

THE ZENECANS WALK GROUP AT SWANAGE: 11-13 September, 2012.

The Zenecans hold their annual events in a recognised favoured walking area of the country, generally alternating between the north and south. For this tenth annual get-together the Dorset coast was chosen and it must be amongst the finest venues in the country. Eighteen of the twenty members made the trip, including two newcomers, Neil Niblock and John Humphreys, and as always it was a wonderful occasion. The weather behaved itself despite very dodgy prior warnings. It is often the case that this coastal area escapes when much of the rest of the country gets downpours. Also, Bob Noon and Peter Froggatt, with help from Mike South, had done their homework and produced an excellent itinerary and found fine accommodation. We stayed at the Purbeck House Hotel, very conveniently close to the town centre. The food and rooms were excellent and the staff could not have been more pleasant and helpful. Congratulations to all.

On the first day we were able to check in before lunch and sort ourselves out in good time for the afternoon walk. We all met up outside the main "fish and chip" shop near the shore at 1.45pm and battle commenced. The walk was east along the beach and then, after retracing some of the way (leader's loss of concentration), eventually found the steps that took us up to the top of the cliff. We proceeded to Old Harry Rock with fine views over Poole Harbour and surrounds. Harry Crossley turned rather white and showed some diffidence when it was suggested that we took his photo with his namesake in the background. We returned to Swanage via Ballard Down, an overall distance in excess of six miles.

On Wednesday morning, after admiringly scrutinising the old steam engines at Swanage station, we took the steam train up to Corfe Castle. Our walk took us in a southerly direction to the coast at Chapmans Pool, then east to Worth Matravers, a distance of nearly six miles. Here we had a picnic lunch by the pond and a rather prolonged stop at the Square & Compass. Here also was the option to finish the day's walking or continue on to Swanage via the coast. The weather continued fine and most opted for the latter. The route took us past Winspit, Dancing Ledge where we had a brief stop, Durlstone lighthouse and then the Archeological Museum for another brief stop. Finally, we descended into Swanage close on six o'clock for a well-earned pint. Total distance just over twelve miles.

During the evening dinner we discussed future meetings and in a miraculously short time agreed the venues and organisers for the next ten years, some of us rather conveniently forgetting the possible impact of Old Father Time!

The final morning was bright and sunny and we took in the fine views and geology of the walk from Lulworth Cove to Durdle Door, combined with a visit to the Lulworth Visitor Centre on return. Here most of us bade our farewells or did so at the Pub at East Lulworth. We repeated how much we had enjoyed the long-held company and friendship and were looking forward again to next year's event in Suffolk.

Zenecans Present: Bob Noon, Peter Froggatt, Mike South, Alastair Aiken, Gary Stoddart, Kevin Eddison, John Cotterill, Peter Thomas, Harry Crossley, Ray Tucker, Peter Rankin, John Gray, John Coutts, Ian Stott, Chris Ursell, Peter Northwood, John Humphreys, Neil Niblock.

PETER NORTHWOOD. SEPTEMBER 2012.













