

Trip Report - Saturday 14th March 2020

Route : Rushup Edge and Crowden Tower from Edale, Derbyshire.

Distance : 9.6 miles

Ascent : 1900 feet

Weather : Cloudy at first, some sunnier intervals later.

Squad : Tony, Lynn, Neil, Ann, Mike A, Lesley, Sue, Steve, Sarah, Ray.

Mutts: Riley and Flora.

I've finally got round to writing this Edale trip report six days after we walked it and now it all feels like a different time, a different place. There will be no more car shares, no more sitting close together on hilltops for coffee breaks and no more visits to the pub for our rehydration sessions. We are in challenging times but I don't believe that doesn't mean we can't carry on walking together in the hills - we will just have to find ourselves more drivers, keep a bit further apart from each other, and perhaps even swap hip-flasks for rounds at the Dysart until this crappy Coronavirus emergency is all over.

A not too early Saturday morning departure meant we had a decent 09:30 start to the walk from the pay-and-display in the centre of Edale, Derbyshire. Edale is a village in the Dark Peak famous as the start (or end) of the 268 mile Pennine Way and today it seemed very popular with folk looking for something else to do on a Saturday in March in a stalled sporting calendar.

It was a bit drizzly when we started to walk northwards and upwards toward Mam Nick but the views down the Hope valley when the drizzle did start to clear were worth it. The route then went westwards along Rushup Edge eventually reaching the highest point of Lord's Seat. The weather was trying to clear a bit and we now found ourselves a decent spot to sit for coffee and Ann's scrumptious cake to celebrate Neil's birthday. After a rousing "Happy Birthday" from the BUMs Sue then reminded us with her tale about how fingers and axes don't mix.

We were now on open high soggy moorland but the laying of miles of stone paving stones on our paths kept our feet "Warm and Dry".

We moved on to Brown Knoll and reached the Col above Jacob's Ladder and carried on to below Edale Rocks past Noe Stool, Pym Chair, the Woolpacks and finally Crowden Tower. All around us were hundreds of walkers and fantastic gritstone rock formations and navigating through them we found a decent sheltered spot for our lunch.

The path then snaked its way through many rock sculptures to reach the edge of Grindsbook Clough, and onto Grindslow Knoll to start its descent back towards Edale.

My excellent navigation on the trip up till now was let down a bit when I started to go a bit awry on the descent but luckily Sarah was on the ball and we finally joined the path we should have taken earlier and joined the Pennine Way to find ourselves back in Edale.

We gave a cheery wave as we passed Lesley's son Chris who was having a drink outside an Edale pub with a new 'date' and we finally arrived back at the cars.

Ninety minutes later we were back in the Dysart for what turned out to be our last drink for a bit - but hopefully not for too long !

Tony