

## Cumberland Clough and Three Shires Head

Distance 9 miles 1500' ascent (so not as far as advertised - is this a first?)

Weather - a day of 2 halves - sunny and promising in the morning, but with clag on the tops on the return.

Squad;

Selina (leader)

Steve and Sarah

Jim G

Jeff and Debbie

Ali

Mike H

Dave C

Mark H

Colin

Ian

Neil and Ann

Canines - Spot and our latest recruit Delilah, and didn't she do well. We always welcome well behaved members!

Following the current guidelines in these unusual times, we all drove individually or in households to the start of the walk at Clough House car park.

A hesitant start from the car park, we soon found our route and enjoyed the walk up Cumberland Clough and on to Danebarrow Hollow in the sunshine, with lovely views across Cheshire. We took a short coffee break by an old mine chimney and then carried on along to three shires head. Here, we said our goodbyes to Ali and Delilah, Ali having quite rightly decided that the advertised 10 miles was a little too far for a 6-month-old puppy - not sure Delilah agreed.

We crossed the bridge and followed the Dane Valley way all the way to Gradbach Mill where we took our lunch break, a delightful spot by the river complete with toilets and picnic benches - a new Bums standard ? The leader received many compliments on the choice of lunch venue, but not so many for the following steep climb out of the valley. We climbed up into the clag and along a track, with our heads down we plodded on avoiding the dirt bikes, until we began our descent to the cars. The path seemed to run out about a mile from the finish but with a bit of gate climbing - or gate limbo-ing in the case of Spot, we returned to the cars a little ahead of schedule. **A few patches of tricky mud along the way but nothing sustained.**

A relatively short drive back to the Dysart for hydration, where we huddled in the barn and reminisced about afternoons drying off in front of the roaring fire in the bar.

Many thanks to everyone who joined me, and to Colin and Mike for a little help with the navigating.

Selina