



At High Cup. See page 3



Merry Christmas Fellfarens and welcome to issue 5 of the KFF Newsletter. Don't forget: there are many more photographs on the club website Gallery pages. Ed.

The AGM

The committee has two important issues to bring to the AGM. They are:

1. There will be significant changes to the management of the club.

The present incumbents of the posts of President, Chairman and Secretary all wish to stand down. We have nominations for replacements for all three posts from within the existing committee at present but one other committee member also wishes to retire. We have a nomination for the post of Social Secretary (which has been vacant this year), also from within the existing committee. That means that, without an influx of new members, the working committee would be down to 8 members.

So, if you would like to nominate someone (with their permission) to serve on the Committee as an officer or as an 'ordinary' member, or would like to volunteer to do so yourself, please let a Committee member know BEFORE the next Committee meeting on Tuesday 10th January.

2. The Club needs to increase its cash reserves.

As a result of the close scrutiny of our liabilities which came about during the lease negotiation with the National Trust, the committee has realised that its cash reserves are inadequate (see last issue of the newsletter). Full details will be available at the AGM but meanwhile the committee has been considering a range of measures to increase club funds (14 in all, covering increasing income and reducing costs). Inevitably some of these measures, if approved, would have an impact on club members. The AGM will be asked to debate and vote on these measures. So, if you would like to play your part in shaping the future of the club, please make every effort to attend this year's AGM on Friday 27th January 2017.

The High House Lease

It was reported in the last newsletter that we hoped to resume negotiations when the National Trust's new Estate Manager was established in her post. Unfortunately, that has not happened yet.

The team is doing everything in its powers to get things moving again. Members will be informed as soon as we are able to make progress.

Looking after High House

Some important messages from the committee:

1. Mice

High House has suffered its usual winter invasion by mice and visiting clubs have commented on the problems of mouse droppings in the kitchen and of food being taken. One of our long-standing client groups has said that conditions were so bad that they will not be returning. The mousetraps bought two years ago seem to have vanished so new ones have been bought. If you are staying at High House, please take time to set the traps overnight and clear them in the morning.

2. Candles

Candle stubs were discovered recently. It was probably a visiting club that ignored the policy but it is worth reminding our own members too: No candles at High House.

3. Easy Chairs

The committee feel that it is time to replace the easy chairs at High House. Could members keep a watch for suitable inexpensive replacements in local charity shops? They must, of course, be fully fireproof.

Review of the Year

It's almost time for the Review of the Year slideshow again. If you wish to have your photos included, please send them as soon as possible to Mick Fox. The show is not limited to club events so any interesting shots taken in 2016 would be welcome.

Scottish Hotel Meet

We already have a great turnout for the Hotel Meet in Oban in March 2017 (5 nights dinner, bed and breakfast for £180 - full details in the last newsletter). Thirty one members and friends have signed up so far and there are still a few more places available. To book, or for more information, contact Clare Fox on 01539 727531.

We are sad to report that we have lost two of our long-standing members:

Joan Stockdale 1930 - 2016



Joan (*above centre*), a life member of Fellfarers, died on 23rd of September in Yorkshire where she had recently moved to be near her daughter Christine. Joan was for many years an active member of the club taking part in and helping to organise many events both at High House and in Kendal, her "elbow grease" at Working Weekends is still a subject of legend among older members.

Along with her husband Bill Joan enjoyed many days roaming the Lakeland fells, and hills further afield, always a strong walker, as she needed to be, as she and their dog Fleet would often be led by Bill on one of his famous "short cuts", these generally involved the shortest but steepest route to a summit.

My favourite personal memories of Joan are of fun filled evenings of chat and laughter at High House and of Joan teaching the many children who were often there card games, always noisy and accompanied by shrieks of delight. *Roger Atkinson*

Myers Ferguson 1924 - 2016



Myers was born in Kirkland, Kendal, and, apart from time spent with the Royal Navy during World War II, first at Bletchley Park as a codebreaker and then in the Pacific Ocean as a telecommunications officer, he lived his whole life in the town he loved. He began climbing as a young teenager with a group of Kendal lads looking for adventure. They would cycle up to Buckbarrow in Longsleddale and tackle the steep rock there with nothing more than a hemp rope tied around the waist for protection. Those lads soon discovered K Fellfarers and so High House became their second home. Myers was always an active member. *Roger Atkinson* writes: "*He did a*

huge amount of work when members did most of the work at High House... The most obvious jobs he was responsible for which are still visible are the original electric wiring when we moved on from Calor Gas lighting, and the stone wall behind the Common Room stove, stripped of its plaster one evening on the basis "It won't need painting again". He also did a lot of work encouraging young members: he took me up Needle Ridge, my first rock climb. He was always at the front of an evenings entertainment at High House either with an outrageous tale, a practical joke or leading a song. Having said all that, he would also keep us youngsters in order."

With his wife Audrey, Myers spent a lifetime exploring the Lakeland fells and the hills of Scotland, Wales and the Alps and he also found time for many coastal sailing adventures and for playing rugby (at county level) and golf (captain and life member of Kendal Golf Club). His love and enthusiasm for our club and for 'the hostel' never waned: when the latest kitchen improvements were begun in 2005 it was Myers who tirelessly wielded the sledgehammer in clouds of dust during demolition of a chimneybreast - at the age of 81! He was made a life member shortly afterwards. When the committee decided to produce a history of the club to mark its 75th anniversary, Myers spent many hours helping, with stories and excellent photographs of those early days. Some of those stories and pictures can be found in the book 'K Fellfarers and High House'.

Below: Myers (right) exploring the fells in his teens, with Wally Sanderson.



North Wales Hut Meet - Rhyd Ddu 30th September - 2nd October 2016



Norman Bell writes: The meet went really well, but no-one else turned up, so it was Jenny and I. We made ourselves at home and used as little as possible, so we didn't have much cleaning up to do. We soon got used to the quirky little house! Saturday was wet (it rained all day apparently) so we went to Aberdaron at the end of the Lleyn Peninsula and walked on the coast path around the headland to the other side and back. It was a wonderful walk with lots of 'choughs' and brilliant seascapes and views of Bardsey Island. Dinner in the

pub afterwards. On Sunday it was clear skies and we walked up to the quarries at Bwlch Cwm Llan and then up onto Y Aran. Fabulous views from there. Then back down the other side and again to the quarries for a lunch break. Afterwards we walked back to the hut and made ready to return home.

Weekend Walk - High Cup Nick Sunday 9th October 2016



Maja and Jim While picked a day of superb weather to lead a team of 11 from Dufton to the unique natural amphitheatre of High Cup (above). See also Page 1.

The Howgills Midweek Walk No. 78 19th October 2016



Above: more wonderful weather for Mike Walford's walk in the Howgills: Tony Maguire, Les Ord, Sue Mitchell, Maja While, Hugh Taylor, Jan Lancaster, Ruth Joyce, Adele and Mike Walford. Photo by Norman Bell

Hugh writes: on a beautiful day, ten members met at Carlingill Bridge and proceeded up the zigzags on Uldale Head, across Archer Moss (not too boggy) and to Archer Tarn. Then a change of plan, so instead of walking down to Gaisgill the group headed up to the top of Uldale Head. Then down to Blakethwaite Bottom which acts as the watershed between Uldale Back and Carlin Gill, and also as 'Check Point 3' on Mike's Sedbergh Fell Race. Climbing steadily upwards along the lovely path above Black Force, lunch was taken before continuing to the col between Fell Head and Knowles. Then down the green track above Fairmile Beck for a cuppa at Fairmile Bridge. A steady mile or so's walk along the line of the old Roman Road that is Fairmile Road completed a grand day out on the delightful Howgills. Thanks Mike and Adele.

Remembrance Weekend 11th - 13th November 2016

K Fellfarers were again well represented at the Remembrance Ceremony at Castle Crag, with those walking up from High House being joined by a number of members from Kendal. We gathered afterwards for coffee (or beer) and a chat at the Scafell Hotel.

Midweek Walk No. 79 from Force Bridge 23rd November 2016



Above: Margaret Atkinson, Irene Ramsbottom, Roger Atkinson (Leader), Ellie Woodburn, Hugh Taylor, Les Ord, Graham Ramsbottom, Val Calder, Colin Hunter, Mick Fox, Val Hunter, Clare Fox, with Norman Bell taking the photo.

Hugh writes: On a beautiful day, 13 members met at Force Bridge thinking that on such a stunning day that the walk would have been better up in the Lakes, but agreeing that the weather can't be planned. Coffee was taken at Sizergh Castle, and then paths and lanes followed up to Helsington Church and the superb view up the Lyth valley to the fells. The return was via Prizet, Hawes Bridge, and the riverside path back to Sedgwick and Force Bridge. Thanks to Roger for a lovely varied walk over some lesser known paths.

On Spy Crag (Staveley) Midweek Walk No.80 7th December 2016



The fine spell of autumn weather finally broke but the grey day did at least stay dry for our short walk, after coffee in Wilfs, through Craggy Woods and down to Littlewood Farm in the nameless valley behind 'Spy Crag' before returning via fields and Scroggs Lane. The planned lunch in Staveley was moved to the Watermill (above) at Ings at short notice, where the sixteen walkers were joined by four more members: the Hunters, and the sunbronzed Underhills. Bridge repairs had put the Eagle and Child out of action for the day.

KFF Club Events for January - April 2017

*And don't forget: every Thursday evening is 'Climbing for All' at Kendal Climbing Wall throughout the winter and at a local crag after April 20th. Why not come along and give it a try?
Please contact Mike Palk 01524 736548*

January 2017

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

Continuing week 1st-2nd - High House

is booked for Fellfarers for Christmas and the New Year.

Saturday 14th - Charlies Walk

Meet at 11 am at County Hall Kendal for a walk to Cunswick Scar and on to Staveley. Bus back. Leader David Birkett 01531 738280

Weekend 13th-15th - The Glencoe Meet

To book your place in one of the cosy and superbly placed chalets at the Clachaig Inn and for further information contact Hugh Taylor 01524 762067

Wednesday 18th - Midweek Walk

'A Walk in the Coniston area'. Meet at 10.00 am at the Glen Mary Car park near Yewdale Tarn (GR SD 322 999) for a low level walk with a few hundred feet of ascent and descent. Distance 8 miles. Leader Norman Bell 015394 44939

Weekend 20th-22th - High House

is booked for the Winter Quiet Weekend.

A Winter walk(s) for Saturday will be planned on Friday night. Bring your ideas along. Bar-meal at the Scafell Hotel on Saturday.

Tuesday 24th - Slide Show

'Review of the Fellfarers' Year' Meet 7.30 pm. The Strickland Arms, Sizergh. Sandwiches provided. Guests welcome.

Friday 27th - The Fellfarers' Annual General Meeting

Meet at 7.30 pm. The Duke of Cumberland, Shap Road, Kendal. Sandwiches provided.

February 2017

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

Tuesday 14th - Slide Show

'A Trek in Patagonia'. Mel Middleton. Meet 7.30 pm. The Strickland Arms, Sizergh. Sandwiches provided. Guests welcome.

Long Weekend 17th-23rd - High House

booked for Fellfarers.

Wednesday 22nd - Midweek Walk

Loughrigg Fell and Elterwater. 6 miles with 1,700ft ascent. Meet at 10.30 am at the Britannia Inn, Elterwater. Parking on roads into Elterwater or NT car park Walthwaite Bottom, (no charge) GR 3295 0511 or NT car park in Elterwater, charges apply. Easier alternative walk if bad conditions. Leaders Graham and Irene Ramsbottom 01539 725808

Saturday 25th - Appetite Enhancer Walk

Lambrigg Fell. 5 miles. Easy. Meet at 10.30 am. at Roan Edge Quarry (GR 586 929). Parking 300 yards past quarry entrance. Leader Krysia Niepokojczycka 015395 60523

Saturday 25th - Annual Dinner

at the Eagle and Child, Staveley. Please let Val know if you are planning to attend and send her your menu choice (menus will be emailed/posted to all members soon)

March 2017

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

Tuesday 14th - Slide Show

'Fellfarers in France', Meet 7.30 pm. The Strickland Arms, Sizergh. Sandwiches provided. Guests welcome.

17th-19th - High House

is booked for the Spring Working Weekend.

Week 19th-24th - Scottish Hotel Meet

The Royal Hotel, Oban. Booking essential. Payment required in advance. For details, contact Clare Fox 01539 727531

Wednesday 22nd - Midweek Walk(s)

To be planned in Oban, Scotland

April 2017

Tuesday 4th - Committee Meeting at the Rifleman's Arms

Week 14th-20th - High House

is booked for Fellfarers for the Easter Bank Holiday

Thursday 20th - First Summer Evening Walk

Meet at The Ship Inn, Sandside, at 6 pm for a walk to include Fairy Steps. Drink after at the Ship Inn. Leader Kath Palk 01524 736548.

Thursday 20th - Climbing for All

Meet at Fairy Steps at 6 pm. Drink after at The Ship Inn, Sandside. Never climbed before but would like to give it a try? Contact Mick Fox 01539 727531

Wednesday 26th - Midweek Walk

'Lanes of the Parishes south of Kendal'. A 10 mile easy circular walk linking footpaths, lanes and towpaths. Meet at 10.30am in Sedgwick by the canal bridge. (GR 513 871) Leaders Tony and Sue Maguire 01539 232597

Weekend 28th-1st May - High House

is booked for Fellfarers for the May Bank Holiday.