

LOW & HIGH FELL WALKING GROUP

When we walk across terrain in South Cumbria described as *Ground* or *Allotment*, it has nothing to do with gardening. These were lands donated in medieval times to the local abbey or priory (the donor hoping they can jump the queue for Heaven). After the reformation, the monarch had these lands sold off to the public (or *allotted* to them) – something we learned on Sue Ward's walk as we rambled round Simpson's Ground and Foxfield in the hills beyond High Newton.

A month earlier, Sue had led us up Farleton Knott where we could admire the incredible natural limestone sculptures. Though there were floods on some roads and tracks, it was a pleasant sunny winter's day.

In January's high fell from Coniston we climbed the pass to Tilberthwaite, ice still frosting the path and puddles were frozen. But on reaching the flank of Holme Fell, the rain began teeming down just as we settled for lunch, and we huddled, bedraggled in the deluge, trying to prevent sandwiches getting even soggier.

There was fairer weather, but a brisk cold wind, when we visited Wray Castle, via an ascent of Latterbarrow. Wintry sun glinted off Windermere, the skyline filled by Wansfell, Fairfield horseshoe and the Helvellyn ridge

Ameer led our post-Christmas coastal walk from Arnside. Fortunately, the trains were reliable. At the pele tower, Julie, Chris and Andrew shared tales of local incidents and history. We searched for coral fossils at the shoreline. You see, hopefully we learn as we walk! From the summit of the Knott, all of Lakeland spread invitingly before us from where we could identify forthcoming walks. Which brings us to our next term's programme which will include: walks in Dunnerdale, around Crook and Gilpin, and as far afield as Settle in Yorkshire. And there will be peaks to climb including Sheffield Pike, Wansfell, Stickle Pike, and Angletarn Pike.

Andrew Musgrave