

A Walk for Everyone – Spring Programme 2017

With Spring well and truly upon us it's time to get out those walking boots and check out the programme of walks we have lined up for you over the coming months.

As I'm sure you will know, Chris and Mike are stepping down from the job they have done so competently and with such enthusiasm over the past four years and are handing over the reins to a new Walk Team. The new team will be building a programme of walks to take us through 2017 and beyond, the programme depending very much on the invaluable expertise and experience of our walk leaders, who give up their time to develop and lead walks for the OVA.

With the future in mind we held a review meeting back in February in order to gain feedback about past walks and to generate ideas for the future. We will be continuing with many of the favourite and standard walks, but also aiming to incorporate some shorter walks, evening walks and walks with specific themes. Plenty of the walks will be on our home territory but we will also be visiting many other locations too, including Dorset, Dartmoor and Exmoor. We welcome any feedback from members about the Walks Programme, including any comments on past walks and on those during the coming year. If anyone has a favourite walk, or an idea for a walk (even if they don't wish to lead it), then please do let us know.

It has been the practice over past walks to ask for a volunteer to write a walk report. Whilst these have proved interesting reading, we have decided to make the task a little less onerous so will be asking for walk 'reflections' instead. These can be detailed or brief and come with no guidelines, so it will be up to the writer to interpret as they see fit. All submissions will be entered in a draw with a mystery prize at the end of the year. How could you refuse!

The Walk Programme for the coming three months is set out in detail in the following pages. This includes the East Devon Way, which is being walked in 5 stages throughout the summer - a brief synopsis of this is also set out below. On occasions it may be necessary to make last minute changes to a walk so it is always advisable to check the OVA website beforehand.

Finally, the new Walk Team. We are: Heather Fereday, Stella French, Paul Kurowski, Penny Kurowski, Jon Roseway and myself – Peter Paine.

For general enquiries contact Peter (p.paine555@btinternet.com/ 01404 815214) and for specific enquiries about the Programme contact Heather (feredayh@gmail.com)

We are very much looking forward to an interesting and varied programme of walks over the coming months.

Peter Paine

East Devon Way – using the bus - Overview

In 2016 some OVA members completed the whole of the East Devon Way in just over 17 hours. We enjoyed it so much that for 2017 we are offering members the chance to walk it again – but this time at a more leisurely pace and in the opposite direction, splitting the walk into 5 stages. We will start at Lyme Regis on 6th May and finish up with an easy 4 mile walk to Exmouth on the morning of Friday 21st July, followed by a celebratory lunch. We have organised the stages so that they can all be done using public transport to reach the start and finish points. For the early stages, Newton Poppleford is the meeting point before onward travel – we suggest you use the bus to get there if convenient or car share where possible.

For those who don't know it, the East Devon Way is a 40 mile walk across East Devon, from Lyme Regis to Exmouth. It passes through some beautiful unspoilt countryside and lovely villages, and on a good day there are outstanding views to be enjoyed. For more details see <http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk>

The stages we will cover are:

- Stage 1 – Lyme Regis to Colyford – Saturday 6th May – 8.5 miles
- Stage 2 – Colyford to Hare & Hounds – Saturday 20th May – 9.5 miles
- Stage 3 – Hare & Hounds to Newton Poppleford – Saturday 8th July – 10 miles
- Stage 4 – Newton Poppleford to Brixington – Monday 17th July – 10 miles
- Stage 5 – Brixington to Exmouth – Friday 21st July – 4 miles

Full details are given in the Walks Programme below. As we are relying so much on buses, **please check the OVA website or contact the walk leaders** a couple of days before each walk, just in case the bus times have changed.

Events Programme – April to July 2017

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

Saturday 8th April, 10:00am - WALK

Start: Joney's Cross CP (OS 115 SY 057 898). 5.5 miles, 2.5 hours.

"Gently does it"

A gentle walk to Aylesbeare via Randelhayes farm and back via Manor Farm and Aylesbeare common.

Walk Leader: Graham Knapton, 01395 445872

Wednesday 12th April, 10:00am - WALK

Start: East Budleigh CP (OS 115 SY 065 849). 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 15th April, 10:00am - WALK

Start: Knapp Copse Reserve CP (OS 115 SY 155 957). 9.5 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

Wednesday 19th April, 10:00am - Jane Austen themed WALK

Start: Upton Pine Village Hall CP, (OS 114 SX 910 978). 5 miles, 3 hours

“Sense and Sensibility”

An interesting literary walk in mid Devon discovering the inspiration that Jane Austen found to write her novel. From Upton Pine Church to Woodrow Barton, Pynes and Lakes Bridge returning via Bamford Speke for lunch. No dogs please.

Walk Leader: Margaret Read 01392 759332

Saturday 22nd April, 10:00am – WALK

Start: Newton Poppleford Rec Ground CP, (OS 115 SY 088 899) at 9.30am to share cars to the walk start point.

“Colmer’s is watching you!”

The walk starts at Higher Eype Service Area (OS 116 SY 452 922) at 10.30am (café opens at 6.45am and free parking!), 8 miles, 6+ hours.

This is a walk requiring some appetite for hills but, boy, is it worth it! We start out through Lower Eype, skirting Eype Down heading towards Symondsburry and an excellent café. After refreshments, the highlight, a short climb up the iconic Colmer’s Hill which affords extensive views in all directions. The day ends over the sea cliffs from Seatown, and a cream tea at Down House Farm.

Walk Leader: Vivien Insull, 01404 811267

Wednesday 26th April, 10:00am - WALK

Start at Lime Kiln CP (OS 115 SY 073 820). 10 miles, 6 hours.

“Circumnavigating Budleigh Salterton”

The walk commences along Marine Parade and the South West Coast Path to West Down Beacon and heads inland to Dalditch Farm via Castle Lane. It continues through Hayes Wood and across the common, past Yettington to Colaton Raleigh. After a well-earned break, the return journey follows the riverside path past Otterton to Lime Kiln car park. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Walk Leader: Brian Turnbull, 01395 567339

Saturday 29th April, 10:00am – WALK

Start at Columbjohn CP (OS 114 SX 959 998). 4 ½ miles, 3 hours.

“A Bluebell Walk”

From the car park we visit Columbjohn Chapel en route to Columbjohn Wood and then via a gentle climb to the enclosure in Killerton Wood, and a convoluted walk will then lead through the grounds and woods of Killerton Park. Returning to Columbjohn alongside the River Culm. No dogs please.

Walk Leader: Margaret Read, 01392 759332

Wednesday 3rd May, 2.30pm – WALK

Start at the Salcombe Hill NT 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

Saturday, 6th May, 10.45am - WALK

Meet: Newton Poppleford Rec Ground (OS 115 SY 088 899) at 8.50am

“East Devon Way Stage 1 - Lyme Regis to Colyford”

Catch the 8.57am bus, number 9A, from Newton Poppleford to arrive in Lyme Regis at 10.26am.

Start at Lyme Regis seafront (Cobb Gate at the eastern end of Marine Parade) (OS 116 SY 343 921) at 10.45am, 8.5 miles, 5 hours.

Walk from Lyme Regis seafront via Uplyme and Musbury to Colyford, Seaton Tramway (OS 116 SY 254 927) where we catch the bus back to Newton Poppleford, aiming to arrive there at 5pm.

The route is quite hilly, and from Uplyme passes through lovely countryside, passing Musbury Castle

hill fort descending into the Axe Valley. Please bring a picnic lunch.

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

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

Tuesday 9th May, 10.30am – WALK

“ A good walk not spoilt”

Meet at Newton Poppleford Rec Ground car park (OS 115 SY 088 899) at 9.45am to share cars. The walk starts at 10.30am from the roadside parking area by Honiton golf club (OS 115 SY 174 991), 7 miles, 4 hours.

This hilly walk takes a path by the golf course to the lovely area above the Coly valley. Then via the wooded Alpin's Common and Colwell Wood returning across the golf course. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Walk Leader: Ted Swan, 01395 567450

Wednesday, 10th May – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – see page 3 for details

Thursday, 11th May, 10.30am - WALK

“Poppleford Anniversary”

In mid-May, Ruth and Haylor will have been resident in Newton Poppleford for 40 years. We will walk around the village to celebrate the joys of this lovely area, starting from the Church Green (War memorial) (OS 115 SY 085 897). We start in the morning at 10.30am (after the buses have arrived from Sidmouth, Exeter or Budleigh), and walk 5 miles eastward to Harpford, Northmostown and the River Otter. Lunch at the Cannon Inn. In the afternoon from 2.05pm, we walk 4 miles westwards to Goosemoor, the Commons and Hunger Hill. Join us for the morning walk, lunch, and the afternoon walk, or any combination of these. Timings to suit return buses in all three directions.

Walk Leader: Haylor Lass, 01395 445872

Wednesday 17th May, 10.30am - WALK

“Up and Down at Uplyme”

Meet at Newton Poppleford recreation ground CP (OS 115 SY 088 899) at 9.30am to share cars. 5 miles 3 hours. The walk starts at the Uplyme Village Hall overflow car park behind the hall (OS 116 SY 325 935) at 10.30am. The route follows part of the East Devon Way, Mill Lane, Rhode Hill and Hodder's Corner. A moderate walk but taken at a leisurely pace. Some really lovely views and some points of interest. One section can be muddy. There are quite a few stiles. Possibility of lunch at the Talbot Arms.

Walk Leader: Carole Steen, 01392 873881

Saturday 20th May, 10.00am - WALK

Meet at Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground (OS 115 SY 088 899) at 8.50am.

“East Devon Way Stage 2 - Colyford to the Hare and Hounds”

Catch the 8.57am bus number 9A, from Newton Poppleford to arrive at Colyford at 9.50am Start at Colyford Seaton Tramway (OS 116 SY 254 927) at 9.50am, 9.5 miles, 5 hours

Walk from Colyford to Colyton and then through the isolated villages of Farway and Northleigh to the Hare and Hounds at Putts Corner (OL 115 SY 145 962). From here we catch the number 9 bus back to Newton Poppleford, aiming to arrive there at 4.30pm. After Colyton the route becomes hilly, with good views. Please bring a picnic lunch.

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

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski, contact details as Stage 1

Tuesday, 23rd May, 10.00am - WALK

“In Search of Mutter’s Treasure”

Start: Mutter’s Moor CP (OS 115 SY 109 873) at 10.00am. 5.5 miles. 3 hours

A circumnavigation of the moor, offering beautiful views of the valleys of the Sid and Otter, returning to the coast via Seven Stones Lane and the short, steep but immensely rewarding climb of Peak Hill.

Walk Leader: Chris Gooding, 01395 265707/ 07852 630431

Wednesday 31st May, 11:00am - WALK

Meet: Playing Field CP, Newton Poppleford (OS 115 SY 088 899) at 9.15am to share cars for departure at 9.30am.

Exmoor and the Scenic Barle Valley

Start from the National Park’s Ashcombe CP at Simonsbath (top level) – (OS OL9 SS 774 394) 11 miles.

The route will follow footpaths, tracks and open moorland high up on Exmoor in a figure of eight walk around Simonsbath and the scenic Barle Valley. Bring a picnic for our lunch stop by the river Barle. A cup of tea or something stronger will be on offer at a nearby pub at the end of the walk.

Walk Leader: Peter Paine, 01404 815214

Monday, 5th June, 10.40am WALK

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

Start at Newcourt Train Station (OS 114 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 ancient 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 fleetingly 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 for the latest train times.

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

Wednesday, 14th June, 10.30am - WALK

Meet at Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground CP (OS 115 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

Friday, 16th June, 2.30pm - WALK

First **Beginner’s walk** starting from Budleigh Salterton Public Hall entrance near the free car park and bus stop. 3 miles, 1- 1.5 hours. Total ascent 75 feet. This is a fairly level walk along the coastal path to the Otter estuary. We then walk along the river Otter to the White Bridge and return.

Walk Leader: Heather Fereday, 01395 446796

Wednesday, 21st June, 6pm. WALK

“Ghost Train”

An evening walk on the longest day to trace the remains of the branch lines Newton Poppleford - Tipton St John - Bowd.

Start at the Village CP in School Lane, Newton Poppleford, (OS 115 SY 085 896).

No more than 2 hours walking, gentle hills, optional evening meal at the Cannon Inn to follow.

Walk Leader: Haylor Lass, 01395 568786

Friday, 23rd June, 10.45am - WALK

“Victorian pier and black swans“

Meet at Exmouth train station at 9.15am to catch the 9.23am train arr. Teignmouth at 10.23am.

Start at 10.45am from Teignmouth pier and walk the coastal path to Dawlish Warren stopping for lunch in Dawlish. The walking is mostly easy on flat ground but does follow the sea wall and there are a couple of descents. The intention is to walk to Dawlish Warren, which is about 5 miles but the train stops at Dawlish, Dawlish Warren and Starcross if you wish to return earlier or later. Either bring a packed lunch or visit one of the many cafes in Dawlish.

This walk will not go ahead if the weather forecast is for heavy rain due to its exposed position.

Please check the OVA website or contact the walk leader.

Walk Leader: Heather Fereday, 01395 446796

Tuesday, 27th June, 10.00am - WALK

“A stroll to Venn Ottery Common“

Meet at Tipton St John CP (OS 115 SY 091 918) 5.5 miles, 3 hours

A gentle walk along quiet lanes and tracks to Venn Ottery Common with panoramic views over the Otter Valley. Return alongside the River Otter. Bring your own mid-morning refreshment with an option of a late lunch or drink in the Golden Lion pub afterwards.

Walk Leader: Stella French 01395 445724

Monday, 3rd July, 2.30pm - WALK

Second **Beginner’s walk** starting from Budleigh Salterton Public Hall entrance near the free car park and bus stop. 3 miles. About 1.5 hours. Total ascent 151 feet. This walk builds on walk 1. We walk to the White Bridge via the river Otter, then walk to the old railway track and return via the park.

Walk Leader: Heather Fereday, 01395 446796

Saturday 8th July, 11.15am - WALK

Meet: Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground (OS 115 SY 088 899) at 10.15am.

“East Devon Way Stage 3 - Hare and Hounds to Newton Poppleford“

Catch the 10.26am bus, number 9, from Newton Poppleford to arrive at the Hare and Hounds at 11.12am. Start at the Hare and Hounds (OL 115 SY 145 962) at 11.15am, 10 miles, 5 hours

Walk from the Hare and Hounds via Roncombe and Beckon Hill to Sudbury and then Fire Beacon Hill awaits before we descend to Newton Poppleford. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski, contact details as Stage 1

Monday, 17th July, 10.30am - WALK

Meet: Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground (OS 115 SY 088 899) 10 miles, 5 hours.

“East Devon Way Stage 4 - Newton Poppleford to Brixington“

Catch the 10am bus number 157 from the Public Hall, Budleigh Salterton to arrive at Newton Poppleford Recreation Ground at 10.24am.

Walk from Newton Poppleford across the Pebblebed Heaths, taking in the atmospheric Woodbury Castle, before finishing in Brixington where buses can be caught back to Budleigh Salterton or Exmouth. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski, contact details as Stage 1

Friday 21st July - WALK

Meet: Brixington, Jubilee Drive. (OS 115 SY 014 833) at 10am.

“East Devon Way Stage 5 - Brixington to Exmouth”

Catch the 9.35am bus number 58 from the Public Hall, Budleigh Salterton to arrive at Jubilee Drive, Brixington at 9.56am. This stop can also be reached from Exmouth by bus number 57 (every 15 minutes).

Start: Brixington (Jubilee Drive) (OS 115 SY 014 833), 10am. 4 miles 2 hours

After the first 4 stages, this final stage will feel like a gentle stroll as we walk from Brixington past A La Ronde to Lypstone and along the estuary to Exmouth, where we plan to have a celebratory lunch!

Walk Leaders: Penny and Paul Kurowski, contact details as Stage 1

Wednesday 26 July, 10:00am - WALK

Heath walk across the Commons as a contribution to Pebblebed Heath Week - details to follow in the next Newsletter.

