

Event: Friday Walk: 31st January 2020

Location: Over Haden; Lathkill Dale/Monyash/ Magpie Mines

Weather: As expected this time of year, a little damp to start with but it was generally dryer after the first hour or so.

Homo sapiens: Mike W (Leader), Mike and Lesley, Lynn, Cate, Andrea, Ann, Alison (Newbe), Jim G, Bob, Dave, Mark

Canis lupus familiaris: Riley

Distance 9.5 Miles: **Ascent** 1270ft:

Early start of 08:00 from the pavilion for the cross county trip into the White Peak District. Leadership duties had been reassigned on medical grounds and the requisite note provided. We set off for Over Haden having extensively discussed the various routes, we all arrived at the designated carpark within 5 minutes of each other. Having each taken different routes.

The usual question arose from the outset as to whether or not to put on the over trousers from the start. As the weather did not look as menacing as the forecast predicted, most opted not to put them on. Although some did done them further up the Dale. We made our way West along Lathkill Dale heading for Monyash. Lathkill Dale never ceases to be visual feast for the mind, no matter what the weather. The crystal clear waters of the River Lathkill were in full spate after the recent rains but even Riley declined to dip his toe in. The past industrial significance of the Dale could be discerned from the numerous mine shafts and caves along the route. We made a brief stop at one such old mine.

“Bateman’s House was originally built in the 1840’s for Thomas Bateman who was agent of the Lathkill Mine. Incredibly, it was constructed directly over a very deep mineshaft which until the recent renovation work made it an extremely dangerous site. However, now it is possible to descend a short metal ladder and use a hand-operated generator to see down into the hidden shaft.”

We continued on our way heading for the intended coffee spot at the junction with Calling Low Dale. An excellent spot for coffee in nice weather but as we did not have “nice weather” at that point we passed it by and headed further up the Dale to Lathkill Head Cave. Coffee was taken in the shelter of the cave, considered the actual source point of the River Lathkill. Suitably refreshed we continued to the Head of the Dale and skirted around Monyash, heading in an arch over open fields and woods back towards Over Haden. The days history lesson was not yet finished and as the weather had improved we stopped at Magpie Mines for our lunch.

“The Magpie Mine, just South of Sheldon, was one of the most famous lead mines in the Peak District and is the only one with a significant part of its building still standing, having been taken into the care of the Peak District Mines Historical Society in 1962. The mine buildings can be seen from the Bakewell - Chelmorton road.”

From there it was but a gentle stroll back to the cars and thence to The Dysart for rehydration.

Mike