

Fellwalking Report January 2023 by Annie Clouston

Fabulous walk this month, an eleven-miler – thanks to Richard Acland for leading. Astonishingly, fourteen of us set out on a severely unpromising morning where the cloud layer was embracing the heather tops and the damp seeped through copious layers of protective clothing. From Folly Top, looking like committed striders from the Ministry of Silly Walks, we hiked a mile across hip-dislocating heathery fell across Langleydale Common where, before too long, the sun won its fight with the fog and the most marvellous landscape was quite suddenly in front of us. So good for the spirits.

We descended into the Gaunless valley and across the river to the Copley Chimney, once the property of the Gaunless Valley Lead Mill, at the foot of which in the Gibbsneese Plantation we had lunch. We returned to our starting point via a route that Richard had, with some economy of the truth, warned us was “a bit boggy”. The timing of wet feet at least at the end of a walk is as good as it gets at this time of the year. Thanks to Pete and Liz Harding for post-wetfeet refreshment.

Eleven walkers (two camera shy, one camerawoman)

