

UERSA WALKING GROUP

October - December 2010

Dates: Wed, October 13 Thursday, October 28 Monday, Nov 8 (Short)
Tuesday, Nov 23 Wed, December 1 (Short) Tuesday, December 14

The start of the last period saw a record turnout for our 100th walk and the fine weather has resulted in very good responses to the summer walks – often a slack period in the past. My personal thanks to all those who led and provided photographs capturing the spirit of the scene and the happy atmosphere.



The next session sees the return of the Annual Cake Walk which requires a particular thanks to Patrick and Sue who also opened their garden for the very enjoyable 100th celebration.

*I refuse to mention *mas in September and merely draw your attention to the annual lunch meet on December 1st – early enough to avoid the *mas rush and the inevitable *mas stuffing. Please join us for lunch at the Ruffwell Hotel even if you are not able to walk.*

Look forward to seeing you on some or all of the walks as one in particular will mark a very special milestone.

Trevor **September 2010**
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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- 10.30 am Wednesday, 13th October Exmouth 6 miles

PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Patrick and Sue's annual cake walk with a circular stroll around the Exmouth area as a prelude to the long-awaited tea and cakes.

Start from Sue and Patrick's house, 6 Merrion Avenue, Exmouth EX8 2HX at 10.30 am.

The start is 6 minutes walk from the Elwyn Road stop of the number 57 bus from Exeter (every 12 minutes). Stay on the bus through Exmouth town centre and get off in Salterton Road just after the Cranford Club. Walk the full length of Elwyn Road, turn left at the 'T' junction with Cranford Avenue then first right into Merrion Avenue. Number 6 is the last house on the right, on the corner with Douglas Avenue.

Patrick & Sue

- **10.30 am Thursday, 28th October** **Woodbury** **7 miles** **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Start : Four Firs Car Park on Woodbury Common (Grid Reference SY031863)

Time : 10.30 a.m.

Distance : 7 miles

Route : Four Firs ~ Frying Pans ~ Hayes Wood ~ Kerslake Farm ~ Woodbury Castle ~ Four Firs

Details : Bring picnic lunch. Walk is over open common land and through woodland, with very little road walking and no major hills, although there are some ups and downs over the common.

Mike and Suzanne

- **10.30 am Monday, 8th November** **Exeter Country Park** **4 miles**

Meet at Piazza Terracina, Exeter Canal Basin.

This is a gentle stroll along the Exe through the River Country Park with coffee at the Double Locks Hotel on the way back.
Trevor

- **10.30 am Tuesday, 23rd November** **North Bovey / Manaton** **9 miles** **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

North Bovey - Lustleigh Cleave - Manaton - Easdon - N Bovey

Start from free car park at North Bovey (OL28 GR 741836 - well signposted). Tracks through to west end of Lustleigh Cleave, then Water and Manaton. Quiet lane to Easdon Common and then track to the tor with spectacular views.

Track back down to quiet lane and return to North Bovey. Tea etc available at the Ring of Bells in N Bovey.

About 9 miles and about 4 hours. Very pleasant.

Tom

- **10.20 am Wednesday, 1st December** **Stoke Canon - Thorverton** **4 miles** **END OF YEAR LUNCH AT RUFFWELL**

Meet at Stoke Canon Post Office for 10.20 start.

This is an easy stroll along the Exe to Thorverton and then out to the Ruffwell Hotel on the Exeter / Tiverton road for lunch.

Bus 55 at 10.00 from Exeter bus station arrives at Stoke Canon 10.11

For those travelling by car, parking at the Ruffwell is allowed and a bus (no 55) leaves Ruffwell at 9.59 to arrive in Stoke Canon at 10.07

Trevor

- **10.30 am Tuesday, 14th December** **Whiteworks, Dartmoor** **7 miles** **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Meet at Whiteworks car park (OL28 GR 604708)

Whiteworks - Siward's Cross (Nun's Cross) - Eyelsbarrow - Combestone Tor - Downs Tor - Snapper Rock - Norsworthy Bridge - Leather Tor Bridge - Crazy Well Pool - Devonport Leat - Whiteworks.

The walk from Whiteworks is about 6.75 miles which takes in a decent stone circle and stone row and the Devonport Leat and with views over Burrator reservoir.

Pete

RECENT WALKS 2010

100th Walk, Exton – Exmouth 1st July



Almost every stop to Exton saw walkers joining the train and, when meeting the large number waiting at Exton, we were 31 in all. It was a very pleasant day with a high tide and the estuary looked particularly beautiful as we walked the new cycle-way section to Lympstone village where we were joined by three more making it a record attendance for the walking group.

Then it was along the older (but still new) section to Exmouth where Patrick led us onto the old Budleigh railway line which brought us conveniently close to Merrion Avenue.

Here three more had everything in readiness and, in the garden in bright sunshine, we enjoyed a celebratory drink, our sandwiches, nibbles from the UERSA Garden Party of the previous day (surplus to requirement), the delicious desserts provided by some of the group and finally a substantial piece of the UERSA 6th Anniversary cake!

It was an extremely enjoyable occasion (thanks to Patrick and Sue) to mark our centenary walk – difficult to believe that we have had so many. In the five years we have had over 1500 participants and clocked up over 9000 miles. A special thanks too to all those who have prepared and led walks – their efforts make the success it has been.

Finally thanks to you all for your efforts, cheerful participation and friendship.

Trevor

A wonderful spread to follow the sandwiches – and a toast to the future of the group!



Crediton, 21st July



There was a clash with the eating and drinking crowd (also in Crediton) so only 10 plus myself - weather superb. Mike Smith provided the photos and all enjoyed the walk and weather showing Devon at its best.

Tom

Whimble, 13th August



Sixteen of us had a very enjoyable walk from Whimble on Friday 13th. We were very lucky with the weather as we had plenty of sunny spells, with an ideal temperature, and just a few spots of rain just as we were re-entering Whimble. The route can be very wet in the winter or after prolonged rain, but with the long dry spell we have had it was completely dry. Despite Alistair's warning email about problems with cows, the ones we came across were all very well behaved (see photo).

In the end nobody was tempted by a drink at the Thirsty Farmer, but I think most people appreciated being able to look round the interior of the church at Clyst St. Lawrence which is normally locked, but which I was able to arrange with the friendly vicar to be left open just for our visit.

Mike

Watern Tor, 23rd August

John and his friend Mike led a group of 12 of us from Scorhill Gate up to Watern Tor. John started by telling us that last time he led a walk from this starting point they had wintry showers from the start, and despite being August he managed to repeat this challenging start. However on this occasion we did have some beautiful bright spells in between the showers. After a look at Scorhill Circle we passed the Holed Stone in the North Teign River, which was in full flood after the spell of heavy rain, so nobody was tempted to try to squeeze through the hole.



Having crossed the North Teign over the clapper bridges we made our way past some of the many hut circles in this area and followed an ancient field boundary wall to re-cross the North Teign by shuffling along a fence which crossed the river, being impressed by the rushing water just below our feet. We then continued following a boundary wall up towards Watern Tor and watched as Tom and Pete disappeared into the low cloud which now engulfed the Tor. This is one of the most attractive tors on the Moor, and we were grateful for the shelter it provided for a lunch stop, keeping us out of the gale force winds. After lunch we managed to cross the Walla Brook by using the stones, without anybody getting their feet wet, then crossed the Gallaven Brook, using Gartaven Ford, to skirt between Rippator and Buttern Hill to return to our cars after an exhilarating walk through a wild part of the moor, wondering what conditions were like when people were living in the huts and erecting stone circles.

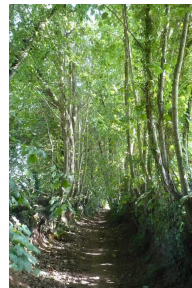
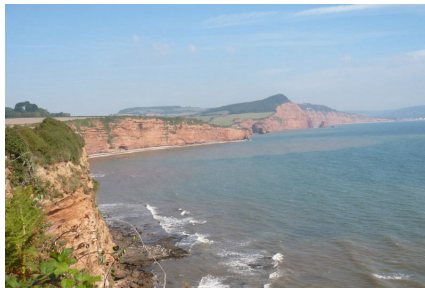
Mike

Or, in the brief note from the leader: There were 12 of us. We seemed **DOOMED** to have nasty weather when we started from Scorhill. It rained hard on and off till we had lunch at Watern Tor. The Teign and the brooks were quite full so crossing was interesting. After lunch, the weather cleared and we all took off the waterproof outer layers.

I hope that everyone enjoyed at least some of it.

John

East Budleigh, 2nd September



14 of us enjoyed a very enjoyable late Summer walk on Thursday, starting from the FREE public car park in East Budleigh which we were surprised to find full when we arrived, but rather than a sudden increase in the number of people walking with the group it turned out to be nearly all local residents. The weather was perfect for walking, sunny with a cooling breeze. After placing our orders at the "Sir Walter Raleigh" for our lunch at the end of the walk, we were soon led off the road and across fields to pass the ruins of Holy Trinity church and St. Mary's church built by Lady Rolle in 1850, when she lived at Bickton Park. On occasions Queen Victoria and King George VI joined in the services at this church. As the footpath from the church goes between high walls on to the B3178, the Budleigh Salterton - Newton Poppleford road, it is a very concealed exit and required carefully orchestrated dashes across the road. Having managed to cross without any casualties we soon reached the banks of the River Otter at Otterton Bridge and having resisted the temptation of coffee and cakes at Otterton Mill we continued along the banks of the Otter, hoping to spot a kingfisher, but as far as I know nobody did on this occasion.

We crossed the river by the Clamour Bridge, making our way up the beautiful sunken Colliver Lane lined with avenues of trees, and soon made our way on to the Coast Path, with glorious views towards Sidmouth and beyond, a view I never tire of. We continued on the Coast Path towards Sidmouth but Trish carefully managed to avoid any steep descents or climbs by turning off at Monks Wall and making our way back to the Otter via Stantyway Farm, Lea Lane and back down Colliver Lane, to cross back over the Clamour Bridge. We returned to East Budleigh over the fields, crossing the old railway, and then admired the beautiful flower displays all the way through the village, before invading the "Sir Walter Raleigh" for a very convivial lunch.

Thank you Trish for a perfect summer walk.

Mike

Cox Tor, 14th September – this was a first!!! Had to be rerouted!

The drive across the moor in thick mist and estimates of visibility being 5 metres at the start car park quickly convinced everyone that the walk – plan A – was not possible. Ever resourceful Pete had a plan B at Castle Drogo – lower in altitude and well below the cloud base. Six of us enjoyed the circular Hunter's Path, Fisherman's path route with lunch by the river in dull but pleasant weather. Thanks Pete.

Trevor

P.S. Two others, lost in the mist, chose plan C – a walk at Fingle Bridge – unfortunately we didn't meet up.