

Trip Report: Friday 30th August

5 Derbyshire Dales

Weather: Dry and breezy, with sunshine breaking through in the afternoon

The squad were as follows;

Selina and Mike (driver)
Jeff and Debbie (driver)+ Spot and Ellie,
Mark H ,Dave C, Jim G,

The small but elite squad met at the pavilion as usual for 8.00am start.

We followed the back lanes across to Congleton and on the windy road across to Buxton. Debbie doing a sterling job keeping up with the leader.

We parked in the layby by the quarry at the start of the walk to avoid the £4.75 parking fee in the main Wyedale car park. (well that's still more than enough for a pint in the Dysart...for now!)

The start of the walk circumnavigated Topley Pike quarry. The original FP having been diverted, as they are working on making a wildlife reserve out of some of the old workings. This meant a steep ascent out of the dale, a diversion across the fields, followed by a steep descent back into Deepdale, where we admired the beautiful wildflowers and missed our resident botanist Mike H. Deepdale is, unsurprisingly, deep....meaning some careful footwork was needed as we walked along the dale amongst the moss covered rocks. At the junction with backdale, we veered left along Horseshoedale where the landscape opened out and we stopped for morning coffee. Unfortunately both Deepdale and Horseshoe dale are dry dales and Spot and Ellie were suffering from the lack of water.

Having emerged from Horseshoedale, we proceeded across the fields to the village of Chelmorton, where Spot and Ellie found relief in the village troughs, fed by the springs of the charmingly named Illy Willy waters. In fact due to the combination of wearing shorts and

negotiating some somewhat overgrown nettled paths, I think Debbie may have been tempted to join them. We climbed on through the village past The Church Arms, (from whose website I got the idea for the walk), and up over more fields, briefly joining the Limestone way. We then descended through Priestcliffe Lees nature reserve where we stopped for lunch, before descending down further to join the Monsal Trail. We followed this for about a km and then dropped down into Millers Dale.

The walk through Cheedale was as delightful as ever, although a little slippery. Everyone crossed the stepping stones without incident, although Ellie, who was getting very tired by now, chose to paddle through the river at the beginning. As some others in the group were also feeling tired (including the leader), we took another brief coffee stop before the last 1.1/2 miles back to the cars.

Debbie again did a magnificent job keeping up with the lead on our return journey as the driver ignored his German satnav and trusted in Jim and his wayz. Rehydration was taking in the Dysart with Dan providing some early and very tasty nibbles.