

April - June 2014

Dates: *Thurs, 10 April (Historical)* *Tues, 13 May* *Wed, 21 May*
 Fri, 6 June *18/19 June*



Blue skies in January and February – what more could anyone wish for?

It looks as though spring is either here or just around the corner and the new programme offers varied delights including a 10 - tors walk, carefully crafted for the older participants by David Hobbs. The programme also includes a guided tour of Lydford Castle led by Bob Higham as well as walks led by Sara Stott and Judy Mead.

Three of the walks include short options and I hope that you will find something that appeals to you.

For the more adventurous (or foolhardy) the summer mini-break will take place on 18/19 June walking part of the inland SWCP from Abbotsbury and making a circular walk on Portland.

Trevor March 2014

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- **10.45 am Thurs, 10th April** **Lydford Castle (Guided tour led by Bob Higham)**

Meet in the car park at Lydford village (SX 511 846) for a guided tour of Lydford Castle led by Bob Higham (Dept. of Archeology). This is the third contribution from Bob and will last about 2 hours - strolling and listening.

Lunch is available at the Castle Inn, N.T. cafe or bring sandwiches for a picnic.

2.15 Optional Extra Lydford Gorge 3 miles

N.T. Entry fee £6.90 or £7.60 (gift aid)

This walk will start from the National Trust car park (SX509843) and though not strenuous will inevitably involve some ups and downs. Walking boots are advised and ***make sure you bring your N.T. card if you are a member.***

Trevor

- ***10.30 am Tuesday, 13th May Dartmoor N-tors walk (N=6,7,10)***

4, 5.25, 7 miles

PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Have you often wondered at the enthusiasm of youth on the Ten Tors Challenge? Now is your chance to achieve this goal with the minor change that distances will be reduced by a factor of eight.

The walk starts at a parking area (SX735767) just above Harefoot Cross between Hay Tor and Widecombe. To get there take the A38 Plymouth road from Exeter. Turn off at Drumbridges roundabout taking the fourth exit). At Bovey Tracey go left on the B3387 for Widecombe and Manaton, forking left for Widecombe after about a third of a mile. Pass Hay Tor and after about 1.5 miles note Harefoot Cross with a road on the right to Hound Tor. Stay on the B3387 for 200 yards to reach the car park on the right.

We walk on paths across the moor to Top Tor, Hollow Tor, Pil Tor, Tunhill Rocks and Wittaburrow. A good track then leads to the Ashburton road and we take a grassy path to Rippon Tor (panoramic views). We descend to Hemsworthy Gate and then walk parallel to the road to Harefoot Cross. The parking area is accessible from here for anyone needing to return early (n = 6, distance so far about 4 miles).

We continue parallel to the Hound Tor road, turning off for Bonehill Rocks, an ideal lunch spot. The cars are visible half a mile away and anyone who wishes can go back from here (n = 7, total walking distance 5.25 miles)

The walk then ascends to Bell Tor, Chinkwell Tor and Honeybag Tor, all on a ridge (again with panoramic views). We descend to a track and return around Bonehill Rocks (n = 10, total distance of about 7 miles).

David Hobbs

- ***10.30 am Wednesday, 21st May Circular walk from Manaton Church 6 miles***
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

A walk from Manaton Church car park (SX749813) via Hayne Down, Bowerman's Nose, Hound Tor, Medieval Village, Leighon and back to Manaton. This would be about 6 miles

Judy Mead

- **11.00 am Friday, 6th June Circular walk from Budleigh Town Hall**
7 miles (or 4 miles)
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet Budleigh Town Hall, Station Road. There is a small paying car park behind the Town Hall and a free car park further along Station Road.

Public Transport Options

OUT: Exeter to Exmouth

Bus: 9.50

No 57 (Bay 8, Bus Station) to Exmouth Savoy Cinema, Rolle St, Stop E (10.31)

Or Train: 9.50 St Davids (9.44 Central) to Exmouth 10.15.

Walk to Savoy Cinema (5 min)

Then Exmouth to Budleigh Salterton

10.42 bus from Savoy Cinema (Stop E) to Budleigh Salterton Town Hall, (11.00)

RETURN: There is a direct return bus to Exeter: No. 58 at 16.10

This is a circular walk from Budleigh which will pause on the seafront at lunchtime for picnic on beach (or at my beach hut if it has been replaced after floating about 50yds along the beach in the storms!) so folk can either finish then or carry on for another 3/4 miles.

Route – from Budleigh Town Hall, we will follow the old railway line to East Budleigh Road, up lanes to East Budleigh, down to the River Otter and along river to Otter head lunching on the beach. After lunch along the coastal path, across golf course to cycle path at Castle Lane and back to Budleigh.

Sara

- **Wed/Thurs 18/19 June Dorset Delights**

The mid-summer walking break will take place on 18/19 June in the area near Weymouth.

First day: We will follow the inland route of the South West Coast Path from Abbotsbury to Upwey.

Second day: We will drive to a car park on Portland and make a circular walk via Portland Bill. There will be a shorter option taking in the old quarry areas which now contain interesting sculptures.

I need to reconnoitre the area to discover any problems caused by storm damage and I hope to be more specific by late April.

This will be the last general circulation about this mini-break so if you wish to receive further updates please email me to get your name on the list.

Trevor

RECENT WALKS 2014

Exeter Riverside Park, 3rd January



Threatening clouds turned into a really beautiful sunny day!

Nine turned up outside the Prospect Inn on an apparently unpromising day (heavy hail!). Since this had abated somewhat, a suggestion that we just go for coffee was ignored and we started out. Persistence pays because soon the remaining rain had gone and sunshine reigned. It became a beautiful morning and reaching Double Locks we lost two in for a coffee but later it was revealed as 'two ports'! The rest carried on to the bypass returning for a leisurely lunch at the Inn.

A nice easy start to the New Year and the challenges ahead!

Trevor

Yarner Wood & Templer Way, 22nd January



We gathered at the car park at Parke and the first challenge was to make sure that we found everyone in the large full car park. Eventually we settled on 22 on an absolutely stunning day.

Pete led us along the Teign with evidence of previous heavy flooding. Fortunately it wasn't very soft underfoot although the ground was pretty wet. After about a mile and a half we crossed the Teign and headed uphill. Here we had splendid views of Lustleigh Cleve before moving along the ridge and then down to the bottom of Yarnier Wood. The bird hide was the lunch spot for those with binoculars whilst the rest soaked up the warm sunshine. After lunch we climbed up to the Templer Way following it down to Edgemoor Hotel near the former Leach Pottery.

Some might have headed down the road to Parke but PC had other ideas finding a nice circular route across fields into Bovey over the river into the Community Park and then under the road back to the Parke estate.

Thanks Pete for a great walk.

Trevor

Ideford Common, 18th February



We were very pleased to see 23 members on the walk, particularly as the program listed it as 8 miles. No doubt the weather forecast had something to do with it as this was the one fine day during that period.

We had to cut out 1 1/2 miles of the walk because of a very badly flooded lane, but fortunately we had checked the route on the Sunday and found it impassable. Despite

this it was a very pleasant walk, in an area we had not walked much before, and the shorter distance probably made it more enjoyable for some.

Mike and Suzanne

Crediton area, 11th March



Tree on path! Someone coming through!



Hooray, it's our leader off to find some mud for us!



There was lots of easy walking also

Twenty-four arrived at Crediton Station by bus, train, car and on foot. It was a pleasant but not sunny day and the wind was cold at times. We climbed up the southern side of the valley offering beautiful views across the neighbouring countryside. The fallen tree blocking the path was negotiated in various elegant and in elegant ways and we reached Podbury for a welcome lunchtime stop. Then it was downhill to the Yeo Valley where the only mud of the day proved to be in the 5-star category, spreading the party out so that we returned to Crediton somewhat in disarray.

Thanks, John, for a very enjoyable walk.

Trevor

Thorverton (old railway line), 26th March

As this circulation is unusually early (!!!) the report for this walk will be included with the next programme.