

Trip Report: Yorkshire Dales

Date: 28th September 2012

Group: Mike A (Leader) & Lesley, Lynn, Colin + Roxie (mutt), Mike H, Mike W, Selina, Ann, Jim W, Jean, Ian

Route: Ingleton Falls - Scales Moor - Chapel Le Dale - Ingleton Falls

Total Distance: 10.6 miles

Total Ascent: 2421 ft

Weather: Overcast with a few showers

Time: 6 hours

The Ingleton Glens and Scars walk was hastily lifted from a guide book and advertised, but it was only nearer the day that a closer inspection of the route by the leader revealed a £5 charge for the Ingleton Falls, that section of the route not being a right of way. This was surely a good test of BUMS commitment but was helped by the prospect of seeing some serious waterfaling following one of the wettest weeks on record. Also Mike and Selina were finishing off a holiday in the area so the route was chosen partly with them in mind.

So an excellent turnout for a Friday walk and 9 of us assembled at the Pavilion as usual. Fortunately Mike H had volunteered to drive as he has an intimate knowledge of the Western Dales and as he was also armed with grid reference and route description what could possibly go wrong! We therefore set off without bothering to make up a convoy. The leader arrived at the designated car park at 09.30, followed shortly by Mike and Selina but where was the local boy?

Following a phone call to his chief navigator (Colin), it emerged that Mike had confused Ingleton with Clapham. I guess it's an easy mistake to make. Familiarity can be a curse as you tend not to read instructions in detail. Still it gave us a good laugh and what's half an hour amongst friends. Sure enough the waterfalls on the River Twiss were spectacular, notably the Pecca Falls and Thornton Force which is the highest on the route. Lesley and Mike W's SLR cameras were working overtime which accounted for a huge amount of faff time. Jim and Mike H. managed to scramble round behind Thornton Force but the big cameras were lagging behind so there may be no photographic evidence.

We left Thornton Force and shortly crossed over the river via Ravenray footbridge and found a convenient seat which heralded the coffee break. We could at least now hear ourselves away from the noise of the raging torrent. After the break it was time to leave the expensive walk

(to be rejoined later) and head up onto Scales Moor to find the route along a former packhorse track from Ingleton to Dent, known as Craven Old Way.

The upland of Scales Moor has sink holes, perched boulders and limestone pavements, and makes for a fascinating landscape. To the right there was a great view of Ingleborough summit as the clag briefly lifted and straight ahead, Whernside loomed. Ribbleshead viaduct also now appeared so we were not short of decent views on Scales Moor. To the left is Kingsdale where The BUMS walked a year or so ago (See Fog and Bog walk report).

Progress was halted briefly on the moor while Jim attended to Jean's feet which were allegedly blistering, however there was so much bandaging and plasters on her feet it was difficult to imagine a blister daring to form. Jean ummed and aaahed but eventually decided to continue womanfully. Shortly afterwards we located a handy sinkhole in which to stop for lunch. It was out of the wind and well sheltered but probably ranks as the worst lunch spot view in the history of the BUMS. After 5km on the Craven Old Way we descended towards Ellerbeck and turned right (south east) towards Chapel-Le-Dale. There was an interesting sculpture by the trackside which has recently been rescued by potholers from the bottom of a lake. The attractive little church in Chapel-Le-Dale provided timely sanctuary because we were suddenly found ourselves in the middle of a heavy squall. The lych gate provided a handy changing area and the church a useful diversion which includes a memorial to those who died during the construction of the Settle-Carlisle railway. The rain had stopped by the time we were ready to roll, which was along an easy tarmac Roman road called Oddie's Lane which led back to rejoin the Waterfalls Walk at Beezley Falls on the River Doe.

We passed the Rival Falls and Snow Falls and they were all were just as spectacular as they had been on the River Twiss on the first leg. Cue more photography and faffing. Hopefully there will be some decent pictures appearing on the blog to support this report. Finally, we arrived in Ingleton and then we just had to walk back through the town to our car park.

The final act of the day was to regroup in the Dysart, the only thing standing in our way being the M6 on a Friday afternoon. Incredibly the motorway was clear and we were back in 2 hours for rehydration. For some reason Mike H found no problem navigating there.

Mike A