

## Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August, “A walk from the train” with Rosemary and David Hatch

It was raining as I set out for Exmouth Station and the forecast didn't sound to good either, still I had a new waterproof jacket to try out and the promise of a pub lunch at the end. We arrived at Newport station where surprisingly enough there were 7 of us in total.

After a quick resume we set off on our way happily chatting in the rain. We headed over the historic Clyst river bridge to Clyst St Mary. Here we walked through farmland and fields to the small village of Sowton where we had a coffee break in the grounds (or rather the porch as it was still raining) of the fascinating St Michael and All Angels church.



Rosemary informed us of the history of the church, there has apparently been four churches on this site with the first vicar recorded in 1278. The church is Grade 1 listed and in the rare Tractarian design and is of considerable significance.



When the church was rebuilt the C16 Beer stone perpendicular arcade was retained with its unusual capitols ie one with the symbols of Catherine of Aragon and Henry VIII, a pomegranate and Tudor rose wheel, we were challenged to find these inside.



We then walked down Bishops Court Lane noting the white berries of the Snowberries along the sides of the lane. The rain had begun to ease somewhat as we crossed the River Clyst heading towards Bishops Court Palace, which appears as rather a majestic building from the distance.



Crossing the fields we came to a road and then to the current entrance which gives no indication of the buildings past grandness and just has a sign indicating the small businesses that work in its grounds.

It was then a matter of walking a further few miles through Clyst St Mary and retracing our steps back to the pub where we donned the blue boot covers we had been provided with and quickly entered into the welcoming atmosphere of the pub. We had a well earned lunch and despite the almost constant rain it was a good walk. It was then a short walk to Digby and Sowton station to

catch the train back. Glad to say I remained dry in my new jacket. Funny how sometimes you can be out walking in the rain and it doesn't seem quite as bad as when you are inside in the dry looking out at the rain. Thank you Rosemary and David for leading this interesting walk.

Stella French