

Nicky Nook



Photo by Graham

Driving up from Scorton, on the motorway bridge parking
Gathering and greeting, shouting for the hard of hearing
Trying not to think about the diesel fumes rising
Relocating to Wyresdale Park, into parallel spaces manoeuvring
11 of 12 booted up standing around waiting
The Applestore Café is nearby, is that tea-cups clinking?

One missing, phone ringing, instructions giving
Back marker allocated, rhubarb delivered we're ready and willing
Downhill then uphill, a gate steps up up and we're hiking
Puffing and panting, temperatures rising, layers shedding
Legs screaming, stopping for a breather, for the view turning
Hearts pumping, arriving at the Tarn, the late one joining

More up and up, over open grassland, at the trig point standing
Vistas beheld, photos taken, a syphon well marks a water pipe routing
Down down and out, care taken for safe descending
A route taken in reverse, a stop for a drink, a pleasant morning
A woodland stream, single file, on the boardwalk boots clumping
One lags behind, we know why, blue hydrangeas the road lining

Some leaving, difficult manoeuvring from tricky parking
Most remaining, Applestore Café outside seating
Waitress service does that mean waiting? Attention seeking
Food ordering, prompt serving, eating, drinking, chatting
Raindrops starting, indoor paying, everyone leaving
One remaining, drip drip drip, too much gabbing!

Mike