

Trip Report: Not Ilkley Moor

Date: 15th January 2012

Group: Lesley (Leader), Mike A, Jim G, Tony, Colin and Amanda, Ann Bodfish, Della and Richard, Lynda, Ian, Mike H, Allie, **Visiting members:** Karen and John, Jane and Clive, Jo, Dave, **Dogs:** Polo, Molly, Nicky, Roxie and Meg

Route: Ilkley town centre to Black Hill (381m)

Total Distance: 8.7 miles

Total Ascent: 1702 ft

Weather: sunny and frosty

Time: 4 hours 30 mins

Despite a long way to travel, this walk was very well attended - perhaps the best attended in 2012 -well, as this was always going to be the case. The leader, led her throng across the landscape of her childhood where picnics underneath the Cow and Calf rocks was a regular weekend trip.....however, as Mr Jim G pointed out, we were nowhere near the Cow and Calf rock—a bitter disappointment to several BUMS.

Getting out of the car park is always the hardest thing about any walk, don't you all agree?

I was lucky this time with Colin and Amanda's friends, Ilkley natives, attending. Clive and Jane pointed me in the general direction and then I took over, shepherding the throng across two zebra crossings and up a steep road towards the ridge. Perilous so far and not a blade of grass seen. We were soon crossing steps and passing near to a 'paddling pool', iced over and not very inviting. Once on the ridge it was an easy walk towards coffee at the Swastika Stone, a Neolithic carved rock which is now entirely vandal proof, well except for someone called 'FF loves GW' in 1961.

Onwards towards a stone dubbed the Sepulchre, looking like a burial chamber (thanks for the glossary of terms from Colin's Blackberry). In true BUMS tradition I sanctioned a stray from the written route towards the trig point, off piste on Addingham High Moor. At the trig point Amanda and I gave a rendition of 'Ilkley Moor Bart'at'. I hope Jim G will destroy the video he made of Amanda as she may well try to take out an injunction against the BUMS, which Jim W will never allow us to fund. Because we had deviated I decided to simply view the Doubler Stones from afar rather than visit as the throng were ready for their lunch. We followed the hillside down towards a small moorland road and picnicked there.

We did catch a glimpse of the Cow and Calf and Jim G took great delight in telling the leader that this was not Ilkley Moor. Well, who cares, it was very nice!

With local knowledge and now Mr Calder assisting the leader we managed to find a much prettier route through to the River Wharfe, dicing slightly with death on the A65 but with the leader trying to hold up the traffic to let the throng through all were perfectly safe, except Polo who proceeded to sit down in the middle of the road as she could and would not go any further.

After a couple of kilometres we arrived back at the car park (the leader once again aided by local knowledge). I would like to thank the local visitors who made my life so easy.

Note: The leader was forced to visit a tea shop following the walk, a severe break with the norm for which I can only apologise (the hot chocolate was lovely though), hence a slightly late arrival at the Dysart, but nevertheless a thoroughly enjoyable day out in Yorkshire.

Lesley