



The Wandering Wayfarers

February 2010

Wayfarers in Winter

January saw the new committee members take over their new roles within the club. With the unexpected snowy weather at the start of this term, it has given everybody the opportunity to really appreciate how wonderful the British country side can look in the winter. It has been excellent to see continued support from older members as well as getting to know those new faces who have been on trips this term. Last year was good, but I think if we continue like we have started, 2010 is going to be a hoot.

For more info on Wayfarers visit: <http://students.bugs.bham.ac.uk/wayfarers>

Malvern 15 Jan 2010

Saturday saw 20 walkers, some old members along with some new members, brave the snow, slush and rain in a day trip to the Malvern hills in Worcestershire, on the first walk of 2010. Arriving in Malvern at about 11 o'clock we split into two groups, one starting from Colwall and the other starting from Great Malvern. Steve expertly led the group from Colwall northwards along the ridge before dropping down into Great Malvern, and the other group was led by myself southwards along the northern ridge before dropping down and walking in the countryside back towards Malvern. The two groups met half way round and then again at the pub at the end. Despite the covering of mist that prevented us from getting a view, and the odd slip on the icy slush, both groups enjoyed the walk and it was an excellent start to Wayfarers' 2010.

Alan Lea

Dates to Remember

7 Mar 2010- White Peak Day Walk

12-14 Mar 2010- Yorkshire Weekend Trip

18 Mar 2010- Photo Competition

18-23 April 2010- Scotland Trip



Malvern: Group 1 at view point.



Malvern: Group 2 half way.



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Lake District 22-24 Jan 2010

Friday night started well enough with a stop over in Sandbach for fish and chips and the shock of myself driving the mini-bus. The fog was crazy thick. On arrival in Borrowdale, there was a short walk to the barn situated at Bowder Stone. The Saturday brought a foggy start in the valley and the group was split in two. The larger group was led by Becky and went up Great Gable, Green Gable, Brandreth and Grey Knotts. The 2nd group led by myself and Zeyn followed the valley north and climbed Catbells, Maiden Moor, High Spy before coming down into the valley. Both walks gave stunning views throughout the local area as the fog cleared. The Sunday was a more lazy day where the Main group again lead by Becky followed the Dale Head horseshoe, taking in Hindscarth, Dale Head then High Spy, Maiden Moor and Catbells. The second smaller group attempted to climb Skiddaw but due to technical issues this was not achieved and a walk through Keswick and along the old railway was a nice wind down to the weekend. The trip back on the Sunday evening was exceptionally smooth and arrival back into Birmingham for about 10pm.

Ollie Gowen



*Lickey Hills:
Experiment...how
many can stand
on a view point?*



Lakes: Chilling at Styhead Tarn.

Lickey Hills 31 Jan 2010

Sunday morning saw 23 Wayfarers turn out for the Lickey Hills day walk. After a short bus ride we set off with it beginning to sleet. We took a very pleasant walk which led us down by some partially frozen lakes of the local sailing club, we then went along a country lane and through some fields and came out at Barnt Green. From there we crossed over the railway bridge and walked along the footpath up towards the visitor centre of the Lickey Hills country park. After some lunch (and a clamber on the rocks) we set off down through the woods, across the road, and then up to the top of the hill where there sits a mini fort. From the top there was a clear view eastwards back over Birmingham and visible in the distance the university clock tower. We ended with the traditional sampling of the local pub before making our way back on the bus.

Alan Lea



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Peak District 12-14 Feb 2010

12 people departed from the Guild on Friday evening for a quick journey to the Peak District, stopping in Burton-upon-Trent on the way for fish and chips. We had to negotiate a particularly narrow bridge on the driveway to the hut but eventually got across safely. Inside, Pete and Alan demonstrated their excellent fire-lighting abilities, tea was made, and we planned where we would walk in the morning.

The next day we drove to Hayfield (pausing several times en route to curse the SatNav's poor sense of direction) and split into two groups. Phil, Shaz, Mike, Steph, Jose and Pete headed straight to the top of Kinder Scout before dropping down Crowden Clough and walking back along the Pennine Way (~17 km), while Kerstin, Alan, James, Jenny, Dominika and Bassit walked a slightly shorter route in the opposite direction (~15km). Both groups converged for the last section of the walk back to the bus. Shortly before the end we crossed a small stream where Alan declared himself to be the undisputed champion at Pooh Sticks. Back at the hut, we ate dinner and then made it to the local pub for a few quick drinks.

On Sunday we set off towards Errwood Reservoir and climbed as one group to the top of Shining Tor, then strolled along the ridge to Windgather Rocks where some of the group displayed their surprisingly decent climbing skills. Afterwards we descended to Fernilee Reservoir and walked back through the woods to the car park. Finally, we packed up the bus and drove home to Birmingham, arriving in time to enjoy a post-walk curry in Selly Oak.

Phil Blaen



Peaks: A Glorious Sunday Morning.



Peaks: Kinder Scout.



Peaks: The view of Fernilee Reservoir provides an excellent end to the weekend.