

## Striders 2019

### January 2019: VICAR WATER

The cold weather and icy conditions discouraged the faint hearted but 8 of us set off from Vicar Water after watching the ducks dancing on ice.

Conditions underfoot were quite treacherous as there had been a shower of rain which had frozen on the surface of the paths however, we completed the walk without any mishaps by avoiding the worst of the ice.

Places of interest along the way included a mock-up of some First World War trenches with an account of the events during 2 days in 1917, the ruins of the Kings Palace at Clipstone along with an account of its use by the Plantagenet royalty as well as the listed headstocks near the end of the walk.

Refreshments were enjoyed at the tea room at Vicar Water Country Park before we returned to Gedling.

### March 2019: BRIERLEY FOREST PARK

Sixteen willing volunteers walked along the remains of the mine railways of Huthwaite.

Starting from Teversal Visitors Centre, lunching at the café and picnic area in the forest park and finally climbing to Nottinghamshire's (allegedly) highest point in Silverhill Wood.

The wood, on the pit bank, is topped out with a statue of a miner. Thanks to the excellent weather the views from the top were stunning.



### **April 2019: AMBERGATE to CRICH MONUMENT (and back)**

This walk was very steep in parts but worth it for the views from the top. Hardwick Hall, Bolsover Castle and a distant power station could be seen as we ate our lunches in the strong breeze.

The spoiler was the ten minutes of light rain on the way down to the canal. This was much better than the torrential rain that fell just after we set off home.



### **May 2019: MONYASH and LATHKILL DALE**

14 of us enjoyed a beautiful early summer day in Derbyshire. The walk began with a stroll through summer meadows and woodland before arriving at the picturesque village of Monyash. We then descended into Lathkill Dale where we enjoyed a picnic among the cowslips and orchids before continuing along the dale to just below Over Haddon. A steady climb took us back to the car park through more summer meadows populated with buttercups and the occasional cow.

### **June 2019: WHITE EDGE and CURBAR EDGE**

The rain finally stopped in time for our walk this month. 10 of us enjoyed ideal walking conditions which got even better as the day went on. We started from the Longshaw car park and walked up onto White edge before descending to Curbar Gap. A short walk took us to our picnic spot where we enjoyed magnificent views across the Derwent valley towards Eyam Moor and beyond.

A short walk along Curbar and Froggatt Edges brought us to the Grouse Inn where we entered the Longshaw Estate and after a short stop at the visitors centre we returned to the car park.

Refreshments were enjoyed at the magnificent Peacock Inn in Barlow. There was rash talk about organising a more challenging walk along the Great Ridge before we inspected what must be the most impressive pub toilets in Derbyshire and returning to Gedling.



### **July 2019: EPPERSTONE**

The weather forecast was for extreme temperatures so in the interest of safety we abandoned our Derbyshire walk and instead did a 7 mile walk in the area northeast of Epperstone. The weather forecast was correct and 11 of us enjoyed a very warm walk.

Regular water stops were required and we also stopped for refreshments at the café at Hollybeck nurseries before returning for further refreshments at the Cross Keys at Epperstone.

Despite the heat everyone enjoyed the walk and were pleased we had not done the more strenuous Derbyshire walk which we hope to do next month if it is a bit cooler.

### **August 2019: EYAM**

Thirteen of us enjoyed a quite strenuous walk and although the weather was not as good as the forecast, we only had 2 light showers. Unfortunately one of them came along just as we were about to have lunch. The walk started at Eyam, where members of the group were entertained by some of the locals who were beginning to make the Well Dressings for the weekend.

The walk then took us down to Stoney Middleton before climbing steeply out of the valley then dropping down into Coombs Dale. After ascending the dale and dropping down towards Calver we stopped for lunch in the rain which soon abated offering us magnificent views of Baslow, Curbar and Froggatt Edges as well as the Longshaw Estate and Higger Tor beyond.

A short walk along the Derwent Valley Way led to a steep climb back to Eyam where some of the party inspected the progress made by those making the Well Dressing.

## September 2019: CARSINGTON

Holidays and illness reduced our numbers to 9 this month, however we all enjoyed a good walk in weather that was better than the forecast. We walked through the village of Carsington and climbed steadily up to Brassington and on to Rainster Rocks where we stopped for lunch.

The more adventurous in the party climbed to the top of the rocks and enjoyed a magnificent 360 degree panorama. After lunch a short climb took us up to the High Peak Trail where a short sharp shower gave us a soaking. After a short while we descended to Carsington, avoiding a steep slope which had become quite treacherous after the rain.

Having dried out on the way back to the car, refreshments were enjoyed at the excellent Rising Sun pub in Middleton.



## October 2019: LONG DALE & GRATTON DALE

Despite the weather forecast 9 of us set off for our last walk in Derbyshire this year.

Fortunately the waving weather front waved off to the east and we only had a light shower in the early part of the walk.

Starting from the car park at Minginglow we descended into Long Dale and after a minor detour to admire the view we walked the length of Gratton Dale which was quite muddy due to the earlier rain.

Circling around via a farm used as a wedding venue where we were closely observed by a billy goat, we arrived at our lunch spot overlooking a stream and some impressive limestone outcrops.

Suitably refreshed we continued uphill before descending back into Long Dale where we made memories and left to cherish them.



Some of the group then took a shortcut back to the car while the rest of the group continued west before returning via the High Peak Trail.



### **November 2019: THIEVES WOOD**

November's walk turned out to be more enjoyable than expected following the recent heavy rain.

We explored Thieves Wood, Harlow Wood and the edges of Farnsfield. The Forest Stone, standing in a muddy field was a challenge to reach but from its plaque we took in a few new (if archaic) words. We also experienced the different drainage rates of sandy and clay soils as underfoot in some parts it was very wet and others dry. It didn't rain!



### **December 2019: GEDLING COUNTRY PARK**

A select group of us met up on Boxing Day for a short 5 mile walk around the Gedling Country Park. Despite the weather forecast we reached the halfway point without any rain and stopped for refreshment at the café. Suitably refreshed we continued the walk in light rain before returning to our festive celebrations.