

**Trip Report: Yorkshire Dales**

**Date:** 28th March 2014

**Group:** Mike H (Irader) Lesley, Chrissie, Colin (and Roxie), Lynda and guest (and Nicki), Lynn and guest, Ann and Neil, Jim G, Rob, Jeff, John and Heather

**Route:** Malhamdale

**Total Distance:** 8.5 miles

**Total Ascent:** 2106 ft

**Weather:** Unknown

The weather forecast for the day in North Yorks was very bleak with drizzly rain and low cloud forecast for the whole day. So the group set off expecting a very wet day.

After a two hour drive the group assembled in the National Park car park in Malham and put on gear for the wet from the outset, Colin and Lynda showing off their new walking footwear. This must be a long time that Colin has started a walk expecting to arrive back with dry feet.

After a brief walk along Malham Beck, the group arrived at the first spectacle of the day - the waterfall at Janet's Foss. The high water level in the Beck made the waterfall more spectacular than usual. As leader, I had mixed feelings about this as the next part of the walk involved ascending the falls at Gordale Scar.

As we walked along Gordale Beck towards Gordale Scar the view of falls was an imposing sight, even for those who had visited the area many times. And to our amazement, we were experiencing dry weather with the occasional hint of sunshine - so much for accurate forecasting. As we approached the waterfall the prospect of continuing the walk along the usual route by climbing by the side of the falling water caused some concern, as an easy climb was now made more demanding by the force of water coming down. As leader, I listened to the various comments and watched the look of dread on some faces. So we planned an alternative route around the falls for those not wanting to do the climb. Having made sure the non-climbing group knew where to meet up as leader I arrived back at the falls to find that there had been no stopping those who wanted to do the climb and the path was now deserted. Even Roxie had been cajoled to climb through the cascading water. The thought of not completing another classic route (and the micky taking) spurred the leader to risk the climb with no-one around.

Eventually the whole group assembled safely to continue the route towards Malham Tarn, though some had to put up with wet feet (but not the man in his new shiny boots). From Malham Tarn the route followed

the Pennine Way along Watlowes dry valley. At this point Malham Beck disappears underground via a Sink Hole to reappear at Malham Cove. The Group followed the stony descent along the valley to arrive at the limestone pavement above the Cove, with its fantastic view of Malham and Upper Airedale. The final part of the route was the descent to the Cove itself. The arch of Malham Cove must be one of the most photographed views in Yorkshire. So having taken in the scenery of the Cove, the group made its way back to Malham to begin the homeward journey after a great day out in the Dales

Mike H