

LOW AND HIGH FELL WALKING GROUP

In c1350, close to the settlement of Crook, a wild boar was attacking pilgrims travelling the route from Holy Cross at Plumgarths to the island chapel at Lady Holme on Windermere. Local knight, Sir Richard de Gilpin, became legendary for successfully dispatching the ferocious beast. But we encountered no such boars on our circular trek in the district.

Our walk was a delight: spring warmth, glorious views, dry paths, fields filled with a gambol of lambs, edged with garlic, fragrant gorse, lady's smock and jack-by-the-hedge, and trees just budding into their greenest finery. Our only disappointment was this was billed as our annual bluebell walk – while most of South Lakeland was profuse with bluebells, we spotted almost none here.

What a contrast with our March walk up Stickle Pike. All day we were in the cloud-shrouded mountains but didn't see a single crag nor peak through the drizzle-drenched fog.

Pete led a high fell ascent of Helvellyn's neighbour: Sheffield Pike. The steep slopes tested our fitness. While it was spring in Glenridding, snow lined some higher ridges where we endured a hailstorm. Not often can we ask at coffee break 'would you like ice with your coffee?' Yet we all succeeded and conquered, even our octogenarians, to appreciate the incredible views of summits rising above Ullswater.

Thanks to Seppo (Stephenson's Ground), Ameer (Wansfell), Pete (Sheffield Pike), and Andrew (Stickle Pike & Crook) for leading walks.

In summer months we look forward to low fell treks in Ribblesdale, the coast path from Silecroft, Great Asby Scar near Orton, and Shap Abbey. Our high fell jaunts will include Angletarn Pike, Grey Friars, and High Street.

Andrew Musgrave