

Trip Report: Ingleborough (one of the classic Yorkshire Three Peaks)

Date: 30th May 2014

Group: Lesley (leader), Mike A, Lynn, Steve & Sarah, Jeff, Mike H, Jim G

Route: Ingleborough from Clapham

Total Distance: 11.1 miles

Total Ascent: 2477 ft

Weather: Fine and cloudy with promise of sun

Time: 5.5 hours

Another Classic walk, but slightly easier than the billed Yorkshire Two Peaks. However, this was a midweek and therefore needs to be suitable for everyone.

In the event there were a few drop offs, but the assembled group were looking forward to yet another slog up the M6 for an early start in God's own county.

Ingleborough from Clapham has it all. Woods and the famous cave on the way up are actually set in a magnificent wooded glen. However this is privately owned and has an admission charge of 65p. This proved too much for the BUMs who are always saving their pennies (for the rehydration at the end) and we elected to circumvent this by choosing an alternative and free public footpath. I am very pleased we managed to save this money as I am Yorkshire through and through with short arms and deep pockets. Passing the Cave (again a steep charge is made for an hour's tour which we certainly were never going to pay for) we scrambled quickly up Trow Gill, a deep cleft in the limestone which then opens out towards Gaping Gill.

How I have looked forward to seeing this again and perhaps re-enacting Jim's fall several years ago which still lives on (better each time it's told) in the annals of BUMs legend. Those of us who witnessed this first hand know how close he came to being swept away into the mouth of the Gill, which is said to be 100 ft high and 100ft wide. He certainly did get very wet on that very cold winters day all those years ago.

What a disappointment to find this area a mass of tents, winches and strange looking potholing people who appeared to have set up an encampment. We never really ascertained what was going on and gave the whole thing a wide berth, stopping briefly for a coffee break before beginning the ascent up Ingleborough.

Someone had put some Yorkshire stone steps up for us and within half an hour we were at the top with glorious views over Morecombe Bay, Pendle, The Lake District and The Howgills- it struck me later that the BUMs have done all of these over the years.

With many interfering 'navigators' I managed to find the correct way off the mountain and down towards the huge limestone pavement of Sulber.

We spotted some erratics along the way (huge boulder of Silurian basement rock transported by glaciers from the ice age).

Walking carefully on the top of the limestone pavement we were treated to a botany lecture by our resident botanist, Mike H, and went on to spot several different plants including Herb Robert.....always knew there was something funny about Robert.

With impeccable and skilful navigational techniques we went straight to the finger post which points the way to Clapham, and with 3.5 miles to go our walk was nearly done.

The last excitement was passing through the tunnel at Clapham, and then back to the cars.

Lynn and I were desperate for an ice-cream and combed the village for a shop.....disappointment. Shop closed last week!

Anyway, our journey back to the Yew Tree, marred only by a bit of a hold up on our favourite motorway was soon completed and we all enjoyed the usual banter and beer.

NB: The leader came in for some stick for forgetting the shelter and her personal head torch.

Apologies.....it won't happen again.

Lesley