

Trip Report - Saturday 11th May 2024

Location : Pendle Hill, Lancashire.

Distance : 7 miles

Ascent : 1500 feet

Weather : Warm and sunny.

Squad : Tony, Lynn, Mike W, Selina, Ali, Chrissie, Cate, Lesley, Ray.

Plus : Flora and Ponya.

One of the classic walks from our BUMs 20th anniversary list, Pendle Hill was Lynn's first walk as leader back in March 2010, and now ably assisted by Tony the Navigator the group set off from Bunbury to Lancashire on a lovely sunny morning.

Arriving at Barley car park at 10am on a Saturday was always going to be a bit tight finding a parking space and it wasn't made easier with what seemed like a hundred or so kids doing a charity walk up Pendle !

But we found a few spaces and after meeting up with Ali we started the walk along a lovely valley and past the Ogden reservoirs. A witch photo shoot was staged by part of the group at one on the cast-iron tercet waymarkers on the Pendle Witches Trail. The three wizards and two dogs looked on in amusement.

We continued our ascent along Boar Clough which was happily very quiet (where had all the charity walkers got to ?) but then missed the next part of the path and had to do a short and soggy about-turn all except Mike W who was able to step over the fence with his long legs !

We had our coffee-stop by a babbling brook and then followed cairns to reach the top flank of the hill - and the crowds ! But it was great to see everybody out enjoying themselves on the top of Pendle Hill in such glorious weather and with that we made our way to the summit trig point - Big End (557m).

We began the descent of Pendle using the very busy stone path towards Barley but stopped and had our sandwiches before reaching the base of the hill. Ali, Selina and Mike went ahead for ice-cream afters and after re-grouping we struck off past Windy Harbour Farm and onto Lower Black Moss reservoir. We then entered Aitken Wood and its Pendle Sculpture Trail.

The walk through the woods was magical on such a lovely sunny day but some wooden sculptures were a bit worse for wear and the path a bit indistinct and confusing (for Tony).

So we ended up having to scale a barbed wire fence but it was made safe with Ray's mat, a fine substitute for Dave Bond's pipe insulation.

After a quick dart across a farmer's field full of sheep we entered the safety of a wood and an official footpath right back to the Barley car park.

Back to the Dysart for rehydration in the sunny weather and Mike A joining us in the garden.

Cheers

Tony and Lynn.