

UERSA WALKING GROUP
January – March 2016

Dates:

Wed, 13 January

Tues, 26 January

Mon, 8 February

Wed, 24 February

Mon, 7 March

Tues, 15 March



Bystock Nature Reserve

Abandoned Backpack fed up with foster parents

Left at Patrick and Sue's on October 7th. It would be good to get the ruck sack back to its owner. It has no gender-specific items except that the presence of the two beakers would indicate a couple:

Navy blue Eurohike (Weekender 35) belonging to someone who eats KitKat (dark) and drinks from blue plastic beakers (two of these in the backpack). Also inside were a white sun hat, a bottle of water and a Tesco freezer bag containing biscuit crumbs.

Contact Trevor – details below.

Another year and another opportunity to act on that resolution to walk more often. Six different leaders offer walks of varying distances and none are over-demanding.

DO GIVE ONE A TRY!

Trevor January 2016

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- **10.00am Wed, 13th January** **Copplestone** **5 miles**

A circular 5 mile walk from Copplestone through mid Devon redlands to Newbuildings. The walk along Devon Lanes can be undertaken after rain. On a clear day we are promised fine views and a glimpse of Devon 300 years ago.

a) Train leaves Exeter Central at 9.20, St Davids 9.27 and arrives at Copplestone, a request stop, at 9.49.

b) Bus 5A leaves the Exeter bus station at 9.15 and St Davids at 9.23 and arrives opposite the Copplestone Stone at 9.55.

c) There is free parking a short distance up the road from the Copplestone Stone on the Bewsley Road.

There are buses back to Exeter from Copplestone (12.24, 12.54, 13.24) and also the train (12.20, 13.20).

Frankie

- **10.30am Tues, 26th January** **Feniton** **8 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Start : Old Feniton Village Car Park (Grid Ref. SY 108993).

Suggested directions from Exeter :- Take the A30 for approximately 8 miles from Sowton to leave at Patteson's Cross where Feniton is indicated, but in order to avoid a narrow lane between New Feniton and Old Feniton turn right at the T-junction after exiting from the A30, pass under the A30 and turn left on to the old A30 road for a mile, passing a pub and car dealer on the left then turn left on a minor road to Feniton for 3/4 mile to the car park on the left, at the entrance to the village.

Terrain : Lanes and footpaths, with a steady climb of 320 feet from Curscombe Cross to Penscombe. Some of the paths could be muddy so waterproof footwear is recommended and sticks could be useful on some of the stonier paths.

Route : Old Feniton Village ~ Sowton ~ Buckerell ~ Jenirens Farm ~ Curscombe Farm ~ Curscombe Cross ~ Higher Curscombe Farm ~ Penscombe ~ Lower Cheriton – Curscombe Cross ~ Old Feniton Village. We plan to look inside the Church of St. Mary and St. Giles at Buckerell, full details of which can be seen at <https://buckerellparishcouncil.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/buckerell-church-buckerell-booklet.pdf> .

We do not pass any shops or pubs so please bring a picnic lunch.

Mike and Suzanne

- **10.40am Mon, 8th February** **Barnstaple - Instow** **7 miles**
(Short option 3.5 miles) PUB LUNCH OR SANDWICHES

We will catch the train to Barnstaple (9.21 from Central, 9.27 from St Davids, 9.38 from Crediton) arriving at 10.38.

We will take the (flat) Tarka Trail to Instow *and there is a short option (3.5 miles) to Fremington Quay where there is a café and a convenient bus back to the railway station.*

The walk will continue to Instow and end with lunch at the Wayfarer Inn for those who wish. (See <http://www.thewayfarerinn.co.uk/> for lunch menu.)

This is the safe option since it is likely to be cold and windy and I plan to return by bus (every 15 minutes) in time for the 15.43 train from Barnstaple to Exeter. (The next is at 17.13 reaching Exeter at 18.38.)

For those preferring to eat a sandwich there are frequent return buses from the stop outside the Wayfarer.

Tom

- **10.30am Wed, 24th February** **Otterton** **5.5 miles**
PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED

Start from Otterton church. Distance about 5.5 miles, so bring a packed lunch.

The walk starts at Otterton, goes down the west bank of the Otter until White bridge, then down the east bank to the coast. Then we follow the coast path in a north easterly direction to Chiselbury Bay, before returning inland to Maunders Hill down into Otterton. The only steep bits might be along the coast path, but nothing serious.

Refreshments if required afterwards can be had at Otterton Mill or The Kings Arms.

Edward

- **10.00am Monday, 7th March** **Wellington** **4 – 5 miles**

Circular walk from Wellington to Holywell Lake and back (easy walk, between 4 and 5 miles)

Meet 10am at Wellington Sports Centre car park (ST 1312 2070 on Explorer 128, Corams Lane, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8LL)

From J26 on M5, follow signs to Wellington and turn right (signed B3187) at the second set of traffic lights in the town centre, with Kings Arms on left. After half a mile, turn left into Corams Lane. Suggest that walkers park at the far left end of the car park.

The walk will follow the Westford Stream to Pinksmoor, cross a slight hill to Holywell Lake and return along the route of the Grand Western Canal, with a second slight hill into Westford and the start.

The earlier than usual start is suggested as there is no really good place for lunch on this short walk, so the option is there for (a) picnic by the industrial remains near the Sports Centre; (b) lunch at a pub in Wellington; with either followed by (c) drive to the Wellington Monument for a short stroll.

David & Tina

- **10.30am Tuesday, 15th March** **Parke, Bovey Tracey** **7 miles**

Meet in the car park at Parke, Dartmoor National Park Headquarters, Bovey Tracey.

Jan

RECENT WALKS 2015

Bleak House, Lydford, 2nd September



Ten of us gathered at the carpark on the moor behind the Dartmoor Inn at Lydford for John's walk. It was a beautiful day and remarkably dry underfoot. We started with a stiff climb up to Widgery Cross and resting there we noticed a bright yellow blot on the idyllic landscape behind us. Eventually our Chairman caught us up, closely followed by Catriona with the inevitable plausible tale of travelling without map or instructions.

Now a round dozen, we carried on first down a little and then up through the valley where we found the ruins of Bleak House, the home of the manager of the peat workings. At the top of the valley we paused for lunch and John gave us a history of the workings and associated tramway built across the moor to service it.

We had now completed the hard part and we enjoyed a pleasant stroll down the line of the tramway taking in spectacular views of the moor in the sunshine.

Thanks, John, for a great walk.

Trevor

Elf Charity Walk, 13th September

The Elf Charity Walk at Crediton was a great success raising £630. Almost 40 participated with about 25% from UERSA. David walked with us providing useful information en route including the history of the great cricket bat carved out of the trunk of a dead tree. About 25ft high and to scale, it was very impressive. A bottle of Whisky awaits the first cricketer to hit it with a six from the square.

After the walk David's wife, Rosalind, and other ladies provided a range of marvellous cakes. The weather was fine and the rain held off until 6pm.

Trevor

Revelstoke Carriage Drive at Noss Mayo, 28th Sept



On a beautiful early Autumn day, 21 intrepid travellers set out for the South Hams village of Noss Mayo. Ignoring sat-nav instructions, 'this is a dead-end turn around' they arrived at the Warren car park on the coast above the South West Coast Path. This section uses the Revelstoke Carriageway built by the eponymous Lord to impress his friends.

David & Tina promised an easy walk – dead flat apart from a few gentle climbs and so it proved to be. We dropped down for the carriageway and headed West with the wind behind us as far as Gara Rock where the path then followed the eastern side of the River Yealm.

We paused for a break overlooking the mouth of the river when we suddenly discovered that it was David's birthday and two cakes were provided by Tina which were very much enjoyed.

Then it was on through the woods along the Yealm to Noss Mayo with Newton Ferrers on the other side. This was the point at which the party was to divide and David was relieved to discover that the shorter walk had a natural leader – Christine Ahlheid who not only knew the way back but also the local pubs! Six stayed with her and the rest moved on as she led the way into The Ship – the number 1 pub.

The remaining 14 climbed gradually through the woods up onto the higher ground and headed eastward. After 800 metres along a road we reached a familiar crossroads – the

point at which the sat-nav had got worried. Ignoring the dead-end option 1 we took the dead-end option 2 leading down to a large static home site, Stoke Beach and St Peter's Church. Here we lunched in bright sunshine and then made our way along the sea-shore before gradually climbing up to re-join the carriageway.

It was now a relaxing stroll to our start point where we discovered the lunching group who had just got back. We all sorted ourselves out for the return journey and waved David and Tina off for a celebratory mini-break at Mullion.

Thank you both for such a memorable day on the South-West Coast Path.

Trevor

Annual Cake Walk, Exmouth, 7th Oct



Twenty-five gathered at Patrick and Sue's home for the start of the Cake Walk. There was no fear of rain and it was a bright warm day. We headed out across fields leading to the cliffs and then followed the coast path to the geo-needle marking the start of the Jurassic Coast. Here we were pleased to meet a group of nuns visiting from Italy.

Then we dropped down to the esplanade at Orcombe Point and made our way briskly to the Winter Garden area where we had lunch.

Patrick had thoughtfully provided an intellectual option and three of the group went into the new development, replacing the old swimming pool, to view the local Art Exhibition and enjoy a leisurely coffee.

The rest of us pressed on to the Marina development and the start of the estuary. We followed the coast path for a while and then turned inland joining the old railway line which took us to Cranford and tea. As always Sue had been very busy and we all had a splendid tea.

Thank you very much Patrick and Sue for a great day out.

Trevor

Woodbury Common, 20th Oct

Twenty-three arrived at the Four Firs car park on Woodbury on a stunning day for Jan and Sara's walk. The two leaders had wisely opted for one at the front and one at the back with role reversal at half time.



The route took us north towards Woodbury Castle and then we skirted around the danger area of Colaton Raleigh Common although we saw no activity. The views to Ladram Bay on this open section were stunning and remained so until we reached Kettle Plantation and the ford. From here we followed tracks through wooded areas catching a view of marines in the distance (resting briefly after night exercises).

The labyrinth of routes meant that I rapidly lost sense of direction but fortunately Jan and Sara knew where they were going and after gradually climbing over an open section we suddenly arrived at our start point.

A very enjoyable walk and a beautiful day (and we did stop for lunch even though I failed to mention it!).

Many thanks to Jan and Sara.

Trevor

Circular walk from Princetown, 3rd Nov



Unfortunately Pete's walk was scheduled in what proved to be a period of very inclement weather. Princetown was too high, misty and wet while plan B at Watermeet was wet and very muddy.

Pete however is up to any task and opted for an in-between walk from Newbridge taking a route along tracks at intermediate altitude below the misty and above the flood. Seven experienced walkers joined Pete for the challenge in damp but now unreasonable weather until coffee time. After that the rain really set in but they pushed on completing the tour de force with at least one feeling that a warm bath would be considerable drier and more pleasant than he felt at the end.

Well done everyone and thanks Pete!

Trevor

Grand Western Canal, Tiverton, 17th Nov

Sixteen gathered at Tiverton Junction and Sampford Peverell for Judy's walk along the Grand Western Canal. It was a poor start with persistent but not heavy rain. Fortunately this stopped after 15 minutes and from then on it was a steadily improving day.

It was easy walking with plenty to see including a kingfisher receding into the distance. The only disappointment was that the farm café at Halberton had closed for the winter two days earlier.



We lunched at the local church and then returned from Tiverton by bus.
 Many thanks, Judy

Trevor

Annual Lunch Walk, 25th Nov



On a beautiful Autumn day 28 plus a dog gathered at Bystock Nature Reserve for the brief morning stroll before the main event at the Nutwell Inn. The gentle pace helped the conversation flow and all but three enjoyed it sufficiently to opt for the extra mile extension. Then it was down to the Inn where 9 more joined us for a very enjoyable reunion between current and former members and colleagues from a previous (some claim Jurassic) era.

Trevor

Stoke Woods & Exe Valley, 9th Dec

15 joined Tom for his easy walk when conditions were perfect – above the ankles! Previous experience has shown December to be a particularly good time for mud and in former years Mike S and John B regularly competed for ‘muddiest walk of the year’. I was not there on this occasion but informed sources suggest that this probably ran the previous record pretty close. However all thoroughly enjoyed it and returned safely to the start without mishap.

Many thanks, Tom

Trevor