

TRICOUNI NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2016

RELATING TO THE EASTER MEET OF 2016

Those attending were Joyce and David Clode, Katie and Richard Stockwell, Chris and Jenny Wyatt, Sam Wyatt, Seren Wyatt, Carys, Peter Leigh, Lynn Leigh, Helen and Roy Cross, Emma Cross and Jonas Dieter, Peter Cross, Chris, Vicky, Scarlett and Milo Lincoln, Stuart, Kristina, Raya and Iris Clode.

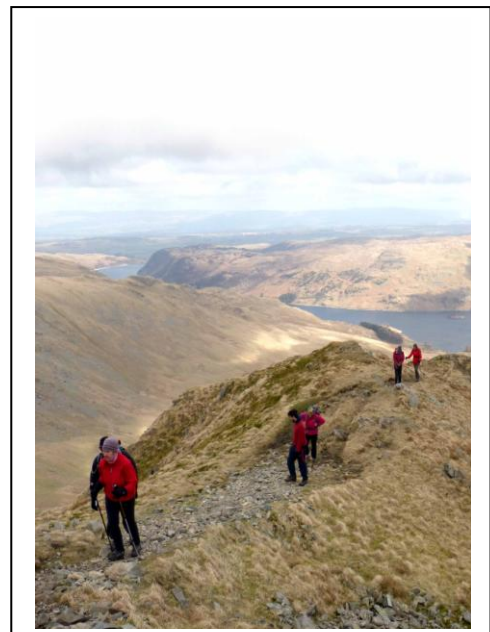
Sam remarked that there were 10 young people under 30 at this year's meet. Perhaps this is a record but very good to see 😊



GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 25TH 2016.

The weather forecast was for some sun but cloud developing especially after 12pm. No rain. Wind W/SW 15-20mph strengthening throughout the day to 30mph.

Joyce and David, Jenny and Chris, Sam, Seren and Carys, Katie and Richard, Peter and Lynn all met at the car park at Mardale Head and set off to do a circuit from Mardale Head of Rough Crag to High Street and back via Mardale III Bell to Nan Bield Pass and then down, passing the tarn- with the option of doing Harter Fell for those who wanted to. About a third of the way up towards High Street, Joyce and David turned back, with the rest of the party continuing. After lunch near the top Chris and Sam set off ahead to return via Harter Fell. The rest of the party did the route as planned, meeting lots of people carrying bikes coming up by the tarn with the plan of riding down the other side! They were all on a 3 day excursion to the Lakes, visiting many of the peaks. I felt I could just about carry myself up let alone a bike too! And we all wondered if they had looked at the impending weather forecast!



Stuart, Kristina, Raya and Iris Clode had a very long journey on the motorway so aborted any attempt to do a long walk. They tried various things (!) but ended up walking from Ashness Bridge towards Walla Crag with their bunnies stopping lots of times to eat chocolate eggs. The bunnies were a gift from Kristina's sister (Ginny) but we are not sure if they ate any of the eggs!

Chris, Vicky, Scarlett and Milo Lincoln drove from Kendal and said they didn't do a lot although they did walk to Castle Crag, but there was whinging. But all was better after cake and ice-cream at the tea shop in Grange.

Helen, Roy, Peter, Emma and Jonas got stuck in traffic jams on the motorway so did a detour of the B roads to make it up to the Lakes with time to climb Causey Pike from Stair, returning the same way with a slight diversion on the way down. It was very windy on the top but this was refreshing after the car journey.



EASTER SATURDAY MARCH 26TH 2016

The weather forecast was not great - 50mph southerly wind in the morning easing a little by the afternoon, but not less than 40mph! Persistent heavy rain showers later with a risk of thunder, moving away by early afternoon followed by showery bursts from the South West. Cloud extensive with no sun. So basically WIND and RAIN! ☹

Peter, Lynn, Chris and Jenny, Seren and Carys, Peter Cross, Emma and Jonas, Helen and Roy, Katie and Richard, Joyce and David decided as the weather forecast was so awful that a trip to Grange was the order of the day. Everyone headed towards Castle Crag on the top path. No one was keen to do Maiden Moor in pouring rain and wind.

Everyone except Jenny, Lynn, Joyce and David, Carys and Helen decided to climb Castle Crag; this was fun but very windy on the top.

Everyone met up in Grange. Lynn, Peter Leigh, Katie and Richard decided they had had enough weather for one day and headed to the bus stop which turned out to be the best idea they had had all day as this was the last bus along this route for the next few hours.



Unfortunately Tricia's brother in law had had a heart attack at the wheel of his car on the way home from work to Keswick and had driven into a wall, blocking the road for several hours.

Joyce and David waited at the bus stop but there were no more buses and decided to walk back the same way they had come. Jenny and Chris, Seren and Carys tried to walk to Keswick but as the girls were cold, the plan was aborted and they had lunch in the bus stop then walked back along the river in wind and rain.

Helen and Roy, Emma, Jonas and Peter walked back along the river also but had lunch in a cave.

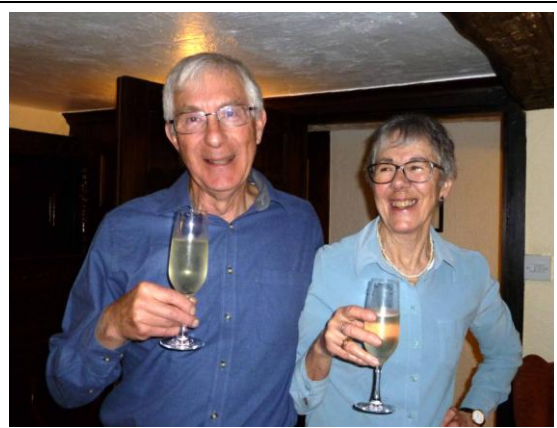
The afternoon was spent playing scrabble, sitting by the fire and generally enjoying Seatoller House looking at the rain pouring down outside.

Sam spent the day working.

Stuart, Kristina, Raya and Iris, Vicky, Chris Scarlett and Milo visited Mirehouse house and gardens near Bassenthwaite. They had a short walk in the gardens visiting the chapel by the lake and had a hot chocolate in the cafe there. They tried to return via Borrowdale but because of the accident had to come back via Buttermere.



Before dinner we celebrated Joyce and David's Golden Wedding anniversary, which took place earlier in the month on March 19th, with a glass of bubbly.



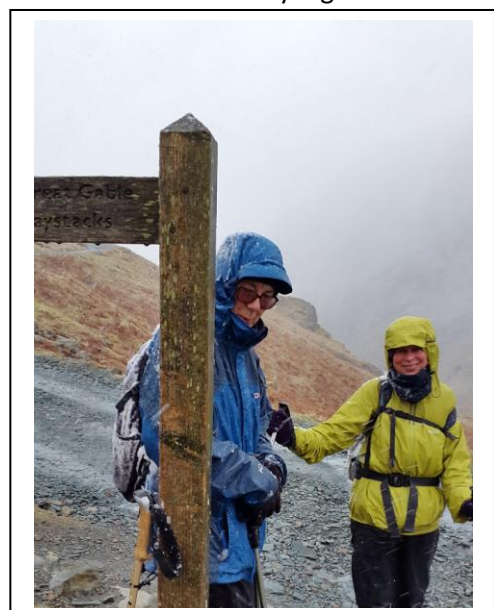
EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 27TH 2016

Storm Katie rushed in!!!! Another grim weather forecast with south to south west winds - 45mph gusting to 50/60mph across the higher fells. Frequent snow showers with a risk of lightning. Heavy showers soon widespread merging into constant precipitation for several hours, risk of hail and thunder; Whiteout (!!!!) Cloud extensive but with brief bursts of sun mostly in the morning. No need for suntan cream as only 0c, in the wind as low as -15c.

Not the best of conditions for a walk anywhere.

The Wyatts went to Church and Keswick. Sam did work and ate chips – perhaps the best option on the weather forecast. Chris spent some of the afternoon asleep.

Roy, Peter Cross, Peter Leigh, Stuart, Emma and Jonas walked up to Honister and onto Haystacks with Peter Leigh coming down at Scarth Gap to Gatesgarth, then getting a lift back with a French family. The others continued up Fleetwith Pike and onto to Honister where they had soup and hot chocolate and walked back. They had all weathers - sun then snow and hail with very high winds and a blizzard with a snow covered path.



Helen, Lynn, Joyce and David walked up the old road to Honister having a hot chocolate in the cafe and on to overlook Buttermere via the Drum House with the intention of walking on and but the hail descended and it was very windy and as they had the hail in their faces they decided to call it a day with Lynn and Helen catching the bus and Joyce and David walking back.



Richard and Katie looked at the impending weather forecast and decided low was a better option so did a circuit of Lowswater starting at Maggie's Bridge going along the flanks of Burnbank Fell and back along the shore of Lowswater through Holme Wood. They only had a few sharp showers but could see the snowy conditions higher up.



Kristina, Stuart, Raya and Iris, Vicky, Chris Scarlett and Milo decided to go to Whinlatter and missed the worst of the weather doing the Stick Man Trail and generally playing on slides and swings and doing things with sticks!



Lucky it was Roy's 60th birthday today so we had a slice of cake to look forward to after our blustery walks. Thank you Roy ☺



EASTER MONDAY MARCH 28TH 2016

Weather a little better today but still 25-30mph wind with snow and hail mixed in and sun, cloud and some showers. That covers everything!

Peter, Lynn, Katie and Richard, Joyce and David parked on the verge to go up Little Mell Fell, a shortish walk of 2 hours and 30 mins but because of the weather forecast perhaps a good option. They had good weather but it was cold and windy on the top.



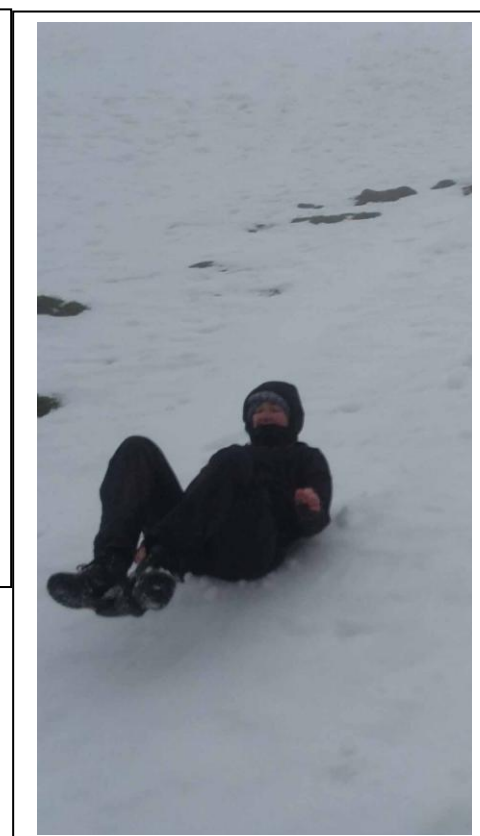
Stuart, Kristina, Raya and Iris did a shorter version of Little Mell Fell walk from a different starting place but sadly neither party met up.

Carys had been unwell so she and Seren didn't walk today.

Jenny and Helen walked to Watendlath via Dock Tarn and back via Rosthwaite, seeing many chaffinches in the garden at Watendlath. The bridge at Watendlath is being repaired so there is a wooden bridge in its place temporarily.

Chris and Sam started at 930am and headed up to Great Gable and onto Kirk Fell. Sam went down the scree as only Chris wanted to do Kirkfell and they got separated for an hour but they then continued along the ridge to Pillar. They went back to the col and down into Ennerdale and up the other side close to Haystacks through a big bog and onto Honister. They did the route in record time. There was no mention of the weather; perhaps they didn't have time to notice!

Roy, Peter Cross, Emma and Jonas went up Scafell Pike. They parked at Seathwaite and walked up the Styhead onto the corridor route towards Lingmell. There was some discussion over the route taken and Roy was outnumbered by the children! The cloud then came down and it was icy on the top with snow and hail and a whiteout. They did some sledging and played in the snow and then continued down to Esk Hause to Combe Gill and onto Glaramara. They had the best weather on Glaramara.



TRICOUNI CLUB SOUTH DOWNS MEET

Friday 15th July 2016

Present: David & Joyce Clode, Colin & Barbara Priscott, Tony Reynolds, Lynn Leigh and Peter Leigh.

The first problem encountered by your scribe was to find the Rendezvous point. The email said Holywell Tea Chalet. The post code was found on the internet and the Sat Nav set. This indicated it to be on the north side of King Edwards Parade, Eastbourne and in due course the Sat Nav said "You have arrived at your destination". No sign of any cafe! Enquiries of several passers-by, eventually elicited that it was at the bottom of a cliff. Was an abseil needed? No, there was a very steep path. Peter went to investigate and found the rest of the party enjoying a cup of coffee and making use of the toilet facilities. Having ascertained that he had parked in the wrong place, Peter jumared up to the top, moved his car and descended back to the Tea Chalet just in time to be told that everyone was ready to set off and that he had to climb back up again! Oh well, I suppose that they are just trying to slow you down.



And so the party set off. A long slog up the first hill led to a relatively flat section before the final ascent up to the top of Beachy Head. Photographs were taken next to the RAF war memorial with pictures of the lighthouse in the background and then a long descent to Birling Gap. The car park was full, there was a queue for the loo, Tony disappeared in search of an ice cream but came back empty handed and it was decided that this was too noisy a place to stop for a picnic lunch. So on up the track leading to the first of the Seven Sisters, waiting ages at the kissing gates for large school parties of young ladies, totally inappropriately attired, half of whom were playing with their mobile phones, to pass through and then out onto the greensward. Just before reaching the top a sheltered spot was found out of the wind with some nice soft grass on which to eat our lunches. The sun

came out and we could easily have lain back and gone to sleep but for another noisy group of schoolgirls coming past.



Up and down, up and down, one by one the sisters fell to our relentless plod, until the sixth sister decided to bite back. The sole of one of Barbara's boots came adrift from the upper, a bit like a crocodile's mouth. Time for a white knight to come to the rescue in the form of Tony, who wrapped her boot in a plastic bag and tied it up with elastic bands. It looked very strange but it worked. Goodness knows what all the parties of immigrants, jabbering away in foreign tongues, thought as they passed us by. Is this what English peasants wear? And so on over the seventh sister and along the river to Exceat and the visitor centre. While Colin & Barbara caught an early bus back to Eastbourne, presumably to look for a shoe repairer, the rest of the party made use of the loos and ate tea and cakes at the cafe before catching the bus back to Eastbourne.



That was not quite the end of the story because on entering the outskirts of Eastbourne a brown travel sign attached to the lamp post next to the bus stop indicated the shortest route to the start of the walk to Beachy Head. However our organiser deemed it more prudent to stay on the bus until we reached Eastbourne Pier 20 minutes later, where we discovered that we now had a 2.5 mile walk back to where we had parked our cars. And so five weary Tricounis eventually set off for home, happy that they had achieved what they had set out to achieve, in dry if mainly overcast weather, walking into the face of a stiff westerly breeze.

This newsletter will also be posted on the Tricouni Club website:-

www.tricouniclub.org

Many thanks to Peter Leigh for writing up the South Downs meet report and to Lynn for providing some photos ☺

The next club meet and AGM will be held on Friday September 30th and Saturday October 1st 2016

