

Trip Report: The Bronte Way

Date: 27th September 2013

Group: Lynn (leader), Tony (navigator), Jeff, John, Selina and Karen

Route: Wycoller Panopticon, Wolf Stones, Bronte Bridge, Top Withins

Total Distance: 12 miles

Total Ascent: 656 ft

Weather: Glorious sunshine

It was prompt start from the Pavillion at 8:00 and after welcome introductions to our new BUMs member Karen we set off up North on a lovely sunny September day.

We arrived at Wycoller car-park, adjacent to an unusual Atom Panopticon sculpture, and Tony was his usual informative self... if you need to know anymore about panopticons then get in touch with him at the usual address.

After a couple of attempts our leader eventually found the way out of the car park and it wasn't long after this that Tony took over the map reading, we headed towards Foster's Leap.

Things didn't get any better with Tony in charge of navigation as he led us off on a three mile bog-trot towards the elusive Wolf Stones trig-point, with the leader nearly suffering a broken bone or two after falling into a deep hole. We eventually arrived at Wolf Stones (thankfully all in one piece) and enjoyed a welcome coffee-break before we set off towards the Pennine Way.

A pleasant descent along the Pennine Way passing Ponden Reservoir led us to our lunch stop at the picturesque Bronte Bridge and an ideal spot for chief photographer Jeff to take some great shots as contenders for next years calendar.

With Top Withins (of Wuthering Heights fame) next on the agenda it was a bit of a task for the leader to get everyone moving again after a lovely lazy lunch in the beautiful sunshine. We did finally get to the famous ruins only to be greeted by a plaque declaring in typical Yorkshire bluntness that the building bore no resemblance to the one described by Emily Bronte in Wuthering Heights. In other words 'what the **** are you doing here?'

With six miles still to go the group was starting to get slightly mutinous so after a couple of a difficult miles along the river Worth valley it was decided to follow the road for the last couple of miles back to the cars. John was happy as at least now he knew exactly where we were going.

Back to the Yew Tree for re-hydration where we met fellow BUMs Mike H and Caryle.

To sum up It was a long hard walk, on a beautiful sunny day!!

Lynn