

Trip Report: Kinder Scout

Date: 15th November 2014

Group: Mike A (leader), Lesley, Lynn, Tony, Jeff, Mike H, Jim G, Lynda, Sue, Ian, Dave, Hugh, Kim (guest) + Molly & Jess (mutts)

Route: Hayfield (Bowden Bridge) - William Clough - Kinder Downfall - Kinder Low - Edale Cross

Total Distance: 8.6 miles

Total Ascent: 1932 ft

Weather: Dry but thick mist on top

Time: 5 hours

As the "Classic" year draws to a close, Kinder Scout seemed to be a popular choice, with people coming from all over country to join in. We had a decent enough turnout of 10 at the pavilion, but at Bowden Bridge, we also had the welcome addition of Hugh from the Luton chapter, having left home before the crack of dawn to be with us, and dragging along his climbing buddy, Kim. We also had Allie and Dave, minus a sick Allie, travelling all the way from Urmston after enjoying a lie in.

Although the weather forecast was much improved on recent days, the threat of claggy tops remained, but we set off from Bowden Bridge Car Park in high spirits, hoping for the best. We initially followed the route of the famous Kinder Trespass of 1932, which ultimately led to the opening up of the countryside to the likes of us BUMS. The ascent was scenic and interesting, passing above Kinder Reservoir before heading up William Clough, criss-crossing the stream, which was flowing nicely following the rainfall of the previous few days.

It was certainly a challenge for Ian's new recruit Jess, who seemed scared of getting her feet wet and needed some carrying. As we neared Ashop Head towards the top of the Clough, it became mirkier, and by the time we turned onto the Pennine way, it was well and truly "classic" clag to match the "classic" walk.

It had also reduced the temperature a few degrees, so somewhere out of the breeze was sought for coffee break.

A peat hag did the trick nicely, and fully refreshed, we headed towards Kinder Downfall, which we could hear, but unfortunately no visual contact was possible. We milled around for a few minutes on the edge of the downfall, soaking up the atmosphere, before heading south along the edge towards the trig point at Kinder Low, the possible route over the plateau having been summarily binned due the clag factor. It was difficult enough locating the Trig Point, even though we had at least 4 GPS devices between us. It is painted white and not really elevated, so it was possible

to walk within 50 yards and not spot it. However, it was located and proved to be an excellent lunch spot, with makeshift gritstone benches close by.

The next task was to navigate off south to Edale Cross, which was duly located, but not without some potential rebellion in the ranks having to be quelled, as we had left the Pennine Way to use a more direct route. As we neared Edale Cross, we left the clag behind to find the day as pleasant as it was before we entered it. The route now followed the stony track down through Oaken Clough, where it eventually led to a tarmac Lane, taking us back to the Car park.

After the farewells to our far and near flung compatriots, we enjoyed an easy drive back to the Yew Tree, but not before the most difficult navigational challenge of the day, heading north out of Hayfield.

Rehydration was duly taken, with the 2 Scotties being swapped by Ian for Penny.

Mike A