

Trip Report 23 February 2024

Route	Long Mynd from Church Stretton
Distance	12 miles with 2500ft accent (shorter route 9miles, 1700ft accent)
Squad	Sarah, Steve, Cate, Lesley, Lynn, Sue L, Jim, Gerry, Tony, Mike W, Ann, Neil (Leader) and Ponya

A smooth start to the morning with everyone ready for an 8.00 departure from the Pavilion, meant we arrived at Church Stretton in good time and set off at 9.30 from Rectory Wood and Field car park.

It was great to welcome Sue Lancaster back for her first BUMS walk in a while. There would be two walks, the main one at 12 miles and a slightly shorter one at 9 miles which would avoid the final ascent of the day.

The weather at the start was crisp and fine, and during the walk we experienced a few sleet and rain showers and near freezing temperatures, but the group were well equipped to handle all of the conditions. Cate had even packed her first aid kit in line with the recently issued guidelines, something we should all be minded to do.

The walk proceeded from the car park and headed toward Carding Mill valley, taking a brief convenience stop at the visitor centre. Sue took the term "follow the leader" too far, and followed him into the male toilets, but swiftly exited!! This was also a time to put waterproofs on, something that was reversed and repeated throughout the walk.

The group continued through the valley, climbing 800ft onto the Jack Mytton Way. The weather had improved by this point with fine views of the surrounding area as the group made their way to the trig point at 1650ft. After a quick descent down Pole Bank, the coffee stop was taken in a newly constructed wooden hut, with all mod cons, including seats! Sadly, for some, the seats were quite high, and there was much dangling of feet above the ground.

The weather soon closed in again, with heavy sleet showers as the group made their descent into Little Stretton. Lunch was taken at the foot of Ashes Hollow, by a babbling brook, and the weather cleared with the first sunshine of the day.

The group split at this point with Tony, Lynn, Sue and Ponya heading back the slightly shorter way with the rest heading up the 800ft ascent towards the top of Ashes Hollow, criss-crossing the brook many times. Given the recent rainfall, water levels had risen and a couple of the crossings did result in wet feet for a few. Fine views were again afforded at the top before the group made its final descent through Town brook valley. Some boggy patches were encountered, but fortunately not at the level recently experienced at Kinder Scout (sorry Ali!!).

Hydration was taken later at the Dysart.

My thanks to Steve and Tony for driving and to the whole squad for their good humour in making it a most enjoyable day in changeable weather conditions.

Neil