

THE WALK

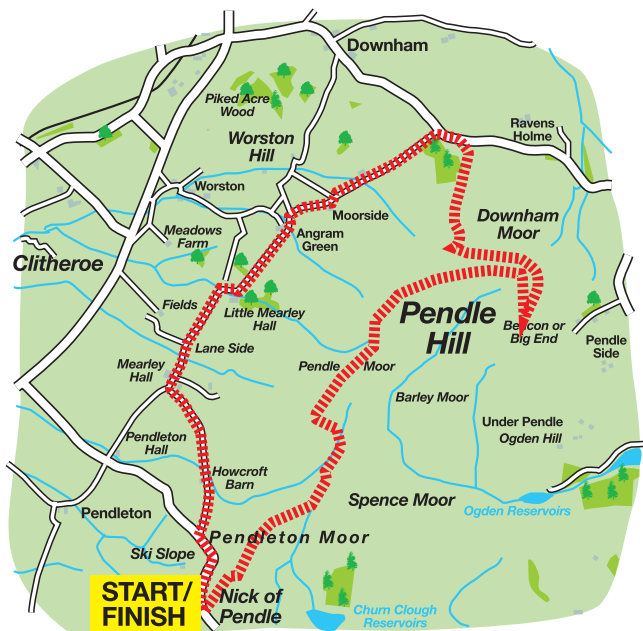
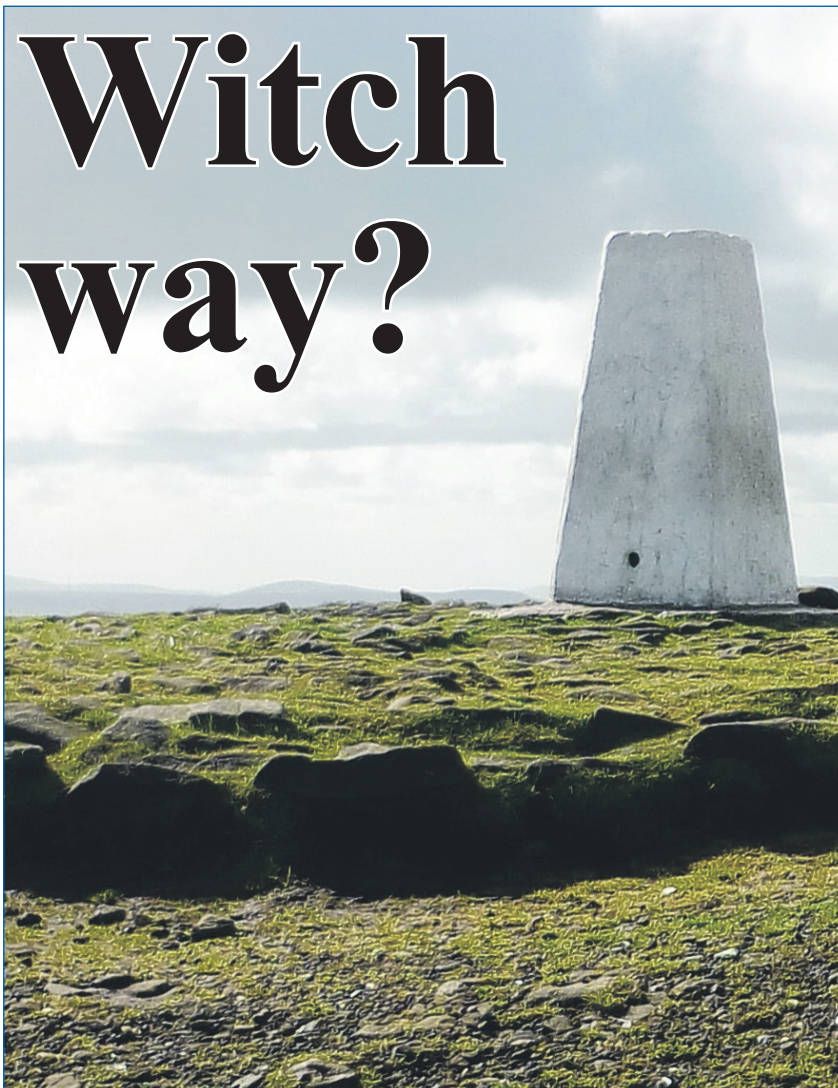
With Halloween approaching it is difficult not to think about Pendle Hill – home of the Lancashire Witches. By far the most popular route to the summit is from Barley; a route so well trodden that you could do it in the dark (which is what many people do on Halloween!) Less popular but very rewarding is to set out from the Nick of Pendle.

Start: Nick of Pendle highest point on the road connecting Sabden to the A59. From Junction 31 of the M6 take the A59 towards Clitheroe. As you approach the town take a road on the right signposted for Sabden. The car park will appear on the right in two miles.

Description: Opposite the car park take a track that soon puts you on the ridge. Keep on the track as it crosses Pendleton Moor. The way ahead is clear and has little by the way of feature to distract you apart from the odd sheep. After Mearley Moor the route begins to drop towards the upper reach of Ogden Clough coming in from the right. At a broken wall coming in from the left 2 ½ k (40 mins) from the start turn left. Follow the wall over the brow of the ridge to reach a boggy track. Turn right aiming for Scouts' Cairn. Continue along the escarpment passing a stone shelter to reach a ladder stile over a wall. Cross this and continue for a further 15 mins to a second ladder stile. The track beyond this leads up to the summit and its trig point 557m above sea level.

From the trig point walk north along the escarpment towards the wall you crossed earlier. Turn right and descend a short distance to the point where the steep stepped path comes up from Barley. Cross a stone stile on the left and commence a long descent towards the village. When the track reaches the bottom of the escarpment it crosses a stretch of boggy ground to a fence. Keep ahead to drop through pasture to a lane. Turn left. 200m further on, turn left onto a concessionary path to Hook-cliffe which you will reach in 15 minutes. Keep ahead past the farm to join a substantial track leading towards Barkerfield.

Before you reach the farm bear left on a grassy track that will bring you to Moorside crossing a brook to enter a farmyard. Bear right and follow the farm drive to a junction just past a cattle grid. Here turn left onto a footpath that crosses a field and skirts Angram Green. The path continues with a fence on the right. Pass through a kissing gate into the next field and turn right over a wooden stile. Turn left and with the hedge on your left walk to the corner of



the field. Walk diagonally left in the next field to arrive at a gate. Keep ahead past a wood to come to Little Mearley Hall. Here the right of way is not clear. Walk alongside a long barn on your left passing through side gates to an enclosed yard. After a metal gate turn right onto the drive. In 100m turn left onto a track that leads across to Lane Side

FACTFILE

Distance: 14k 8.5 miles

Time: 3.5 - 4.5 miles

Summary: Most definitely a walk in two halves. First half a fine uncomplicated moorland yomp. The second half a walk through a succession of farms along the northern flank of the hill. After Mearley Hall there is a stiff climb back to your vehicle.

Map: OS OL 41 Forest of Bowland

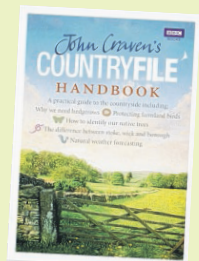
approximately 500m further on. From Lane Side the route takes a farm road through a farm close to Mearley Hall. Just beyond these cross a cattle grid and then look for a waymark sign on the left. The way now is most definitely up to return to the car park. The footpath climbs at first with a fence on the right. On entering a large pasture aim for the ruin of a large barn on the skyline. Keep to the left of this to locate a ladder stile over a wall behind it. The route now crosses rough moorland and then dips to a footbridge beneath Howcroft Barn. Across the stream turn left to keep to the outside of a wall which you follow as it bends towards the road. Keep ahead after the corner of the wall and in 200m reach the road. Turn left for the car park.



NEW BOOK: John Craven
(PICTURE: James Cheadle)

NATUREWATCH

John Craven has been presenting Countryfile since 1989 and has now distilled his knowledge, wisdom and love of the countryside into his Countryfile Handbook. These days the countryside is more popular than ever – a fact not only reflected by the number of rural television programmes, but by the number of people venturing out of our towns to explore the countryside. John Craven's Countryfile Handbook (BBC Books, £12.99) is a practical guide exploring our rural roots and some of the issues facing the countryside today.



The book is divided into the different types of land: coast, villages and market towns; fields and farmland; the uplands and the lowlands; woodlands; waterways and wetlands. John explains the human stories behind the landscape, from historic landmarks such as castles and bridges to those changes we now take for granted, brought about by the needs of agriculture – hedges, fields and woodlands, and climate change. There is handy practical information as well as the do's and don'ts of foraging, why hedgerows are important, restoring British meadows and six uses for a stinging nettle!

John says: "I hope this handbook will help you explore our rural roots and understand the lie of the land a little better."

We have five copies to give away. Answer the question: When did John start presenting Countryfile? Then send your entry, with name, address and telephone number, to: Countryfile Book Competition, Life!, Editorial, The Gazette, Avroe House, Avroe Crescent, Blackpool, FY4 2DP. Closing date is October 29, 2010. Usual Gazette rules apply.

The Gazette is a member of the Johnston Press Group plc, who will use your information to contact you by mail, email, phone, fax or SMS to let you know about our, or our business partners' products, services, and special offers. By giving us your email address and phone numbers, you agree we may contact you by these methods for marketing. If you do not wish to receive information from us or our business partners tell us so in your response. We may monitor communications for quality and training purposes.