



Welcome to issue 2 of the KFF Newsletter. No-one has suggested a better name and so I'll stick with what we have for the time being. Early 2016 had a couple of disappointments for the club: The weekend at High House in January had no takers. Those planning to attend on Friday were ill or otherwise engaged and the two parties which turned up, separately, on Saturday found the building empty and so went off and made other plans. In February, the Appetite Enhancer Walk was called off by the two who did turn up at the Auction Mart in teeming rain. The turnout for the Annual Dinner that evening wasn't affected, however, and the Winter Slideshows, although not achieving the 30+ audiences of the past, have been well attended too. Here are more details of the successful Fellfarers' Meets of early 2016.

the Ed.

Correction

The last newsletter (page 2) suggested that we are still affiliated members of the Ramblers. That is not correct.

Annual Dinner. Saturday 20th February 2016

A miserable wet day might have deterred some from venturing out for the planned walk but when it comes to quaffin' and troughin' nothing will stop Fellfarers from turning up: over 30 members once more had a great evening meal at the Eagle and Child.

Midweek Walk No. 70. Wednesday 24th Feb.

Latterbarrow from Far Sawrey

Thirteen turned out on a sunny but chilly February morning for Sue and Tony's midweek. (Top photo: Far Sawrey. David, Norman, Roger, Colin, Irene, Val, Graham, Hugh, Tony, Daniel [prospective member], Sue and Frank. Photo by Mick).

Tony led us by the bridleway from Far Sawrey to Moss Eccles Tarn and Wise Eeen Tarn (middle right), where the whole Lakeland skyline appeared, rimmed with fresh snow, to delight us as we stopped for coffee.

We walked on through the forest of Claife Heights, much of it now 'harvested' and so unattractive as foreground but giving many fine views across to the Kentmere and Fairfield fells. Changes to fencing and tracks temporarily perplexed our leaders but we were soon back



on track, plodding up the little rise to Latterbarrow's fine summit obelisk (below). We parked ourselves on the eastern edge of the grassy top, overlooking Windermere, and enjoyed watching the boats on the sunlit water far below as we munched our sandwiches.

We returned via High Wray and the shores of Windermere and finished off the day with tea in the Sawrey Hotel (now renamed the Cuckoo Brow Inn). It had been an excellent day out, thanks to Sue & Tony.



High House Working Weekend. 4th - 6th March 2016

it was decided that a full 'Summer Wine Week' leading up to the Working Weekend was not required and so members delayed arriving until Thursday to work on the additional tasks before High House filled up. In fact, High House didn't fill up and there was a noticeably smaller turnout than we've come to expect (as there had also been in September).

Still, everything was scrubbed, painted and polished as usual and High House was restored to its spotless self again. *Below: Carol and Sam remove the winter grime and mould from the benches.*



In addition to the regular jobs, some remedial work was carried out on the approach road: the 'hump' has been softened and a water channel inserted to try to reduce the washout of stones from the track in heavy rain. Several more channels have been purchased but there was a general feeling that they would not be effective enough to warrant spoiling the 'rural' appearance of the track. Further discussion needed perhaps. *Below: Track improvement and beck clearing.*



The 3-pipe bridge and adjacent beck were thoroughly cleared of flood debris, the firepit was repaired and work done to the men's end fire escape door to try to prevent water being blown in. Perhaps (for members who use High House regularly) the most significant thing done was the drawing up of a list of jobs which the committee feels need to be carried out regularly rather than just twice a year. Maja While is working on the list and all members will be advised when it is complete.

The 8th Scottish Hotel Meet. Oban Sunday 20th - Friday 25th March 2016

This event seems to grow and grow. Thirty three members and guests came along to try out the new venue. The Royal Hotel in Oban didn't score quite as highly as Fort William's Alexander Hotel and the weather was not as good as in the last few years but there were so many new experiences to be had that it didn't seem to matter.

Here are just a few brief notes of some of the outings during our 5 night stay. My apologies to those whose days I've missed:

Cloud was down to about 2,000 feet on Monday morning but that didn't bother the group that set off for Seil Island, Easdale and Luing - they stayed at sea level. It was wind, rain, clag and snow, though, for the team of eight that tackled the two Munros, Beinn a' Chochuill and Beinn Eunaich. Another eight members started from nearby to climb the Corbett Beinn a Bhuridh, With its long pathless slopes, a height only just a few feet below the magic 3,000, and a big steep descent to finish, it was a reminder that we should never say, "*only* a Corbett" *Below: Climbing to the col, still a long way from the summit of Beinn a Bhuridh.*



Perhaps Tuesday's walk on Kerrera should count as March's midweek walk. Twenty one members took the small ferry across the Sound of Kerrera and then split into two parties to explore the island. They all came back singing its praises (*below: Gylven Castle on Kerrera*). A team of two drove up into Glen Orchy and enjoyed a pleasant day on another Corbett, Beinn Mhic-Mhonaidh. The top was clear of the drifting cloud and gave superb atmospheric views of the surrounding mountains. The other 'mountain team' of the day, five of them, drove over the Connel bridge to climb the Munro Beinn Sgulaird.

On Wednesday the Calmac ferry took a group of eight to Lismore. A little naughty wall-climbing gave them access to the island's mighty peak of Barra Mor (417 ft.). Others ventured further afield: another team visited Easdale, some went to view the antiquities of Kilmartin and some went visiting or hillwalking on Mull.

Thursday was another big team day. Rain set in as forecast but a group tour of 'The Hollow Mountain', the Pumped Storage Hydro scheme beneath Ben Cruachan, had been booked and 23 members spent the





morning there. A follow-up tour of the Oban Distillery was planned but was not possible at short notice so many members were to be seen exploring Oban itself that afternoon. Just one chose another hill day: Jan set off alone in the rain to climb Meall Cuanail, one of the tops of Ben Cruachan, and returned to say the weather hadn't been too bad. By this time the pub-hunters had sampled every bar in Oban and had decided unanimously that Markie Dan's was the best so, when our last evening meal and the obligatory team photos (*above*) were out of the way, a large party headed there - only to find it tightly packed and very noisy. Many of us preferred a quiet stroll along the sea front. It was all over too quickly but Friday did at least give us good weather for the return journey. The general opinion seemed to be that, with many things yet to try out, a return to Oban next year would be welcomed by members.

Weekend Walk/Meal. The Dunnerdale Fells Sunday 11th April 2016

This walk was to have taken place last year but appalling weather then resulted in it being called off. Would the second attempt prove to be better favoured? Kevin was on tenterhooks as the day approached, constantly checking the forecast...

He needn't have worried. Sunday was a bright, if chilly, day and for those travelling along the A590 towards Broughton Mills, the Lakeland fells, bathed in sunlight and topped with a fresh dusting of snow, looked sublime.

Just eight Fellfarers turned up: Kevin and Tina, Jan, Ruth, Mike, David, Clare and Mick. Kevin led us up onto Great Stickle and we paused there to take in the fine views southwards over the Duddon estuary and beyond. We wandered amongst the many nameless tarns (*bottom left*), sparkling in the sunlight, our pleasure only spoiled for a while by

the noisy antics of a bunch of lads who roared past us, all splashing mud and stinking diesel, on trail bikes. After a bit of cursing we put that behind us and revelled again in the superb weather and the unending beauty of the scenery. Tarn Hill (*bottom right*) and Stickle Pike, both fine little tops, were ticked off and we descended to the road crossing at Stainton Ground.

Some of us took in rocky Park Head Road Top (a Synge to add to our 4 Birketts for the day) on our way to the long-abandoned quarries. A huge raven's nest is suspended on one of the steep slate walls there and its owner watched us warily from a nearby perch. We climbed past the quarries to the day's highpoint of Fox Haw and enjoyed a coffee break in the sheltered rock arbour just below its summit. A cool breeze was reminding us that, despite the sun's best efforts, it wasn't quite summer yet.

We descended into Long Mire, well named, following the wet bridleway down through the garden of Carter Ground to the superb little bridge at Lind End. It is uncommonly wide, 8 ft 6 inches, for a packhorse bridge and was built as late as the 1890s. Perhaps it was used for transporting slate from the fells to the valley. Does any member know more about it? A short stroll on tarmac took us back to the Blacksmiths Arms at Broughton Mills for a couple of pints in the sunshine.

It was Sunday teatime but the local lads in the bar, gathered around the big table, were in fine singing voice. Well, loud rather than fine, and no matter how well-known the song was that they started, they never seemed to remember the words after the first verse.

Five Fellfarers, rather more sedate, had a well-earned meal in one of the quieter rooms. It had been about 6 hours of easy walking in a lovely part of the Lakes, a splendid day out. Thank you Kevin.

P.S. Those that did stay on for the meal were given one more treat: a fiery 'alpenglow' lighting of the fells as we drove home to Kendal at sunset.



KFF Club Events for April - July 2016

April

Tuesday 5th - Committee Meeting at the Rifleman's Arms

Sunday 10th - Weekend Walk/Meal.

'The Ups and Downs of the Dunnerdale Fells'

A lower level mountain walk, some rough ground. Approx. 12 km, 650m ascent, approx. 6 hours. Meet at the Reading Rooms car park Broughton Mills (GR 222 906) at 10 am (approx. 50 m north of the Blacksmith's Arms. Leader Kevin Ford K743293

Thursday 21st - Evening Walk

A Woodland Wander through Hyning Woods and over Warton Crag, distance 4.5 miles. Meet 6.30 pm at Warton Main Car Park (GR 492 724). Leader Peter Goff 01524 736990

And also - First **Climbing for All** evening at Warton Upper Crag. Meet 6.30 pm at Warton Main Car Park (GR SD 494728) or at the crag. Contact Mick Fox 01539 727531
Walkers and climbers meet afterwards at a designated pub.

Wednesday 27th - Midweek Walk.

From Hardendale. 5 to 6 miles. Meet 10.30 am (GR 580 143)
Leaders Colin and Val Hunter 01539 730177

Weekend 29th April - 2nd May - High House is booked for Fellfarers. May Bank Holiday

May

Tuesday 10th - Committee Meeting at the Rifleman's Arms

Weekend 29th April-2nd May - High House is booked for Fellfarers. See above.

Tuesday 3rd - Evening Walk

Meet 6.30 pm. in Arkholme and park on B6254 opposite Bay Horse Pub for 5 miles of easy walking. Drink after at the Bay Horse. Leaders Sandra and Tony Atkinson (01524 423776)

Wednesday 25th - Midweek Walk

Orrest Head and Wansfell. Meet at Windermere bus station at 10.07 (555 from Kendal at 09.40). By car, park at Broad Street Car Park in Windermere (GR SD 414 982) at 9.50 and walk up to the station. Walk will finish at Waterhead, Ambleside. Bus return from there. Approx 7 miles with 1600ft ascent and 1700ft descent. Leader Norman Bell 015394 44939

Week 27th-5th June - High House is booked for Fellfarers. Whitsun Holiday

Week 27th-3rd June - Camping Meet

Wooler, Northumberland. Highburn House Country Holiday Park, NE71 6EE, Wooler (01668 281344). It is advisable to pre-book (£25 deposit). Prices: £15 per night for tent and £18 for van with hook up. A good way to get your tents and vans aired before the European camping trip! Lots to do, walking in the Cheviot Hills, historic castles to view, islands to visit, home to magnificent bird and seal colonies. Contact Clare Fox 01539 727531

June

Tuesday 7th - Committee Meeting at the Rifleman's Arms

Tuesday 14th - Evening Walk

Meet in Woodwell Carpark, Silverdale for an easy 4 mile walk. Drink at Woodlands Pub after. Leader Peter Goff 01524 736990

Week 22nd-29th - Continental Camping Meet

Camping in the Eastern French Pyrenees at Ax-les-Thermes possibly camping at Camping Le Malazeou, a campsite with lots of facilities. A great area for walking with an extensive system of waymarked footpaths of varying standards. There is a good railway service which would allow walks back from a morning railway journey on some exciting routes. If you are interested and want further information please contact Clare Fox 01539 727531

Weekend 24th-26th - High House is booked for Fellfarers

Wednesday 29th - Pyrenean Midweek Walk

To be arranged on the camping meet.

July

Tuesday 5th - Committee Meeting at the Rifleman's Arms

Weekend 8th-10th - High House is booked for Summer Quiet Weekend. Bar meal (optional) at the Scafell Hotel on Friday night where walk(s) will be planned for Saturday.

Tuesday 12th - Evening Walk

Farleton Knott from Auction Mart. Approx.3 hours. Meet 6.30 pm. Auction Mart car park (GR536 822). Leader Krysia Niepokojczycka (01539 60523)

Wednesday 27th - Midweek Walk

Barbon Fell via Bullpot Farm. 8 miles of fairly easy walking. 1000 ft. of ascent. Meet 10.30 am, parking in front of Barbon church (GR 6306 8242) Leaders Irene and Graham Ramsbottom 01539 725808

Weekend 29th-31st - Water Weekend

Coniston Water. Camping at Coniston Hall Camp Site. 01539 441223. Please ring the campsite to book your place. Prices are £8 per adult; £4 per child and £2 per vehicle. There are no electric hook ups. Lots to do: either paddling on the water or walking in the hills. The Fellfarers flag should be flying to show you where to pitch your tent. Any queries contact Clare Fox