

The 7-9 Mile Walk Wednesday 15 March , Hamsterley, 7 miles

There were 10 of us starting out from the layby in Bedburn, initially taking the footpath following Bedburn Beck into Hamsterley Forest. Then past the Green Man into North Crag Wood. We had our coffee break at the ruins before climbing up up to Doctors Gate Quarry where we had wonderful views. Then a gentle meander along Stanhope Lane, through Hoppyland Farm, which was very muddy and one of us decided to go playing in the mud, not by choice but after a brief pause he was able to continue. We dropped down into a lovely silver birch plantation for lunch, then continued over the footbridge by the ruins of Harthope Mill and down the road to Howlea Bridge. Into the caravan site, past the riding stables and back to the cars – still all 10 of us! We were lucky with the weather for this walk as we had some sunshine and no strong winds so could enjoy the views.

Lynda Bares.

Many thanks to Lynda for leading the March walk. The next walk will be on Wednesday 19 April. Led by Alan we will meet in Bowes, walk to God's Bridge and then north across the moor to West Stoney Keld before returning south to Bowes. The walk of 8.5 miles is across fields, moorland, tracks and minor roads. Please let nickygrace729@gmail.com if you would like to come along.

In May our walk on Wednesday May 17 will be led by Kathleen. Details to follow but as usual let me know if you would like to join the walk. Nicky Grace