

## Pleasington Walk

The image that must pop up in many minds when they think about a walk in Blackburn could not be further from the truth and today did not disappoint as the photographs clearly show.



11 became 7 on the day, largely because of the heat. It was hot! And humid!

We started from the Clog and Billy. This renowned 70's watering hole (and then the Bay Horse) was part of the author's youth. It seemingly has not lost it, serving 0% Guinness for Bernard and Lancaster Amber for those of us who could not resist. The food was great and the staff brilliant.

Our walk began towards Billinge Hill and then a steep descent down into Witton Country Park. With high cloud and a temperature of around 22° there was a degree of optimism. This was further enhanced by the shady paths all the way down. But that was the end of that! Up it went. I did offer to drop volunteers off at the Crem, but here were no takers so soldier on we did. The flat expanse of the park ended at Houghton Bottoms and the start of that final ascent back to the cars (and did I mention, a pint?).



On the way we glimpsed the impressive Grade 1 listed Pleasington Priory and some bloke waving at us from a distant cottage who turned out to be one of Bernard's mates.

After encouragement that we were nearly there (apparently I used it 4 times) we made it to the top. A brief stop at Wainwrights memorial and looking exhausted we made it!

My thanks to Stewart Kay for suggesting this walk.

Phil – Walk Leader