

**Trip Report: The Bronte Ramble**

**Date:** 18th September 2010

**Group:** Tony (Leader), Lynn, Selina, Ali, Mike, Ian, Graham, Jim

**Route:** Hebden Bridge, Wadsworth Moor, Bronte Country

**Total Distance:** 13 miles

**Total Ascent:** Unknown

**Weather:** Damp

**Time:** 7 hours

It was all going so well, the rain had stayed off, we had managed get into just 2 cars, a short drive along the M62 was all that all ahead, but...it all started to go horribly wrong at Todmorden.

The leader had been admiring the gritstone municipal architecture of that fine Yorkshire mill town so much, he missed the turning to Hebden Bridge and was happily on his way to Burnley in Lancashire before he realised there was something wrong.

Any way, quick about turn, and we eventually met up with Selina's group in Hardcastle Craggs National Trust car park. Good to see Graham and Ali joining us once again.

The walk through the woods was supposed to be a peaceful stroll along to the Craggs, but it seemed as though the M62 had been re-routed along our tracks causing us much traffic annoyance and especially difficult for Tilly - the dog with no road sense whatsoever.

A nice mill complete with mirroring pool then presented itself in the middle of the wood. It was an old cotton mill with toilets called Gibson's Mill and probably not the sort of place William Blake had in mind.

We moved on towards Hardcastle Craggs which were inexplicably missed and we ended up at the bottom of Wadsworth Moor. With a later start than anticipated, the leader saw an opportunity to cut a corner or two and we headed up over the tops to Walshaw Dean Reservoirs.

As if by magic a stone table and seats presented themselves and provided us with a great place for a coffee and pork-pie break.

Luckily the rain stayed off and down in the valley we hit the Pennine Way.

The Pennine Way led us on to Bronte Country and coming over the moor tops we first saw "Top Withins" the scene for the famous Wuthering Heights. Not the set I remember Laurence Olivier and Merle Oberon running around in '39, but further on the bucolic delights at Bronte Bidge over Bronte Waterfalls made up for the disappointments and also provided a great place for lunch.

It must also be the first place the BUMs have visited where footpath

signs are also written in Japanese, but the leaders navigational skills were up to it and we followed the Bronte way towards Oxenhope with tourist honey-pot Haworth over to the east.

The Calder-Aire link may not be the most exciting trail in Northern England but it did lead us back to the car-park via the pleasant Crimsworth Dean wooded valley.

Back to the Dysart with no mishaps and a further highlight of the day with Caryle serving us on her inaugural bar-maid shift.

Tony.