

TREVOR

# 1000 MOUNTAIN ASCENTS

In a period of just over nine years Cyril and Roy have ascended 999 mountain summits together. Today, suitably April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003, St George's Day, the pair in company with friends ascend this familiar mountain once again (actually their 50<sup>th</sup> ascent of Ingleborough together), to reach the magical 1000 !



*Cyril and Roy on Dove Crag, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2003.*

For Cyril and Roy the trip to Ingleborough was always going to be nostalgic, as Ingleborough had been selected to be the 1,000<sup>th</sup> mountain summit climbed together. Little did we realise when we ascended our first mountain on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1994, that we would indeed still be walking together some 9 years later, and during that time would have so many wonderful days out in the Yorkshire Dales and in the Lake District.

Indeed the seeds for the formation of the 'group' were sown during a joint visit to Walsall and the Midlands, and following discussions whereby we discovered we had similar interests, an inaugural walk took place around the Ingleton Waterfalls on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1993, with Cyril, Roy and his at the time almost uncontrollable springer spaniel 'Gwen'. That must have proved successful as the next walk was fixed over higher land, tackling Green Hill, Great Cumn and Gragareth. From there onwards walks flourished to the benefit of us all.

For today's walk, six of the regular stalwarts were ready for duty. Cyril looking fitter than ever as he approaches his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday, David now fully recovered from a recent Three Peaks circuit, and Tony treating the expedition as a stroll between the Coniston half-marathon and The Great North Run. Roy was on his 481<sup>st</sup> ascent of Ingleborough (please do not mention this fact in the hearing of environmentalists !), and Terry anxious to be on the hills again after his visits to Airedale Hospital. Trevor was fresh from his singing holiday in Spain, that is if you discount his wobbly knee, his backache and his flu like symptoms, which left him breathless at times. Who says Spain is good for you !

Unfortunately Bill was unable to be present as he too had succumbed to a flu' type bug which is circulating the district, could it have come from Spain ? Anyway the intrepid six set off from the usual spot near Cold Cotes on a bright, sunny and warm morning for this memorable occasion. A haze restricted distant views, but it was still marvellous to be out on the hills again ! A moderate pace was set until we reached the sheepfold, which was deemed to be our first stop. At this point decisions had to be made !

First of all which cake should be eat first ? It was decided to keep with tradition that Victoria Sponges are at their best at high altitudes and so Cyril's (Margaret's) cake was readily consumed with very welcome coffee. At the sheepfold there are three seats available for walkers and obviously one was readied for Cyril, but there was a reluctance for the other two to be taken up as we thought that the next two eldest should take advantage of the facility, however nobody wanted to admit to that fact !

Fortified, and Cyril with a lighter load, we strode on upwards towards the summit. Trevor was relating his exploits of the recent Langcliffe Singers trip to Spain, stating that whatever we do, we must see them when they sing in Settle at the end of August. He said that one of their leaders a Dr Iva, had a really wonderful voice, at least I think he said voice ! David related that Popsie was still under doctor's orders (Fiona's actually) but would soon be able to resume her wanderings on the mountains. Terry was, as to be expected after a draw with Bolton, disappointed that Blackburn had not capitalised with all their chances and missed so many open goals. Lets hope they do better this coming Saturday against Leeds.

Ascending Ingleborough for this special occasion, reminds us that Ingleborough was ascended in both of Cyril's charity exploits in 1997 and 2002, when we walked over 75/80 summits being his age at that time, and in that number of days. Almost £7,000 was raised by both events and was enjoyed by all and caused great interest throughout the district, even reaching 'The Sun' if that is fame !

Soon we reached the plateau of Little Ingleborough were in the past we have often battled against high winds, snow, rain and been enveloped with dense cloud. Today was so different with warm sunshine and superb local views. Mention was made of possible trips down Gaping Gill, which have been made by Roy and Trevor. Cyril stated that he had no desire to venture down, and it was also suggested that perhaps the choir from Spain when they come over here might like to descend, there was however no mention of them coming up again !

Thoughts that on this special day, we might be the first to reach the summit shelter were soon dispelled, but strangely as the six of us approached the top, everyone seemed to disappear. It was almost as if other people thought that we might be a rowdy element, I can't think why ! However, to mark the occasion Cyril had brought a card with '1,000' written upon it, which we thought, would stimulate interest in other fell walkers. Before the many photographs took place, Roy presented Cyril with a certificate to mark the occasion and Cyril produced from his rucksack, like a magician, some Babycham whereby we all celebrated the 1000<sup>th</sup> ascent in style. The Victoria Sponge went down a treat as usual. It was at this time that we noted walkers were avoiding coming to the shelter, instead walking to the trig point or the old 'hospice', perhaps at altitude the Babycham did have an effect on us all, as David said that a dog was making a rapid approach towards us, but it turned out to be a sheep !

Eventually Trevor managed to frog-march a walker, whether he bribed or threatened him I don't know, and he kindly took a couple of photographs before retreating to the edge of Ingleborough. The drink and festivities finished we just had time to inspect Terry's 'pipes' which had stood up well to the climb, which Terry described as being a modified version of washing machine plumbing arrangements ! Tony with excess energy and a little prompting decided to ascend the trig point, but his valiant action was not captured on film as Cyril was on the phone to Margaret, but contact could not be established !!!

With the prospect of another drink at the 'New Inn' at Clapham, we bid farewell to Ingleborough and set forth on the return journey. At times we have to be careful of topics, and an inadvertent mention of W--- B--- F--- brought a twitching and sweat to the brow of Trevor. I nearly mentioned to Terry that we might be able to see land at Galloway, but that would have brought back memories of an earlier discussion about the MP who is reputed to be a 'friend of Saddam Hussein'. I must let Terry have a copy of the unbiased article in the 'Daily Telegraph' today which states that the MP has a house in London worth £800k, a 'pad' in Spain at £300k and possibly many barrels of oil !

As we descend our thoughts are partly of past adventures, being 'misplaced' on Crinkle Crag, leading lost 'Yorkshire Bank' executives off Plover Hill, and Cyril, yes Cyril, getting those immaculate boots and trousers muddied on the slopes of Glamorra ! What would we have done without Tony who re-ascended Pike O'Stickle to rescue Cyril's hat (was it worth it Margaret ?) and ran back from Knott to Great Lingy Hut to fetch Roy's walking stick ! Despite the many hot days we have encountered Cyril has never succumbed to wearing shorts and the nearest we have seen of Cyril knees was when he once cooled his feet in Angle Tarn.

Looking back, both Cyril and myself wonder why people wanted to walk with us. Tony joined us for his first walk on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1994, when we walked through rain and cloud over Fountains Fell and Darnbrook Fell and said he enjoyed it. Shortly afterwards we walked on the Howgills and he said it was even better ! Bill when he joined us on the Coniston Fells must have wondered what he had let himself in for, as it rained for the first couple of hours before clearing for an excellent days walk. This time brought about some 'fame' to the intrepid band, as through Bill's writing we

featured occasionally in 'Cumbria' and the 'Telegraph and Argus', sadly those days have passed by !

When Terry joined us it was for a simple stroll up Penyghent, however just past the summit I was out-voted and we did not continue to Plover Hill as we were travelling over deep snow and visibility was almost nil. Later that day Terry met some neighbours who told him they did not go out walking whilst we were on Penyghent, because of the 'atrocious conditions', Terry felt ten foot tall ! David and Trevor both joined us last year whilst we were having 'visitors' on the 80/80/80 and have said they enjoy the trips so much, and they are both most welcome on our excursions.

Soon we reached the sheepfold once again and after a brief respite carried on to the spot where our cars were parked. Right on cue, as arranged came a couple of farmers who had a key, and opened the gate so that we did not have to struggle over it. We watched with interest some 40 sheep and lambs being offloaded to spend the spring and summer on the Ingleborough fellside.

Finally we managed to persuade Terry to stop at the New Inn where we had a celebratory drink as we have done on so many times in the past. Over the years our finishing habits have changed since Terry became a regular member of the group. Until his arrival we used to have tea and toasted teacakes, but now resort to the 'harder' stuff. I didn't have the nerve to mention it to you today Terry, but we slipped back into our old habits when we recently visited Swaledale ! I'll make sure it doesn't happen again !

Looking ahead to future celebrations I reckon that after today's excursion the league table of ascents stands as follows: -

<i>Tony</i>	<i>483 ascents</i>
<i>Bill</i>	<i>190 ascents</i>
<i>Terry</i>	<i>234 ascents</i>
<i>David</i>	<i>79 ascents</i>
<i>Trevor</i>	<i>52 ascents</i>

Nine Years is a long time to be regularly walking, and both Cyril and myself have enjoyed every trip. Whatever the weather we have made the best of it and our enjoyment has been more so by the company that we have experienced during this time. I know that Cyril would wish to convey our thanks to you all, Tony, Bill, Terry, David and Trevor for making these excursions so enjoyable. Thanks must also go to our 'other halves' for allowing us such freedom. How many cakes have you provided Margaret over the years and how many cups of coffee have we consumed ? The mind boggles. I also wonder how many Victoria Sponges has Jean cooked on our behalf, if each piece was placed on top of each other would it reach.....! Trevor has also entered into the spirit by providing 'Terry' biscuits; we are almost in danger of having more stops than starts !

RGKG.

# COMMEMORATING

1000



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*Roy and Cyril on Fairfield, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2003.*

## MOUNTAIN ASCENTS

On 13<sup>th</sup> January 1994 Cyril Kelly (then in his 71<sup>st</sup> year) and Roy Gudgeon (then in his 56<sup>th</sup> year) decided to walk together over mountains, (over 2,000 feet or more) and enjoy retirement. Over the last nine years or so since that first ascent of Green Hill, above Kingsdale, they have climbed together all the mountains in the Yorkshire Dales and the vast majority in the Lake District.

Today, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2003, St. George's Day, sees the 50<sup>th</sup> ascent together of Ingleborough and raises the total of peaks ascended to the amazing figure of 1,000. During this nine year period, other popular peaks have been, Penyghent (28), Fairfield (15), High Street (15), Whernside (14), Helvellyn (14) & Wild Boar Fell (10).

During this period Cyril raised money for Charity by completing 75 and 80 peaks in the same numbers of days shortly after completing his 75<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1997 and 2002. Roy was ever present on both occasions.

Special thanks go to our walking companions during this time, including, Tony Smartt, Bill Mitchell, Terry Lavelle, David Johnstone and Trevor Robinson, and not forgetting our four legged friends Gwen and Popsie.