

Trip Report Friday 29th July 2018

Derbyshire Peaks District. Monk Dale and Cheedale

Distance: 11.1/2 miles

Weather: Sunny and very warm.

Squad: Selina (leader), Lynn , Amanda, Sarah, Chrissie, Lesley, and Della

The first ever all female BUM squad convened at the pavilion car park for the drive over to Wyedale a short distance from Buxton. This was also probably the first walk for a very long time where the only navigation aid was an OS map!

The first hurdle was trying to pay for the car park which only took cards....luckily Lynn had one, but the machine was painfully slow. Once this was sorted we set off along Wyedale and then crossed the river by a Bike Hire shop (more of this later). We climbed steeply out of the dale and followed the Pennine Bridleway for a short distance before branching off to the foot of Flag Dale. The original plan was to walk up the dale but a local farmer obviously had other ideas! After a bit of route finding we climbed back out the other side of the dale and followed a track which met up again with the Pennine Bridleway.

We then crossed over the fields where navigation was much helped by some usefully placed telephone boxes. A discussion followed about how they were represented on the OS maps and whether young people would understand what the symbol was. We dropped down to the top of Monk Dale where we stopped for lunch.. The descent through Monk Dale was quite slow due to the rocky terrain and a number of fallen trees, and we were very grateful for the shade. We reached Millers Dale and then there was a short piece of road walking to meet the start of the footpath through Cheedale.

Shortly into Cheedale we spotted a man doing a strange dance with a large net. We couldn't resist asking what he was doing and he turned out to be an Entomologist counting insects. He explained how the drought was adversely affecting the number of insects, and the knock on effect on birds and wildlife. It doesn't appear to be affecting the number of Entomologists as we saw many more along our route.

The beautiful Cheedale never fails to impress and we followed the dale over some tricky terrain for Amanda, but the dreaded stepping stones proved more straight forward than I remembered and the low level of the river made life easier. We stopped to watch/admire a couple of groups of climbers before emerging at the end of the dale. The squad were already very hot and tired at this stage and hoping that the owner of the previously mentioned Bike Hire shop would not 'have missed a trick' and would have some cold drinks available. Our prayers were answered and some of us enjoyed this intermediate rehydration although one of our team announced that at this stage "only a beer will do!"no names mentioned Chrissie....

An extremely uneventful drive (no traffic in Congleton??), saw us back at the Dysart shortly after 6 in time to meet Gill ,Mairie and Caryle for not just rehydration but refueling too.

A beautiful day in the beautiful Peak District.