

UERSA WALKING GROUP **October - December 2009**

Dates: **Thursday, 8 October** **Thursday, 15 October** **Tuesday, 3 November**
Friday, 20 November **Tuesday, 1 December (Annual lunch)** **Tuesday, 15 December**

We are in the last quarter of another successful year (don't mention The Madness) and, following the walk and lunch enjoyed at Escot in January, I have planned a return on December 1st for our annual lunch. The walk is very flat, less than 4 miles and everyone enjoyed the Coach-House Restaurant. I hope you will join us.

I am sorry to have to report that a variety of commitments mean that John and Barbara will not be leading in the foreseeable future. They were two of the founder leaders and I very much value their efforts and support over the four and a half years. They hope to join us on walks occasionally I would like to thank them on behalf of all members for their invaluable contribution in starting and sustaining the group. Do please keep in touch.

Trevor *September 2009*
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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- **11.15 am Thursday, 8 October** **Eggesford** **5.8 miles** **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Meet at Eggesford Railway Station (10.27 train from St. Davids, 09.53 from Exmouth arr. Eggesford 11.08)

There is a circular walk of 5.8 miles, 3 hrs, described in the Tarka line walks booklet from Eggesford Station. We have walked some of it in the past. It would involve catching the 10.27 from St Davids, 09.53 from Exmouth, reaching Eggesford at 11.08 and starting from the station. The outbound route briefly follows the Tarka Trail before heading up to Abbotsham Moor and Wembworthy. We could get coffee at Eggesford garden Centre. Train back from Eggesford at either 15.07 or 16.07.

John & Frankie

- **10.30 am Thursday, 15 October** **Exmouth** **7 miles**

Patrick and Sue's annual cake walk with a stroll around the Exmouth-Budleigh area as a prelude to the long-awaited tea and cakes.

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

The start is 6 minutes walk from the Elwyn Road stop of the number 57 bus from Exeter (every 12 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.

Patrick & Sue

- **10.15 am Tuesday, 3 November** **Bickleigh Mill** **8 miles** **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Start: Public car parking area South of Bickleigh Mill. From Exeter turn sharp right just before Bickleigh Bridge to follow sign into road to Bickleigh Mill, and just before Mill turn right under the road bridge to enter parking area. (Grid Ref. SS 938073).

Distance: 8 miles

Terrain: Lanes and footpaths.

Route: Bickleigh Mill parking area ~ Barns Close ~ Dart Cottages ~ Little Silver ~ Kingdoms Corner ~ Well Town ~ Round Wood ~ Little Century ~ Cadeleigh ~ Cadeleigh Court ~ Bickleigh Mill.

Mike & Sue

- **10.30 am Friday, 20 November** **Tiverton Canal** **5.5 (or 3.5) miles** **PICNIC LUNCH OPTIONAL**

Catch the 55 bus to Tiverton which leaves the Exeter bus station at 9.45 arriving at Tiverton bus station at 10.22 am. Walk starts from here at 10.30.

For those wishing to drive park at the Grand Western Canal Car Park (£1.40) and wait near the toilets for our arrival at about 10.40. (Driving will avoid the only climb of the day from the bus station to the canal.)

The walk will take us along the canal to the outskirts of Halberton, back towards Tiverton along the cycle path (old railway line) and then onto the canal. The complete route is about 5.5 miles (2.5 hours) with a shorter option of 3.5 miles. Bring a picnic or lunch at Tiverton.

Trevor

- **10.30 am Tuesday, 1 December** **Escot** **4 miles** **ANNUAL LUNCH**

Leave the A30 at the Fenny Bridge / Fairmile exit just before Honiton. Turn right and right again and then bear left onto the old A30 into Fairmile. At the village turn right and the entry to Escot Park is on the right just after you have crossed over the A30. Follow the paved road to the entry and park in the larger car park beyond the toilets.

(GR080983)

This is a chance to repeat the easy walk around the Escot Estate in the morning and then have a relaxing lunch or snack in The Coach-House Restaurant. If you are not able to walk, why not join us for lunch anyway, at about 12.15!

Trevor

- **10.15 am Tuesday, 15 December** **Widecombe** **9 miles** **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Meet at Car Park on right on entering village from Hay Tor (GR 719769) Widecombe, Hamble Down, Jay's Grave, Hound Tor, Widecombe,

Tom Davies

RECENT WALKS 2009

Quantocks, 6th July

A grey day with the probability of rain failed to deter 11 gathering at a remote car park at Lydeard Hill. Encouragingly the cloud base was high and we had splendid views of the Severn Estuary – Flat Holm and Steep Holm with Hinckley Point glowing in the distance. The walking was moderate in difficulty but sufficiently demanding to require an older shepherdess to use a quad-bike (or was she a horse wrangler?).

Roger and Roseanne led us along a variety of interesting paths without hesitation, deviation or repetition and we paused frequently to admire the splendid views. Regrettably the pub was 'fermé le Lundi' so we pressed on and were rewarded in that the rain held off until the last few moments of the walk.

Another excellent walk thanks to R².

Trevor



Easy walking – lots of breath available for chatter



Distant views of the Severn

The Powderham Estate, 21st July

The short walks are obviously ill-starred. Another day with nasty weather promised was enough to reduce the clientele to me and four delightful ladies gathering at Powderham Church in spite of unfriendly 'road closed' signs as we left the main Dawlish road. A (unanimous) vote decided that we should buck the trend and do the walk so Trish led the way. We had excellent views of the deer – very keen on segregation, females by the yacht club, males by the café! Although grey, we had very little rain, resolutely passing the café at the midpoint and then on up towards the folly where we had good views of the Estuary. Then it was down to the church to pick up the cars and return to the café for lunch. An excellent walk, this would make a splendid Sunday afternoon outing with tea at the Orangery for those who missed it. Many thanks to Trish for finding such a pleasant easy walk.

Trevor

Meldon, 5th August

Despite two previous days of damp and drizzle, the weather forecast for the Meldon walk was set fair, and so it proved with mild conditions and increasing sunshine during the day. A disappointment then, that only six members (all chaps, incidentally!) of the Walking Group arrived for the start. However, amongst them we welcomed Pete Cann, recently retired from Physics, to his first walk with us.

Setting off from the car park at the Meldon reservoir and guided by John Boyle, we climbed steadily past Longstone Hill towards the edge of the military danger area and up to Black Tor overlooking the valley of the West Okemont river. Visibility from the Tor was splendid, with views stretching 30 miles or more towards the satellite dishes to the north of Bude and, further east, towards Exmoor. Next it was a gentle decline along an undefined path (not hitherto investigated by our leader John!) into the river valley, a piece of Dartmoor totally unknown to some of us but a good place on the upper slopes for lunch in the sunshine. An aerial display by a conspiracy of ravens entertained us while we ate. John had originally planned a crossing at the bottom of the valley at Sandy Ford, but the river was too swollen from the recent rains to allow that, so it was on down along the very attractive river bank past the ancient oaks of Black-a-tor Copse. The route took us to the extremity of the reservoir, along the northern edge of which we walked back towards our starting point, accompanied by further good views of the moor.

Thank you, John, for an exhilarating walk much enhanced by the good weather. Tom D's pedometer suggested a round trip of 7 miles, though some of us challenged its accuracy!

David Batty



Walkers are ALWAYS happy!



Keep moving, keep moving.....

Bennett's Cross, 18th August

Ten walkers assembled in a chilly wind at the car-park near the Warren House Inn. Mike explained about the cross, and it was then subject to close examination by some of the group. From there, we followed the Two Moors Way over the hill, across the road to Widecombe and into West Combe. On the path with the bracken growing thickly on each side, we could hear the water rushing down the stream. From West Combe, we followed the Mariner's Way through a series of small hamlets, each with granite walls, some built of huge dressed granite blocks were, others of rough stone. In each hamlet we were greeted by dogs, mostly noisy and a few friendly. Poor David Batty slipped as he was crossing a stream and fell in, so he was walking for much of the rest of the way with a wet backside, but by this time the conditions had warmed up and most of the walkers had shed a layer. As we passed along a trackway, we wondered how the National Park Authority allowed the extensive accumulations of wrecked vehicles, cars, trucks, tractors and caravans. After Hurston, we climbed back up to Chagford Common, and rejoined the Two Moors Way, passing up a double stone row.

Mike had led us astray on two or three occasions, but fortunately Sue was, as always, a re-assuring navigator so deviations were limited. We were back at the car-park at about 2.45 and thanked Mike and Sue for showing us a part of Dartmoor which few of us had penetrated before.

John B



Hooray: lunch



lunch



and DRINKS – what's in the bottle, Alan?!

Coldridge, 15th September

A quiet part of deepest Devon but 16 arrived undeterred for an excellent walk along quiet paths and lanes visiting three very old churches with interesting features. The fine autumn weather continued and the light broken cloud gave pleasant walking conditions and enhanced the views. On returning to Coldridge, John P put his arm back in the prescribed sling and confessed that he had damaged his shoulder the previous day. Many thanks to John and Barbara for taking us on yet another splendid walk.

Trevor



'Deepest Devon' countryside!



Coldridge Church – not far to go



What brave leaders (not Trevor)