

**UERSA WALKING GROUP**  
**April - June 2017**



***Holcombe Rogus Circular - March 2017***

***Dates:***

***Tuesday, 18 April      Friday, 28 April      Monday, 8 May***  
***Wednesday, 24 May      Monday, 12 June      Friday, 30 June***

***The new programme has some new faces among the leaders  
and it is great that so many are keen to get involved.***

***There is no away-break this year. I had hoped to arrange one to include a trip to Lundy  
but tide times wait for no-one and the logistics were very user UN-friendly. Other  
commitments made it impossible to research an alternative. I am still exploring the  
possibility of a day trip to Lundy later in the summer***

***Trevor March 2017***

***Tel: 01392 – 259740***

***Mobile 07948740644***

***[preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk)***

***FORTHCOMING MEETINGS***

- 10.30 Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April      Newton St Cyres      7 miles***  
***PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED***

Meet at 10.30 at the village hall car park in Newton St Cyres.

Newton is on bus route 5 to Crediton. The no 5 bus to Crediton via Newton St Cyres leaves the Bus Station at 9.54 reaching Newton St Cyres 18 minutes later.

Length of walk – about 7 miles, on a reconnoitre we took 4 hours including a coffee break at the radio mast. We could plan for coffee towards the top of Whiptail Wood, and a picnic lunch by the radio mast, before the descent back to Newton.

This is an excellent circular walk which traverses the woods and hills/valleys to the south of the village using the only public foot/bridle-path shown on the OS map. It rises from 35m in Newton to 245m at the Waddles Down Radio mast from which there are superb views of Exeter. The gradients are not too steep, but there is an uneven and potentially slippery section along the Shuttern Brook in Northridge Copse. The other possible tricky part is in the descent from Waddles Down through Newton Wood. Here the track had been used by heavy vehicles for forestry work, and they left deep ruts which were semi-filled with very wet mud: boots and trekking poles advised!!

The final leg of the walk takes us through a grassy field, where some of Mary Quicke's "girls" feed as preparation for her cheesemaking, and an apple orchard beside West Holme.

There is a good café at Quicke's farm run by Cakeadoodledo – open for breakfast and lunch to about 4pm.

Edward Maunder

- **10.30 Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> April,** **Peak Hill Circular** **6 miles**  
**PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Start from Peak Hill car park (OL115: 011873 ); circular walk via Mutters Moor, Bulverton Plantation and Greystone Hill Plantations.

Jan

- **10.30 Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May** **Newbridge, Dartmoor** **7 miles**  
**PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Circular walk from Newbridge car park (OL28: 710709) via Spitchwick, Leusdon, Pondsworthy and Dr Blackhall's Drive.

Judy

- **10.30 Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> May** **Winsford, Exmoor** **7 miles**  
**PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Start Winsford car park (OL9 903350).

The walk climbs steadily from Winsford through woodland to the summit of Winsford hill, then descends along the rim of the spectacular valley called The Punchbowl, climbing again over Bye Hill and along the top edge of the steep-sided Exe valley before descending through woodland back to Winsford.

Roger

- **10.30 Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> June** **Somerset Space Walk** **8 or 6 miles**  
**PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

The Somerset Space Walk will be along the canal from Maunsel Lock to Taunton. There would be three options depending on people's preference for travel and distance walked:

(1) Catch the 9.24 XCountry train to Taunton station, pre-booked taxi to Maunsel Lock, walk back to the station (About 8 level miles) [This will be Mars to the sun and then the sun to Pluto]

(2) Drive to Swing Bridge car park, pre-booked taxi to Maunsel Lock, walk back to the car park (Just over 6 level miles)

(3) Drive to Swing Bridge car park, same pre-booked taxi to Maunsel Lock, walk back to Pluto in Taunton, catch bus to Bathpool (every 30 mins) and a short walk to the car park. (8 miles)

We would need to have numbers in advance so as to book the transport from station and car park - the local company would prefer to know 48 hours before

Flora has done a lot of local research and will be a joint leader with us.

David, Tina and Flora

• **Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> June**

**Newcourt Circular**

**5.5 miles**

**PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Catch Exmouth train from St Davids (10.15) or Central (10.20) to Newcourt Station.

Route via Rydon Village, Clyst St. Mary, Sowton Village, Bishops Court & Clyst St Mary, Sandy Park, Digby Station and Newcourt.

Michael Hind

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## **RECENT WALKS 2017**

The year started with a pleasant walk along the Exeter Riverside Park ending at Double Locks for coffee. Sixteen turned up to clear the New Year alcoholic haze and were rewarded with a pleasant day.

The weather for the next two walks at Penstone (Mike and Suzanne) and Harpford Common (Judy) was less kind but none-the-less the turnout of 13 and 16 respectively showed that age (or weather) does not diminish their enthusiasm. Both walks were greatly enjoyed and my thanks on behalf of all participants to Mike and Suzanne and Judy for planning such enjoyable routes.

The promise of strong winds caused the cancellation of Edward's walk at Newton St Cyres and this is rescheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> April with the promise of ending at the new teashop at Quicke's farm.

## *Holcombe Rogus Circular, 6<sup>th</sup> March*



Eleven of us set off in fine style from the canal bridge at Burlescombe, and walked across fields to Holcombe Rogus village. Rogo or Rogus was the name of the vassal who held the manor from Sheriff Baldwin according to Domesday book. Admiring Holcombe Court, for centuries seat of the Bluett family, although unable to see the long gallery which is much talked about, inside the house, we then saw the exterior of Holcombe Church. Again, there are treasures within. According to the Shell Guide to Devon, we see a 'magnificent Jacobean screen' and other elaborate Jacobean monuments, as well as a fine 15<sup>th</sup> cent. wagon roof. Evensong on first and third Sundays of month if you want to go and see. Returning to a country land, we walked back to the canal, following this to the last point at which it contains water. In the bankside we saw an unusual stumpy low flower with tiny flowers set together in reddish-pinkish clumps; this turns out to be a Butterbur, member of the daisy family. We then reach the striking array of former lime kilns, which must have been the focal point where agriculture, as the user of the lime, and industry as the extractors and transporters, came together. A passer-by on the towpath told us she had noted eighteen different types of wild bird that morning on her walk! A slightly drizzly picnic was held at Whipcott Wharf. Returning towards our start point, we saw a ruined twelfth century priory, which must once have been an imposing structure. As a last feature, we walked along the trackbed of a former mineral tramway or railway to our start point in Burlescombe. Warm thanks to David and Tina for a varied, interesting and manageable walk.

Michael H