

DHSB Ten Tors teams' final one-day walk of this season was combined with camping training for the 45 mile team, as well as members of the 35 and 55 mi teams visiting Dartmoor Search and Rescue (DSRT) Plymouth headquarters, adding up to a very busy weekend.

Mr Guy-Fierens' connection with DSRT gave us a valuable opportunity to meet the volunteers whose services we hope never to need, with a presentation last Friday evening explaining how the DSRT responds to individuals who are missing or who get into difficulty on Dartmoor. Our Ten Tors teams will also now recognise our DSRT friends manning checkpoints on the Ten Tors Challenge.

The weather on Saturday night was then a perfect introduction to wild camping for our 45 mile team - damp enough to learn the importance of keeping everything dry, breezy enough to teach the challenge of cooking efficiently, but not unpleasantly cold or wet. The photos show that we left no trace that we had been there, as has always been required of wild campers in the National Park.

The remaining team members arrived early Sunday morning for a long and varied walk round some of the prettiest parts of South Dartmoor, as well as some of the bleaker expanses of peat bog and tussock grass. As the day progressed, the weather steadily deteriorated and everyone finished the walk very wet - excellent preparation for the conditions we have to expect on Dartmoor. We then drove back to Plymouth in thick fog.

We are grateful to parents as well as Ms Davidson who helped with delivery and collection of students and equipment to and from Dartmoor throughout the weekend, and could not have done the camping without Ms Davidson's expert tuition at Hexworthy as well as Ann Tyack and Ursula Mann's manning of checkpoints while Andy and Jo Shuttleworth roamed the open moorland from early morning to dusk making sure we knew where all the teams were.

Our next outing is our longest training walk, a two day expedition on North Dartmoor over the weekend of 1 - 2 April.