

Derbyshire Weekend

By Steve Young

The weather forecast at the beginning of the week was exciting but on hearing the reports of drifting snow and blocked roads we were unsure whether we would be able to reach Bamford in the Peak District. We have had reports like this before and luckily enough we have never failed to reach our destination.

Friday evening came and the roads were clear as we made our way to The Farm Bunkhouse in the Derbyshire village of Bamford.

As usual the evening was spent in the local Hostelry and soon Saturday morning dawned with clear blue skies and snow covered hills. Roy had planned a 10 mile walk and most of us decide to walk with him. Once we had left the icy side roads and reached the field patch we were in 30cm of snow. Ahead of us was Hathersage and beyond the long ridges of Froggatt and Stannage Edges. Roy picked the most pleasant of surroundings for elevenses, the public toilet block on Hathersage main street!

Lunch was taken, sheltering on Higger Tor before walking along Stannage Edge, the scenery was breathtaking with blue skies and crisp white snow. The sun was shining but the temperature never rose much above freezing, we were dressed for the weather so we kept warm but the climbers on Stannage rocks were a hardier bunch some of them in T-shirts and climbing without gloves.

As usual walks never go 100% to plan and we walked for a mile over Bamford Moor looking for a footpath. We sent Gill on ahead aiming for a small tree in the distance, when she got there it was a coppice, and we followed the footprints, eventually reaching the road. The best was yet to come, as we turned off to make our descent to the village, we were greeted with a 1:5 minor road covered in ice, It was a slow descent but all made it down without mishap.



We dined well on Saturday evening, and here is the surprise, Gill and Marie were catering, and very nice it was too! Home-made parsnip soup by Gill and Beef Stew from Marie, she said it was Beouf BogieGone or something like that. Then to finish off Joan Miller provided the pudding, first of all Plum Tart & Custard then Apple Strudel an excellent feast all for just £4.00.

Roy led the walk again on Sunday, taking us across icy stepping stones and a narrow bridge to cross the River Derwent, then walking through woods and along the side of Lady Bower reservoir before returning to our cars.

Thanks to everyone for their company and making it such a good weekend. Gill, Marie and Joan for the Catering and Roy for the walks.

Thanks to Marie for organising the weekend it is a pity so many missed out on some of the best winter walking conditions in this picturesque area.

Steve Young