

UERSA WALKING GROUP

October - December 2012

Dates: **Tuesday, 9 October** **Thursday, 25 October (short option also)**
Friday, 9 November **Monday, 26 November (short)** **Wed, 12 December (short)**



150 walks and still going strong – but Chairman is always keen to welcome a new member

During the last three months the walkers 'co-operative' recorded its 150th walk at Littlehempston celebrating with a special cake decorated with Smarties to show how young we all are! (Fortunately there were enough Smarties to go around and so no fighting ensued.)

During the seven years almost 2500 have participated clocking over 14,000 miles with apparently no need for servicing or MOT. The walks have been mainly accident free and happily the two people forced to 'take a rest' following tumbles returned when they were able.

The co-operative nature of the group is illustrated by those who have led and to whom I am extremely grateful: Suzanne and Mike Smith, Barbara and John Philipson, John and Celia Boyle, Frankie Peroni, David Hobbs, Tom Davies, Jarka Sik, Alan Leadbetter and Mary Ravenhill, Christine Ahlheid, Pete Cann, Trish Bisley, Patrick and Sue Kalaugher, Roger Fieldhouse and Roseanne Benn, Bob Higham, David Oates and Lorna Cowdry, and Ruth Preist.

The participants have also played their parts in creating a convivial and happy atmosphere where the conversation flows and invariably there is always something to laugh (or, in the case of the University, cry) about.

As noted above I record the numbers walking and the distance travelled but it would be an infringement of data protection to record the names of those participating (and who cares anyway!) - people come and go and then often come back again. I don't know for certain who is the most faithful and regular walker but in this Olympic Year, Ray Dawe gets my gold medal.

The new programme has something for everyone – a walk on each of the five weekdays! It includes the now legendary Cake Walk by Patrick and Sue (25th Oct) and the Annual Lunch Walk (26th Nov – Swan's Nest).

Trevor September 2012

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

• **10.30 am Tuesday, 9th October**

Postbridge

8.25 miles

PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at 10.30 at the National Trust car park in Postbridge. The walk (8.25 miles) will take in the majority of the previous walk that I led from Postbridge but we will follow the other side of the River Dart so as to avoid the need to cross the Dart at the Waterfall. This walk takes in the East Dart Waterfall (again), Statts House (an old shelter for peat cutters), Grey Wethers (the double stone circle) and a partially reconstructed Sheepfold. This walk could be fairly soggy going between the waterfall and Sittaford Tor depending on previous rainfall.

Pete

- **Thursday, 25th October (9.50 or 10.50 train) Exmouth Cake Walk 7 (or 5) miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

This is a walk from Lypstone to Exmouth, along the front to Orcombe Point and then on to Patrick and Sue's home for **CAKES**.

Start from Lypstone Railway Station at 1015 (train from St Davids at 09.50, from Central at 09.53, from Topsham at 10.05 or from Crediton at 09.37). Walk to Exmouth alongside the estuary and proceed along the sea front to the Geoneedle then across the fields to 6 Merrion Avenue, Exmouth EX8 2HX for tea and cake.

The **shorter option** starts at Exmouth station – catch the 10.50 from St David's (10.54 Central) arriving at Exmouth 11.19. The walking group should arrive at about 11.30.

Buses for the return trip can be caught in Salterton Road.

Patrick and Sue

- **10.30 Friday, 9th November Otterton 9 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Park outside the church or thereabouts and meet opposite the Mill. We will then walk up the Otter and take a right turn up through the woods eventually emerging at the car park on Peak Hill, from thence to the coast path, down to Ladram Bay and back to Otterton.

Tom

- **10.00 am Monday, 26th November Annual Lunch Walk - Exminster Marshes 4 miles**

Meet at 10.00 in the car park of the Swan's Nest, Exminster. (Please use area furthest from pub.)

This is a flat easy walk of about 4 miles as a gentle appetiser before lunch at the Swan's Nest (carvery £7 plus a wide range of other options).

The walkers should arrive at about 12.00 and I do hope that many friends and lapsed walkers will join us for lunch even if they are unavailable for the gentle stroll.

Trevor

- **10.30 am Wednesday, 12th December Belstone Common 4-5 miles**

Meet at the car park on the left as you drive into Belstone village.

This is a gentle morning walk with steady, but not steep, climbs in parts out to the 'Irishman's Wall' and back with great views on a fine day. Lunch at the local pub is a rewarding option.

John B.

RECENT WALKS 2012

Berry Pomeroy and Littlehempston, 10th July



In remarkably dry conditions which lasted throughout (though not always underfoot!), 15 of us set off from Littlehempston Church led by David (with Lorna providing support) – no, it was 16, as we discovered Pete loitering seemingly lost in a nearby lay-by! Along footpaths and farm tracks we made our way through some of the greenest Devon countryside and then into the woods up to the romantically situated Berry Pomeroy Castle before reaching Berry Pomeroy Church for a lunch-time stop. Nigel Ash, Custodian of the Church, entertained us with tales about its history and provided a welcome cup of coffee for some of us. Back outside, we climbed above the woods to allow us sweeping views towards Dartmoor with Haytor particularly clear on the skyline. A large lake on the footpath caused a brief diversion but we safely finished the 5-mile walk back at Littlehempston Church where David had arranged tea and coffee for us, while he and Lorna played some pieces on the Church's fine organ. But wait! Ruth produced a lovely, surprise cake to celebrate the 150th UERSA walk. So we have three sets of people to thank: David and Lorna for a most enjoyable walk in beautiful countryside (and the organ recital); our friends at the two churches for their hospitality; and Trevor and Ruth for co-ordinating our most successful walking group over such a long period. How many miles have we walked in total, Trevor?

David B

Branscombe, Beer & Sidbury, 24th July

On a beautiful hot, sunny day, we started a “shortened” Tom walk from lovely Branscombe. I believe some of the UERSA members pointed out that the projected walk might be 14+ miles and perhaps a tad too far for some, especially in the heat! We had one testing climb up steps in the cliff, but it was beautiful to walk by the sea and then for a while inland through fields and a little wood. We had lunch under the trees in a country playing field where some members took advantage of the swings!

A lovely walk ending in tea outside at a charming cottage café: thank you Tom!

Jan

Newton St. Cyres, 6th August

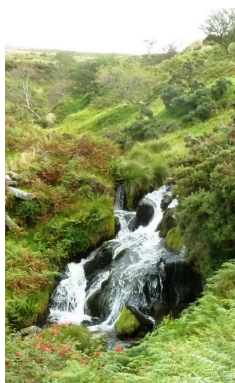


Start the week with a Monday walk – after a wet Sunday! Fortunately the walk along the banks of the Creedy was not as wet as we had feared. We paused at Langford for a snack and then climbed along Bidwell Lane towards Upton Pyne where the Chairman welcomed a new member (see picture). The return started along a minor stream running into the Creedy and the unsuspecting leaders were soon ankle deep in water as they squeezed through a gate.

After that it was plain sailing along the road to the Beer Engine where most of the 16 participants enjoyed lunch.

Trevor

Willsworthy, 23rd August



Pete's walk on the Willsworthy firing range was enjoyed by 13 on a beautiful day.

The photographs (thanks to David O.) tell their own story and all I need to add is the outbreak of ‘Munro’ Tor bagging by two members!

Halberton – Sampford Peverell, 10th September



This was a very pleasant stroll along the Tiverton canal. Fifteen met at Sampford Peverell to catch the bus to Halberton - and found two extra already on the bus having come on it from Exeter! We walked through Halberton by the Mill Pond and church and joined the canal at Crownhill Bridge where we had walked with the UERSA group on an earlier occasion. The canal then wound around in a long curve known as the Swan's Neck constructed to avoid the necessity of a lock. (Do look this up on a map – it's worth walking.) We passed a dredger permanently in the Tiverton Canal working hard to clear 'Water Soldiers' and learned that there had been so much growth in the canal this summer that two other dredgers had had to be hired in to keep the waterway clear. The canal became high above the surrounding farmland with lovely distant views of the countryside on its south side – while on the opposite side it was level and cows were drinking from it! After the Swan's Neck, the canal sauntered on smoothly bringing us back to Sampford Peverell and 'The Globe' for refreshment. This was a very good way to spend a Monday afternoon!

Ruth

Belstone, 19th September



Sharp eyes will notice that this photo wasn't taken on 19th Sept 2012 but on 13th Sept 2006 which had the caption ***'Thanks to David Oates for the photo from the September walk – approaching Belstone (the only little bit of UP!) Please note the professional handling of the poles, elegant style of hats and preponderance of well-worn boots'.***

We had no photos of today's walk – and I'm sure the boots are now even more worn or have been replaced with new ones! John Boyle's advertised PLAN A (after a preliminary recce a few days before) produced PLAN B and on the day, red flags flying near Belstone made PLAN C much safer. (I hope George Osborne reads this.) It was a beautiful day for a Dartmoor walk with surprisingly dry ground apart from one 'off-piste' section as we climbed up onto the ridge leading back to Cosdon Hill. We lunched there as did a group of Para-medics out on a training session and then it was downhill (literally) all the way.

Thanks, John, for a great walk.

Trevor