

“Local walks from Weymouth”



Picture by Ron Glynn



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WELCOME TO OUR WALKS LOG, October 2017 to March 2020.

When I started this log, my first job was to mark all our start points on my essential piece of equipment, the 1:25000 OS map, OL 15, Purbeck and South Dorset. I was surprised and pleased to see how we had speckled the map, given that the venues were chosen mainly for free parking! But we had covered the area from west to east, with each venue leading to not only our walk(s) shown later but also to areas ripe for further exploration.

So given that each walk is 2 ½ to 3 ½ miles or 4/5kms or 7/9000 steps and takes around 1 ½ hours what do you need to join in? Apart from boots/trainers, layered clothing, hat, stick and dog (if owned or borrowed!) your essential equipment is a map, as above, to which you can add modern adjuncts if you wish.

NB: 1:25,000 means that roughly 2 inches on the map represents 1 mile on the ground.

Each map is covered by a grid of 1 mile squares, on our map numbered 53 to 76 west to east and 73 to 95 south to north. (The map is double sided with Purbeck on the back). On our list of start points there are BOLD 6 figure numbers. These are GRID REFERENCES and from them you can find anywhere on the map. So, for example, the Heights Hotel, 5 in our list is 69 2 73 3, the 3rd and 6th numbers being points. Read along the bottom to line 69 then 0.2 across the square, then up to line 73 then 0.3 up the square. Especially for rural areas these are so much more useful than post codes.

But what about phone maps you ask. My up to date informant tells me, (thanks Chris!) that if you buy a new map you get an access code that enables you to download the entire map into the app on your phone. You can then find exactly where you are using GPS and even see the way you are going marked by an arrow. You can also get maps of other areas. www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk for more information

I'm sure the best solution is to use the "proper map" for planning your route as it shows you how everything fits together and all sorts of interesting information about the surrounding area. Then, the phone as a belt and braces - am I going the right way!

So, get reading and enjoy this lovely area. Put your name on the notification list and come. 10.30am Tuesdays

Note for potential leaders (everyone we hope): Use the walk directions for a recce a few days before you take the group - things change, cliffs and trees collapse, paths diverted, new buildings appear. Also check the tide if relevant

Cows: We do not have too many in our area but must be taken into account. The official line is dogs on leads unless the cows come near (and they are very curious and large!) at which point you let them off. I think always best to avoid them if you can. Sheep obviously mean dogs on leads

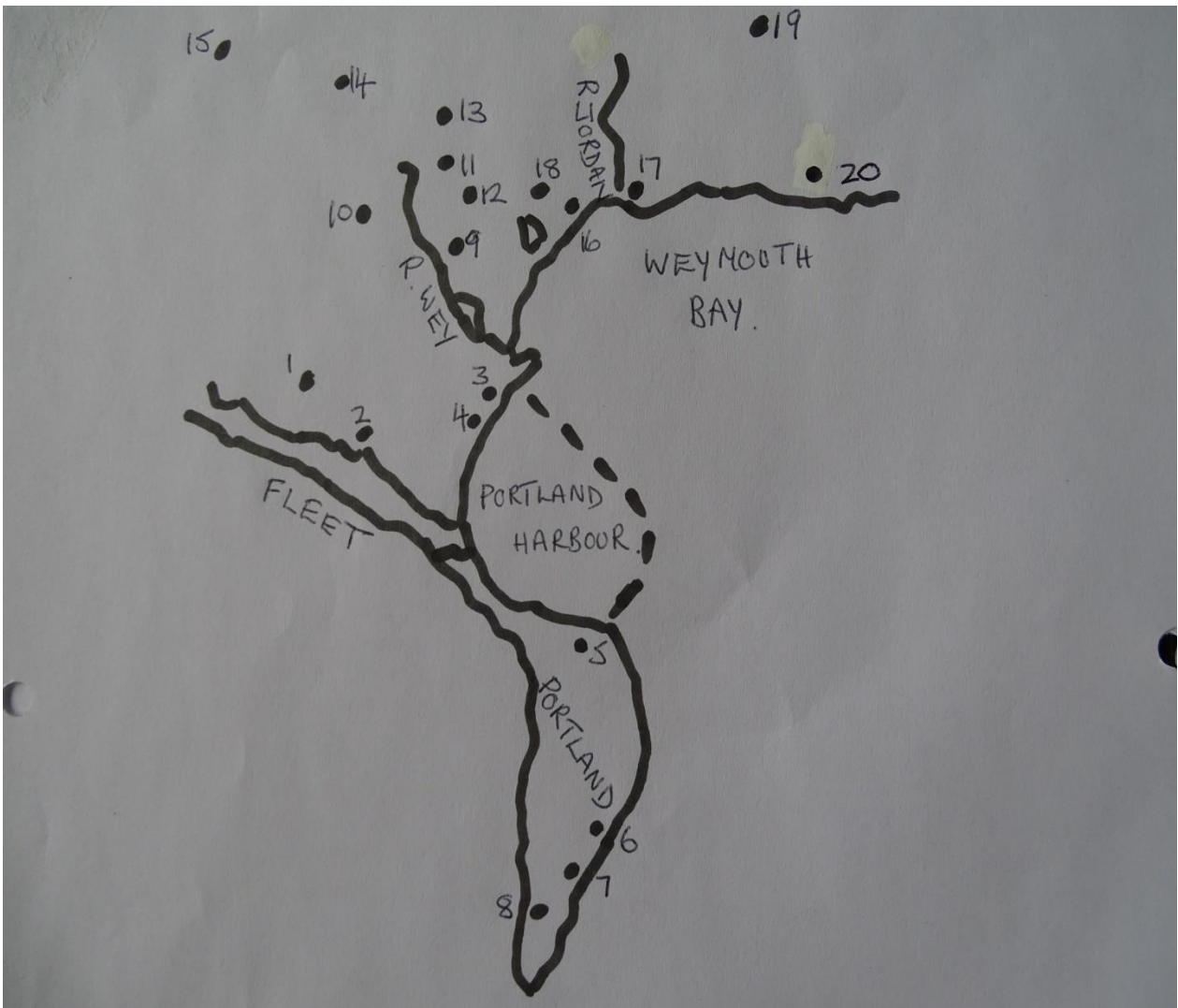
Pace- we try to get it "just right" Do not leave people too far behind, useful to have someone as back marker, and essentially do NOT set off as soon as they catch up

Remember your job is to show the group the way, everyone joins in at their own risk. If there is unfortunately an accident then everyone will help as you would walking with a group of friends. You can of course mention it if someone comes ill equipped e.g. flimsy shoes but it is their decision to take part or not.

Anne Lindley

STARTING POINTS FOR LOCAL WALKS

Simplified map of the start points for our local walks



Hilary South writes "As a true Weymouthian, born, bred and a previous dog owner, I have over the years during my explorations, got to know many of the nooks and crannies in Weymouth and the surrounding area. However, what has given me so much pleasure since joining the Weekly Tuesday Walkers Group, apart from the company of the other lovely walkers is the expressed amazement and awe from those that have not lived here long when they see a view for the first time. Yes, Weymouth does have empty shops as do most towns and you will stumble across the odd drunk but all in all Weymouth is a wonderful place to live. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make these walks such fun."

LOCAL WALKS AROUND WEYMOUTH

Start points – with grid references

1. Aldi Supermarket, **649797**, junction of Chickerell Road and Hampshire Road.
2. Bridging camp, **652773**, up Wyke Road past the church, end of Camp Road.
3. Bingleaves common, **682782**, up Boot hill, Rodwell Road, left at the sharp corner along Bingleaves Road to the end.
4. Belle View Road, **674779**, as above but straight on at the corner along Old Castle Road, first on left.
5. Heights Hotel, Portland, **692733**, across Chesil beach on Portland Beach road, straight on through Fortuneswell, up the hill and at the top, left at hotel roundabout along Yeates New Ground Road, on the left.
6. Church Open carpark, Portland **696713**, as above second exit roundabout through Easton towards Portland Bill. Carpark on the corner to the right just after the Portland Museum.
7. Cheyne Weares carpark, Portland **695705**, as above straight towards Portland Bill, ½ mile on left.
8. Maritime Hotel, Portland, **679702**, At Heights roundabout, 3rd exit to Weston, brown sign to hotel then Southwell, right at Sweet Hill Road to Business park, left to cliff edge carpark.
9. Radipole carpark, **674805**, up Radipole Park Drive from KFC etc, on right by the children's playground.
10. Southill, **665810**, on Weymouth Way by pass, at roundabout turn right on Field Barn Drive to Southill, parking at shopping centre past community centre
11. Morrisons, **669818**, junction of Dorchester Road and bypass.
12. Park and Ride, **675819**, up Dorchester Road, right at Spar lights, past Sainsburys Supermarket, turn right.
13. Upwey Station, **673834**, up Dorchester Road, past Weymouth way, right at the roundabout, Littlemore Road, first right.
14. Dorchester Road, Upwey, **673851**, top of Dorchester Rd, just before the slip road to dual carriageway to Dorchester
15. Hardy Monument, **609876**, on coast road to Bridport B 3157, in Portesham, turn right up the hill, right at top signed Hardy Monument, carpark on left. If you reach the Monument you've gone too far!
16. Oasis café, **698817**, along seafront to east Preston Road at Overcombe roundabout, on right Parking on road or (paying) behind shops.
17. Bowleaze, **705820**, as above straight on Bowleaze coveway.
18. Cedar Drive, **703829**, as above left at the Overcombe roundabout to Charlbury roundabout, right and first right.
19. Bank Barrow junction, **702853**, as above to Charlbury roundabout, left on Littlemoor road, first right on Coombe Valley Road to top. At T junction turn right, towards Broadmayne, parking about 100yds on right.
20. Osmington, **725828**, as Cedar Drive but continue straight on through Preston village to Osmington village.

1. ALDI Supermarket

Walk A: Chickerell Village and Church

Leave ALDI's Car Park by vehicle access entrance; turn right towards Weymouth along the main road. Cross and follow the brown signs to the left for Water Gardens." Turn left into Putton Lane."

Continue past Water Gardens on left and then follow the road to the right (Green Lane). Pass 2 detached houses and some grey industrial units on the left and just before a green roofed building in front of you, turn left.

Continue along this path with houses on your left and allotments, followed by fields on your right (Lilly Lane). Continue to end of this path until you pass a light blue rendered house on your left (No. 44 Oldridge Road)

Bear left with a substation and marsh land on your right. Continue along this residential road until you come to 2 white rendered terraced houses with railings and steps to the front (Willow View). Immediately to the left there are steps. At the top turn right and follow a path with grass either side to the road opposite Willowbed Hall and Chickerell Town Council offices (Putton Lane).

Cross over road, turn right and take first left in to Lower Way. Follow this road with mainly bungalows either side and when you arrive at the end junction, cross over and take the road to the left of Chickerell Community Library.

Walk through the Gardens to your right and then turn right. The Church can be seen on your right after a left hand bend.

Walk up to the Churchyard and take the path to the left of the Church Main Door. If the church is open it is well worth a visit. Before the main gravestones on an incline there is a path between shrubs to your left. Follow this uphill path.

Bear left at top and immediately right with the Lugger Inn at the end. Turn left onto road (West Street) and then turn right until reaching the main road.

Turn left, cross at the mini roundabout, take the right hand turn down Fleet Road. Walk down this road for 10 minutes until you see Butter Street on your left (just before the road veers to the right).

Do not go down Butter Street but turn immediately left up a Private Road and Bridleway. At the top, stop to admire the views to your right of The Fleet and Chesil Beach.

Continue to East Fleet Touring Park, passing the Whynot Inn and Reception/Shop on your left. Follow this undulating road called Fleet Lane (also with views to your right) until you reach the traffic lights.

Cross over to ALDI Car Park.

A good winter walk as on paved paths and hence NO MUD! – Linda

Walk B: Old Fleet Church

Cross the road at the lights and walk along Fleet Road, a country lane that affords wonderful views over the fleet lagoon. Follow it to reach East Fleet Caravan Park. Carry on round a left-hand bend and walk uphill to arrive at a junction#.

Turn left past a row of pretty cottages on Butter Lane for a short distance to reach the tiny Old Fleet Church, all that remains of the original larger church that was destroyed by the Great Flood of 23rd November 1780 along with the nearby village of Fleet.

Visit its tiny interior and read some of the interesting information sheets and placards depicting the church's history, dating back to the Domesday Book, and about the disastrous flood. An interesting note is that the church is mentioned in the famous book, "Moonfleet" by J. Meade Falkner.

Stroll around the pleasant church surrounds and drink in the peaceful atmosphere before leaving, turning right through a kissing gate to cross a stream on a wooden footbridge to reach another kissing gate.

Continue on a defined path to the left through lush vegetation above the fleet lagoon, eventually passing a holiday caravan park and, a little further on, a landing stage where there is a junction. Turn left to walk on a track with Crack Hill ahead, and eventually reach the road of the outgoing journey.

Turn right and retrace steps to the start.

The walk can be extended a little by walking on past Butter Lane # and following the road to reach the village of Fleet a short distance further on. There is a much newer and larger church again with an interesting history. After exploring return to Butter Lane and continue from #.

Jennie and Ron

Walk C: The Fleet and Littlesea.

Walk left down Chickerell road about 100 yds and turn right down by Tidmoor Farm, continue down the track until you hit the Coastal path. Glorious views over the Fleet, especially nice if you hit high tide!

Turn left along the side of Tidmoor Cove on the Fleet. Keep going on the coastal path, past the caravan site and up the steep grassy field. The signed coastal path goes through the bushes about halfway up but it is very narrow, bushy and usually muddy! A less exciting alternative has been made at the top of the bushes, choose either and continue along the side of the Fleet until you come to the Army Bridging camp where you have to turn left away from the Fleet. Follow their fence on two sides of a square until you meet a footpath to the left, going slightly uphill. Follow this straight up, ignoring a road to the right, until you come to a stile on the left, rather tucked away, just before the path bends right. This takes you down to Littlesea caravan park where they delight in hiding the path! Go past the large reception buildings and across the main drive .You are basically aiming straight across the park and to the right where there is a stile tucked in the corner, with the path leading to Fursdown Farm and from where you retrace your steps up the Tidmoor track back to Chickerell road.

If you cannot find that corner stile and path turn left down back to the coastal path by the Fleet and retrace your steps and up the Tidmoor track to the main road.

2. BRIDGING CAMP, CAMP ROAD.

Walk A: Pirates lane and the Fleet

Walk along the side of the Fleet, with lovely view of Portland ahead. Where the path follows round the bay, turn left up the lane, Pirates Lane. At the top turn right along West Hill Road, where the road bends left there is path leading off to the right. Follow this, past the alpacas, to the coast. Here you can either go down and walk right along the beach or keep to the cliff top – it depends on the tide. In either case you'll come out on the bay, and retrace your steps along the Fleet, with lovely view the other way!

Walk B: Littlesea and the Fleet.

Walk back up the hill and take the path left at the top of the Bridging camp until you come to the footpath leading off right up the hill. Go straight up the path, ignoring the road going off to the right, until you find the tucked away stile on the left, this is just before the path curves round to the right. Go over the stile and across the field, follow it through a small wood and over another stile. Just after the stile the path forks*, take the left one which leads to a large field, the coastal path is on the other side. (The original path is about half way down and signed, but very narrow, bushy and usually muddy! There is an alternative straight on at the top of the hill. Follow the path back to the Bridging camp, admiring views over Chesil beach to Portland en route,

**If you take the right hand path it goes down to the Caravan site – toilets/café etc! - then keep left towards the coast and join the coastal path as above.*

Memory by Joan Young

As part of our outings I have particularly enjoyed lunches at The Fat Badger, The Hive Beach Cafe for the Silver Surfer's deal, The Lobster Pot and various other cafes or pubs. When my daughter came with us to The Hive, staff allowed her the deal, to much laughter and exclamations "She looks very young for her age".

With our accumulated years of wisdom, some of us have also gained creaking ankles, knees, hips and backs. Sometime a little assistance is needed here and there, always willingly given. A sprained ankle on one occasion, and on another, a painful back which refused to carry its owner any further, needed sorting out. On both occasions the group was near a welcoming cafe. The Lobster pot at Portland Bill and the RSPB cafe at Radipole, where the casualties could rest, enjoy the sun, and wait to be rescued by car.

We haven't had many built-in lunches, although at least two walkers have used it as an excuse to find new places to visit after the walk! The ones Joan mentions were special Christmas meals, The Hive and The Fat Badger and one, The Lobster Pot, with heavy rain approaching – Anne

3. BINCLEAVES COMMON

Nothe and Stone Pier.

Walk over the common to the left, stopping to look at the memorial to Fowell Buxton and his work to have slavery abolished in the 1830s, with stone carving done by local students. Go down the hill at the far side of the grassy area and over the road bridge, turn right down the steps to Newton's Cove.

You are now in Nothe Gardens. Follow the lovely coast path right to the Nothe Fort, turn left up beside its walls (This is where the big BBC screen was when half of the gardens were fenced off and ticketed for the Olympic sailing in 2012). Past the Fort gate, take the steps down to the harbour side, turn right at the bottom and follow beside the river to the Stone Pier which is worth a visit.

Retrace your steps along the river; turn left up some stone steps past the boathouse. This brings you to the main drive onto the gardens. Cross the gardens as you like and find the path going to the right, above the one by the coast you came on. This path leads to the road bridge from where you can retrace your steps.

Note: Two café options, at the landward end of the Stone Pier, or in the Fort accessible without buying entrance to the Fort - that is worth doing when you have more time.

4. BELLE VUE ROAD

Walk A: Castle Cove beach.

Walk to the bottom of the road and turn left along Old Castle Road. As the road climbs from the dip there is a path going left, leading to new steps – each one marked with the name of the donor when they were rebuilt after cliff erosion.

Turn right on the beach along the lovely Portland harbour. At the end of the beach there are some rocks below the headland. If you are in luck and the tide is low you can walk round, if not, return to the steps and go left at the top. In each case you will be by the Castle Cove sailing club.

The path goes directly above the Sailing Club fence, follow this till you come to a bridge and some steps, turn right up onto the railway path, turn right following the path. When you see a road bridge crossing the path, this is Buxton Road. Climb up, turn right and right again into Old Castle Road.

(While in the area you may like to visit the restored Sandsfoot Castle, partner of Portland Castle, thanks to Henry VIII, across the harbour.)

Walk B: Railway path

Follow as above but do not go down to the beach. Once on the railway path, turn right and follow it right to the end. You are on Abbotsbury Road. Turn right, cross under Westway Road and follow the harbour side turning left along North Quay at the traffic lights.

Follow the river to the stone steps up the Nothe gardens, cross the gardens, take the path to the right and to the road bridge, cross Bingleaves Common, down Bingleaves Road and Belle Vue Road is the first on the left.

Notes.

1. *For more detail on this last section see Bingleaves Common walks.*
2. *To shorten the walk somewhat, from North Quay turn up Cove Street on the right to Hope Square and take any of the roads up the hill and over to Newton's Cove and back to Bingleaves.*

5. **HEIGHTS HOTEL, PORTLAND**

Walk A: Coast and two churches

Walk along the road past the Olympic Rings and the War Memorial to the roundabout and down New Road a short way. On the left, pick up the coast path signposted to Portland Bill. Follow the path, with glorious views to the right, around any diversions there may be because of rock falls, until you see St George's Church across the fields. Take the path left to the church "One of the most important 18th century churches in Dorset" dedicated in 1754 it is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust and staffed on a volunteer rota. By good luck there was a lady guide inside, who let us have a rest and explained the history and unusual features of the church, including pews that face the twin pulpits in the centre of the church so that some members of the congregation sat with their backs to the altar. Well worth a visit

We left the churchyard and walked down Reforme to the centre of Easton, taking in the architecture of the buildings as we went. We crossed Easton Street and headed left a short way before picking up Grove Road on the right. This led us past a recreation ground and to St Peters church on the left, a redundant Romanesque edifice, built by and for the prisoners in the nearby prison (now the young offenders institute) who were involved in building the Verne citadel and the Portland harbour breakwaters.

An unusual feature is the mosaic floor designed by a lady who was serving a life sentence for murder, and it was laid by her and her colleagues. The church is currently unsafe and closed. After skirting the church on the left we picked up a path opposite, near the bowls club. This led to the coast path again, skirting a quarry and leading to The Verne Battery, which guarded the harbour in the war. We took the steps down and bore left back to the car park.

Walk B: King Barrow and Sculptures.

Cross the road and take the footpath leading SE marked Legacy trail to the King Barrow Quarries which is a Dorset Wildlife Trust reserve. Descend the quarry with care and walk across it following the path which curves round to the right, through a rocky gully, and emerge at the main road. Cross this and take the footpath, nearly opposite, labelled Inmosthat Quarry which is an old horse drawn tram route. Follow this through the disused quarries and pass in a tunnel under the road that leads to Weston. Follow the signs to Tout Quarry. This is a fascinating Sculpture park, with over 50 sculptures, by professionals, enthusiastic amateurs and students. It includes Anthony Gormley's "Still Falling" well worth exploring. (or even having a go!).

Carry on towards the coast and join the coast path, there are marvellous views across Lyme Bay as far as Devon on clear day. The flat topped hill in the middle of the bay is Golden Cap, near Bridport, the highest point on the south coast. Turn right along the path and emerge on Priory Road hill. Cross this, turn right and join the path up to the Olympic Rings and the War memorial, fantastic views over Chesil Beach and Portland harbour to Weymouth. Return along the road to the carpark.

Maggie and Sandie

6. CHURCH OPE CARPARK, PORTLAND

Return up the road towards Easton onto Wakeham Road. Take Bumpers Road to the right. At the end is a footpath, turn left along it, running behind the houses. Follow it round past a recreation ground and parking area as it curves round to the right, with the Young Offenders institute on your left.

The path becomes a wide green sward running behind some houses and emerges onto the coast path. On top of the cliff turn right and follow the path keeping to the cliff side when it splits, quite rough underfoot in parts. Good views over the East Weares and across the bay to the white cliffs of Lulworth Cove etc

You emerge at a circular view point with seats, turn towards Rufus Castle which towers above, at the foot of the castle you have a choice:

Either: Go down the steps straight ahead, towards Church Ope cove but do not go down to the cove but turn right up a second staircase. This takes you round past the remains of St Andrews Church, good to explore. Then continue up the path which brings you out opposite the car park.

Or: Take the road to the right, past the Portland Museum, well worth a visit and onto the main road and the carpark.

7. CHEYNE WEARES, Portland

The walk is along the east side of Portland, Freshwater Bay to Portland Bill and back.

Walk along the road towards Portland Bill for 5/6 minutes. Turn left down the path towards the sea. The path follows the coast, glorious views, and quite rocky in parts, sticks and boots are useful. You pass by a group of original, and very valuable, 1920s beach cabins. Carry on to Portland Bill, past the lighthouse, to the navigation marker at the end. From here, turn right and follow the coast to visit and admire, but not climb up! The huge Pulpit Rock, which is all that is left of a rock arch. Retrace your steps and admire the amazing views the other way!

You can break your journey at the Lobster Pot Cafe as we did – the delay causing us to get absolutely soaked on the return journey! Four seasons in one day – and glorious scenery throughout.

Maggie and Sandie

Memories, Anne, One year in

We've explored in detail in our first year the Lodmore Valley, the Bowleaze and Bincleaves coastal areas, the Wey valley, the Fleet and Chesil beaches and coasts and inland areas of Portland.

Our second name is "Exploring Weymouth" because people, without exception and irrespective of how long they've lived in the area, have all on occasion said "I've never been here before!"

Our two resident dogs have welcomed a few companions, one even borrowed especially to come, but have not been over whelmed and no disputes have occurred. We've become experts on free parking venues and are conducting a survey on post walk coffee opportunities, not too many so far!

8. MARITIME HOTEL, PORTLAND

Cliffs and Strips

Go through the gate in the green fence to the cliff edge, turn left. This is the SW Coast path. Walk down the path until you reach the Coast Watch building on your right, move onto the grass and go straight down the hill to the carpark, onto the coast and right to the navigation pillar at the end – the real Portland Bill!

If you have time, and good views, you may like to turn right along the cliff edge and go to view, but not climb up! Pulpit Rock

Return and keep to the cliff edge keeping the Lobster Pot café (amazing, if expensive, crab sandwiches) on your left until you reach a group of wooden cabins. Walk to the end of these and find the path leading away from the coast up to the road.

Cross the road, walk right a little way and a path leads up to the left. The fields to the left are a remnant of the original medieval strip fields, still owned by Portland families. Follow the path up, you can see the hotel complex above you, and after several twists and turns you come out back on the Coast path. Turn right and back through the green fence.

Memories from Maggie

Mud, mud, glorious mud - plenty of it for Martin's foray around Hardy's Monument, the last walk I went on. Alas, it was so misty and murky that I didn't even glimpse the famous edifice! We really did have to be hardy to carry on to the end, with a bit of cowpat quicksand as another barrier. My boots needed a couple of washings to eliminate the whiff of 'essence de vache' but what good companionship and character-building.

The wonderful tiny church at Moonfleet: easy to imagine the tiny parish of so many years ago and what a setting! The church on Portland, with the timely welcome of the keen guide, allowing us a midway rest. I always enjoy looking at interesting buildings and architectural features

Portland walks - the group has really opened my eyes to what Portland has to offer, especially with the good bus route. That walk you led along the west coast path (Walk 8) in what turned out to be a mini gale? I remember following Sally as we inched our way along the wire, clinging on in fierce gusts. It was quite a test for those of us with insufficient ballast on board!

9. RADIPOLE CARPARK

Around Radipole lake nature reserve

Walk down through the gardens towards the shops, at the bottom cross the road and take the path across the carpark to the Wild life centre thatched building. Turn right here over the bridge; admire the ducks which will hope you've brought them frozen peas, their favourite apparently. Take the well maintained path between the reeds, turn right when you come to a junction. Follow this path round, several view points on the way with lovely views over the nature reserve.

Eventually you will come to a bridge over the actual River Wey. Turn left and retrace your steps back to the centre, interesting displays and café, and back through the gardens to the car.

If weather is good and water fairly low you can turn right here and visit the North Hide a further observation centre in the middle of the reeds. A few years ago, they put up boxes to encourage kingfishers on the side of the hide. It is not always open but it's not far to check

10.SOUTHILL

Walk A: Visiting the Wey valley

Go past the shops, turn right and then left up a narrow snicket, pass the entrance to Marchesi House, continue up hill on Sycamore Road. Continue up the path on the far side of the turning circle by the school. Continue along a narrow path and stile into the field. Note a lovely view up the cliffs on the coast.

Turn left along the field path to Radipole Lane. Cross the road and find the path on the lower side of the last house. Go downhill on a narrow path in the wide green lane, good for blackberries in the season. At the bottom turn left on Causeway. Take care, very fast traffic.

On the right side go through the gate and continue through the trees # Opposite a large house go left on the wire fenced path, uphill and drop down to a stile into Nottingham Lane. Again, it is a narrow road with fast traffic. The road winds round past stables and houses (jams, plants, and eggs are often on sale on the road here.), continue to a small camp site on the right

Cross the camp site to a narrow foot bridge, then follow the path to the right across the fields, keep to footpath nearest the River Wey. At a muddy gate cross the stream, the path goes between wire fences back again to # track through the trees), then left over the flat green bridge and along the path with bushes and trees on both sides. Turn right and continue until the path comes out on Radipole Lane opposite the thatched roofed "Letter Box Cottage."

At the small car park, you can choose whether to climb the steep pavement of Radipole Lane back to Southill, or cross the field, then turn right up the grassy hill side to come out eventually at the top of Southill Garden Drive. From here either go down the tarmac path on the left, and then turn right at the bottom of the hill or go straight down the road and turn right back to the car park.

Walk B: Visiting the Swannery

When other places are too muddy, this walk has quite a lot of road walking, so is good after rain.

Take tarmac path on R behind shops, cross Southill Garden Drive and continue and then take left turn up the back of the houses. At the top go into the field and drop down towards the River Wey. Turn left and come out into the small car park at Radipole. Go right past Letter Box Cottage on the road over the bridge and continue on Radipole Lane. Keep going uphill, over the bridge over Weymouth Way.

Turn first right into Ullswater Crescent.

Near the end take a snicket diagonally on right down to Radipole Park Drive. Cross the road and walk through the playing fields and the park, come out by the shops.

Cross the road and go down the side of the Swannery car park to the RSPB centre, toilets and coffee. After a short break take the path to the right over the bridge and across the Nature Reserve. At the junction keep left and take the path which crosses the main river. This leads out on the path by the side of The Weymouth Way. Cross road at the pedestrian crossing, caution fast traffic, turn right and the tarmac path will bring you out at to the original path and back to Southill car park.

Walk C: Across the fields to the river

Walk away from the shops through the car park to the exit by the Community Centre. Cross Radipole Lane and continue on it, bending right, towards the football ground.

After about 200 yards, watch out for the finger post in the hedge on the right. Go into the rough field and round the edge to the right. Follow tracks uphill, (lovely views all round) across another rough field to hedge and stile. Keep right to a second stile, follow path with fence on either side.

This eventually brings you out on the green lane (as in walk 10A). Go downhill, at the bottom turn left onto Causeway, (fast traffic) then right through gateway and across the green at bridge into a path between 2 hedges.

Turn right along a fenced path and come out onto Radipole Lane, opposite "Letter Box Cottage". Cross the small car park and 2 fields then take the path uphill on the right. Either keep left and go down the tarmac path or down the road (Southill Garden Drive) to the bottom. Turn right on tarmac path along the valley bottom back to the car park.

Janet Parry

11. MORRISONS

Radipole wood and the Wey valley

Take the steps out of the carpark up to Dorchester road, walk up the main road, cross and pass under the subway. At the end turn left down Manor Road until you reach a path on the left leading into Radipole woods. This is a lovely little reserve created when Weymouth Way was built and managed by volunteers.

Walk through to the end, turn right and down the road past St Ann's church. Continue on Radipole Lane until just before the river bridge; turn right along a signed narrow path until you reach a T-junction. Turn left on the path and cross the river, (#) continue until, just before the road, you see a path to the right. Follow this to the top past a house drive and turn right along a path which leads you to the river

Cross the river and straight across the field. Follow the road past the old kennels straight up until you see houses on the right, make your way through estate and back to Manor Road.

If it has been very wet, the field after you have crossed the river as above may be flooded. In this case better to turn right at the T junction, the path brings you out by the old kennels.

Memories from Jennie

During the summer months we have enjoyed delightful, well planned routes led by a number of different members of the group, starting from a diverse range of places that have taken us along the sea shore; over cliffs; through green and pleasant countryside; into charming villages, and also several times to explore the rugged beauty of Portland. A particularly memorable and enjoyable walk on Portland was led by Maggie and which took in a visit to St George's Church where we were greeted and invited to sit and listen to a brief talk on its history, fascinating and tremendously interesting. Built to replace the only parish church on the island in the 18th century, it has a strong Methodist influence, including a balcony, and is large and welcoming, though used now for special services only.

One other walk worthy of note took in a visit to Castle Cove via the handsome steps built to replace the former crumbled access, each bearing the names of generous donors. We then walked along the beautiful secluded beach to reach the far side, but because the tide was half in, had to clamber over huge rocks and boulders, or swim! We all felt a sense of adventure and congratulated ourselves upon our achievement afterwards and were rewarded with a brief rest before continuing on our way to complete our hugely exciting and enjoyable trek.

We look forward to many more walks through the winter months, and the companionship in a shared activity with like-minded people who appreciate the very considerable benefits of exercising in the great outdoors.

12. PARK AND RIDE

This large area with access both south towards the sea and the Lodmoor nature reserve, and north up to the ridge and Lorton Valley. There are any number of paths and alternative routes once you know the area.

Walk A: Up to the ridge

Take the tarmac path to the right of the road from the bypass roundabout and follow it through and under the main road, turn right and up the hill, parallel to the bypass.

At the first bridge turn right and keep right down to the Wildlife centre. Pass through the gate straight ahead and follow the path diagonally up the hill, through the wood – the Coffin Plantation – to the path at the top, turn right. (To your right are the remains of two brick buildings, they were part of secret bombing decoys known as “Starfish” in the war).

You will come to a seat with a glorious view over Weymouth and the bay. Turn right straight down the path; follow it through several fields to the gate at the left hand corner of the wood called Two Mile Coppice.

Follow the path through the wood and left at the end back to the Park and Ride.

Walk B: Past the Rugby ground

Walk towards the main entrance and turn left down the tarmac path, continue past and round the Rugby ground until you reach a path, turn to the left. This goes across the reeds and over a newly built bridge. At the end of the path turn left and through a gate, the path is leading up the hill across a field. At the top go through the gate and turn left. Follow the path across several fields, you leave the woods on your right and can see ahead to the supermarkets. After the last field turn left and through the gate to the wood, Two Mile Coppice, as above, follow the path through and left at the end

13. UPWEY STATION

Turn south past the station and take a diagonal path to the right of the houses until you reach a tarmac road, Lorton Lane. Turn left and follow the lane across the road bridge, and immediately turn left on the footpath, parallel to the road.

At the first kissing gate turn right and cross the grass keeping to the top of the ridge. Follow the path through a gap through the wood (on the right Starfish ruins - see Walk 12). Carry straight on along the top of the ridge, keep the hedge on you left. Wonderful views over the bay and Portland.

Go through the gap and pass along the top of the new buildings (paths are continually changing there at present) and turn right across the fields to pass behind the wood, Horse Lynch Plantation.

At the bottom of the wood turn right and aim back up the hill to re-join your ridge path. Go past the seat and through the small wood taking the path you came on This time keep to the right and as you approach the bypass and you will see a gate in the corner. Go down the windy path, down the hill and join a tarmac track, over the road, under the railway and back home.

14.DORCHESTER ROAD

Beautiful views and Upwey village

Just after the layby, before the road bridge, take the old road on left signed to Arla dairies. Carry on along the road ignoring waymarks to the right to Bincombe which would take you back over the dual carriageway.

Follow the Dorset Ridgeway signs to Hardy's monument for about a mile. Beautiful views right over to Portland to the south, Dorchester and Poundbury to the north. At a footpath crossroads take a left turn through a gate signposted Upwey Wishing Well. This gateway can be very muddy at times! Look out for the welcome stone bench just before the gate, on the left against the stonewall, and a plaque dedicated to Bertha who once used these fields 'as her playground'.

Go straight down the field through the shallow valley, which often contains cows. Look out for the waymarked gate in the wall below, and continue down this valley. There is a wire fence at the top of the slope on the right. At its end there is a tall telegraph pole, veer right here, up the slope, passing the pole to its left, and take a right hand diagonal path down the field to a gate on the bottom right. It is quite tricky to spot the gate but as you get nearer it becomes apparent.

Go through the gate into a small, overgrown picnic enclosure. About 10m on, exit onto Goulds Hill at the jcn with Friar Waddon Lane. Carefully cross the road and walk along Friar Waddon lane, about 200m until you see a drive on the left to a house marked East Hill Barn

Turn down here and about 20m on right is a footpath marker. Go over stile and continue to follow the path over a stream, veering left now, following the meandering path alongside a stream on your right, houses on left. This path eventually opens onto a lane with St Nicholas church on right, At the end you will come to Upwey Tea Rooms, a lovely place for a cuppa or maybe a stroll round their beautiful, watery garden where the spring emerges from the hill.

From here there are 2 alternatives. The first avoids a couple of tricky stone Stiles.

1: Carry on up the road, through Upwey, and take first road on left, Elwell St. This eventually brings you out onto Dorchester Road.

OR

2. At tea rooms, turn left for approx. 10m back up Goulds Hill, crossing the road to take a path on left signed Goulds Hill Close , "Private Road" Do not be deterred by this as the path goes between houses, over a stone stile and continues on to open out into a field, with a farm on the right. Climb stile and turn left to follow a fenced in footpath along the backs of houses of Elwell Street on the right. Eventually, this path opens out onto a driveway taking you right onto Elwell Street or right and left up Little Hill, taking you to the side of The Old Ship Inn, another possible stop if you time walk to coincide with opening hours!

Continue from here right onto Dorchester Rd, then left up to starting point at the lay by where you can continue forward, back to the lay by start point.

Dee

15. HARDY MONUMENT

Views, woods and an Admiral, (not a novelist!)

The area, Black Down, is unusual as it has a thick layer of gravel covering the chalk unlike the surrounding ridges and hence has far more trees, It is also open access land so dogs can run free, although some areas are marked on the gates as requiring leads as cattle are used to keep the vegetation down and restore the heathland . These can be ignored unless you see the belted Galloway cows, when they should be obeyed and the cattle avoided, by dogs and people!

Walk up towards the Black Down Stone Circle, recently built to celebrate the South Dorset Ridgeway. There is one stone block built facing true north and the other are aligned with the summer and winter solstices, with square windows allowing the sun to shine through onto the central block of Portland stone

Go through the gate and turn left, heading down hill towards the trees on a good surfaced path. Wonderful views to the north over rural Dorset, at the next gate turn left, and carry on downhill which will lead into the woods. Follow the path and you will eventually come to the road, with a wide parking area.

Cross over the road and bear right there are two tracks, side by side, take the right-hand track, through the small gate. These tracks are wide enough for vehicles. Follow the track which circles the hill crowned by Hardy's monument so it is above you, to your right. If you are lucky, you will see the odd deer.

Keep to the wide track as it twists and bends, the views are now to the south and the coast. When you have gone about half way round the hill and are approaching some coniferous woods the track reaches a locked gate with a pedestrian gate just before it on the left, go through the gate and turn right.

Go up the hill on the single path keeping left at the junction (the right-hand path leads up to the monument). Walk up the long straight footpath and you will come to the main road, with the monument on your right. Cross over the road and join the new gravel footpath. This will lead you up to the gate you started at. Go through the gate at 'Stonehenge' and you are back at the car park, with some interesting information boards.

If people want to visit the monument/ shorten the walk take a marked path up to the right which comes out by the wide parking area surrounding the monument (Open to the public on certain days)

From there take any of the paths to the west across the heath, or the road, back to the parking area.

A nice walk, lots to see depending on the time of year. There are a few ups and downs, and lots of twists and bends which make it interesting. The best time to take the walk is in May when the blue bells are out as these are lovely in the wooded section of the walk. Ideally, you also need a good clear day as the second half of the walk gives great views across countryside towards Weymouth. If you go when it's wet, expect MUD and lots of it!

Martin

16.OASIS

Walk A: Through Lodmoor Country Park, nature reserve.

Cross the road to the shops and turn left along the road towards Weymouth until you meet a path leading off to the right, follow this through Lodmoor Country Park until you reach Southdown Avenue, turn left. At the end of the road follow the path back into the reserve.

Follow this pathway over a new bridge and when you come to junction keep left, follow the path through to the coast, turn left parallel to the road and return to Oasis

Walk B: Lodmoor and an adult gym

Cross to the shops and turn right, turn first left down Heron Close to the carpark at the end. Cross the car park diagonally to the right and a pathway leading to a children's playground. Follow this pathway onto the road and turn left. Continue along the road (Southdown Avenue) until you reach a pathway into Lodmoor. Follow the path as in Walk A but do not turn left, keep straight ahead following the path through Lodmoor turning left near the end towards the outdoor gym and past the children's playground.

Continue following the path until the end and then either turn right, then left through the car park to the main road or turn left, then right, past the miniature railway the turn right following the path to the car park and onto the main road.

Either follow the path parallel to the road as in walk A or cross the road and turn left along the Esplanade back to Oasis.

17.BOWLEAZE COVE

Walk A: Cliffs and the Riviera Hotel

From Bowleaze Cove walk up the road until you reach the opening at the top. Continue through the opening follow the path to the top of the hill. Glorious views to the right over the bay to Portland. Continue straight ahead and down the hill, past the signpost, and through the gap in the fence at the end of the field The White Horse can be seen on the hill to the left. If you are doing this walk in August you will see a large temporary camp site. Continue upwards across the field, veering to the left until you see a gate and a white lane.

Continue up towards the gate and the two picnic tables at the top. Just before the gate turn right and continue down the path between the bushes at the top of the field. At the end of the field turn right and walk down to join the coastal path at the bottom. Turn right onto the pathway and continue to nearly the end of the field.

Turn right onto the Coastal Path along the bottom of the field. Towards the end of the field turn left between the bushes, over a small bridge onto a narrow path. Continue until you come to a gate on the right and steps going up the hill.

Go up the steps to the top and enjoy the view over the cliff top, note how much erosion there has been, take care to keep well away from the edge as it undercuts. Follow the coastal path leading down towards the rear of the Riviera Hotel at the bottom. Turn left and follow the path downwards, round the hotel

At the bottom either turn left and go across the beach to Bowleaze Cove or continue straight ahead along the coastal path to return to the start.

Walk B: Cliffs, views and Stables

As in Walk A walk up the hill until you reach to signpost on top of the field. Turn left following the path down towards the hedge at the bottom. There is a stile tucked away in the corner of the hedge, climb over and walk along a very narrow pathway along the side of the horse's fields and behind the stables, turn left through a gate leading into the caravan site.

Go through the gate, follow the road and turn right at the end. When the road bends to the left, turn right and then left at the next turn. Continue along the road, over the stream to the end, turn right and then left and go over the stile.

Follow the path through the trees. When you reach the open field go up the hill following the path to the left (not straight up). At the top turn right and follow the pathway until you come to a gap in the hedge on the left. Turn left and continue to and past the remains of the Roman Temple.

Follow the track down to Bowleaze Cove way to return to the start.

Janet A.

18. CEDAR DRIVE

Preston Old Village

At the end of the road turn left along Forehill Close and through to the field on the right. Turn left, aiming for the phone mast, straight on until you hit a surfaced path.

(If you turn right on this it will take you to Bowleaze Cove, covered on walks 16 and 17.)

Turn left through the gap in the hedge and immediate right, you are walking alongside the hedge. Just after a path leading through the hedge to the right, turn left on a small path.

** Note: this route is only passable in dry weather as it leads you across a swamp surrounding the River Jordan (which is neither chilly nor wide!)*

Carry on following the path through the campsite field to the unmade road, Church Road. (If you turn right here it also takes you towards Bowleaze cove with several paths signed through the campsite and to the left behind the stables).

*In wet conditions you will have gone straight on at * which takes you through the campsite keeping as far left as possible and the gate to Church Road)*

Turn left on Church Road up to St Andrews church, straight across the main road and onto Sutton Road. Take first left past the rectory to the end and follow the path curving to the right which takes you back over the River Jordan and out behind the Bridge Pub. Turn left back to the main road, turn right and find a path on the left just before Preston Village Hall. Follow this through the campsite, keeping left and you will emerge on a path that takes you back to the field path you came on. Turn right and home (or you can stay on the main road from the Bridge, Cedar Drive is the first on the left)

Memories from Chris

The walk from Bingleaves Road was the first we came to after our move to Weymouth. Although we thought we knew a bit about the area, it took us to new places to discover, fantastic views and interesting insights and opened up lots of ideas for future exploring apart from the opportunity to meet new people and chat along the way!

19. BANK BARROW JUNCTION,

After parking tidily walk along the farm track, there is usually a caravan parked on the side. At a path junction keep straight on and to the right you are following the top of the escarpment with wonderful views to the right over the sea to Portland and to the left the wide Dorset countryside. Keep going on this path, you will see paths coming up the scarp on the right from the White Horse. You cannot see him from the top but could always pop down and have a look! It is also a very popular place in the winter for hang gliding.

When you reach a bank of bushes on you left and the second path coming up, return along the path you came on until you see a signed gate to the left, marked Bincombe. Go through and carry on, past the Trig point, following the top of the escarpment, through two fields (one usually has sheep in) with glorious views of Sutton Poyntz, the bay and Portland (and cruise ships if they are still there!). Keep going until the path begins to move downhill and you can see the road, with a building, ahead.

Here you have a choice.

One: carry on to the road, turn right and up the hill to the top, turn right back to the cars – rather a long, hilly walk!

Two: return on your path for two fields, keep an eye out on the left for a gate that returns to the farm track you came on, retrace your steps to the cars.

Three: If we have organised a car shuffle to return drivers up the hill to collect cars, go down to the road, turn left a little way and find a gate and path going right. This goes level round the bottom of a small hill and comes out at the roadside parking area.

This sounds more complicated than it is! Because we are on top of the escarpment there is no circular route without climbing up and down. But it is worth it for the views!

20. OSMINGTON

Views and playgrounds

Walk up the main road back towards Weymouth until you see a signed path leading left (just before some new building.) Follow this to a junction and take the right-hand stile/gate. You then walk diagonally down the field towards some bushes in the bottom right hand corner. As you walk down there are beautiful views across the bay to Portland.

Follow the path through the bushes and join a wide track leading down to Ewelease farm. (If you are there in August there will be a large busy temporary campsite complete with banks of solar panels, showers etc)

Walk down through the farm towards the coast until you reach the SW Coast path, turn left. It will lead you past the bottom of PGL childrens centre with lots of rope swings, climbing frames etc. From there you can either make your way up the path and join the track (Shortlake Drive) up from the centre, or pass through the gate to the right on the SW path and follow the path up the hill and join the track further up

It leads back to the Community Centre, (land donated by Pontins) and the main road in Osmington