

Saturday, 5th April 2016, Pilsdon Pen and Lewesdon Hill with Rosemary and David Hatch"

"The Pen-ultimate Challenge"

Following a short briefing from David, we set off from the Lob Gate car park and tackled the immediate pull up to Pilsdon Pen. A short but steep climb - fuelled by delicious homemade Easter Biscuits, courtesy of Dee.

Standing at 277 mtrs, Pilsdon Pen affords some lovely views south to the coast, with the distinctive tree topped Colmers Hill clearly visible on the horizon.



After a brief and breezy photo call at the trig point, we headed off into a chilly NE wind, following the Monarch Way through fields and farmland towards the village of Broadwindsor where we stopped for coffee at the Craft Centre. We cut a fine dash, all sporting our attractive blue boot covers, provided by David.



Coffee stop over we headed south out of the village, crossing a wet and boggy section (just one mud splattered casualty!) towards our next climb, through woodland up to the top of Lewesdon Hill. Just 2 meters higher than Pilsdon Pen, it is the highest point in Dorset and from the top there were panoramic views of the Dorset countryside and coast.

David's trusty secateurs were put to good use clearing brambles and undergrowth



from the route.

Our lunch stop was on the southern slopes of the Lewesdon Hill woods, with far



reaching views to the coast. Signposting on this walk left much to be desired with many waymarks missing or unclear and several fingerposts lying broken in the hedge. However some of the luckier signposts had been blessed with much attention and lovingly carved! It was very helpful that the walk had been thoroughly reced, avoiding route uncertainties and wrong turnings.



Mounting and using the apparatus - Pass



Dismounting apparatus - um!

Shortly after leaving our lunch stop we came across an inviting rope swing hanging from the trees. Here we were treated to a fine example of bravery and agility as Chris confidently launched himself into the unknown, though it became very clear from his floundering and upside down return landing that his skills did need some refining.

Out of the keen wind, the afternoon section of the walk had a Spring like feel, following the Jubilee Trail over farmland tracks and footpaths, with a final lengthy and steep section along the road back to the car park and the end of the walk.

The final part of the walk involved a stop at the Wheelwright Arms in Colyton for a well-earned cup of tea.
This was an excellent walk with some great views and in a lesser known and more off the beaten track part of Dorset."

Peter Paine
14 March 2016