

7 to 9 mile walking group

Walk report on May 15 2024 by Nicky Grace

A small but perfectly formed group of 5 met in the car park of Bowes and Gilmonby village hall as the rain drizzled down. We set off towards Gilmonby, the rain ceased and it was dry for the rest of the walk. We climbed up gradually on the road to Sleightholme and turned off heading south by a clump of trees and a disused barn reduced to 8 rusty pillars pointing skywards. We walked by the wall across several slightly boggy fields. Low cloud deprived us of the view across Teesdale but we did spot a cuckoo at the top of a tree. Our walk continued parallel to Eller Beck with a slight diversion and tricky style due to the leader crossing the other side of the wall too soon. Luckily her new OS maps app on her phone came in handy! We regained the correct wall and came up to Citron Seat where there was neither a lemon nor a seat – any ideas how it got its name?



So who it is who had reached the skyline already? Not a keen walker but a shop mannequin used to chase off black headed gulls!



After a refreshment stop, looking south across the moors, we descended through open access land with was very boggy in parts. Walking past the Seven Hills, we rejoined the Sleightholme road and turned off beside The Trough. We had an enjoyable walk back to Bowes via Mellwaters where Sleightholme beck meets the River Greta. It was different walk in a place frequented by curlew, oystercatchers and lapwings – and very few walkers.

Our June walk will be led by Peter on June 19th starting from near the CB inn in Arkengarthdale the walk will be a 7 mile exploration of the upper dale including Whaw and High Faggergill.

In July Pete will be leading a 7 mile walk on July 17 starting in Barnard Castle and taking in Lartington and Deepdate woods. Please contact nickygrace729@gmail.com if you would like to join either of these walks.