

PYW New Year 2022

Walking Matlock & Surrounding Area

New Year's Eve... As a sign of the times the group remaining socially distanced at home each carrying out their Lateral Flow Tests to ensure a negative start to the weekend.

Fortunately, all reported in negative, and the advance party of 10 made their way to Matlock early in the day NYE to meet at Millers Bar & Grill for an early 4.30pm meal.



As the group left Millers they stumbled upon the next to arrive, Ian & Kate, who were in search of a high class NYE meal, their first choice being thwarted by all the chip shops being closed, they were spotted queuing for a kebab! Before celebrating in style in the campervan.

Meanwhile a number of the group headed to the pub for a few beers, though most peeled off early before the new year arrived.



New Year's Day 2022 . The remainder of the group headed to Derbyshire, for a later than usual start time of 11am, meeting at Cromford Cotton Water Mill, built 1771. All arrived in good time and with unseasonably mild weather 23 members including a few honoured guests headed off along the towpath in a southerly direction past the pump house as far as the canal cottage just beyond High Peak Station. Returning to High Peak Station we posed for our first group photo of the year.

We ascended onto the High Peak trail to gain great views over Cromford village. It wasn't long before the walk leader required some map reading tuition from Lady Abbott.



After a brief coffee stop walk leader Stephen surged ahead, keen for lunch. Forgetting his duties he turned off the trail to lose the four rear most walkers who wrongly stated ‘they would never turn off the trail without waiting for us’ having spotted the group lunching outside the National Stone Centre. The group were re united. The Stone centre is located on the site of 6 former limestone quarries.



The walk continued over Middleton Moor passing Middlestone Top at 301m, the high point of the day. Continuing through Middleton village before descending to the upper end of Cromford with some rare breed and tractor spotting along the way. Stephen declaring he had the ‘winning photo’ a number of times... only the AGM will tell.

Arriving back at Cromford Mill mid afternoon having completed 8 miles, there was time to look round the historic mill and making the most of the weather Ian opted for the first Ice Cream of 2022 to complete the 8 mile walk.

For refuelling Zara had arranged for an evening meal at the The Gate in Tansley, where we were all well nourished ready for another day’s walking.

Matlock Bath has a grade II listed railway station building in Swiss chalet style - Matlock Bath was known as Little Switzerland hence the cable cars to Heights of Abraham



Sunday 2nd January

Reverting to the more traditional start time of 10.30am the group now numbering 24 met at Matlock Station. Setting of north the weather remained mild, though a little damp with sunny intervals, it was also damp underfoot with some boggy and muddy sections.

The group spread out a little and again the leader managed to lose the tail end of the group as we passed through hedges, over Bonsall Moor (high point 280m) and down into the village of Bonsall. Fortunately the flock was rounded up and we continued to the village of Bonsall where a well earned rest was taken, some patronised the tea rooms whilst others sampled the delicious home made soup and cakes offered in the local church.

We enjoyed rooftop views over Matlock before being greeted by a double rainbow as we arrived back in Matlock having completed another 8.5 miles (subject to usual debate).

After drying out we enjoyed an evening meal at the Remarkable Hare where over pudding some fessed up to their usual daily pudding of two magnums, alas they were not on the menu at the Remarkable Hare. None the less puddings were enjoyed.

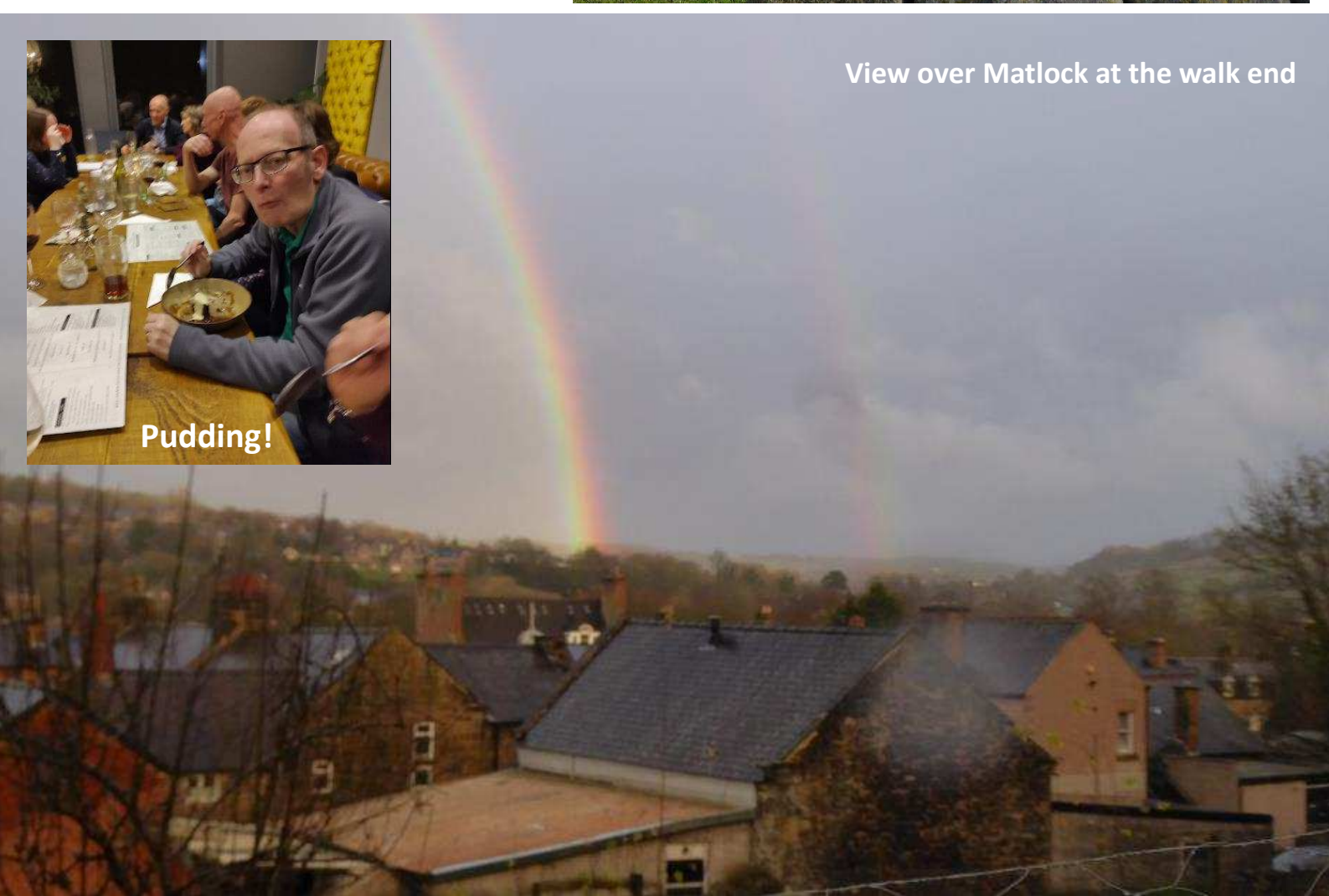


A sunny ascent to start

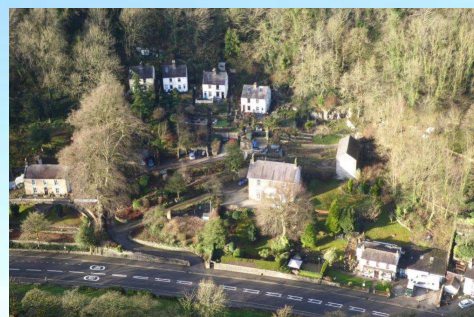


Pudding!

View over Matlock at the walk end



Monday 3rd January dawned, we lost a few members before the start and the remaining members met at Matlock Bath Station at the earlier time of 10am for a 5 mile walk up to Starkholmes then along ridge in glorious sunshine via High Tor to Old Matlock, with its 300ft high cliffs.



A detour was taken to climb up to the Celtic Cross on top war memorial on Pic Tor for a coffee stop with a view over Matlock and to Riber Castle before crossing River Derwent to ascend Shining Cliff then along to Masson and down and back via Matlock Bath.



Three walks...

Three different days...

Three great days...



Our intrepid walk leader taking a rest (could this be a photo competition winner??) before the final descent into Matlock Bath to complete a great weekends walking.

After nearly two Covid years it was great to all be out enjoying the hills, the food, the company of fellow members and guests to kick start 2022, the 21st year of PYW!

