

Trip Report: South Staffordshire

Date: 29th March 2013

Group: Lynn(Leader), Ian, Jim G, Tony, Jeff, Lesley, Caryle, Selina, Mike H and new member John, **Mutts:** Molly and Cody

Route: Kinver Edge

Total Distance: 11.3 miles

Total Ascent: 1079 ft

Weather: Fine and cold

Time: 5 hours 15 mins

A Good turnout for a Good Friday walk, and welcome to our newest BUMs member, John (and Cody), and special mention to recently retired Lesley (just in case you hadn't heard),

Getting to Kinver from Bunbury was easy enough, finding the same car-park in Kinver was a bit more difficult, but we eventually found each other and walked off northwards towards the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal.

We walked alongside an equestrian centre and then followed the banks of the river Stour before joining the tow-path of the canal. The sun was out but it was still a very cold day thanks to what the met office are calling the beast from the east.

At Stewponey Wharf some of the BUMs seem to think I'd organised enough trips and it was now time I could throw away my L-plates.

Ahead of us was a nice flat walk along the canal as it took us through Devil's Den and to the aqueduct over the River Stour at Prestwood Bridge. It was now well after 11 and the BUMs stomachs were now rumbling and the leader was now getting complaints about not stopping for coffee. It took us a while to find somewhere to stop and we eventually rested on a pile of logs on the edge of Millions wood.

Refreshed, we walked through the wood to the village of Enville Hall, home of the Earl of Stanford, leading parliamentarians in the English Civil War. We took advantage of some perfectly positioned benches for our lunch-break and waited for the cricket season to start.

The next part of our walk would follow the Staffordshire Way and take us to our final destination - Kinver Edge. Luckily enough, the leader spotted the Staffordshire Way sign and we were on our way to climb the heights up to the Edge.

Navigation proved a bit tricky with so many routes to the top of the edge but with a nifty bit of compass work and help from one or two signs we were soon at the top and rewarded with great views of Staffordshire, Worcestershire and loads of other places.

The plan was actually to walk along the base of the edge and back along the top, but in the end we walked along the Edge twice - proving you can't have too much of a good thing!

The end of the Edge was a fine viewpoint with a cross and a great opportunity for a BUMs photo (and perhaps, March 2013 calendar entry). The highlight of the day was when we eventually arrived at Holy Austin Rock and the Rockhouses. These houses built into the sandstone rock were inhabited until the 1950s and are now owned by the National Trust. Back to the village and a great walk completed, the BUMs broke with usual tradition and went to the Yew Tree for final refreshments (well there was a beer festival on), only after we'd had a drink in the Bear in Hodnet shocking both Greg and Debbie with our surprise arrival.

Lynn