

**Monday, 1st June 2015, Exe Valley Way, with Chris Buckland and Mike Paddison**

**Stage Three , Thorveton to Tiverton (9.3 miles)**

Six men and five ladies gathered at Exeter bus station at the appointed time to catch the bus to start Stage 3 of the Exe Valley Way. We had to get off the bus a few hundred yards from the start of Thorveton village as we had not quite completed Stage 2 on the last walk because a bus was imminent. No sooner had we got off the bus, it began to rain so some walkers decided to don their wet weather gear.



As we walked into the pretty village of Thorveton, the rain had stopped so we had to wait while some undressing of wet weather gear took place. There was then a long steady climb up the hill, the rain clouds were about and soon caught up with us but only for a brief deluge. As we steadily climbed, the views of the rolling hills became more majestic and we could see Dartmoor and Sidmouth gap in the distance. Having reached the top of the hill, and passing a helicopter pad en route, we then negotiated a field of cows without any mishap.



Our next landmark was the pretty Bickleigh castle where some photos were taken and then on to the Fisherman's Cott where we had a refreshing drink outside by the river before embarking on the second part of our journey. We crossed the bridge over the Exe, and into some fields where we found a suitable spot to stop for our packed lunch. Then along by the river, sand martins and swifts were in abundance. The route followed a wooded area, muddy in parts but easily negotiable over logs and planks of wood and quite a few stiles. We passed the waterworks, and continued along the east bank of the Exe through a lovely mixed woodland.



***all pix by stella***

We sheltered for a short while for another shower and then a lady caught up with us who was 2 weeks into a walk from Land's End to John O'Groats. The charity she is supporting is MacMillan Cancer support who has given a lifeline to some of her friends and their families. Her Just Giving website is Penny's LEJOG or she can be found under Penny Nicholls. We parted company in Tiverton at the end of our day, wished her well and said we would give her a mention in our walk write up. It was not far to the bus station and we didn't have to wait long for the return bus to Exeter.

Many thanks to Mike and Chris for a lovely day's walk and I am looking forward to the next leg of the Exe Valley Way.

***Heather Fereday***  
***3rd June 2015***