

A Walk for Everyone – Spring Programme 2018

Now that Spring is well and truly here (*note: it is snowing heavily as this contribution is added to the newsletter! – Ed*), we welcome you to our latest programme of walks – we hope there is something here to tempt everyone. If you like a shorter stroll then perhaps you would like a 2 mile ramble to see bluebells on 2nd May, or maybe a 3 mile exploration of Woodbury on 20th June? If you fancy something more challenging there are plenty of walks ranging from 5 to 9 miles, some with a pub lunch or a cream tea along the way, so do check the details to see if you need to bring a picnic.

There are walks in the Otter Valley and some further afield in Dorset and on Dartmoor. As always, we will suit the pace to those walking with us, and take breaks for points of interest.

The long distance walk we are tackling in stages this year is the Devon Heartland Way which runs from Okehampton to Stoke Cannon and takes us to some of the less visited parts of our beautiful county. The 43 mile walk is split into 6 stages - we start on 30th June and we look forward to some glorious walking (see separate article and the programme for more details).

Our Winter programme was beset by bad weather and, on two occasions, disrupted by traffic problems in Newton Poppleford. We apologise to anyone who was disappointed and we hope for better things in the summer!

Our walks are free, open to everyone, and there is no need to book – just turn up on the day at the appropriate time and place. Regardless of the time of year, we are likely to encounter mud and/or uneven paths so do wear suitable footwear. If you are unsure of anything or worried about the weather, then feel free to contact the walk leader – you can also check our website for last minute changes.

If you are new to the OVA or to walking with the OVA, do please get in touch with Heather or Peter from the walk team (details at the back of the newsletter) if you have any questions. They are also keen to hear from anyone who would like to lead a walk.

We look forward to seeing you on a walk somewhere soon!

Penny and Paul Kurowski

Devonshire Heartland Way – Overview



Our long distance path for 2018 is the Devonshire Heartland Way which is an inland route of approximately 43 miles in length. It mainly uses ancient footpaths and bridleways and in some places minor country roads. The stages we will cover are as follows.

- Stage 1 – Okehampton to Sampford Courtenay – 8 miles
- Stage 2 – Sampford Courtenay to North Tawton – 6 miles
- Stage 3 – North Tawton to Clannaborough Cross – 8 miles
- Stage 4 – Clannaborough Cross to Crediton – 10 miles
- Stage 5 – Crediton to Newton St Cyres – 7 miles
- Stage 6 – Stoke Canon to Newton St Cyres – 5 miles

We will use a mix of cars and public transport and ask you to email me on feredayh@gmail.com or phone me on 01395 446796 if you are interested in walking any/all of the walk so that we can make transport arrangements. The last section will be walked from East to West to give a second opportunity to visit the Beer Engine pub in Newton St Cyres for lunch. Full details are given in the Events Programme below.

Heather Fereday

Walks Programme – April to July 2018

Please consult the OVA Website for late alterations or additional information
All OS references are to Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Explorer maps.

Friday 13th April – 10.00am - WALK

Start at East Budleigh CP (OS 115, SY 066 849) on bus route 157
6 miles, about 4 hours, including stops for refreshments

“A Ramble with Temptations”

Through East Budleigh village, then fields and tracks on a hilly back route to Budleigh Salterton, and perhaps a break for an ice-cream and a stroll along the beach. Returning alongside the Otter, looking out for interesting wildlife before a break for lunch at Otterton Mill. Finishing along back roads to East Budleigh.

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski, 01395 742 942 / 07792 619 748

Wednesday 18th April - 10.30am - WALK

Start: OVA Jubilee Shelter on the Budleigh seafront (OS 115, SY 067 818).
8 miles, about 4 hours + lunch.

“Some country, some coast”

This walk takes us via Lime Kiln car park, White Bridge, Colliver Cross, Stantyway to Ladram Bay where we have our picnic lunch. We then return back along the coast path via Brandy Head and White Bridge, then along the well-trodden path past the bird hide and return to our start point.

Walk Leader: Jacqui Ruhlig, 01395 443763

Saturday 21st April - 10.00am - WALK

Start: Knapp Copse Reserve CP (OS 115, SY 155 957) 8 miles, 5 hours.

“Over the hills and Far(a)way”

This walk gives us the opportunity to enjoy springtime in the unspoilt farmland and woods around Farway. There are a few hills to climb (maximum ascent of 100m) but the views of the Holcombe and Coly valleys make it worth the effort. Bringing a packed lunch is recommended, although refreshments are available afterwards at the Hare and Hounds.

Anyone who can offer others a lift or needs one should contact the walk leader.

Walk Leader: Jon Roseway, 01395 488739/ 07887 936280

Thursday 26th April - 10.00am - WALK

Start: New Bridge Car Park, OL28, SX 711 708 (Sat Nav TQ13 7NT) at 10.00am
7 miles, 4.5/5 hours.

“New Bridge”

Meet at Newton Poppleford recreation ground CP (OS 115, SY 088 899) at 9.00am to share cars or meet at the start point.

A circular walk offering wonderful views of the Dart Gorge (in clear weather!) - a combination of upland moor, woodland, fields and riverbank. The route from medieval New Bridge will be via Mel

Tor, Ponsworthy and Leusdon, returning on the riverside path. Dr. Thomas Blackall owned Spitchwick Manor in the late 1800's and created a scenic carriage route for himself high above the Gorge. Please bring a packed lunch. Possibility of cream tea/drinks at the Tavistock Arms, one of the oldest pubs in the country, at the end of the walk if the walkers wish to do so. Moderate level walk.
Walk Leader: David and Rosemary Hatch, 01392 444290

Wednesday 2nd May - 2.00pm – WALK

Start at the Salcombe Hill National Trust CP (OS 115, SY 139 883), 2 miles, 2 hours.

“A Bluebell Walk”

A short walk to see the display of Bluebells on Combe Head Wood and Soldier's Hill which are usually at their best at this time of year. The walk may be extended if the bluebells disappoint and the walkers request it. **Note:** the path to the woods is quite steep with rough steps.

Walk Leader: Graham Knapton, 01395 445665

Wednesday 9th May - 10.00am - WALK

Start: East Budleigh Church CP (OS 115, SY 065 848). 9.5 miles, 4.5 hrs.

“Coast and Country”

A varied walk giving an ever-changing perspective using the coast path, local roads and tracks. Visiting Ladram Bay, High Peak and Windgate returning inland via Otterton and Bicton. Some hilly sections. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Walk Leader: Mike Paddison, 01395 446550

Saturday 12th May - 10.00am - WALK

Meet at Newton Poppleford CP off School Lane (OS 115, SY 085 895) at 9.15am to share cars or meet at the start point.

Start at Kentisbeare village hall CP (OS 115, SS 068 079) (£1 fee payable). 5 miles, 3 hours.

“Finding the Bear”

A walk from Kentisbeare to Orway, Henland, Blackborough, Hollis Green and return. A good pub for lunch in the village.

Walk Leader: Carole Steen, 01392 873881

Saturday 19th May - 10.00am - WALK

Start at Sidbury CP, (OS 115 SY 139 918), 7 miles, 4 hours.

“Sweets and hares”

A walk through the Sweet and Har(e) combes, dipping in and out of the East Devon Way. The walk starts with a moderate climb up Hatway Hill, loops around Higher Sweetcombe Farm and traverses towards Harcombe for good views of the Sid Valley. There's a good chance of seeing bluebell glades and/or donkeys along the way. A steep ascent to the top of Buckton Hill is followed by a steep descent back into Sidbury, hopefully in time for a drink in the Red Lion. Bring a picnic lunch.

Walk Leader: Jon Roseway, 01395 488739/ 07887 936280

Friday 25th May - 10.00am - WALK

Meet at Newton Poppleford Rec Ground CP (OS 115, SY 088 899) at 8.45am to share cars, or meet at the start of the walk.

Start: Charmouth Sea Front Heritage Centre. (OS 116, SY 364 930), 7.5 miles.

“If the cap fits.....?”

.....then this is the walk for you! Starting at sea level, unsurprisingly we walk uphill, along the coast eastwards to the top of Cain's folly. Inland now, still gaining height up Stonebarrow Hill and along the ridge to Chardown Hill, before plummeting down to the remains of the mediaeval hamlet of Stanton St Gabriel. We continue by walking behind Golden Cap, leaving a short climb to the top of its familiar table-top summit; at 191 metres the highest cliff on the south coast. Needless to say, the views of the

Jurassic coast and Lyme Bay are magnificent. The return is a 3 mile undulating route along the Coast Path to Charmouth and tea and cake at the beachside cafe to celebrate a satisfying day out! Please bring a picnic.

Walk Leader: Chris Buckland, 01395 444471

Wednesday 30th May - 10.00am - WALK

Meet at Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground CP (OS Explorer SY 088 899) 8.5 miles, 4.5 hours.

“Around the Beacon”

A varied walk along paths, lanes and tracks heading out to Venn Ottery and Fluxton before crossing the Otter on our way to Waxway. We return going around Fire Beacon Hill and passing through Harpford.

Walk Leader: Graham Knapton, 01395 445872

Wednesday, 6th June - 10.00am - WALK

Meet at Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground CP (OS 115, SY 088 899) at 9.00am to share cars or meet at the start point.

Start at Thorverton CP by the post office (OS 114, SS 923 021), 7 miles, 4 hours

“Hoskin’s Landscape”

Some long uphill climbs, Hoskin’s country, earthwork, views to the sea and two moors. Some road walking.

Walk Leader: Margaret Read, 01392 759332

Wednesday, 13th June - 10.00am - WALK

Meet at Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground CP (OS 115, SY 088 899) at 9.00am to share cars or meet at the start point.

“The River Yarty and Castle Mound”

Start at Membury, Beckford Bridge (limited parking) (OS 128 ST 265 014), 5 miles, 3 hrs

Some road walking, Yarty valley, church and the Lancet, Membury Castle and Fort.

Walk Leader: Margaret Read, 01392 759332

Friday 15th June - 10.00am - WALK

Meet at Newton Poppleford recreation ground CP (OS 115, SY 088 899) at 9.00am to share cars or meet at the start point.

“River, Woods, Moor and Cream Tea”

Start at the Bridford Wood CP, North Dartmoor (OL28, SX 803 883), 7.5 miles, 3.5 hours + lunch. Teign meadows and fine views on open downland.

Walk Leader: Iain Ure, 01395 568822

Wednesday 20th June - 10.30am - WALK

Start: Outside the Maltster's Arms in the middle of Woodbury (OS115 SY 010 871) 3 miles, about an hour and a half.

“A Woodbury Wander”

A fairly short, gentle stroll from Woodbury to Woodbury Salterton via Watery Lane and Higher Pilehayes Farm, returning along lanes and through fields to the start. Can be wet in places after rain.

Walk leader: Chris Gooding, 01395 265707/07852 630431

Friday 22nd June - 10.15am - WALK

Meet at Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground (OS115, SY 088 899) at 9.00am to share cars. **Parking at start point is limited. If anyone is planning to go directly to the start, please contact Vivien to check the location.**

“An Ancient Dorset Beauty”

Start: Powerstock Common (OS 117, SY 547 974) at 10.15am, 8/9 miles, 5 hours. The walk starts across Powerstock Common, a Dorset Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve, and then heads towards Eggardon Hill, an historic site with panoramic views. Eggardon Hill was a Bronze Age Burial Site, Iron Age Fort and seat of a Saxon council. After exploring the hill and enjoying a picnic lunch we head off to Nettlecombe and a welcome stop at the Marquis de Lorne pub for refreshments. The return walk takes an alternative route back over the Common.

Walk Leader: Vivien Insull, 01404 811267

Saturday, 30th June - 11.00am - WALK

Start at Okehampton station forecourt (OS 113, SX 590 944) at 11.00am, 8 miles, 4 hours plus lunch.

“Devon Heartland Way - Stage 1 - Okehampton - Samford Courtenay”

We first make our way to the hamlet of Stockley Hamlets by way of a bridleway and footpath. Then minor country roads and footpaths to the village of Samford Courtenay passing the hamlets of Corscombe, Halford Manor, Rowden Manor and Trecott. Please bring a packed lunch.

Please either email me or ring me by 25th June if you wish to join this walk so that we can organise car shares.

Walk Leader - Heather Fereday, 01395 446796/feredayh@gmail.com

Friday, 6th July - 10.00am - WALK

Meet: Newton Popleford Recreation Ground (OS 115, SY 088 899) at 9.45am to share cars or meet at the start point.

"Dartmoor views, woods and a stannery town visit"

Start: Ashburton car park 10.30am (OL 28, SX 754 699) 6 - 7 miles

Discover Ashburton, one of the four stannery towns of Dartmoor, and explore its surroundings. The walk starts by heading into the countryside to the north of Ashburton through woodland en route to Owlacombe Cross. We then descend to the edges of Ashburton with splendid views across to Dartmoor from the high level Terrace Walk where we have our picnic lunch. Returning to Ashburton we then make a short tour of the town taking in the great variety of independent shops, the historic buildings including St Lawrences Chapel and the old Railway Station before heading for one of the tea shops.

Walk Leader: Stella French, 01395 445724/07896 088858

Saturday, 14th July - 11.00am - WALK

Start in Samford Courtenay (OS 113, SS 632 011) at 11.00am, 6 miles, 3 hours plus lunch.

“Devon Heartland Way - Stage 2 - Samford Courtenay - North Tawton”

From Samford Courtenay, we take very old parish tracks to the hamlet of Honeychurch and the church of St Mary's. The route then follows minor country roads and footpaths to the market town of North Tawton. Please bring a packed lunch.

Please either email me or ring me by 9th July if you wish to join this walk so that we can organise car shares.

Walk Leader - Heather Fereday, 01395 446796/feredayh@gmail.com

Monday, 16th July - 10.40am - WALK

Meet at Exmouth Station at 10.15am. Outward via train, dep. 10.23am, arr. Newcourt 10.40am.

Start: Newcourt Station (OS 192, SX 961 903), 10.40am, 5.5 miles, 3.5 hours (to include lunch).

“Take the train for a pub walk”

A walk from Newcourt station over the Clyst River Bridge to the village of Clyst St Mary. Then through fields to the village of Sowton with its grand church and thatched village hall before returning to Clyst St Mary for lunch at the Half Moon Inn. After lunch, a gentle half hour or so takes us to Digby and Sowton station for the train back to Exmouth. This is an opportunity to explore in detail places we

usually see fleeting from the car or train. The going is easy with only gentle climbs. It may be muddy in places if it has been wet.

We suggest that if you don't have a railcard, you travel in groups of 4 to take advantage of a "Groupsave" train ticket - buy a return from Exmouth to Digby and Sowton.

Nearer the time, please check the OVA website (or contact the walk leaders) for the latest train times.

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski, 01395 742942 pandp@kurowski.me.uk

Thursday 19th July - evening walk with Ted Swan, further details in the next newsletter or check the website.

Wednesday 25th July - 10.00am - WALK

Start: Mutter's Moor CP (OS115 SY 109 873) 4.5 miles, around 2.5 hours with a stop for a snack.

"What's the Mutter"

A gentle walk around the plateau, affording lovely glimpses of the Sid and Otter valleys before descending Seven Stones Lane to meet the coast at Windgate and returning to the start via the short but steep ascent of Peak Hill. Can be wet in places after rain.

Walk leader: Chris Gooding, 01395 265707/07852 630431