

Tricouni Meet report: October 22

Friday 21st

The Leigh and Lincoln party gathered in Ambleside for breakfast and weather checks; fuelled up, Nigel, Julian, Sarah, Vicky, Scarlett & Scarlett drove over to Patterdale to take on Helvellyn. Starting out from the road at Patterdale Hall (route through to Glenridding was shut), the group headed up Grisedale Brow through some lovely autumnal trees and stopping every 500m for sweets/ encouragement (it had been a very early start), to the 'Hole-in-the-Wall' and on to Striding Edge, which all tackled with style and grace. Unfortunately the amazing views from the top of the Helvellyn promised to the girls were hidden by the low cloud. The party stopped for lunch in the excellent shelter on the top, then descended via Swirral Edge to Red Tarn, which they were grateful to reach as it had been particularly gusty, the girls losing their feet and Julian his hat, which flew away to another range as far as we could make out. They then walked back along the ridge, and made a short off-piste descent back to Grisedale valley through chest high bracken, adding to the adventure.



Peter had been left by his sons, with nothing but his bag in Esquires coffee shop in Ambleside, so what happened next....?

An Alcock and Bull Story:

Peter, Lynn and Charlie decided to go on a pub-crawl based on the Top 10 Pub walks in the Lake District, a book gifted to Peter. Walk no.6 is entitled 'Tweedies Bar'.

From a carpark in Grasmere they crossed the A591 to take the lane towards Dove Cottage. They wandered lonely as a cloud that floats high o'er yonder dale and hill, and saw remarkably few people and certainly not a crowd, gold or otherwise.

At the end of the lane they followed Old Corpse Road which takes an elevated path through the woods, with wonderful views over Rydal Water, until they reached Rydal Mount. They then turned NW and descended Nab Scar and onto Lords Crag where they had lunch before descending via Alcock Tarn to Brackenfell, then back to the carpark without having seen Tweedie once.

David and Susie Baggley decided to stretch their legs after the drive up, with the classic march up the valley – they walked up to Seathwaite, got to Stockley bridge, saw the inbound rain clouds and made a hasty retreat.

Saturday 22nd

It was raining hard at breakfast and everyone decided a relaxed start to the day was in order (hoping it might just go through), though strong winds were forecast for most of the day. The Barton-Mains party, Peter, Nigel, Scarlett x2 and Vicky jumped on a bus toward Buttermere, the latter got off at Honister to start on Dale Head and were immediately hit with a really strong gust, wondering if they should have maybe continued to Buttermere too.



The Barton-Mains had done just that, and had a lovely walk around Buttermere, including the spooky tunnel, mandatory puddle-jumping and, of course, excellent coffee and cake.



Meanwhile, P, N, S, S and V ascended Dalehead in the clouds; then going down to Dalehead tarn and up High Raise, finding lots of curious hairy caterpillars on the way. Sustained by Trisha's excellent traybakes, they were blown onwards to Maiden Moor, and down toward Catbells, where Peter descended to Grange. NVSS went on to Catbells and then down to the Ferry landing at Hawes End, eventually getting a bus back from Keswick only just in time for tea.



Julian and Sarah decided to go for the big one and ascended Scafell Pike from Seathwaite, via Styhead tarn and the corridor route. Descending via Great End, to Sprinkling Tarn and down to Stockley Bridge. They appeared to somehow have missed the rain and wind everyone else had!.



Lynn and Charlie walked to Dodd Summit from the Forestry Commission carpark at Dodd Wood just north of Keswick. They enjoyed lots of 'autumn tints' traipsing up through the wood but unfortunately didn't see any of the red squirrels they were promised. The summit rewarded them with clear views of both Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake, before they returned via a different route. After refuelling at the Old Sawmill Cafe they visited the lovely gardens of Mirehouse (opposite).



David and Susie Baggley, had planned to walk through to Grange, along the river-side route. The river was in flood and they went as deep as they dared, but had to turn back to Rosthwaite. They changed plan and walked up to Watendlath, and back, stopping at the Scafell Hotel to test the newly refurbished back bar – and highly recommend.

Scott, Mairie and Kinchi (woof), walked from Honister over Fleetwith Pike and down to Buttermere. They enjoyed a Fish finger sandwich at the Bridge inn, before climbing back up Warnscale Bottom.

Sunday 23rd

The weather forecast was pretty poor again, and after a bit of “*can we/ can’t we*”, the meet photograph was taken indoors, before people headed off on their separate ways.



The Leigh and Lincoln party drove to the National Trust Aira Force car-park on the edge of Ullswater and did the Aira Force and Gowbarrow fell loop. The woods and falls were beautiful, the loop on the fell was pretty wet and a bit misty, but still showed promise of amazing views up and down Ullswater, certainly one to repeat in better weather.

