

## **BUMS Walk – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

**Location:** Macclesfield Forest

**Route:** Trentabank Reservoir – Shutlingsloe – Cat & Fiddle - Trentabank

**Weather:** Dry and breezy with some sun

**Party:** Mike A (leader), Lesley, Della, Richard, Heather, Dave, Ali

**Distance:** 8.6 miles      **Total Ascent:** 2493ft      **Time:** 5 hrs

Despite the excellent weather forecast, the civilised 08.30 start and just 1 hour travelling time, it was an elite group of just 5 that set off from the pavilion heading to Macclesfield Forest to rendezvous with Ali and Dave. Many of our regular squad had had a much better offer for the weekend. We formally welcomed Richard back as a club member with the ceremonial handing over of a tenner taking place at the start of the walk. We also learned that this was the first ever weekend walk that Heather has ever attended. Also she was wearing shiny new boots which were not quite so shiny at the end of the walk.

After leaving the car park, we were pretty much straight into the climb through the forest which led onto the moor where we could focus on our first target, the shapely hill of Shutlingsloe (506m). There are paving slabs leading most of the way up the hill so the going was fairly easy but we were exposed to a bit of a stiff breeze as we hit the summit and quickly found some shelter on the eastern flank to take a coffee break and orientate ourselves with a good view towards the next target.

After descending to Clough House, we started to climb again on a bridleway alongside Cumberland Brook which was more of a river after all the recent rain. The next section was a climb on a path which doubled as a stream and led us up onto the open moor again only a mile from the Cat and Fiddle (still abandoned), where we searched in vain for a suitable lunch spot.

The prescribed route from the A537 would have had us seeing more tarmac than a reputable BUMS walk would allow, so an alternative route was taken back onto the moor, leading down to Chest Hollow, where the perfect sheltered sunny spot was located for lunch. Shortly after leaving our sunny spot, a short delay while Heather applied a bit of first aid, caused by the rubbing of the famous new boots.

We then had to find a plan C due to the closure of a path which was intended to lead us back to the original route, which at this point we had to officially abandon. Plan C therefore brought us out at a carpark on the eastern side of the forest where we spotted a handy finger post for Trentabank, which as luck would have it, led us back to our carpark on an uncharted path.

After saying farewell to the Urmston contingent, we made the easy drive back to the Dysat for rehydration .

Mike A.