

DERBYSHIRE DISCOVERY

Do you remember the Alan Sherman song about a boy going off on holiday? Let me remind you:

*Hello mother, hello father, here are at Camp Granada,
It is very entertaining and they say we'll have some fun if it stops raining.*

Our intrepid leader, R2B Shaw, decided to organise the Derbyshire Discovery on Midsummer's Day. After all, he said "It won't be raining". On no? "It won't be a cold easterly wind." Oh no? "And further more we won't need a map because I know exactly where I'm going." Oh yes?

To confuse the already bedraggled group he and Mrs. R2B Shaw, both encased in bright blue shiny raincoats emblazoned with the words "Universal Studios" set off at a brisk canter but in totally the wrong direction, although none of us knew it – yet. After a mile we managed to catch them up and suggest we might just consult the map which one of us had smuggled in. Not only were we on the wrong road we were even off the map! Oh calamity! Nothing for it but to retrace our steps but one never knows, it might just stop raining. Oh yes?

The nine mile hike suddenly became an 11 mile hike, squelching through the undergrowth and passing several groups of equally bedraggled Duke of Edinburgh Award groups from all over the country. At least we weren't camping. Well done chaps – and chappesses.

No, it didn't stop raining and yes, we did see some interesting sights along the way but then moorhens and fish don't mind the rain. Early on Mrs. R2B Shaw got very excited when she thought she had spotted a rare circular purple orchid but a scramble up a steep mossy bank proved it be the base of a lesser spotted plastic purple fruitshoot bottle! Later on the residents of Monyash might also have been just a little surprised to see someone removing all their wet clothes in the village square – well not quite all but very nearly.

Now to the real reason we all go each year, the evening meal. Being extremely polite, one of our number ate his starter very slowly until someone pointed out that everyone else was not having one. Much banter and bizarre but true stories followed over the main course and a good munch was had by all.

Will we be going back next year? Of course, we always do, but this time some of us might just check the map before set out. Seems a good idea!

Our thanks to Chris and Christine Wheatley. We still love you!

Signed,
R2B Not So Shaw