



Paul Dover on Bowfell

Ian Crowther and John Jenkin unfortunately missed the meet as they had not picked up on the date change made after initial publication. They did though spend the next weekend at LHG.

Attendees (YRC):

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Paul Dover | Michael Smith |
| Bill Gibbs | Richard Smith |
| Christine Harrison (G) | Martyn Trasler |
| Jim Harrison (G) | Mike Godden
<i>(Also a member of the Wayfarers)</i> |
| Dorothy Heaton | |

Wayfarers :

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| David Carpenter | Jack Middleton |
| Ian Crosset | Colin Smith |
| David Lawrence | Peter Ferguson |
| George Chambers | Peter Dixon |
| Mike Allen | Steve Crossley |
| Barrie Cheetham | Keith Osborn |



NORTH PENNINES

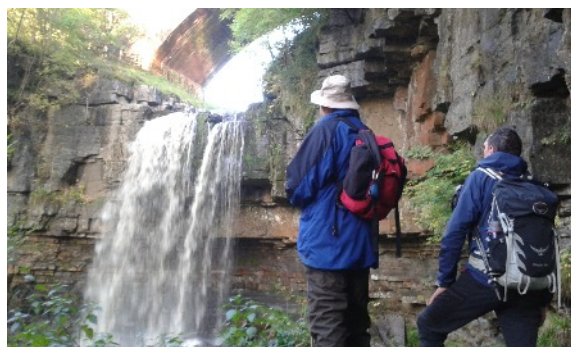
October 14 - 16

The YRC does not often visit the North Pennines on its meets calendar, but the combination of hillwalking and mine exploration proved attractive on this well-attended meet based at the Assay Office Bunkhouse in the world renowned Nenthead Mines complex.

On Friday, on the way to Nenthead, Michael Smith, Christine and Jim Harrison stopped off at Bowlees for a walk round Teesdale's Low Force, High Force and Summerhill Force (all in flood) and Gibson's Cave.

Against an improving weather forecast on Saturday, Mick Borroff, Ian Hawkes and Martyn Trasler undertook a long circular walk (18 miles) from the mine along the River Nent (observing a barn owl in broad daylight) to the cobbled town of Alston (great pie shop!). They then followed the River South Tyne upstream along the Pennine Way to Garrigill, where a quick pint was

enjoyed in the B&B next to the closed pub. The tributary of Ash Gill (flock of juvenile starlings seen) was then followed past several cascades to its impressive waterfall; although no-one could be tempted to go behind it to view the curtain of water from the inside, they all did a spot of caving up through a rift on the right hand side, rather than following the path to view the fall from the road bridge above.



In fact Martyn cracked his ribs crawling through the rift with consequent bruising. A damp return was made along a faint path to the lonely ruined cottage of Seldom Seen in Priorsdale and back down through the interesting mix of

entrance portals, buildings and artefacts of the Nenthead mines.

Meanwhile the underground party comprising Richard Gowing, Christine and Jim Harrison, Harvey Lomas, Michael Smith, John Sutcliffe and Carol and John Whalley was conducted around Smallcleugh Mine by Alan Richardson, without getting their feet wet due to the dry conditions. The party were underground for 3 ½ hours with Alan only losing his way once. Various members were chipping in their two-pennyworths of (in one case considerable) expertise as the need arose. The workings, remains, barrel vaulting, veins and crystals were all impressive. There was plenty of opportunity to explore a little and appreciate the industry and ingenuity of the miners.

An enjoyable meal on the Saturday evening was had in the Miners Arms, conveniently just a short walk away from the bunkhouse.

On Sunday it was damp with low cloud, so Mick Borroff, Ian Hawkes and John Sutcliffe headed north to park in Slaggyford village. A track was followed west across Knarsdale Common, rising damply across the moss to the Cumbria-Northumberland border and Tom Smith's Stone, a rectangular column inscribed with the letters A, C, K and W one on each face. These stand for Alston, Croglin, Knarsdale and Whitley, presumably denoting the Victorian Estate ownerships.



According to the hill bagging website, Tom Smith's Stone is a Nuttall (at 637m) and is the 3148th highest peak in the British Isles and the 278th highest in England!

The weather improved as the party descended Whitley Common to reached the Pennine Way bridge over Gilderdale Burn in sunshine.



South of Whitley Common

They turned north to visit the extremely well preserved earthworks of the Roman fort of Epaicum (Whitley Castle) but John failed to find anything of note in the molehills. The old railway line was then followed back to the car.

Meanwhile, Richard Gowing visited the Kilhope lead mining museum. The museum was set out with a big working wheel driving the ore processing plant and included a very well guided mine tour and impressive underground wheel. Richard strongly recommends other Club members to visit the museum.

The thought of putting on damp caving suits did not appeal much to Harvey (our meet leader), Carol or John Whalley, so they went in search of castles; namely Brough and Lammerside.

To round off Sunday's endeavours, Michael Smith, Christine and Jim Harrison tramped their way up The Dodd, a Hewitt just north of Nenthead. It had a small cairn. In increasing rain they headed back to the bunkhouse for lunch. Then in sunshine and showers they visited Ash Gill waterfall – again through the cleft and explored downstream before an uneventful drive home. Michael adds that the round took in a couple of sections of Isaac's Tea Trail (one part very boggy). This trail has been described as England's last great undiscovered wilderness trek (The Independent on Sunday). A little downstream of Garrigill the group saw three black grouse.

As a footnote, beyond the Miners Arms, beside the track out of Nenthead, the last house has a garden full of miniature stone built buildings, probably replicas of Nenthead buildings.

Thanks to Harvey for organising a very interesting and varied meet.

Attendees

John Whalley, President

Mick Borroff Michael Smith

Richard Gowing Martyn Trasler

Christine Harrison (G) Alan Richardson (G)

Jim Harrison John Sutcliffe

Ian Hawkes Carol Whalley

Harvey Lomas

point of the Barbondale road. From there they descended north to Ellers then upstream by the Dee then Deepdale Beck to Scow. To reach the green lane to return to their car they used the Nun House Outrake with excellent views of the Howgills.



Trow Gill with Neil Hutton the Grits President carrying skis

DINNER MEET, KIRBY LONSDALE November 18 - 20

Friday night saw a steady increase in numbers at Lowstern ready for a day out on Saturday. Some tackled the Ingleborough round while the organiser and SMC guest drove up the icy Leck Fell road and did the round of Crag Hill, the Marilyn Great Coum and the Lancashire high spot, Green Hill. Slow going in deep snow meant the organiser only arrived at the venue minutes before the EGM started.

Lowstern was almost full on Saturday night and all but one of the rooms in the hotel were occupied by our party.

Details of the formalities are given in Club Proceedings

Heavy rains overnight consolidated the new snow on the fells. The original Sunday walk plan involved parking high above Dent but concern that snow there might make parking impossible resulted in a switch to tackling Ingleborough from Clapham. Several members topped Ingleborough in cold windy conditions to be rewarded with fine views towards the Lake District. They returned making tracks through deep snow to Newby and across the fields to Lowstern. One of the three guests with them peeled off from Gaping Gill on skis to make the ascent but later declared it hard going. Others made rounds which included Gaping Gill. Two stalwart members modified the Dent walk and had little difficulty paring at the high



Ascending Ingleborough, on the summit (Wayfarer Richard Dickinson, Mick Borroff, Richard Smith, Michael Smith and John Sutcliffe) and heading for Little Ingleborough