

BUMS WALK - Friday 24th June

Location: Danebridge in Peak District

Route: Wincle Brewery - Hangingstone - Lud's Church, Three Shires Head - Gradbach

Weather: Much better than forecast (just some light mizzle)

Party: Colin (Leader), Tony & Lynn, Neil (Driver) & Ann, Bob & Mairi, Mike H, Gerry O. Ali and Delilah, Ray (Driver) and Flora

Distance: 11.25 miles, 1634 ft ascent

Many were away this time round, including Jim who was slated to lead but had to head off to Menorca at latish notice (poor lad), but nevertheless a decent turnout for the stand in leader! This was the first I've led for quite some time and great to see Mairi out to one of her fave areas ... and hopefully we'll see her again soon!

True to form I managed to leave the map on the kitchen table, 😞 but unperturbed as I had digital technology and Bob, no need to retrieve it. (Mike H had brought his map so we were covered on H & S issues!).

For any BUMS not familiar with this area, it's a fabulous location as lots of options to walk from Wincle Brewery (as we did) including the Roaches (which we chose to miss out on this time round). It's also only just over an hour in the car so perfect for a Friday jaunt.

Having mulled whether to take 2 or 3 cars we decided to squeeze 10 of us (plus Flora) in Ray and Neil's car which worked out fine. We met Ali and Delilah there.

The route took us first to the famous Hangingstone. Two memorial plaques are attached to the stone, one to Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Courtney Brocklehurst of Swythamley and the second to Burke, a mastiff belonging to an earlier squirrel of Swythamley buried under the rock in 1874. The stone also offered a decent photo opportunity albeit it was a bit duller than we had hoped so the views were a little limited.

Onwards and upwards to an earlyish coffee stop on Castle Cliff Rocks, then on to Lud's Church, a deep chasm caused by a landslide in the gritstone. En route we were treated to a particularly vocal cuckoo in the woods. We then headed through Gradbach and were fortunate to have a close up of curlews circling above us. On we surged to Three Shires Head (where Cheshire, Staffordshire & Derbyshire meet), a very popular spot for swimming as it can almost be reached by car. Lunch was called a few yards into Derbyshire.

The return route meant we had some lanes (tarmac) to navigate and the leader did make a slight error missing the intended short cut through some fields due to being distracted by a majestic kestrel hovering above us (well, that was my excuse).

We then headed back to Gradbach where we broke a BUMS “tradition” of no coffee stops en route (Chairman’s prerogative) whereby we could not resist popping into a lovely cafe where we could also take a comfort break (much appreciated by the ladies in particular). I wouldn’t hold my breath that this will become a regular occurrence though!

The coffee stop seemed to have the effect of slowing everyone down a tad as Bob and I found ourselves out of sight of the rest, but having regrouped we followed the riverside path by the Dane and (actually against the intentions of the leader let it be known, as time was getting on) the majority voted for some early rehydration at the Wincle Brewery before heading back to the Dysart to finish the job.

An enjoyable day!