



The KFF NEWSLETTER

No. 07
April 2017

The Fellfarers have lost two good friends recently. Steve Edgar and Rod Muncey. Both of them were remarkable people in their different ways and our lives are impoverished by the passing of both of them:

Steve Edgar. 1946 - 2017

Although not a member at the time of his death, Steve was still actively involved with the club, attending social events and walks with his wife Val.

Steve was one of those people who quietly got on with many things, from scientific research (he was an expert in the study of diatoms) to music (played in several bands), photography (frequent winner in club competitions), cabinet-making (the new bookcases at High House) to name just a few - and he was a perfectionist at all of them. The timber boarding, walls and ceilings, upstairs at High House was all installed by Steve alone. He printed the early 'Fellfarer' magazines until he retired and sold his business, and he edited his own newsletter for his microscopy club. There is simply not enough space here to list his many accomplishments.

Steve and Val loved the Scottish Islands and they spent all of their most recent holidays there. All of their friends and family were astonished to learn, after Steve's death, that in fact the two of them had secretly got married on Islay a couple of years ago.

He had some serious health problems but was never seen without a friendly smile on his face at club events. He was a fine man and we will miss him greatly.

Below: Steve, centre back. A moment of fun on a club evening walk in August last year.



Rod Muncey. 1960 - 2017

Rod too has gone from us after battling against cancer for over a year. In phone calls back to us in Kendal throughout that difficult time he remained optimistic and positive, refusing to let the illness cause him to feel bitter. He was 56 years old.

Rod's dedication to the Kendal Mountain Rescue team was recognised by the printing of an article on him in the Westmorland Gazette on 30th March.

Alec Reynolds followed that up with a letter to the Gazette, printed on 6th April: *"Rod was a man of many interests. His doctorate was in Polymer Chemistry, he was an expert birdwatcher, a keen member of the Branch Line Society, and an avid collector of frankly peculiar music of all types. I first knew Rod 30 years ago when he joined the Systems Team in K Shoes. His first action was to join K Fellfarers. He was an active member of the club until his move to Plymouth, being on the Committee for several years and Social Secretary. He could be guaranteed to locate the most obscure and remote bunk houses for K Fellfarers to visit. If we were lucky, evenings there would end with Rod reciting an epic poem with appropriate gusto. He was a true one-off. He will be sadly missed by his Fellfarer colleagues."*

Krysia writes: What a rare privilege to have known Rod as a friend for so many years. What to say? He was kind, insightful, thoughtful, incredibly well-read but never overbearing, a loyal friend, a committed environmentalist and conservationist who was quietly concise about the reasons for his views, a climber, caver and mountaineer who took joy in all the outdoors and all its bounties.

I had many forays walking and potholing in his company - to Scotland and the Western Isles, Corsica, Poland, the Lakes and Yorkshire. He never failed to be a witty and entertaining companion - funny and gifted in so many ways, with a wealth of songs and poems recited by heart to the delight of all.

There are so many stories to tell about my friend. I will always remember and treasure them. He never spoke ill of anyone and the world is a poorer place without him.

And from Peter Goff: *"I say, I feel quite good today. I would like to lead all the climbs we do"* said Rod one perfect summer's day in the ring complex in Ardnamurchen. Not having climbed for two years, he went ahead and did indeed lead all the routes. No midges, not a soul in sight; it was a superb day.

Rod was somewhat eccentric but this only added to his charm. He always played down his achievements, some of them considerable, in academia, in ecology and in the natural world in general. Not to mention British Rail and its timetables.

He was in the Fellfarers for a number of years and spent time as the Social Secretary. Rod was a member of Kendal Mountain Rescue Team for over twenty five years and did work for the RSPB counting bird species within mapped grids in the Lakes, sometimes spotting rarities but, as he said, not often.

Rod was one of the nicest, least offensive people I have ever met; never a bad word. So long mate, always a pleasure and an education.

Rod was buried in Plymouth on 7th April and Krysia and Walter organised a gathering for his Kendal friends at the Station Inn, Oxenholme to coincide with the funeral. Some Fellfarers met early and walked to the summit of the Helm beforehand. About forty Fellfarers and Mountain Rescue team members then gathered at 2.30 in the Station to share stories about our various adventures with him, about his diverse achievements and, yes, about his many eccentric ways. We'll never see his like again.

Below: Rod on Skye in 1990. Photo courtesy of Peter Barnes



Fundraising Ideas

The committee is in the process of considering members' comments and suggestions on ways to increase the club's cash reserves. The long list has been reduced to a short list for the sub-committee to look at in more detail. Thank you to all those who did respond. If anyone has a flash of inspiration on ways for the club to make more money, it's not too late to pass on your idea (or to join the sub-committee). You can email your ideas to fellfarer.funds@gmail.com or call Helen on 01539 733959, or pass on your thoughts to any member of the group (Peter Blamire, Pam Heseltine, Mark Walsh and Helen Speed).

Guest Night Fees

Please note that it was agreed at the last AGM that guests at High House will now be required to pay £8 per person per night.

High House Lease Negotiations

There has been no progress since the last newsletter. All outstanding matters are in the hands of the National Trust.

Glencoe. January 13-15th 2017

The Clachaig Chalet (and youth hostel) Meet

K Fellfarers - Mick, Alan, Hugh, Graham & Veronica in the chalet.

Bassetlaw MC - Mel, Adam, and Mick in the hostel.

A fine forecast for the weekend - sunshine after a fresh fall of snow - led us to hope for some decent walks. Our only fear was that snow lying on the minor roads. Hugh, Mick, and Alan visited the very impressive Kelpies sculptures at Falkirk on the way up. As with the previous year, three teams set out on a perfect Saturday morning. Mel has a burning ambition to climb Bidean nam Bian and so the Bassetlaw group set off up the Lost Valley to tackle Stob Coire Sgreamhach and Bidean. The snow conditions on the headwall of the coire were desperate, steep and powdery, so after reaching Stob Coire Sgreamhach they descended via Beinn Fhada, leaving Bidean for next year - again.

For the Kendal three the planned Glen Etive Corbett was ruled out by the road conditions and so they drove to Loch Lochy for an attempt on Ben Tee. The hills looked glorious in the sunshine but the fresh snow was too deep and powdery for good walking and after 3 hours Hugh and Mick were still only halfway to the summit. Rather reluctantly, they turned back (*below: Hugh toiling up Ben Tee*).



Graham climbed Stob Coire nan Lochan where an already well-trodden trail through the snow made his ascent quite simple.

Live music and beer enlivened our Saturday evening in the bar as always. Sunday was wet and all the Fellfarers headed for their various homes while the Bassetlaw team, made of sterner stuff, went in search of better weather by Loch Earn for an planned ascent of Ben Vorlich.



Charlie's Walk. January 14th 2017

Fourteen Fellfarers and friends gathered at the County Hall Kendal on a beautiful sunny January day for Charlie's annual walk. We made our way up through Kendal via Fellside and alongside Serpentine Woods as we walked up to Cunswick Scar to gather at Charlie's spot. There we paused to sit and think of Charlie (*above*). Some flowers were laid as Val said a few words about Charlie causing a few smiles as she spoke of the way he could make a polo last and last! The group then split up with Irene, Graham, Mike and Frank making their way to Staveley. The rest of us went on to Scouts Scar and the Mushroom before making our way back to Kendal. On our journey home we were reminded that in spite of the lovely day it was still January: we passed a car that had skidded on the ice and crashed into a wall; thankfully no-one was hurt.

A lovely walk rounded off by a good lunch in the Union Jack! Clare Fox



Midweek Walk No. 81. January 18th 2017 Coniston

A grand turnout of nineteen members and friends. Our cars practically filled the Glen Mary car park (*above*) on this unpromising dull morning for Norman Bell's wander round the Coniston area. He promised us an 8 mile walk with just a few hundred feet of ascent. Remember those figures.

We followed the woodland path into Coniston, resisted the temptation of the cafes, and climbed through the old station yard and Heathwaite Farm to the open moor of Banishead. Alarm bells rang when we turned left on the Walna Scar road, rather than right, but never mind, we still trusted Norman at this point. We stopped to admire "Walter's Force", the fine waterfall plunging into the dark pool at the old quarry (you'll have to ask him) and had lunch in the shelter of the spoil heaps. We followed the Tranearth bunkhouse access track into Torver and continued past Brackenbarrow Farm to the lake shore. Once through Coniston Hall campsite, venue for the Water Weekend in July, we were starting to feel that we must have done our eight miles. We sought comfort in tea and cakes at the Bluebird cafe. Thus fortified, we strolled on through Coniston and then followed the Cumbria Way uphill, the sting in the tail, to arrive at the car park just as darkness was falling.

We all knew that the walk exceeded the stated distance and Graham, who carries a GPS with him, took great delight in announcing that we had walked 13 miles and had totalled about 2,000 feet of ascent.

Three months have gone by now since the walk and Norman has not yet been allowed to forget his 'slight approximation' of the distance. Nor will he.

High House Quiet Weekend. January 20-22nd 2017

Present: Roger & Margaret, Hugh & Angie, Fred & Jean, Graham & Irene, Colin & Val Hunter, Val Calder, Norman, Mick.



Friday started off overcast and moody but Mick found that on his afternoon outing on Grange Fell the clouds parted and dispersed to reveal a fine golden sunset. Plans were made on with great optimism on Friday night: Haystacks from Honister seemed to fit the bill of a walk that we would all enjoy together. The winter timetable has no 77A buses running so the plan needed cars to get to Honister. Fortunately there were enough NT members for us to avoid parking charges. Hooray.

Saturday dawned bright, as promised. We walked from the NT car park, up the old tramway to the remains of the Drum House for a first coffee stop and to savour the superb views. We paused again at the old Dubs Hut to poke around what is possibly the neatest bothy in these islands; it even had a vacuum cleaner. Nowhere to plug it in of course.

There was a short descent to Warnscale Beck and a climb by Black Beck amid sublime mountain scenery (*above: gazing down into the Buttermere valley from below Green Crag*). A leisurely lunch by Innominate Tarn followed, with the sunlight bouncing off the water. These days are short and we hurried on to the summit, all smiles and clicking cameras (*below: the summit team*).

Margaret, Val C and Jean descended via Scarth Gap to Gatesgarth and the rest retraced their steps to Honister as the last of the sunlight gilded the fells and our faces.

We gathered again for drinks at the Glaramara Centre at Seatoller before heading back to High House for a communal meal, followed by music on guitars and accordion from Colin, Norman, and Hugh. Quiet music, obviously.

The weather broke overnight and we had the usual wet Sunday "I think we'll just go home". Still, it's Saturday that we'll remember!



Snowshoeing in the Dolomites. Feb 5 - 12th 2017

Roger, Mick, Norman, and Hugh spent a week in the Dolomites enjoying various winter sports: snowshoeing, tobogganing, down hill skiing, and cross country skiing. They were very lucky - the area had been without snow for the whole winter but it began to fall on the day they flew out to Venice. By the time they drew back the curtains in the morning the scene was Christmas card-perfect.

Much of the week was spent snow-shoeing (*below: with Sonny, our guide, right*) but the highlight was probably the tobogganing, on a prepared piste with ski-lift access. Mick never tires of telling people that they descended (with several scary wipe-out crashes) three times the height of Skiddaw in one day. Memorable.



Midweek Walk No. 82. February 22nd 2017 Loughrigg

We met, all wrapped up, in Elterwater, thirteen of us (*below*) for Graham and Irene's stroll over Loughrigg. We followed the bridleway past Elter Water to cross the road onto Little Loughrigg where a sneaky little path contoured round to Loughrigg Tarn. The grassy banks there just invited a coffee stop before the little steep climb around Ivy Crag. The maze of paths succumbed to Graham's navigation and we were soon clustered around the summit trig point, along with many half-term families. We descended 'the usual way' to Loughrigg Terrace and Red Bank, pausing every so often to take in that classic view of Grasmere and beyond. Some members were less than enthusiastic about continuing over Huntingstile Crag and someone else mentioned 'teashops'. So that was it - we descended to Walthwaite Bottom, Elterwater and, indeed, the corner teashop there. Another good day in great company.

From left to right: Mick, Clare, Ruth, Frank, Fred, Mike (behind), Jean (behind), Val C, Irene, Norman, Graham, Colin, with Hugh behind the camera.



The Annual Dinner and the Scottish Hotel Meet will be covered in the next newsletter.

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

KFF Club Events for April – July 2017

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

April 2017

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

Week 14-20th - 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. Leaders Hugh Taylor and Angie Mitchell 01524 762067

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 April-1st May - High House

is booked for Fellfarers for the May Bank Holiday.

May 2017

Tuesday 2nd - Committee Meeting at the Rifleman's Arms

Tuesday 16th - Evening Walk

Leighton Moss RSPB Bird Reserve, Silverdale, Carnforth. (GR SD 478 750) Meet at 6.30 pm behind the visitor centre. Leader Paul East 01524 761083

Wednesday 24th - Midweek Walk

Cartmel and the Ellerside Ridge. Meet at Cartmel racecourse carpark (GR377 787) at 10.30 am. 9 miles easy walking. Leaders Colin and Val Hunter 01539 730177

Week 26th May-1st June - High House

is booked for Fellfarers for Whit week

June 2017

Tuesday 6th - Committee Meeting at the Rifleman's Arms

Tuesday 13th - Evening Walk

Meet at Woodwell Lane carpark (GR 465 744) at 6.30 pm for 4-5 miles of easy walking. Leader Peter Goff 01524 736990

Week 11-18th - European Camping Meet

Camping at the Camping de La Mer de Glace campsite, Chamonix (phone no. 0033450334403). The campsite is just a short walk to Chamonix and offers stunning views of the Drus and the Mont Blanc range. Cost approx. 26 euros per couple per night (electricity extra). Contact Clare Fox to book your place 01539 727531

Wednesday 14th - European Midweek Walk

To be agreed in Chamonix.

Weekend 23-25th - High House

is booked for Fellfarers. Club Walk on Saturday to be agreed. If you are not staying at High House and wish to join in the walk just turn up at 10 am on Saturday. Leader Alec Reynolds 01229 821099

July 2017

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

Tuesday 11th - Evening Walk

Lambrigg Fell. Meet at 6.30 pm, parking at Rowan Edge Quarry (300 yards pass quarry entrance) for a 5 mile easy walk over the fell. Leader Krysia Niepokojczycka 015395 60523

Weekend 14-16th - High House

is booked for the Summer Quiet Weekend. Walk(s) to be planned on Friday night for Saturday followed by a Jacobs Join meal. If not staying at High House just turn up at 10 am for the walk/meal. Leader Clare Fox 01539 727531

Wednesday 26th - Midweek Walk

'A walk in the Eastern Howgills'. Meet 10 am at Cross Keys Hotel (GR 698969) on the A683 Sedbergh to Kirkby Stephen Road. Approximately 8 miles with 1680 ft of ascent. Leader Frank Haygarth 01539 723948

Weekend 28-30th - Water Weekend

Coniston Hall Campsite, Haws Bank, Coniston LA21 8AS. An opportunity to meet again for either water sports or fell walking (or both!). Price per night: £9 per adult; £4.50 per child and £2.50 per vehicle. Boats or canoes are charged extra. PLEASE PHONE the campsite at least a month beforehand, to book your place, phone no. 015394 41223