

Trip Report Friday 23rd February 2018

Hilbre Island, and North West Wirral

Distance: 13.2 miles

Ascent: 772 feet

(Both slightly more than advertised !)

Weather: Bright clear blue skies, if a little chilly.

Squad: Selina (leader), Mike W (assistant leader), Dave and Sandra (guest), Steve and Sarah, Jeff and Debbie (plus Spot and Ellie – our canine members), Della (new member), Amanda, Rob Sinnott, Ann, Cate and Greg (guest)

The squad convened at West Kirby Marine Lake at 9.30 am to make the most of the tide window to get out to Hilbre Island. We crossed the sand to Little Eye island, no way to get lost, but the squad immediately tested the leader when some headed straight off at a good pace across the sands whilst a breakaway group made an early toilet stop.....still we all made it across to the main island, where we spent a happy half hour bird watching and seal spotting in wonderful conditions. Some were surprised about the number of buildings on the island including the old Seagull Inn, and the ruined lifeboat station. After we finished exploring the leader duly did her duty counting up her flock to make sure all 13 were there, except there were 14, but hey ho always nice to have a little room for potential losses.

We then returned across the sand with heads down into the wind to the cars, where we took a coffee break on the prom whilst some made wardrobe adjustments. We then headed off down the Wirral Way for about 3 miles taking advantage of yet another toilet stop. The picnic tables at the visitor centre looked inviting for lunch but we stuck to plan and had a very pleasant stop in Dungeon woods on a log that has to be contender for log of the year, even this early in the season.

We then headed on through the village of Thurstaston and on to Thurstaston Hill to the trig point, where we had a photo stop. On through some paddocks and then Caldy Hill and the Mariners Beacon, built as a landmark to shipping by the trustees of Liverpool Docks. Then back to the cars.

A lovely day out at the seaside with some lovely views and wildlife spotting opportunities, and minimal amounts of mud given the time of year.

Usual rehydration back at The Dysart.