

Trip Report: The Lake District**Date:** 25th November 2007**Group:** Jim W (leader) Colin, Ian, Elena, Selina, Jim G, Mike, Lesley (she who must be obeyed), Jean, Mollie**Route:** Ambleside; Red Screes 776m; Dove Cragg 792m; High Pike 656m; Low Pike 508m; Ambleside**Total Distance:** 11.5 miles**Total Ascent:** Unknown**Weather:** Unknown

An early start from Bunbury was required to make sure we were all off the hills before darkness. Colin set off 10 minutes before the other two cars, and arrived 10 minutes later than the other cars in Ambleside presumably having stopped for a full English en route.. Good old Scottish thrift shone through when it was discovered that Jim W had carefully arranged for us to park in a car park, normally costing £7, but which was free on this particular day to Christmas Shoppers. Even better there was the all important necessity, public toilets.

The walk starts with a very pleasant hike up a valley, running parallel to the Kirkstone Road on the Kirkstone pass. Colin's animal husbandry shone through when he allowed Roxie to walk over a cattle grid, with the not unexpected result. This path eventually joins the Kirkstone Road at a section called 'The Struggle', which is an apt name for quite a tough pull. However rounding the corner the squad were given their first close up of the path up Red Screes. Now this is what I call a struggle. At this point Mollie decided that there was more fun to be had walking with the lead group and in fact this was to become a feature of the day - more about this later.

The views from the top were spectacular and 'she who must be obeyed' decreed that this was to be a coffee stop. Whilst this was a popular move the fact that we were exposed to a biting wind, which had turned the local tarn to ice, meant that we did not linger long.

The next mountain, Dove Cragg was pointed out in the distance to Ian, who could not believe we were going to descend to the valley floor, only to climb up again at the other side. He was heard to mutter many times as he walked off something about looking for the bridge across the valley. The ascent towards Dove Cragg took its toll on some, but Mollie found her new best friend in Jim G, and stuck with him all the way. However she showed her typical female fickleness by remaining on the top of the cragg with other walkers, and Jim G had eventually to resort to carrying her. We now know what Jim wants for Christmas.

Coming down from High Pike, Lesley could see across to Fairfield, the scene of her 'Touching the Void' experience, and was able to relive her heroism in descending with a torn Achilles.

We then had an uneventful walk down to Ambleside with a few short scramble descents thrown in. Jim G, his new best friend, and Colin formed the vanguard to get first back to the car park, with the others coming in shortly after. Altogether we were out on the mountains/fells for 6 hours, and enjoyed unexpectedly fine weather and wonderful views. A great day out!!

Jim W