

Clean Slate

November 2008 and I have just completed my second round of Nuttall's and my wife, Liz her first. For a number of weeks after we wandered around like lost sheep wondering what to do and then went off to our Xmas ski holiday. The year before I had bought Liz a copy of Wainwright's Outlying Fells and so in January 2009 we started on a new venture. Looking through the other Wainwright books we decided that we might as well try and do all of them as well. At some stage on a wet Sunday afternoon I wandered into a book shop in the lakes and picked up a copy of the "Birketts" it offered alternative routes to get some Wainwrights and added a few hills (214) and ridges I had not explored before. Soon most outings consisted of bagging Wainwrights and Birketts but Liz did not know it most of the time.

By October 2010 we had completed the "outlying fells" and were pushing on with the main Wainwright peaks grabbing a few Birketts in between. Come March 2011 we topped out on The Nab to complete the last of the Wainwright's with a fine group of friends and so comes the great decision. The week after Liz had some other commitment and I went off to the Lakes on my own for a few days, the seed was set. The only trouble with this plan was that I had so many places to revisit to get those smaller tops that I had not done during the Wainwright's.

Liz had now given up on me and while she would do some walks with me I was often left to my own devices to climb walls and fences on cross country pathless jaunts. Some were great days out on others I felt like one of the horses doing the Grand National there were so many fences. At the start of the year my plan had been to finish at the Hill Walkers' Register Weekend so that I could complete with like minded friends but an injury through the summer meant that that was not going to happen and the final summits have mainly been done in the wettest autumn on record.



Mike Halpin, Stonesty Pike

A word of warning to all you baggers out there, make sure you keep accurate records. On one atrocious day in Ennerdale I fought my way to the summit of Herdus 562M in heavy drizzle and 50mph winds, took my summit photo and returned to the car to ring myself out. A couple of evenings later I came across an identical summit photo taken when we had done Great Bourne during our Wainwright round.



Mike celebrating on Stonesty Pike

My finish is on Stonesty Pike 765M, why? Well when I got down to my last 30 or so it was the only one left with no fences, easy to get to and had a decent hostelry to retreat to at the end. After all I can't afford to lose anymore friends.

Mike Halpin.

Ed's note: Congratulations Mike! We wonder what Liz has got lined up for you next.