

Trip Report: Settle

Date: 15th June 2013

Group: Mike H (leader) Mike W and Selina, Mike A and Lesley, Lynda and Brian (guest), Ali and Dave, Kate (on her first Bums walk), Colin, Jeff

Route: Settle, Stainforth, Catrigg, Winskill, Victoria Cave, Langcliffe Scar, Settle

Total Distance: 8.6 miles

Total Ascent: 1879 ft

Weather: Unknown

The highlight of this walk was the return of Mike Arrowsmith following his prolonged medical treatment. It is great to see him back walking with us.

A very poor weather forecast predicting dangerous walking conditions on the high fells necessitated a last minute change of plans. So instead of a challenging walk along Striding Edge onto Helvellyn, we had a much more leisurely walk in the upper Ribble valley around Settle, with a mix of river banks and limestone escarpments.

The weather during the car journey looked very threatening with black clouds surrounding the Bowland hills. On arriving in Settle, the weather was much improved and we experienced a mainly dry day. We planned a shorter route for Mike A and a time for us to meet up with him. The first part of the walk was along the Ribble way towards Stainforth Force where cameras were out to record the views. The bridge over the river provided yet another opportunity to photograph 'Bums on Bridges' - definitely a continuing theme on this year's walks. As we continued, Kate, on her first Bums walk, showed the group her rather unusual way of getting over farm gates - not to be copied. Cameras were soon out again when we reached Catrigg Force - a waterfall hidden from view in a deep sunken gorge. During the walk from Catrigg, Roxie continued to impress with her ability to scramble over stiles, but then let herself down by consuming large quantities of cow pats! As we approached Victoria Caves, Mike A was sat there waiting for us - we were well behind the planned meeting time indicating our very leisurely pace. Lunch was taken sat in the cave - a mistake as caves are very cold places. The cave was excavated by enthusiastic Victorians who found bones from Hippos, Elephants and Hyenas. We did hear some strange sounds during lunch! As leader I had planned to continue the walk to reach Scaleber Force, but a herd of cows with their calves looked rather menacing so we continued directly back to Settle. Before reaching the car park, the sign advertising real Yorkshire ice cream proved to be irresistible - but don't tell Jim G.

Yet another enjoyable day - and we gained two new fully paid-up members.
My thanks to Jeff and Colin for carrying out the driving duties with me.
I hope the rest of the 'summer' provides better walking weather.

Mike H