

## High Sheriff's Way Update

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

After 16 days' walking over 5 weeks since August 1st, I finally reached Codnor Park on the last day of the High Sheriff's Way walk on Sunday. The last two days were done in lovely weather, with a super walk from Melbourne to Long Eaton on Friday 5th, planned by John Thomas. John and I were accompanied by DMRT members Jonty Rhodes, Robin Knott and Kev Corcoran, with my fellow DL Griselda Kerr and Lord-Lieutenant Willie Tucker joining us from Melbourne. If you haven't been to Melbourne, please do - it's a delightful old village with many architectural gems and well worth a visit. We used the Cloud Trail as far as the Trent and Mersey Canal and then the canal towpath through to Long Eaton via Shardlow, Sawley and Trent Lock. The journey was much enhanced by the arrival of Jill Tucker at Weston Lock with the traditional Scottish fortification of whisky and shortbread! Tea and cakes were also provided at Long Eaton Sea Scouts HQ on our arrival there!

The final day began in great weather on Sunday afternoon, with 49 walkers joining me from Long Eaton on a route led by Under-Sheriff Andrew Cochrane and his wife Karen. I will say more about the party soon in a detailed blog item on the website, but it was an eclectic mix of family, friends, MR colleagues, local councillors, and a team from OzBox. Our route took us along the towpaths of the Erewash Canal and Cromford Canal, stopping at Ilkeston town Football Ground for tea and cakes kindly provided by the Mayor of Erewash, Councillor Kewal Singh Atwal, who also presented me with a cheque for the cause. The day went superbly well and was without incident until Louise Doble unfortunately suffered a broken ankle when she slipped against a stone on the path, just two miles from the end. Mountain Rescue First Aiders Kev Corcoran, Robin Knott, Chris Smith and Dai Sandbrook were close at hand and organised the recovery of Louise on a stretcher to their awaiting ambulance with Steve Hilditch and Alan Winfield, to be taken to the finish line so that husband Keith could take her to hospital. Louise, I'm really sorry you suffered an injury whilst supporting my walk, and I hope you get well soon!

So, slightly delayed by the accident, I arrived together with Hilary and the family in the fitting glow of a beautiful sunset at Codnor Park at about 7.30 pm, to warm applause from the participants and a cold bottle of beer, which went down very well!

It's been a wonderful, memorable experience, and I've been overwhelmed with the fantastic support I've received from so many people along the way. Derbyshire is a county of contrasts, and has beauty in many forms, to compare with anywhere. But what it also has is the warmest, friendliest, most helpful people you could ever wish to meet, and I've been fortunate to meet many of them in the last few weeks.

As you may recall, the aim was not only to raise funds for Peak District Mountain Rescue and the High Sheriffs' Fund, but also to create a new long-distance footpath, and when time permits I will press on with that process, in due course writing up a guide to the route which will be available, for a small fee which will go to PDMRO, to anyone who wants it. It may be that I will need some help to build up the detail required for such a guide, and anyone who would like to be involved in that is welcome to contact me.

And please ... if you intended to donate but haven't yet, you can still do so, on-line or by sending me a cheque or cash. All the details you need can be found on [www.derbyshirehighsheriff.co.uk](http://www.derbyshirehighsheriff.co.uk), by clicking on the charity walk banner at the top of the page.

I'm off now for a short break, during which I may well have an idea for another long walk.....but not this year!

With many thanks, and best wishes,

David

David Coleman  
High Sheriff of Derbyshire