

boggy and/or muddy around the farms. Cross bridge and shortly turn left towards Francis Court Farm and the road to Killerton (1km).

Turn left into the grounds of Killerton, round the entrance stables and towards the Chapel – seats for coffee or lunch. North from the Chapel to Ellerhayes Bridge (1.25km). Round the perimeter of the volcano and continue towards the western end of Columbjohn Wood (1.5km).

Footpath towards Columbjohn Farm, then road towards Stoke Canon. Just before Bussels Farm turn left up a little hill, and then right onto a bridlepath (can be very muddy) which takes you to the road at Ratsloe (3km).

After a sort stretch of road towards Exeter, turn left into a field footpath which leads to Poltimore via Bampfylde House (1km). Take the footpath eastwards towards Broadclyst, cross the M5 by another footbridge, and continue to Broadclyst via the church and the Red Lion (1.75km). The pub is open until 3pm for a well-earned drink.

(Trevor is away so contact me E.A.W.Maunder@ex.ac.uk if you have a query)

Edward Maunder

- **10.30am Monday, 14th July Quantock Ridgeway 7 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at the Lydeard Hill car park, grid ref. 180339 (OS Landranger 181 or OS Explore 140) at 10.30. A walk on the Ridgeway and back along an undulating route.

Roger

- **10.30am Monday, 4th August Ilsington 6 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at 10.30 at the Carpenter's Arms, Ilsington (OS Explorer 110 / Landranger 191, 785761 Postcode TQ13 9RG).

Directions: take the A38 to Drum Bridges. Take third exit marked Liverton and Ilsington, on to the old A38. Then right turn to Old Liverton. After 2.5 miles take left turn labelled Ilsington and Carpenter's Arms. Park in street. Pub toilets available from 10.00.

Enjoy this varied walk on footpaths and bridleways through fields and woodland in the foothills of Dartmoor to Ramshorn Down, with time for a drink at the pub afterwards.

David and Lorna

- **10.30am Tuesday 19th August Broadhembury Circular walk 6 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

The start is at an unsurfaced parking area at Rhododendron Wood. OS Explorer map 115 Grid Ref: 096 069. Circular walk across the Devon & Somerset Gliding Club to the village of Broadhembury and return. Bring a packed lunch.

Christine

- **10.30am Friday, 5th September** **Meldon** **7 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at Meldon car park (SX 563917)

This is a circular walk from Meldon up to Sourton Tor and then back down to the reservoir.

John B

- **10.30am Monday, 22nd September** **Woodbury** **6 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at Woodbury Common Wheathill Car Park (SX 041847), 10.30, plus packed lunch. Reasonably gentle six miles

Judy

RECENT WALKS 2014

Thorverton, 26th March



On a beautiful spring day 25 gathered near the former Thorverton Station for Roger's walk along the old railway line with the kind permission of the private owner. Our approach was along the road under the railway leading to the landslip of 18 months ago. When we were there over a year before the road was a lake 12 inches deep. Now the water was gone but the thick wet mud remained as it is now closed to traffic being impassable 300m ahead.

We climbed up on the railway line which skirted the land slip area and then followed the soft but not wet track past the other landslip areas eventually arriving at Fortescue Farm where the open barn was full of Blondes (aquataine variety). The field ahead had two large bulls so we were relieved to take the road to the right which led us to Brampford Speke. Here we paused for a snack by the river below the large house that was being restored and had featured on a recent TV programme.

Then we re-joined the railway line across to Stoke Canon before tuning North toward Thorverton where 13 had signed up for lunch.

Thank you Roger for a very enjoyable walk.

Trevor

Lydford Village, 10th April a.m.



In the morning we were treated to a guided tour of the village, fort and castle by Bob Higham, our friendly archaeologist. To the surprise of the 32 gathered in the car park he explained how, in Saxon times, Lydford ranked alongside Exeter, Totnes and Barnstaple as significant centres in Devon, fortified to repel (successfully) marauding invaders from the EC.

The Normans came, overcame and added first a fort and then a castle on a hill but apparently built the hill around the fort and then built a second castle on top of the first. This created the 'command and control' headquarters (with its high tower and deep dungeon) for the then important Devon tin industry.

Without this insight (generated by a lot of hard work, digging and delving), one could easily take it for some lumpy fields and a ruined building on top.

Many thanks to Bob for his fascinating account of a very interesting aspect of local history.

Trevor

Half-time

The Castle Inn, a traditional unchanged village inn with excellent food, provided an enjoyable break before the second part of the day.

Lydford Gorge, 10th April p.m.

Twenty-three gathered at the National Trust entrance and, after a slight panic about someone being separated from their boots (in someone else's car), we started off. Easy going out but demanding coming back so I will let the photographs show the terrain and path. Didn't they do well?

Trevor





Dartmoor N-tors walk (N=6,7,10), 13th May

David Hobbs kindly designed his own N-Tors walk for those lacking the energy of youth. Fourteen took up the challenge. Pete's pictures show what a great time was had by all. Thanks, David

They're off!



Starting the walk, by climbing towards Top Tor



Pil Tor



Hollow Tor



Tunhill Rocks



Cist next to track across Blackdale Down, North of Wittaburrow, looking towards Pil Tor and Top Tor



Drink stop at Rippon Tor



Bonehill Rocks



Bell Tor



Chinkwell Tor



Honeybag Tor



Circular walk from Manaton Church , 21st May

Judy Mead led us on a delightful and unexpected bluebell walk through huge areas of bluebells on the open moorland. Seventeen had a great day out with some stunning unusual views of 'blue' Dartmoor as shown below.

Many thanks, Judy, for a superb walk.





Circular walk from Budleigh, 6th June



The weather forecast earlier in the week had suggested a wet day for Sara's walk around the byways of Budleigh Salterton but, in the event, the 16 of us who joined her benefited from dry, sunny, if breezy weather. There was a special welcome to two first-timers to the Walking Group, Flora and Hilary.

Sara's route took us out along the old railway line and then sunken lanes to East Budleigh from where we crossed the meadows to the River Otter to join the very familiar path downstream to the coast. The fresh greenery of early summer always makes this an attractive route in early June. And then it was onto the Budleigh beach for a picnic lunch in the sun and a seat on the pebbles or chairs outside Sara's beach hut, the attraction of the latter soon became evident through the supplies of hot coffee and tea and, especially, some of Sara's chocolate cake. More cake appeared from Trevor to mark his birthday the next day – we were glad to celebrate with him!

After lunch, half the party continued west up the coastal path for some splendid views across Lyme Bay all the way to Portland as well as seeing closer evidence of recent land slips below the cliffs. Then it was across the golf course (where we were reduced to whispers!) and down to the old railway line (now a cycle path) at Castle Lane before returning to Budleigh. Beforehand Sara had claimed seven miles for the long route but Keith's trusty GPS mileage tracker corrected that to nine, so we felt we had truly worked off all that lunch-time cake. Many thanks, Sara, for a splendid walk ... and the fine weather!

David B

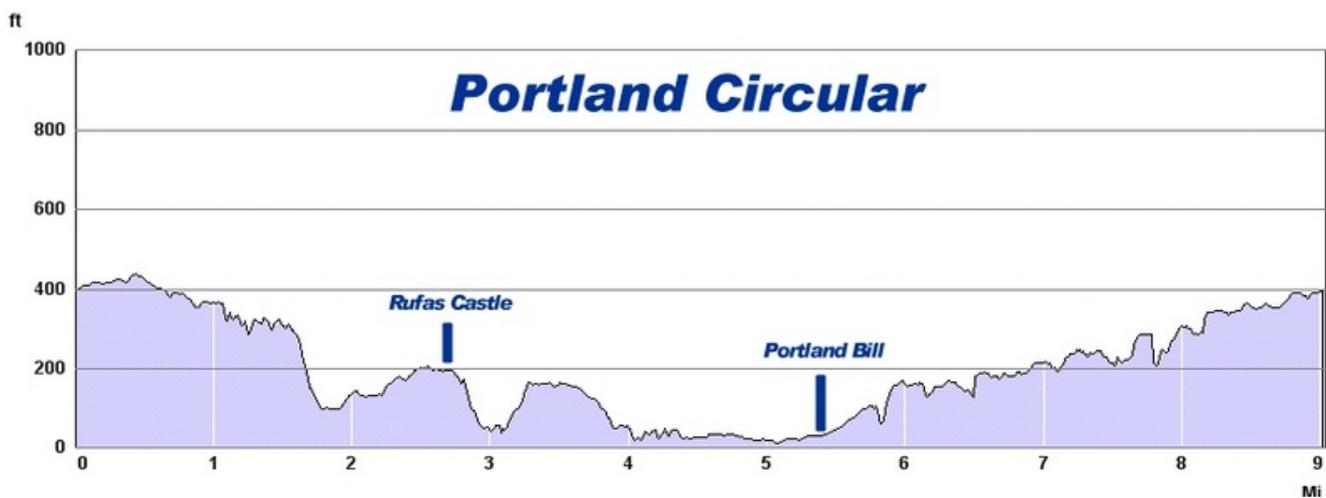
18/19 June Dorset Delights



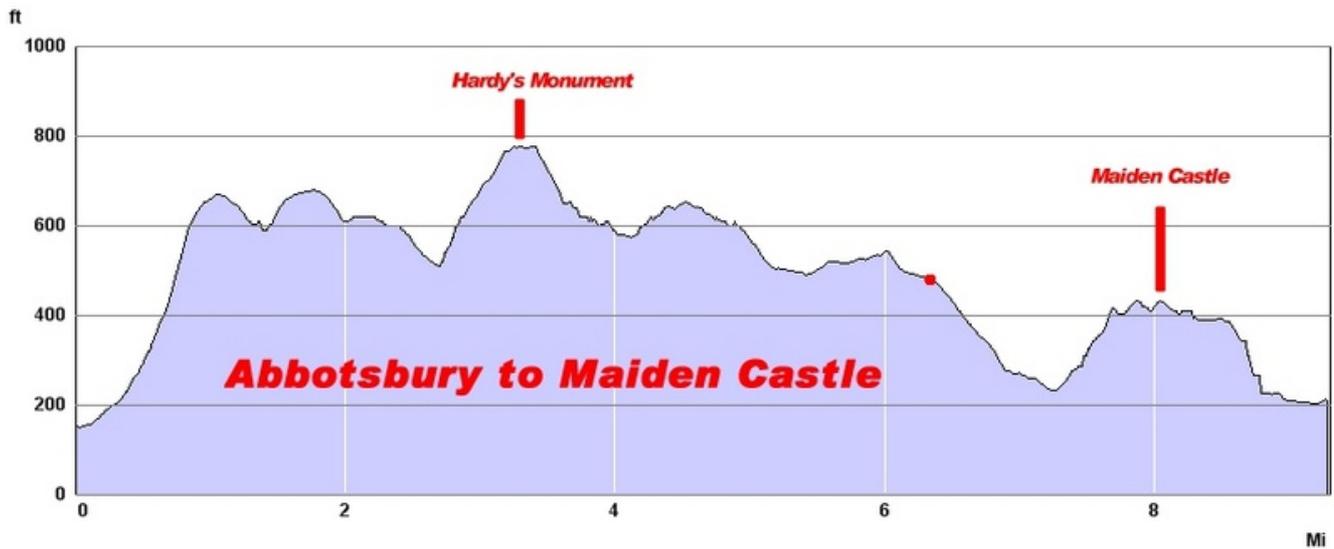
The mini-break attracted fantastic weather and 17 stayed in Weymouth with one joining us on each day as a day walker. 18 walked Portland and 13 made the trip from Abbotsbury. Everyone survived to enjoy the evening meals and conviviality.

Pete's pictures with the graphs of the geographical highs and lows and the account dutifully provided by The Harem tell their own story.

There was a tick issue but fortunately only for the leader.







Well, what a fantastic trip we had, gorgeous weather and spectacular scenery; Dorset at its best! A group of between 12 and 18, depending on the day, stayed in guest houses or camped in and around the Victorian town of Weymouth; a place that has the

mixed charms of a gently sloping sandy beach on one side and the hustle of a packed harbour with its café culture on the other.

On the first night, four of us 'single ladies' now dubbed "the harem" and staying in a B&B near to Trevor's hotel, were lucky enough to be escorted by our leader, down to the Quay for supper. Others met elsewhere in this buzzing area - a lovely beginning to the holiday.

We woke to beautiful sunshine on our first walking day, the 18th, and drove across the causeway to the Isle of Portland, spotting the new build for the Olympics on our way. We met others for coffee at the Heights Hotel (our venue for dinner), located to take advantage of the spectacular views along the Chesil Beach, with the sea on one side and the Fleet on the other. We then began our circumnavigation of the Island, starting with the Verne prison and young offenders unit. We soon left the signs of prison life and picked up the evidence of Portland's other great industry, the quarries, which are still being worked but many are over grown. We eventually arrived at the 'Bill' with its three lighthouses and cafes where we sampled the delights of ice-creams and teas, then back along the westerly coast of the isle with its beautiful wild flowers, and finally through a working quarry, now being used by sculptors.

We rushed back to our guest houses to refresh and put on our ball gowns, high heels and diamonds - well, a change of clothes at least - and met back at the Portland Heights Hotel. Some travelled by bus but the "Harem" were lucky enough to be chauffeured by our leader for which we were very grateful! We all enjoyed a great evening with excellent food and a beautiful view of the setting sun.

Thursday 19 June – an even hotter day - saw us all catching buses and meeting up in Abbotsbury for an uphill walk, to and along the ridgeway behind the village to Hardy's monument (the sailor rather than the writer) for our packed lunch. The monument was built by public subscription in 1844 in commemoration of Vice Admiral Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy. From there we could see our next walking target – Maiden Castle - the massive iron age fortification. We cut across country and only had to go through barbed wire once! It was very hot but thankfully we all made it safely to our destination, despite losing one of our member (and the rescuers too!) in the Castle's huge multiple ramparts. We soon regrouped and were pleased to see the road below and the buses back to Weymouth.

It was a wonderful few days and enormous thanks go to Trevor and Ruth who masterminded this lovely break. We were very sorry not to see Ruth on this occasion but we can reassure her that Trevor's "Harem" took great care of him! We are all looking forward to next year!

The Harem