

Tricouni Newsletter
October Meet 22nd - 24th, 2021.



Those present:

Richard and Katy Stockwell, David and Joyce Clode, Patsy and Malcolm Barton, Caroline and Florrie Mains, Charlie and Lynn, Nigel and Scarlett Leigh, Julian Leigh, Vicki and Scarlett Lincoln, Kristine, Stuart, Raya & Iris Clode, Richard, Steph, Angus & Gwen Oaten.



'What a difference a Day makes': the summit of the Old Man of Coniston on Friday... then Saturday.

Weather Summary for the weekend:

The best day for walking was Friday with patches of sun, good visibility and one or two brief showers. Saturday had more frequent showers and poor visibility, low clouds and 50mph winds on the high fells.. Sunday was worse! For those who stayed until Monday, the weather improved and some good walking was had.

Friday 22nd October

Weather: Cold, Upland gales easing, patches of sun, scattered showers, Temp: 4 or 5C at 750m

Mungrisdale to Bowscale Fell -circular walk.

10 miles, 14.4km - 5 hours

Present: Joyce and David, Katy and Richard, Charlie and Lynn, Stuart and Kris, Raya and Iris, the Oatens

The party set off with many maps in circulation - some of them even covered the right area. They climbed up Bowscale fell, with Stuart and Gwen nipping up to the aptly named 'Pile of stones'(702m).



Above :The group assembles, maps in hand.

The walk descended to Grainsgill Beck and the party realised that there was no easy way to cross, despite people exploring in both directions. Boots and shoes were pulled off and although a couple of the party wobbled a little on crossing, nobody went for an impromptu dip. Lunch was consumed by the brook.



Stuart delivers Dave the dog, Iris and Joyce safely across Grainsgill Beck.

The walkers joined the Cumbrian Way footpath accompanied by rainbows, sunshine and showers. The path followed the beck down the valley and joined a small road which led to Mosedale. The party finished the circular walk back to Mungrisdale along the road.



Left: Lunch while reviewing river crossing tactics. Right: Rainbows on the Cumbrian Way

Old Man of Coniston (803m) via Levers Water and Brim-fell

7.4 miles - 3 hours 16 minutes
 Present: The two Scarletts, Vicki, Nigel and Julian

The party found some cheerful boulders. The view from the top from Seascale on the coast to Windemere was tremendous.

On the way down, the party enjoyed exploring the old workings of the disused Copper Mine.

Right: Climbing Brimfell with Levers Water behind.



Saturday 23rd October

Weather: Upland gales developing, patchy drizzly rain, low cloud, 5 or 6C

Castle Crag - First Mountain for Florrie

Present: Patsy, Malcolm, Caroline and Florrie

Walked up Castle Crag and then into Grange village. Refreshments at the cafe.

Florrie had ice cream AND a hot chocolate after bagging her first mountain.



Left: Florrie at the summit. Right Patsy, Malcolm and Florrie.

Honister Slate Mine, Grey Knotts, Brandreth, Green Gable, Great Gable (899m)

Present: The two Scarletts, Nigel, Julian and Vicki.

Weather: low cloud and strong wind.



"We almost got blown off Green Gable" said Julian.

Ullswater Walk - lots of sheep, light rain

Present: Lynn and Charlie

We decided to do a low level walk around Ullswater mainly because of the weather, but also because Charlie did not want to risk more damage to his knee, which twisted badly the day before during the river crossing.

We drove to Pooley Bridge, parked and took the steamer to Howtown to do the walk to the top of Hallin Fell where the view of the lake is reported to be special.



The steamer voyage on “The Lady of the Lake” was impressive. She was first built in 1877 and last rebuilt in 1979 after having sunk twice previously, one in 1881 and a second in 1965! We thought the sinking drill was just routine – perhaps not with her history.

After a walk around Howtown we decided to walk back to Pooley Bridge along the lake rather than ascending Hallin Fell. This turned out to be an excellent walk, with the

track ascending above the road for most of the way proving excellent views of the lake and farmland.

We were impressed with the diversification shown on a number of farms with on site accommodation units installed to provide lake visitors with comfortable accommodation in the rural setting.

Back at Pooley Bridge we wanted to have a cup of tea but the only tea house was full. When we went looking for someone to assist us we were told to “go back to the line and wait our turn”. So we did – but just kept walking. No need to entertain such bad manners. And besides our turkey and cranberry sandwiches made by Trish and staff turned out to be perfect with our own flask of tea – sitting in the car out of the rain.

All in all it was a good day. Nice memories again from this beautiful part of the world

Watendlath Fell

Present: David and Joyce.

Distance - 2 miles

D and J got the bus to Rosthwaite and walked up to Watendlath. A very nice ginger cake with coffee was had in Rosthwaite.

Old Man of Coniston (803m) via the Walna Scar Road and Dow Crag

Distance: 7 miles, 5 hours 15 minutes.

Conditions: poor visibility, extremely windy, driving rain

Present: The Clodes, The Oatens

The group parked at the top carpark reached by a small, very steep road coming out of Coniston. They make their way up Walna Scar Road via Dow Crag to the summit, returning via Low Water and Stubthwaite Crag to the carpark.

Visibility was down to 10 metres with 50mph winds at the summit. The rain lessened, on the descent and clouds cleared momentarily to reveal Low Water.



Left: Taking advantage of a small Bothy, Right: Beginning the climb on Walna Scar Road

Pikawassa in Martindale. Conditions: drizzly



Duration: 2 hours and 10 minutes

Present: Richard and Katie

R and K parked at the church in Martindale walked up the slope towards the ridge. From there, they continued along the ridge to Pikawassa, 'a rocky upthrust' that marks the top of a low steep sided ridge called Steel Knotts between the valleys of Martindale and Fusedale. They then made their way down the ridge towards Howtown and along the Coombs back to the car.

Richard: On the climb up from Martindale.

Sunday 24th October 2021

Weather: persistent rain, poor visibility, 60 mph on the higher fells

Grasmoor (851m) and Cragg Hill (835m) via Lad Hows and Rannerdale Valley

Distance 7 miles

Present: Stuart, Richard, Angus and Gwen Oaten



The group climbed up Lad Hows to Grasmoor in 60 mph winds and rain, A 'dramatic' lunch was consumed in a low stone enclosure on the top of Grasmoor (horizontal rain).



The party traversed across to Cragg Hill and then headed back down the mountain via Whiteless Edge and through Rannerdale valley. The clouds lightened after Cragg Hill for lovely views. Richard vowed to return in May to see the bluebells in the hidden valley.



Above, walking down the Rannerdale Valley

Buttermere - Lake circuit - 4 miles

Clockwise: Steph Kris, Iris Raya and Dave the dog

Anticlockwise: Vicky, Julian, Nigel and the two Scarletts

Weather: Gusty and rainy - but nothing like on the higher slopes!

Spirits were kept up with the promise of hot chocolate and cake in the cafe at Buttermere.
Beautiful autumn colour in the trees around the lake.



Left to Right: The Anticlockwise party, Raya and Dave, The Clockwise contingent.

Monday 25th October 2021

Weather: clearing with sunny spells

Haystacks (597m) via Fleetwick Pike

6 miles Weather: Cloudy with sunny spells

Present: The Oaten, the Clodes **Start:** Gatesgarth Farm.



Left: The climb up Fleetwith edge, Right: Lunch at the top of Fleetwick Pike

The Oatens took the longer route, with a steep climb and the odd scabble up Fleetwith Edge to Fleetwith Pike. This route was in the process of being renovated by 3 chaps who were putting in stone steps where possible to mark out the way.

Up on the top, the way was charming with good visibility. The party had to discuss at some length which direction to go when they got to Honister Quarries but the younger members of the family had it sussed and led the way.

The route joined the main path up to Haystacks at Warnscale Beck and suddenly got a lot busier. The group skirted Blackbeck Tarn and Innominate Tarn before reaching the summit of Haystacks.



Innominate Tarn

The Oatens caught up with the Clodes, who had taken the more direct route to Haystacks, at Scarth Gap Pass and they walked down to Buttermere together.

A lovely walk to finish our stay for the October meet.



Local resident - Photo: Katy Stockwell.