

Walk 1 – **A circuit round the ‘rec’.** *Easy*

Walk 2 – **Exploring the village.** *Easy*

Walk 3: **A road walk past cottages and a pub.** *Easy/Moderate*

Walk 4. **On the path to Lower Lytchett.** *Moderate – 4 stiles on longer route*

Walk 5. **Down to the Church and on.....** *Moderate – 5 stiles on walk 5, and 9+ on walk 5a.*

Walk 6: **Coombe Almer and Loop Farms.** *Moderate/Hard*

Walk 7 **To Woodbury Hill for the Fair.....** *A day out! – This is reproduced, with some ‘editing’ from the 1986 book Lytchett Matravers Countryside walks. It is approx 13.5 miles.*

Walk 8. **Walking around the periphery of Lytchett.....** *Hard*

Walk 1 - **A circuit round the ‘rec’.** *Easy*

Start from the village hall car park at the recreation ground (walk to it if you can). Walk towards the village hall and turn left onto the tarmac path. About half way along this side – pause to enjoy the fabulous views towards Old Harry Rocks and the Purbeck Hills. Carry on along the path, turning left just before the back gate out of the recreation ground. You will have a tarmac path along this and the next side. Walk back up and along the car park.

Try this once or more. Vary things by going faster along one side and slower along another. This simple walk can be a good start for ‘non- walkers’.

**Distance per circuit: 0.25 miles/ 0.4 kms    Step count per circuit: 880**

## Walk 2 – Exploring the village.

*Easy*

Start at the village hall car park. Walk up towards the hall and turn left onto the tarmac path. Follow this straight on until you leave the recreation ground and go onto Eldons Drove - there is no signage to indicate the name of road but you come out opposite a house called Windrush.

Turn right here. Walk towards the T junction - on the left notice the pump which was placed by the WI in 1980 to mark the site of the Parish Well . At one time, the recreation ground itself was a farmer's field.

At the T junction, turn right towards crossroads. Note the house on the right called 'The Vineyard'. It stands on the site of the original school. When you reach the crossroads, carefully cross over the High St. to reach the War Memorial. You are now in Lime Kiln Road. With your back to the Memorial, look back across the road to 'Victory Court' flats which was once the site of the Victory Hall . Lytchett Matravers WI used to meet there and some members can recall that children from the school would arrive at the meeting just in time for tea!

Continue walking along Lime Kiln Road until you reach Turbetts Close on the left. At this point you can see the old school building dated 1874 on the brickwork. As you walk along, the names of some of the new houses give a clue to the type of buildings in the area - including a baker's shop and a Wesleyan Chapel. Continue along Lime Kiln Road, staying on the left hand side – crossing Castle Farm Road and Old Chapel Drive until you reach Flowers Drove. Cross this, and then the road you have been following (you can see both ways here) and reach the junction with Wareham Road.\* Turn right into Wareham Rd and continue - passing the Methodist Chapel on your right. At the Rose and Crown cross roads, turn right and walk back up to the Village Hall Car park.

**Distance: 1 Mile / 1.6 kms**

**Steps: 2000**

**\*Walk 2a – Make it bigger!**

At the junction with Wareham Road continue straight along ( now Wimborne Road) passing several cottages and a couple of fields on your left. **Take great care where the footpath ends and you have to walk on the road. You may wish to cross the road before it bends round to the right for better vision).** Continue until a few yards past a footpath sign going to the left. Just beyond the 30mph sign you will come to a footpath sign, pointing to the right –'1/3 Huntick Road'. This is a relatively new path and will lead you through to Huntick Road. It is usually good under foot but can get a little overgrown in summer. At the end, turn right, using the verge if possible until you are able to cross to where the pavement starts on the corner of Huntick and Foxhills roads. Walk on until you reach the Rose and Crown cross - roads. Cross over, and continue up the High street and back to the village hall car park.

**Distance: 1.7 miles/2.7 kms**

**Approximate step count:**

**3,520**

**Walk 3: A road walk past cottages and a pub.** Easy/Moderate

A couple of road walks are included as they can be useful to do in wet weather, when the footpaths may get difficult.

Starting from the village hall car park, walk towards the hall, then turn left on to the tarmac path and out onto Eldons Drove. Turn right, and then left onto Middle Road at the T junction. Carry on walking down Middle Road enjoying the lovely view across Poole harbour to your left. The road bends right and then left and eventually you will reach a turning on the right – Bartoms Lane\*. If you walk in January, look out for early violets in bloom on the bank on the right just before you reach the turning.

Turn right and continue on up the steep hill until you meet Eddy Green Road. In February, snowdrops can be seen here. Turn right onto Eddy Green Road. The name derives from 'Neddy Green Road' – the place where male donkeys were kept - further on, it becomes 'Jennys Lane' (at the junction with Peatons Lane) - the place for the ladies! Keep on the road and watch out for primroses on the banks in spring.

Continue on this road. Dolmans Hill and Peatons Lane meet it from the left\*\*. Be careful on this dark, narrow section of the road. Eventually you will reach a T junction. Turn right here, and walk back along the High Street passing the Chequers Inn on your right. Keep going straight on until you see the village hall and car park on your right.

**Distance: 1.5 miles/2.4 kms**

**Steps: 3000**

\*Walk 3a **Make it bigger – taking in Dolmans Hill!** *Moderate*

Follow walk 3 until you reach Bartom's Lane. At this point, continue straight on, staying on Middle Road until you reach a T junction. Turn right onto Halls Road. There is a wide verge here. Look out for daffodils in spring and a mile stone. At the end of the long verge there is a small lane to the right to Quarr Farm and cottages. Do not take this, but continue on past the hedge of a house to the next right turn. This lane is the start of Dolmans Hill. The road bends sharply to the right a little way along, and continues uphill for about a mile passing cottages, farms and footpaths on both sides. Eventually, the road turns sharp right (you will see a footpath going straight ahead). Keep on the road and up the hill. As the road reaches the top, stand by the field gate on the right for a moment and enjoy the beautiful view over Poole Harbour. Now the road drops gently down and eventually reaches Jenny's lane. Turn left and continue as for walk 3 from \*\*

**Distance: 3 miles/5kms**

**Steps: Approximately 6,000**

Walk 4. On the path to Lower Lytchett.      Moderate. 4 stiles on longer route

Start this walk from the Rose and Crown Pub. With the pub car park to your right, walk down Huntick Road, crossing a side road, until you reach Foxhills Road. Turn right onto this road. You will see a bridleway sign on the opposite side of the road. Do not take this path but continue on down the road. At the point where the road bends around to the right, cross over and keep straight on – this is still Foxhills Rd. You will keep on this road for quite a long way passing Deans Drove on your right, until you reach a Bridleway on your left.\* Turn on to this Bridleway and follow as it winds its way down a hill and round a gentle right hand bend. Keep on and look out for a path coming in from the left. Turn left on to this path. \*\* It will go left and then right skirting a field. Continuing on with the field on your right and woodland on your left – walk along the length of 2 fields. The path rises gently until you reach a ‘dog leg’ left and then right (this can be very muddy and water-logged in the winter and after rain). The path eventually emerges by the junction of Foxhills and Huntick Road. Cross over Foxhills and continue walking up Huntick until you reach the Rose and Crown.

Distance: 2.3 miles/ 3.5 kms

Steps: 4,600

Walk 4a A longer walk exploring ‘Lower Lytchett’

Follow walk 4 to \*. Do not take the bridleway on your left but continue on until you reach the next bridleway, also on the left, and running through woodland. Where the path divides, turn left. Go through the field gate and cross the field at the back of Hill Farm Buildings. Keep to the pathway to the next farm gate. Follow the way mark signs, turning left immediately after the field gate. Follow the hedge alongside the copse and climb over the stile on the left. The path continues between two hedges and over another stile onto the road at Post Green.

Turn right and follow the road through Post Green until the roads diverge. Take the right hand fork and continue on this road until it meets the main road through Lytchett Minster. Turn left and walk through the village noticing cottage and street names which identify buildings and occupations from the past! Keep going, passing the St Peter’s Finger pub on your right and then the Minster Church on your left. You will see a footpath signed to your left running between the Church and a car park. Take this path, cross the stile and traverse the field to another stile opposite. Once on the road, turn right. Keep going, retracing your steps through Post Green. Go on past the footpath on your left (which brought you to Post Green). You will see a clear track ahead of you as the road bends to the right. Go ahead on to this track and follow it round to the left, passing a solar farm on your right. A little way along, look out for a path coming in from the right. This is your path back to Lytchett. Turn right onto it, and follow walk 4 from \*\*.

Distance: 5 miles/8 kms

Steps: 10,000

Walk 5. Down to the Church and on.....Moderate. 5 stiles on walk 5, and 9+ on walk 5a.

Start at the Village Hall car park. Walk up towards the village hall and continue on up the High St. Go straight over Middle Rd at the cross roads by the War Memorial continuing on past the Chequers Inn and Jennys Lane. A short distance on , just past the water tower on your right, turn left through a metal gate and on to a footpath. This is Church Path, and in spring and early summer you can see wild daffodils in the woods on your right, closely followed by bluebells, and wood anemones and primroses on the banks either side. Enjoy the view at a stile, but do not cross it- continue on down to your right towards St Mary's Church. In late winter you can see snowdrops to your right at the bottom of the path, and in the Churchyard.

Go through the metal gate and follow the path which goes to the left of the Church and out into the car park. Turn right here, and follow the lane out to the road.

Turn left on to the road - be aware of traffic. Just opposite a lane to your right you will see a stile and footpath sign at the top of the bank on your left. Cross the stile and go straight ahead along the right of the field. Cross the next stile, now keeping to the left of the next field until you reach woodland. Cross the stile ahead of you (it can be very muddy here following heavy rain and in winter) and continue ahead. A gravel track goes straight ahead \*, but turn left here towards a stile. Cross this, and follow the path with woodland on your right and a field on your left to the next stile. Go over the stile and turn left. The path here avoids a very muddy part of the track by going up and through the trees immediately to the left. It then continues round to the left until reaching the end of Peaton's Lane. Walk up the lane. The fields to your left contain the 'footprints' of the original medieval site of Lytchett Matravers.

At the top of Peaton's Lane turn left onto Jennys Lane. You will eventually reach a T junction with the High Street. Turn right , and retrace your steps to the Village Hall.

Distance: 2.8 miles/4.5 kms

Steps: 5,600

Walk 5a \*Take it much further.....

Moderate/Hard

Take the gravel track straight ahead. A little way on, there is a small opening onto a footpath on your right. Turn left on to the footpath and follow it round the edge of the wood until you meet a well defined track. The bluebells in this wood are a glorious sight in Spring. At the track, follow it round slightly left and then right and go straight on down a hill and then up again towards a copse of trees. Just beyond the trees you will come to a stile. Cross this, and turn left, following a footpath until you reach a road. Turn left on to the road, and follow it until it turns sharp right. You will see a 'green lane' on your left. You need to take this - but first enjoy the view of Morden and it's Church over the hedge on your right. A little way along the green lane you will see a stile ahead of you. Although there is a way back to Lytchett across this, on this occasion turn right onto a footpath. Keep on this for some way until you meet a 'fork' in the path. Look for a stile on your right leading you into woodland ( see note below). Cross this and walk ahead through the woodland , keeping fairly close to the fence and hedge on your right. The path eventually leaves the woodland and crosses several fields and stiles until it meets the road at Dolmans Hill. Cross over the road onto the next footpath, known as Gypsy Lane. This path eventually meets Eddy Green Road where you turn left.

Follow this road passing Dolmans Hill and Peatons Lane on your left until you meet a T junction with the High St. Turn right and retrace your steps to the Village Hall.

Note: If you do not like crossing too many stiles, take the left fork here and follow the path to the road at Dolmans Hill. Now turn right and follow the road until you meet Gypsy Lane on your left as described above).

Distance:4 miles/6.25 kms

Steps:5,600

Walk 6: Coombe Almer and Loop Farms.

Moderate/Hard

Start at the Village Hall car park. Turn right out of the car park and walk down the High St, going straight over at the cross roads into Huntick Road. Continue on past two side roads to the right until you see a footpath sign on your left ( be careful on the road as you approach this). Take this new footpath, which eventually reaches Wimborne Rd. Taking care crossing this road , you will see a stile and footpath sign opposite. Over the stile, follow the path across the field close to the hedge on your right to the next stile. The path continues straight ahead after this stile, but now with the hedge on your left, until you reach a 'kissing gate' onto a road ( Flowers Drove). Walk straight ahead along Flowers Drove passing the English Oak Vineyard at Warmwell farm on your left. At the next cross roads, go straight over into Sandy Lane. Where the lane turns around to the right, go straight ahead onto a marked bridleway. The way passes through a gate into a copse and then through another gate into a field, with the fence on your right. A little further along there is another gate through the fence after which you turn left and walk down the field, now with the hedge on your left. The farm ahead of you is called Coombe Almer. Go through the gate out of the field opposite the farmyard and immediately turn left on to a track. Keep going along this track, but just before you reach the road, look for a gap with a stile on your left, and cross this on to a farm road. Walk straight ahead on this road towards Loop Farm. The lane passes through the farm yard and bears left, then right going uphill until it reaches Castle Farm Road. Turn right , walking back into the village past the allotments on your right. You will eventually reach the junction with Limekiln Road. Turn right here and then left at the crossroads by the War Memorial, back to the Village Hall.

Distance: 3 miles/ 5 kms

Steps:6,000

Walk 7 To Woodbury Hill for the Fair.....This is reproduced, with some 'editing' from the 1986 book Lytchett Matravers Countryside walks. It is approx 13.5 miles – and could probably be classed as a day out!. From where the walk 'turns round' there is the chance to carry on a short way down into Bere Regis for a pub lunch, but perhaps the better plan is to take a picnic to eat on Woodbury Hill! Here you can imagine the fair taking place during the last week in September right up to the 1930s, and consider that some of the good folk of Lytchett would think nothing of walking this far for a day out! It would be a good idea to have the OS map with you for this one.

Start at the Village Hall. Leave it on your left and walk up the High St, going straight ahead at the War Memorial cross roads. Pass the Chequers Inn and turn left into Jennys Lane. Pass the first turning on your right (Peaton's Lane) and then, almost immediately, turn right onto Dolman's Hill. Where the road turns sharply to the left, enter the footpath on your right and after a few steps, look for another footpath over a stile on your left. The waymarked path crosses two fields and leads down to a track through woodland. When you reach another field go ahead across this towards a stile on the far side. Cross this, and walk ahead on the Green Lane until you reach a tarmac road. Turn right on to this, and keep on until the road turns sharp left and down into the village of Morden. Pass the Church and continue to where the road divides at a War Memorial . Follow the road to the right and at the crossroads go straight over towards West Morden.

Continue along the lane and, ignoring a turning on the right, go round the corner to the left, reaching another junction. Here turn right, past the houses and buildings, and walk on uphill and around the bend.

Ahead is West Morden Farm with a bridleway beside it on the left. Walk up the track with the farm buildings to your right, to where the bridleways meet. The view here is magnificent – across the fields to Winterborne Kingston. Turn left, and walk down beside the wood and through the gate at the end of the track. Cross the field diagonally to the right to the hunting gate. Cross the next field and pass through another gate and down the track. On old maps this is called Morden Lane. This track may be difficult to negotiate following heavy rain.

The track leads uphill past two oak trees to emerge on to a road. Cross over to the bridleway ahead ( the signpost is in the hedge on the right) and follow the track out to the next road at Newport. Turn left , past the farm and cottages on the right, and walk up the hill to the road junction – a 'splayed' crossroads. Turn right on to a road marked as a 'no through road' and continue on, passing the Old Post office to the left, and the Church on the right. At the end of the lane you reach a gate into a field. Cross this and enter the woods through another gate.

Follow the track through the woods, passing several 'cross tracks' and eventually reach a five point crossway . Take the second track on the left which leads uphill to a wonderful view to the left. Then walk on to Woodbury Hill.

At the hill fort, the bridleway continues immediately ahead across the track. Go through the gate and continue alongside the grassy escarpment.

The path leads towards the right, down beside a wood and through the trees to a narrow lane. Turn left, and almost a hundred yards along is a footpath into the trees- again on the



left. This is a steep path with steps into the bank, most probably one of the lower ramparts of the hill fort.

Climb out of the trees and up ahead is a gateway with a lone pine tree. At the gate into the hill fort, turn back and look down into the village of Bere Regis.

Go up through the gate. The fairground is all around. Woodbury Hill farm is now ahead, so cross the ancient fairground diagonally to the left of the farmhouse, to the three pole gate in the distant corner. Through the gate, turn left, away from the farm and the hill fort, and then right down the grassy track again.

When the hedges of the track give way to woodland, at the top of the slope, the view will bring a gasp of surprise. On the horizon is Poole Harbour Entrance, with Old Harry rocks and the outline of Poole Town buildings. Further to the right is Corfe castle amongst the wide views of forest, hills and heath.

Walk back to the five ways cross and take the second track to the right, retracing your steps back to Bloxworth village.

Leaving Bloxworth Church, go ahead at the junctions, ignoring turns to the right and left, and down the tree lined road until you reach a junction on the left signposted to Winterborne Kingston. Turn down this deep lane passing the farm buildings on the right, and walking on up a slight hill for about 50 yards to a signposted path through a gate on your right. Walk towards the right across the field to another gate and a stile at the corner of the farm buildings, then follow the electricity poles across the field to the edge of the wood. Keeping the fence of the wood to the right all the way, cross over a stile and jump a stream. At the end of the wood, cut across the corner to the fence and into a copse to a small stile, and then to another one.

Cross the field diagonally to the right, aiming for the right of the building and a stile. Follow the track down by a ditch to the road beside Whitefield Farm and a telephone kiosk.

Turn left and walk up the hill, and where the road divides, take the right hand way. Continue straight ahead at the road junction, past Hectors Corner and onward, with woodland on the left, to the modern school crossroads. Cross over and keep the school on the right, walking down the narrow 'Gallops Lane', past Sellers farm on the left, to the next junction. Here, turn left for a short distance and, opposite the house called Cedars, is a track. Walk up the track to the road at the top opposite Brickfields farm. Turn left, and walk on past Hill farm to the top of the hill.

The hard road turns to the left, and ahead is the grassy 'green lane'. Take this lane, and just before the stile ahead, turn right onto a footpath. Follow this path downhill until it forks. Ignoring the stile to your right, walk on ahead until you reach a stile. Cross this, and walk along a short track to the road at Dolmans Hill. Turn left here, and follow the road past Old Park Farm, around a sharp right turn and onwards until reaching the junction with Eddy Green Road. Turn left, and ignoring Peatons Lane, keep straight on up Jennys Lane to the next Junction. Turn right here, and walk back past the Chequers Inn, along the High St to the Village Hall.

Distance: 13.5 miles/ 21 kms

Steps: 26,000

Walk 8. Walking around the periphery of Lytchett - Hard

This walk links several of the other routes so that you can, more or less, 'circumnavigate' the village! It takes in Lytchett Minster and back, across to the lane above Morden and back, part of the Combe Almer walk and back through the Jubilee path.

Start the walk at the Rose and Crown Pub.

With the Pub on your right walk down Huntick Road away from the village until you reach Foxhills Road on your right. Just into and across Foxhills Road, locate the footpath on your left. Follow this along its length until it meets a junction with another bridleway. Turn left onto this, and follow it round to the road at Post Green. Turn right onto the road, and where two roads fork, take the left hand fork (ignoring the school road on your immediate left), going straight on until the road meets the main road through Lytchett Minster, opposite the St Peters Finger Pub. Turn left, and just past Lytchett Minster Church, look for the signed footpath to the left. Cross the stile and then walk over the field to the next stile. After crossing this, turn right onto the road and retrace your steps through Post Green until the bridleway goes off ahead of you as the road bends to the right. Follow the Bridleway, this time walk along its full length, ignoring the path to the right half way along.

On reaching Foxhills Road, turn right and keep on this road until you reach Deans Drove on your left. Turn left into the Drove, walking down and then up hill to the junction with Wareham Rd. Turn left onto Wareham Road and keep going until you reach the speed limit signs. Cross carefully and take Halls Rd on your right, following this to the Junction just beyond the Pumping Station. Turn right here into Middle Road, and then, a short way along, left into Eddy Green Rd. Continue uphill, and shortly after a turning to the right (Bartoms Hill), look for a bridleway to the left (Gypsy Lane). Follow this bridleway through to the road at Dolmans Hill and, crossing straight over the road, cross the stile and walk along the footpath over several stiles and keeping close to the hedge on your left until you enter some woodland. You will meet another stile. Cross this and continue straight ahead where two paths meet. Eventually, the path reaches a short 'green lane' to the left. Walk along this, and then turn right onto the tarmac road.

(NB – if refreshment is required it is possible to make a diversion straight ahead to eventually reach the Cock and Bottle pub. See OS Map)

Having turned right onto the tarmac road from the green lane, continue until it turns sharply to the left, and take the footpath signposted to your right. Follow this along to a stile. Cross this, and take the track down and then uphill and veering to the left and then right into woodland. The path skirts to the left of the wood, with open field views to your left, eventually emerging onto a gravel track. Turn left here and walk straight ahead, ignoring all paths to your right, down a steepish slope on a narrow path to a stile. Cross this into a field, and proceed with the hedge to your right. Cross another stile. This time, the hedge will be to the left and you will have a good view of the St Marys's Church. At the next stile you reach a road. Cross this, and take the narrow lane directly opposite. Walk along this for some way until it turns sharp left. At this point, pick up the bridleway immediately ahead of you and walk its length until you reach the road end at Coombe Almer Farm. The footpath carries on through the farm gate on your right and crosses the field, up the hill to another gate. Go through this and walk to your left, along the fence line to where the path goes through another gate and into woodland. Keep going straight

ahead and the path will eventually reach another road ( Sandy Lane). Walk ahead onto this lane, and at the next crossroads, go straight on , passing the English Oak Vineyard at Flowers Farm on your right. Where the road bends to the right, pass through the kissing gate ahead of you and walk up the field keeping the hedge on your right, to a stile. Cross this, and proceed to the next stile straight ahead. You have now reached Wimborne Rd. Turn left for a few steps, and then cross the road and pick up the clearly signed footpath which takes you back to Huntick Rd. When you reach the road, turn right , crossing where the pavement starts on the other side. Follow the road back to the Rose and Crown Pub.

Distance and steps: not given – so you can adapt for yourself!