

ham and chips, ably provided by Rachel Evans and Albert Chapman, to whom we offer our heartiest thanks.

The walk seemed to be enjoyed by everyone and one member went so far as to say it was the best for some years.

AS

#### **The Walkers**

John Whalley, President.  
Paul Everett, Principal Guest.  
Tim Edwards, M.A.M, President.  
Bruce Hassel, Wayfarers, President.  
Neil Hutton, Gritstone Club, President.  
Mick Borroff  
Derek Bush  
Peter Chadwick  
Andrew Duxbury  
Sue Edwards, G.  
Iain Gilmour  
Dorothy Heaton

John Lovett  
Conrad Murphy, G  
Arthur Salmon  
Helen Smith  
Richard Taylor  
Carol Whalley  
Frank Wilkinson

#### **The Covers**

Richard Smith  
John Brown  
Michael Smith

## **NIDDERDALE 11-13th Dec The Christmas Meet**

Folk began to arrive early on Friday afternoon, some to enjoy walks around the local attractions including Brimham Rocks, dodging the short but rather sharp showers on the way. All 24 were assembled at the Studfold Farm Activity Centre by the evening. This facility is set up mainly for youth groups; some of our more hedonistic members bemoaned the lack of a nice log fire surrounded by easy chairs, but in fact the place is entirely adequate with spacious sleeping accommodation and a big common room. Some went out to eat and some ate in, walking up to the Crown Inn in Lofthouse, a most welcoming village pub, for a post dinner drink.

Saturday dawned dry but rain set in before breakfast. It looked miserable, then the rain turned to sleet and it didn't just look miserable - it was.

Ideas of going underground in the notoriously flood prone caves of this area had been long abandoned. Parties set out on various circuits around Nidderdale; it didn't really matter where one went, the vista, stretching at times to 100 yards, was exactly the same.



Underfoot the recent heavy downpours had turned the moors into morass and yet people claimed to have gained pleasure out of the day. When the weather is this bad the only place to go is the summit of Meugher, considered by the Gritstone Club to be a mythical centre of misery.

Three parties claimed to have gone there but none of them saw the others' footprints in the snow. In these days of GPS we cannot doubt that they all got there, perhaps Meugher was exercising its strange influence that day.



Most people were back early to enjoy mince pies provided by Robert Crowther (his wife actually). Derek Clayton and Alan Clare returned having met a large party of Gilmours at Middlesmoor, celebrating Ian's 80th birthday. I am sorry to report that tea and mince pies were overtaken by beer at an unseemly hour and by dinnertime the company was in festive mood. Last to arrive were Ian Crowther and John Jenkin; they had decided to go over to Ravenstonedale to check on Ian's cottage. They had a terrible journey, getting stuck on the A66 in the snow and suffering a minor accident. Nevertheless they soon cheered up and enjoyed the evening.



Despite a rather capricious oven, a four course dinner was produced with roast beef and Yorkshire pudding as the main course. It seemed to go down well with everyone and not much was left over. John Whalley stood up and asked us to raise a glass to the memory of Sammy Chapman who had died a few days earlier. He said she was a good friend to the Club and many of the members, a wonderful hostess and a lovely person. He also toasted Ian Gilmour for reaching his 80th birthday.

Sunday dawned a much better day and after another of Robert's signature full English breakfasts, people set off to make the most of it. Some visited How Stean Gorge, Tom Taylor's Cave and the village fete at Middlesmoor; one ex-president's wife won the star prize in the tombola - a £5 voucher for the local farm shop. In the interests of charity (and personal safety) she insisted on returning the prize to be redrawn whereupon she was rewarded with a chocolate orange.

Other parties ventured up onto the moors, most sticking to the lanes because of the awful going underfoot.

This was a disappointing final meet of the year as far as getting anything worthwhile done, yet everyone enjoyed themselves and the evenings were as convivial as the Christmas meets always are.

#### Attending

John Whalley (President) Carol Whalley, John Jenkin  
Ian Crowther, Robert Crowther, Alan Linford  
Arthur Salmon, Frank Wilkinson, Dorothy Heaton  
Helen Smith, Michael Smith, Jim Harrison (G)

Chris Harrison (G), John Sutcliffe (G), Alan Clare  
Derek Clayton, Philip Dover, Paul Dover, David Hick  
Bill Gibbs (PM), Mick Borroff, Peter Chadwick  
Richard Gowing, Tim Josephy