

Roll: **20220505-9224**

Camera: **Canon EOS 5D Mark III: E53**

Film: **Full frame digital**

Subject:

Minster, Stanton Moor, Nine Ladies and Birchover.

Notes:

U3a Peak Walks group on a most splendid day. We assembled at the Southern Car Park at Winster and for once I was relatively early. I found the climbs quite arduous especially the last ascent along Durwood Lane back to Winster.

The Reform Tower was built by the Whig William Pole Thornhill shortly after 1832 to commemorate Earl Grey and celebrate the passing of the First Reform Act extending the franchise and getting rid of rotten boroughs.

The Nine Ladies were much smaller than I had anticipate. There was a young lady there painting designs on card, she had a very thin straggly beard and I assume from my subsequent reading that she is a pagan. I wish I had found opportunity to talk to her. I was uncertain whether or not I had identified the King Stone and not knowing how so to do, failed to search out the name Bill Stumps carved upon it. The Nine Ladies are believed to be part of a late neolithic and early bronze age tradition.

There were a couple of small stone balancing structures which I found rather impressive. I did not occur to me that they were forms of vandalism as asserted in Wikipedia. I also assumed, or felt, that these structures had spiritual significance along with the small "offerings" of flowers and evidence of burnt offerings. These I believe were related to celebrations of May Day,

The Cork Stone has foot holds carved into it and grab handles embedded into it. One brave soul did attempt the climb and looked most precarious and physically distressed. I would have been tempted to try it myself had I been on my own but failing in front of my 13 or 14 fellow members was a humiliation I opted to spare myself.

The beer in the Druid Inn at Birchover was excellent. I lost most of the first half (Chatsworth Gold from Peak Ales) to carelessness and was obliged to buy a second.

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The Millennium Stone is a local Millstone Grit block from which a core has been cut to produce a millstone.

The profusion of dandelions was astonishing. I have read and heard a number of apologists for the dandelion recently, all of whom assure me that it really is an attractive flower of vibrant colouring if one can only set aside prejudice against "weeds". One more substantial article on the web argued that the ecological function of the dandelion was to break up excessively compacted soils and once its task was achieved it would quietly slip away without need for the violent assault of a horticulturist. I believe not word of it. Weeds sole objective it seems to me is reproduction and ever wider invasion. It is in my estimation a repulsive bloom and anyway I would rather not further risk wetting the bed.

See also:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nine_Ladies

People:

Members of the U3S Peak Walks Group. John Pickles, Maureen Wade, Simon.

Dates:

Dates and times are verified from original exif data.

Frames:

F47B4855 20220505 10:40:53 Darley Dale from Stanton Moor.
F47B4856 20220505 10:59:00 Works - Darley Bridge.
F47B4857 20220505 10:59:05 Works - Darley Bridge.
F47B4859 20220505 10:59:41 Monolith.
F47B4860 20220505 10:59:51 Monolith.
F47B4861 20220505 11:02:32 Large monolith.
F47B4863 20220505 11:15:34 Reform Tower.
F47B4864 20220505 11:34:04 Nine Ladies.
F47B4865 20220505 11:34:24 Nine Ladies.
F47B4866 20220505 11:34:29 Nine Ladies.
F47B4867 20220505 11:34:51 Nine Ladies.
F47B4868 20220505 11:39:20 Stone balancing column.
F47B4869 20220505 11:40:11 Stone balancing column.
F47B4870 20220505 11:40:35 Stone balancing column.
F47B4871 20220505 11:43:35 Trail through silver birch plantation.
F47B4874 20220505 11:44:13 Trail through silver birch plantation.
F47B4875 20220505 11:44:44 Fallen Birch.
F47B4876 20220505 11:45:01 Fallen Birch.
F47B4877 20220505 11:46:11 Trail through silver birch plantation.
F47B4878 20220505 12:08:04 The Cork Stone.
F47B4879 20220505 12:08:14 The Cork Stone.
F47B4881 20220505 12:09:00 The Cork Stone.
F47B4883 20220505 12:10:56 The Cork Stone.
F47B4885 20220505 12:44:47 Footpath.
F47B4886 20220505 12:45:03 The Druid Inn.
F47B4887 20220505 12:46:36 The Druid Inn.
F47B4888 20220505 12:46:47 Disused quarry face.
F47B4889 20220505 12:47:08 Millennium Stone.
F47B4890 20220505 12:47:19 Dandelions.
F47B4891 20220505 14:11:20 Dandelions.
F47B4892 20220505 14:11:37 Dandelions.
F47B4893 20220505 14:11:59 Dandelions.
F47B4894 20220505 14:12:05 Dandelions.





Darley Dale from Stanton Moor.



Works - Darley Bridge.



Monolith.



Reform Tower.



Nine Ladies.



Trail through silver birch plantation.



Stone balancing column.



Fallen Birch.



The Cork Stone.



Footpath.



The Druid Inn.



Disused quarry face.



Dandelions.