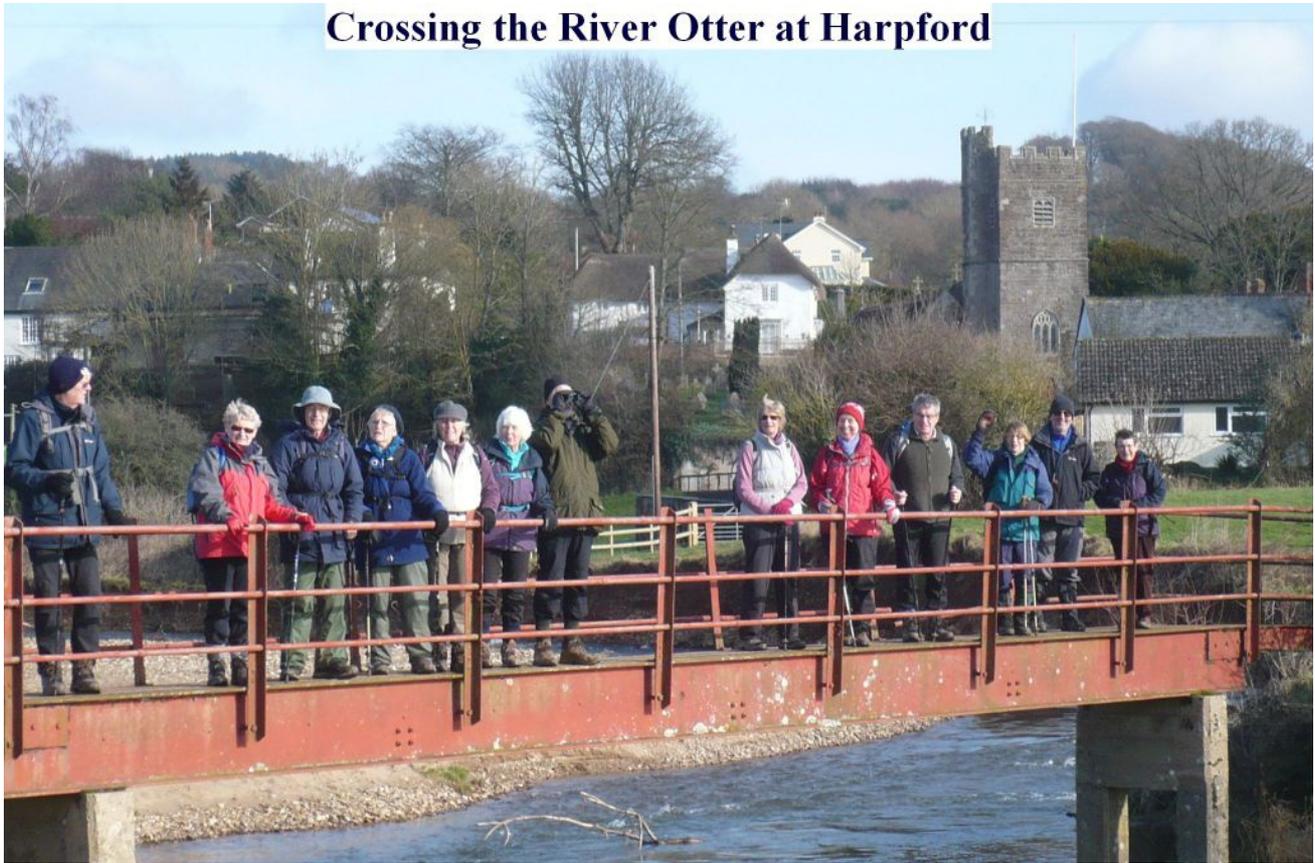


UERSA WALKING GROUP

March – June 2015

Dates: Monday, 9 March Tues, 24 March Tues, 28 April
Tues, 19 May Wed, 3rd June Wed/Thurs, 17/18 June



Crossing the River Otter at Harpford

3rd February 2015

The new programme covers four months to the end of June and I am grateful to all those who offered walks. We have just celebrated our 10th Anniversary with a walk (our 209th) followed by a nostalgic lunch to celebrate the 19,000th mile walked by our members!

Looking forward there is a range of enjoyable walks planned in some beautiful locations and this year's mini-break of two days of walking will be in the Salcombe area in mid-June. Further details of this will be circulated only to those who think they might participate SO PLEASE SIGN UP IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

Trevor February 2015

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- **10.30am Mon, 9th March** **Belstone & Taw valley** **5 miles**

Park in the main car park on the way into Belstone village, GR 621938

The walk will cross the Taw and cross the shoulder of Cosdon on the way to Sticklepath; back along the river Taw to Belstone Village.

Around 5.5miles. Some fairly rough ground especially if wet.

Late lunch at the Tor pub in Belstone. Adequate but not salubrious. Please let me know if you are likely to want lunch so I can forewarn them. (judymead@hotmail.co.uk)

Judy

- **10.30am Tues, 24th March** **Bickleigh circular walk** **7.5 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Bickleigh – Kingdom's Corner – Cadleigh - Cadleigh Court – Bickleigh.

Tuesday 24th March, 10.30 at the Fisherman's Cot, Bickleigh.

Parking (surreptitiously) in the Fisherman's Cot or Bickleigh Mill car parks. Bus 155 (to Barnstable) leaves Exeter bus station at 10.00, arriving at Bickleigh 10.24.

This may be a walk UERSA has done before (although not me) but it is a lovely walk along bridleways, footpaths and a short distance along lanes, with excellent views of rolling Devon countryside. Well worth a repeat if you've done this before. Rolling doesn't come without a few short, sharp climbs and a couple of longer (10 minute) ones but nothing too strenuous. It was very muddy when I tried this out in late January but it should be better in late March.

Roger

- **11.00am Tues, 28th April** **Heddon Valley** **7 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet Hunters Inn (GR 654481). The walk will start from the Hunter Inn along the Heddon Valley and then up on the SW side in the Ilfracombe direction, coming back down through the bluebell woods.

It will be advisable to share cars for the journey.

John B

- **10.30am Tues, 19th May** **Valley of East Okement** **6.5 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Start point: Okehampton Station GR 591944. Turn left at the traffic lights (in Fore Street, Okehampton) into George Street. At the first junction take the middle of three roads (Station Road). At the next junction (fork) take the left which is the continuation of Station Road. There is a car park at the station.

From the Station we proceed beneath Ball Hill to the Fatherford Viaduct and then follow a path alongside the East Okement (a bit rough in places due to erosion). We cross at a

footbridge and make our way to Belstone diverting to some points of interest on the way. We return on minor roads and field paths to the Fatherford Viaduct and then back to the Station on a former tramway.

David H

- **10.30am Wed, 3rd June** **Fingle Bridge** **9 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at the Fingle Bridge Inn (GR743899); parking is available on the side of the road before the Inn (but not outside) or over the bridge to the public car park.

The route will go along the river to Clifford Bridge then on to Woolbrook, Coombe Hall and Drewsteignton, downhill to the Inn for a drink.

There are some ascents and a packed lunch is essential.

Pete

- **Wed/Thurs, 17/18 June** **Salcombe**

The walks will take place in the Salcombe area on Wed 17 June & Thurs 18 June.

On one day we will make a circular walk from Salcombe as far as Prawle Point & back; on the other day we will walk the SW Coast Path from Thurlestone Sands back into Salcombe. Each walk will be about 9/10 miles with a start between 11.00 & 11.30. On each day there will be about 1500 feet of descent and ascent.

This is the last general circulation – PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING PARTICIPATING AND WISH TO BE KEPT INFORMED.

B&B accommodation in Salcombe is limited and hotels are expensive. Consequently it is advisable to book as soon as you are certain you wish to participate.

Trevor

RECENT WALKS 2015

Lympstone to Topsham, 7th January



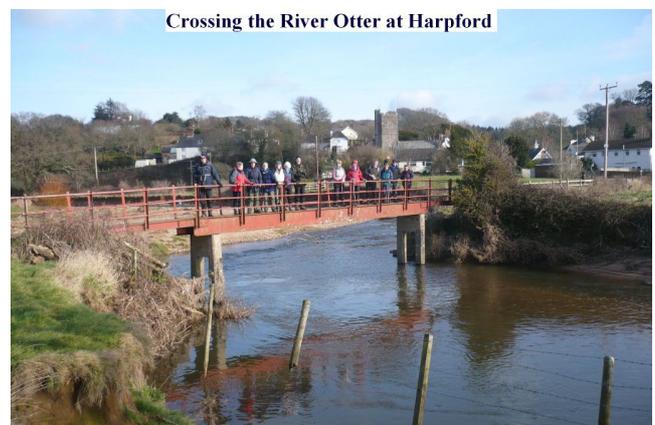
24 gathered at Lymptone for the first (easy) walk of the year along the cycle-way. It was a beautiful morning (it's a lie – see picture; ed) at mid-tide and the party soon became elongated with those at the front cracking on for a coffee and those at the rear with lunch in mind controlling their pace to avoid arriving too early.

As always the conversation flowed and at the new section into Topsham we regrouped and divided – some to Dart's Farm, some to the new RSPB hide, some to lunch and the rest off to catch the train.

A nice start to the year.

Trevor

Joney's Cross, 3rd Feb



An ode to Joney's Cross!

Fourteen of us met on the edge of Aylesbeare common at Joney's Cross car park (also accessible by Bus), crisp and fresh (and frozen in places). There was also 'the dog' which adopted us and which accompanied us for a couple of miles until it got a better offer and disappeared, maybe frightened off by Mary trying to find a dog warden to remove it for safe keeping!

East Devon can be delightful and that was the case on this walk, gentle inclines and descents with some far reaching views as we made our way through Venn Ottery, Tipton St John and Newton Poppleford, pausing on the way to see both of the parish churches named after St Gregory.

Much of the walk was along green lanes as well as alongside the River Otter - no beavers sighted, they are believed to be higher up the river.

Thanks to Mike and Suzanne for researching and leading us on this lovely day out, about 8 miles in total.

Edward McM

Exe Valley, 25th Feb – 10th anniversary walk

Sixteen keen walkers joined the bus to Tiverton at various points on the journey. None save the leader knew the drop-off point so no-one was disconcerted when he took the executive decision to get off a couple of stops earlier than planned! He welcomed the assembled throng and, reminding them of the significance of the day, explained that as it was damp he had shortened the walk by a mile eliminating a sharp ascent followed by a corresponding descent. This was greeted with acclamation.

The walk involved a leisurely stroll along and obliquely across contours and then a steep climb through four fields to the (modern) windmill above Silverton. In the steady breeze the windmill was very active and we enjoyed the panoramic scene from the top, now in bright and occasionally sunny conditions. Then it was a long steady and easy descent to and through Silverton and then on to the Ruffwell. This made for good conversation which turned to stunned silence when we discovered a modern yacht berthed at what appeared to be an unreasonably cautious height above the high-water mark. More importantly this modern yacht featured a vintage figurehead of an amply proportioned nude lady. It took several efforts to move the gentlemen on.

At the Ruffwell we were joined by six others for a very enjoyable nostalgic lunch with photographs of previous walks and best wishes from John and Celia currently in Dunedin N.Z. The leader also read out the report of our first walk which was much enjoyed and is reproduced below. Nine of the 18 who participated in the first walk were present at the lunch!

Trevor





- **Friday, 25th February 2005 - Exeter Green Circle Walk**

Eighteen intrepid walkers turned up for the first meet on a fine cold bright sunny morning including Doug & Pam Sedge who had just flown in from New Zealand (especially for the occasion?) and Roger Fieldhouse who had raced back from his holiday in Cuba. Greeting long lost friends enhanced the occasion and illustrated the value of UERSA. The walking route was moderate and the pace set by Mary Ravenhill and young Leadbetter was brisk.

At Crossmead the small group of morning walkers sought out Tommy Reversz in the lounge (-he had craftily taken the bus-) and were rewarded with free coffees (financial crisis - what financial crisis?). They then continued via Ide, Alphington and Marsh Barton to the canal and then the Quay.

The larger group pressed on to the canal and then on along scenic routes through Ludwell Valley and Mincinglake Country Parks. A few chose intermediate end points but half the original group completed the 11-mile 'Exeter Green Circle' arriving in a minor blizzard.

Well done everyone! See you next time and encourage others to join you!