

# TRICOUNI NEWSLETTER

## AUTUMN 2014



### **Thursday April 17th**

Vicky, Chris and Scarlett Lincoln stopped off in Uldale on the way to Borrowdale, to follow our cunning plan of a walk up Great Cockup. Unfortunately rain stopped play and we only made the first mile before turning back, on the upside, Scarlett learnt 'sheep'.

### **Good Friday April 18th**

Vicky, Chris and Scarlett Lincoln parked at Honister and followed the track to Brandreth, enjoying the sunshine, then onto Green Gable for an early lunch and some mountain top running around by Scarlett in sun. Then we followed the path along Windy gap to Great Gable with Scarlett spotting 'oofoof's', ( whatever these might be!) Ed. We descended down the back with Scarlett snoring, then back along to Honister with a quick family snooze in the sun near Fleetwith.

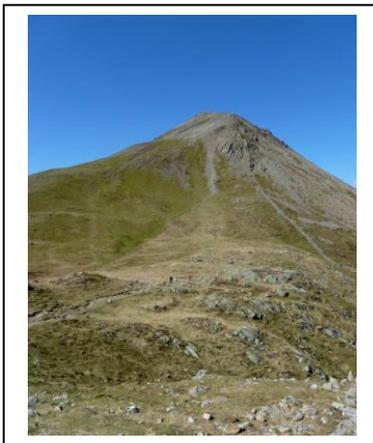
Peter Leigh, Katie & Richard Stockwell, Karen Clode & John Caldwell, Joyce & David Clode, The Wyatts, Roy & Helen Cross met at Longsleddale and walked up Sad Gill to Kentmere Pike via Shipman Knotts and back via Harter Fell and Little Harter Fell along the Longsleddale valley. Major excitements included a freshly dead stag that was sadly too heavy to bring back for tea.



Stuart, Kristina, Raya and Iris Clode parked near Catbells and did a walk there and back around Derwentwater.

### **Easter Saturday April 19th**

Jenny & Seren Wyatt, Kristina Clode, Helen Cross, Katie Stockwell, Vicky, Scarlett and Chris Lincoln parked at Honister. Then walked over to Haystacks, followed by lunch in the sun and a good gossip. Vicky, Chris and Scarlett then descended down Scarth Gap to Buttermere and picked the bus up home, via a really good icecream. The ladies team continued over High Crag then High Stile, they then found a little used path to descend before Red Pike, as they realized they needed to catch the last bus home. Running around the lake end to the bus stop, they met Karen & John emerging from the pub and grabbed a lift.... However, some patchy driving up Honister pass by a guy in a shiny Range Rover left John's car seeing red and she wasn't going to make it over the pass, so the ladies jumped out and pushed – chasing the car up Honister!



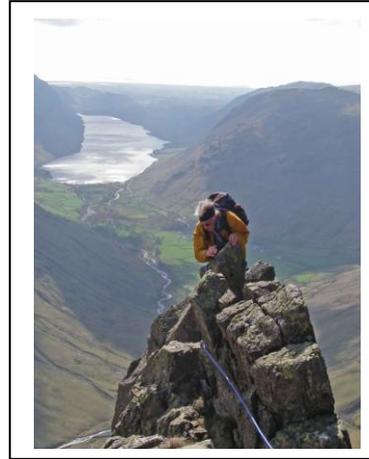
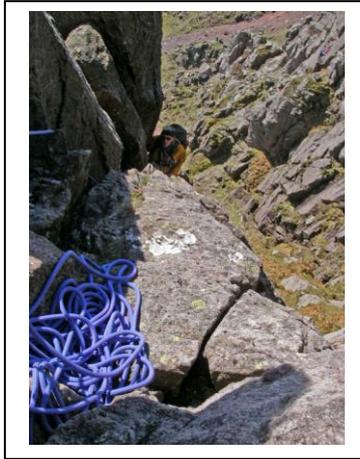
Chris and Sam Wyatt did the Buttermere Horseshoe in record breaking time meeting Jenny's group on the slopes of High Crag. Exhausting just thinking about it!

Roy Cross, Karen Clode & John, Dave & Phoebe Prisk parked at Stair and went up Causey Pike, then Scar Crag to Crag Hill and Whiteless Pike – dropping down into Buttermere. Roy took a detour running over Grasmoor, to enjoy the view whilst several pints were downed in the Fish Inn in Buttermere.

Stuart, Raya and Iris Clode accompanied by Joyce Clode walked up to Seathwaite and up to the top of Sourmilk Gill where they had lunch and Raya and Iris climbed over the rocks with encouragement from lots of snacks!



Peter Leigh, Richard Stockwell and David Clode went up to Great Gable, traversing around the W side to climb Needle ridge. Excellent climbing conditions followed - the rock was lovely – warm and dry, and not too crowded, with light winds. They enjoyed themselves so much they were late for dinner!



Sandi Ling & Mark Champion walked round part of Crummock water and went bird spotting.

### **Easter Sunday April 20th**

Sandy Ling, Joyce Clode, Kristina, Iris and Raya Clode explored the grounds of The Mirehouse Gardens, successfully completing a steeple chase adventure trail and Kristina showing off her tree climbing skills.

Karen Clode & John Caldwell, Stuart Clode, David Clode, Dave, Phoebe and Sam Prisk went up White Side and Hope Gill Head. Then down Gas Gate Gill.  
(Stuart found he was well equipped with 4 lunches and a Hello Kitty fleece)

Jenny and Seren Wyatt enjoyed a spot of retail therapy in Keswick.  
Chris Wyatt went bouldering at Gillercomb (or so he said, he may have just taken a snooze in the sun on his mat!)

Roy Cross ran up Red Pike, Highstile, Highcrag, Haystacks, then over Fleetwith and down to Seatoller!

Helen Cross walked round Buttermere and enjoyed reading the paper in the sunshine.

Mark Champion went up Glaramara, then over Esk Hause to descend Grains Gill.

Chris, Vicky & Scarlett Lincoln decided the tops would be too windy and walked along the Allerdale ramble from Seatoller toward Grange, then along the west side of Derwentwater, enjoying a lovely picnic by the lake, then getting a bus back from Keswick.

Katie & Richard Stockwell and Peter Leigh drove to Brotherswater and went up Caudale Moor via the Kirkstone Pass. The highlight of the day according to the boys was Katie falling in the beck – they were laughing too hard to help.



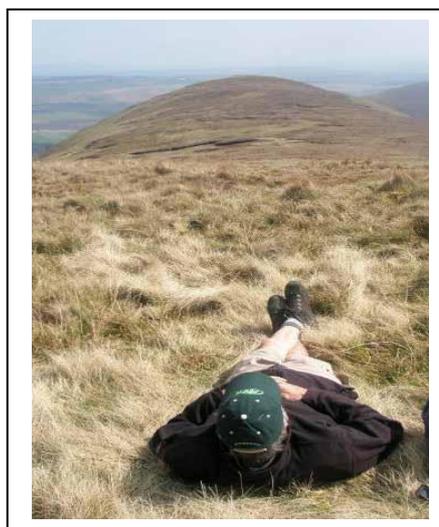
### **Easter Monday April 21st**

Seren, Jenny and Chris enjoyed an ice-cream in Stonethwaite, an invigorating (cold!) paddle in the beck at Langstrath and then made our way to Cam Crag Ridge which Seren & Chris ascended directly while Jenny walked up the path on the side. Sam stayed back at base to catch up on his sleep. (Sorry, Sam stayed back at base and did lots of revision).

Peter Leigh, Joyce and David Clode, Katie and Richard Stockwell and Helen and Roy Cross decided to do a low level walk due to the weather forecast of very windy conditions on the tops. The plan was to do a walk of around 3 hours over a few grassy bumps to allow Peter and Helen and Roy to leave to journey home at a reasonable hour.

They parked up at Mungrisdale by the Mill Inn and headed off up the road turning in on a path after about half a mile which headed up to Bowscale Tarn; this is where the plan went wrong some of the party decided it would be good to climb to the top of Bowscale Fell but there was some debate in the correct route up Roy headed off to look at the route which went round the tarn and Richard and Peter quickly followed leaving Katie, Helen, Joyce and David wondering what to do as they thought the route on the right of the tarn looked better and the other route Roy was looking at looked a bit more interesting than they would have liked! Roy, Richard and Peter steamed ahead so Katie, Helen, David and Joyce decided the best option was to head straight up the turf bank and meet the others at the top. This turned out to be harder than it looked but we could see the others making their way along the ridge so hoped we would meet up on the top which we duly did. There was then a debate on the best way down and it was decided that the best route was down the Tongue as it seemed the nearer route had some rocky crags on the descent.

Conditions on the top were as promised very cold and windy although it was sunny so a plus there. They stopped for some lunch down in a peat hollow on the way down and as it was nearly 13:15 Peter said his 3 hours were up and he was heading down on his own, the others making their way down another steep turfy slope later. After a rest in the sun at the bottom they made their way back to the cars. Helen and Roy headed off and the remainder had a hard earned drink in the Mill Inn.



### **Tuesday April 22nd**

On Tuesday Joyce and David Clode, Katie and Richard Stockwell started a walk around Dacre and Dalemain but halted after 30 minutes due to heavy rain. They decided a hot chocolate in the tea room was more the order of the day.

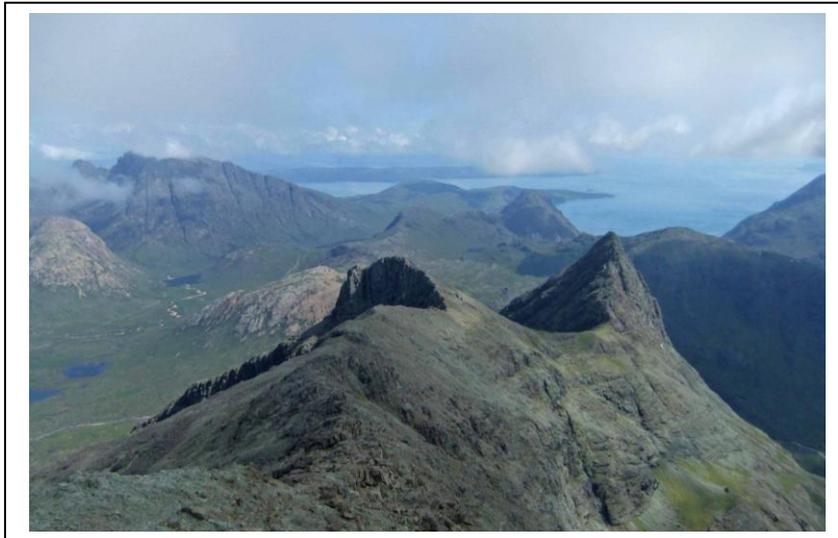
### **Note from the Honorary Archivist (Richard Stockwell)**

A copy of this newsletter will also be added to the 'Meets' page of the club website ([tricouncilub.org](http://tricouncilub.org)). Apologies for anyone who has recently accessed the 'Meets' page as due to a technical hitch some of the text and thumbnails there were linking to the wrong meets for a while. I have also made some minor tweaks to the site. For instance there is an appreciation of Tom Stephenson and after a visit to Bill Neate in Ireland shortly after this year's Easter meet in April, a photograph already on the site has been identified as being of his wife Madge.

Bill sends his regards to all.



Thank you to Malcolm Barton for this entry for this edition of the Tricouni News.



## A summer ascent of Pinnacle Ridge on Sgurr Nan Gillean

Last year, after Patsy and I had enjoyed the spectacular traverse of Clach Glas and Bla Bhienn in the Cuillins of Skye, I had suggested that we should consider doing the classic but slightly harder route of Pinnacle Ridge (North Ridge) on Sgurr nan Gillean. At that point Patsy declared that she thought that since we were both not very far from acquiring the dubious status of septuagenarians, such routes should not be attempted on a rope of just two. This wasn't, you must understand, a sentiment that sprang from a concern for our mutual safety but rather that if anything should happen to me she would feel very vulnerable left alone in such serious terrain!

The solution was to recruit a third (and significantly younger) person to the rope and so it came to pass that the team that conquered the South South West Ridge of the Lagginhorn well over a decade earlier was again summoned to assembly and we consequently met up with Jason in early June. Well it wasn't the full team - Caroline was stuck on night shift duty in A&E in Edinburgh.

Another of Patsy's stipulations was that any visit to Skye must take place before the onset of the midge season and because Jason also had a tight schedule we were left with a window of opportunity of just two days to get the thing done. However, Dame Fortune smiled and the morning of Friday 6 June found us setting off from the Sligachan car park and heading for the base of the ridge. In the perfect guidebook time of two hours we were in a position to rope up for the ascent.

The guidebook gives the climb a grade of difficult – so we climbed in alpine style moving together. The rock was dry and superb gabbro that rasped our finger tips as we climbed steadily until we reached the summit of the third pinnacle. The way from

here represents one of the trickier sections involving a descent that is usually abseiled. Reversing the climbing order I was quickly roped down by Jason followed by Patsy. We then waited for Jason to abseil down to our stance before roping up again and setting off around a rather daunting corner that led to the base of the fourth pinnacle known also as the Knight's Peak.

From the summit of the Knight's Peak another descent and we were on the small but exposed rock col at the foot of the fifth pinnacle – the summit of Sgurr nan Gillean itself. We made short work of the final climb and pulled up onto the summit just as the cloud base started to lift slightly. By the time we had lunched and set off down the South East ridge the clouds finally evaporated to leave us with breathtaking views across to Sgurr Beag, Sgurr na h-Uamha - the dramatic punctuation to the end of the Cuillin Ridge and, in the distance, to Blaven and Loch Coruisk.

Sgurr nan Gillean is 1051m above sea level and, since the Sligachan is not much above the sea the descent is long and steep so we were in much need of the welcome beers and refreshments offered at the Sligachan.

Jason's target having been met, he set off the following morning for home whilst Patsy and I strolled up to the Old Man of Storr and lazed in the sunshine gazing across to the beckoning mountains of Torridon.

Malcolm Barton July 2014

