

Escape Black Friday Walk along the River Dove from Hartington.

Distance 8.2 miles

Weather - crisp,clear,sunny.

Attendees - Lynn, Tony, Jim, Mike H, Dave C, Ann, Amanda, Steve, Sarah, Mike A, Lesley and not forgetting Riley

Firstly, let me apologise to the group for suggesting they wrap up warm, in actual fact, with the sun on our faces as we walked, it was lovely and warm, perhaps too warm for those of us who'd put thermals on! The walk started from the centre of Hartington, where we met up with our southern contingent – Hugh, who had driven all the way from Luton!

To begin the walk we followed the footpath at the back of the toilets, which headed across the fields towards the river Dove, passing Pennilow castle on our right. The path met the river at Pike Pool in the lovely Beresford Dale, which was a favourite fishing place for the famous angler, Isaac Walton.

We crossed the river heading for Narrowdale, where we stopped for coffee and a slice of Steve's lovely birthday cake, (half a slice for me as Riley pinched the other half!)

After coffee we continued across the fields to the village of Alstonfield, there was a bit of road walking here, but apart from a few grumbles about Tarmac walking aggravating joint pains, we got through it!

Once passed the village we made our way through Overdale back towards the river Dove, a group decision was made to have lunch at the top of the hill in the sunshine (yes sunshine in November), before we descended down into the valley .

We joined up with the river at Coldeaton Bridge where Mike H had a little chat to a chap fishing, and thank goodness Riley chose not to dive in the river at this point!

We followed the river through Wolfscote Dale , and thanks to a little help, navigated our way safely back to Hartington . We said our goodbyes to Hugh and headed back to the Dysart for some lovely beer and a nice cosy fire...grand!

Lynn