

A Short Break in the Lakes



It is always nice to enjoy a few days away especially when the trip is to my favourite place. We did worry about the weather, we being Stephen, Babs, John and I. it was early November which can be rather unpredictable at the best of times but we had a nice warm house in Portinscale near Keswick, to return to if we were wet and cold and, if all else failed, a pack of cards too.

On our first evening we all decided to walk across the fields to town; a straight forward walk during the daylight hours but that was the snag it was pitch black out there. We soon ran into trouble, the light at the end of the road was out and none of us had been out long

enough to gain any night vision. Once we found the corner the grumbling stopped and we set off at a brisk pace for the bridge that crosses the river Greta to lead us on across the fields and into town. We all tried to take a few photos but as we stood on the bridge the mist rolled in from the river, it was all very spooky. With the help of a light from Steve's phone we all managed to arrive safely in Keswick, we even made it to the pub for a quick drink before trekking back; that folks was our first ever night walk.

The weather was mostly kind to us on our walks in fact there was even blue skies on Wednesday; we were up and out fairly early, it had been decided to walk from Poley Bridge a few miles away, this small village is on the edge of lovely Ulswater. As we neared the lake the weather denigrated; the mist rolled in and the blue sky disappeared from view, we all felt a little let down after leaving the sun back at Portinscale. Still we did not let a little mist and damp stop us, on we went up through the village out onto Heughscar Hill, we had all with the exception of Babs been on the walk or part of it before and strangely enough for myself and John it had been in similar weather. As we slowly walked up the hillside the mist drew back to allow us very good views of the lake and distant mountains, Striding Edge and Helvellyn were very clear. The sun shone down on us and there is nowhere nicer to take a lunch break then on a fell side in the Lake District, out came the first mince pies of the season and I phoned Dave to tell him about our very nice day, (I know I'm good like that) he did not seem to appreciate the kindness I did him, cannot think why.

On the top it was rest time, the last pull up was a little steeper than our path down below but the cameras came out again while we sat and stared. From there it was just a short way up to the top of Askham Fell and then we took the ridge path along the escarpment, soon Penrith could be seen down below laid out in the late autumn sun. On reaching the far end of the ridge after a false start we soon found the path to take us back down to the lower one and it was then we came across the first mud of the holiday. Stephen took off into the bracken and bog lower down still, while we struggled on through the mud. Babs also gave up with the muddy path after a while and followed Stephen, we did all get through, just some of us collected more mud than others. It was all downhill from then on until we reached the village, the stone seat near the car park came in very handy and after changing out of our dirty boots we sat on it in the sunshine to enjoy the rest of our coffee and crisps before driving back to our holiday home.



The short break was only four nights but we managed three walks and two trips out in the car, visited Castlerigg Stone Circle in the pouring rain, looked around Grasmere, even had time to do some shopping at Kendal on the way back to Grimsby and last but not least called in on our niece Rebecca in Huddersfield for a short but pleasant visit. I must just add that for one of our party (Babs) it was a first holiday in Cumbria and as we left I did hear the words "When are we booking again?"

Had we took our trip the following week this would have been a very different story, heavy rain caused severe flooding to the area we stayed and I think it will be some time before they can get back to normal. But, they sent this message out to the tourists whom the people of the Lakes rely on for their economy 'The Lake District is open for business!!'

We are all now looking forward to the next Lakes holiday in March.

Submitted by Kath Fisher