

Friday 27th to Sunday 29th March 2015, OVA Walking Weekend In Mevagissey with Rosemary Hatch

At the end of March, fifteen lucky walkers gathered at Bodrugan Barton, near Mevagissey, for a wonderful weekend of walking and fun. We met up at Bodrugan for an afternoon walk down the Gorran Valley to Gorran Churchtown, where we stopped to admire the fine old church and its interior. Patrick Hamilton kindly told us about the local geology and the famous Pentewan stone that parts of the church were built of. We carried on walking to Gorran Haven, and somehow the group managed to split up, but were reunited again, thanks to the wonders of mobile telephony.

We then followed the coast path back to Bodrugan's Leap, and turned inland up the valley back to Bodrugan to have tea and a sumptuous choice of cakes. Some of the ladies had been very busy baking, and it looked just like a WI market. That evening all 15 of us met for a delicious home cooked meal in the beautiful Bodrugan farmhouse, which was a very convivial evening.

Saturday morning dawned rather damp and misty, but fortified by a wonderful breakfast cooked by Iain Ure, we set out from Mevagissey to walk inland and uphill towards Heligan and down the Penteway Valley. This was delightfully varied and we stopped for lunch at the Ship Inn at Pentewan, and had excellent refreshments. Afterwards we toiled up the coast path, but were rewarded with good views of Mevagissey and Port Mellon, and a coffee and cake picnic stop on the way back, before looking around the old harbour. After more tea and cake back at the Farm, and a swim in the indoor pool for those still feeling energetic, and a rest for those not, we met up at the local pub, the Barley Sheaf, for another excellent meal. Rosemary and David had thoughtfully organised a live blues band to play for us after dinner, which was much enjoyed by those who liked that style of music.

On Sunday, we awoke to strong, gusty winds and greyness and a change of hour. Heartened by another of Iain's breakfasts, we set off for Polkerris for a morning walk. An intrepid group battled the elements up through the woods and around the coast path to Gribbin Head, and the 84 foot tall red and white Daymark, where it proved difficult to stand up, but we were rewarded with good views and a pleasant descent to Polridmouth Cove. From there we walked inland around the edge of the Menabilly estate (former home of Daphne du Maurier, and inspiration for Rebecca) and back on part of the Saints Way down to Polkerris. We stopped for a very welcome lunch break at the Rashleigh Inn, where the food and drink were excellent, before heading back to Devon.

We all had a thoroughly good time, despite the somewhat inclement weather, and

this was due entirely to the thoughtful and careful planning, organisation and detailed research carried out on our behalf by Rosemary and David Hatch. Their ability to herd cats without the cats even knowing is exemplary, and we cannot thank them enough. Dare we hope that they will do it again next year?

Dee Woods

30 March 2015