

Marsden - Rowsley Walk - May 9/11th

Leader: Harry Pretty

I cannot remember how many years ago it is since the last Marsden-Rowsley, but my recollection of the last that I was involved in goes back to 1954 - and I think it was just about the best Cread week-end in the Peak that I can remember. There was a turn out of nearly thirty, and the weather was superb.

This walk, a classic thrutch across parts of three Counties has an exquisitely devised route with a very reasonable pub for the Saturday night. I am hoping that this year we shall see a really tremendous turn out which includes many of those who normally only wear boots to cross the boggy bit between car and the bottom of the crag - all good malicious stuff!

Do turn out if you possibly can - you can always drop out at Glossop, Bamford, Fox House or Baslow - but don't expect to be carried.

It is necessary to leave on the Friday night and the train times are as follows:-

Derby dep. 7.00.p.m.
Manchester (Central) arr. 8.36.p.m.
Manchester (Kings) dep. 10.15.p.m.
Marsden arr. 11.03.p.m.

For those who have never attempted this walk the route is briefly as follows:-

Marsden via Wessenden Reservoirs to the Isle of Skye Inn on A635. Good track to this point. Thence onwards over Black Hill, Sliddens Moss etc. down to Crowden Reservoirs (Crowden Station). Up onto Bleaklow via Wildbear Clough and across to Doctor's Gate. At this point, generally reached about 1.p.m. - 2.p.m. on the Saturday, you can run down to the "Snake" and quench a stupendous thirst or carry on over Featherbed Moss onto the northern edge of Kinder without sacrificing too much height. In any case, the route goes over the east end of Kinder and via the ridge to Win Hill - down steep path alongside plantation to Yorkshire Bridge. At bottom of this path is a good place to brew up and cook before tottering on to the pub.

The second day is the well known route down the Edges from Stanage to Baslow via Carl Wark and Longshaw. Chatsworth Edge and Catsworth Park complete the route to Ewsley.

To give a good start on the Saturday I intend to bash straight off from Marsden on the Friday night to the Isle of Skye Inn - and there "bivvy". A "bivvy" (five star) in the region of Bole Hill below Stanage is reasonable for Saturday night (hereabouts is the famous Penlington bivvy in a vertical wood).

The Isle of Skye is of course now de-licensed and I am not sure of bivvy situation there - perhaps someone can enlighten me on this point. The bar floor used to be excellent. For anyone wishing to stay in the vicinity of Marsden on Friday night there are some hen-houses beside the road out to Wessenden. It is however, only one-star accommodation.