

STRIDERS WALKING 2018

January 2018: WORKSOP

Fourteen of us enjoyed another beautiful winter day with blue skies and plenty of sunshine. The walk, on the outskirts of Worksop, took us through some open countryside, past an impressive industrial site and allowed us to visit the quaint 12th Century Chapel at Steetly.

We also walked past the magnificent Elizabethan Manor Lodge which has an interesting history for those who wish to Google it (other search engines are available).

The leader's drinking habits were brought into question when refreshments were taken at the excellent Darfoulds Nursery Café at the end of the walk.



February 2018: VICAR WATER

This month 8 Striders walked around Vicar Water Country Park at Clipstone. Striders walks strive both to help fitness and provide food for the mind and this area benefitted both. We started in the car park (toilets and refreshments available) and walked out of the park along the path by the fishing lakes and then through a varied ex-industrial landscape until we reached Old Clipstone.

On the way there were very good views of the headstocks of Clipstone Colliery and King John's Palace. We then walked through fields and woodland to Spa Ponds where we stopped for lunch. The ponds date back to the early 14th century when the area was part of the great Royal Forest. Refreshed we walked uphill (a bad move) to the edge of Forest Town and back into the other end of Vicar Water.



Clipstone Headstocks



King John's Lodge

March 2018: BIGGIN DALE & THE TISSINGTON TRAIL

11 of us set off for deepest Derbyshire and while 2 of the party opted for a scenic tour of the Derbyshire Dales the rest of us descended into Milldale from the Alsop le Dale car park. The weather though dull, was considerably better than it had been the previous week.

Walking from Milldale to Wolfscote Dale we then ascended Biggin Dale and having climbed every mountain and forded every stream we arrived at the village of Biggin for a well-earned lunch stop.

Having marvelled at finding a phone box which actually had a working phone inside, we were joined by the 2 tourists and returned to the car park along the Tissington Trail allowing us magnificent views across the Derbyshire Dales. Some of the party then enjoyed refreshment at the Waterloo Inn in Biggin before returning to Gedling.



April 2018: CROMFORD CANAL AND THE HIGH PEAK TRAIL

Having convinced the barman that we had permission to use the pub car park 12 of us set off from the Rising Sun in Middleton and followed the High Peak Trail down to High Peak Junction. Having availed ourselves of the facilities and watched a goose apparently towing a narrowboat.

We followed the Cromford Canal to Whatstandwell. We then walked steeply uphill and, avoiding a very muddy stretch, we joined the Midshires Way and after a late lunch we returned to the High Peak Trail which we followed back to Middleton. Most of the party enjoyed refreshment at The Rising Sun and reflected on our good fortune with the weather which had been the best day that week



May 2018: DEEPPDALE AND THE MAGPIE MINE

We repeated a walk from 2015 which had provided us with a wide variety of flowers and it didn't disappoint this year. We walked through 3 different ecosystems, the first of which was a limestone dale. Here we saw a number of plants that prosper in alkaline conditions, including saxifrages, cowslips and purple orchids amongst others.

Next was the more exposed area around the Magpie mine where yellow alpine pansies mingled with 2 types of buttercup which were identified by our resident plant expert. (I didn't know there were more than one type of buttercup.)

The final ecosystem was in the woodland along the banks of the river Wye where the wood anemones from earlier in the month had been replaced by a magnificent display of wild garlic.

Having arrived at the car park safely without the need for Noel's bag of crisps, we returned to Gedling where some of the party partook of refreshments at the Willowbrook.



June 2018: BIRCHEN, CURBAR & BASLOW EDGES

This month's walk was completed under clear blue skies and unbroken sunshine and having scrambled up onto Birchins edge we passed Nelson's monument and his three ships (Can you remember their names striders?) and enjoyed wonderful views across Derbyshire.



We were then relieved to find the boggy stretch down to the road had completely dried out and we were serenaded by sky larks and meadow pipits on our walk to Curbar Gap.

After a short break to pick some wild bilberries we dropped down to the wood below Curbar edge and some welcome shade and a comfort stop. We then climbed up onto the edge where we ate our packed lunches with more magnificent views over most of Derbyshire.



We returned to Curbar Gap along the edge then continued along Baslow edge before descending to the road and ascending to the western end of Gardom edge and returning to the car park only to find that the pub had shut 5 minutes before we got back. However all was not lost and most of us stopped at the Highwayman just a mile or so along the road back to Chesterfield.

July 2018: THE LIMESTONE WAY

Eight brave souls ignored the forecast for temperatures of 30 degrees and set off for Derbyshire where Steve led a walk around the Limestone way from Bonsall. Fortunately there was cloud cover on the day and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Steve for standing in at the last minute to lead the walk.

August 2018: YOULGREAVE

A select group enjoyed a walk in the limestone countryside south of Youlgreave. The walk took us down Long Dale and back via Gratton Dale. The weather was bright but thankfully a bit cooler than it had been on the previous few days (we won't be saying that for much longer). We then enjoyed refreshments at the George where we were made to feel most welcome.

September 2018: HIGGER TOR

Numbers returned to normal this month and we enjoyed perfect conditions for our walk. A contrast to the hail storm we encountered when we last visited Higger Tor. The walk is one of my favourite Derbyshire walks and it provided us with splendid views across the Hope Valley to the Great Ridge and the Kinder Plateau beyond. After an exciting scramble off Higger Tor, we finished with a peaceful walk along the banks of Burbage Brook where musical memories were shared before returning to the tea room at Lonshaw Lodge for refreshments (oh the shame).



November 2018: OLLERTON AND WALESBY

November's walk took 11 Striders through post- industrial areas of Ollerton (the reclaimed pit bank), open countryside, ancient woodland, alongside a river (the Maun) and finally into a delightful Victorian village (old Ollerton).

Not even a large seasonal lake blocking the path put them off although they did refuse to wade across it.

December 2018: EPPERSTONE

12 of us enjoyed a walk from Epperstone. The weather was dry and although there was mud it wasn't as bad as we expected. Having passed the site of an old Roman ruin, where a great deal of imagination was exercised and examined a medieval sheep dip, we continued up to Hollybeck Garden Centre to find that the toilets were closed.



We then returned to Epperstone and refreshments at the Cross Keys.

