

UERSA WALKING GROUP

April - June 2013

Dates: *Thurs, 11 April* *Mon, 22 April (short)* *Tues, 14 May*
Tues, 28 May (short) *Wed & Thurs, 19 & 20 June* *Thurs, 27 June*



The rain has produced some unhappy outcomes for many in the area but two 'events' that produced no harm to people and property are worth seeing. One is the emptied Tiverton canal at Halberton with a signed short route to a viewpoint starting from the car park at Greenway Bridge. The second is a fascinating landslip near Thorverton (GR 932015) that has completely destroyed a section of a minor road. Both are interesting features and well worth a Sunday afternoon stroll.

The end of year lunch would have been very popular (40 signed up) so I plan to hold it at the end of April. Hope you will join us for lunch and the walk on the marshes beforehand if you wish and if the April showers do not turn out to be downpours. The going was reasonable in March!

Inevitably as commitments change we have lost some of our leaders. If anyone has a walk (4-6 miles) that they would like to offer then please get in touch with me.

Trevor March 2013
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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- **10.30 am Thursday 11th April** **Badgworthy water / Doone Valley** **7.5 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at 11.00 at the Dry Bridge car park on the B3223 which is across the moor from Brendon Two Gates. (Map ref 759456). Approaching from Exeter the car park is the first quarried out one on the right, about 1.5 miles after the cattle grid at Brendon Two Gates. The best map is Explorer OL9, Exmoor.

This walk starts high on Exmoor and takes us on tracks across the moor to Badgworthy Lees, site of a medieval village, down Badgworthy Water to Malmsmead. At Malmsmead, we join the road bringing us back up onto the moor, which we then cross on a track back to the car park.

Since this is a longer drive, it would be sensible to share cars.

John Boyle

- **10.00 am Monday, 22nd April** **Postponed 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 £7.50 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 Tuesday, 14th May** **Shobrooke** **6 - 7 miles** **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

It will start at 10.30 at Shobrooke (OS Landranger 192 or Explorer 114, GR872014) and proceed to Stockleigh Pomeroy - Chilton - Cherlton Cross - Westwood Farm - Shobrooke, 6-7 miles, with a voluntary extra loop (1 mile+) south of Shobrooke for those who would like a slightly longer walk.

Packed lunch advised although it will probably be possible to get back in time for a late lunch at the pub in Shobrooke if desired. Be prepared for wet and muddy conditions.

There is some space for car parking in the road at the start of the walk, otherwise 200 yards further up the village. I don't think the occasional bus service is an option but if anyone is stuck for transport, if they can get themselves to Thorverton by 10.00 we could offer a lift. Anyone wanting this option should email me. (r.fieldhouse@ex.ac.uk)

Roger

- **10.30 am Tuesday, 28th May** **Circular walk at Cockwood** **4 – 5 miles**

A short circular walk, 4/5 miles, starting at the Ship Inn at Cockwood with the option of lunch at The Ship.

Christine

- **June 19 / 20** **Summer Saunter**

This year we will centre on the Newquay area in North Cornwall where there are plenty of Guest Houses available.

Wednesday, 19th June: Walk back to the town from Bedruthan Steps (8 miles).

Thursday, 20th June: Walk from St Pirans (buried church) near Perranporth back to Newquay via Holywell Bay and The Gannel (8 miles).

On the first day it will be a late start on the 12.00 bus from Newquay so participating on a day basis is possible. However you have to start from Newquay as we will not return in time for the last bus back to Bedruthan Steps.

Future circulations of detailed information will go only to those who have expressed interest so please let me know if you definitely plan, or hope, to participate.

Trevor

- **10.30 am Thursday, 27th June** **Scorhill** **8 miles** **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

The Scorhill walk passes the stone circle and then crosses the North Teign River. We walk on to the stone rows at Batworthy Corner before going to Kes Tor, Middle Tor and Frenchbeer Rock, following a footpath to Teigncombe (which will be new to me!!!?) before going through the wood to Gidleigh Tor. (I haven't walked this part of the route so I am assuming that there is a bridge across the Teign at South Park!) We then walk to Gidleigh and then around to Buttern Hill before dropping down to Scorhill.

Parking is limited at Scorhill (GR SX 661 877) so car sharing could be vital.

Pete

RECENT WALKS 2013

'Homestart' lunch walk, 16th January

Thirty eager walkers, frustrated by the general bad weather, gathered on the Quay on a very pleasant day. The route took us down the city side of the river to the Green Circle Route which we followed to the Ludwell Valley. About half stuck to the low ground and the other half stuck to the mud on the high ground. The first group, showing initiative, pressed on to the lunch venue and were enjoying the delicious lunch when the second group finally made it. Once again the fundraising lunch for Homestart was much appreciated and the occasion raised almost £400.

Trevor

Fisherman's and Hunter's Path, Fingle Bridge, 30th January



Twenty-five turned up on yet another fine day at Fingle Bridge. John led us along the Fisherman's Path but tractors had preceded us so it was muddy in parts. As always, the return along the Hunter's Path was superb as we admired the views below Castle Drogo. The pub was quiet (before we arrived) and provided a convivial end to a very enjoyable walk.

Thank you, John.

Trevor

Tom's Valentine's Day stroll, 14th February

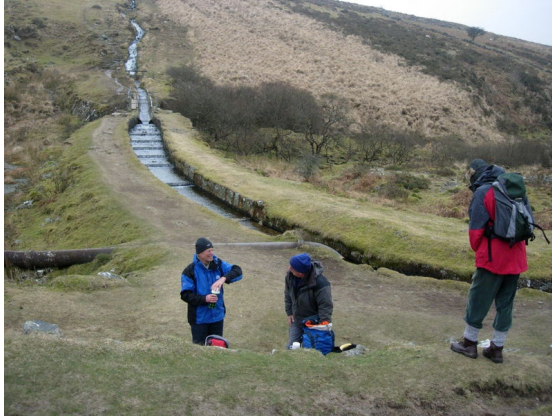


Rain on the previous days made Tom's decision to plan a 'mainly road' walk a wise one. There was plenty of water in the fields but not too much running across the road. The only downer was that Tom had to miss the walk in favour of a trip to the RD&E. The ladies amongst the twenty present were most disappointed.

I was the stand-in for Valentine's Day and managed to get us safely to the lunch spot in Thorverton. After that I led them off in the wrong direction – fortunately as it turned out since we discovered a large land-slip just behind the cricket ground (see details above). We negotiated this carefully noting the power of nature to buckle the road with ease. After that it was a pleasant sunny stroll back to Brampford Speke.

Trevor

Princetown, 27th February



Four hardy souls joined Pete for his 8-mile walk around that part of Dartmoor just to the west of Princetown. Hopes for extensive views across the Moor were initially dashed as we started off in low mist but gradually the visibility improved and even promised a touch of sunshine around lunch-time. Industrial archaeology was a particular feature of this walk. The dismantled Plymouth & Dartmoor Railway track provided an easy start to the walk ahead of some climbs and an early stop for coffee allowed us to admire the still flowing Devonport Leat. Our lunch-stop was in the lee of Ingra Tor with its abandoned quarry containing two round stone structures – millstones of some kind, or crane bases perhaps? More dramatic and much larger quarries awaited us at Swelltor and Foggintor, the first the provider of corbels for the widening of the old London Bridge (with spares still lying about) and the second deep enough for some serious rock climbing (though not by us!). The mist returned as we climbed towards the radio mast above Princetown, but Pete's trusty compass saw us home safely. A dry walk, too, though we were nervous when walking close to the radio mast from which large shards of ice seemed to have fallen!

Thank you, Pete, for introducing us to a part of Dartmoor unfamiliar to most.

David B

Two Moors Way circular walk, 12th March

A very cold and windy day and only Tom, the noble leader arrived. A walker (no prizes for guessing who – but her first name begins with S!) had genuinely intended to go but had finished an exhausting tennis match at after 11 pm the night before and other strong walkers had family commitments. (Sorry, I forgot to ask if she won!) Our apologies to Tom for his wasted effort.

Trevor

Steps Bridge, 28th March



Jarka's walk said ***Daffodils?*** (note the query) – well, the wild daffodils were at their peak and were there in profusion when 26 of us walked at Steps Bridge on a day that gave us much sun and clear blue skies. There was only one hiccup – Jarka had been taken ill two days earlier and, although hoping to improve enough, was unable to lead us and see how much we all enjoyed it. She discussed the route on the phone with Trevor on the day before and so he stepped in as a last minute leader for the ***second*** time in this quarter!

We started down from the car park and those with poles were happy to use them on the outward part of the walk when various muddy patches could have caused some skids. Suddenly finding two 'birders' along the Teign, they halted (and silenced!) our chatty group and some at the front were lucky enough to have good views of Dippers. We continued, after a short break, and walked on to cross the lovely river at Clifford Bridge and again some were able to benefit from the birders' knowledge. On the sunny side of the river, the route was excellent underfoot. The bare skeletons of the very tall trees were outlined against the cloudless sky and gave us all so much to admire and enjoy on this lovely walk.

The route was through Cod Wood, across Clifford Bridge and back through Dunsford Wood to cross back over the river on the road at Steps Bridge. So, for anyone who missed the walk, hurry along quickly to enjoy it before all the beautiful little wild daffodils fade! It'll be your family's Easter treat!

Ruth

P.S. The group has been cheerfully, sweatily, soggily, muddily, gregariously, (but always very happily) walking since February 2005 – 8 years! There were two walks actually cancelled in the autumn due to atrocious weather and a couple of minor hiccups with leaders' problems this quarter but we trust it is only a small blip on this very successful group!