

Caradon Monthly Walks – Walking for Health

Wednesday 3 December 2014 – “In and Out of the Lines” – a stroll around South Devonport. In a departure for the group, a circular city walk of around 4.5 miles around the streets and green spaces of south Devonport. Stunning views across Plymouth Sound, Regency architecture, naval history and listed public parks – some of you will discover parts of present day Plymouth* you didn't know existed.

Date/time/meeting point: Wednesday 3 December 2014 at 10.00 am for prompt 10.30am start, returning around 3pm. Meet at the entrance to Devonport Park situated at the junction of New Passage Hill and Ferry Road, Devonport. Postcode approx PL1 4FB.
https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?authuser=0&hl=en&mid=zFKMbzv_V79U.kJ4gSusasBPs

Parking/transport: Please make your own arrangements. There is some unregulated parking in New Passage Hill, Morice Street, Fore Street (north of Chapel Street) and some other streets in Devonport. Also in Torpoint around Marine Drive, Salamanca Street, Barossa Road etc. The Torpoint Ferry is free to foot passengers and runs about every ten minutes; the crossing time is around ten minutes & its 0.25 mile from the Ferry to our meeting point. Nearest train station is Devonport in Portland Road, 0.4 miles approx, served by trains from Plymouth, Cornwall and the Tamar Valley Line. There are a number of buses serving the area including services 81 & 32.

Dogs: Not advisable but if brought, must be kept on a short lead at all times. Dogs not allowed in our lunch venue.

Toilets: There are toilets on the Torpoint Ferry, at the Ferry termini on both sides of the river and at Mutton Cove about 2 hours into our walk

Lunch: Hot drinks & cakes from £1, soup/bread, pizza slices, and sandwiches etc £2 - £3 approx, will be available from the Column Bakery, Devonport Guildhall, where we will stop for lunch break around 1.30pm. Or bring a packed lunch. There is fresh bread available to buy from the Bakery and hopefully we will get the chance to look around this lovely building dating back to 1822 and see the 16' Robert Lenkiewicz painting (*Plymouth Building Its Future*) which is on show at the Guildhall until Christmas Eve.

Walk Information: We will walk through Devonport Park – which is Victorian, Grade 11 listed and contains several historical monuments & listed buildings and remains of the Lines. We will leave via Fore Street. We then go down the old military road and past the gatehouse to Raglan Barracks, along past The Brickfields, under the road at Stonehouse Bridge and the now filled-in top of Stonehouse Creek, into the top half of the highly industrialised Richmond Walk. We will walk past boat and other yards, and Mayflower Marina, into Mount Wise Park where there are stunning views over the Sound. We will visit the Scott Memorial and the Redoubt. We will drop down to Mutton Cove and then walk up to the Guildhall, Egyptian House & Column area (what remains of Foulston's 'picturesque group') for a short lunch break before walking back past fine 19thc terraces interspersed with newer developments, down the bottom section of Fore Street (which was once the town centre and the finest street in the area but was heavily bombed during the war) to Cornwall Beach and back to our starting point. From Mutton Cove onwards we will nearly always be close to the Dockyard Wall.

Distance/difficulty/hazards: Around 4.5 miles. Easy/moderate - no stiles but there are a couple of short hills, a flight of steps and some of the ground is rough and uneven. Quite a bit of street walking in a busy city centre; you must be responsible for your own safety in watching out for traffic, bicycles, etc.

Walk Leaders: Jack & Brigitte Mann 01579 344631 or jack@trembraze.plus.com. Supported by Nigel Brooks & Ted Molenkamp.

www.cmwg.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/caradonmonthlywalkers/>

<https://twitter.com/caradonwalks>

History: This is not a history walk but for those who like a bit of background ... Devonport* – or Plymouth Dock or just Dock – was originally an independent town in its own right and at times, had a larger population than both Plymouth & Stonehouse with impressive & elegant architecture including Regency terraces & public buildings designed by London architect John Foulston. Dock started with the small settlement of Cornwall Beach and grew up outside the dockyard walls to serve the burgeoning Royal Naval docks. Around the town were barracks, a military road and defences - commonly known as the Dock Lines - which started as earth banks and ditches but over time, became limestone walls with three guarded gateways. Beyond the Dock Lines, the War department owned the fields. These were kept clear of trees, hedges and building development to produce an open area with no cover for the enemy known as the glacis (or killing fields). As the military no longer had use for these areas outside the Lines, they essentially became Devonport Park & the Brickfields. Within the Lines similarly Mount Wise outgrew its military use and became a public park. Dock became Devonport in 1824 and Devonport Column was designed to commemorate the change of name. Devonport, Stonehouse & Plymouth were amalgamated to form the then town of Plymouth in 1914. Devonport was very heavily bombed in WW2 and the heart of the town – the historic commercial area around Fore Street and the market building - was extensively damaged. It was subsequently requisitioned by the MOD and became the walled-in South Yard Stores Enclave incorporated into the Dockyard & virtually dividing the town in two until released by the MOD in 2005-07. In recent years the Dockyard has relinquished the storage enclave land and there has been a major rebuilding & regeneration programme.