

Trip Report: The Lake District

Date: 14th February 2004

Group: Mike Arrowsmith (leader) Jim Grant, Colin Christie, Dave Cadman, Lesley Arrowsmith, Jean Walker, Sue Lancaster, Selina Green

Route: New Dungeon Ghyll - Stickle Tarn - Pavey Ark (via Jack's Rake) 2288ft. - Harrison Stickle 2403ft.- Pike of Stickle 2323ft. - High Raise 2500ft.- Stake Pass - Mickleden - New Dungeon Ghyll

Total Distance: 10 miles

Total Ascent: Unknown

Weather: Overcast, dry and windless

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

A record turnout including 4 girlys meant 2 carloads thrashing up the M6 at first light. A minor miracle resulted the arrival of the 2 cars at precisely the same time at the same point - an occurrence sadly lacking on the January walk!

A pleasant walk up alongside Stickle Ghyll emerged at Stickle Tarn ready for the ascent of Pavey Ark. There are 3 routes up here, ranging from the tediously boring grassy slog to the hair-raising scramble. Yes, conditions were perfect for the scramble and the girls were led like lambs to the slaughter. Despite the shortness of their limbs, they climbed heroically and to a woman said how exhilarating (scary) it had been, as we enjoyed a coffee break on the summit.

Next was the short southerly hop to Harrison Stickle, the highest point of the Langdale Group. From there we headed west up Pike of Stickle which, with its rocky dome and fabulous views is the most attractive of the group. From here we headed north to High Raise via a grassy slightly boggy route to where lunch was waiting (assuming you'd remembered to bring any). This was the highest point of the walk and although the summit itself is less than spectacular, being little more than a rocky outcrop, we enjoyed the fantastic views of the Scafell Group, Great Gable etc to the west.

The gradual descent was via Stake Pass which was reasonably gentle on the joints of us old buggers. We regrouped at the bottom of the pass and discovered that there had been some drama at the rear of the party where Jean had suffered a knee spasm. However, there was no visible evidence as far as I could see and therefore put it down to a pathetic excuse for Jean, Lesley and Sue dawdling at the back, gassing. An easy 2-3 miles back to the car park completed the walk. Then it was back to the Dysart for the foaming ale to properly conclude the days events.

MATTERS ARISING

Kit requirements - Does it make more sense to carry Lip balm and an emery board than a map and compass?

Should a rope be carried when there is the possibility of a scramble?

Why do women have to make so many costume changes during the course of a walk?

Mike A