

Trip Report: Braithwaite, The Lake District

Date: 19th-22nd April 2013

Group: Jim G, Mike H, Tony, Lynn, Lynda, Mike W, Selina, Hugh, Mari, Ann, Neil, Eilidh, Jeff, Colin, Amanda, Guests: Delia and Lynne, Dogs: Roxie

Route: See below

Total Distance: See below

Total Ascent: See below

Weather: Excellent on Friday and Saturday, but (as forecast) wet on Sunday.

Day One: The Deepdale Horseshoe (Eastern Fells) from Patterdale (Colin, Jim & Mike)

Total ascent: 1043m. 9.63mile

Wainwrights bagged: - Birks (622m), St Sunday Crag (841m), Fairfield (873m), Hart Crag (822m) Hartsop Above How (570m), Plus (Central Fell) Plus: Bleaberry Fell - 590m and High Seat (608m) (Central Fells) bagged by Tony and Lynn

Day Two: The Newlands Horseshoe (Northwest Fells)

Wainwrights bagged- Catbells (451m), Maiden Moor (576m), High Spy (653m), Dale Head (753m), Hindscarth (727m), Robinson (737m)

Weekend Mountaineers: Jim G, Mike H, Tony, Lynn, Lynda, Mike W, Selina, Hugh, Mari, Ann, Neil, Eilidh, Jeff, Colin, Amanda

Guests: Delia and Lynne

Dogs: Roxie

Sunday.

We had booked a great house for the weekend in an ideal location that allowed us to walk in areas that were usually just outside the "one day out and back" Lakes destination for the BUMS. We also had some "overflow residency" which the Bodfish family took advantage of which was only a stones throw from the house, so they could very easily take part in the inhouse dining, all social activities and general ambience. We had an excellent Theakstone's pub (Royal Oak, with Sky Sports) a few minutes away, another hostelry (Coledale Inn) a 5 minute saunter, and also the Bodfish residency that looked after us with our own private room on Saturday night. All were dog friendly much to Roxie's appreciation! Some retirees (and me!) were able to take advantage of heading off Friday morning to take in a fantastic walk lead by Mike H, with Jim G and myself. We parked up in Patterdale next to a guy with a converted VW camper van who was running his huskies up Helvellyn via Dollywagon Pike. The van (and the dogs) were amazing, and he must have bombed round as

he had left by time we were back. The horseshoe was tackled anticlockwise to do the steep ascent up St. Sunday Crag at the start and a more gentle descent down the Hartsop fells on the return leg. The views across to Helvellyn from St Sunday Crag normally reveals walkers appearing as ants as they tackle Striding Edge, but the cold east wind seemed to have deterred the softies. The final bit of the ascent onto Fairfield involved scrambling amidst some snow and ice, but the party followed Roxie's example and made a quick clamber to the summit cairn for lunch. Fortunately for this small group there was just a cold breeze blowing unlike the tornado that a previous Bums group experienced on the summit plateau. The descent was along Hartsop above Howe taking the group back to Patterdale. The snow melt provide a useful opportunity for Colin to give Roxie a good wash so that she would look her best for Amanda.

Tony and Lynn did their own thing and found Tony's traditional bog trot on east side of Derwent water On Bleaberry Fell. A route described by AW as one to repent one's sins.

For the true workers who couldn't skip a Friday, Amanda, Selina and Lynn with contributions from Ann (brownies to die for!!) had prepared fantastic scran for them which was also very much appreciated after our own initial rehydration therapy in the Royal Oak.

We woke up and were mightily relieved to see great weather as forecast for our Saturday walk which was the Newlands Horseshoe.

What a great walk this was particularly, and almost uniquely, the weather was amazing and clear as a bell. You could see for miles and miles! A fast pace was set by Mari and Jim as the group tramped along the ridge to reach Dale Head. Here the pace slowed as most of the group made a slow plod up the steep ascent to reach the summit cairn. Lunch was taken on the approach to Hindscarth, with a fantastic view of the Newlands Valley as our backdrop. We thought Mari and Jim had set us a fast pace until we got in the way of fell runners ascending Dale Head from the opposite direction. The descent from Robinson involved a few tricky scrambles which Eilidh coped with like a mountain goat. The group kept up a good pace until we reached a farm where they sold ice cream - enough said! An excellent walk in fantastic weather!

Sunday was (as forecast) rainy so Wainwright bagging was never going to be desirous. We chose instead to walk round Buttermere with a plan to bag Haystacks if the weather picked up, which alas it didn't. So we headed back to base, grabbed the Sunday papers and when the weather did clear had a ramble around Braithwaite and some (Mike, Jim G and me) went to see the footy which happened to feature Luis Suarez having a

chomp, and those of us who could stay Sunday night had nice meal and a few end of weekend drinks at Coledale Inn, entertained by some impromptu musicians with "name that tune" games
A great weekend had by all!

Colin