

## **BUMS Walk – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**Location:** Pen-y Ghent and Plover Hill

**Route:** Horton – Pen-y-Ghent 694m – Plover Hill 680m – Foxup Moor– Hull Pot – Horton

**Weather:** Dry and breezy with occasional sun

**Party:** Mike A (leader), Lesley, Steve, Sarah, Jim G, Mike H, Ian, Sue L, Jeff, Mike W, Selina

**Distance:** 9 miles      **Total Ascent:** 2043ft      **Time:** 4 hrs 20m

This was unfinished business from last March when “The beast from the East” put paid to my plan to tackle this route. In fact, this was the first time we have climbed Pen-y-Ghent as a stand alone BUMS walk. We managed a prompt getaway with a rendezvous at the main Horton-in-Ribblesdale car park and set off with clear views of our target.

As to be expected on an unseasonably dry February half-term Saturday on The Pennine Way, we were not the only ones making our way up Pen-y-Ghent. We had to share the path with children and dogs but not too many to impede our progress on the steep scramble route up the south face. The rock was dry and made for an easy and enjoyable scramble. It was a bit windy on the top and with little prospect of any shelter on the next section, we decided to take our coffee break on one of the handy rock seats at the summit which had just been vacated, and provided some respite from the wind.

The next section involved a trudge across the occasionally soggy moorland to the rarely visited Plover Hill. I'm sure it should have more difficult but the recent dry spell had reduced the bog factor and we also benefitted from a stiff tail wind. The summit cairn was spotted and the leaders made a bee line for it but unfortunately it was not on the path and required climbing over a broken wall. Only two of our number could be bothered to reach the cairn, and in any case it was no higher than where we were already standing.

Unfortunately the urge to bag this summit had taken us beyond our route of descent so a slight back track was necessary to regain the path. After a gentle start, the path steepened and being north facing there were a few remains of the two week old snow, to add some interest. On Foxup moor we turned left onto the bridleway which leads all the way back to Horton. A desperate lunch spot was located which did not give us the best shelter or the best views and as usual, we came to the perfect spot a few minutes later.

I was keen have a look at the famous Hull Pot and worried that we would walk past it. However it is so obvious that we would have had to be wearing blindfolds to miss it. It is claimed to be Britain's biggest natural hole and as holes go, it is spectacular – a collapsed cave, about 60ft wide and deep and 300ft long. Sadly, due to the recent dry weather, the flow of water was just a trickle into the base of the pot. Nevertheless, it was well worth the visit and was definitely one of the highlights of the walk.

Shortly after leaving Hull Pot, we rejoined the Pennine Way (and the crowds) with great views of Pen-y-Ghent to the east and Ingleborough to the west. A mile or so further on we reached Horton and returned to the car park.

Just over 2 hours later and we were enjoying our usual rehydration at the Dysart Arms.

Mike A.