

## Tricouni Newsletter April Meet, 15th - 18th April 2022



Present:

Richard and Katie Stockwell, David and Joyce Clode, Charlie and Lynn Harrison, Vicki, Chris, Milo and Scarlett Lincoln, John and Karen, Roy and Helen, Jenny and Chris Wyatt, Kristine, Stuart, Raya & Iris Clode, Richard, Steph, Angus & Gwen Oaten.

Weather: Friday- sun and cloud, a little wind; Saturday - grey and windy with a glimmer of sun; Sunday - less windy at first but increasing at lunchtime and more sunny.

### Thursday 14th April

Katie and Richard stayed in Windermere prior to the easter weekend so did some walks in that locality. On Thursday they took on Loughrigg Tarn and Brathay River (4 ½ miles - 160m ascent) and reported lovely views (shame about the expensive carpark - £2 an hour!) then visited Skelwith Waterfall.

### Friday 15th April

On Friday Katie and Richard climbed up to Orrest Head and Allen Knott - a 5 mile walk with 230m ascent. It has a very fine viewpoint overlooking Windemere, a favourite view of Wainwright. Some footpaths were closed and they ended up in a field with a bull so beat a hasty retreat and found an alternative route - lucky there was one!!!

Meanwhile, a large group of Tricounis gathered at Ullswater Steamer car park in Glenriding, to hike up to Helvellyn via Swirral Edge. One group (Stuart and the Oatens) worked their way along Striding Edge in good dry, sunny conditions (11 miles).

Another group (Karen, John, Kris, Iris, Raya and Dave) walked back from Helvellyn via the undulating tops of Lower Man, White Side and Raise to the YHA and the mine workings of the Slate Mine. They spotted the top of the button lift (luckily no snow). A third party (Joyce and David) began the Helvellyn trail then turned towards Lanty's Tarn. Fallen trees required a detour down the road to Patterdale then they walked back along the road to Glenridding.

## **Saturday 16th April**

Lynn and Charlie celebrated their 3rd wedding anniversary with a walk to Sprinkling Tarn via Sty Head, accompanied by Jenny.

Charlie writes: The most obvious feature was the number of cars in the car parks and on the side of the road and the continuous stream of walkers on the track. Jenny described it as a Piccadilly Circus, quite appropriate. In spite of this there was no denying the views and the fine weather. We had morning tea beside the 1000 ft rock which is highlighted in Malcolm's painting of the mountains and valley alongside Taylor- Gill Force, hanging on our dining room wall. There is something nice about knowing the exact spot that the artist is reflecting.

Sprinkling Tarn was iceless this time - quite different to when we were there 5 years ago. Nevertheless, it's a beautiful spot to reflect or take a swim. Not that we were intent on taking a swim, but Jenny did her best to convince a fellow hiker that he should take the plunge. Alas no entertainment for us.

Coming down alongside Grains Gill back to Stockley Bridge was steeper than we remembered it, but perhaps it was just that we are now a little older and our fitness is not as good as it was. However, with a little caution we managed the descent without mishap and then trudged our way back to Seatoller, in time for tea and cake.

Skafell Pyke (978m) 10 miles - Kris, Stuart, Richard O, John, Raya, Iris and Dave

The group approached the Pyke via Styhead Tarn and the Corridor route then came back via Grains Gill. They got a bit lost in the mist on the top and almost walked off the cliffs. John saved the day when he pointed out that everyone was going in the wrong direction.

Meanwhile, a relaxing day was had by David, Joyce and Karen who walked from Seatoller to Rothwaite then Watenlath. They had scones with clotted cream and jam, walked along the river and got the bus back.

Vicki, Chris, Milo and Scarlett, Jenny and Chris took on Wansfell Pyke, Troutbeck and Skelghyll Wood (6.6 miles) and reported wild garlic, waterfalls and good views.

Roy had a 'good long walk with excellent views' with a walk from Seatoller to Honiston. He had a steep climb up to Dale Head along Hindscarth Edge to Robinson then headed north-east to Little Town, back south to look in the tunnel of Goldscape Lead Mine, then back over Hindscarth and back to Dale head. From here, he walked down to Seatoller via Rigghead quarries.

Richard S. (with essential backup from Katie) took Angus and Gwen for a climb. They took on Glaciated Slab, Intake Ridge, Combe Ghyll and had an appreciative audience in Helen

and Steph who later headed off to do some landscape painting and drawing lower down the valley.

They completed the following:

1. Trod Yan,                      60ft      'Moderate' (Mod)
2. Trod Tan,                      55ft      'Difficult' (Diff)
3. Trod Tethera,                75ft      'Difficult'
4. Trod Methera,                80ft      'Very difficult' (V Diff)

Chris met up with a random 'John' from the internet to go climbing on Pavey Ark. They climbed from the bottom to the top of the crag via 'Capella' and 'Aardvark' - both high class E1 rock climbs. John did the leading as Chris had left his harness in Swansea.

## Easter Sunday

A team walk: Kris, Helen, Vicki, Jenny, Chris, Milo, Scarlett, Raya and Iris.

The team took on the ascent through Rigghead quarry to High Spy. They continued along the ridge to Maiden Moor, then made their descent at Hause Gate finishing at grange (for ice cream/pint/appperol spitz) and a giddy bus ride back.

John, Karen, Stuart and Roy walked from Buttermere to Honiston via Red Pike, High Style, High Cragg, Haystacks and Black Beck Tarn. It was an 11 mile hike with an ascent of more than 1000m - They reported 'good weather' with a stiff wind- 33,600 steps claimed Karen. "It was long and painful" added Stuart.



Steph and Richard O took on Grasmoor (851m) and Cragg Hill (835m) via Lad Hows and Rannerdale Valley (7 miles circular walk). It was a beautiful walk with clear views and

sunshine starting with a steep and unrelenting climb to Grasmoor where a huge walking group from London peopled the summit. They traversed across to Cragg Hill where they managed to lose the huge group and headed back down the mountain via Whiteless Edge and through the idyllic Rannerdale valley. The bluebells were just beginning to peep out of the ground as water gurgled in a mountain stream.

Meanwhile, Charlie and Lynn decided to have an easy day with a walk around Buttermere.

Charlie writes: We took the bus to Buttermere and walked up through the Burtness forest. When we reached the gate at the forest edge, we decided to have a look at the map. Another couple approached and warned that if we were intent on looking for the descending track further on - be careful, they could not find it. That was enough for me, so we walked back down and took a path just above Buttermere that was less travelled.



Lunch was at a clearing out of the wind with the most beautiful view of Hassness Country House across the lake, sparkling in the sunshine. At Gatesgarth we realised our bus back was not due for over an hour. There was nothing we could do except sit in the sunshine with a Lakes ice cream and wonder where we had gone wrong.

Who should we meet on the bus? David and Joyce! Once again back to Seatoller for a cup of tea and company. Highlight of the bus ride was when a potential passenger at the stop asked the driver what time he could get a bus back to Buttermere. Driver said the was "one due in 20 minutes – if it was running today." Who knows, the guy could still be there waiting!

For Chris the climbing theme continued on Sunday with a trip to the small but perfectly formed Goats Cragg near Watenlath. Partnering up with another random person from the internet, they completed 7 pitches in good style. Note: the Cragg is worth visiting for the views.

Richard S and Gwen also continued their climbing theme (with back-up by Katie - Angus revising for exams) at Shepherds Crag in Borrowdale with the following climbs:



1. Brown Slabs 120ft (Diff) - A 2-pitch multi-pitch climb (considered hard for its grade)
2. Brown Slabs Arete 150ft (Diff) a 3-pitch multi pitch climb - a super route form position, holds etc -0 probably the best route on this part of the crag, irrespective of grade



















**ON THE NEXT PAGES ARE SOME OTHER ADVENTURES UNDERTAKEN BY TRICOUNI CLUB MEMBERS DURING 2022 :-**

## **The Oatens take on Angels Landing in the USA.**

This summer, we headed to Western USA on a road trip. We started in Colorado and headed across Utah to Las Vegas. From there, we cut through the Mojave Desert to LA.

One of the highlights was hiking to Angels Landing in Zion National Park, Utah. The States is full of extraordinary rock formations on a mind boggling scale and Utah has its fair share. As we steadily made our way west, we took in the spectacular Arches national park with over 2000 natural weather-worn rock arches and Bryce Canyon, like some Gaudi Cathedral on steroids and then there was Zion.

We had heard about Angels Landing as an extraordinary walk - 'one of the classic day hikes of the United States' and decided to book. Turns out due to high demand we had to enter a lottery to get a ticket. Only 25% of people who applied were offered tickets. We got lucky!

We were given a time slot and set off early. Again lucky as the heat of the day was yet to build. In addition, it was cloudy - welcome relief on what was to be a grueling climb.

It begins conventionally enough. Steep but steady, with good paths cutting through deep canyons in the red rock, then a run of 25 switchback turns called 'the Wiggles' which took us steeply up to what seemed like base camp aptly named Scouts Lookout.

From here we saw a towering and knife-edge ridge, like the back of some enormous rosy, pink chameleon, not dissimilar to Striding Edge but somewhat larger, steeper and only heading UP. Along the brow of this ridge, was a single file of people working their way up. We set off.

It was precipitous and thrilling. I realised that if I was going to make it, I could not look down - not even once! Gwen, on the other hand, said that the best thing about it was that there was 'no safety' and that it was 'really fun to hang on to the chain rope and swing out to look down. Glad she was too far up ahead for me to witness this! The strong metal chain rope made the climb possible, enabling participants to pull up on the boulders that made up the ridge path, with sheer drops of 1000 feet on either side (It also helped on the way down and I developed a handy abseiling stance for much of the descent). An hour later we were at the dizzying top - a tiny flat area of rock, perfect for any celestial being to alight on with a 360 degree view up and down the main canyon of the park.

Spectacular walk.

Trailhead to summit - 5 miles. Ascent 1488ft, 4 hour round trip.



















Following the Tricouni Club Easter meet Katie and Richard Stockwell did the

## ELIE CHAIN WALK

The description says an alpine via ferrata in a unique coastal setting - an adventurous outing for budding mountaineers in Fife. I can't say it was on my bucket list but Richard was keen to give it a try. If you look it up before the adventure there is the mention of accidents and even deaths so best not to dwell here too much.

We were staying in the area but had to wait until our last day for the tide to be right as you need to start the walk before low water so as not to get cut off by the tide and of course it needs not to be raining as slippery rocks and chains are no fun. The chain walk part is about 1km long and needs to be accessed from

Shell Bay near Earlsferry - walking on the Fife Coastal path. There is an unsigned path which takes you down steep grass to the start. Once you are on the path there is no sensible escape as the cliff is unclimbable so you either have to continue or reverse steps. It is classed as a grade 2 scramble and although the climbing is assisted by chains there are places it would be unpleasant to fall!

There are 8 chains in all. Some harder than others, of differing lengths but with carved footholds to help you. Some ascents, some descents and a couple of horizontals. I have to say I found it quite hard going but Richard loved it. The worst chain for me was the long ascent where you are almost overhanging as you try to ascend and then the chain loops get smaller and it was hard to hold on with very sweaty hands! You have to descend and walk along the bouldery beach before ascending near a cliff arch and doing the final bit which involves crossing over a gully holding onto the chain for dear life! The last part goes along a vertical wall and is quite easy, like walking on steps horizontally, and then you head down to the beach to find your way back to the Fife Coastal path, pleased that you didn't have to call out the emergency services.

# Elie Chainwalk

## WARNING

This unique scramble will take you across hazardous coastal terrain for 0.5 Km. There are 8 chains, some vertical, with up to 10 metres height gain/loss. Allow 1-3 Hours.

Beware of the following risks to yourself and others with you:



**BECOMING TRAPPED BY THE INCOMING TIDE -**  
the slopes above are very steep, loose and dangerous to climb.

**BEING STRUCK BY FALLING STONES AND ROCK.**



**FALLING FROM STEEP ROCK -**  
Secure hand and foot grip is essential, particularly when wet.

If you are wearing suitable clothing and footwear and decide to proceed,  
please do so with great care.



Email feedback: [chain.walk@fife.gov.uk](mailto:chain.walk@fife.gov.uk) [www.fifedirect.org.uk/chainwalk](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/chainwalk)

















