A one-man battle against dense undergrowth and the ravages of time has seen a popular Victorian link between Lynton and Lynmouth enjoy a new lease of life. Arthur Allen has spent almost three years reclaiming the well-known "zig-zag" path - one of the few links between the twin villages - from decline, clearing vegetation, rebuilding dry stone walls and securing an £8,000 grant.

The money from LEADER+ has been used to buy six Zeta SunFLOWERS™ for the steep pathway, as well as amenities to modernise the benches, bins and information boards.

It is now possible to once again enjoy the stunning views of Lynmouth and Countisbury which so delighted Victorian visitors.

Arthur and his wife, Pam, have owned the Fairholme Hotel at the top of the path for 28 years, but were becoming concerned at how badly the ancient track was declining.

"It was steadily deteriorating and guests who had been coming here for 20 years were saying what a terrible state it was in," said Arthur.

The SunFLOWER™ is a beautiful yet practical answer to amenity lighting perfect for remote or rural areas where mains connection is not an option or a cost effective, sustainable energy solution is preferred.

The SunFLOWER™ gathers electrical power during the day via an integral solar panel. This panel charges a maintenance free battery, providing high power LED lighting at night. Using the integrated Passive Infrared sensor (PIR) the lighting level can be increased automatically when a pedestrian is within 5 metres, after a pre-set period the lighting level is then slowly dimmed. This not only saves energy, but also reduces light pollution.

Volunteers have helped out at different times, but much of the work - especially the mountains of admin it generated - has been Arthur's alone. Devon County Councillor Andrea Davis has supported the project and helped establish the path was owned by North Devon District Council, which has included it in its street cleaning programme.

"I've been genuinely impressed by the enthusiasm Arthur has put into this," she said.

"This is a vital pedestrian link and I know this has been welcomed by many local people.

"He's restored a delightful Victorian walk and some of the most beautiful panoramic views in England, which have been obscured for too long."

Cllr Davis said she hoped to be able to secure an additional £2,500 to provide a further three SunFLOWERS™ from Zeta Specialist Lighting.

For more information please visit www.zetaled.co.uk or contact Zeta Specialist Lighting on 01869 322 500