

HONITON u3a

Nature Appreciation Group 

**2023 – A NEW YEAR!
Planning, Bird Watching,
& Changeable Weather!**

Photographs taken by Group Members

JANUARY – MARCH 2023

Honiton u3a – Nature Appreciation Group

January – March 2023

Our new year began in January with a **meeting in Feniton**, to review our activities in 2022 and to plan for the first 6 months of 2023. Even at this meeting there was a bit of 'nature' activity going on when a Cellar spider dared to run across the floor and was quickly 'captured' on camera by Jenny.

Field trips were planned for every month from February through to June with a bonus outing to the Lower Otter Restoration Project at Budleigh Salterton in March in the company of Mike Williams from the Environment Agency.

Our first outing was on a sunny day in February when the group travelled to **Topsham to visit the RSPB hide at Bowling Green Marshes**. Because it was a very low tide, we were not expecting to see much activity, but were pleasantly surprised to see a good variety of birds in and around the water's edges. We then continued down along the river Clyst estuary towards the Exe estuary taking in everything there was to see.

In March the group was not so lucky with the weather as it poured with rain! But that did not stop seven brave souls meeting at the **Honiton Bottom Nature Reserve** and capturing a few good photos of the little there was to see on the day.

Later in March fate dealt us a good hand in that our arranged date to visit **the Lower Otter Restoration Project** was switched by Kier from Tuesday back to the Monday. It was cold, but dry for the 3-hour guided tour, which was extremely interesting and informative and for the last hour the sun shone! (The Tuesday turned out to be a very wet and miserable day!!!)

Below are the photographs taken by members of the group capturing moments from the above:

JANUARY 2023 - FENITON FOOTBALL CLUB ROOM MEETING



FEBRUARY 2023 – RSPB TOPSHAM





Teals and a Coot



Janet Driscoll - Spoonbill



Wigeons grazing



Snipe



Janet Driscoll - Spoonbill



The Group looking out over the Clyst



Avocet



Black headed Gull

MARCH 2023 - HONITON BOTTOM ROAD NATURE RESERVE



Barbara Benfield - Hairs on the Willow bud repelling rain



A very wet March meeting at Honiton Bottom Road - but still smiling!



Gill Spoerry - Dogs Mercury



MARCH 2023 – LOWER OTTER RESTORATION PROJECT



Future benefits for people & the environment

- Improved water quality
- Increased biodiversity
- Enhanced recreational opportunities
- Reduced flood risk

Wildlife

- Wading birds (e.g. Grebe, Curlew, Sandpiper)
- Waterfowl (e.g. Mallard, Pintail)
- Swans
- Fish (e.g. Roach, Bream, Carp)
- Invertebrates (e.g. Dragonflies, Damselflies)

Benefits of material & labour

- Local sourcing
- Reduced carbon footprint
- Support for local economy

Promoting Adaptation to Changing Coasts

Lower Otter Valley, Devon

Babes Valley, Exmouth

Map of the area showing the project location.

Partners: Exmoor National Park, Devon Wildlife Trust, Exmoor National Park Authority, Exmoor National Park, Exmoor National Park, Exmoor National Park, Exmoor National Park.

Climate change

History of the lower Otter Valley

Timeline of events from 1800 to 2023.

Partners: Exmoor National Park, Devon Wildlife Trust, Exmoor National Park Authority, Exmoor National Park, Exmoor National Park, Exmoor National Park.