

Helvellyn



On the 28th August 2019 I climbed the huge 3117ft, 950m to the summit of Helvellyn via Swirrel Edge with my family. It was one of the hardest climb and amazing hike I have ever done, I am going to write about my experience.

It was our 3rd day camping at the Lake District, I got up in the tent and i asked my Mam and Dad what was our plan for the day as I was so excited everyday as there was always something new to do. My Mam said “we are climbing Helvellyn today, so we are going to have breakfast then go get some stuff for the climb”. I asked if it was going to be hard to do because it is a huge mountain, My Mam and Dad both said yes it is especially as it’s your first mountain and the 3rd highest in England, you have to be careful and stay close you can’t wonder or mess about, you need to stay safe”. So Dad made me a hot chocolate to warm me and Natalia up it was such a cold morning the fog was there like every morning, and then we went for breakfast. I had Rice Krispies.

We got into our clothes we had for the mountain walk, we got in the car and drove to the car park in a place called Glenridding, and it was 11am. We could see the top of the mountain from the car park and I said “oh my god it’s massive” and Natalia was in shock, Mam paid for parking so we could keep the car there until we got back. We all put our hiking boots on and Dad made sure they were tight around my feet so they didn’t slip off or loosen on our way up.

We Started walking to the footpath and saw the sign to Helvellyn which took you too little street first and a pub at the bottom of the footpath.



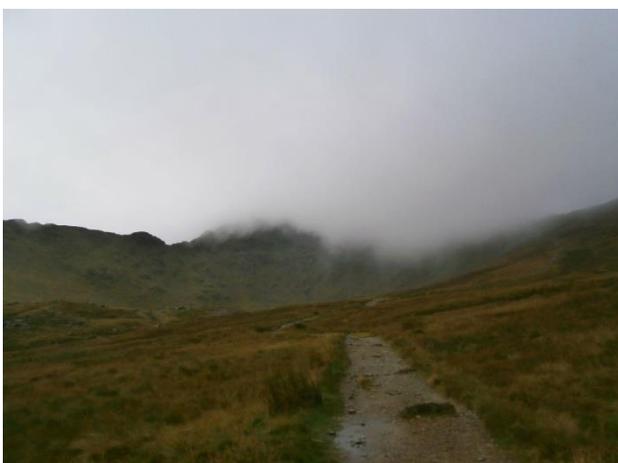
(This is before our climb.)

We started walking up to Greenside Mine which you had to pass before you get on the path to Helvellyn. It was a really long walk just to the Mine. We saw another little sign pointing up which said Helvellyn and that was the footpath. We now were on our way to the top.



(The start of our walk)

We kept on walking we passed a few people on the way up the it was flat at first and really warm as the sun was out, we kept walking up saw some sheep and little water falls on the way we had a few stops for a drink, then it started to get harder walking up but I kept going. I looked behind and realised I had walk a long way. The hills were really hard to walk up but we were getting higher and it looked really cool to see were we walked getting smaller. Then it started to rain and the cloud came rolling down the mountain now that was cool to see I'd never seen a cloud roll down a mountain before we couldn't see the top of it no more but I still wanted to get to the top with my family.



(The cloud rolling down the mountain)

We kept going I started to get tired we got to the pond in the middle of the mountain called the Red Tarn we were now 900m up we stopped for a rest and a snack with a drink we could see the pathway to the summit it wasn't far I was excited to see the top.



(the Red Tarn)



After we had our snack and a bit rest we started the pathway to the summit.



(The pathway to the top)

The pathway was so small Dad said it was called a scramble walk so we had to be extra careful now.

It started to rain and get windy so I had to stay in front of my Mam and behind Dad as he took the lead up to make sure it was safe to keep walking.

We were halfway up the little path it got smaller and I got scared when I looked down the Red Tarn looked smaller and I got scared that I was really high up. We had to climb a rock to get up the top I was still scared my Mam and Dad helped me and Natalia climb up and put us in a safe place while they climbed it too. "Just a few more steps" my Dad said. We were now at the top finally I was pleased I didn't think I would get up it kept going forever.

The cloud had covered the view but parts cleared a bit but still couldn't see anything at the top. I could see a little bit of the Red Tarn but it was amazing being this high up I thought I was never going to do it. Natalia got her flag for Sea Cadets and had her photo taken as I helped her fly it.



As we started to walk back down the mountain I stumbled as the wind hit me and nearly fell off the mountain but my mam caught me which frightened me she kept a hold of me while I got down safely and my Dad kept a hold of Natalia and kept her safe too .

It was a long walk down but was glad that I didn't have to walk up the hill and it was all down.

I started to get really tired and didn't want to walk no more so I sat down for 5 minutes my legs and feet were hurting.

When I finally got back to the car it was 6.30pm it took 7 hours to do the full walk. It was a scary and amazing day.



(After our climb)

(So tired)

One thing I learnt while climbing the mountain is even if it's scary and hard I can do it! I just have to believe in myself!

I can't wait for my next mountain to conquer I'm deciding on Scarfell Pike or Ben Nevis.

By Andrew Parker.