

TRICOUNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2014



The weather forecast for the October meet weekend was not the best with rain and gales predicted. We (Katie, Richard, Joyce and David) drove up in near perfect conditions on the Thursday but true to word the rain had descended by Friday morning just in time to slightly hamper Peter's mad dash to the Lakes so he did get delayed for our meeting at the Salutation Hotel in Ambleside but only by half an hour!

Friday October 25th 2013

Tony Reynolds, Peter Leigh, Lynn Leigh, Katie and Richard Stockwell and David and Joyce Clode met up at the Salutation Hotel in Ambleside for a first class breakfast which we extended as long as we could, without having to do the washing up, due to heavy rain outside. After some discussion we decided a low level walk was the best option and opted for one that only Tony had done before. We started at the car park on the east side of Thirlmere and headed north along the lakeside and up the wooded Great How with its two viewpoints one looking north and another south and west. Peter decided there was probably another view to the east and headed up a slight incline and was right. We descended through Great How Wood and contoured round north before crossing the A591 going up the fell on the other side and contouring back to the car park with good views down the valley. Lunch was on a bench in the car park but the cars had been left on the side of the road as none of us felt we could justify the newly imposed £5 parking charge for the layby. The weather was kind to us and we didn't get wet and even saw a little blue sky.

Saturday October 26th 2013

Forecast was not good with high winds and rain and although it looked likely that the weather would worsen throughout the day, generally it was dry although windy until about 1600.

The weather forecast was atrocious so the rule of 'keep low' was followed by Malcolm, Patsy and Caroline Barton who took the path to Grange in the company of a jolly bunch that included Betty Baggaley (and Pip her new canine companion), Sasha, Brad Gilbert and their kinder – Ellana, Amelie and Andrew. Jacqui, and Fraser Baggaley together with Tony Reynolds completed the roll call.

Jason having decided to quadruple the effort by running to Keswick and back left Seatoller later than the main party having had to struggle into a pair of very snug and fetching black tights so he only managed to put in a cameo appearance for the few seconds that it took to exchange pleasantries and/or trade insults as he steamed past the main group who were expending much energy in that beloved of Tricouni mountain pastimes – gossiping and having the craic.

Other notable pastimes were enjoyed including collecting acorns, climbing trees and Malcolm acquired the useful skill of launching missiles fashioned from the stems of rushes courtesy of a patient Ellana.

Of course no Tricouni outing would be complete without some challenge to navigation and this expedition duly conformed to expectations. Patsy claimed to have discovered a very interesting variant to the final stages of the walk on the outskirts of Keswick. This should have involved an interesting interlude crossing a water meadow. In fact a muddy track alongside the river led to a dead end and an ignoble retreat. However, the rain held off and everyone accepted the inevitable muddy boots and splashed legs with the traditional Tricouni mix of stoicism, grumbling and good humour. It was observed that Jacqui's brand new boots came out of the walk looking spotless leading to speculations of her involvement in Halloween necromancy but it is more probable that she's just a more dainty hiker.

Peter wanted to 'bag a top' so despite the poor forecast Peter and David set off up Glaramara, with the intention of returning by the same route if the weather turned bad. They reached the summit in just over 2 hours and, as the weather was still fine, decided to carry on. On the way they met a lone walker who said he had tried to warn a party of five men from going up Scafell Pike. The mist had descended by the time they reached Allen Craggs and it was here that they met two sorry looking men who said they were lost. When asked where they were going they mentioned the name of a hotel they didn't know. They asked them which valley it was in but they had no idea!!!! They had been in the party of five but had decided to turn back. It was suggested that they follow them to where the Langdale path crossed the path and luckily they met some other walkers who seemed to know where the two guys wanted to go and thankfully they joined them.

Peter and David continued towards Grains Gill and stopped for lunch. The photo shows Peter looking wistfully across to Great Gable and The Napes. They continued uneventfully back to Seatoller with no rain at all.



Sean, Jo, Francis and Edie had a family walk around Buttermere. From Gatesgarth Farm they crossed Peggy's Bridge then up Buttermere Fell to Scarth Gap. They descended by the same route stopping for sandwiches on the way. Francis remained self powered at all times and got much praise. They stopped for a quick drink in the Bridge Hotel on the way back.



Richard, Katie, Joyce and Lynn also headed to Buttermere and did a circuit of the lake in an anti clockwise direction. As the weather didn't seem too bad aside from being windy they decided to go up the path above Mill Beck to Grassgarth Coppice where they had lunch and where they also had the only rain of the day! They descended via High Hause Crag.

Deciding that the day still had some walking left and the rain had gone they walked to the southern end of Crummock water via Long How and Nether How and returned to Buttermere village via Mill Beck. Total distance was about 10km.

Sunday October 27th 2013

Everyone remembered to turn his or her clocks back and avoid arriving for breakfast an hour too soon!

The weather was not good with rain and wind, in fact, this turned out to be the worst day.

The Bartons left for home via the comfortable warmth of Fisher's cafe in Keswick.

Jo and the children went to the Dinosaur museum in Keswick whilst Sean and Monty intended on doing the Allerdale Ramble up to Grange and round Derwent water but the weather was not as bad as expected so turned left at Tongue Gill and got about two thirds up before the wind and rain got going. They then giggled their way across High Spy and Maiden Moor in truly atrocious weather with no one else visible anywhere. Descending at Hause gate, they picked up the path and circled the west and north sides of the Derwent Water before finally arriving back in Keswick tired and wet.

Joyce, Katie, Richard and David drove to the swimming pool in Keswick and met up with Karl and Marie, two friends of Joyce and David. The intention was to do a walk and although the weather was pretty awful with intermittent rain it was decided to do a walk around Latrigg although perhaps we should have made use of the swimming pool! Luckily we were walking West to East so had the wind and rain on our backs. At the top there were excellent views of Keswick.



Peter, Tony and Lynn headed home because of heavy rain only to see the sun come out by the time they got to Penrith.

Monday October 28th

Sean and family drove down to Snowdonia for a quick stay with relatives on the way home.