

## CRINKLE CRAGS TO CRINKLE CRISPS !

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2003.

Group Members, Roy, Cyril, Tony, Trevor, David & Popsie.

Time taken 10 hours 28 minutes - Distance 8 ½ miles.

Height climbed 4050 feet – Average Speed 0.82.m.p.h.

On a misty morning our party set off for the hills of Lakeland, with the welcome addition of Tony, probably feeling redundant as the paper mills had closed for a fortnight ! We duly arrived at our destination point at Three Shires Stone, with David rapidly re-parking the car so that it was left in Westmorland and not in Lancashire ! The Three Shires Stone had been repaired and stood proudly at the point where Lancashire, Cumberland and Westmoreland once met, in the good old days. It was noted that there was a memorial to W.F.1816. Roy astounded everyone by announcing that the memorial stone was to commemorate William Field who was the 'road master' when the road over the Wrynose Pass was built in the early 1800's. His bluff was discovered when others were able to read the actual plaque !

After coffee and refreshments (thanks Margaret) we started walking from some 1350 feet and before too long reached Red Tarn when the clouds descended. We duly reached Pike O' Blisco (2304 Feet), and some of us were lucky to see a break in the clouds and obtain a glimpse of Langdale. These conditions brought forth some quotations about the weather which are often said at these times, all with the intention to improve morale ! A favourite was 'the sun's burning through the clouds', 'It can only get better' and 'have confidence in the weather forecast'.



*View from Pike O' Blisco looking towards Cold Pike.*

After drinks, Cyril decided that we would do a frontal assault on Cold Pike (2259 feet) and in due course we arrived at the summit with the weather showing a dramatic improvement. Next on the agenda was a visit to one of Roy's special summits, not known to anyone else in the group, namely Red Howe (2426 feet). This involved some 'cross-country' walking in tussocky, boggy and wet conditions, but did not deter the intrepid band of walkers, and we arrived at the summit in time for lunch which we enjoyed in the sunshine looking over Eskdale and the Scafells. Cyril attempted to contact Margaret, but could not make contact; he assumed she was busy in the garden ! More about that later !

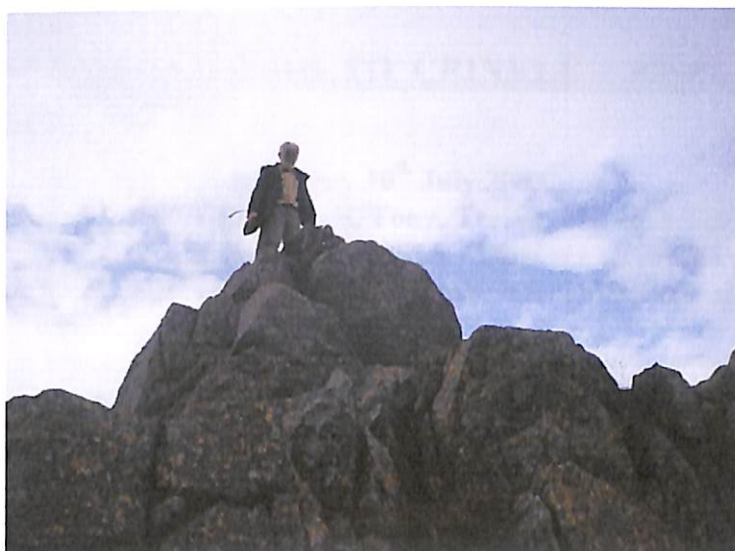


*Popsie, David, Trevor, Tony & Cyril at Red How (2426 feet) summit cairn.*

As it was so hot Cyril decided that the weather was set fair and so dispensed with his leggings and donned a sun hat ready for a scorching afternoon ! Our route was to take us to Crinkle Crag (2816 feet) but before then we all had to negotiate the 'bad-step' a rocky outcrop at the base of the mountain peak. To the amusement of a following walker, who actually videoed the event, we succeeded in pushing and pulling Cyril over this obstacle, and soon reached the summit. Our reward was for the heaven's to open, and we all became fairly damp, I think Cyril's sun hat became sodden !

We re-grouped and talked to the fell-walker that we had entertained, to discover that he was an ex-marine ! No doubt the video was to show people how **NOT** to ascend the 'bad step ! The weather slowly abated as we made our way across a debris of stones, now slippery with the rain for our furthest destination Shelter Crag (2667 feet). This was a tricky operation and required careful negotiation for each step. Eventually we reached our destination, and after making some suggestions, Tony set about improving the size of the cairn at the summit, so there is now a visible reminder of our visit. Well done Tony ! We re-traced our steps in the damp weather, with glimpses of Bowfell, Langdale Pikes and other mountains as we made our way back over the rocks, this time skirting Crinkle Crag, but collecting the summit of Flesk (2733 feet) and so we descended to a proper path once again.





*Tony at the cairn on Shelter Crag.*

This led us, with an unnoticeable detour and negligible ascent to Great Knott (2200 feet) our seventh and final summit. Naturally we had refreshments, and then Cyril decided to phone Margaret to inform her, that arrival back in Giggleswick would be later than expected. In answer to Cyril's enquiry as to whether or not she had been gardening, came the response that when Cyril phoned earlier Margaret had been at the 'Black Horse' ! To say it caused a ripple of interest would be the understatement of the year ! This news caused such interest and consternation that Tony completely forgot to collect his lunch box which was left forlornly at the summit, but was noticed by Cyril on his departure.

The long walk back to the car was enjoyed by all, the views being extremely clear throughout. During the day we had come across several electric fences which we gather had been put in place to assist sheep to 'get to know their heaf', this naturally caused interest every time they were crossed just in case the wires were 'live'!

David was persuaded to stop at the first Inn in Little Langdale, where we all had suitable refreshments, and a member of the group, who is shy and retiring held up a crisp and proposed 'Crinkle Crag to Crinkle Crisps' ! David safely delivered us all home after an excellent day out.

The following morning when distances were being calculated, the dreaded figures could not be altered, though distances walked had been recounted and recounted. The group had managed to do a walk at an average rate of under a mile an hour ! As all politicians or civil servants would say there are in this case extenuating circumstances ! We did after all walk over the Crinkle Crag route a couple of times, we did stop for photographs and we did have quite a few refreshment stops. 'One cannot act on one list of figures, but only on a trend' (Gordon Brown).

Next week will see us going on a morale boosting walk to improve our average speed ! The projected walk is to Great Shunner Fell above Hawes from Hardraw. This is due to the fact that the North Craven Heritage Trust are having a walk around Settle next Wednesday at 7.00pm. Roy as the organizer has to be there ! The walk which may interest Sheila and Shirley is around the old Coaching Inns of Settle, indeed Margaret may also find it interesting !!!!!!!