

BUMs Report on mid week walk 30th October 2020

Stiperstones, Shropshire

Attendees: Lesley and Mike A (Leaders), Sarah and Steve Hammond, Ann Bodfish, Selina Willis, Heather Foster, Dave Cadman, Sue Lancaster, Dave French, Mark Hallett, Ray Bunting and Flora, Andrea Percival

Start: The Bog, Shropshire

Weather: Showery

Miles 7.5

Ascent: 310 meters

With only a handful of walks under our belts this year due to Covid 19 we had our fingers crossed that this Friday walk to round off October would be able to go ahead. With a second full lockdown on the cards we held our breath but happily 13 of us rendezvoused at the advertised starting point- The Bog car park, near Stiperstones village. I say 'advertised' start point.....I take full responsibility for giving out a slightly wrong post code, one digit wrong is all! It should have read SY5 ONG not ONL. My fault entirely as I can't find anyone else to blame. After much faffing we managed to corral everyone and we set off a few minutes later than intended. After a couple of minutes a very heavy cloudburst led to much up layering and another delay.

With wet trousers and slightly dimmed expectations the group set off west down a lovely track through woods then across some extremely boggy fields via some extremely slippery stiles. Poor Ray soon covered from head to toe in mud as he had to hoist poor Flora over the stiles. (Mind you Dave French was offering to do the same with Heather so ...).

We soon came to the remote Shelve Pool where we had a stand up coffee due to said mud and onwards and literally upwards towards the hamlet of Shelve.

With many a farmers track to negotiate I can only apologise for the strange smelling 'mud' and hope that no one succumbed to dysentery as a result.

After a little road walking and then fields and tracks we started to ascend to the first of the Stiperstones rocky outcrops, the Shepherds Rock.

By this time a few were feeling the lack of fitness so we regrouped a few minutes prior to Mike finding a lovely grassy lunch spot with fantastic views north.

After lunch we decided to miss out the Shepherds Rock and went on to the Devils Chair and onwards to Manstone Rock where the lively ones amongst us climbed up to the elevated trig point and photos were taken.

Soon we were descending on the left hand rocky path till we reached nearly the other car park which some of the group had already visited..... We branched along west on a lovely gorse lined path and very soon were back at the cars.

Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the walk, soon forgetting the chaotic start and tired legs.

With a 6 car convoy following us back towards Shrewsbury every single car managed the return home in much quicker time than the outward journey and back to the relative safety of the stables at the Dysart. We were joined by Neil and Chris and Chrissie as well as Colin a little later.

I hope a good time was had by all, so 'that's all folks' for the BUMs walks for at least a month but undimmed, we will return.

Lesley