

## **Trip Report: Leyburn Weekend**

**Date:** 25th-18th October 2015

**Group:** Les and Mike Arrowsmith, Colin and Amanda Christie, Tony and Lynn Quinn, Sarah and Steve Hammond, Selina and Mike Willis, Jim Grant, Caryle Sinnott

**Routes:** see below

Leyburn, despite being just outside the National Park, is a perfect setting for a walking group as it is surrounded by hills, rivers and limestone—all of which both celebrate the wonderful Yorkshire landscape, and provide a playground for the likes of us BUMs.

The guest house is owned and managed by the Collett's group and offers very comfortable accommodation, great breakfasts, fantastic afternoon cakes and a very warm welcome from our hosts, Kirstie and Graham. Plus it is very good value for a 3 night stay.

Tom Collett was there but a slightly shadowy figure this particular weekend.

The weather was not quite as good as the last few weeks but we had only one wet spell.

The assembled group met by 8:00 pm at The Black Swan in the high street. Here we were treated to real pub grub—all 'home' cooked from the freezer, and the beer was OK (no Landlord's but at least a lovely Wainwright) and only Tony and Jim complained (so what's new there?). So after stuffing our faces with chips etc we headed back to the house for a few more after dinner drinks and so to bed.

Day 2 started grey and slightly dismal but there was a great sense of anticipation from the group—all except sickly Colin who, despite having to sleep bolt upright in bed to escape the nausea, insisted on walking with no food, only a cup of coffee to start with, and shorts!! Our leader was understandably worried about this situation but Colin being Colin—what can you do?

We left Amanda (also not at her best) and Caryle to sample the delights of Hawes and several breweries and headed off for the first walk at Gunnerside Gill.

BUMS Leyburn Trip Report - Gunnerside Gill - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Location: Gunnerside, North Yorkshire

Weather: Overcast but dry after damp start

Party: Mike A (leader), Lesley, Colin, Jim G, Mike W, Selina, Tony, Lynn, Steve, Sarah

The Walk: Gunnerside - Gunnerside Gill - Blakethwaite Dams - Rogan's Seat (2204ft) - Swinner Gill - Ivelet - Gunnerside  
Distance: 10.8 miles      Total Ascent: 2300 ft      Time: 6 hrs

One of the (many) highlights of our weekend at Colletts B&B in Leyburn was the walk in Swaledale up to Gunnerside Gill to explore the remains of the lead mining industry, which employed 4000 miners in the region in the 1880's. So, fully fuelled by a "Full Yorkshire" breakfast we took the 30 minute drive over Grinton Moor to the village of Gunnerside where we easily found parking space for our 3 cars. One notable breakfast absentee being Colin, who was feeling queasy and was therefore totally unfuelled but ready to walk.

Even as we parked up, the mizzle turned to steady drizzle and most of the squad opted for full wet weather gear as we headed up the east side of the beck through the woods. After a mile or so, we began to see the spoil heaps, bunkers, and remains of buildings which supported the lead mines. As the rain had ceased, we set up a coffee break amongst some ruins which were set high above the beck and which gave us good views up and down the valley.

The path petered out at Blakethwaite Dam, and above the dam we had to make a tricky crossing across the remains of a bridge which provided scope for a drenching but sadly for the camera wielding paparazzi (Jim and Lesley), all made it safely over onto the moor.

The toughest part of the day was the next mile across the pathless grouse moor, knee deep in heather to the summit of Rogan's Seat. We finally arrived at the unimpressive summit cairn amidst mutterings from the troops. Later they would look back and say that the heathery flog really enhanced the day out, but that was certainly not the mood at that particular time. Furthermore it was past one o'clock but where could we find a suitable lunch spot on the barren windswept waste of Rogan's Seat? As we descended south on a landrover track, we came across a wooden cabin used by the grouse hunters, which was unlocked and unoccupied, complete with tables and benches, just perfect for weary BUM's to enjoy their lunch. This was unexpected triumph for the leader, who had anticipated our lunch spot hunkering down somewhere in a peat hag.

We followed the stony track as far as East Grain, where we turned onto a steep path, descending alongside the beck to some more mineworkings, at which point we crossed the beck and followed the high level path which contoured around Black Hill. This was the most scenic section of the walk, with superb views of Swaledale and the surrounding hills. This path

finally took us to the hamlet of Ivelet and from there across a few fields returning to our car park at Gunnerside.

Before returning to Leyburn, The Kings Head in Gunnerside provided much needed rehydration, with a roaring fire and excellent local ales.

Mike A

Thanks Mike for that stirring trip report.

Despite being booked into the Black Swan again Sarah couldn't face the frozen food so went out to recce another eatery—this time Penleys, a slightly better looking wine bar. It was a great evening with lots of wine as we waited, and waited.....for the food. However, when it arrived it was very good and reasonable prices.

Back to the house for more apres drinks and so to bed (I think some of the chaps went out for a crafty beer as well).

Day 2 arrived with yet another mega breakfast—basically anything you wanted except kippers (thank the lord).

Tony was leading this one and Caryle came too, but Colin and Amanda, still queasy, stayed to circumnavigate the beautiful Aysgarth Falls.

BUMS Leyburn - Nidderdale Trip Report - Saturday 18th October 2015

Location: Nidderdale, North Yorkshire

Weather: Dry and dull at first, sun coming out in afternoon

Party: Tony(Leader), Lynn, Jim, Mike A, Lesley, Mike W, Selina, Caryle, Steve and Sarah.

The Walk: Scar House and Dale Edge from Middlesmoor,

Distance: 11 miles      Total Ascent: 350m      Time: 6 hrs

The walk started from Middlesmoor, a fine looking Yorkshire hill-top village in Nidderdale (an AONB) but without Colin and Amanda who weren't so well and they went off for a visit to nearby Masham of Theakston and Black Sheep brewery fame.

We set off from the car-park along a good track towards Scar House reservoir in dry and thankfully not very windy weather and with marvellous views of the surrounding high fells.

After a couple of miles we reached the reservoir, with its grand looking castellated dam built in the 1930s for the thirsty city of Bradford, and we walked along the top of the dam wall to the other side of the water. All that rushing water gave many of the BUMS the need for a toilet stop beside but not in the dam, and following a short ascent of the path we stopped again for a coffee break.

The route moved up the fell to Dale Edge and offered us a nice and easy contouring route with great views up and down Nidderdale. Mike and Lesley wanted to take things a bit easier and so they took a lower level route following the river Nidd just after Woo beck. The sun was breaking out and the autumn colours provided us with a lovely backdrop of the valley for our lunch stop.

We carried on along the high route until Thorpe Edge shooting lodge (which looks a bit like a church) when our path took us back down into the beautiful valley and on towards the village of Lofthouse.

From Lofthouse our destination was Yorkshire's Little Switzerland - How Stean Gorge - where before walking through the gorge and its cave we met up again with Mike and Lesley at the cafe.

Selina and Mike had to leave to meet friends in the Lakes and so it was just Jim, Lynn, Caryle and myself who paid our fivers (well £4 for pensioner Jim) entrance fees and we explored the gorge and Tom Taylors cave which was great and amazingly opens up into the car-park. Like a good cub-scout Jim had a head-torch with him whereas the ill-prepared Leader had to buy a torch from the cafe.

We all met up again and went back to the cars where we also met Mike and Selina who after all it seems couldn't resist the delights of the Black Sheep pub in Middlesmoor.

We drove over to Masham and the White Bear for a sublime pint of Theakston ale but unfortunately the Brewery shop was closed so I wasn't able to buy Mike W the Stout he wanted - sorry Mike !

A wonderful day out made all the better by the company, sunshine and Yorkshire ale.

Tony

Thanks for this report Tony.

This night we ate at 13@ Leyburn. This went well with for our group. Highly recommended, though the steak left a bit to be desired... Tony and Colin....have something more complicated next time. Unfortunately Tony was having steak so now he has a reputation as a bit of a moaner—so what's new Lynn??

It was a great weekend, and don't let the fact that there are couples involved put others off coming. These weekends are for everyone who loves exploring and walking in new locations. The Yorkshire Dales are a step too far for a one dayer, so it's the best way we can get further afield. We try to find accommodation which suits every pocket

Next year will, no doubt, be something else on offer.

Lesley

Jim