

Trip Report: The Lake District

Date: 18th January 2008

Group: : Elena (leaderish) Lesley, Mike, Caryle, Tina, Sabina, Colin, Ian, Chris, Roxie and Molly.

Route: Alcock Tarn

Total Distance: Unknown

Total Ascent: Unknown

Weather: Unknown

A fairly prompt start at 7.00 am, at Jim's suggestion, from the playing fields car park. It was dark and drizzly; not so promising...

Got in Grasmere by 9.15 am, but before the walk could be started, we all had to relieve ourselves, after a long journey (I have been told by the chairlady that I must mention this detail, because it's very important!).

On the way back Elena and Caryle stopped and bought sitting mats, to protect themselves from getting their BUMS wet.

Then we went back to the car park where the walk started. We cut across Grasmere, by the Church and Wordsworth's memorial house, then aimed towards the Alcock Tarn. Steady walk, a bit hectic, but good enough to make us want to delay by a clean little pond, while Roxie and Molly showed off their blossoming friendship.

Then we ascended for another 10-15 minutes and arrived at the tarn, where, in the shelter of the rocks, and blessed by a nice sunny spell, had our coffee break. Well deserved rest during which Ian enjoyed his coffee from his brand new flush bough from ikea with 2.99. Unfortunately it ended in discomfort for Caryle, as she did not follow the instruction of the sitting mat, and got half of her BUM wet! And ironically it was Caryle's bum which kept on making contact with the ground all throughout the walk, again and again ... and again, so in the end you could not tell which half sat off the mat during the coffee break!!!

From the Alcock Tarn we have been suggested by Elena's deputies that we extend the route towards the Heron Pike and Great Rigg. That took the smile off Sabina's and Ian's faces.

It was Colin who brought the smiles back, but only for a minute or two, as he admitted to engineering false hopes for the two slaves, when he disclosed the real route. And as this wasn't enough, he took photos of the struggling crowd at its unhappiest moment, while he was laughing his head off.

But we all made it, and we even had a friendly lunch break, once again in the shelter and sun, on this occasion on the top of Heron Pike. The relationship between Elena and Sabina was under some strain when Elena

declared that her daughter did not secure her lunch, as it was supposed to happen; but there was a positive to the moment, because nearly everybody showed great sympathy and friendship by offering Elena part of the content of their lunchboxes.

...but that was probably Elena's way of testing the feelings of the group, or trying to have a nicer lunch than her cheese sandwich, as she suddenly admitted to finding her lunch!!!

Then, apart from a little break requested by Ian, during which he hid behind some big rocks (?), there were no untowards events on the way back to the carpark.

We did well to walk 6.5 miles and 2626 feet of ascent within 5 hours. Everybody attended the hydration therapy session at the Dysart, where it has been agreed that we had a great day, during which, just by pure luck, we escaped the rain in Bunbury!!!

Lesley