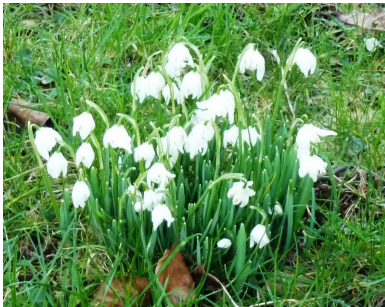


UERSA WALKING GROUP

April - June 2012

Dates:	Thurs April 5	Fri, April 20	Mon, April 30
Thurs, 10 May (Short)	Thurs, 31 May	Thurs, 14 June	20 & 21 June



The ducks were enjoying the day of our wettest walk in all of our seven years!

As I write this Spring or maybe Summer is definitely in the air so there is no excuse for not getting those legs moving. Some of the earlier walks are less demanding than usual so please come and join us.

This year the 'away-days' in June are in North Devon and the later start means that they can be done as day walks if you wish.

Please let me know if you are interested and I will put you on the 'limited circulation' list.

My grateful thanks as always to the leaders who give their time not only on the day but in preparation.

Trevor March 2012

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- 10.45 am Thursday, 5th April** **Crediton – Shobrooke – Sandford – Crediton** **5.5 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

By Train: Train departs Exeter St David's at 10.27 and arrives at 10.38. John will lead group from Crediton Station at 10.45.

By Bus: The 315 bus leaves Exeter Bus Station at 10.15, stops at St. David's at 10.23 (it DOESN'T pass the Imperial) and arrives at Crediton at 10.40. Frankie will meet walkers from the bus stop at top of Exeter Road (before road veers left up to Crediton Church). The bus stops outside Chinese restaurant and opposite Treen Motors.

By car: Long stay car parking is available at Crediton Station. John will leave from the station at 10.45.

The two groups will meet up at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre OVERFLOW Car Park at 11.am. if they do not meet up before on way.

Route: from station up Four Mills Lane - cross Exeter Road down Mill Street and take path opposite MORRISON'S towards the Leisure Centre. Then walk behind the sports centre to OVERFLOW car park behind the sports complex. From here through the fields towards Shobrooke Park. Cross fields turn left along road, cross at Creedy Bridge towards Upton Hellions go through village. Take footpath past the church then road down to the Mill. Follow footpath to ford and then footpath across above Sandford to the road which comes down from Kennerleigh. Turn left towards Sandford - look at Church there. From Sandford take footpath through gardens up to Crediton. Cross over road down Deep Lane and into Newcombe Meadow. Walk through park to Crediton Church cross over and down Dean Street turn left into Park Road and right into Dokum Road down into Four Mills Lane returning to Station.

On clear day good views at a number of points on route. On a very wet day alternative cut off points can be found.

John and Frankie

- **10.30 Friday, 20th April** **Templer Way Loop** **6.8 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Start at the Lower Car Park with toilets below Hay Tor. Map: OL28 Grid Ref: SX 765 772
 We join the Templer Way near the quarry & head for North Lodge, skirting around the edge of Yarner Wood to join the Templer Way again to return along the Tramway to the car park. Wonderful views if fine!

Christine Ahlheid
- **10.30 am Monday, 30th April** **Cheriton Fitzpaine Bluebell Walk** **5.5 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at 10.30 at Thorne's Farm Shop, Strangaton, Cheriton Fitzpaine. (OS192 / Explorer 114: 878048)
 From Exeter take the Crediton road and the right turn leading to Langford and Shute. Follow the signs to Stockleigh Pomeroy and Cheriton Fitzpaine. Thorne's Farm Shop is 500 yards along the road to Cheriton Fitzpaine after crossing the A3072.
 This is the walk described in the UERSA WALKS July - Sept 2011 mailing. We hope to have more company to enjoy the beautiful spring flowers this year! The Farm Shop has toilets and a small cafe.

David and Lorna
- **10.30 Thursday, 10th May** **Killerton – Columb John area** **~ 4 miles**

Meet at the Killerton House NT car park at 10.30.
 A relaxing walk with possible light refreshment at the end. Mainly a good path but walking boots are useful for wet grass or patches of mud. This walk takes in two chapels, the remains of ancient oaks and fine views of the hills and River Culm – the views in 'lovely weather'!

Jarka
- **10.30 Thursday, 31st May** **Cothelstone, Quantocks** **8 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at Cothelstone (OS Landranger map 181, ref: 183319) 10.30.
 The route starts at Cothelstone Manor - Cothelstone Park - West Bagborough - Lydeard Hill - Aisholt - Luxborough farm - Birches corner - Park End - Cothelstone Hill and back to Cothelstone

Roger and Rosanne
- **10.30 am Thursday, 14th June** **Bampton** **7 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Start in Bampton car park. (GR 955222 – this is on the western side of town, on the left near the church).
 Route: Exe Valley Way to Coldharbour Farm. Then Blight's Farm to Ashtown Farm and into Morebath. Morebath to Chiltern Cross on B3190 then footpath back to Bampton. 7 miles, mostly footpaths.

Tom
- **Wed / Thurs, 20th / 21st June** **Devon Digressions**

This will take place in the Lynmouth area of North Devon. On the 20th the walk will start from Lee Bay at 11.30. It will be a circular walk to Heddon Mouth. 9 miles. (John B)
 On the 21st we will take a bus from Lynmouth at 11.00 travelling east to join the SWCP for a 9-10 mile walk back. (Trevor)

Fuller details will be sent out to those requesting them at the end of April. To date 13 people have registered an interest. Accommodation for 1, 2 or 3 nights at Lynmouth or Lynton is convenient and I would hope to arrange an eating place for Wednesday and Thursday.
 The first day will be tougher than the second and I hope to give an idea of difficulty in the circulation at the end of April.

Trevor

RECENT WALKS 2012

Exeter River Country Park, 4th January



The weather was kind to us for the first walk of 2012 with only a momentary shower and some rays of sunshine. Twenty-one walkers met up at Piazza Terracina for a lovely stroll along the canal side, past Double Locks, and down to the swing bridge. The pace was just right to warm up our muscles after Christmas indulgences. The river was running fast and it was a little wet underfoot on our return on the path on the other side of the canal. Trevor had suggested an arrival time for the Home Start charity lunch at Victoria park tennis club as not before 12.15. In the event, we were well after that time because about two thirds of the party were tempted to cross over the road, after an informative talk by David Hughes, to see the WW2 plaque on the opposite side of the road

A plaque at the bridges states:

"In May 1944, these bridges played an important part in the preparations for D-Day. They were used over a period of three days and nights, for rehearsals of the famous and crucial glider borne attack on the bridge over the Canal de Caen (Pegasus Bridge) and the River Orne (Horsa Bridge), by the Second Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, on the night 5/6 June 1944."

The plaque was unveiled on 20th July 1994 by Colonel D J Wood, M.B.E., late Oxf Bucks, President, 87 Exeter Branch Normandy Veterans Association.

Those of us who had seen it before (or who were desperately hungry!) carried on upstream to cross Trews Weir bridge and thus make a staggered arrival at VP. There we were greeted by the delicious smell of hot soup with fresh bread, cheese, fruit and coffee lovingly prepared by the Homestart helpers. I hope a goodly sum was raised. (.....yes, almost £400!) It was very satisfying way to end the walk. All the more so for me because my competition 'Guess' of David Batty was right and the first out of the scruffy cap (sorry Sue Odell) and I walked home with a bottle of pink bubbles (of the drinking not bath kind!).

Mary

Eggesford circular walk, 19th January

The train to Eggesford gradually gathered walkers on the way and with a small group driving to the start we were 15 starting out.

It was a pleasant day with the morning rain disappearing at about 10.30 so we were perfectly dry as John led us on a circular route above the village. He had decided, after a previous reconnoitre, to avoid some muddy sections and the state of his boots suggested that this was a wise decision. John expertly spotted a dozen species of spring flowers in the hedgerow, apparently unaware of the cold snap to come.

After lunch it was mainly downhill via the chapel to the station or to the garden centre for coffee.

Many thanks, John, for a very enjoyable stroll.

Trevor

Compton and Dainton, 2nd February



Seventeen gathered at BickLEY Mill in an area southwest of Newton Abbott that no-one seemed to know except Pete and fortunately our leaders.

The cold weather had arrived but it was a beautiful sunny day with no wind. David had managed to find a set of linking green lanes where the mud was frozen solid (making walking easier) and surprisingly opening out from time to time to give stunning views of the countryside. Our first climb led us to a restored windmill (no sails now) which proved to be visible for most of the walk. We were mainly off-road but the on-road sections brought the excitement of negotiating flooded sections (see photos) sometimes frozen solid. The road sections also had the hazard of ice (black or difficult to see) and care was needed.

The final section led us past the enormous Stoneycombe Quarry with its viewing area then back to Bickley Mill for a relaxing drink.

Many thanks to David and Lorna for a beautiful walk in an apparently ‘little known part of deepest Devon’.

Trevor

Bennett's Cross, 22nd February

Note the constant rain on lens of camera!



It seems to be a tradition amongst UERSA walkers to give an accolade to particular walks. In true Exeter fashion, I nominate this walk as ***probably the wettest and windiest*** in the history of the group! Did others notice that the rain began to set in at Moretonhampstead, well before the starting point at Bennett's Cross? Despite the low cloud, and the persistent rain, a gritty band of 9 set forth across the moor trusting completely in the navigation skills of the Dartmoor expert, Pete. We headed for West Coombe, occasionally getting shelter from a (not so) dry stone wall but regularly buffeted by a strong wind and were glad to reach the coombe itself where conditions were calmer despite Pete's warning that the last time he walked this way the farmer had been less than happy about walkers passing through his farmyard. We were greeted with a cheery

wave and a gaggle of very upright geese and paused after the stile marking the Mariners' Way for a welcome coffee break in the shelter of a hedge. Undaunted by saturated clothing, we headed onwards across the fields to Heathercombe and soon discovered that the footpath through the woods to Natsworthy was closed for the felling of a significant number of trees. The diversion led us to a lakeside glade where we decided to have our lunch during a very brief lull in the rain (but not the dripping from the trees). What a pleasure was in store for us on the diverted route! We passed through a wonderful private garden somewhat reminiscent of the Lost Gardens of Heligan and eventually joined the road from which we headed back onto the Moor. We felt the full force of the wind and rain as we climbed back over the hill; some people had to be supported to avoid being blown away.

Would you believe that we all enjoyed this madcap walk? The camaraderie was fantastic and, even though we could have wrung enough water out of our clothes to send to the drought-stricken South East, we were all glad we had decided to go ahead with the walk. For those who are not too keen on the incessant chattering which often accompanies our walks, try walking in persistent rain. We were all so covered up with hats and hoods that conversation was almost impossible. Thanks Pete for leading the expedition in such good humour.

Pam

Coleridge Way, Holford, 5th March



On a beautiful sunny spring morning, 8 hardy travellers assembled at Holford. The car park was beside a field called the Bowling Green (from being used for Boules by the Huguenot settlers). There was a long steady wooded climb to Great Bear, from where after a little uncertainty, we found the Coleridge Way which ran along the ridge on top of the Quantocks. En route, we passed St Davids Well and a fallen cow with a dead calf. Tremendous views all around, from Minehead and Exmoor across to Wales and up the Channel to Weston-Super-Mare. After finding the Bicknoller Post, it was a long drop back down to Holford, past Alfroxton Park where apparently Wordsworth had stayed. Excellent walk, well worth the journey.

Thanks Tom.

Ray

Mincinglake Valley Country Park, 20th March



A select seven gathered at Mincinglake Valley Park on a bright but cloudy day. We took the alternative route climbing up towards Mile Lane and were rewarded with beautiful views across the city towards Exmouth. There were few other walkers except those with dogs – one bravely coping with ten! We eventually joined the path that led into the rural end of Mile Lane which dates back to Saxon times. As we reached its end at Stoke Hill we were high enough to see in the west Haytor and Saddle Tor.

The pace was leisurely and the conversation flowed learning as we passed the 'Grange' along a bridleway that it was once a hotel. We coped with the only muddy section descending to Lower Rollestone Farm where a beautiful black horse joined us for mid-morning snack time. We then climbed to the Green Circle Route and returned back through the valley park losing walkers as they peeled off to their nearby homes.

Everyone enjoyed the easy, relaxing walk on a pleasant day.

Trevor