Plenty of Up’s and Down’s [Will we make it this time?]

10.12.2022

13 walkers

17 miles.

Walks leader Chris Burrell

Exactly eleven months ago, 14 intrepid walkers started out from a snowy Todmorden and unfortunately the weather conditions got the better of the group, and we cut the walk short and had an early visit to the pub.

Move on eleven months and Walks leader Chris Burrell had been monitoring the weather. After 5 dry but cold days, the Saturday forecast was dry but cloudy, not perfect but acceptable.

On the morning of the walk Brighouse’s weather was just as forecast, but traveling towards Todmorden it was obvious that things were about to change, as we pulled into a snow-covered carpark, [in the words of Victor Meldrew “I can’t believe it!”]

A quick route change was planned removing three of the high points, and it wasn’t long before warm clothing was donned and off went 13 adventurous walkers. setting off on what turned out to be a very Christmassy walk as the photos show.

The new route started climbing Flailcroft Cutting. picking up the Calderdale Way down towards Gauxholme, then up through Gorpley Clough and across Inchfield Pasture to Foul Clough Road. Morning coffee and mince pies stop was taken at Jack Baker’s memorial garden above Cranberry Dam. Following Todmorden Century Way down the steep slippery track to Bottomley, climbing again to Warlands Reservoir, following the Pennine way for 200m and then following the flagged path to Gaddings Dam [no wild swimming today], crossing Fangfield Edge, turning left just before Jeremy Hill down to the Shepherds Rest Pub. A rather late lunch was taken below the TV mast at Lumbutts Clough. Crossing the Rochdale canal, we again started to climb the last climb of the day to Cross Stone, Todmorden Golf Club and Whirlaw Stones. Descending back into Todmorden as the light was fading. A quick check of the Garmin’s said we had just covered 17 miles, which wasn’t too far away from the advertised 18 miles.

Many thanks to South Pennine, Calderdale, East Lancashire and West Yorkshire members who turned up and supported the day.