to use the gazebo. Our River Otter birds quiz proved popular in the drizzle with both adults and children but very few knew their Widgeon from a Teal. The sun shone on the Pirates Treasure Hunt for a change!

The very late spring necessitated some rapid changes of dates for the Bluebell Walks planned by Caroline Allen but Mo Bowman surpassed herself with the choice of date for the Dorset expedition in early June.

Helen Tickle



From the Editor



I hope that some of you took my advice in the last Newsletter.

As I predicted the weather improved as I sat down to start on the task of setting up this issue; the sun broke out and the clouds parted to raise the temperature to a warm 21°C. I think I had better inform the Met Office of the dates of my next efforts so that they can get their charts ready. With Caroline's forecast on page 11 and the planned visit to the Met Office on page 15 there is a definite focus on weather this issue.

Following the AGM, the new Executive has taken its place with hardly any changes from the previous one. It seems there are only a very small number of members who are willing to get involved at that level. However, you do now have a chance to get more involved by volunteering on an *ad hoc* basis. See Page 4 and 8 for more details. I do hope you will consider doing this and the old saying about getting more out the more you put in, certainly applies in the OVA.

To give you some insight into the workings of the Executive and the sub-committees of the OVA, I am pleased to welcome the first in a new series of articles by Clive Bowman Hon.Sec. Clive will introduce us to the various roles on the Exec and demystify some of the less obvious parts of the OVA for us. I hope this might encourage others to get involved.

A few months ago, just before the last issue of the Newsletter, I was given some documents by Cyril Shere which list his observations of the wildlife in and about his current and previous homes in Budleigh. These date from 1987-2005 and if anyone would like to contact Cyril to look at them then I would be happy to introduce you.

After a short break I am pleased to say that the conundrums are back on page 14. If anyone has any puzzles or similar conundrums then I would be very pleased to receive them and possibly include them in future editions.

I will be putting the next issue of the Newsletter together on 17th-19th September. If the pattern holds true then please do not go out without a sunhat and sunscreen on those dates.

Nick Spere

Executive Watch



(What really happens behind closed doors? In this new series, Clive Bowman will regularly report on the machinations of the Executive Committee)

The first Executive Committee (EC) meeting after the AGM is rather like an orchestra setting up for a new performance, new members are welcomed, those continuing in post settle back, those taking new posts shuffle papers across to their successor, and the Chairman sits there conducting all the changes, until we all know where we should be. The important work of the new committee is to get the Officers signed up on the various mandates, all members recorded as trustees of the OVA, and as we follow the agenda, review outstanding items and complete the hand over of duties.

The various sub-committees forward papers before each meeting to all EC members, with updates on any current projects, or matters they would like to raise to the committee. Where the project is nearing completion, its good to see how successful the OVA's efforts have been. The outing to Dorset was about to take place, and at the time of the meeting, all spaces were taken and the arrangements for the day were confirmed.

Sometimes there are projects which the sub-committee may wish the EC to discuss, to consider if it fits within the aims of the OVA, to consider if funds should be released for the project, and when necessary, decisions are deferred to collect additional information.

In later articles, I will explain more about how the EC works and some of the decisions made on your behalf. I will provide an insight in to the various roles of the Officers, subcommittee Chairmen, the village Reps and the general running of the OVA.

The idea for this came from our Editor who felt that we should make the workings of the EC available to all members. So, as the Hon Sec, it was decided this should be part of my role. Here then, is the first article following the election of the EC.

Clive Bowman

Bicton College Earth Project



The Chairman, Helen Tickle, attended the launch at Bicton College of their EARTH project (Environmental And Renewable Technologies Hub). Their plan is to create a training centre relating to the installation of green technologies.

Initial courses will be for specialist trades such as plumbers and electricians in the practical aspects of energy efficient technology. See their website (www.bicton.ac.uk) as the scheme develops.

ooooooooOoooooooo

Volunteers Needed

At the AGM earlier this year the matter of Footpath maintenance was raised. The OVA's Footpaths Committee was disbanded some time ago, at its own recommendation, because it was felt that its work was a duplication of the work of P3 (Parish Paths Partnership).

Funding had flowed from Devon County Council to P3. However, like many things, funding was drying up and had been, even before the current austerity initiatives.

At the AGM a number of people referred back to earlier days of the OVA when Working Parties would sally forth to maintain the footpaths in the Valley and they asked why this should not happen again. This suggestion is being considered by the Executive Committee and, in anticipation, a register of volunteers is being compiled. If you would be willing to undertake some work to help then please register through the website. Follow the link from the home page www.ova.org.uk or send a note to Volunteers at OVA, PO Box 70 Budleigh Salterton EX9 6WN.



See also the call for volunteers on page 8

UN-REDD – the UN programme to save rainforests

www.un-redd.org

In the fight against climate change there is nothing more important than saving rainforests. Every year the destruction of tropical rainforests releases more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than all the emissions from transport put together. Moreover, tropical rainforest absorbs almost 20% of man-made emissions of carbon dioxide. Reducing tropical deforestation and preventing the release of carbon emissions into the atmosphere is the fastest and cheapest way to cut greenhouse gas emissions.



At the United Nations' Climate Change conference (Copenhagen December, 2009) six of the developed nations, including Britain, agreed to provide \$3.5 billion dollars to save rainforests. More recently further UN conferences in Paris (March 2010) and in Oslo (May, 2010)

have discussed the setting up and implementation of REDD programmes (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation & Degradation of forests). At the conference in Oslo the Norwegian Prime Minister, Jens Stoltenberg, announced that his country is giving \$1 billion in aid to Indonesia to help protect forests. In return Indonesia has announced that it will no longer give approval for the clearance of forests for palm oil plantations.

A great deal of money has been promised by developed nations and by individuals, e.g. George Soros, the billionaire investor who has promised \$50 million of his own money to prevent deforestation. All of these developments give reason to hope that much of the planet's rainforests can be preserved. However, implementation of REDD is not straightforward. There needs to be strict law enforcement and monitoring to ensure that available funds are used for their intended purpose, not always easy to do in developing countries.

Norman Crossland

Longboat Planning Application

At a meeting in the Peter Hall on 24 March I spoke of OVA's constitution and its objectives of conservation of the environment and preservation of features of historic interest. I explained to the audience that your Executive Committee felt that protections afforded by AONB (East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and Jurassic Coast designations were sufficient for the application to be rejected and the case for the 'enhancement of the area', which was the only basis for development, had not been made.

We had contacted the Government Office for the South West in the summer 2009 but it was ruled the site was not important nationally. In July we proposed the listing of a complex of maritime buildings, including Coastguard Cottages and Longboat café to English Heritage. In January 2010 the rest of the complex was listed but the Longboat building was held to be too altered. A review by the Department of Culture Media and Sport was requested. Another applicant had requested both a similar listing and review.

I read extracts from a new document PPS5, Planning Policy Statement for the Historic Environment. Issued that week, it is a material consideration which must be taken into account in development management decisions. I also mentioned the omission of reference to BS Design Statement from the case officer's report. Budleigh Salterton's then mayor, Courtney Richards spoke of the Town Council's objections. David Daniel spoke of the Visual Impact Assessment that had been carried out by Nicholas Pearson Associates. Members of the audience were invited to comment and ask questions by Maureen de Viell who chaired the meeting.

On 31 March we had a meeting with Ed Freeman of the planning team at East Devon District Council to stress our view of the importance of PPS5 but the case officer's report stated that if the building was not listed it could not be considered as a heritage asset.

At the Development Management Committee (DMC) meeting on 1 June Haylor Lass spoke on behalf of the OVA and emphasised our views but the committee gave approval to the application without waiting for the outcome of the listing review. The DMC made it clear that any decisions about the shelter were made separately from the planning issues. We await further developments which may be apparent by the time the newsletter is published.

Helen Tickle

OVA Forum & Message Board

Membership is growing and topics are expanding. We now have 27 members and 6 topics for discussion.



One item is about forming a group to do the Pilgrims Way walk.

Steve Hagger posted an item about the walk and boat trip and the availability of more spaces.

So if you have not yet joined the Message Board you may be missing out.

Have a look at the Message Board (via the OVA website) and perhaps start a new topic or contribute to the existing topics.

The Message Board is private to OVA members and cannot be viewed by the general public. You have to register first but it's a quick and simple process.

ooooooooOooooooooo

Barnstaple calling!

I receive all emails to the OVA via the website and usually pass them on to the relevant officer. However I received one email which I was unable to forward and with which, I hope, someone is able to help. It was a request from a lady who now lives in Barnstaple but whose family came from Sidmouth and Newton Poppleford. She is looking for information to help her trace a book by Mrs Ray Wilson entitled 'Yesterday in Newton Poppleford. If anyone can help then please contact me.

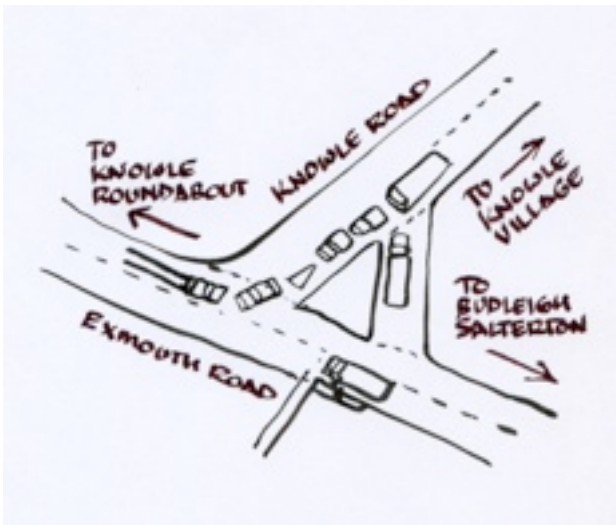
Alan Huddart
Webmaster

Would you like to play with the Traffic?

The OVA is much more than walks and talks - it's counting cars as well!

If you ever drive out of Knowle Road onto the Exmouth Road you will have experienced what a difficult and dangerous junction this is.

A group of volunteers will be helping future road improvements to this site by doing a traffic count on two days: Thursday 8 and Sunday 11 July 2010.



We will be working in two hour shifts from 07:30 to 5:30pm with a bench to sit on if sunny and a car lay-by if it's not.

The OVA is represented on the local Traffic Group by Stuart Yerrell, who has immense experience in this field. He will be masterminding this study and ensuring that its findings will supply the necessary evidence about this junction.

If you think you could help please call Jed Falby on 01395 445455 or email jed@falby.org

Jed Falby

Planning for your enjoyment

This spring the Events Committee has put on a very varied programme. This has appealed to the many interests of OVA members. We have found different people have supported different events. This is very encouraging and we hope to continue this in the future. We would welcome any ideas of walks, talks and visits from you.

We have a lull in activities during the summer but are back in the autumn with a visit to the Met. Office. This has proved difficult for Caroline Allen to arrange as there are few such visits available (*not because they regard her as a competitor! Ed*). These can only be confirmed on a certain date which does not correspond with the newsletter deadline. (*See Page 15*)

For those with an interest in history, in October David Jenkinson will talk about the East Budleigh Bench Ends and the influence of the turbulent times when they were carved. (*See Page 16*) This, I know, is a long way ahead but, again, the newsletter publication date means we have to advertise this now. John Jones has also arranged some interesting walks to keep you all fit.

The new members' party will take place on September 29. This is a good way to find out what "makes your society tick" and to meet some of the numerous volunteers who help run it. Invitations will be sent later in the summer.

Lastly, I must apologise to all of you who turned up for the Gala Week Budleigh Salterton Walk a week early. The wrong date got into the newsletter programme and proved difficult to remove, although changed on the web and posters. However, the walk will be repeated on Monday, 26 July for the Music Festival.

Nicky Daniel

Poetry Competition Entries

I promised to publish some of the other entries in the OVA poetry competition. Below is a contribution received from Sue Chapman



Ed

The Pair

In lee of pebble bank, above the tidal rise of Donkey Turn,
A white haired gent and his fleece clad wife sit close, upon a wooden bench.
He snoozes, face upturned, in homage to a watery spring sun.
She peers through binoculars, patting at his gloved hand in delight.
Ducks, crows, seagulls congregate like multicultural shoppers in a London market.
The estuary, pond still, merely ripples in salute to dipping dive and soaring flight.
Artists struggle to create this view, the signature pinus and brick red cliffs.
Dabbing subtle palette shades, adding rhythm and sparkle to patterns of light,
tones all lovelier than yesterday. They are compelled to start afresh each dawn.
Waters undulate in oily calm, ruffle, swell, countless inadequate phrases flood the page.
Today our picture, tomorrow yours. The estuary belongs to no-one.
A pair of elegant swans, white as lemon sorbet, meander through the morning
Mated for life. Lavish contentment in this work of art.

Sue Chapman

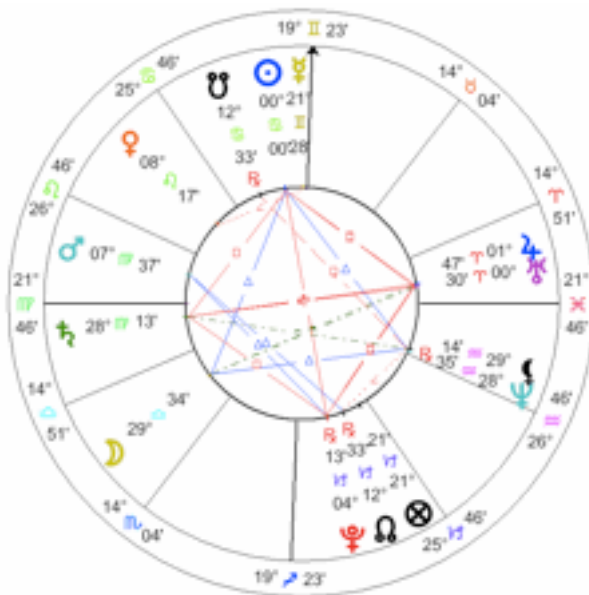
Heavens Above! Summer 2010

"Knock on the sky and listen to the sound." ~ Zen saying



Summer could be pretty short this year; I think it will fall on a Thursday. And although the planets won't always hiss or muck up each and every day, I think they will send us sobs, sniffles and smiles, with sniffles predominating. The sun will produce some record breaking temperatures, but the light from the sun could be blocked in some way, either by sultry clouds or atmospheric pollution; and the skies are going to be working overtime discharging excess energy. On us of course! This season shows a clear pattern of total unpredictability in that no matter how often the unexpected happens, we still won't expect it; so be prepared to be surprised. It's going to be a roller

coaster few months as the thermometer soars to sweltering highs only to plummet into unseasonable lows leaving us shivering in the wrong clothes.



July finds us recovering from the after-effects of June which probably hit us with its usual severity. But after an unsettled start

the wind will drop into a sultry calm and we can relax within the low visibility of nebulous mists and sea hazes as almost tropical humidity soothes our weather wounds. Temperatures are due to rise after the first week and although I anticipate more rain around 11th thus confirming the mutual

Weather

attraction of rain and week-ends, we should be in for a very pleasant warm spell after that. In fact you could be complaining it feels too hot! Get those rusty BBQ's out in the middle few days of July before it all goes pear-shaped again. You may have felt you had the elements on the run, but in the latter part of the month, between the 18th and 26th I think, they will regroup for another attack, producing at least one classic summer thunderstorm for the Otter Valley.

August looks interesting. If you are planning a garden party then arrange it between the 3rd and the 7th which should contain some of those precious few perfect English summer days which occur more frequently in memory than in life. It goes downhill from the 10th onwards when seething aspects unleash almost biblical downpours through the rest of the month. Don't go to bed angry in the second week; planetary aspects insist you stay up and plot your revenge! And do not on any account plan your vacation to start between 16th and 24th August which looks to be the climax of a period when the UK should be feeling the knock on effects of catastrophic conditions experienced elsewhere with a polluted atmosphere and drowned earth being the most likely symptoms of a disastrous cause. Communication and travel plans will only add to the misery which could be worse than we experienced last spring.

We will have softer and lighter conditions however, as September opens. Morning mists could mizzle as the breeze gets up, and after 3rd it could get downright windy! Fluctuating temperatures and high humidity bring a smattering of rain in the first week, followed by the new moon of the 8th which threatens a hard weeks pummeling from the rain Gods! And although we should see the Sun glint apologetically in the puddles after the 15th, it is the rest of the month we want to avoid - or even cancel if possible! A sudden reversal of temperature on the 21st could whip up a nasty squall with wet fronts scooting in from the Atlantic, their mood vengeful and damp. If vulnerable to flooding then do please take precautions. Rain snivelling continuously from dirty skies is the best we can hope for during the latter part of September when every day should have a puddle in it. I am thinking of going south for the summer – strictly entre nous, some parts of me are headed that way already!

Caroline Allen

Budleigh's International Stardom

My thanks to Alec and Jean Anderson of Westfield Road BS who sent me this article from the St Petersburg Times, Florida, USA. Budleigh beach obviously had a starring role on the world wide stage. Although from their headline it would appear that our star is in the descendant.



Ed

The Conundrum Returns!

After being absent for a couple of issues the competition is back.

This logic puzzle was sent to me by David Huggett for which I am very grateful. However, by doing so, he is of course now disqualified from receiving the £10 book token to be awarded to the first correct entry drawn from the metaphorical hat which I keep on the metaphorical hat stand in the hall. I may therefore send David a metaphorical award instead.

The Conundrum:

A teacher told his pupil that he had three children. The pupil asked “What are their ages?” The teacher replied “The sum of their ages is equal to your age and their ages multiplied together comes to 36.”



After some thought the pupil said “You have not given me sufficient information”. To which the teacher replied “The eldest plays the piano – that should be sufficient.” It was!

What are the ages of the children?
(the picture is not a clue)

Please send your answers direct to me (details on the back cover) or by post to OVA, PO Box 70, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6NW or via the website.

Nick Speare (Ed)

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) Picnic or 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. 5 miles, 2½ hours. An exploration of Aylesbears Common and the Hawkerland Valley.

Walk leader: Steve Hagger, 01395 442631

 **July 26, Mon - 10.00am TOWN WALK (Easy)**

Guided Walk around Budleigh Salterton
Meet Temple Methodist Church Car Park

Walk Leader: David Daniel 01395 445960

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

East Budleigh CP, SY065849. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Local walk - Hayes Lane 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 ctd.



September 4, Sat - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) Picnic Lunch

East Budleigh CP SY065849 (Free). 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 11, Sat - VISIT to Met Office

Time to be announced (See Page 15)



September 16, Thurs

Final date for Newsletter input



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

East Budleigh CP, SY065849 (Free) 6 miles, 3 hours. Interesting route from the village on footpaths and lanes circling Otterton.

Walk leader: Steve Hagger, 01395 442631



September 29, New Members' Party

East Budleigh Village Hall

By Invitation

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER



October 6, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

Crook Plantation, SY057866. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Crook Plantation, Bearden Barn, Wheathill Plantation, Hayes Wood and Yettington.

Walk leader: Gordon Wilson, 01395 568594



October 12, Tues - 7.30pm TALK

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

Ottertton Village Hall

Speaker: Rod Lawrence



October 13, Wed - 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) Optional Pub Lunch

East Budleigh CP, SY065849. 4 miles, 2½ hours. Town walk including a visit to historic East Budleigh church. Stan will share his vast local knowledge of bygone East Budleigh. Optional lunch at the Sir Walter Raleigh.

Walk leader: Stan Herbert, 01395 445113



October 16, Sat - 10.00am - 3.00pm East Budleigh Bench-ends Day

(See Page 16 for details)



October 27, Wed - 10.30am. WALK (Easy-NB later start time)

Powderham Church CP, SY972843. 3½ miles, 2 hours. Circular walk around Powderham Castle, there will be fallow deer to see in the Park and good views of the estuary. Optional lunch at the Orangery Restaurant afterwards. The Castle will be open if you wish to visit it later (admission charge payable).

Walk leader: Tricia Bisley, 01392 410423



November 3, Wed – 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

Newton Popleford CP, SY086897. 5miles, 2½ hours A walk through varied landscapes with some pretty views, via Southerton, Venn Ottery and along the River Otter.

Walk leader: John Jones, 01395 443651



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

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER *ctd*



November 20, Sat – 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

Church Green CP, SY174965 5 miles - 2½ hours. Attractive circular walk with good views in the Farway and Northleigh area.

Walk leader: Peter Hills, 01395 568576



November 27, Sat – 10.00am. WALK (Moderate)

Four Firs CP, SY032864. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Visiting Blackhill Quarry, Hayes Wood and Woodbury Castle.

Walk leader: Stuart Lovett, 01395 443141



December 1, Wed – 10.00am. WALK (Moderate) Pub lunch

Colaton Raleigh Church, SY082872. 5 miles, 2½ hours. Green lanes and commons including Dotton, Hawkerland Common and Naps Lane. Optional lunch at the Otter Inn.

Walk leader: Brian Turnbull, 01395 567339



December 11, Sat – 10.00am. WALK (Easy)

Wheathill Plantation SY041847. 3 miles, 2 hours. A short walk on the commons to relieve those pre -Christmas pressures.

Walk leader: David Daniel, 01395 445960



December 15, Wednesday - Christmas Dinner

Woodbury Golf & Country Club

Details in Next Issue



December 26, Sun – 1030am. WALK (Easy)/Pub Lunch. East Budleigh CP SY065849. Gentle Boxing Day walk across the common with optional pub lunch at the Sir Walter Raleigh – **Please ring Walk Leader by 5 December to book lunch.**

Walk Leader: David Daniel, 01395 445960

2011 May 11, Wednesday - AGM

Newton Poppleford Church Hall

A Visit to the Met



Perhaps like me you have lived happily with the weather for some time without a burning desire to visit the Met Office. There are so many other delightful things to do. But as soon as I found out that the Met was covered by the official secrets act and was cloaked under the jurisdiction of the MOD I wanted to get inside it! And as they only have a couple of Open Days a year, it has taken a bit of wangling to prise the door open believe you me.

The nearly new Met Office in Exeter has a world-wide reputation of providing accurate weather forecasts. They provide an invaluable service to governments, military, industry, international businesses, aviation, and most important of all us, the general public. So join us on Saturday 11 September 2010 and you will see first hand exactly how they do it.

In order to meet the security requirements, we will not be apprised of the time of our visit until nearer the date (although it will be within the normal working day and not start until 9am and will have finished by 5pm) and tickets will be named. Those without a ticket or a ticket not in their name will be refused entry and some form of ID must be produced to gain admittance to the building.

The high level of security means we must travel together by coach, and on arrival be given a personally guided tour both inside and outside the impressive new building including sight of the billion pound new mega-computer the size of a football pitch and the Meteorologists at work sitting behind their laptops. The tour should last about two and a half hours and will include a short period in the lecture hall with a slide show about climate research, after which you will be free to browse in the Met Library or relax in the Café for lunch or tea, depending on the time of day.

The cost of the trip will be £12 which includes entrance and transfers by coach, but does not include refreshments. There are a lot of stairs, but there is an invalid lift. For booking form see back pages.

Caroline Allen

A Day Reading the East Budleigh Bench-end Carvings

During the Renaissance, Western Europe made great intellectual leaps and in All Saints Church, East Budleigh villagers installed fixed seating with detailed pictorial designs to the bench-ends. How villagers were affected by the Renaissance may be inferred from a study of the carvings.



They were installed during the religious ferment of the English Reformation just before the Dissolution of Monasteries when the church was still owned by Polsloe Priory and in the following decade the Prayerbook Rebellion erupted in Devon and Cornwall. It is interesting to note that none of the carvings has a religious subject.

On 16 October 2010, from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm at East Budleigh CHURCH HALL David Jenkinson will suggest an interpretation of the carvings and will discuss how they reflect the local, national and global events of the time. There will be power point presentations on the bench-ends and on the Renaissance, a visit to the church, coffee and a ploughman's lunch*.

Price £15.00 to include coffee & ploughman's lunch

*Please indicate cheese or ham on the booking form

Nicky Daniel

What a load of old rubbish!!!



Observers of the wildlife at the Otter estuary on the morning of Saturday 27 March would have noticed an interesting new species. Distinguished by bright coloured anoraks and sensible wellies these annual migrants (some with young) descended on the nature reserve in search of litter which they enthusiastically bagged up and deposited proudly on the bank for collection. These were (as you will have guessed) the OVA litter-pickers of Budleigh Salterton and elsewhere, whose sterling work led to the removal of a large quantity of detritus which was both unsightly and potentially damaging to the wildlife.

The annual Estuary Litterpick is organised jointly by the OVA, the Pebblebed Heaths Trust and East Devon District Council, supported by the AONB team and offers volunteers the opportunity to form a close relationship with river mud while doing their bit for the natural environment. If analysis of dustbin contents gives a useful insight into the nation's social habits then the final haul of the litterpickers would have been worthy of intensive study. In

Reports

addition to the usual plethora of plastic bags, crisp packets, cans and chocolate wrappers, a punctured inflatable dinghy (with paddle), a rucksack and a supersized water pistol were recovered. Unsurprisingly much maritime



debris such as ropes, nets, plastic buckets etc had come to rest here and was added to the pile. Among the sadder items which came to light were a solitary yellow plastic duck which had obviously lost its way in a Duck Race, and a tiny plastic spaceman who had failed to make it back to the Starship Enterprise. ('Beam me up Scotty.....oops!')

This year as an additional incentive the Executive Committee offered a small prize for the most interesting item found. Entries included a small stoneware bottle, a rubber duck with rigor mortis, the spaceman, and a wonderful piece of driftwood shaped like an animal's head. A half full bottle of Mr Muscle cleaner raised a smile. The prize was shared between

three young participants.

Thanks are due to Mo Bowman for the organisation of this event on behalf of the OVA and for the photographs.

Susan Tickle

Anyone for Bluebells?

On a perfect day of clear blue skies and gentle northerly breezes we met up at the Offwell Woodland & Wildlife Trust neatly booted for our day in the country lead by Caroline Allen, a day which proved to be a truly magical experience. We were treated to exactly what it said on the tin. Not a “sea of golden daffodils” but an ocean of azure bluebells, and I may add, native



English bluebells as opposed to those EU imports from Iberia. It was truly a sight to behold with the flowers appearing like a blue hazy mist rising from the slopes.

Not only were we nature lovers treated to the bluebell

extravaganza but to a tour of the estate by the enthusiastic Lucy Morton, the Community Officer for the ‘Action for Biodiversity Project’ ongoing at Offwell, who showed us how the pernicious rhododendron were being battled against. How the revitalized model heathland area was being encouraged and the mystery of how a mole had already found its way there, a full quarter of a mile from the nearest meadow, puzzled us. The whole area an example of nature re-establishing itself with a little help from its friends. We saw hazel coppicing, a previous unknown (to most of us) country craft. We saw butterflies, varieties other than the Large White much loved by vegetable gardeners; we saw and heard birds, those not usually found in our gardens.

After a very good picnic lunch, we were joined by an equally enthusiastic Dougal Syers who tried to answer all our questions, giving the daft and

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sensible equal attention. The afternoon treat was 'pond dipping'. Maybe not as eye watering as skinny dipping, particularly as few were under 60 years of youth. We were issued with fishing nets like children at the seaside and told to empty the contents into trays of pond water. What an Aqua world unfolded before our eyes.

Water fleas (the plankton of pond life), mayfly larvae, tadpoles (were they frog or toad?), water boatmen and numerous other species enthusiastically raced around trays all to be identified by our guide. What a feast of invertebrates!



One of our number was so enthused by the whole experience that she remarked how the project was in its

“crepuscular stage of development” * *see below*.. Your writer and others, mentally stretched for their trusty dictionaries and were duly impressed. Ah! The beauty of the English language - much like a bluebell wood.

Bob Wiltshire

On the Wednesday a further 10 OVA members visited Offwell. We were led by Dougal Syers who has an inexhaustible knowledge of the natural world. We had the same magical experiences as the Monday group but in addition were privileged to see the unique Offwell wood cricket (a very small creature which demonstrated the importance of this wildlife trust).

We must thank Caroline Allen for all her hard work setting these visits up for us.

Nicky Daniel

** I have been reliably informed by the member concerned that she was referring to the fireflies not the project. Ed*

Visit to Escot and Tale Valley Trust

Some 28 wet OVA members assembled at Escot on 29 April for a conducted tour of the Escot Wetlands and the Tale Valley Trust. The wise wore wellies as the weather looked a touch threatening. John Michael Kennaway, the owner of the Escot estate greeted us warmly and said we would start with the Saxon Village as that offered some protection from the weather. We were shown round this remarkable project by Alan Bruford, who had run the education side of Escot for some years. He has enlisted local schoolchildren to build an impressive collection of Saxon inspired buildings and their contents. This has all been created using only materials gathered within a few hundred meters of the site. Alan is particularly keen on getting the children to puddle clay with their bare feet for wattle and daub and other purposes. He evidently considered this rather wet Thursday to be ideal for this activity and eyed our wellies with barely concealed disapproval.



John Michael then took us briskly through the vast walled garden and down the valley to his Beaver Enclosure. It seems he had fallen for these creatures on a visit to Canada and has installed a breeding pair on a tributary of the Tale. They have created a very impressive dam (which has to be systematically reduced by humans to prevent serious flooding of the adjacent park). The beavers were not visible as they are nocturnal, but there was abundant signs of their skill in felling trees and building dams. They love open surroundings to improve the herbage and saplings on which they live. Some of us were surprised to learn that beavers are entirely herbivorous and therefore that their supposed threat to fisheries is quite unfounded.

The whole valley of the Tale within Escot Park was beautifully landscaped in the eighteenth century, well before the present house was built by John Michael's ancestor in 1837. It also had an elaborate system of irrigation by means of bridges, weirs, leats and hatches to allow the meadows to be flooded and to receive precious silt from the headwaters. This had almost completely disappeared and is slowly being exposed and partially restored.



John Michael went on to describe the invaluable work of the Trust in conserving the whole length of the Tale, much of it outside the Escot Estate. This has been a huge success in promoting bio-diversity, keeping destructive mink under control and reintroducing otters and water voles, which had both entirely disappeared from E.

Devon. They have also managed to keep the dreaded Himalayan Balsam out of the Tale Valley, mainly by the efforts of intrepid volunteers who regularly walk the whole length of the river in waders pulling up young plants by the roots. It is galling to admit that the infestation of the Otter itself is now too far gone for such simple remedies to answer.

Two bridges carrying farm traffic over the Tale have been beautifully rebuilt following destruction by a disastrous flood in 2008. John Michael waxed eloquent and amusing on the tribulations of restoring historic parkland e.g. the elegant iron and wire fencing and a timber aqueduct in the face of ill informed, bureaucratic obstruction.

On a final steep walk up another tributary stream we saw a pond, which had been a fishery, but has had to be abandoned due to the depredations on the fish made by returning otters (otters being anything but herbivorous). We also saw a grey squirrel trap. This is part of a mammoth project to control grey squirrel numbers in the valley with the hope that eventually reds might be reintroduced into the wild. Escot have a thriving colony of reds in an enclosure, but have not, as yet, attempted to let them loose outside.

This proved a fascinating insight into a most impressive piece of conservation work in a very beautiful park. The weather had improved a good deal during our strenuous walk and we felt we had earned the excellent lunch which awaited those who had wisely pre-booked at the Coach House Restaurant.

Christopher Briscoe

Artists' Walk

May 8

Ten brave souls defied the weather report and (well bundled up) joined up at the Peak Hill Car Park for this annual walk. Walkers do like walking and artists do like sitting still, so this "Artists' Walk" should upset them both but apparently not they tell me.

Striding North onto Mutters Moor the scenery is dramatically changed by the new clearing of the gorse and some major cutting back which makes the footpaths wider and easier. Our first stop was the "Seven Stones" (site of) as the map says. The site is hard to see now with the new birch growth and of course the seven stones are not there any more. Lady Rolle took them to build a rockery in the Bicton Gardens and there they stay. As listed relics they can't be moved, but the OVA History Section thinks they should and could be reinstated (and re-listed!).

Moving along the ridge above Bulverton Bottom we came to "John Keble's Seat" where Jed tried to sing his "Rock of Ages" Hymn but couldn't remember more than the first two lines and so reverted to a demonstration of quick sketching in watercolour pencils. The bluebells made a blue shadow. The trees and the new leaves were all that bright Spring green that we call 'May



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Green'. It began to "spit" rain (which makes Jed's watercolours run) and the water trapped in the track made giant puddles and the path very muddy.

Around the top of Bulverton Hill the new clearing of trees gave a very good view of The River Sid Valley all the way from the sea up to Sidbury and beyond. So we stopped for the artists to sketch and



the walkers to warm up with hot coffee. Drawings done, we headed back Southwards - dodging golf balls as we crossed the golf green in the valley - and so back to the cars at our start point with a "Social Lunch"

(Time to dry out and criticise the drawings!) in the King's Arms at Otterton.

Jed Falby

ooooOoooo

Sidbury Manor

A report on the Sidbury Manor Trip earlier this the year will appear in the next edition along with details of another visit planned for 2011.

Ed

Dorset Jurassic Coast Visit. June 4



On a beautiful, sunny morning a group of 37 of us set out after a short delay, on what proved to be a fascinating, interesting and glorious day out. We were all given the day's itinerary, which was very useful. En route to Durdle Door, our excellent guide, Tony Burges indicated points of interest, including ancient burial mounds and the ruins of a hidden church where strange nocturnal activities were reputed to have taken place!

On arrival at Durdle Door car park, we gathered together and walked down towards Durdle Door itself and enjoyed the views of Weymouth and Portland, which were only slightly marred by the haze. Keen photographers were soon busy and Jed wasted no time in getting out his

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sketch book.

We then walked over Hambury Tout to Lulworth Cove and enjoyed our lunch stop. After lunch, we trudged along the pebble beach around Lulworth Cove and made our way to the Fossil Forest. This meant descending 97 steps and afterwards having to climb back up them! However, it was well worth it. We then retraced our steps to the Heritage Centre in Lulworth Cove where some of us had time to enjoy an ice cream before setting off in the minibuses for Tyneham village.

At Tyneham, it was quite a moving experience to wander through the ruins of cottages which were once inhabited by generations of families. The school was particularly interesting as it represented a school of the 1920s, as if the children had just gone out to play and would soon return. It was hard to believe that when the inhabitants of the village left their homes, having been forced to do so by the MOD, the only compensation which they were given was the value of the vegetables in their garden.

After visiting Tyneham village, we were taken to Corfe Castle where we all enjoyed a cream tea. We returned to Budleigh Salterton in the early evening and everyone agreed that we had all had an excellent day out. Our thanks to the organisers and guides.



Wendy Winson

Met Office Visit 11 September 2010

Time to be announced.

Please send me _____ tickets for the Met Office visit

Name	Address, Phone & Email

NB All names must be stated and ID must be taken on the visit

I enclose a cheque for £_____ (£12 per person) payable to 'OVA' and a

STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

(address for return overleaf)



East Budleigh Bench-ends Day

October 16

10.00am to 3.00pm

Please send me _____ tickets for the Bench-ends Day

Name	Address, Phone & Email

Number of Ham Ploughman's _____ Number of Cheese Ploughman's _____

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

STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

(address for return overleaf)

N.B. Applications must be received by October 1st

Application Forms

OVA Met Office Visit
Caroline Allen
2 Marine Parade
Budleigh Salterton
Devon
EX9 6NS



OVA Bench End Reading Day
Nicky Daniel
7 Marine Parade
Budleigh Salterton
Devon
EX9 6JH

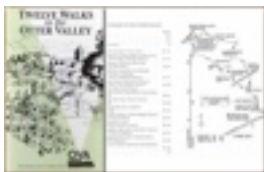
Summer Reading etc.

Mark Rolle His Architectural Legacy in the Lower Otter Valley



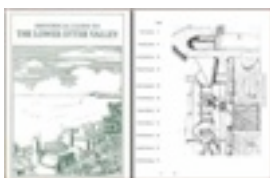
£4.95 via your Rep (or plus £1.00 P&P)

12 Walks in the Otter Valley



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

Historical Guide to the Lower Otter Valley



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

1842, 1890 and 1933 Maps of Budleigh Salterton



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

Available from your Parish Representative, our website -www.ova.org.uk

or order from:

Booksales

OVA

PO Box 70

Budleigh Salterton

EX9 6WN

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(01395)

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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