

**UERSA WALKING GROUP
September – December 2015**

Dates:

Wed, 2 Sept Sun, 13 Sept Mon, 28 Sept Wed, 7 Oct Tues, 20 Oct
Tues, 3 Nov Tues, 17 Nov Wed, 25 Nov Wed, 9 Dec



English Champagne goes down well in France

My thanks to the leaders who have rallied round for this 4 month programme – I am very grateful to all of them and particularly to David Hobbs and John Boyle who together are organising the ELF Charity Walk in Crediton on Sunday, 13th September. Do join them and treat yourself to a cream tea at the end.

The photograph has a story. At the summer jaunt in Salcombe there was a rumour that I had just had a significant birthday and so I was given a bottle of Yearlstone Champagne from the Exe Valley Vineyard. My grateful thanks to all and I report that I smuggled it into France to celebrate (allegedly) with my son and his family! It was much enjoyed!

Trevor August 2015

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- **10.30am Wed, 2nd September** **Bleak House, Lydford** **7 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at 10.30 at the car park on the moor (OS28: 526853).

Take the A30, A386 to Tavistock and turn off to the left on a lane immediately before the Dartmoor Inn which is at the junction with the road down into Lydford Village. After about 100 m the lane goes through a gate into the car park area on the moor.

From the car park we will walk to Bleak House returning along the old tramway track around the back of Great Nodden.

John Boyle

- **2.15pm Sunday, 13th September** **Elf Charity Walk** **4 miles**

Meet at CREDITON football Clubhouse.

The Football Clubhouse is on the Sports Centre site in Marsh Lane. At the new roundabout (Tesco), entering Crediton from Exeter on the A377, turn right – note the sign for the Sports Centre, the Rugby Club and the Football Club. Ascend on the new road and then descend through light industrial units to reach the Sports/Leisure Centre on the right. The football building is on the far side of the parking area. If the car park is full, go to the signed Overflow car park reached by going back to the road, turning left and then immediately left again. Registration takes place at the Football Clubhouse and that is where the walk starts and where we will gorge on cream teas and cake afterwards.

David Hobbs & John Boyle

David and John are involved in the Exeter Leukaemia Fund fundraising day at Crediton. One activity is a walk through and around Shobrooke Park (4 miles). There is an entry fee of £5 and teas are available afterwards for those who wish.

I hope Uersa walkers will join in, supporting David and his able assistant. It is also an opportunity to see the giant cricket bat at Shobrooke Cricket Ground carved from the trunk of a 125 year old pine tree destroyed in a storm.

Trevor

- **10.30am Monday, 28th Sept** **Revelstoke Carriage Drive at Noss Mayo**
4.5/7.5 miles
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

About 7.5 miles (shorter version available, about 4.5 miles)

Meet at National Trust Warren Car Park SX 5409 4659 at 10:30am

Join South West Coast Path and travel west along Revelstoke Drive through the Warren to Gara Point, then follow the path through the woods to Noss Mayo. Flat to this point. The shorter walk returns to the cars from here up a gentle slope. The main walk follows the valley south-east of the village, climbs through Eastern Hill Wood (short, steepish climb) and follows Stoke Road for just over half a mile to Stoke Cross and the caravan site. A late

lunch at the ruined church of St Peter. Then along the coast to Stoke Down, another short steepish climb to the Revelstoke Drive and South West Coast Path on Netton Down and from there follow the Revelstoke Drive back to the cars. Apart from the two short climbs, this is a gentle walk; Lord Revelstoke laid out the Drive so that he and his guests could travel in a horse-drawn carriage and enjoy the coastal scenery. **Car sharing advisable.** Drivers are advised to ignore satnavs (or Google Earth) which suggest going through Yealmpton and Newton Ferrers; instead leave the A38 at the turn for Ugborough, follow on to the A379 and take the Holbeton turning at SX61365188, by pass Holbeton and continue through Battsborough Cross; the road passes Stoke Cross where it is signed as no through road, because it is! Those who choose the shorter walk could lunch at one of the two inns in Noss Mayo.

David & Tina

- **10.30 Wednesday, 7th Oct** **Annual Cake Walk, Exmouth** **7-8 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Patrick & Sue have devised a walk in and around Exmouth (about 7 miles) including the Geoneedle and sea front. The walk is muddy in places so please wear suitable footwear.

Start from Sue and Patrick's house, 6 Merrion Avenue, Exmouth EX8 2HX at 10.30 am on Wednesday 7th October.

The start is 6 minutes walk from the Elwyn Road stop of the number 57 bus from Exeter (every 15 minutes). Stay on the bus through Exmouth town centre and get off in Salterton Road just after the Cranford Club. Walk the full length of Elwyn Road, turn left at the 'T' junction with Cranford Avenue then first right into Merrion Avenue. Number 6 is the last house on the right, on the corner with Douglas Avenue. For anyone with a sat nav the post code is EX8 2HX.

Please bring a PACKED LUNCH. Cakes and mugs of tea will be served at 6 Merrion Avenue afterwards.

Patrick & Sue

- **10.30 Tuesday, 20th Oct** **Woodbury Common** **6-7 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

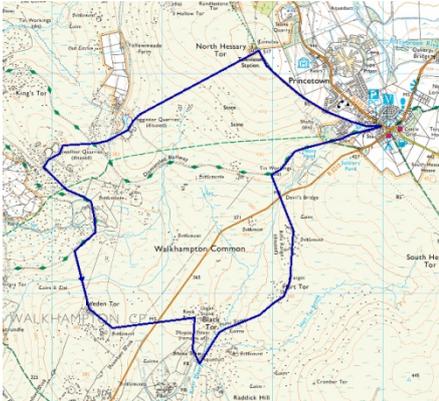
Start at Four Firs car park (Explorer 115 :032864);

A circular walk over Woodbury and Aylesbeare Commons

Jan Smith

- **10.30 Tuesday, 3rd Nov** **Circular walk from Princetown** **6.5 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at the main car park in Princetown (OS28:588734).



We will walk to the Devonport Leat Aqueduct, via Hart Tor, then on to Swell Tor and Foggin Tor Quarries before climbing to North Hessary Tor before dropping back down to Princetown. It's a 6.5 mile walk with a 1100ft of ascent.

The walk is a mix of the disused railway, paths and crossing grass and heather.

Pete

- **10.30 Tuesday, 17th Nov** **Grand Western Canal, Tiverton** **7 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Meet at Exeter St David's Station to catch the 9:58 (London) train.

Return by bus so **bring your pass**.

This is a walk along the Grand Western Canal from Tiverton Parkway station to the canal basin in Tiverton, 7 miles dead flat.

Judy

- **10.30 Wed, 25th Nov** **Annual Lunch Walk** **4 miles**

The annual, end of year, lunch walk will take place in the Topsham/Lympstone area. It will be about 4 miles, fairly flat. I do hope that lapsed walkers will join us for the walk or simply for lunch. Full details will be circulated later.

Trevor

- **10.30 Wed, 9th Dec** **Stoke Woods & Exe Valley** **6 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Start Stoke Hill car park at NGR SX924957 (OS Explorer Map 114)

From there down through the woods, across the A396 and the railway and river at Stafford Bridge onto the Exe Valley Way to Brampford Speke. Join Devonshire Heartland Way to Stoke Canon, again crossing the A396 to Huxham. Footpath from Huxham through Huxham Brake with glorious view over the lower Exe Valley to Stoke Post.

Join Two Counties Way to Stoke Hill Farm and back to car park.

6 miles, 3 hours walking mostly flat except for gentle climb up from Huxham.

Tom

RECENT WALKS 2015

Otterton, 9th July



13 of us joined Jan for a walk out of Otterton on a sunny and breezy day, perfect for walking. But before we started, we were entertained for 20 minutes as we watched a wide mobile home bound for Ladrum Bay up against a succession of large silage tractors & trailers as it attempted to negotiate its way through the village. Little did we realise how risky it would be buying a property on Otterton's Fore Street – and we imagined flooding would be the main problem!

Once that distraction was over, we were off! Although many knew the trails south of Otterton, going in the opposite direction was new for some of us and that's where Jan led us. Walking up river along the west side of the Otter, we passed the impressive weir and fish pass before crossing over at Rickety Bridge and heading north and east along a succession of footpaths abutting the green fields of East Devon and affording us lovely rural views in the bright sunshine. With the paths rising slowly towards the coast, we eventually arrived at High Peak (157 metres), to the top of which a few of us scrambled for wonderful cliff-top views in perfect visibility across Lyme Bay towards Portland. Then on for a picnic lunch at Ladrum Bay overlooking the sandstone stacks before we turned inland south, eventually crossing the Otter at Clamour Bridge and returning back north to Otterton. Thank you Jan, for leading us on such a delightful walk; 5-6 miles, she suggested, and well worth remembering for a return visit.

David

Brunel Walk to Teignmouth, 22nd July



David Oates' photographs tell the story of a very enjoyable (mainly downhill) walk on a beautiful summer day. Thanks to Judy and Pete for standing in for Tom who was called away on business.

Above Steps Bridge, 7th August





Eleven met at the NT carpark at Steps Bridge on a fine and pleasant day. John Boyle noting some sporting shorts explained that it was a great year for ticks (so watch out) and Edward M, our leader, explained that a recent reconnoitre revealed that in parts the path was almost invisible And so it proved to be.

There was a long up there was a long up through woods (Bridford & Westcott) opening out of a bracken area (shoulder high) with gaps little more than 6 inches wide and hoof marks below. I suspected that I would gather some fellow travellers and it proved to be so. We paused for coffee on some comfortable stones with great views and then passed Leigh Farm reaching the open area of Marden Down with wide swathes cut through the bracken. We made the long descent to Clifford Bridge and then followed the river back to the start.

Thank you, Edward for a very enjoyable walk in a near but remote part of Dartmoor (we saw almost no one).

Trevor

Topsham Reed Beds and Tea for Two, 20th August

On a pleasant afternoon with the threat of rain present but never imminent, I and my friend (Ed) had a gentle stroll along the canal to the ferry crossing for tea in Topsham. Then we followed the route back along the river and through the reed beds. Along the way we solved a number of world problems (at least to our satisfaction). For the record book this was the lowest (but VERY select) attendance easily beating the previous record of four and a half and a dog (also led by me in August a few years ago)!

Trevor