

Friday 3rd November, Castles, hills and autumnal colour along the River Teign with Stella French

On this calm still and misty morning 17 walkers and 2 dogs set off from Castle Drogo heading out along the Hunters Path. Earlier we had wondered if we would get our anticipate views but the mist quickly dissipated as we looked down into the Teign Valley gorge resplendent with autumnal colours.

There were no detours into the attractive riverside inn at Fingle Bridge as we crossed over for a coffee stop on the opposite bank. Then it was a stroll along the river before heading up into Hore Wood. We managed to find the correct path that led us across into Charles Wood eventually arriving at Cranbrook Down and Cranbrook Castle an old Iron Age Fort. Here we admired the far reaching panoramic views of Dartmoor, the Teign Valley and beyond.



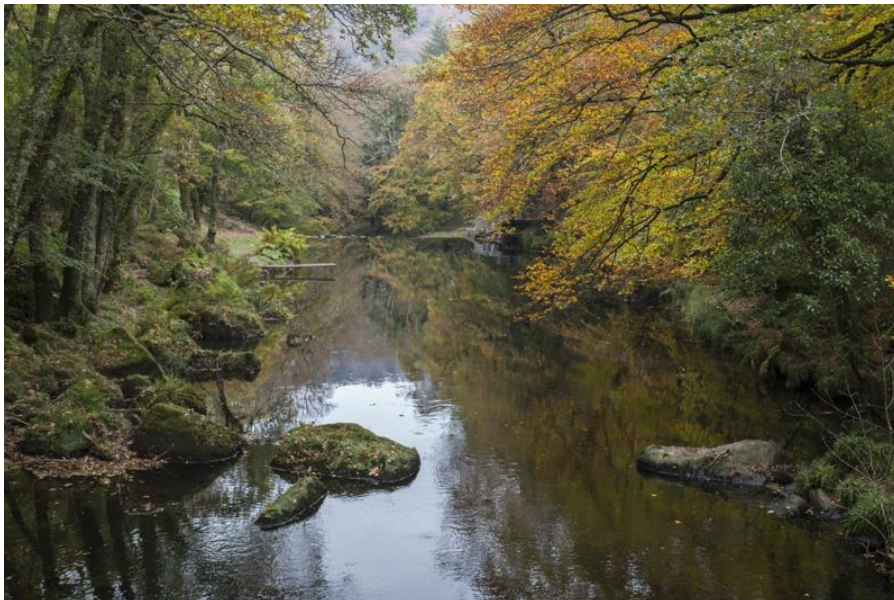
As we had our lunch the sun started to peak through the clouds and then it was time for a group photo.



Suitably refreshed we headed down the steep direct path to Fingle Bridge with its magnificent views.



Next was a colourful walk along the river banks of the Teign where dippers and grey wagtails were spotted by those at the front. We passed the hydroelectric plant serving Castle Drogo, crossed over the lower wall of Deer Park wall to the suspension bridge back over the river. Here we paused to admire the colourful scenery.



Then it was back up to Castle Drogo skirting the edge of the gorge again with wonderful views. By the time we reached the top and the castle we all agreed we had earned our cup of tea and cake in the Castle Drogo tearoom.

Stella French