

“On my 75th Birthday I’m very proud to share it with K Fellfarers, who’ve been climbing for 75 years whilst I’ve only been at it for a mere 58, though apparently I started climbing trees at the age of 2. I hope both you and I have many more years of good climbing, but at least you can get younger reinforcements as the older members slow down.”

– Sir Chris Bonnington CBE

This is the unique story of the relationship between a Kendal shoe factory and an idyllic Lakeland valley.

In the period after the First World War, employees of Somervell Bros. of Kendal, would save up to hire charabancs to take them to the hills for walking trips. This group thought that it would be a good idea to have a base in the Lakes for their walking and climbing weekends and they began combing the dales for a suitable building. They found the roofless shell of a 400 year-old farmhouse hidden away amongst the fells at the far end of Borrowdale and with considerable support from their employers, who later became K Shoes, they began the daunting task of rebuilding the house and barn. The restored building was opened in 1934 and a club was formed to maintain it and to enjoy walking and climbing in that magnificent location. High House is the second oldest climbing hut in the Lakes, the club is K Fellfarers, and today, over 75 years later, both still flourish.

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K FELLFARERS and HIGH HOUSE



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