

15th June 2016, Hounds Tor & Grimspound with Chris Gooding

"From Tor to Tor"

Five well prepared walkers set off from Hounds Tor car park, heading for a circular walk in weather that changed from overcast to light rain.

Within a short while, we were standing by the grave of Kitty Jay. Chris Gooding, who was leading the walk, enlightened us all on her sad, short life story and even today, after 200 years, people are still leaving flowers and offerings on her grave. Traveling on beside woodland, there was a pretty area of flowering Red Campion to remind us all that it was still summer, despite the weather.

Even after all the rain from the previous days, traveling conditions could not have been better. As we crossed a small run off rivulet, which had formed a pool, it was much to our surprise that we noticed tadpoles who would probably not have survived if it had not been for the heavy rainfall. We later stopped to take in the fantastic views of Hameldown Tor and Grimspound along with the animals grazing there, looking their best.

On arrival at Grimspound we sat in one of the stone huts for a well-earned break. There was lots of talk about the reasons for the stone walls including the layout and how the locals would have been able to lift such heavy stones without machinery.

Within a short while we passed through the miniature pony centre, which was nice to see but I was surprised how the ponies could graze the grass so tight to the ground. On our way back, we passed by some fearsome looking highland cattle, which were a natural fit for the views of Dartmoor. On arrival at the car park we were pleasantly surprised to find a cafe on wheels ready to supply us all with a welcoming cup of tea and treats. I believe this was well earned after the five hours in good company. Thank you for an excellent walk Chris.

Chris Buckland
28 June 2016