



On the green at Sabden Bowling Club

Walk to bowl you over

BY BOB CLARE
www.lancashirewalks.com

For the past four years, Lancashire Dotcom Walkers have held a bowls contest in July. With a strong contingent from Burnley and equally strong contingent from the Preston area, this has produced a classic East-West clash of civilisations.

The first contest was held at the Plough at Grimsargh and the next two years we were treated to the fine facilities at Bretherton.

By now the Burnley contingent were bitterly complaining that West were enjoying home advantage.

So when by chance we enjoyed the benches and use of facilities at Sabden Crown Green Bowling Club for a picnic last summer, it was arranged we would hold the fourth annual Lancashire Dotcom Walkers Bowling Contest there.

Little good it did the Burnley Contingent who lost again, but nevertheless everyone was delighted to have visited the club.

Several reasons:

1. The situation within "the Hidden Valley" that runs from Whalley to Blacko is lovely. You lift your eyes from the pavilion on to the wooded and enduring hills.

2. The hospitality shown by secretary John Pilkington and other club members made us feel completely at ease even though our 'talent' is limited to say the least.

3. The amenity itself is outstanding with a beautifully maintained green set in neat grounds with an attractively designed pavilion.

It was established in 1991 after Alan Whalley a local businessman saw the

potential in an area of waste ground in the village centre.

What followed was a great amount of community effort and fund-raising supported by local government funding to create a vital asset for the villagers (and Dotcom Walkers) to enjoy.

That community spirit is something much needed today as other services in the village are threatened by local authority cutbacks – the library and the bus in particular.

The walk described below is an adaptation of the walk we did following the bowls match.

We discovered a varied and charming countryside which did much to lift the spirits of the Burnley Contingent as it nursed its wounds following another crushing defeat.

DIRECTIONS: From the car park turn left on to Padiham Road and then at the War memorial turn right on to Wesley Street.

At the end bear left before the church on to a service road.

Keep on this as it bends right in front of Cockshotts

Farm and there is then a steady climb up a lane towards the next farm marked New York on the map.

Just before it turn left on to a United Utilities service road.

After a climb the road levels, goes through a gateway and after passing a valve house continues below the embankment of Church Clough Reservoir.

With the embankment on your left keep on the road passing a handsome property on the right to arrive at a wooden gate close to the reservoir. Pass through a kissing gate to its right and follow the track that skirts the edge of this attractive upland water.

On the northern edge of the reservoir turn eastwards keeping on the track until you reach the dam end.

After a wooden gate in the retaining wall keep ahead to the next wall on a grassy path leading alongside the slopes of Calf Hill prominent to the left.

Through a metal gate or over a wall stile keep ahead over a rise and then angle

slightly right to a metal kissing gate leading on to a substantial track.

Keep on this for the next ¼ mile and then where it bears left keep ahead on a less obvious track (or at least it was less obvious to me when the route was checked) that will take you to Clitheroe Road.

Go straight across to a broad farm track accessed by a metal gate.

After a farm building and a wall end take a narrow footpath on the left which begins a descent through rough pasture to a gateway (with wooden stile).

Continue the line of descent which follows a small stream and then a wall coming in from the right bringing you to a wooden gate above a wooded dell.

Through this continue downhill with a fence on the right and keep on the path as it bears right soon arriving at the edge of Higher Whins.

Pass a farmhouse on the left and then turn left through a metal gate crossing rough ground in front of a derelict stable building to reach a drive.

Turn right.

Follow the drive past impressive properties and then at the next junction turn left on to The Whins which curves round to meet Whalley Road.

Turn left for the village centre.

Fact file

START/FINISH: Sabden Village car park BB7 9EW

DISTANCE: 3 miles 5k

TIME: 1½ – 2 hours

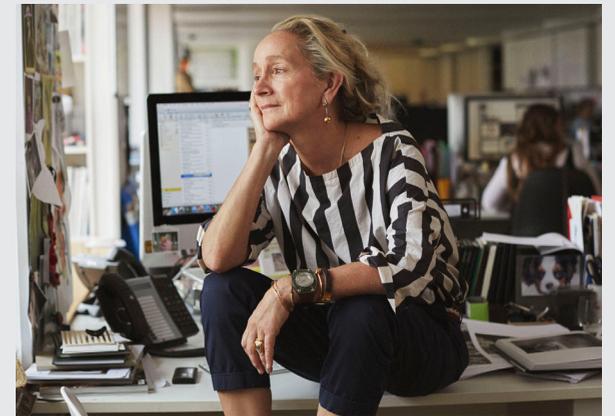
GRADE: Moderate

MAP: OS Explorer 287 The West Pennine Moors

Remote Control

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Fashion director Lucinda Chambers, the undoubted star of *Absolutely Fashion: Inside British Vogue*

THE GRAND OLD LADY OF STYLE

At one point in *Absolutely Fashion – Inside British Vogue (BBC2, Thursdays, 9pm)*, the pony-tailed alien of Chanel, Karl Lagerfeld, airily waved a silver leather fingerless-gloved hand and said: "We are always thinking about today, not yesterday. There is no credit in the past."

He was talking about the fashion industry, but the whole focus of the documentary was on British Vogue as the magazine celebrated its 100th anniversary.

It set up a tension at the heart of the film, with the ephemeral nature of fashion versus the permanence of Vogue as an overseer of what's 'in' and what's 'hot'.

Of course, Vogue has a vested interest in keeping the fashion conveyor belt moving – who wants to read about last year's fashion, or the same old jeans, but the staff were curiously reluctant to admit their part in the whole business.

At one point, headshots of 'this year's models' were taken down from a white-painted wall in Vogue's swish London offices, to be replaced by another batch of pale-faced, ethereal creatures. Only a lucky few were put on the wall of stalwarts like Kate Moss.

In contrast, the film – directed with an outsider's bemused detachment by Richard Macer – stressed Alexandra Shulman's 25 years in the editor's chair.

However, she comes over rather badly in this documentary – reticent, guarded, secretive, while the industry in which she works makes a virtue of putting everything on show.

If Shulman proved difficult to pin down, the star of the show was Vogue's fashion director, Lucinda Chambers. She's been around at Vogue for longer than even Shulman – she shared stories of living in London squats with photographer to the stars Mario Testino – and came over as ineffably posh, scatty and airy-fairy.

As the film went on, however, you warmed to her more and more, whether she was reminiscing about her childhood helping her mum make copies of Harrods' children's clothes for her to wear, to admitting she never wants to leave Vogue: "You're permanently excited about the next shoot."

And yet. Just like the latest trends, Vogue as a magazine could be going out of fashion. It already has an online TV channel, and the younger members of staff have legions of followers on Instagram.

Surveying that birthday issue, Shulman says: "It's an historical document... it's a collector's item. This is about a continuum... soaring off into the future."

"They might not know what a magazine is in 200 years' time."

So in the battle between the 'now' and the 'always', Vogue may find itself on the losing side.