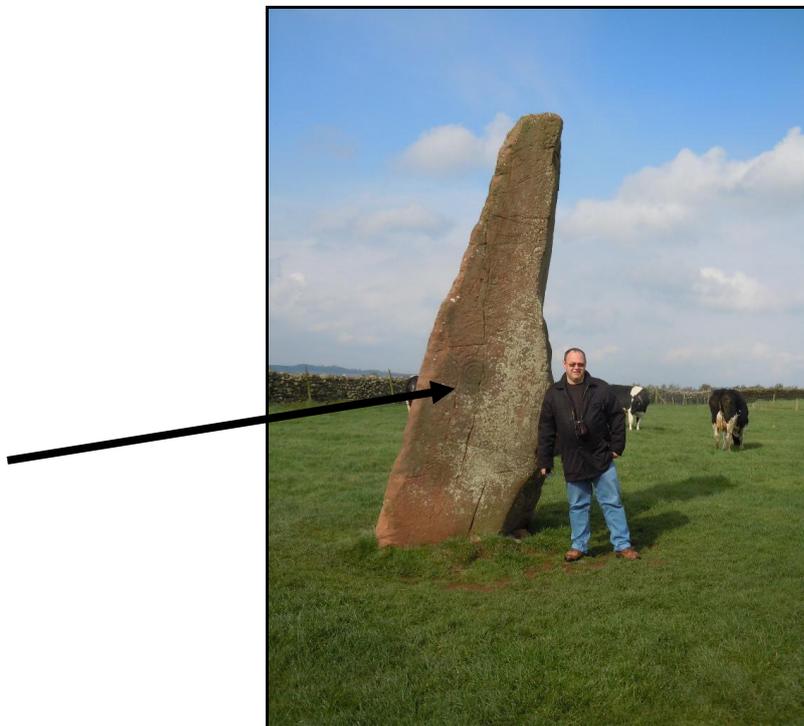


HADS SURVIVE CUMBRIA!!!

Thirteen members of HADS travelled up to Cumbria on Tuesday 24th April to begin a one week field trip to this landscape which is full of archaeology, myth and legend. Transport was by mini-bus which was big enough to carry us and our entire luggage. This luggage seemed to grow in size every day thanks to numerous visits to site shops etc!

Day Two of our trip was a very busy one indeed and the weather was dry but cold. We concentrated today on the Neolithic aspect of the Cumbrian landscape by first visiting the large stone circle of Long Meg and her Daughters. We were joined by a herd of cows on this visit but we seemed to get along together quite well. Long Meg is a standing megalith set outside the main stone circle and it emits a large source of natural energy. This energy line can be traced across the stone circle.



Long Meg (notice the spiral rock art)





Dowsing the energy field emitting from Long Meg



Members just doing their own thing!

Just a very short distance away from Long Meg and her Daughters there is another very small stone circle aptly named Little Meg. The two sites appear to be on the same energy line. Although very small the Little Meg complex has spiralled rock art as well.



Little Meg Stone Circle



Rock art at Little Meg Stone Circle

Our next visit was to a Neolithic henge site called King Arthur's Round Table....nothing seems to link the site with the legends of King Arthur but the site lies just a few yards away from the Belinus Line, this is the famous north/south energy line linking Scotland and Brading on the Isle of Wight.



King Arthur's Round Table ~ Neolithic Henge

A welcome lunch break was taken at a river-side tea room at Pooley Bridge at the head of the Ullswater Lake



Lunch at Pooley Bridge

Our first stop after lunch was to the church at Barton. This church was built on the site of a Neolithic henge and the ditch of the henge can be located by dowsing in the churchyard. An energy line can be traced across the site and it passes through the church itself.

There are many examples of such sites across Cumbria.

Our next and last visit of the day was a really fascinating visit to the Mayburgh Henge site. The henge itself is extremely large and the bank is comprised of over three million river cobbles that have been placed very carefully to create the banks of the henge. The only entrance is to the eastern side of the henge which faces the Pennines.

Originally there were several standing stones visible within the henge but only one survives acting as a focal point within the henge.



The Mayburgh Henge.... and.... Saying our farewells to the Mayburgh Henge

We then headed back to the comfort of the Westmorland Hotel at Shap for a well earned rest before dinner.

Day Three of our trip started in the rain as we visited Shap Abbey, ironically the last Medieval abbey to be built in England and one of the last to be closed by Henry VIII. The abbey is in an isolated spot on the banks of the River Lowther.



A very wet Shap Abbey

After a short coffee stop we headed towards probably the most spectacular stone circle in Cumbria, that of Castlerigg.



Very wet views of Castlerigg

This was supposed to be one of our highlight visits but as the rain intensified we were forced back to our trusty minibus to escape the wet and the cold.

Giving up on Castlerigg we headed south to drive through the mountain passes that were gushing with waterfalls as the rain still cascaded down, both outside the mini-bus as well as inside!

The next stop was for lunch at Grasmere with a chance to visit Dove Cottage, the home of William Wordsworth, whose famous lines about daffodils inspired certain members of the group to put pen to paper to create these wonderful words of poetry: -

***“I wandered lonely as a cloud
As I was prone to do on Sundays
I then looked back at the hotel
And saw Edwina in her undies”***

Or

***“There was a young lady called Ed
Who wore very little in bed
She denied all the rumours
She wore green-spotted bloomers
Until Marshall confirmed they were red”***

***We do have some hidden talent within our members ~ let's hope it
remains hidden!!***

After an extended lunch in Grasmere we carried on driving south to Ambleside, on the shores of Lake Windermere. Here we came to visit the site of the Roman Fort of “Galava” ~ a support base for supplying Hadrian's Wall



Ed showing off (not her bloomers though!)



On the site of the Roman Fort at Ambleside

After a wet and cold day we headed back up the Kirkstone Pass to enjoy the drive back to Shap following the shore of Ullswater all the way to Penrith.

Over night we lost the first of three members of HADS who went down with a violent stomach disorder, which caused concern to all of the group as we had to leave some members behind in their hotel rooms for most of the rest of the trip.

Day Four began in sunshine, unlike Day Three, so it was an unanimous decision to return to Castlerigg to see it in its spectacular glory ~ which we did!



Castlerigg in the dry!!



From Castlerigg we drove back through Penrith and continued to Brougham Castle, a Medieval castle with later additions but part of the site of the Roman Fort of *Brocavum*, the remains of which are clearly seen in the fields behind the later castle,



Brougham Castle



After a pub lunch at Askham we ventured onto the open moorland at Moor Divock. This gave us an opportunity to walk the moors and discover the numerous cairns, cists and remains of stone circles and stone rows that are scattered across this landscape.

Today we had to return to the hotel early to change for dinner in The Greyhound Hotel at Shap where we met some dear friends who were to join us for the ADG Dowsing event for the rest of the weekend.



Dinner at The Greyhound



Our last dinner at Shap.



And it's goodbye from all

A report on the ADG Dowsing event will be issued shortly.

Despite the illness suffered to some and the cold and wet weather we did have a fabulous time with our Westmorland friends and their landscape.

Don ~ May 2012