



The KFF NEWSLETTER

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

Nº. 08
July 2017

Corrections

In the obituary to Steve Edgar in the last issue the Editor made two mistakes: In fact Steve had rejoined K Fellfarers, and so was a member at the time of his death, and he and Val were married on Colonsay, not Islay as stated. My apologies to all.

Fundraising

Many of you who attended the AGM or received the February 2017 newsletter will be aware that the Club has identified a need to increase funds. This was primarily because £15,000 of our existing bank balance has been set aside to cover our liabilities under the exit terms of the new lease (should such a need arise during the next 20 years). We have also recognised that we are at risk if we assume that past anonymous donations, and the Small Business Rates Relief, will continue in the future. These benefits are hugely appreciated but cannot be relied upon.

In addition, the Club continues to invest in repair and maintenance of High House for members' safety and comfort and in order to continue to attract visiting clubs. We are also absorbing increased energy costs and additional costs such as solicitors' fees (e.g. to support lease negotiations). Our approach will however continue to be one of incurring only essential costs, making sure we keep these as low as possible and securing appropriate levels of income to cover these costs.

The small group formed to consider proposals to raise income, together with the committee, has reviewed the many options. After much thought, as well as discussions with members on Club meets and High House weekends, we have agreed to trial two ways of raising income: a KFF Monthly Draw and an implementation of members' night fees at High House. Their success will be monitored over the next year and they may be amended or augmented by other schemes if necessary:

Monthly Draw

Members will be invited to take part in a Monthly Draw for a prize of £50 each month. The cost of a number in the Draw will be £2.50 per month and there is no limit on how many times your number can be drawn in a year. Members can hold up to three numbers. The scheme will be set up in September 2017 and the first £50 Draw will be made in October. Full details will be sent to members shortly. Depending on how many members take part, the Monthly Draw could initially raise between £300 to £1200 pa and possibly more.

Members' Night Fees

Each member is entitled to up to 2 free nights at High House per year as part of their membership. For additional visits to High House there is an option of either an Annual Fee of £24 or, if preferred a Pay As You Go fee of £4 per night (up to a maximum of £24 per year) after which further nights are free. Full details will be sent to members shortly, including exemptions for Working Weekends or organized maintenance visits, children of members (aged under 18) and children of guests (under the age of 5).

Payment of fees will be by Bank Transfer to the club account or paid in cash to a committee member or other member, who will pay by Bank Transfer on their behalf. (More details to follow.) Payments will be left to members' honesty.

The Members' Night Fees trial will be implemented in the December membership letters. Every member has the use of 2 free nights and the maximum anyone would pay in a year is £24 for 8 or more nights. Depending on members' use of High House, Members' Night Fees could raise between £480 and £960 pa.

Do you have any queries, comments or suggestions? 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). We look forward to hearing from you!

Rod Muncey bequest

The committee has been informed that Rod left £2,500 in his will to K Fellfarers, to be divided equally between works to High House and the Social Programme. The committee is considering ways in which the bequest might be spent and invites members to submit their ideas. Proposals submitted so far include the new tool-shed, a replacement for the three-pipe bridge, and a new bird-table. Please give your ideas to any committee member before the next meeting on September 5th. See also page 2

High House Lease Negotiations

There has been some progress since the last newsletter. The National Trust have, after a considerable delay, suggested that some of the outstanding matters could now be passed to our respective solicitors to agree mutually satisfactory wording.

Annual Dinner. February 25th 2017

The pre-dinner Appetite Enhancer walk was cancelled because of poor weather but there was a great turn-out of members for the meal. Once again, we filled the upstairs room at the Eagle and Child in Staveley (*below*).



Working Weekend March 17th - 19th 2017

The weather was awful but most of jobs were done except some outside painting/staining which was postponed until June (a Summer Wine Team session).

The 9th Annual Scottish Hotel Meet. Oban Sunday 19th - Friday 24th March 2017

After last year's 'Highlands and Islands' meet at Oban, there was a lot of enthusiasm for returning to the same place; many of us had unfinished business there, including the ascent of Ben Cruachan, a fine Munro which should be on every hillwalker's must-do list. Thirty of us (*below, plus Hugh*) gathered at The Royal Hotel, Oban.



Lists were circulated to ensure that teams of like-minded members could plan their different days together.

Day one's forecast was for gales and snow showers on the hills so most people sensibly opted for low-level exploration of coastline and tea-shops. A few hardy folk ventured higher and the two teams returned, slightly battered, with the hard-won trophies of one Munro (Beinn Eunaich, I think) and two Corbetts (Beinn Udlaidh and Beinn Bhreac-liath) between them.

Tuesday's wintry forecast was enough to keep everyone at lower levels and many opted to visit Lismore by the foot ferry from Port Appin. An 8-mile ramble around the island's north coast ended under blue skies and with superb views of the snow-covered tops on the mainland. Perhaps we should stop checking the weather before making our plans. A great forecast of sun all day and only light winds for Wednesday meant that 17 of us (*below*) signed up for our *Midweek Walk No 83, Ben Cruachan*. Based on different ambitions, we split the party into Teams A and B.



Rod's Wake. April 7th 2017

About thirty Fellfarers and members of Kendal Mountain Rescue Team Gathered at The Station Inn on the day of Rod Muncey's funeral. Ten of us walked The Helm (*above*) before joining the others to share stories of various adventures with him.

Photographs of the gathering, together with a copy of the last newsletter (containing his obituary) were sent to Rod's parents in Portsmouth and his father replied, "Pauline and I both feel a massive gratitude for the unfailing support and encouragement that Rod received from his friends in and around Kendal, and it would be hard to believe that anyone could be luckier in his friendships than Rod was."

Climbing for All and Evening Walk. April 20th 2017 Sandside and Fairy Steps

A fine evening brought fourteen walkers but only two climbers out for the first Fellfarer evening of summer 2017. The walkers met up at the Ship Inn at Sandside and led by Hugh and Angie walked through the woods to Haverbrack Bank Pot (The Dog Hole), discovered in 1912 and excavated over the years (including some work by Hugh in the '80s) but petering out at 12 m. below the surface.

On reaching Fairy Steps the walkers paused to admire the view and reject the offers of Alan and Mick to tie on to their rope (*below + bottom*).



It was indeed a fine morning, with crisp untrodden snow underfoot and the promised clear blue sky above us, as Team B plodded up Coire Dearg. At the Bealach an Lochain (*on the skyline below*), we met the footprints of Team A, already ahead of us after traversing Meall Cuanail. The sky had clouded suddenly and a fierce wind was whipping up hurtful spindrift. We sheltered for lunch and began the steep climb towards the summit. Cloud enveloped us, rushing past in the howling gale and it became difficult to stand. Occasional breaks showed a view upwards that looked Himalayan and some opted to descend. It seemed unwise to separate and so we all returned by the way we had come. Team A caught us up at the roadside, having reached Ben Cruachan's main summit but then also turning back from their planned route. No-one regretted the teams' decisions and some had experienced their most challenging day in the hills so, later, in the comfort of the hotel bar, it was pronounced 'a good day'.



Thursday was calmer and Team A returned to tick off Beinn Cruachan's second Munro, Stob Diamh, from the east, while a party of six drove over the Connel Bridge to climb Creach Beinn. It stayed clear and dry (warm and sunny at sea-level!) but there were still one or two challenging sections on the hill to remind us that it was still winter in Scotland.

So it had been another great Scottish Hotel Meet and there were many more tales of island-hopping and exploration to tell than the hill-days listed here. Next year the Fellfarers will move on; see 'Coming Events', opposite.



The walk back to the water's edge was illuminated by a gorgeous coral sky smouldering behind the still-skeletal trees of Haverbrack Bank. It was a contented bunch of Fellfarers that chatted over their pints in the Ship as the light faded outside.

Midweek Walk No. 84. April 26th 2017

Lanes of the Parishes south of Kendal

Billed as a "10 mile easy circular walk linking footpaths, lanes and towpaths", the walk explored some lesser known footpaths and lanes to the south east of Kendal.

Starting in Sedgwick, Sue and Tony led along the filled in canal, then across fields to Stainton with its pretty packhorse bridge. The walk led pleasantly along to Summerlands, then crossed the A65 and passed the old Quaker Burial Ground near Low Park, where we tried, rather unsuccessfully, to decipher the remnants of the carved inscriptions. We passed Birkrigg and Halfpenny and paused for a picnic lunch in a delightful bluebell wood by Saint Sunday Beck.

Passing the Blease Hall airstrip (!), the group stopped at Blease Hall to admire the ancient building, the north wing of the house dating from c 1450. The Cumbria Directory lists, amongst other items of interest, that a 'Dobbie Stone' hangs from the rafters there (a 'witch stone', a stone with a hole in it, protection from evil spirits and imbued with healing powers, wisdom and other mystical attributes). We climbed steeply up onto the Helm to take in its fine summit view, then down the western slope to Natland, and back to Sedgwick (*below*) via the canal and the beautiful bluebells in Larkrigg Woods . A fine walk with much of interest. Thanks Tony and Sue.



Evening Walk. May 16th 2017

Leighton Moss RSPB Bird Reserve

Nineteen members and friends arrived at Leighton Moss for a stroll around the wetlands with RSPB members Paul and Rose East.

It was a fine evening and it didn't matter that there were no sightings of otters or sounds of booming bitterns. There was a sighting of one of the marsh harriers and a flock of black tailed godwits amongst the more common wildfowl.

Walking back from the hide (*Fellfarers in residence below*) we all became animated at the sight of a tawny owl coolly watching us watching it. We topped off the evening with a visit to the quirky and friendly Woodland Hotel.

An excellent evening, thanks to Paul and Rose.



Midweek Walk No. 85. May 24th 2017

Cartmel and the Ellerside Ridge

Twenty one members and friends (*below from the left: Val H, Colin, Ellie, Margaret C, Fred, Frank, Mick, Angie, Irene, Tony, Jean, Les, Margaret A, Clare, Sandra, Graham, Sue, Tony, Val C, with Hugh taking the photo*) had a lovely walk on a lovely day, with lovely people: well organised Colin and Val!

Meeting at the racecourse, Colin led through the fields alongside the river Eea (*sic*) and up to Howbarrow. Missing the top because of access issues, the walk headed northwards along the Ellerside ridge. Lunch was taken overlooking the Greenodd estuary before returning via Override and Hard Crag. Drinks in the square rounded off an excellent walk.

Hugh Taylor



Coming Events

October:

The midweek walk will be based in North Wales, staying in and walking from the Oread Hut, Tan-y-Wddfa, at Rhyd ddu near Beddgelert in North Wales.

The hut is booked for the Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October and we are hoping for a good turn out!

For those who have not been before: The pub nearby serves food but the hut is self-catering. There are great walks of all levels nearby, including the Snowdon range, and to tempt you further a steam train too! Please contact Clare Fox (01539 727531) to book your place, we need to have numbers as soon as possible.

The charge is just £5 per person per night.

November:

A Slide Show with a difference:

Jan Wiltshire, a local author, is giving us an illustrated talk on Scouts Scar on 14th November at the Strickland Arms.

She has written a superb little book on the subject: '*About Scout Scar. Looking into a Cumbrian landscape*' and will bring along some copies of the book and cards for sale. Some early Christmas shopping perhaps? She does charge a fee so we will be asking for a small (voluntary) donation on the night..

Next Year:

Finally our 2018 Scottish Hotel Meet has now been booked from 18th to 23rd March, Sunday to Friday.

The hotel is the Killin Hotel in the village of Killin and the price per person per night for dinner, bed and breakfast will be £40. There is a £15 charge per night for single occupancy.

Killin is situated at the western end of Loch Tay in Stirlingshire and is famous for the scenic Falls of Dochart in the middle of the village. It sits between the Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve and the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park so there's lots to see and do!

Please contact Clare Fox to make a provisional booking for a place as soon as possible.

KFF Club Events for July - October 2017

Every Thursday evening is 'Climbing for All' at a local crag throughout the summer or at Kendal Climbing Wall when wet and after Sept 14th.
Please contact Mike Palk 01524 736548

July 2017

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

Tuesday 11th - Evening Walk

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

August 2017

No committee meeting.

Weekend 1st-31st - High House

is booked for the summer break, including:

Saturday 5th - Borrowdale Fell Race.

Please let Peter Goff know if you can help by marshalling check points. Tel. 01524 736990

Tuesday 8th - Evening Walk

Meet at 6.30pm at the Highwayman Inn on A683, Nether Burrow, near Kirkby Lonsdale (GR 614 752). There is parking in the pub carpark. Four miles easy walking. Leaders Sandra and Tony Atkinson 01524 423776

Sunday 20th - Treasure Hunt

Meet at the Market Place War Memorial, Kendal at 2.30 pm onwards for a staggered start for a Town Centre Treasure Hunt, finishing at a nearby pub - to be chosen on the day. Compete as individuals, teams or families. Prizes! Organisers Irene and Graham Ramsbottom 01539 725808

Wednesday 23rd - Midweek Walk

Askham to Heughscar Hill. Meet 10.30am in Askham (GR 507 235). Seven mile walk with 750 ft of ascent. Easy walking. Leader Roger Atkinson K.732490

September 2017

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

Sunday 3rd-5th - Away Meet

Black Sail Youth Hostel in Ennerdale. Now fully booked.

Weekend 15th-17th - High House

High House is booked for the Working Weekend. Drinks and biscuits and Saturday night's meal provided.

Wednesday 27th - Midweek Walk

High Newton to Windermere. Catch the X6 bus at 10am to High Newton - meeting at 10.39 am for a 12 mile walk to Windermere station. Easy walking taking in Gummers How. Leaders Mike and Adele Walford 015395 52102

October 2017

Tuesday 3rd- Committee Meeting at the Rifleman's Arms

Sunday 9th - Weekend Walk

A Circular walk from Reeth. Ten km. Meet at 11am at Reeth village green (GR 038 993). The terrain is mostly gently undulating walk with just a bit of uphill. Leader Pam Heseltine 01748 823558

Tuesday 10th - Slide Show

Welcome to the first Slide Show of the season. 'A Holiday in the Western Cape of South Africa'. Meet 7.30 pm at Strickland Arms. Sandwiches provided. Guests welcome. Presenters Sue and Tony Maguire

17th and 18th - Midweek Walk

A midweek walk with a difference! The Oread Hut is booked at Rhydd Ddu, North Wales for the nights of 17th and 18th for midweek walk(s) on 18th. Walks to be discussed and planned on the Tuesday.

The price is £5 per person per night. Places must be booked in advance. Please contact Clare Fox to book your place.

Weekend 23rd-29th - High House

is booked for half term for Fellfarers.



Please tell friends and family - all are welcome.