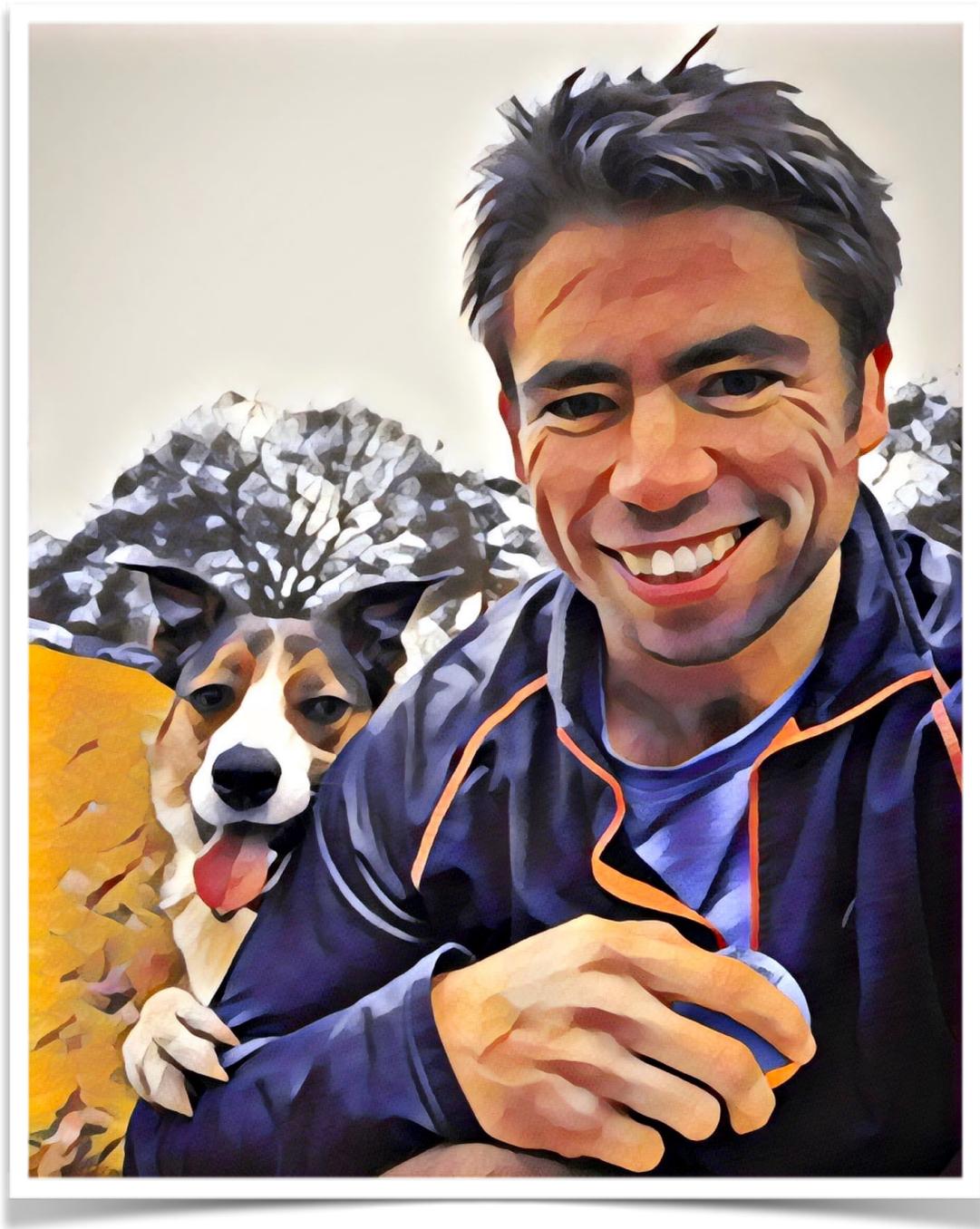


Chapter 5: Timmy Visits Lustleigh

Timmy's visit to Lustleigh always starts from Bovey Tracey. Here the River Bovey has many places ideal for a dog to take a quick dip to retrieve a favourite ball and then to head onwards upstream at Parke Estate. Here the river walks are both scenic and rewarding in their variety. There's even a little sandy beach where the river makes a sharp turn to descend towards Bovey Tracey. It's perhaps Timmy's favourite beach, lapped by fresh water and dappled with the sunlight through the trees. From here it's possible to ascend onto the old railway line and head up to Lustleigh. Surely a disused railway will be rich in ghosts and spirits from the past: Timmy puts his nose to the ground in the search for the old stoker from Moretonhampstead, but all he manages to sniff out is the trail of a fox visiting from the local farmland.



Timmy likes to take his humans to Parke Estate

The old pub in Lustleigh is called the Cleave, and it was as Timmy and his humans sat warming themselves by the fire that they heard the tale of the old lady with her dog: recently an old woman walked her little dog around Lustleigh Cleave. On an early evening stroll she headed for the Iron Age fort at Hunter's Tor. At sundown, whilst dusk descended, she and her dog approached the three hut circles, and she immediately sensed an eerie foreboding, deepening to a tangible premonition of evil. A thick blanket of mist had spread itself across the ancient stones, separating her from the real world. Her dog sensed it, too, cowering at her feet, and whining with fright. To their horror, both old woman and dog suddenly saw mysterious dark figures slowly creep from the hut circles, attired as if they came directly from the Iron Age. They stooped beneath the low lintels of their burial sites, traversing into our mortal world. These ancient spirits were talking to each other, yet they made no sound, as the entirety of the old fort lay suspended in an otherworldly silence.

If only Timmy had seen this when he had been on Hunter's Tor! But that's the best thing about exploring: you don't have to visit a place once only. Maybe some day Timmy will return to Hunter's Tor just to recreate what happened there recently. Or just maybe, it's *you* who will experience it...



Timmy loves to go for a swim from the little sandy beach along the River Bovey at Parke Estate