

Trip Report - Sunday 17th March 2019

Location : Eyam, Derbyshire

Distance: 8.5 miles

Ascent: Not at lot until Riley Top then about 400 feet.

Weather: Hail, rain and sunshine

Squad: Tony (Leader), Lynn, Mike H, Steve, Sarah, Ian, Ann, Sue J, Dave, (plus Harvey and Riley).

This trip to Eyam in Derbyshire was meant to be the day before but the weather forecast was for heavy rain and strong winds so I switched it to the Sunday when the weather turned out to be still wet but at least not as windy.

A nice 8:30 start from the Pavilion and we were pleased to welcome Sue J and Harvey for their first BUMs trip. Sue had heard about us from Mike H on a previous BUMs walk around Moel Famau. Sadly, Selina seems have taken the good weather with her as we drove through Stockport sleet showers.

Our destination was the Derbyshire village of Eyam which is famous for a self-imposed quarantine of the villagers in the seventeenth century after the plague broke out amongst them, caused it was thought by the arrival of some contaminated clothing from London. Sadly it claimed 259 out of a village population of just 350.

We set off from the car-park next to the plague museum and walked down the green lane of Tideswell Lane towards Foolow. The sleet was now driving hard into us so no coffee stop just yet.

After a bit of a hairy walk along the busy A623 we took the footpath south with lovely views all around across the Derbyshire limestone country and finally found a stop for coffee sheltering behind a dry-stone wall in changeable weather.

Crossing from one field to another we moved into an area of quarry sludge lakes described by the tourist guide as a moonscape but it just looked like a bit of a dump to me and also we had to dodge a number of bikes and a slow tractor as we arrived at Black Harry Gate.

The sun was out as we entered the much nicer limestone valley of Rough Side but there was now a lot of running water in the valley to deal with and at times it was proving a bit difficult to navigate without getting very wet feet.

We did find somewhere half-decent for our lunch stop but the heavens then opened up and so it ended up as a bit of a soggy sojourn. But yet again the sun came out and after crossing through the village of Stoney Middleton we had the first real ascent of the day up to Riley

Top with lovely views down the valley to the distant Chatsworth House. Talk about every dog having his day after Riley Top we passed Riley House and even Riley Graves...

After quick looks at the information boards of each of the Eyam houses describing their sufferings during the plague it was a then a much dryer drive back to Bunbury, with re-hydration and free chips from Sam at the Yew Tree.

Tony.