

UERSA WALKING GROUP

July - September 2013

**Dates: Thurs, 18 July
 Tues, 20 August**

**Wed, 24 July (short)
Thurs, 5 September**

**Tues, 6 August
Wed, 25 Sept (short)**



April Hooray, only another mile and we'll be sitting for the 'end of year' lunch!

The recent three months have been excellent for walking with some wonderful walks thanks to our leaders. Shorter lunch walks are becoming more popular, even for the hardened veterans, and any offers of walks would be gratefully accepted. Inevitably events change our priorities and a number of regular leaders are no longer able to offer walks so often.

The new programme contains two lunch possibilities and I expect the winter programme will contain more. Do join us on one of the walks.

Trevor June 2013

Tel: 01392 - 259740

Mobile 07948740644

preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- 10.30 am Thursday 18th July Wimbleball Reservoir 7 miles**

PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

This is an opportunity to repeat this pleasant 7 mile walk or enjoy it for the first time if you missed it before.

Meet at 10.30 at Haddon Hill car park (OS Outdoor Leisure 9 / Landranger 181, 970285).

Directions: take the Exe Valley road via Tiverton to Bampton and then the B3190 to Haddon Hill.

The entrance to the car park is on the left at a sharp right hand bend.

From the car park we will walk via Haddon Farm, Haddon Lane, Bury, the Haddeo Valley, Hartford, along the shore of the reservoir and back to Haddon Hill car park. There is one steepish climb near the dam but an alternative route back to the car park for the faint hearted.

Roger

- 10.00 am Wednesday, 24th July Circular walk from Silverton 4 miles**

If you are bored (or exhausted) from bagging Scottish Monroes then why not try an English Marilyn for a change (150m above surrounding terrain).

Meet at 10.00 at the free car park adjacent to the Community Centre.

This is a short demanding walk on pleasant paths, green lanes and a minor road with the high point at Christ Cross (pronounced 'Criss Cross'). It has a good climb to reach the high point! Superb views will reward your efforts.

Lunch afterwards at The Ruffwell for those who wish.

Trevor

- Meet at Eggesford at 10.05 when the train from Exeter (9.20 Central, 9.27 St David's) arrives.
This will be a circular walk via Chawleigh passing the Eggesford Garden Centre at the end for tea and cakes if you wish.

- Meet at the car park at Trenchford Reservoir (OS110 804823).
This is a circular walk starting at the Hennock Reservoirs and loops around to Hennock village and then on to the Reservoirs again.

- From Stockland take the road to Membury and after 500m park on the right at Coker Elm Cross.
This is a circular walk through farmland crossing the Yarty River a couple of times; Beckford Bridge; Heathstock; Mount Pleasant Farm; Stockland Little Castle, taking about 3.5 – 4 hours. It was an easy walk with one gentle climb.
There is an opportunity to take a shorter route (5 / 6 miles).

- Meet opposite the pub; Tiverton bus 55B departs bus station 9.45, St David's 9.51, arrives 9.59 in Stoke Canon. From Stoke Canon we cross the Exe into Brampford Speke then follow lanes and fields to Upton Pyne before returning to Stoke Canon and a pub lunch for those who wish. No hills but some fine views!
- Trevor & Ruth

Badgworthy Water / Doone Valley, 11th April

We met (but almost didn't) on a high misty part of Exmoor miles away from any sign of habitation. We plunged into the mist, putting all our faith in the navigation skills of our leader John Boyle and were led past a deserted village into the remote and long lost Doone Valley. Following lunch we nearly lost 2 members of the group who were tied up trying to get their waterproofs on and thence we were led up near vertical inclines in the driving rain. Eventually we made it back to the car park(s) across a wild and barren moorland. Altogether a really brilliant and interesting day out on Exmoor and very many thanks to John for organising such a good trip.

Judy Meads

Postponed Annual Lunch Walk - Exminster Marshes, 22nd April

The traditional end-of-year lunch was held in late April (late for 2012 or early for 2013) at the Swan's Nest preceded by a leisurely stroll over the marshes which were fortunately remarkably firm in spite of the wet winter and spring. Early on Sue pointed out rails which had been used by farmers. The rails had been discarded when the width of the railway lines was changed in Brunel's time.

Twenty-two took part in the stroll with more walking than talking and another six lapsed walkers joined us for lunch. Needless to say the talking continued over a very enjoyable meal and we left heartened in the knowledge that it was only seven months to the next annual lunch.

Trevor

Shobrooke, 14th May

The weather forecast was very poor so only 5 joined Roger and Roseanne for the walk from the village around a circle of paths involving only very small sections on roads. There were many beautiful rural views even in the light rain and we kept crossing or following sections of previous walks with other leaders.

Everyone enjoyed it immensely with the rain much lighter than expected so thank you, Roger, particularly for finding us gathered on the wrong side of the village before the start!

Trevor

Circular walk at Cockwood, 28th May



This was a delightful walk led by Christine beginning on the quiet country road from Cockwood up towards the old Toll House. We soon turned into a VERDANT green lane where our shoulders were brushed with all the hedgerow plants finally enjoying warmth and the opportunity to grow. A short walk along a road took us to Cofon past the entry to a caravan site and the church. We then climbed up through a beautiful wood suddenly to have a view of how extensive the caravan site was – amazing!

We enjoyed views of the countryside and the estuary and coast before dropping back into Cockwood for lunch at the local hostelry. This was a walk we would never have searched out ourselves and it was a joy!

Thanks, Christine, for a very interesting walk.

Ruth

Summer Saunter, 19 & 20 June

Day 1: Bedruthan Steps to Newquay



Day 1: A stunning day and a beautiful walk along the coast from Bedruthan Steps with incredible views. It was a late start so about a dozen took advantage of the early bus to visit the beach below the National Trust site before the walk. The bus was on time but didn't stop (FULL!). 'Gold Stars' for initiative as they took cars, arriving before the bus. The walk ended with a pleasant coffee or ice-cream at Porth Sands, Newquay. Then the cars were recovered from the start at Bedruthan Steps!

Day 2: St Piran's Church to Newquay – although two preferred to forego any exertion and just relaxed



This is what Fistral Beach **should** have looked like!

Day 2: Not a promising forecast but it was warm and pleasant when we got off the bus at Perran Sands. Avoiding the holiday camp, we walked across the public area to St. Piran's Church and Oratory and the Celtic cross nearby. It was a fascinating site with lots of explanatory information which we digested over a snack break. (The Oratory had been recovered from the sands earlier in the last century but sadly suffered from so much graffiti and destruction that it was

decided to rebury it in the sand.) We walked along the coast using the permissive path through the military area, giving great views of the coast. This led us to Ligger Point for a stunning leisurely lunch location. Since the sky was darkening we pressed on past Holywell Bay and as we approached Kelsey Head the rain began – light at first but then steady. Eventually after about 40 minutes we reached the ferry to cross the Gannel. Here we were greeted by the two ladies above (guilt complex?) who led us to the haven of Fern Pit Café for tea and cake.

It wasn't all walking and on each evening a sizeable group met for an enjoyable dinner at three excellent restaurants. The general ambiance and enjoyment is captured by the comments below:

Trip Adviser Comments by Admin.Isca

Accommodation, etc.

B&B at the 3 Tees comfortable and quiet; good breakfast; friendly host; quite good value (4/5). Lewinnick Lodge beautifully situated for the Wednesday evening meal; food good and reasonably priced (4/5).

Bus travel:

Nice picturesque bus ride for the lucky few on the 556 from Newquay to Carnewas for the first walk (5/5), less attractive 547 ride to Perran Sands for the second (3/5). Disappointed that the Bristol Hotel didn't arrange a pick-up from the Fern Pit Café at the end of the second walk!

Walks:

Up to the usual high standard, with splendid scenery all round; good paths and attractive picnic spots (5/5). Disappointed that Jamie Oliver's Fifteen Cornwall eating-place at Watergate Bay wasn't on the cream tea options!

Weather:

Met our usual criteria: fine on day 1 (5/5), rain (although delayed this year until after lunch) on day 2 (2.5/5).

The Pevsner report on local Cornish buildings:

Some new smart buildings in Newquay, but also quite a bit of dereliction. Would the large, boarded-up Hotel Riviera near our B&B make a good university outpost? And a shame the Cornish made such a hash of building St Piran's Church that they've had to cover it up with sand to hide their embarrassment!

This poem by a mysterious Cornish bard has also come to hand:

During UERSA's walking trip to Cornwall

Were limericks composed to appal.

Some were very amusing,

Some personally abusing,

While others were not funny at all!

Bardh a Tewyn Blustri

Memorable moment: Sitting in a large puddle on the Ferry getting a very wet bum prior to climbing the 156 steps to a welcome cuppa. Canvas in the Outback.

I really enjoyed the new area (for me) the new walks and the wild life (not talking about the other members of the group here!) I very much appreciate all the hard work that goes into planning a visit like this. Judy

Scorhill, 27th June



A select band of eight arrived at Scorhill, a little known dead-end on the edge of Dartmoor. The weather was fair and warm but not, fortunately, bright sunshine. The route took us onto the Moor, over the clapper bridges and up to Kestor Rocks where we paused to snack and admire the view.

Then we dropped down off the Moor for a sequence of green lanes and footpaths, including a board walk, which took us and down to the Teign for lunch, nestling in a deep valley. Then it was up the steep valley to the folly (or PETE'S FOLLY as it became known since it lived up to our minimal expectations in every sense). Further disappointment as we passed Gidleigh Park (no leader's treat). He took all the joking in good part and led us out onto the moor and Buttern Hill from where we could see our start point which we soon reached.

Thanks Pete for a very enjoyable scenic walk and thanks to Edward (Maunder) for preventing Pete from leading us astray.
Trevor

So many beautiful memories from the Newquay trip so here are a few more photos (thanks to Mary and Ed!).

Bedruthan Steps with the tide allowing access to the beach (before the walk commenced).



Colours superb on the walk.

The evening meal at Lewinnick Lodge was at a superb location on Pentire Head

