

January – March 2014

Dates:



By the time you get this the first will have already happened so, if you missed it, then clean your boots and join the next one!

Looking further ahead, Bob Higham of the Archaeology Department has offered to give another guided walk, this time at Lydford Castle, on April 10th at 11.00 am. For those who wish lunch is available afterwards at the local pub and for those who wish twice there will be a walk in Lydford Gorge in the afternoon.

In June the mini-break will take place in the week beginning 16th and will probably be in the Weymouth / Dorchester area.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

P.S. The prelude to today's walk involved donner und blitzten but in the event it turned into light rain that soon morphed into blue skies and sunshine followed by coffee and a lunch at Double Locks for the nine who braved the elements.

Trevor *3 January 2014*

Tel: 01392-259740

Mobile 07948740644

preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- ***10.00 am Friday, 3rd January New Year Workout (sorry Walkout)***

Meet at The Prospect Inn on Exeter Quay.

This is the usual post-festive re-introduction to the Joys of Walking – a leisurely flat stroll for 1.5 – 2 hours within Exeter.

Trevor

- ***10.30 am Wednesday, 22nd January Yarner Wood & Templer Way 7 miles
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED***

Details of the start point in Bovey Tracey will be circulated in the reminder.

Pete

- ***10.30 am Tuesday, 18th February Ideford Common 8 miles
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED***

Start : Ideford Common Car Park (SX902790). From Exeter take the A380 Torbay road, and in Haldon Forest, at Ashcombe Cross, turn left on Colley Lane, signposted to Teignmouth, continue straight ahead at roundabout and in 1/2 mile take the first road on the right. This is a minor unmarked road which leads straight to the Car Park.

Terrain : Mixture of footpaths, tracks and quiet lanes, with typical Devon ups and downs, including a 1/2 mile, 100 metre climb back up to the Common. Some of the tracks are stony and uneven, so footwear with firm soles are advised and those who use walking sticks may find them useful.

Route : Ideford Common Car Park ~ Haldon Lane ~ Ideford Park ~ Longford Cottage ~ Orchard Lane ~ Underhays ~ Well Covert ~ Ideford Mill ~ Hillcrest ~ Luton ~ Town's End ~ Ideford ~ Tower Hill Lane ~ Ideford Common Car Park

Mike and Suzanne

- ***10.45 am Tuesday, 11th March Crediton area 7 miles
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED***

Travel options: Train 10.17 Central station 10.27 St David's
 Bus station 9.55 (No 50) 10.15 (No 315)
 Parking available at Crediton Station

This is a walk from Crediton Station along lanes up to Oldridge, down a bridlepath to Venny Tedburn, up a bridlepath to Posbury and back along lanes to Uton and then along a footpath to the station, with tearoom. This is about 3.5 hrs and hopefully when the primroses will be out.

John B

- ***10.00 am Wednesday, 26th March Thorverton (old railway line) 6 miles***

Wednesday 26 March, starting at 10.00 at (old) Thorverton Station (OS114, map ref: 933017) just past cricket ground.

By kind permission of the owners the walk will follow the old railway line from Thorverton Station to Fortescue Farm, passing the grand landslide caused by last winter's rains, on the way. It will continue on to Brampford Speke and across the river to Stoke Canon, returning along the Exe Valley Way. I hope to arrange a short talk about Fortescue Farm and to visit the tiny chapel at Nether Exe. This is an easy, flat (although possibly muddy) walk that should only take three hours. There will be an opportunity to have lunch at the Thorverton Arms for those wishing to do so.

Parking is possible in a large lay-by on the right hand side, just past our starting point towards Thorverton.

Roger

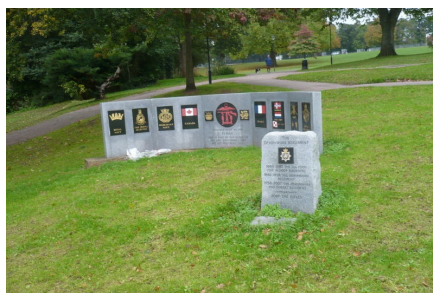
RECENT WALKS 2013

Bampton, 4th October

I cancelled the walk due to the small response.

Trevor

Exmouth Cake Walk, 24th October



23 joined the group at Topsham or other stations down the line. Unfortunately the new bridge was not yet open but I understand the group sped on towards Exmouth accreting others on the way. The finale at Patrick and Sue's home was excellent – see the happy FULL (filled) faces on the photo.

Trevor (awol in Toulouse)

Ilington, 8th November



There are two morals to be drawn from this walk: never trust the weather forecast; be guided by the judgement of the walk leader. After doubting whether the walk would go ahead at all in view of the heavy rain in Exeter early on Friday morning but receiving an email from David saying "Walk will happen!", a happy band of 5 set off from Ilington to the tuneful accompaniment of a peal of bells from the church where bell ringing practice was in full swing. Our walk took us through a varied terrain of mixed woodland, green paths and lanes and even one steep path where we found five interesting memorial plaques to members of a motor cycling club, before we arrived at Ramshorn Down. This proved to be the perfect place for a picnic in that it gave us an almost 360 degree panorama of the surrounding area, taking in Haytor, the Teign estuary, Haldon and the local towns. Only on our return to Ilington did we encounter any rain. An excellent walk in an area new to most of us.

Incidentally, for those who thought we might be tramping the streets of London (see walk heading as originally advertised) this walk comes highly recommended and is in fact local.

Pam Sedge

Annual Lunch Walk, Thorverton, 25th November



19 met at The Ruffwell and filled a minimum number of cars to take us into Thorverton where 3 more had gathered. It was a crisp dry morning and the short walk led us along quiet roads and (in the main) non-muddy footpaths to the south of Thorverton. Eventually we circled to a point at Church Farm to the west of the village and from here

we climbed towards Eastern Down along what David Hobbs said was an old Saxon way. Below I include what David H gleaned from books by W. G. Hoskins.

I have now looked up The Making of the English Landscape (Penguin, 1970) by W G Hoskins which I mentioned to you. He has three photographs of 'Armourwood Lane'. The OS map shows Armour Wood just west of the track beyond Eastern Down. So I think that's the one we walked along. It was originally an estate boundary in Saxon times. Another photograph of it appears in his English Landscapes (BBC, 1973) which accompanied a series of television programmes he made.

In the first of these two books there is a plan of Thorverton taken from an OS map, undated. Thorverton was a Saxon settlement, 7th century. The part in the centre is called The Bury. This word comes from the Saxon 'burh' meaning a fortified place. I was interested in this because my home village is Burwell in Cambridgeshire and the second of the two books contains a plan of Burwell (an inland port when communication was by river in the fenland country) on which I can identify the house in which I grew up. Hoskins lived in Exeter but he came from a farming family in the Thorverton area. In another of his books One Man's England (BBC, 1978) he writes eloquently about 'the land of my fathers'.

Thanks for setting me off on this trail. David

Continuing in the Saxon path, we were treated to fine views to the south and then it was downhill to the cars and the Ruffwell where two more joined us for an excellent lunch.

Trevor

Woodbury Common, 5th December



Suzanne & Mike had chosen a beautiful day for a beautiful walk on Woodbury Common. Once past the quarry and the activity building the new reservoir we went through wooded and heath areas descending slowly to the fields behind Budleigh Salterton where we lunched with the special treat of mince pies provided by M&S. After lunch it was a gradual ascent back to the car park by a scenic route.

Many thanks to Mike and Suzanne (alias M&S) for the walk and the pies.

Trevor