

News of the Nook Walkers

In the past we have several times had to cancel our walks because of bad weather, but in July we had to cancel the walk because the weather was too hot!! However, by August things had cooled down and 12 members plus one dog enjoyed a circular walk in the Upper Holme Valley.

We parked the cars at a small car park on Brownhill Lane above Holmbridge. The weather was dull, but warm and we had a few gleams of sun. Thunderstorms were forecast but we set off along the stony track through the forestry plantations above Ramsden Reservoir. Because of the dry summer all the reservoirs we saw on our walk were very low.

As we approached the embankment of Riding Wood Reservoir we flushed out 1 adult and 5 young partridges. These birds are becoming increasingly rare so it was nice to find them still in our area. We saw lots of wild flowers at the side of the track, the heather was in bloom and I saw a small patch of eyebright, a very small white flower. The track passes the embankment of Yateholme Reservoir but it is too high up to enable one of us to see the water. Towering above us was the mass of Holme Moss with its TV mast.

Eventually we arrived at the main Holme Moss Road, where we found a convenient wall to sit on whilst we had a short break. As we sat there we had a lovely fly past of swallows and a kestrel was seen hovering over the fields. However, our break was cut short when a menacing black cloud was seen over Holme Moss, so it was thought prudent to move on.

As the road was downhill we soon arrived at Holme Village, passing lovely old cottages, their gardens bright with colourful flowers. Opposite the old Holme School we turned down the track

adjoining Arthur Quarmby's underground house "Underhill", glimpses of which could be seen through the trees, the path went steeply downhill across a couple of fields to a bridge over a stream with a small waterfall. It was a magical place and several of us were reminded of our childhood and how we loved to have paddled in the stream.

A short uphill stretch brought us to a viewpoint above Brownhill Reservoir where we could see down the valley as far as Holmfirth. The rowan trees were full of orange berries and the purple heather made it a lovely scene. As we walked down to the reservoir we passed a curious tree whose roots had grown right round a huge boulder. As we crossed the embankment with Brownhill Reservoir on the left and Ramsden Reservoir on the right we heard the first growl of distant thunder. As we neared the car park the thunder came closer and closer. Would we make it to the cars before the storm broke? Well, I'm glad to say we were all back safely and on our way home before the storm broke, and what a storm it was; it came really dark and the roads flooded, the lightning flashed and the thunder roared but we were warm and dry and soon safely home.

Margaret Newman

