

Saturday 20th May 2017, East Devon Way Stage 2 Colyford to Hare and Hounds with Penny and Paul Kurowski

Northleigh – so good we visited it twice!”

We lost 6 and gained 2 since Stage 1, so 12 of us set off on the bus from Newton Poppleford, and descended at the request stop at Boshill Cross. A short walk through wet meadows brought us back to the East Devon Way at Colyford.

We had an enjoyable meander, through the outskirts of Colyton, along the River Coly and out into the quintessential English countryside that was the feature of this walk. Well placed benches beside the river made a good coffee stop.



After more easy walking we arrived in Northleigh, with its 14th Century church. Benches and a grassy bank made this an ideal lunch stop and despite glowering skies we kept dry. The church is worth a visit – the 15th century carved pew ends are reminiscent of those at East Budleigh, but we thought a little more sophisticated, and less rustic. The tower of the church is rendered, as it had been early in its life. During renovations in the early 19th century the render was removed, the consequence of this was a wet tower, so later in the century the render was restored! For more information on this lovely old building see: <http://www.northleigh.net/st-giles-church.html>



We set off after lunch, faithfully following the pink East Devon Way waymarking. Rain meant we kept our heads down and maps safely tucked away. The rain dried up, we looked up – and heard “isn't that church like the one we had lunch at?”. “I knew I'd seen those flowers before”, Oh dear – we had walked round in a circle!!! We loved Northleigh and it had lured us back. We set off again, and saw where we had gone wrong.



Important lesson – when following a path which is waymarked in both directions, be very careful, and check the map frequently!!!

The rest of the walk was uneventful, if more hilly. We kept a good pace, despite stops to put on and take off waterproofs as appropriate and arrived at the Hare and Hounds in plenty of time for our bus. The number 9 was on time and carried us back to Newton Poppleford. The journey gave us time for reflections: “28,000 steps – you worked us hard – I enjoyed every one”; “more than 12 stiles;” and “good job we had that diversion or we would have had to spend time in the pub”.....

Penny and Paul Kurowski