

UERSA WALKING GROUP
July - September 2012

Dates: *Tuesday, 10 July (short) Tuesday, 24 July Monday, 6 August (short)*
Thurs, 23 August Monday, 10 Sept (short) Wednesday, 19 September



A wonderful start to day 2 of Devon Digressions – but a VERY wet finish!

Summer has allegedly arrived and in the expectation that the second half will be better than the first there are three (repeat three) short walks to appeal to the less fervent. These include organ music (Berry Pomeroy), lunch (Newton St. Cyres) and afternoon tea (Sampford Peverell).

For the more adventurous there are three more strenuous walks from our 'expert' leaders.

Wish for good weather and do make the most of the opportunities on offer.

Trevor June 2012

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- *10.30 am Tuesday, 10th July* *Berry Pomeroy and Littlehempston* *5 miles*
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at 10.30 at the Church car park Littlehempston. (OS202 / Explorer 110: 813626)

This fairly easy walk passes Berry Pomeroy Castle, with lunch at Berry Pomeroy Church and possibly a short guided tour. It is hoped to have a demonstration of the fine organ and the new toilets at Littlehempston Church at the end.

Take the A380 to the Pen Inn roundabout. Turn right and follow the A381 to Totnes. After 7 miles turn right to Littlehempston - the turning is shortly past the Pig and Whistle pub. In the village follow the winding road under the railway and over the narrow bridge. Go towards the Tally Ho Inn, turn right and follow the road round. The car park is a field on the left next to the church.

David and Lorna

- *10.30 am Tuesday, 24th July* *Branscombe, Beer & Sidbury* *10 miles*
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

A circular walk from Branscombe with two long steep ascents.

Meet in Branscombe at the car park (GR 198886; Exp 115) near the village hall (toilets adjacent).

Tom

- **10.30 Monday, 6th August** **Newton St. Cyres** **5 miles**

PUB LUNCH OPTIONAL

This is a short flat circular walk from Newton St. Cyres mainly through farmland, with the opportunity for a drink or lunch at the Beer Engine afterwards.

Parking: We have been allowed to park at the Recreation Ground car park on the right (before the Beer engine).

Ruth

- 10.30 am Thursday, 23rd August Willsworthy 7.75 miles

PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Start from SX 525852, the car park on the moor behind the Dartmoor Inn on the A386 at Lydford. Access to the moor is from a lane on the left just before the Inn as you drive south.

The walk is along reasonable tracks apart from the section from Doe Tor to Ger Tor where the route is 'mildly tussocky'.

The walk has expansive views across open moorland and the impressive Tavy Cleave.

Pete

- *13.30 Monday, 10th September Halberton – Sampford Peverell 5 miles
along the Great Western Canal*

Meet at 13.30 in Sampford Peverell in the car park adjacent to the tennis club (032144:OS128). This is on the right just after you enter the village from the M5. It is close to the canal and a pleasant spot for a pre-walk lunch if you wish, or the village has two pubs.

We will catch the No 1 Stage Coach Devon bus from the bus-stop opposite the Globe Inn at 13.48 to Halberton Village Hall (13.53). Bring your bus pass.

Bus Option: For those interested in a scenic trip via Broadclyst, Bradninch, Cullompton, Willand and Uffculme, the No 1 bus that we will catch leaves Exeter Bus Station at 12.30. I am sure a (quicker) lift back could be arranged.

We will walk through the village to join the canal at Crownhill Bridge which is roughly where we have left the canal on previous walks. We will then follow the canal around the loop known as the ‘swan’s neck’ passing through the outskirts of Halberton and on to Sampford Peverell for afternoon tea at the Globe.

The walk is slightly less than 5 miles and is essentially flat apart from a gentle climb from the village to Crownhill Bridge.

Trevor

- *10.30 Wednesday, 19th September* *Belstone* *8 - 10 miles*

PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at the car park on the left as you approach the village. (621940 : OL28)

This is a circular walk including the edge of Cosden Hill and the Taw valley.

John B

RECENT WALKS 2012

Crediton – Upper Hellions – Sandford, – Crediton 5.5 miles, 5th April

Arriving by car, bus, train and on foot, 18 gathered at Crediton Station on a bright pleasant day.

Once we reached the Leisure Centre on the edge of town we headed for open countryside to Creedy Bridge and on to Upton Hellions with its attractive church and restored mill where we lunched in a field alongside the mill.

After, we followed the footpath to a ford and then on to Sandford passing the imposing primary school building paid for by a local benefactor. We paused for a while at the church and then headed back to Crediton.

Thanks to John, Frankie and David Hobbs for finding such an enjoyable local walk.

Trevor

Templer Way Loop, 20th April



Thirteen of us gathered in the car park at Hay Tor and sat in our cars while the April hailstorm rattled on the roof. Mercifully that was the last rain of the day and the walk took place in ever brightening sunshine. Christine led us up to the Quarry and then downhill along the granite tramway in the Bovey Tracey direction. Eventually it crossed a road which we took to the upper entry to Yarner Wood. We paused for a while and then took the long meandering path down through the wood meeting occasional walkers. The wood was very attractive in its spring foliage and at the bottom we stopped at the pond (with hide) for lunch in, by now, bright sunshine. As we prepared to set off again we realised that we were at the lowest point as we left the wood and rediscovered the tramway. Not surprisingly it took the line of steady and not killing gradients and we were soon back on the upper moor with Hay Tor in sight. The ice-cream van was still there and now doing better trade than in the hailstorm. Thanks, Christine, for a great walk.

Trevor

Cheriton Fitzpaine Bluebell Walk, 30th April



Waking up to the fourth successive day of rain with a settled look about it at that did not bode well, was not a good start. As we turned into the road to Langford we were waved down by our leader to tell us that the road was impassable at the nearest bridge. David and Lorna departed to field walkers arriving at the farm shop while Ray and I waited to warn any others turning in to go via Crediton. In the event none came and we turned up at Cheriton Fitzpaine to discover that we were a very select six having been joined by Frankie and David Hobbs. Pausing to gather breath before the off we noticed that it was no longer raining and was looking much brighter – a situation that mercifully persisted. David took us along a wet but not too muddy lane and then up to an extensive wooded area. Progress was good along a wide track until we saw the newly fallen tree – correction – trees, over a dozen of them, lying over the track. We went under some and around others resting frequently while David took photos. Then we were off to the long-awaited bluebell wood stopping on the way to fend off four Shetland ponies who thought we ought to have food. Heaven knows why because on reaching the bluebell wood nearby we discovered that all the bluebells had gone, eaten by some four-legged fiends! (Anyone for next year?) By this time as we pressed on we were aware of concerns by those with local knowledge of the ford ahead. When we reached it the good news was that there was a bridge, the bad news was that the stream was flowing over it. Before we could stop her, Lorna had her boots off and was across it in her bare feet. The rest were not so keen and so she repeated the exercise in the opposite direction. We followed the road to the church at Stockleigh Pomeroy and then rejoined David's route to Thorne's farm where we enjoyed tea and cake.

Many thanks, David, for a very enjoyable and exciting short walk.

Trevor

Killerton – Columb John area, 10th May

More than a dozen of us gathered in the NT car-park at Killerton on a rather threatening morning for a walk in the park with Jarka. She led us to neo-Norman Killerton chapel built in the 1830s, up a track and down through a grassy field. We joined the track from Ellerhayes Bridge, which skirts the park by the River Culm, and looked up through the woods at sheets of shimmering bluebells. We reached the little graveyard by the Romanesque Columbjohn Chapel, built in 1851 by Arthur Acland, where we lunched and erected umbrellas as the rain started. Then back up a sticky-mud path through the woods coming out by the bluebell meadow by the Bluebell gate. We descended along a hedgerow to various very muddy gateways and a field, where the turf had been broken by cattle, to the cars. Thank you Jarka for the two chapel walk on a day on which some of us would not have ventured out, but were very grateful that we did.

John

Cothelstone, Quantocks, 31st May



Roger's final instructions involved an initiative test since the road through Bishops Lydeard was closed necessitating a non-trivial detour through narrow country lanes with minimal to non-existent passing places.

We arrived (eventually) to discover that in total 15 (including RF) had passed the test and only time will tell how many were lost in the surrounding countryside. We also discovered that the closed (direct) route was in fact open leaving RF with a lot to explain. However the walk made up for the pre-marching stress with the Quantocks looking their best in bright sunshine. The route took us through areas which were very quiet with few livestock or people and some beautifully situated isolated houses. Roger knew the terrain well as he had spent his early life in the area and we were treated to a very enjoyable walk in a beautiful Quantocks. Thanks, Roger and it was great to see John and Barbara walking again.

Trevor

Bampton, 14th June



One of the top 1000 walks in Great Britain – and beautiful it was too even if there were only four of us to enjoy it.

The undulating route around the countryside near Bampton passing through the quiet village of Morebath introduced us to some idyllic landscapes with open views of the hills around. Considering the rain of recent days it was very dry and the forecast was correct for the day with the rain arriving just as we entered the teasshop at the end.

Thanks Tom for finding such an enjoyable walk.

Trevor

Devon Digressions, 20th / 21st June



Nineteen opted for a mini-break in the Lynton / Lynmouth area and two drove up to North Devon for the first walk. John Boyle led this walk from Woody Bay when the main group arrived, rather breathless, from Lee Bay.

The route contoured to Heddon Mouth with stunning views of the coast and across the channel to the Gower. In good weather it was a relaxed walk which then took us down the valley to Hunter's Inn for ice-cream. The return involved a gradual climb along a carriage way so that it was barely noticeable taking us back to Woody Bay.

At this point there was the prospect of rain so we quickened our pace along a shorter route back to Lee Bay for afternoon tea, beating the rain which started as we left the tea-shop.

The previous evening 13 had dined together in Lynbridge and on this day 18 arrived at the tapas bar in Lynton for another splendid evening together which everyone enjoyed immensely.

The next morning we gathered in Lynmouth for the outward 'open-topped' bus trip to County Gate on the Devon / Somerset border. As we got off we were greeted by Tom (arriving from Porlock) and by the mist which soon turned to rain – and so it continued.

Mercifully the walk included quite a lot of 'contouring' but everyone got pretty wet. This did not, however, dampen spirits and eventually everyone arrived back in Lynmouth for a quick change and departure or afternoon tea according to individual inclinations.

The weather could have been kinder but everyone thoroughly enjoyed the walks, accommodation and social gatherings in the evenings.

Well done everyone and thanks for participating.

Trevor