

PYW New Year 2023 Bewdley



Seeing the new year inn—The Mug House Inn & Restaurant

New Years Eve Fifteen members headed down to Bewdley to walk into the new year. The hardy campers, well motor homers, arrived at their campsite on Friday and others made their way down to check into their hotels and B & B, one found a shepherds hut with log burner.



On new years eve morning, we all met up at Kingsford Forest Park for a 7 mile walk along Kinver Edge and west to Castle Hill. Setting off under a grey sky with a little drizzle Jane led us through steeply rolling countryside and across some sticky muddy fields and over stiles. One particular stile caused our first and only casualty of the weekend, the first aid kit was required to save Mike's modesty as he discovered his legs were not as long as he thought when negotiating barbed wire! Much to the amusement of Claire!!

Lunch stop was a little damp, but fortunately the afternoon tea stop was much more civilised having stumbled across the NT Rock Houses, where we were all welcomed courtesy of Ian's life membership. Some impressive homes and more recently the tea room had been made inside the rocks. We couldn't resist the opportunity to enjoy some great hot chocolate and cake to warm us through for the final march back to the car park via the obligatory trig point and some rooftop views over Kinver.



Back to our respective weekend residences we glammed up for a big night out to see in the new year. Sarah D had booked us a table at **The Mug House Inn & Restaurant** where we enjoyed a hot home cooked buffet meal options of lasagne, curry, beef bourguignon, rice, chips and lots of seconds! Possibly too much as to our most pleasant surprise, there were also puddings, what more could we wish for? Live music and dancing kept us occupied into the early hours of 2023.



New Years Day 2023 Sober, we all assembled bright eyed and bushy tailed the following morning at Bewdley Bridge for our first walk of 2023. A bright, if damp morning, we set off along the bank of the river Severn, turning right through the side streets of picturesque Bewdley, up and out into the hills surrounding the town to walk along the Worcestershire Way.



Stopping at the Wyre Forest tea rooms for lunch, we continued through the forest trails, with some rare wildlife spotting. Dean hadn't been to Specsavers for some time so could not read the keep off signs and made a spectacular 'you've been framed' style mounting, or rather dismounting of the Gruffalo. A group photo was convened just to prove our rare sighting!



Then we made our way back into Bewdley through some pretty residential streets and alleyways, to complete 8 miles.

Hardcore members re convened in the evening to slum it in Wetherspools (others selected more high class eateries, though some soon joined us for after dinner drinks). In depth discussion of the virtues and business model of Wetherspools ensued to kick start the intellectual conversation of 2023. We enjoyed a variety of food and beverage at the welcoming George Hotel hostelry.





With the sunshine breaking through the clouds, Jane again led us up to the Clent Hills where we enjoyed some great panoramic views across Worcestershire and the West Midlands. There was some significant debate to name and place the various hills, towns and cities we could see and the reliability of the interpretation boards was also discussed.

During the weekend an old topic for informal debate returned, the PYW club name.... once again and more so than usual it was thought the name could change, though PYW should remain, the P & Y were no longer as relevant as they once were and we concluded amongst ourselves, *(so no conclusion as usual!!!)* subject of course to further debate and formal proposal and voting, that we could perhaps re brand to just **PYW** to emphasis our **social and sociable walking group**

nature for the less mature (AKA walkers of flexible working age)....., so some mileage made in more ways than one!



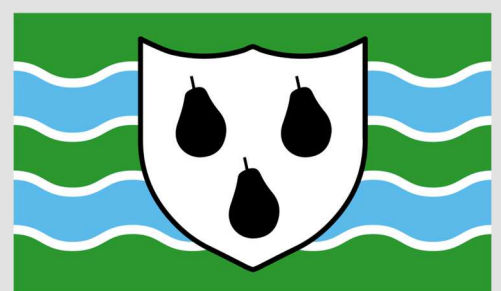
Continuing on we found some traditional new year mud and puddles and another trig point. Returning to Nimmings Wood to complete our final 6 mile walk, then for a late lunch before most travelled back home.



Others extended their new year away to continue to explore Bewdley and surrounding area.



Thanks to our walk leader... and we do like a county flag.



A Happy PYW Walking New Year!