



## 4<sup>th</sup> Pudsey Night Hike and Camp February 2018

Something a bit different.....we have been on camps, and been on hikes, but this time we hiked at night to a campsite in Morley. Stayed overnight, and hiked back the following day. It is one thing to navigate during the day with the comfort of being able to see clearly around you, but the expedition starting at night was an interesting extra challenge for our scouts to enjoy.

We met a little earlier than our normal scout meeting time, to complete the final briefing, hand out the maps, check head torches, and then we were off....into the dark!



It was a cold day, so we were a small group of dedicated yet happy scouts. Some wanted to create a longer route as they enjoyed it so much, others wanting to get to base after what had been a hard day at school, followed by packing, a quick tea, and then a hike.

We stuck to our plan, and it wasn't long before we were hiking up out of the Troydale Valley. Our head torches shining brightly illuminating our path. We were met by amazing clear views of Pudsey all lit up in the evening, and after stopping for a brief rest, carried on with our expedition.



Map orientation, how to calculate a distance on a map, and the key to what the symbols mean, all came alive from what had been taught in the scout hall. Now everything made sense and was relevant to the real world.



Another quick break in the last half of the hike was outside a corner shop, that gave our scouts opportunity to clear the shelves. After walking out of the shop with their usual purchases it quickly became apparent that putting huge bottles of pop into an already heavy rucksack probably wasn't as well thought out as it might have appeared in the shop. Despite the extra weight taken on, we managed to continue on, and complete the last leg of the hike.

Approaching some scouts usual bedtimes we arrived at Phoenix Campsite in Morley, a great little site, that gave a warm welcome.



Despite sore backs, and tired feet, the tents went up quickly. Before they were guyed down they already had a thick layer of ice on the flysheets, which proved how chilly it was, and how cold the night would be.



Hot dogs and hot chocolate were all that was needed to get us through the night, then a big breaky before setting off in the daylight the following morning.



Big thanks to Steve and Stuart for cooking breakfast, which allowed us to get the tents down, and have an early start to avoid the heavy rains that were going to hit later in the day. The scouts started off with smiling faces, which shows Stuart hasn't lost his ability to cook a good breaky despite having achieved his 40 years in scouting.

A hike back to the scout hut on day 2 was definitely slower and harder than day 1. But getting back after a two day hike, a night away, and cooking, was all the more rewarding.



You will be able to tell the scouts who have completed their Expedition, and completed the report as they will be wearing the expedition badge on their scout uniforms..... (unless they haven't sewn them on yet...hint hint!!!)

If you are not already in scouting, come along and give it a go! If you are already a scout, make sure you book to go on the next camp and see what you can learn, and how many badges you can get!