

## **BUMS Walk – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Location:** Shining Tor

**Route:** Errwood Reservoir – Pym Chair – Shining Tor – Errwood Hall

**Weather:** Sunny and warm

**Party:** Mike A (leader), Lesley, Jo, Clare, Mike W, Selina, Ann, Iain, Janet, Chrissie + furry friend Leo

**Distance:** 12km (7.5 miles)      **Total Ascent:** 436m (1430ft)      **Time** 4 hrs 0 mins

This walk started life as an alternative to a high level outing in Snowdonia. Unfortunately that one fell by the wayside leaving ours as the only one available. Shame, because this was forecast to be the last day of fine and sunny weather that we have been enjoying for a couple of weeks.

So, we had a party of 10 assembling at the Pavillion. Sadly, a last minute no show from Della suffering from a vaccine reaction. An hour and a half later after a trouble free drive we arrived at Errwood Hall car park which is at the southern end of the reservoir. We started off walking north and very soon headed left steeply uphill. A bit of a shock to the system after a short warm up. Very soon, though, an even greater shock was heading downhill to meet us. At first it appeared to be some sort of mirage or somebody in fancy dress - but no! it was actually some guy absolutely stark naked. Apparently, he was wearing running shoes and a self satisfied smile and carrying a rucksack but I doubt if anyone realised that at the time. He was walking with a partially clad partner though, according to Iain, who had been a bit ahead of us at the time, he reckoned she had partially unclad at first sighting,

Needless to say, the incident provoked much amusement, and in some cases shock amongst our party. Lesley, it seems, was particularly traumatised as she had been checking the route description with her eyes very much not on the path ahead, when our naked rambler loomed into view.

We continued climbing up through the woodland to Foxlow Edge where it levelled out onto open moorland. A coffee stop was called for at a handy broken wall where we recovered from the stiff climb and our unexpected encounter. Soon afterwards we joined a tarmac road (The Street) and continued up to Pym's Chair. From here, we headed south, climbing gently for 3km towards the summit trig point of Shining Tor standing at 559m, the highest point in Cheshire. There was a bit of an easterly wind blowing on the summit so we dropped down to a sheltered rocky outcrop where we had our lunch stop and enjoyed hazy views of Macclesfield and in the distance, Manchester.

After lunch, we headed south east on a well used path before taking a rocky and less used path which led down into attractive woodland and crossing Deep Clough before reaching Goytsclough quarry. From here we walked up the tarmac road for a km before taking a path leading up close to the back of our car park. There was another treat in store (according to the walk description!). We took an out and back detour to visit Errwood Hall, which was a huge Italianate mansion built in 1830 and which was razed to the ground in 1931 when the reservoirs were constructed. It wasn't much of a treat but interesting nevertheless.

We were back at the car park within a few minutes and I'm sorry to say some of our party indulged themselves with ice creams. My car set off minus ice cream and very soon Lesley, Iain and Janet were digging deep into the internet to check on our encounter this morning. Sure enough, it turns out there is a celebrated local naked runner who can be spotted in the Shining Tor area. After an easy journey home, rehydration was enjoyed at the Dysart where we were joined by Neil and Colin. Can anyone guess what was the main topic of conversation? No, it wasn't the weather.

Mike A