

(December 2006)

End of year report

*Since there wasn't one of these last year, this is for the two years since the UERSA group commenced.
What a variety of walks we have enjoyed!*

2005 10 meetings. We began in February and there was no walk in December of that year
2006 12 meetings. There have been no walks cancelled in either year.
We have no intention of cancelling any this year either – everyone pray for good weather please!

Locations: City 2 / Coast 4 / Countryside & village 6 / Forest 3 / Moor 7

Distance: Mean 7.2 miles Minimum 4 miles Maximum 9 miles
These distances are vague – even on the walk where two people were wearing pedometers the mileage varied by several miles! We haven't heard that the pedometers have accompanied anyone since!

Number of walkers:

Mean 13.9 (well, let's round up to 14!)
Minimum 4.5 plus dog (when one person joined halfway through and walked back!)
Maximum 23 (+2 who arrived late and did their own thing but joined in the pub lunch afterwards)
There were lower numbers in the summer months of July and August.

Clothing: Styles variable but on the whole impressive
Boots: Of course. We like to call ourselves walkers
Poles: Breeding like rabbits, more on every meet

Weather Sun, rain, snow, mist, tremendous heat - you name it, we have had it!
Bad forecasts don't put people off. One memorable rain storm occurred at the end of a walk where about 18 people ended up in Barbara and John's house for a (DELICIOUS!) cream tea. The inevitable mud has had a good effect in that there are more walkers using poles now than on the original few outings! (The Undercliff last February had a definite influence on this and we heard about 10 different kinds of mud that occurred on the recent December walk.)

Late arrivals: November 2005, three people walked the route in the reverse direction, surprised the group at Castle Drogo for mid morning coffee, and then continued to walk the route in the reverse direction, meeting the group again for lunch at Fingle Bridge! Another walked a route solo - he started behind the group and ended ahead of them due to a minor detour of the group to view a chapel! Recently two others just walked a completely different route but joined everyone for the pub lunch!

Conclusion: A great two years, so much fun and camaraderie! Excellent company throughout and lots of new routes discovered, much enjoyment of well known paths also. Thanks to you all but especially to Barbara and John, Suzanne and Mike, and John (Boyle).

Regrets: Having to miss some of the walks because of being away!

Ruth