

Lens letter from the Via

Date 10/07/17

Location

Ornans

KM's to
Rome

1,291

Steps Today

43,190

Although happy to be back on the track, would have liked to spend some more time in the beautiful city of Besancon. Left the city via a walk along the old towpath by the river. Then after a couple of kilometres headed uphill to the Chapelle des Buis. This



was our first tough climb. A local athlete was using it for training dashing up the steep hill and walking back and doing it again, he must have read the Percy Cerity book on how to become a runner. Once on top the climb was well worth it to take in the view of Besancon and its surrounding countryside. Also had a view of where we had come from over the previous few days.

The chapel and cemetery was perched high up on the side of the hill with fine views for the departed. A small chapel but beautifully maintained, also first time have come across a mention of the Via Francigena in a church or chapel.

After scaling the heights, enjoyed a forest walk along the plateau which is mainly used for dairy and wheat farming. A few of the farms offer overnight stays for pilgrims.

Walking into the forest had to make a mad dash away from some marauding cows, someone had left the gate open and the cows decided that I should know where their next feed was coming from. A lady called Julie helped me put them back into the paddock.



They all had the ringing bells on their necks and we aren't even in Switzerland yet. Why do they wear the bells it must drive them quite crazy to have to listen to the bells ringing all day? It certainly detracts from the peacefulness of the country side to hear the bells tolling. I need to know for whom the bells toll, I hope not for me. Tonight, we catch up with our son Leigh who has been spending some sabbatical time at Manchester University so we were glad of an easy walk into the village to arrive refreshed and enthusiastic. Walking into Ornans along an old rail trail we came upon this beautiful railway bridge. A bridge that would make those

Roman road and bridge makers proud.