

Trip Report: The Peak District

Date: 20th January 2007

Group: Jim Walker (leader), Jean Walker, Mike & Lesley Arrowsmith, Jim Grant, Dave 'SMOOTHIE' French

Route: Shining Tor & Goyt Valley

Total Distance: 11 miles

Total Ascent: Unknown

Weather: Unknown

Five piled into the Arrowsmith mobile at 8.15 for our starting point at the Cat and Fiddle pub on the Macclesfield to Buxton road. The excesses of red wine drunk the night before were apparent, but we were all still in high 'spirits'. Our first obstacle came just outside Macclesfield when a flashing sign warned that the road was closed due to an accident.

However it takes more than that to put off intrepid Bums, and we simply ignored it. Good call as the road wasn't closed at all!

Arriving at the Cat and Fiddle we were pleasantly surprised to see Dave French waiting for us. He had stayed overnight with friends in Buxton, and had drunk a lot of beer. He is going to fit in fine.

The car temperature gauge told us it was 4 degrees outside. However what it was not measuring was the wind chill - it was blowing a gale (shades of the Fairfield Horseshoe trip).

Due to the wind we decided to walk the ridge with the wind at our back, and so reversed the intended route. It was at this point the leader issued the disclaimer that if we got lost it would not be his fault!

A short climb to Shining Tor gave us our first opportunity for a photo stop at the trig point. It was too cold however to hang about, and we therefore proceeded along the ridge path over Cats Tor to Pym's Chair. A short stop there allowed Dave to reach into his rucksack and uncork a smoothie. Not the image of a hard mountaineer! Lesley at this point felt she was too warm and informed us that she was going to take her clothes off in the woods! We hurried to the woods.

What was clear to us was the devastation caused by the recent storm with a huge number of trees blown over. Into the woods for a coffee stop and Lesley had a cup of coffee (relief all round).

Back along the ridge called Taxil edge then a descent down towards Fernlee reservoir for lunch. In a new departure for the Bums, lunch was taken sitting down on wooden benches, By now as we were in the valley the wind had dropped and the sun shone.

We then walked along Fernlee Reservoir and Errwood Reservoir. Here the waters flowed from one to the other via what looked like a huge well.

Mike informed Lesley that this was a salmon ladder! They must breed salmon tough in this part of the world.

We then had a steep flog back up to regain the ridge and the wind. A walk into the wind back to the Cat and Fiddle finally blew away any lingering excesses from the night before.

We were back in the Dysart around 3.30 for the normal post-trip lubrication.

A good walk for a January day, around 11 miles with stunning scenery.

Jim W