

Newsletter April 2014

Derbyshire Holiday – The White Peak to Dark Peak trail



Group photo at Cressbrook Dale

..... and the weather didn't deter us!! ... as 14 of us enjoyed 3 excellent days, thanks to Maureen, walking the "White Peak to Dark Peak" trail in Derbyshire.

Thanks to mobile phones we managed to find each other in Bakewell (never knew a small town with so many car parks !) to start the walk from Bakewell to Litton. The weather was superb and as we climbed out of the town we gradually disrobed !!

We soon reached a highlight of the walk as the trail took us through the 'Headstone tunnel' (which has only recently been opened to walkers) to the Monsal viaduct.. Crossing the viaduct with views of the beautifully restored Cressbrook Mill, now luxury apartments, we descended to Cressbrookdale before climbing steadily out to reach Litton village with enough time to enjoy refreshments before catching the bus back to Bakewell. It was then only a short drive to the "Little John" hotel in Hathersage – our base for the next three nights.

Settled in and refreshed after the days walking we enjoyed our evening dinner together in the hotel.

We started day 2 with our own private bus back to Litton. Unfortunately the misty weather obscured the views as we walked back to Hathersage via Foolow and Eyam. Lunch was eaten at the National Trust Eyam Hall and craft centre where some of us bought more than just food!

Eyam is the village famous for isolating itself in 1665 to stop the spread of the plague which had arrived in the village in a box of clothes from London. We continued on our route back to Hathersage until we reached the river Derwent where we found the stepping stones we were supposed to cross were almost submerged by a fast flowing swollen river. Fortunately there was an alternative following the river bank for what seemed like arrived in the village in a box of clothes from London. We continued on our route back to Hathersage until we reached the river Derwent where we found the stepping stones we were supposed to cross were almost submerged by a fast flowing swollen river. Fortunately there was an alternative following the river bank for what seemed like miles until the next crossing was reached and we could return to Hathersage. The evening highlight was a superb meal in the local Indian restaurant which was buzzing with atmosphere.



Dinner on the final night

Our final day was from Hathersage to Hope with what should have been spectacular views from the gritstone - Stanage Edge – a tumble of huge boulders and a sheer face running for some 3 miles northwards and a mecca for rock climbers. The weather unfortunately prevented us seeing this and we soon left the high ground to descend to the Ladybower reservoirs famous as the practice area for the Dam Busters (617) Squadron prior to the raid on the German Dams in 1943.



Win Hill in the Mist

Once again the weather prevented full appreciation of the scenery as we climbed to the trig point at the top of Win Hill (1516', 462m) before descending to Hope village and refreshments before catching either bus or train back to Hathersage and a final meal together.

Thanks Maureen for organising 3 days (and 33miles) of great walking.

Christine and Arthur

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to our Summer 2014 Programme. We have altered the wording at the front of the programme regarding the meeting points, see below for more information. We have also added in the Northop meeting place for most walks as requested by members. We hope you find this useful.

You will also notice that each walk is designated as "dogs allowed" or "no dogs". The committee discussed this at a recent meeting. It was decided that a clear system was needed to remove all doubt about the presence of dogs on the walks.

After the success of last year's Holywell Walking Festival, we have another weekend of walks on the programme and included in the festival. These are on the weekend of June 20th to the 22nd. Holywell Ramblers are leading four walks ranging from 5 miles to a linear 13 mile walk. I hope you can support this initiative.

The Delyn Walking Challenge has been revived and is being run as three walks on the same day on Sunday May 25th. These all start in Holywell and are 10, 20 and 30km in length. This is being conducted as a fundraiser for St. Kentigern's Hospice with a £5 fee being charged for entering. There is no requirement for further fundraising. Further details are below.

The programme has a varied and imaginative selection of walks on offer as always. Two walks are appearing again in the programme by request. One is Flo's Liverpool walk which was enjoyed by those who went on it but there were others who could not make it and were disappointed to miss out. The other one is Pam's Mael Fferna walk which proved popular with members but the conditions were poor with little visibility. So we are hoping for good weather on the next attempt!

Have a look through the programme and support your club! Hope to see you out on a walk sometime.

Toni

Reflections from the Vice Chair

I am pleased to say that we now have a clear new policy for dogs on walks - it is up to each leader to decide whether they are happy to allow dogs on their walks or not, and then each walk in the programme will indicate whether or not dogs are allowed. That way the few people who may not like walking with dogs in the group know when dog(s) may be present, and likewise those wishing to bring our canine friends know when this is possible.

It is great that a couple of new leaders (in addition to Irena and myself) are willing to allow dogs, Barry and Jane and Pam. Clearly many leaders are at this stage not willing to allow dogs, but I hope as time goes on more leaders will feel able to consider it.

At the end of the day this is about inclusivity and tolerance. In the past we have been members of RSPB groups happy to allow dogs on field trips and even a club holiday! There was never the slightest problem or concern expressed!

We are a bit bemused by the attitude of many ramblers' groups in North Wales. Recent surveys have indicated perhaps over a third of households in the UK own at least one dog - that's a lot of people who necessarily have to walk, and may like to walk in company and join a group!

So Holywell Ramblers has made a step in the right direction - I look forward to the next programme of walks and especially those which Phoebe can attend

Dyffryn Ardudwy Way July 21st to 25

The idea of the break is to walk the newly created Dyffryn Ardudwy Way. The route links the lower slopes of the Rhinogau. This area is full of archaeological and historical interest. At the time of the Roman Invasion this area had a greater population than that of London and the South East of England.

Edward I recognised the importance of this area by building the most Southerly of his Castles at Harlech. The area is also crossed by ancient tracks and roads, The most notable being the Stage Coach Road from Llanbedr to Bont Ddu. The route includes sections of some of these.

All the rooms in the original hotel have been taken but places are available in neighbouring properties.

Llandecwyn to Harlech 10 miles

Harlech to Talybont 11 miles

Talybont to Barmouth 7.5 miles

An alternative programme will be put together which will include shorter walks and visits to houses and gardens.

