

BACK TO OUR ROOTS !

Wednesday 24th July 2003.

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

Time taken 9 hours 15 minutes - Distance 10 ³/₄ miles.

Height climbed 3,500 feet – Average Speed 1.16.m.p.h.

A reasonable weather forecast was announced by various organizations, supported by Cyril's experience, so we set off to Little Town with Trevor acting as the driver for the day. We duly arrived at Little Town after a pleasant drive through Lakeland, with the added bonus of a tour of Grasmere !

Just after we set off, we called in at the whitewashed little Church which was open even at 9.15.am, and we marveled at the history and memories evoked by the photographs and leaflets. We continued up to higher ground donning cagoules as it was raining and ahead looked fairly gloomy. We passed the house of Molly Le?????????? A noted Lake District author before ascending the ridge en route to the high spot of the day, Robinson, once it is believed, owned by one of Trevor's predecessors, but the actual link with his family is yet to be established !

We reached the ridge when the sun came out and we were to have sun and showers throughout the day, but most importantly we saw views for the vast majority of the time. There are a couple of tricky rock scrambles en route to Robinson, which Bill and myself found difficult some years ago when preparing our book, but Cyril 'with a little help from his friends' soon mastered these obstacles and was ready for the final assault. Someone mentioned that he might consider climbing the Eiger next time he is in Switzerland !



At the summit of Robinson with Loweswater in the background.

Finally the summit of Robinson (2417 feet) was reached, and Trevor naturally was rather pensive at this time, no doubt thinking it was a pity the family had sold it years ago, as it would be rather nice nowadays to have one's own mountain ! Onwards we trudged with views over Loweswater and Crummock Water, and after a brief climb reached Hindsgarth (2385 feet), we decided to have lunch at the shelter which surely has one of the best views in Lakeland, looking over Derwentwater and on to Blencathra and Skiddaw.

We all appeared to have our usual rations of food, and Popsie recovered after her rest from the hills, did not appear very enthusiastic with her dry biscuits, perhaps Shirley can give her a special treat for these occasions ? We were about to pack up when a young couple approached our viewpoint and quite obviously wanted our seats. In particular 'Essex girl' made a beeline for Cyril's seat which had the best view ! They pointed out that they were walking with one set of parents, but they appeared to be well over a mile behind going at their own speed !



Cyril, Trevor and David at the summit of Dale Head.

As we set off it became cold or else we had not realized it was chilly when sitting down, but hats and gloves were donned for the ascent of Dalehead. This was to be the highest point of the day at 2,473 feet, and we were rewarded by a splendid cairn looking down the valley towards Newlands and Swineside. We now had the sting in the tail with a descent of over 800 feet to Dalehead Tarn where we sought refuge in one of the most scenic and surely romantic sheepfolds in the Lake District. A couple of pens, with cricket pitch grass, under a crag and by the side of the tarn. We all decided that if we ever camped in this area in the future we could consider this site ! On the way down we had been passed by 'Essex girl' and her companion, and she was in dire straits with knee problems, however she said that a couple of cigarettes would solve the problem !



Newlands Beck near to Dalehead Tarn.

This area was the most popular spot of the day and people seemed to be appearing from all directions. We duly crossed the Newlands Beck with Roy ensuring that everyone crossed safely, and was even asked to assist two ladies to cross this obstacle (they were probably older than ourselves !). The summit of High Spy (2143 feet) was reached, which brought back memories of a walk David had done with Shirley in April of this year. I gather that Shirley was insistent that they reach this summit rather than just go for a stroll, I think that's the story !



David, Cyril, Trevor & Roy at High Spy,

Once on High Spy we saw superb views all around us as the clouds lifted and as we walked towards Maiden Moor, and just before this summit we reached Blea Crag, where we had our final stop and a wonderful view down to Grange. The journey continued downwards, and we resisted the urge to ascend Cat Bells instead turning to Mrs. Tiggiwinkle's home at Little Town. Just as we were close to the car we were led on a 'short cut' by David who gives a new definition to the word short-cut !



Derwentwater and Blencathra from Maiden Moor.

Refreshments were taken at 'The Swineside Inn' and Trevor safely returned us to our homes around the 9.00.pm. mark, having travelled through heavy cloud and torrential rain, we felt pleased that we had avoided the worst of the weather.

Suggested route for next week, Wednesday 30th July is Pike O'Blisco and the Crinkles !!!