

## MAGNIFICANT MALLERSTANG !

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2003.

*A walk undertaken with Roy, Cyril, Terry and Trevor, almost to the day since Roy, Cyril and Bill did a similar excursion on 3/4/2002.*

Contrary to rumours circulating around the Settle, Giggleswick, Langcliffe and Lawkland areas that a 'coup' had taken place, Cyril and Roy returned to the helm. Cyril had been away visiting his 'roots' in Walsall, whilst Roy had been looking for new 'routes' and pubs in the Lake District.

The four of us sped along familiar roads driven in Trevor's car until we reached our destination at Aisgill Cottages, where we parked in no man's land between Cumbria and North Yorkshire. Trevor wondered who would issue a parking ticket if the car were parked in the wrong place ! The weather was clear and sunny, though Cyril said we could expect showers. Perhaps that's why he shot off with Terry at such a pace that Trevor had cause to run after him, demanding to know where was the fire !

We gradually made our way up past Hell Gill, to the Mallerstang Edge, and noted that the three prominent cairns so clearly visible on the edge on our last walk had been 'de-capitated', and now served as three seats ! Eventually the summits of Mallerstang Edge (2250ft) were reached, and we the set off for the next and highest point of the day, High Seat at 2328 feet. Once again consternation ruled in deciding which was the actual summit, and Trevor apologised for not bringing a spirit level which would have settled all arguments. It was decided by Roy and Terry to build a cairn on the seemingly highest point as a marker for future peak baggers !

We retraced our steps to the cairns on Mallerstang Edge now with the wind at our backs, and made good progress until Cyril, as catering Officer though that we should make use of a shelter for an early lunch. It was certainly a good spot to take on drink and food, and Cyril's forecast hail shower made a brief appearance. Terry making his first walk with the group in 2003 since his sojourn in New Zealand made our day when he produced the famous Victoria Sponge for us all, thank you Jean we are so glad you are back on this side of the world again ! Trevor provided biscuits and Terry was particularly impressed that he had managed to have his name personalised on each biscuit. As we lazed in the sun, we looked over Swaledale and saw Birkdale Tarn, but nobody could see the Golf Course !

We duly set off again and reached Hugh Seat (2257 ft.), but did not dally for long apart from the obligatory photographs, full historical details of this particular summit are given in Bill's report of the 3/4/2002. Next followed a tricky and soggy walk to Sails, during which Roy received definite proof that his new and expensive trainers were not waterproof ! Just before we reached the plateau of Sails we met our first and to be our only walker of the day. I attempted to put to use my experience used in

watching Bill in action, but only received lukewarm appreciation from the other members. Though I discovered that he came from Newcastle, had walked over Great Shunner from Gunnerside and was walking back there via Nine Standards, I was rebuked for not finding out his name, age and place of birth ! Will try harder next time !

Now came an explained problem on Sails. The first cairn we approached was shown on the map at 667 metres high, but the summit as indicated in both of Roy's books was about ¼ mile further on, but indicated at 666 metres ! Each summit viewed from the other appeared to be the higher one.

Our descent back to civilisation was soon called a 'Gudgeon' route, as we slowly descended through tussocks and the like towards Hell Gill. The view in front was superb, the cliffs of ---- --- Fell were magnificent ( name omitted to spare the feeling of one of the party). Despite earnest requests the team failed to find the compass lost on the descent last year. At Hell Gill Bridge we met a man using a mine detector, sorry metal detector hoping to find something that Lady Anne had discarded during her journeys along this road but he stated all he had found so far was couple of pound coins ! In conversation Frank Jackson, we managed to obtain his name,said he was friendly with a retired police officer in Settle, known to Trevor ( he knows all the people of importance). Frank had a springer spaniel in attendance, which was acting in a typical 'springer' manner.

We duly arrived back at the car and after much persuasion managed to twist Trevor's arm to stop for five minutes at the Moorcock Inn, where we had a refreshing drink, and were asked to look after the pub whilst the landlady went up to Garsdale Station, nothing exciting happened during her absence.

On the journey back home, interest was expressed in the forthcoming production of 'Elijah' at Giggleswick Chapel. Trevor said it was a sell out, but then somewhat dampened our enthusiasm by saying we could not park up at the Chapel, there were no refreshments at the interval, the seats were hard and the production lasted for over 2 ½ hours. Cyril who had not managed to obtain tickets gave a sigh of relief and did not take up an offer from Roy to have his seats at the interval !

Next week sees a special excursion to forbidden peaks. At great expense and name-dropping permission has been given for a party of pensioners to walk from Keld to the summit of Rogan's Seat and on to Wham Bottom and Water Crag. It is understood that as special permission has been given for this walk, we will all have to keep to paths, i.e. no 'Gudgeon' routes. The agent 'Sebastian' informed me that he would alert his gamekeepers, yes gamekeepers that we will be invading their privacy on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April. Also it will be interesting to see what has happened to Rogan's Seat as it is reported that the summit has been bulldozed and levelled. Good job the summit was listed well above the 2000 mark ! Also to whet your appetite it has been reported by a well known author, retired local magazine editor and speaker (cannot divulge name due to confidentiality clauses) that both the North Sea and the Irish Sea can be seen from these summits, probably it will be cloudy and we shall be lucky to see the way.