

Trip Report: Cheshire**Date:** 8th December 2012**Group:** Selina (Leader), Jim G, Mike H, Jeff, Graham, Ian (and Mollie)**Route:** Shutlingsloe, Cat and Fiddle, Shining Tor, Teggs Nose Country Park**Total Distance:** 14.23 miles**Total Ascent:** 3222 ft**Weather:** Mainly sunny and cold, with a little mist in the valleys**Time:** 6 hours 59 mins

The squad met promptly at the pavilion for 7.30am departure to make maximum use of Decembers short daylight hours. There was a minor delay as Mollie sent Ian back home to collect her lead, but after a short drive we found our starting point in a small car park by Teggs Nose Reservoir and started walking by the leaders 9am deadline. We set off in sunny but very cold and frosty conditions, even colder and frostier than Jim's Peak District walk the previous week. In fact the clue was in the title of the walk 'The Cheshire MATTERHORN'.....had anyone brought their Ice Axes and Crampons?..... No, including the leader, a fact that was much regretted as we gingerly made our way up through Macclesfield Forest to Shutlingsloe, practising for our auditions for 'Dancing on Ice'. The steps to the summit were too treacherous to consider so we scrambled up the steep snow covered hillside to be greeted by fantastic views from the top. Luckily the sun had shone on the descent side so we managed to descend in an orderly fashion (well apart from Ian).

We paused for coffee by Clough beck. Although some members of the party were briefly distracted by a female fell runner we were soon ready for our ascent to the Cat and Fiddle.

As we climbed out of the Clough the snow became deeper and some mutterings started to fall on the leaders ear from the back of the pack, it was hard to make out clearly but 'Ranulph Fiennes' and 'mad' were picked out. As we reached the top it was clear to see why the road had been closed the previous day.

The leader has set another deadline of reaching the Cat and Fiddle by 12.00am if we were to do the full walk, 12.08 seemed good enough so we proceeded to make our way to Shining Tor where the leader was persuaded to pose for the Miss December. We then descended to lamaload reservoir enjoying the views of the Matterhorn on the way and a sunny lunch stop. Jims conclusion was that although we saw Shutlingsloe from virtually every angle during the day at no point did it look like the Matterhorn, even in the snow.

We then all made it safely through a minor muddy patch (well apart from Ian), but as we started to ascend once again on a tarmac lane my only female supporter decided enough was enough and she was going no further. Her class act , (don't know where she could have learnt that from!) included much limping and licking of paws. Anyway she finally persuaded Ian to share the contents of his rucksack with the rest of the group and hitched a lift. More mutterings regarding ascent and number of miles ensued and as we reached the top of yet another hill Ian now decided enough was enough and decided to see if Molly could cope with the softer terrain. As he lifted her gently to the ground she ran off to join Jim at the head of the pack again. It was only at this point we thought about the effect the salt on the tarmac lane may have had on her sore paws....poor Moll.

The final part of the walk included some industrial heritage in Teggs Nose country park, and a load of Wassocks, aka male Bums, posing for a female photographer waiting to catch the sunset.

A short drive home found us in front of the much welcomed fire in the Dysart.

NB some apologies to make

1) to all....the walk was a mile longer than advertised...sorry

2) to Jeff....as you agreed to come on the walk on the assumption that in the advertised walk description I meant 2100 feet not 2100 metres , I apologise for the extra 1100 feet...whoops..

3) to the rest....as you agreed to come on a walk assuming 2100 metres, sorry for the shortfall of 3660 feet

Despite these, a good winter walk enjoyed by all (I think)

Selina