

UERSA WALKING GROUP

July - September 2010

**Dates: Thurs, July 1 (SPECIAL!) Wed, July 21 Fri, 13 August
Mon, August 23, Thurs, September 2 Tues, September 14**

More opportunities to get walking especially if the fine weather continues.

The first of this programme is our 100th – difficult to comprehend but representing many happy hours of enjoyment and friendship with the occasional (slight) exertion. We are no doubt happier and fitter as a result. A recent walk featured our 1500th participant (see UERSA website) and my old BBC Acorn has been working for three weeks to determine how many miles in total that the group has walked!

The 100th walk has already had several ‘DON’T MISS IT!’ trailers and it will be easy on the walking and high on the enjoyment. Hope you are all able to make it.

Trevor June 2010

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- Thursday, 1 July 100th Walk 3 / 4 miles BRING SANDWICH**

This is a short morning walk from Exton or Lymptone to Patrick and Sue Kalaugher's garden at 6 Merrion Avenue, Exmouth. Bring your own sandwich. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

Option A: 10.18 train, St. David's to Exton (10.38 – *request stop*)
Walk to Merrion Avenue 4 miles

Option B: 10.48 train, St. David's to Lymptone Village (11.11)
Walk – 3 miles

Option C: 57 bus to Elwyn Road (every 15 mins)
Walk – 6 minutes, arrive 12 – 12.30

The walk is essentially flat along the cycle route and those starting from Exton will link up with those arriving at Lymptone Village.

Patrick and Trevor

- 10.45 am Wednesday, 21st July Crediton 9 miles PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

There is a train that gets into Crediton at 10.38 (leaves Exmouth 9.53, Central 10.20, St Davids 10.23). There is a bus to Crediton every 30 minutes which stops at the Shell garage near the railway station.

Walk from Crediton station to Salmon Hutch, Posbury St Francis (lunch), Gunstone Mill, Middle Hollacombe (cup of tea), Barn Farm, Moorlake, Salmon Hutch, station. 50% field paths, rest on v quiet lanes. About 9 miles with long steady climb to Posbury (2 miles), otherwise easy going. Estimate total time 4 hours. Return trains at 3.37 and 4.37 from Crediton station (where there is an excellent café if you have to kill time).

Tom

- 10.30 am Friday, 13th August Whimble 8 miles PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Start : Whimble Car Park (Map 115 SY 042971). This a free Parish Car Park which is not marked on the OS map, but is signposted from the centre of Whimble.

Distance : 8 miles

Terrain : Fields and lanes.

Route : Whimble ~ The Green ~ Knowle Cross ~ Great Barton Farm ~ Clyst St. Lawrence ~ One Fir ~ Clyst Hydon ~ Yarde Farm ~ Courtney's Farm ~ Whimble

Mike and Suzanne

- **10.30 am Monday, 23 August** **Watern Tor** **8 miles** **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Start at parking near Scorhill Farm (OL28: 663877)

From Scorhill, over the Clapper Bridge, through Shovel Down Settlements and Field System. Cross the Teign and then climb up alongside a stonewall to Watern Tor, from where there may be great views! Back via Garataven Ford, Buttern Hill and then via Scorhill Stone Circle to the parking place. About 4 hours, with some potentially soft ground. If weather conditions are poor the walk will be reduced to 2.5 hours.

John B

- **10.15 am Thursday, 2 Sept** **East Budleigh** **6.5 miles** **OPTIONAL PUB LUNCH**

Meet at East Budleigh Car Park (Map 115 SY066849) for a figure of eight walk via Bicton, Otterton, river and coast path and back to East Budleigh via fields, paths and lanes for an optional lunch at the Sir Walter Raleigh pub. If you plan to eat in the pub, please choose lunch before start of walk.

Tricia

- **10.15 am Tuesday, 14th September** **Cox Tor** **approx 7.5 miles** **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Meet Cox Tor Car Park (OL28 SX 531 751)

Cox Tor (car park) – Cox Tor - Combe Tors – Stephen's Grave – White Tor – Langmoor Standing Stone and Stone Circle – Roos Tor – Staple Tors – Cox Tor (car park).

A couple of steady climbs on this walk but an easy return leg from White Tor.

Pete

RECENT WALKS 2010

North of Stoke Woods, 24th March



In spite of a most unpromising forecast a total of ten walkers turned out for the seven-mile walk led by Mike and Suzanne. There was fine rain much of the time but the conditions were not unpleasant. The leaders decided that the walk would be tackled in a clockwise direction and we were warned that the muddy stretch would be towards the end. Down through the trees to the flood plain of the Exe we were soon in open country, crossing the Exe at Stafford Bridge and on towards Lakes Bridge. Here there was a new footbridge over the stream, which was not there when Mike and Suzanne did a test walk a couple of weeks before. Some heard their first chiffchaff of the year at this point. At Brampford Speke we crossed the Exe again and followed the Exe Valley Way to the level crossing in Stoke Canon. Suitable shelter for the lunch break was found under a yew tree in the churchyard at Huxham before the steady climb through Huxham Brake up to Stoke Post. Ominously, muddy stretches in the woods were described as practice elements

for what lay ahead. The muddiest section took us along to Stoke Hill Farm where the statue of the stag caused some excitement, as it looked very realistic in the murky conditions. There were glimpses of the view down to the Exe as we made our way back to the car park.

Many thanks to Mike and Suzanne for a most enjoyable day.

Patrick & Sue

Newbridge (River Dart) – 12th April



Seven of us set off on a cool but bright morning. Dave Manning, who recently retired from Physics, joined us. The walk started with a nice gentle stroll beside the River Dart before we started the climb up to Leusdon Church. We stopped here for a coffee break (seating provided) and enjoyed the magnificent view from the churchyard.

After walking on to Ponsworthy, we strolled along the tranquil West Webburn River, avoiding the odd muddy mire. Turning left at Jordan, the path continued to be easy walking beside the river. We came across some cut logs that seemed a suitable place for lunch. From East Shallowford we started a steady climb up to Corndon Tor. The clear blue skies help to make it a perfect place to linger a while to take in the 360 deg panorama.

It was decided to divert from the planned route to visit the Cave-Penny Memorial Cross. Erected to remember 19 year old lieutenant Evelyn Antony Cave-Penny of the Queen Victoria's Own Corps of Guides who died in Palestine in 1917.

We walked on to Sharp Tor before joining Dr Blackall's Drive and enjoying the views looking down into the Dart Valley. Returning to the cars via Newbridge Hill, some of us enjoyed a "medicinal" ice cream, thank you Mary.

Pete

(Thanks to Pete for leading a splendid walk.)

Two Bridges, 23 April – St. George's Day Walk



The weather was simply perfect and the walk was a great success. We were 16 in total of whom 11 returned via Beardown Tor and the remaining 5 followed the gentle descent of the Devonport leat.

The photos above show:

- 1) The whole group (except the photographer) above Wistman's Wood.
- 2) Climbing the stile leading to the weir where the leat emerges from the river.
- 3) On top of the tor - no red flag flying.
- 4) The party who took the easier route along the tour joining up with the rest just before the leat enters the shady woods. They apparently were taking their time and busy chatting!

On skirting Beardown farm below the woods we found that the farmer had parked a herd of cattle on the path and this included a very large, but happily very docile, bull! Nobody sought another route and the walk ended happily with the group seeking lunch in a variety of pubs in the area.

Alan

May 5th – Charity Event – Exeter Green Circle

A report with photos has been posted on the UERSA website and this will be reproduced in the next UERSA newsletter.

Eggesford, 26 May

We had a good turnout with 15 or so arriving by train at Eggesford where we were joined by Kathy and Alastair and Tom Davies. Fortunately as it had not rained the previous day although that had been forecast, it was very dry underfoot. We stopped briefly at Eggesford Church again to allow those who had not been on last year's walk from Eggesford station to see the family monuments. The path took us over the river and under the railway, across the A377 and up through the forest by way of field paths and lanes to Chawleigh, where we stopped for lunch. Some ate at the pub, the rest at the recreation field. Back along lanes and down via footpaths to a point where a Yellowhammer stood displaying itself on a granite gatepost to the forest and the A377. Several then took a shorter route back to the station. The rest climbed up through an attractive coombe where John spotted a deer, past Nethercott House and then along a road back to the station where we met up with the rest of the group.

Mid Devon is a lovely area to see in sunshine in May.

John

Tarr Steps, 8 June



A wet start to the day wasn't promising but the weather improved en route and we arrived in bright sunshine. We were (a magnificent) seven and soon got into the party spirit with a draw to mark the walking group's 1500th participant, appropriately won by Roger, our leader for the day! The walk to Tarr Steps along the Barle was picturesque and only slightly muddy. The river valley was striking and we had it to ourselves.

After lunch at the Steps we started back on the other side of the river in more persistent rain. However as we approached Witheypool the weather brightened considerably and we were able to enjoy tea outside almost. A black thundercloud slowly came our way followed by heavy rain and thunder so we retired inside. With no sign of abatement, I nobly offered to fetch the car for my passengers – unfortunately the battery was flat (lights left on!). No mobile signal but Roseanne produced her spanking new jump leads. No problem apart from Roger and me getting absolutely soaked.

Another great day out thanks to Roger and a happy end (thanks also to Roger!).

Trevor

We made it! Cream tea at Headland Garden, Polruan



Perfect weather and unanimously declared a great success by all who took part especially as last year's 'madness' was firmly avoided.

Twelve made the trip from Charlestown to Fowey (10 miles) with some slight ups and downs on a perfect day. Eight walked from Polperro back to Fowey on day 2 (8 miles but harder) ending with a cream tea at the delightful Headland Garden in Polruan (featured on Gardeners' World on TV, July 2nd). We parted with musings about next year's venue. Well done everyone.

Below Jarka, Philip and Keith have given their impressions in prose or photos.

Trevor

Day 1 Charlestown to Fowey



(Philip)

Thank you for organizing another "Midsummer M" . I had a wonderful day trip! From Exeter to Charlestown by train and bus along the sea, river, across the Tamar and through some beautiful countryside I arrived according to Trevor's detailed and clear instructions to the spot by the tall ship well on time, I thought, but strangely nobody was there. Luckily I was in the correct place and soon the whole group of energetic walkers led by Trevor in a bright yellow cap came marching down the hill. After that it was up hill quite a lot but as I did not take the description of "10 miles to Fowey of comfortable walking" literally I was happy to puff and sweat along the way at a reasonably brisk pace. The sun was shining, company great and the views breathtaking. We reached Fowey earlier than expected and I was kindly accompanied to the correct spot where the bus would pick me up and take me - free of charge- to Parr rail station. But before that I had enough time to use the services of the friendly local pub. The barmaid took one look at me and promptly produced an enormous pot of good strong tea. Thus refreshed and in a clean T-shirt I reached Parr station where helpful locals pointed out that the train just starting to move was going to Exeter and it would stop again for me to get on- it did. So I arrived home in full sunshine much earlier than expected, a perfect ending to a perfect day !

Jarka

Day 2 Polperro to Fowey



(Keith)

A second stunning day as we cooled ourselves on the ferry from Fowey to Polruan. A few anxious moments as the eight of us formed the queue for the 16-seater road-car to Crumplehorn near Polperro. A long walk down into Polperro showed us that the sleepy fishing village was now a grockle trap and we were pleased to get out onto the cliffs heading westwards. It was very warm and frequent drink stops were essential giving us a chance to enjoy the views on what is described as the most scenic section between Falmouth and Exmouth. The first third was tough but we were able to enjoy a long contour walk into Polruan and a cream tea at the Headland Garden, open in aid of the RNLI.

Trevor