

## **March Fell Walking Report by Phil Clarke**

The March fell walk started off in what I call the capital of Swaledale, Reeth. Both the recce and the actual walk had lots of walkers about, to emphasis my point, this being a great area for walking. Only a couple of walkers were noted for first four kilometres probably as what was to come as we headed out of Reeth following the Arkle Beck into Arkengarthdale. The only real hill of the day was first up, up and up to Fremington Edge, along a path from above Castle Farm. It is a much tougher route than the traditional path up to the top- No pain no gain!! The tough part now done and it was along the ridge with great views only partly spoilt by smoke from the heather burning. The route took us down to the village of Marrick where lunch was taken by the village hall. We spotted lots of baby lambs plus in a field near Marrick the beautiful clean as if ready for a Dales show judging competition the amazing Zwartbles breed of sheep. We continued down towards the River Swale down the coffin steps to Marrick Priory 12th century but now an Outdoor Educational and Residential Centre. The walk continued on with a religious theme at Grinton where we went inside to look at the "Cathedral of the Dale" St Andrew the church named after the missionary saint. We left this most impressive church and walked along a path that has recently been named the Swale Trail a 20 km trail aimed at cyclists from Reeth up the valley to Keld. We crossed the flood plain where we saw large gatherings of greylag geese and oyster-catchers and reached our destination in Reeth the planned 10 mile route via the swing bridge over the Swale.

April Fell walk 24th April in Wensleydale

Meet on the village green 9.45 am at West Burton for a 10 mile circuit of Penhill.

May Fell Walk 22<sup>nd</sup> May

We will be walking on the North York Moors.