

Trip Report: Staffordshire

Date: 27th November 2015

Group: Lynn, Tony, Sue, Debbie +2 lovely dogs, Les, Mike A, Jeff, Ann, Colin, Steve, Sarah, Chrissie, Mike H

Route: Cannock Chase

Total Distance: 12.5 miles

Total Ascent: 1900 ft

Weather: Fine and Dry

It seems this trip was jinxed from the beginning. The new meeting point at the Yew Tree proved too much of a change for Chrissie, she went to the Pavilion. Anyway after successfully locating her we set off for Staffordshire via a very busy M6. We had a few problems locating the Seven Springs car park, eventually we all found the right car park and set off towards the Trent and Mersey canal.

We followed the Staffordshire Way passing over Essex Bridge, the longest pack horse bridge in England, then on through Shugborough park land passing Shugborough Hall. We then headed towards the covered reservoir, all was going smoothly until we met a couple coming in the opposite direction, who told us the footpath we needed was closed! To cut a long discussion short, because Tony had the map and my notes were now irrelevant, Tony was now the leader (hence why it became 12 miles instead of 10).

We thought it would be a good idea to take a few minutes to recalculate our bearings, so we stopped for coffee in one of the many car parks en route!

The next part of the report is written by Tony.

We now followed the Sherbrook valley and came to a lovely set of stepping stones where a number of photos were taken all vying for the November page of next year's BUMs calendar. This was good easy walking through lovely countryside following the river south and at a concrete bridge we settled down for a lunch stop. A few miles further south and we reached the German military cemetery to German soldiers who died in the UK during both wars.

The skies were grey and threatening rain but luckily none had yet fallen on us and after a windy route along the Heart of England way and the Two Saints Way (which actually goes through Bunbury) we reached the Glacial Boulder which is much advertised on the Staffordshire Tourist website but it did seem a little on the small size.

The sun came out for a bit but with time moving on we carried on across the heathland with great open views and re-joined the river Sherbrook and its stepping stones.

There was yet another shock in the day when we now had to climb a steep hill, after a slight navigational error we eventually reached the car-park. This was not the end of the trial we then spent the next two hours trying to get through major roadworks in Stafford back home to the Yew Tree, but it was all easily forgotten after a pint of two and a great day out in a cold and windy November.

PS Sorry all about the extra miles and I hope Debbie got back to work in time !

Lynn and Tony