**Trip Report:** Dark Peak

**Date:** March 19th 2022

**Group**:  Jim G (leader) Sarah, Mike H, Mark, Dave Barker, Lesley, Selina, Ray, Tony, Lynn, Flora (mutt)

**Route:** Mam Tor-Hollins Cross-Edale- Jacob’s Ladder-Rushup Edge

**Total Distance**: 10.6 miles

**Total Ascent**:  2252 ft

One late withdrawal due to a mysterious attack of Delhi belly, sees the rest of the squad depart the Pavilion car park at 8pm sharp (ish). A swift uneventful journey sees the 3 cars arrive at Mam Tor Nick Car park at 9.30. The car park is full with cars and horaces milling about everywhere, the decision is taken (Tony blames the Leader) to park on the verge just outside the official car park (more of this later)

The weather is clear and sunny but with a brisk biting wind, which gathers pace as we make our way through the hordes of horaces making for the trig point on top of Mam Tor (517m). The route continues along the ridge descending to Hollins Cross, this marks the traditional coffin road route from Castleton to Edale. We turn left here and now drop down into the Edale Valley before arriving at Edale Station car park where full use is made of the toilet facilities followed by a quick coffee break.

A train from Sheffield arrives and disgorges a swarm of Horaces, it feels a bit like Piccadilly Circus! We fight our way through the crowds and head up to the start of the Pennine Way next to the Nags Inn pub, the crowds are starting to thin out a bit as most seem to be heading for the pubs and shops. This delightful stretch of the Pennine Way takes us to Upper Booth, where we regroup before tackling the major uphill section of the day. The path continues along the valley to Jacob’s Ladder, a bridleway between Upper Booth and the Kinder Scout plateau, this is steepish but well paved. It sorts the sheep from the goats as the squad does get well strung out. At the top of the Ladder we turn left off the Pennine Way seeking shelter (there is none) from the biting wind and a welcome lunch stop is called.

Following a short gully we then turn left again onto what must be one of the longest continuous paved paths I have ever been on. When planning the route I thought this was going to be a very long bog trot, it turns out to be a “yellow brick road” of nearly 2.5 miles of York Stone flags, the cost of which boggles the imagination! It makes for very easy going and we cross Brown Knoll (569m) passing its trig point and carry on to the junction with Rushup Edge. Fairly easing going along the edge and back to the cars! Shock horror, we find that all three cars are sporting a parking ticket. The recriminations can now begin, the Leader is accused of gross incompetence, amongst other offences ( apart from the parking one). After much discussion about the legalities, morals, money grabbing, politics, Brexit etc. etc. we agree that the cost (£35 per car) will be shared equally by the car occupants.

A swift drive back sees us in the Dysart at 3.45pm to drown our car parking fines sorrows. We are joined by Gillian, Cathy & Mike A

Jim G