

**Trip Report: Goyt Valley****Date:** 29th January 2016**Group:** Jeff (Leader), Lynn, Mike H, Jim, Ann, Selina, Sue Smith and Mark Hallett**Route:** Goyt Valley and Shining Tor, Derbyshire**Total Distance:** 9.5 miles**Total Ascent:** 1700 ft**Weather:** Storm Gertrude, wind (gusts 40mph+), rain, hail, bit of blue sky later**Time:** 4 hours 30 mins

The walk went ahead despite the now familiar dreadful weather forecast although we were relying on the BBC forecast for Buxton which showed an extensive dry spell in the middle of the day and even the possibility of some sunshine. However, strong winds and gusts over 40mph were to continue all day, courtesy of storm Gertrude under the new met office habit of naming the various US cast-offs sweeping across the Atlantic. We arrived in the Goyt Valley at the car park on Errwood Reservoir and there was a slight delay caused by a "please sir, I've forgotten my boots moment" from Mike. Fortunately his reserve pub footwear seemed pretty serious and Mike was able to continue despite all Gertrude could throw at us.

We were suitably impressed by the white-tops on the water as we set off along the reservoir, shortly taking a path uphill in the general direction of the Cat and Fiddle. This was heading southwest into the direction of the wind but mainly sheltered, and was followed by a turn to the north west heading directly across the moor to Shining Tor. After the trig point photostop, full waterproofs were required as a period of gusting wind, rain and hail swept across the moors. Some of us were optimistically expecting this to pass us by but Jim's "no, its coming straight at us" turned out to be right. We continued north now along the Cheshire East and Derbyshire border, crossing Cats Tor, and Oldgate Nick to reach Pym's Chair with a short coffee stop huddled in the shelter of a drystone wall.

After a kilometer of tarmac we continued along the ridge beside Windgather rocks, which were doing what it says on the tin, and with some relief turned east and dropped down from the ridge towards a farm. This was surrounded by some particularly lush mud which tested Mike's pub footwear to the limit. Lunch was called a little further on past Overton Hall farm, where the burghers of Whaley Bridge had provided a fine cast iron bench with a view towards the Goyt Valley. This was

occupied by the female members of the party, leaving the male members to squeeze onto an ancient plank seat which seemed to have been gnawed by something large.

Navigation had been going fine until this point but there was a glitch after lunch amongst steep and particularly muddy paths going down to the river Goyt but nothing 3 Satmaps and a huddle couldn't solve. After this it was plain sailing along the side of Fernilee reservoir and its waterside walk back to the car park, totally sheltered from the wind and with some large patches of blue sky, so the BBC wasn't totally wrong. Mark and Sue had survived their first walk in good form despite the conditions and we hope to see them on future walks.

Traffic was pretty clear on the way home to the Yew Tree for the usual rehydration where we were joined by other members practising for the real ale train ride the following day.

Jeff