

STAN AND PAM CONTINUE ALONG THE SOUTH WEST WAY

.....the next day was fine but blustery, and clothes that were not completely dry we pegged to our haversacks. We made our second ferry crossing from Salcombe to E. Portlemouth. Lovely coastal scenery past Gara Rock & Prawle Point to Lannacombe. An old friend of Stan's lived in the house by the beach and we called for water and to say Hello. He insisted on a glass of home made Elderflower wine. We had left our waterproofs on the hall floor. A lady-friend of his called and, thinking they were his, hung them up. We left without them but remembered after not walking too far and went back for them.

Fortified by the wine we pressed on, past lovely Mattiscombe beach and climbed to Start Point. We treated ourselves to an ice cream at the Trants Hotel. Hallsands.

At Beesands, by chance, we met old friends from Birmingham who were staying in a caravan and were just about to leave for home. We managed to beat the tide and walked along the beach to Torcross, then on to Stoke Fleming where we stayed the night at a campsite. Stoke Fleming to Dartmouth to buy Stan a new hat. He had left it in the pub, and we started too early to collect.

We crossed to Kingswear by ferry and found our way to where the Carlisle's lived overlooking the Dart. (They used to live in Ringmore.) We had coffee and a chat then walked the 5 mile new coastal path to Brixham. Although beautiful the path was quite gruelling & exhausting. We passed through an area dedicated to the memory of Col. H. Jones.

We don't do any particular training but rely on not overdoing things for the first few days: but my muscle started to ache and was glad when we reached Brixham. We had to climb a steep boulder strewn track to reach a farm. The farmer warned us that the sheep shearers were coming and we would have to camp in an outlying field. We were taken there in the farmer's 'buggy.' The site was next to a side road. I was in the tent out of sight. A gentleman in a very smart car stopped and asked Stan if he was lonely and made a proposition! He then spotted me and made an excuse that he had lost his way and drove off. We had a dehydrated meal in the tent that night as it was too far to the pub. The next morning we walked back to the farm just as the shearers arrived. Surprise surprise out of the van stepped Jonathan Stainsby from Ringmore. (of Fathers4Justice fame.) Stan found the hat he had left in the pub in the bottom of his haversack. So now he had two hats, and grumbled all day about the extra weight he was carrying. (Men!)

The next two days eventually brought us to Dawlish Warren. Through Torbay. Lovely spots such as Ansteys Cove & Shaldon, very interesting. Another ferry crossing to Teignmouth. The Warren itself is a nature reserve.

On to Starcross walking between the railway line and the river. Starcross Sailing Club is the oldest in Britain. I.K. Brunel's unsuccessful Atmospheric Railway ran alongside. A pumping station can still be seen at Starcross. Something to think about as we tramped the 3½ miles to Starcross ferry and crossed to Exmouth. Stan helped a girl onto the ferry as she had a pushchair and 2 very young children. Another surprise, she was Alice Mason's Great Niece.

We decided to explore Exmouth and tried to leave our haversacks at the police station. They would not allow this because they may have contained explosives! (I.R.A.) Another 3½ miles, mid morning found us sunbathing on Budleigh Salterton beach. A lovely quiet place so clean and no litter. The painting by Millais 'The Boyhood of Raleigh' has part of the sea wall as a setting. Raleigh was born nearby at Hays Barton. We walked inland to cross the River Otter, through a nature reserve. Then on to Ladram Bay with its 2 famous Red Pillars where we spent the night at a camp site. A couple in a trailer tent made us a cup of tea. Very kind of them. I think they felt sorry for us. (We were 'proper camping' not living it up in a trailer tent!)

Did you struggle with Adrian's Pancake Quiz?

Here are the answers

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| 1. Shortbread (or Short Grained Rice) | 11. Pork Pie |
| 2. Turkey | 12. Porridge |
| 3. Plum duff (½ point for Plumb anything) | 13. Treacle Tart (½ point for Treacle anything) |
| 4. Mince Pies | 14. Pancake |
| 5. Mustard | 15. Cheese Straw |
| 6. Figgy pudding (½ point for Twiglets) | 16. Flaky pastry (½ point for Pastry) |
| 7. Brussel sprouts | 17. Aylesbury duckling |
| 8. Brandy batter | 18. Pumpkin pie (or just Pumkin) |
| 9. Grouse (½ point for Mulled W(h)ine) | 19. Barbecue |
| 10. Cookies (or SPAM) | 20. Easter egg |

Let me know if you got them all right or if you think you have any better answers!

Adrian Bull