

Notts Police Fell-Walking Section

Annual Report 2009/2010

The programme of walks has continued unabated this last year with walks in most of the popular northern walking areas in England and Wales.

The below table represents those walks that we have completed this year..

DATE	NUMBERS OF WALKERS	NUMBERS OF VANS USED	LOCATION OF WALK	DISTANCE WALKED	FUEL
10.4.09.	17	2	N.YORK'S MOORS - ROBIN HOOD'S BAY	12	£137.51
20.5.09.	13	1	HOWGILL FELLS - CUMBRIA	11.5	£67.10
18.6.09.	19	2	CLYWDIAN HILLS - N.WALES	13	£102.30
15.7.09.	15	1	WENSLEYDALE - YORK'S DALES	15	£61.78
12.8.09.	16	1	OFFAS DYKE - HERGEST RIDGE	12	£97.09
14.9.09.	6	1	N.YORK'S MOORS - OSMOTHERLEY	15	£56.00
27.9.09. -30.9.09.	12	2	NORTH WALES	VARIOUS	£139.82
15.10.09.	22	2	BURBAGE/HATHERSAGE	12	£46.45
13.11.09.			WALK CANCELLED		
10.12.09.	19	2	LONGNOR CIRCULAR	12	£39.41
28.12.09.	38	0	LAMBLEY CIRCULAR	7	£0.00
15.1.10.	16	1	BRASSINGTON TO WINSTER CIRCULAR	12	£24.00
31.1.10. - 3.2.10.	20	2	LAKES TRIP	VARIOUS	£228.87
16.2.10.	20	2	ALDERLEY EDGE - CHESHIRE	11	£63.01
18.3.10.	19	1	CHARNWOOD FOREST	16.5	£12.00
TOTALS 2009/10	252	20		149	£1,075.34

Some other interesting facts:

Since we started back in 1987 we have completed 353 walks, walked nearly 5,000 miles and 6,000 walking places have been taken up.

The number of walkers has maintained its level from last year i.e. from 257 down slightly to 252

The weather has been generally better this year than last with many comments such as 'we found a window in the weather' and 'fine all day' showing on the walk log for last year.

The year started in April with a walk, once again, on the North Yorkshire Moors. I think this was one of the few walks where the weather wasn't so good as the log comments 'a bit of a miserable day' and 'claggy sea mist clinging to the shore line while everywhere else in the country was sunny!!' Was this to be the norm for the year? Fortunately not!

In May we repeated a walk of many years ago, up Wild Boar Fell in the Howgills. This time there was no snow and visibility was excellent showing us just what a barren and big plateau it is. No wonder we got lost all those years ago in 1996, and explained the reason why we invested in a GPS just afterwards!

A traditional day out in June in Wales took us to the Clywdian Hills just over the border. A colder day for June but no sooner were we out of the van than we were up onto the hill fort (folly) of Moel Famau and along a spectacular ridge with extensive views both East and West. On dropping down we hit a small section of farmland where paths could have been clearer and then a tract of Forest (lovely) before returning to the vans at the top of the pass! A half time drink in the village of Cilcain was well worth it though.

Wensleydale in July should have been magnificent. It was, apart from the heavy down-pours. Thankfully we were supported and the van was able to meet us and transport us along a section of road which would have been a beast in the rain that ensued at that particular time. The sights were spectacular and the last section included both Bolton Castle and Aysgarth Falls which were in full spate – superb.

Unusually yours truly couldn't make either the August walk to Hergest Ridge or the September walk to North Yorkshire but I understand that both were excellent. The Hergest Ridge is one that I have wanted to do for a long, long time and I was a little peeved when I found I couldn't get. I understand that route finding was a little difficult but all found their way back to the van – eventually.

Likewise the walk from Osmotherly took a slightly linear detour down the Howardian Hills towards Pickering. Fortunately the walk was supported and no one had to run back and fetch the van!!! Just as well as there were only six took part. Probably our lowest number on a day walk ever.

Twelve of us went to Wales in late September and had a brilliant three days albeit the weather was less than kind. We took in a section of Forest over Betwys y Coed on the way in, which was enchanting; with views to die for from one section right over the main Snowdon and Glyders massif. The following day the weather closed in a bit and we decided to do a lower walk from Rhydd Dhu along valleys and across a well quarried area, over a pass into an opposing valley and then back again. About ten miles in all but some spectacular scenery for all that. The dull weather continued the following day. All wanted to walk but not the same mountain; so the walk split. Most did Tryfan again but three of us wanted to do Y Aran and the Glyders. Dave S, Geoff and Mary duly went up Y Aran (the only Welsh 3,000 footer Dave had left to do) and then up onto the Glyders, only to come off on the wrong side and after a 1,000 foot slide down a gully ended up at Pen y Pas. We were all right – honest!

In October we had intended to walk up onto the inhospitable Saddleworth Moors but after getting stuck on the M.1. in pouring rain, Dave made the decision to pull it and go to Hathersage instead. The walk we ended up doing was well worth it up and over Stanage Edge and in wide circle taking in Burbage as well. It remained wet all day, however, and we were probably better off there than Saddleworth.

In November we intended to go over Cat and Fiddle through Macclesfield and to Alderley Edge but the weather forecast was so horrendous – storms and gales – that, for the first time since Foot and Mouth, it was cancelled. In the event, the storm didn't hit until late afternoon so we could probably have completed it – oh well!

Pete Gilbert led us on a fantastic walk in December round a classic route over the Reef Knolls (Chrome and Parkhouse Hill) and much more finishing over High Wheeldon and a boggy section back into Longnor. We finished at the Bull in't Thorn on the Buxton/Ashbourne Rd which made for a fine Christmas finish.

The walk just after Christmas took between Lambley, Woodborough and Burton Joyce which was about as remote as you can get in parts being only two miles from the City boundary. It was beautiful.

Winter took hold just after New Year and a cold, cold day with lots of snow on the ground and in the air saw us up and around Brassington and Winster. With the vast majority of the route covered in at least 6 inches of snow, footfall was interesting in places – but we found a decent pub at half time (The Miners Stand at Winster) and that put us in good spirits for the return leg, which, owing to the circumstances was mostly done on the road.

The Lakes trip proved once again, a very successful trip with mixed weather. The first day was a departure arriving at Cartmel in the Southern Lakes to do a superb seven mile romp over Hamps Hill and then back round the long way to Cartmel Racecourse and a very welcoming pub, The Cavendish Arms, in the village itself. The weather was superb and the views fantastic. The second day was a bit more adventurous and we all went up Wetherlam, several of us continuing up Prison Band onto Swirl How and then the Old Man of Coniston i.e the full horseshoe. The weather started fine and the whole route seemed to be in the sun – but as ever things changed quickly. Coming off the back of Wetherlam, we hit deep snow and ice and it was clear that only those with the right gear could continue. Four of us made it onto the top and in howling wind and freezing cold we made it over the ice fields to the top of the Old Man. Excellent. The route down was also an experience and safer for the use of Crampons than otherwise. Deep snow and lots of ice on a steep gradient – the stuff of accidents! The third day we split, some going up over High Raise whilst the majority kept low in Borrowdale for a ten mile circuit to Watendlath and then down via Lodore Falls and then back down along the Derwent Valley (the other one) back to Rosthwaite. Some also did a further walk on Wednesday morning so in all we had an excellent three days – and the food was brilliant as well!

In February we did the Alderley Edge walk cancelled in November, and what a contrast to what we normally do. O.K. so it was mainly pastoral but some of the scenery was stunning principally Alderley Edge itself and then the ridge near Monks Heath where the whole of the Cheshire Plain on one side and the Pennines on the other were visible at the same time. The walk back up through the village of Alderley Edge itself was an eye-opener to see how the other half live, so in all, it made for a very interesting walk.

Lastly in March we visited Charnwood Forest, not an area we have walked before, but, once again, different and not a little challenging, mostly due to the last 4/5 miles on road!! There were some nice sections and the views from Old John Tower and Beacon Hill were as good as you'll get. The pub at the end was very accommodating and I'm glad Ray Clark had done it before otherwise I would have got lost!

We are also grateful to Tony Kanikula for supporting us on a couple of trips this year to make longer walks easier.

2010/11 should be another good year for the Section with walks, once again, planned for all over the country. We are an aging bunch but, of late we have seen some new blood coming into the group and hopefully, they will remain and sustain the longevity of Notts Police Fell-Walking Section which will be 23 years old in 2010.