

## **BUMs Report on Midweek walk around Lyme Park, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Attendees: Lesley (Leader), Sarah (co-navigator), Steve, Ann, Jo, Heather, John, Selina, Mike W, Mike H

Weather: beautiful and sunny

Miles 9.9 (or 10 as I call it).

Ascent: Approx 300 m

With Mike (former leader) crying off with a sore knee it was left to me to navigate this walk. Yikes! Having managed to find my way by car to the car park the group decided on three cars and a convoy (yikes again), to the 'parking' spot, again unreced!!

As luck would have it a slight delay on my satnav caused a wrong turn at which all three cars miraculously turned up. Maybe sister luck was on my side today.

We found a very convenient layby large enough for many cars and off we trod, following the route in the book plus keeping a weather eye on the maps (one large print).

The Miners Arms near Adlington was the starting point, and from here across the canal and a disused railway up good tracks till we reached a fishing pool. Here the route suddenly failed (it is from a 2000 dated book) but with map consultation we found a diversion to the route and soon met up at Keepers Cottage to climb up the side of a wall and onwards towards Sponds Hill.

It was an unreced route from a book- **'Best Pub Walks in Cheshire' by Jen Darling** so I was a little worried that it might be a slog through muddy fields however this climb (made John puff a bit) offered some fantastic views over Manchester, Alderley Edge and Lyme Park itself with stunning views and a cloud inversion, of the Cage in Lyme Park—which we could see clearly for nearly half of the walk. Tracks were good and we were soon attacking Sponds Hill, a gratuitous peak which all seemed up for. There is a trig point here with once again stunning views and miles of open heathland and heather. Beautiful.

By now my second and third navigators were in full swing. Sarah and Heather (who I think is itching to co-lead a walk), were great helpers as was the rock steady Steve with the two Mike's always keeping a watchful eye on things. Team work.

We dropped down to the reservoirs at Cockhead (shame Ian wasn't with us) for lunch with stunning views again. By this time I was fancying my chances to win 'The best Friday walk of the Year' award until someone pointed out to Steve that this was a made up category. Shame.

Much mincing along fields followed until we finally saw a boat on the horizon which signalled that we were coming back to the canal.

We managed to turn the right way over the canal and always keeping it on our left we were very soon back at Lyme View Marina, with the cars almost in view.

No problems retracing our steps we met up again at the Dysart but too early for Happy Hour—can you believe that!! Starngely Mr A's knee had improved enough for him to meet us too. Lucky that, wasn't it.

Although that book is 17 years old I might well try another one soon!

Lesley