

Trip Report: The Lake District**Date:** 19th November 2016**Group:** Jim G (leader), Mike H, Mike W, Selina, Mike A & Lesley**Route:** Ullswater & Boredale**Total Distance:** 8.3 miles**Total Ascent:** 1837 ft**Weather:** Rain showers & sunny intervals**Time:** 4 hours 15 mins

Well this trip turned into a bit of a Leader's Challenge. Originally scheduled for Saturday 12th, rescheduled due to a duff weather forecast, the rearranged date was also plagued by a duff weather forecast. Setting off from Bunbury at the early hour of 7am (a time seldom seen by all the attending retirees, well apart from Mike H who suffers from insomnia) the weather slowly deteriorated as we headed north up the M6. We saw a couple of really bad smashes caused by the occasional slush bands in the outside lane, although luckily we were only held up by 10 mins where the motorway went down to one lane!

Mike H & I were in the lead car and were a little disturbed to see the outside lane covered in snow as we went over Shap summit (1036 ft). We carried on to Dockray where we turned off the main road onto a narrow lane and literally ploughed our way up through the snow to the car park at High Brow. We decided that parking there for 5/6 hours whilst we completed the planned route would not be a good idea if the forecast snow showers materialised. No mobile signal so we went back to Dockray and flagged down our second car, quick discussion and agreement to find another route, we set off and parked in the car park in Patterdale.

Setting off in the pouring rain we headed off up the Ullswater Way on the east bank of Ullswater, this path is good underfoot and we were treated to stunning views of the snow clad Helvellyn and Fairfield in between the sunshine and showers. Coffee break was taken near Low Birk Fell and then onwards we went to Sandwick. Some discussion about our options back to Patterdale from here but we decided on a walk along the tarmac through the remote and beautiful Boredale valley, virgin territory for all the Bums present.

We took lunch alongside the road, some having to stand, reaching the end of the tarmac at Boredale Head, we ascended a delightful pack horse track that traverses the fell side taking us up into the deep wet snow and Boredale Hause. Here we were treated to the sight of a large herd of wild Deer coming across from Patterdale Common before disappearing in the direction of Martindale, another first for all Bums Present.

The path then descends quite steeply, and not a little slippery due to the wet snow, down towards Patterdale and back to the cars.

So an eventful but enjoyable trip, with no traffic problems on the M6 we made good time on the long drive back to the Yew Tree for the traditional rehydration therapy, where we are joined by the usual suspects, including Colin McMourinho telling us tales of robbery by Arsenal at Old Trafford, same old bullshit!

Jim G