

SOMERSET WALKING CLUB

TWO MOORS WAY WALK: 1ST SECTION JULY 2017

FOURTEEN MEMBERS ENJOYED A WONDERFUL WEEKEND ORGANIZED AND EXPERTLY LED BY CHERRY FOLLOWING THE TWO MOORS WAY FROM IVYBRIDGE TO BENNETT'S CROSS.

THE ROUTE OFFERED EXTREMELY VARIED LANDSCAPES WITH SWEEPING SPECTACULAR VIEWS AS FAR AS THE COAST, ICONIC GRANITE TORS AND VAST EXPANSES OF MOORLAND AND TOOK US ACROSS DARK PEATY STREAMS SNAKING THROUGH THE MOOR, ALONGSIDE THE RUSHING WATERS OF THE RIVER DART WITH ITS STEEP-SIDED WOODED VALLEYS, AND THROUGH ATTRACTIVE HAMLETS AND FARMS. THE VARIED TERRAIN WAS NOT PARTICULARLY CHALLENGING AND THE OCCASIONAL ASCENTS WERE RELATIVELY SHORT AND SWEET.

NO SIGNAGE OVER PATHLESS LONELY OPEN MOORLAND PEPPERED WITH BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENTS, STANDING STONES LED TO A SENSE OF REMOTENESS AND TRULY BEING AWAY FROM IT ALL - THE MAIN SIGNS OF HUMAN (AND NON-HUMAN) ACTIVITY BEING WELL PRESERVED HUT CIRCLES, CAIRNS, BARROWS AND MEDIEVAL CROSSES MARKING ANCIENT ROUTES, WHILST BELTED GALLOWAYS GRAZED THE MOOR, TOGETHER WITH DARTMOOR HILL PONIES AND NUMEROUS CALVES AND FOALS, ONE OF WHICH ENTERTAINED US ALL BY CALLING AND RUNNING WITH SHEER JOY OF LIFE AND FREEDOM OF THE MOORS.

FOR MUCH OF THE WAY WE WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THE RICH SONG OF SKYLARKS. CHOICE OF ACCOMMODATION WAS AS VARIED AS THE TERRAIN, SOME PREFERRING HOME COMFORTS, DRIVING DOWN EACH DAY, OTHERS STAYING WITH FAMILY, OR LOCAL PUBS AND B&Bs, (BOTH TRADITIONAL AND "AIR"!) OR A FAVOURITE HIDE-AWAY, OR YOUTH HOSTEL. THE CLEAR SUNNY WEATHER AND COOLING BREEZE COULD BE SAID TO BE THE CHERRY ON THE TOP BUT, IN THIS CASE IT WAS DEFINITELY OUR LEADER WHO WAS THE CHERRY ON THE TOP FOR ARRANGING SUCH A WONDERFUL WEEKEND.

SO THANK YOU CHERRY (AND JOHN WHO DENIES BEING OF ANY HELP!).

ANNABEL CAMPBELL 2017