

Sunday 3rd April 2016, Mowenstow and Stanbury Mouth with Rosemary Hatch

The Alternative Sunday Walk – “Hawker's Delight”

Nine intrepid walkers met up at the Norman church at Morwenstow for the start of Rosemary's alternative 5 mile walk. Passing to the side of the church we quickly skirted past the rectory built by the Reverend Hawker noting the different chimneys on the building. Each one is different, being modelled on the towers of churches in his life and includes one being a replica of his mother's tomb. Robert Stephen Hawker was the vicar at Morwenstow from 1834-1875. The Harvest Festival was invented in the village in 1843 by the vicar.

We climbed to the top of the cliff with views of the church and sea. From here it was a very dramatic descent to the valley with stunning views of the sea, shore and cliffs below.

After crossing a small bridge we climbed up the steps and along Vicarage Cliff to Hawker's Hut. This small hut was built by Reverend Hawker with driftwood and is perched on the edge of the cliff overlooking the sea. He is said to have spent many an hour here smoking opium and writing letters and poems. We climbed down to the hut in small groups enjoying the view from the hut and leaving a message of our visit in the notebook set in a 'post' box near the hut.

Continuing along the cliff top we reached Higher Sharpnose Point where three adventurous members walked along a narrow footpath to the end point of the cliffs with impressive drops on either side. The others rested and drank their coffee. One person even took their waterproof trousers off, and yes it started to rain a little bit further along the route.

We next headed inland walking along the edge of the impressive communications station. Walking around the edge of a muddy field we crossed past Stanbury and along a footpath and through a wooded valley. We crossed some unusual Cornish styles, one of which was modelled on a gymnastic box horse, wide straddling was required.

A few minutes later we were walking through the gardens of The Bush Inn eagerly anticipating our lunch in the 13th century rectory tea rooms. Having eaten to our hearts content and warmed by the heat of the log fire we then departed to explore the church.

Our thanks to Rosemary for selecting and leading this delightful walk.

Heather Fereday and Stella French
6th April 2016