

Trip Report: The Lake District

Date: 18th April 2009

Group: Jim W (leader), Jean, Mike, Lesley, Lynn W, Jim G, Ian, Graham

Route: Grey Crag, Brandreth, Green Gable, Kirk Fell, Haystacks, Green Crag

Total Distance: Unknown

Total Ascent: Unknown

Weather: Unknown

An early start from Bunbury, saw us at Honister ready to start at 9.30. Defying its reputation the weather in the area was glorious with full sun and clear blue skies showing this area off to its best advantage. In fact so warm was it that we were not even out the car park before Lesley decided to change her leg wear, displaying for all to see her knickers (red from Marks and Spencer). Speaking of sartorial elegance tribute is paid to Graham for obtaining sponsorship from Cragg Hoppers, dressed from head to toe as he was in their gear.

The first climb of the day was up Grey Knotts, which is a lung bursting effort straight up from the car park. The weather was obviously getting to Lesley as within 10 minutes she was disrobing again showing us the top half of her underwear set. Exhibitionist or what!!

Following Grey Knotts we moved on to the second summit of the day, Brandreth, and then a descent followed by the climb to Green Gable. This mountain in the shade of its big brother, Great Gable, affords a fantastic 360 degree panorama of this fabulous area. Official coffee break time.

The next peak, Kirk Fell is a fair trot from Green Gable, and encompasses a very steep scree descent which gave Ian the opportunity to show off his triple salco moves. Kirk Fell is a great peak, rarely visited with again fantastic views on the one side over to Scafell, and the other to the coast. Perfect lunch time venue.

The descent off Kirk Fell calls for a steep scramble using hands, legs, and on occasion bottoms. All made it safely to the bottom, and were able to look back and up with pride at the descent we had made. Down to the river bank, and a short stop to allow Ian the opportunity to take off his boots, roll up his trousers, and go for a paddle. Everyone waited for him to repeat his earlier stumbles, but he stayed on his feet. The only saving grace as far as Jim G was concerned was that Ian was not wearing a knotted handkerchief on his head.

The next peak was Haystacks, and as the weather was still glorious, and as a reward to the squad for going so well, it was decided to approach this from the bottom of black sail, thus ensuring a longer walk. This proved to

be a good idea, as the ascent from this side entailed an excellent scramble, which was an unexpected bonus. Haystacks was described by Wainwright as the best peak in the lakes, and it was easy to see why, as the views down Buttermere are great.

Wainwright's ashes are scattered at the Immominate Tarn and we decided to hold a moment's reflection there, but sadly some students taking advantage of the weather were swimming in the tarn so we moved on.

An afternoon coffee stop was held further on, much to Jim G's chagrin. However he was appeased by an additional ascent of a peak, Green Craggs, a Marilyn (a hill of an absolute height of 150 metres). Called after Marilyn Monroe as opposed to a Munro a Scottish term for hills over 3000feet.

An event free descent to the start at Honister, and another bonus, ice cream for sale in Honister café. This is the second walk organised by Jim W with toilets at the start and finish, and the opportunity to buy ice cream (Jim G did not partake).

Back to the Dysart by 7pm as promised, and the opportunity to reflect on a glorious day in the lakes.

Jim W