

New Statue unveiled on Exmoor by BBC's John Craven



BBC Countryfile's John Craven unveiled an iconic new statue "The Walker" on The Esplanade in Lynmouth, Exmoor, this week. Commissioned to mark the end of The Coleridge Way long-distance walking route, "The Walker" also indicates the closing stage of The Two Moors Way, as well as pinpointing where both these walks intersect with the South West Coast Path; the UK's longest national trail.

Designed and constructed by local craftsman Richard Graham, the statue has been made from reinforced 8mm marine quality stainless steel wire and shows a larger-than-life walker stretching out his hand in greeting. The brief was to construct a model with which visitors could interact.

"It's exciting to have this iconic statue on the seafront at Lynmouth," commented Jennette Baxter, Development Manager, Visit Exmoor. *"It's position at the conjunction of these long-distance trails celebrates the sheer choice of walks available in the area and highlights Exmoor as a premier walking destination."*

With over 600 miles of Rights-of-Way walkers are spoilt for choice on Exmoor. Strenuous hill climbs, high cliffs and open moorlands contrast with deep wooded valleys, sparkling rivers and streams and quiet lanes and villages. Rarely crowded this living and varied landscape is the perfect place to escape from day-to-day life and enjoy the timeless joy of nature.

The project was led by the Lyn Community Development Trust and the design has been endorsed by the Lyn Economic and Tourism Alliance (LETA), the Cliff Railway, the Art and Crafts Centre, Andrea Davis (County Councillor), John Patrinos (District Councillor), the Coleridge Way Steering Group and Exmoor National Park. Together with the Lyn Community Development Trust all have made financial contributions to complete the project. Lynton's Mayor Suzette Hibbert, a director of the Lyn Community Development Trust, said *"We were very keen to highlight Lynmouth's role as a premier walking destination and The Walker fits the brief perfectly."*

Notes:

The Coleridge Way: Walk 51 miles in the footsteps of the romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge through the stunning Somerset countryside of the Quantock Hills, the Brendon Hills and on Exmoor, Lynmouth to the sea. More info www.visit-exmoor.co.uk/coleridge-way/coleridge-way-home-page

The Two Moors Way spans 102 miles from Ivybridge on the southern boundary of Dartmoor National Park to Lynmouth on the North Devon Coast in Exmoor National Park. A Coast to Coast walk can be added by starting at Wembury on the South Devon coast adding around 15 miles. www.TwoMoorsWay.org

South West Coast Path covers 630 miles of superb coastline from Minehead in Somerset to Poole Harbour in Dorset making it the longest National Trail in the UK. www.southwestcoastpath.org.uk/

Ends

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