



Ramble On

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Exeter and District Ramblers Group News – March 2026

Event Diary Spring 2026

Event	Date	Time	Venue	Contact
Walk library meeting	Friday 27th February	10.30 am	Exeter	Gill Macphail *
"Pop Up" Holiday	Friday 17th-Monday 20th April	Up to 3 nights	Swanage	Ian Wroe **
Two Moors Way 50th Anniversary event.	May 29th	All day	Morchard Bishop Village Hall	John Howell ***
Dartmoor Outdoor Festival	Friday 28th August-Friday 4th September	All week	Various	John Howell ***
Walking Holiday	Friday 9th-Monday 12th October	3 nights	HF Holnicote House, Selworthy.,	Phil Wales ****

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Notes from the Chair

As always our walking programme has continued through the winter and we have enjoyed the peculiar delights of this time of year, albeit with a few unavoidable cancellations.

The group holiday in October was a return visit to Chy Morvah, HF Holiday's house at St Ives. The weather was good and the feedback from the 49 participants suggested that the weekend was very enjoyable and successful. It was really good to see new participants on this trip.

The success of the holiday was due particularly to Phil Wales who organised it, to John Howell who planned and ran the walks programme and to all the walk leaders.

We now look forward to the programme of walks for March to June. On many Sundays we will now be offered a choice of a long and medium walk. This will both cater for a wider range of walking abilities and preferences and will also hopefully reduce the number of walkers each leader has to manage.

If any members are thinking that they might like to become leaders or to assist existing leaders, please contact me or any other committee member. The committee is working on the walk library to help leaders, old and new, with walks ideas and we are planning some further practical and enjoyable in-house training sessions for leaders.

The main news on the publicity front is that our new walking book "More Walks in and Around Exeter" is now available. This is a superb follow up to our successful walking book "Walking Around Exeter." Congratulations to Les Bright!

There will be another "pop up" holiday, from Friday 17th April to Monday 20th April, this time based on Swanage on the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset. The general arrangements will be as with the Salisbury holiday. Individuals will arrange their own accommodation for the weekend (or a longer or shorter period if individuals prefer). Walks will be offered on Friday to Monday. We will do our best to arrange a meal in a pub or restaurant for each evening for those who wish to eat together.

This year the October walking holiday will be at Holnicote House, the HF house at Selworthy in the Exmoor National Park. Phil Wales is again taking care of the booking arrangements. John Howell will compile the walking programme and will shortly contact those leaders who have booked for the holiday, inviting them to offer walks.

The Committee has also pre-registered our interest for a further HF holiday in October 2027 but we will need to wait till March when HF accept firm reservations from groups.

Happy walking for 2025!

Ian Wroe

Two Moors Way 50th Anniversary 29 May 2026.

Did you know that there's a 102-mile (164km) promoted walking route that runs right across Devon, crossing the south west's two magnificent National Parks: Dartmoor and Exmoor?

The Two Moors Way starts (or finishes!) in Ivybridge on the southern edge of Dartmoor, and heads northeast across the moor. Devon's rural heartland comes next, followed by Exmoor's highest ground, before a dramatic finish on the north coast at Lynmouth.



The Dartmoor section is highly varied: the track bed of the old Red Lake Tramway is followed into the heart of the southern moor before a run of sheltered, wooded valleys, created by sparkling moorland rivers is encountered.

Heading towards Three Barrows on the historic Red Lake Tramway
Photo Sue Viccars



The route runs along the lofty Hamel Down ridge and past the Bronze Age settlement of Grimspound, before a patchwork of small stone-walled fields and attractive hamlets lead the way on towards the spectacular Teign Gorge.

Two Moors Way marker stone near Redlake Tramway

Photo Sue Viccars



Hameldown Tor-cairn: the highest point on the Two Moors Way/ coast to coast route

Photo Sue Viccars

In 2005 the Two Moors Way was officially linked with a section of the Erme–Plym Trail to form Devon's Coast to Coast walk, a 117-mile (188km) route between Wembury on the south coast and Lynmouth on the north.

To mark the 40th anniversary the Two Moors Way Association (TMWA), in association with both national parks, and Devon County Council, revitalised the passport-and-stamp scheme, enabling walkers to create a record of their adventure as they headed across Devon. A new website was launched with accommodation and transport information and an online shop.

The 50th anniversary is being marked by a series of walks along the route in March, April and May, with two linear walks on 29 May 2026, meeting at Morchard Bishop (roughly the halfway point) for tea and celebrations! A new edition of the official guidebook will also be published.

To order the guidebook, or if you have any questions about walking the route, visit www.twomoorsway.org – and keep an eye on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/twomoorsway for regular updates about our anniversary plans!

There will be nine walks during the year organised by the TMWA which are supported by the Exeter & District Group of the Ramblers. You will find seven of these walks included in our current walks programme and a further two walks will be included in the next one. A copy of the TMWA walks programme will be circulated with the Ramble On newsletter.

50th Anniversary Day – Friday 29 May 2026, at Morchard Bishop.

There will be two walks on this date, both of which are seven miles long, one heading south to Morchard Bishop from Witheridge and the second walk will head north from Whelmstone Cross. There will be transport provided from Morchard Bishop to the walk starts. **It is important that you book a place on your chosen walk.** There is plenty of parking at Morchard Bishop in the village car park. You will need to book a place by emailing jointhebigwalk@btinternet.com

On arrival back at Morchard Bishop, there will be a celebratory tea held in the village hall, with a cake to be cut and a guest speaker, plus representatives from the Partner organisations, Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks and Devon County Council. There will also be a photographic exhibition held in the village hall.

Two Moors Way Association – Photographic Exhibition – we would love to receive your photos!

The TMWA association plans to organise a photographic exhibition in the village hall on the anniversary day, which we hope will then move on to the Visitor Centre in Lynmouth. The TMWA would like to see your photographs, taken along the route. **The theme will be ‘photos taken along the route according to the season of the year’**

Please caption as to why the photo and walking the route are special for you.

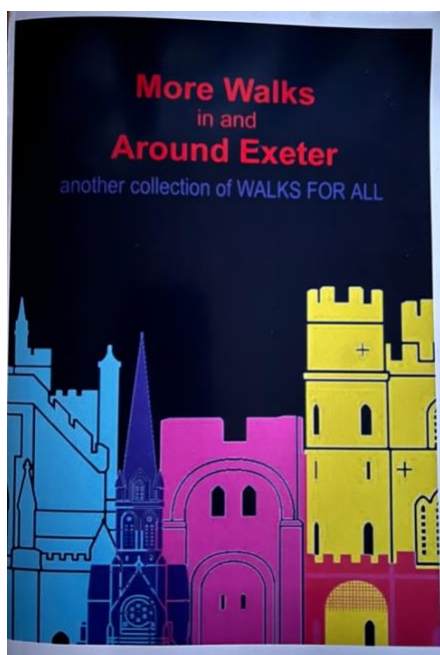
We look forward to receiving your photos to make this a special visual record of people’s experiences of walking the route, so please submit up to three photos.

Any further information regarding the exhibition, and where your entries must be submitted to **by 1 May 2026. John.owl@btopenworld.com**

The TMWA association will arrange a prize of some goodies from the TMWA shop for what is considered the best photo highlighting the delights of walking the route.

John Howell,

Chairman Two Moors Way Association.



More Walks in and Around Exeter may be purchased for £5 from Les Bright, RAMM, the Cathedral shop or Hyde and Seek.

It is an impressive and easily portable book containing 10 more excellent walks, four of which begin within Exeter, two start from the Cathedral itself and all but two can be accessed by public transport.

The walk descriptions, clear maps and informed local knowledge contain history, geography, ecclesiastical architecture, mention of a plant collector with a considerable RAMM exhibit plus an Exeter gardens inheritance, a poet, a famous historian, nesting peregrine falcons and a vast array of suggested viewpoints!

This edition of walks is also enhanced by the addition of alluring and relevant photographs.



No Black Forest Gateau Today? 04 01 2026 walk led by John Howell

This first New Year walk enjoyed perhaps the benefit of Saint Sidwella looking out for us (she is Exeter's only saint!) as she is pictured on the pulpit at Kenton where the walk began from the car park. It was a perfect walk on a day of bright sunshine, the route took us to Black Forest Lodge, past The Old Toll House, through Powderham fallow deer park and returned to Kenton.

As promised the views in contrast to many recent walk descriptions, were clear and far reaching!

Photos Jane Price



When walking gave way to wading!

'The River Exe, a Unique Church and Two Wayside Crosses' 13 11 2025 led by Jane Price and Julia Hill

We were seventeen in number when we started out at Cowley but at the linear end only one person's feet remained dry, luckily it was a sunny day. Faced with flooded paths we sought alternatives to reach Nether Exe (which has never flooded!) but which proved equally saturated.

Photos John Howell and Jane Price



Leap, Camera, Action at 'Cadeleigh Calling: A Mooing Adventure from Bickleigh' 07 12 2025 walk led by Helen Sail.

Described as:

"A straightforward walk which may be muddy after rain and with a few short steep hills. Footpath crosses a small stream without a bridge".

Walkers needed to be prepared as we were warned! As ever assistance was offered as hands reached out to help.

Photos Jane Price



As well as wading at least twice and without expectation one or two experienced an electric shock on passing through a farm gateway, but no-one was lastingly harmed and a good time was enjoyed by all.

Photos Jane Price



Moretonhampstead and Beyond 25 01 2026 led by Tony Lee

Another rather wet walk with brave participants having traversed Mardon Down and just before crossing the B3212 east of Doccombe – reaching and managing the flooded ford!

Photo Les Bright



Discovering West Devon Series No.1 Throwleigh and the Northmore Arms 29 01 2026 led by Jamie Bush

Gathering at the Northmore Arms car park (in itself a sight to behold!) with full permission of the landlady, Jamie having reced the walk only four days previously regaled walkers with the degree of muddy tracks which would and did also involve wading.

Photos Tony Lee





**The Northmore Arms at
Throwleigh with walkers
enjoying a refresh following
Jamie's walk.**

An unspoiled exemplar of a
village pub with some
differences! It was a joy to
celebrate being out on a walk in
the warm atmosphere of this
special pub open six days a
week!

Photos Tony Lee

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