

7 to 9 Mile Walks

Report on 18th January walk by Phil Clarke.

The first walk of the year was a 7 to 8 miles circular, local walk from Barningham. A great turn out of fifteen keen walkers met at the side of the moor just outside the village. The afore-mentioned village was in the weekend Times as one of the poshest top 20 or so villages in the country. The paper said lovely touristy things about Barningham, apart from being geographically inaccurate stating it was near Darlington, totally missing the point as it should be Barnard Castle.

My last report for a U3A walk said that I postponed it for wind and heavy rain then did the walk a week later in fog. This walk was a worry with snow and surprisingly, ice. The joys of planning and leading walks in winter BUT it turned out to be a GREAT walk. Cold but sunny. We left Barningham and walked onto the moor past a couple of aqueducts and an old tatty railway carriage to the lower slopes. The views were incredible. Can we see our houses down below in Barney. the Pennines. Upper Teesdale. Teeside, North York Moors?. Yes. We reached the top at How Tallon at c.1450 feet and then it was downhill following animal tracks in the snow to Black Hill Gate for a sunny, sheltered warmish lunch.



View back to lunch spot by Chris Gillings

After lunch, through the edge of the Stang we followed the track and then a minor road past Haythwaithe back to our cars. This was probably the hardest part keeping alert for the large patches of ice. A great turn out for a most enjoyable walk

The walk on February 15th will be led by Jim and Judith, starting at 10.00 from Middleton in Teesdale. A moderate walk of c.8.5 miles with a steady climb up towards Harter Fell for the first hour, followed by steady downhill to Grassholme Reservoir. Walk along the southern bank, then cross fields to pick up the Tees railway path for a short section. Cross down to the Teesdale Way for short return to Middleton. Please let nickygrace729@gmail.com know if you would like to come along

The walk on March 15th led by Lynda will be a 7 mile walk from Bedburn through Hamsterley forest. Please let Nicky Grace know if you wish to come along.