



The KFF NEWSLETTER

Note that there are many more photographs of club events in the Gallery on the Fellfarers' club website and on facebook.

Nº. 16
July 2019

The KFF Monthly Draw.

The latest winners are:

March - Peter Goff
April - Kevin Smith
May - Bob Walsh
June - Tony Walshaw

Borrowdale Fellrace

The Fellrace is on Saturday 3rd August and, as always, teams of marshalls are needed for each of the checkpoints. If you can help out please contact Jess Walsh on 07592 779719

Working Weekend

A reminder that the September Working Weekend will soon be upon us. Your help is needed! Meanwhile, if you spot anything at High House that needs attention or you would like to know what jobs you can help with, you can contact Peter Blamire on 01539 720379.

New Editor Required

He's tried to retire before but this time he means it! The January 2020 newsletter will be the last one produced by the current editor. If there is a budding journalist out there who would like the experience, please contact Mick Fox on 01539 727531 as soon as possible. You will be given all the support you need for as long as you need it. Older members will know that the old 20-page 'Fellfarer' magazine format has been pared down to this simple format to make the task of editing far less daunting than it was. It's easy, really! If no-one comes forward before the next newsletter (October) the committee will be considering how best to keep communication lines with members open without a newsletter.

Nettles

The banks of nettles are gaining ground at High House again. It would be helpful if members who are visiting in July or August could take along gardening gloves and remove some, especially around paths and building and preferable with the roots.

High House

A number of issues have been raised in the last few months and the committee would like to remind members :

Dogs. There are agreed rules about dogs at High House: They are only permitted in the common room and only during the daytime. Dogs may not sleep in High House. Owners are also required to clean up any mess they leave, whether inside or out.

Cleaning after Use. At least one instance has been reported of Fellfarers leaving High House in a poor state for the next users. Please ensure that when you leave you have cleaned everything, left the stove empty and turned off all lights, water heaters etc.

Safety Checks. When Fellfarers visit, the first to arrive must carry out the safety checks listed on the notice board and sign the form there to confirm that the checks have been done.

Fire Safety. It is vitally important that all visitors take the rules about fire safety very seriously. This was underlined in April when Brackenclouse, the Fell and Rock climbing hut in Wasdale, was destroyed by fire. If a fire broke out at High House, it would suffer the same fate; the Keswick fire brigade would take at least 30 minutes to reach High House - once someone found a way to phone them.

Borrowdale News

We hear that bulldozers may soon be disturbing the tranquility of Seathwaite - a scheme to put back the bends in the river is apparently being prepared. Lets hope we don't see a repeat of the floods of 1966 (chapter 18, 'K Fellfarers and High House') as a result!

Future Social Events

Advance notice from the Social Sub-committee of things to look forward to:

The Fellfarers' Way.

Some members will remember that in 2014 the club held a competition to devise a club walk to commemorate our 80th Birthday. None of the walks took place then but now the Social Sub-committee is looking at the possibility of organising one or more of them in the near future:

- The winning entry was a five-day walk across the Lakes from the old K Shoes factory in Kendal to High House.
- The second-placed entry was much shorter but still quite challenging: The Seathwaite Skyline, a horseshoe circuit of about 14 miles on the ridges around High House, perhaps with shorter variations for those who want them.

If you have any comments or would like to help plan either walk, please contact Jan Lancaster on 01925 752278.

The Scottish Hotel Meet - March 2020.

Many of the members who attended in 2019 are happy with the idea of a change from Killin. A few new locations in Scotland have been suggested and these are being explored for future years but it seems unlikely that we can negotiate a deal in time for March next year.

Meanwhile, the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William has offered us a very good deal again and those members who were consulted are happy to return there. The agreed price is less than we paid in Killin. There is a downside for some, however: the hotel will no longer accept dogs in bedrooms.

The dates of 22nd - 27th March 2020 have been booked and members will soon be asked to reserve their places.

The Limestone Link - 18th April 2020

Thanks to Rod Muncey's legacy, members can once again enjoy free transport on a club event. The Social Sub-committee thought this walk might be another good way to enjoy his gift to us.

Those wishing to walk the Limestone Link will need to make their own way to Arnside, where the (free) coach will pick them up at the promenade and take them to Holme (for those opting for a shorter walk, about 5-6 miles) or Kirkby Lonsdale for the full 13 mile Link.

The walk is a celebrated ramble through some of the best of South Cumbria's scenery, taking in the rocky fells of Clawthorpe and Hutton Roof; the flat open mosses between Hale and Holme, and the low wooded hills of the Arnside area. For those who don't know it, Cumbria Tourist Information has an information leaflet - or you can google 'Limestone Link Cumbria'.

On our return to cars (or the train) at Arnside we can have a bar meal at the Albion or fish and chips on the prom!

The club will need firm numbers so that we can order the right size coach so if you are interested please let Clare Fox know before the end of August.

Recent Club Events

Weekend 15th - 18th March 2019

Working Weekend.

A great change began this weekend when a trench was dug between the farm's water supply and ours (close to the dams in the supply beck). The National Trust later installed a connecting pipe which means that they are now responsible for providing our water. The club will now dismantle our dam and restore the area to its natural state. As well as the usual cleaning and decorating jobs, a start was made on masking some of the graffiti on bunk beds and Rod's memorial table was assembled.

Week 24th - 29th March 2019

Scottish Hotel Meet, Killin

Twenty eight members enjoyed another great week of winter walking in the Highlands. We didn't have the perfect snow-and-blue-sky combination of last year but, apart from a cold wind at high level, conditions were very good.

Walks of all grades were tackled and Munros and Corbetts galore were enjoyed throughout the week. The club website contains some excellent photographs and details of each day's achievements but here is a summary of summits reached by Fellfarers during the week :

- Meall Greigh (Munro) - 8 ascents
- Meall Garbh (Munro) - 8 ascents
- An Stuc (Munro) - 5 ascents
- Ben Lawers (Munro) - 7 ascents
- Beinn Ghlas (Munro) - 4 ascents
- Meall Glas (Munro) - 3 ascents
- Meall Luaidhe (Corbett) - 10 ascents
- Stuc an Lochain (Munro) - 10 ascents
- Meall Corranaich (Munro) - 2 ascents
- Ben A'an (Hugh) - 4 ascents
- Sgiath Chuil (Munro) - 3 ascents
- Beinn nan Oighreag (Corbett) - 4 ascents
- Ben Vorlich (Munro) - 7 ascents
- Stuc a Chroin (Munro) - 7 ascents
- Meall a'Choire Leith (Munro) - 2 ascents
- Meall Tairneachan (Corbett) - 2 ascents
- Creag Dhubh (unclassified) - 4 ascents

It's not all about bagging peaks, however, and on Wednesday the March Midweek Walk No. 107 (8 members) visited the Falls of Acharn, the Queen's Drive and The Scottish Crannog Centre. Their enthusiasm struck a note that evening and on Thursday 7 more Fellfarers followed in their footsteps. Does that count as a Midweek Walk taking two days?

Other walks too; some members enjoyed exploring local byways or were content to photograph or sketch the scenery and the flowers. Then there are the coffees and cakes of course. Unfortunately no record was kept of consumption of those items. Perhaps it's just as well.

The brilliant thing about the Hotel Meets of course is the camaraderie that shared breakfasts and evenings engenders. Everyone has their stories to tell and when Friday comes we all realise *that it hasn't been long enough!* Bring on next year.

Thursday 18th April 2019

Evening Walk and Climbing - Warton Crag

We had a fine evening and a superb sunset for the first evening walk of 2019. Peter Goff led Krysia, David, Frank, Tina, Clare, Irene and Graham for the walk around Warton Crag while the climbers, Val, Kevin, Hugh, Norman, Harry and Mick played on the rocks at Stile Buttress and Pinnacle Crag.

The walk passed close to the crag at one point and the walkers were invited to 'come and rope up'. They declined and it wasn't until darkness fell that the two groups were reunited to end a delectable evening with pints of locally brewed beer at the Malt Shovel.

Weekend 18th - 26th April 2019

Easter at High House

Maja reports - I counted 48 names in the visitors book over the Easter weekend. It was a brilliant weekend in the sunshine with many walks, bike rides, visits to local hostelries and evenings round the camp fire. Photographs on the club website.

Wednesday 24th April 2019

Midweek Walk No. 108 Clapham.

Hugh reports: On the last day of the superb spell of dry and warm weather experienced over Easter, Mike Wilson led 17 Fellfarers on a 10 mile walk from Clapham to Feizor and back. With rain forecast to arrive at 4pm, the group set off through the tunnels (to protect the view from Ingleborough Hall), and along Thwaite Lane before branching off towards and under Robin Proctor Scar. A lovely path led down and onto Crummack Lane where the group

turned north.

Then down the lane and across the ford where the clapper bridge was used, and into the hamlet of Wharfe. Lunch was taken on Wood Lane, and the hamlet of Feizor reached where Elaine's delightful cafe was visited for tea and cake. The return was made via Feizor Nick and the beautiful display of flowers in Feizor Woods and Oxenber Woods - definitely worth visiting again. Then down into Austwick and across the fields back into Clapham .

And the rain? Well it arrived at 4pm just as the group arrived back at Clapham. Excellent timing Mike, and a lovely walk.

Saturday 27th April 2019

Cycling for All - from Kendal Leisure Centre

Roger reports:- Despite the patchy weather three hardy (foolhardy?) cyclists turned up, meeting at the end of a prolonged heavy shower, and decided to give it a go. This turned out to be a wise choice. We extended the planned ride a little, had an excellent coffee stop at the Old Post Office in Beetham, and were home before the next serious shower hit. A lucky break!

Tuesday 14th May 2019

Evening Walk - Leighton Moss RSPB Bird Reserve

Hugh reports: There was a good turnout of 24 members and friends for another visit to Leighton Moss, led by club member and RSPB employee Paul East. On a beautiful clear warm and sunny evening, Paul led first to the sky-tower for an arial view of the area. Then a one mile walk past the Causeway Hide (was the Public Hide) and along to the Lower Hide, passing a red deer in the woodland. The return visit was made more exciting by a group of young bullocks that had escaped. Interesting species seen included pochard, black terns and marsh harrier. The evening was rounded off with a drink in the ever quirky Woodlands Hotel, where a pint of Old School Brewrey Beer was £2.70! Thanks to Paul and Rose for another great evening (*Ed: There are some superb photographs of the wildlife on the website; not sure about the Fellfarers though*).

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

Midweek Walk No.109 - Yarlside and the NE Howgills.

Fifteen members and friends met at the Cross Keys Hotel at Cautley on a fine sunny day for Maja's 8-miler in the Howgills. Our leader showed us she meant business when she pointed directly up the front of Yarlside, so steep we got cricked necks looking at it. So, all of us in 1st gear, we worked our way slowly upwards. At one point I saw one of our number clambering up on his hands and knees! "Well, thank goodness that's the steep stuff over", we all said when we finally reached the summit, "Where now?"

Maja looked slightly embarrassed, "Er, down there," she said, pointing down the even steeper back side of the fell.

So down we went to the Saddle and, after a 'first lunch', up again onto Kensgriff, down again and then up onto Green Bell, at 605 metres our high point of the day. The air was wonderfully clear and the blue sky broken only by little fair-weather cumulus; cameras were kept busy.

We rested for our 'second lunch' at the Spen Gill waterfall, one of the few rocky places in the Howgills, and moved on to inspect the sad dereliction of Mountain View, once a fine hill farmhouse. A good track took us easily downhill to Northwaite and our starting point at Cautley again. Tea and/or ice creams would have been welcome to our dry mouths but the Cross Keys was unaccountably closed. I suspect some will have paused to quench thirsts in Sedbergh though, where beer is to be had, on their way home after such a day. Thank you Maja.

Tuesday 11th June 2019

Evening Walk - A Walk around New England.

Five members turned up at the Eagles Head in Over Kellet on an evening so wet and 'orrible that they agreed to just go into the pub for a pint. Sounds perfect. Sandra has offered to try again in September - see next page.

The Continental Camping Meet - next issue.

KFF Club Events for July - October 2019

Dates given for multi-day events below are from day of arrival to day of departure.

July 2019

Tuesday 2nd Committee Meeting at the Rifleman's Arms

Tuesday 9th -Evening Walk

A New Hutton Ramble. Meet at 6.30 pm. Parking at Hayfellside, Hayclose Lane LA8 0AG (GR5396 9096). A 3.5 to 4 miles walk in rolling pasture and quiet road. Leaders Irene and Graham Ramsbottom

Weekend 12th-15th High House

is booked for the Summer Quiet Weekend. Saturday walk(s) will be planned on Friday night with either a bar or communal meal on Saturday evening.

Wednesday 24th - Midweek Walk No. 111

Meet at Braithwaite near Keswick for an 8 mile walk with 540m of ascent. Park where you can and meet at the bridge over the Coledale Beck (GR 231 235) at 10 am. The school offers parking at a modest fee. The walk goes via Barrow Door to the Scar Crag/Sail col. Return by Rigg Beck, Newland Beck, Ghyll Bank and a riverside walk back to Braithwaite. Leader Norman Bell 015394 44939

Month 29th -30th August - High House

is booked for Fellfarers' Summer Break

August 2019

Tuesday 6th Committee Meeting at the Rifleman's Arms

Month 29th July - 30th August High House

is booked for Fellfarers' Summer Break.

Saturday 3rd - Marshalling the Borrowdale Fell Race

If you can help out by being one of the team at each checkpoint please contact Jess Walsh 07592 779719

4th - 7th Water Weekend - High House

As last year, those who wish to sail or paddle are staying on at the hut after Fell Race. Bring your own craft or hire sailing boats/canoes from Platty+ Watersports on Derwentwater. Contact Jan Lancaster 07889 312706 for further information.

Tuesday 13th - Evening Walk

Easy 5 mile walk from Mealbank. Meet 6.30pm. Parking by Mill building (GR 542 947). Leaders Colin + Val Hunter 01539 730177

Weekend 16th-18th - High House - Spirit of '34 Weekend

is booked for Fellfarers to celebrate the **Club's 85th Birthday**. Meet at High House for a communal meal on Saturday 17th, bring something you can share. There will be a prize for the person who most entered into the Spirit of '34.

Bonus points for:

- Distance travelled other than by car (Bus, foot, bike)
- Use of old gear over the weekend
- Cooking on Primus (outside)

Points deducted for:

- Luxury items
- * Stashing supplies or deliveries

August continued

Wednesday 21st - Midweek Walk No. 112

Meet at 10am at Dufton Car Park (GR 689 250 OS Map 19) for a 7-8 mile walk with 1500 ft of ascent. The walk goes via Threlkeld Side to High Cup Gill and back by the Pennine Way. Leader Frank Haygarth 01539 723948

September 2019

Tuesday 3rd Committee Meeting at the Rifleman's Arms

Tuesday 11th - Evening Walk

'A Walk around New England.' Meet at 6 pm. at the Eagles Head carpark, Over Kellet (GR 520 699). Permission has been obtained. A level 4.5 mile walk. Leaders Sandra and Tony Atkinson 01524 423776

Weekend 13th-16th High House

is booked for the Working Weekend. Coffee, tea and biscuits provided plus supper on Saturday night. All welcome!

Wednesday 25th - Midweek Walk No. 113

Meet at 9.30am in large layby off the Tebay road near Roundthwaite (GR 611 029). The walk goes up the Borrowdale valley to the Breast High Road, over to Bretherdale Head and Greenholme, and follows Birk Beck and the Lune back to Roundthwaite. Approx 14 km with 300 m. ascent, about 6½ hours. Leader David Birkett 01539 738280

Saturday 28th - Cycling for All

Meet at 1.30pm at Kendal Leisure Centre. A bike ride at a comfortable pace. Distance about 17 miles with a coffee stop at half distance. Leader Roger Atkinson 01539 732490 (Roger suggests with his record better bring a waterproof!)

October 2019

Tuesday 1st Committee Meeting at the Rifleman's Arms

Tuesday 8th - Slide Show

Meet at 7.30 pm at the Strickland Arms, Sizergh for the first slide show of the season: "Cycling in Rajasthan and some South East highlights" presented by Sue and Tony Maguire. Sandwiches provided and guests welcome.

Weekend 18th-25th High House

is booked for Fellfarers.

Tuesday 22nd - Thursday 24th - Away Meet at Rhydd Ddu

The Oread Hut at Rhydd Ddu has been booked for an away meet. The price is £5 per member per night (£10 for guests). Places are limited so please contact Jan Lancaster, either by phone 07889312706 or by email, as soon as possible to book your place.

Wednesday 23rd - Midweek Walk No. 114

The midweek walk will be in North Wales. It will be planned and agreed on the Tuesday evening so please come along with your ideas!