

February Fellwalk report

The iconic shape of Roseberry Topping beckoned as we ascended the Cleveland Way from Gribdale Gate. It is formed from a hard sandstone cap which protects the underlying shales and clays from erosion by the effects of ice, wind and rain. Until 1912, the summit resembled a sugarloaf, but then a geological fault and possibly the nearby alum and ironstone mining caused its collapse.

We five adventurous fellwalkers, also members of the philosophy group, made quick work of its ascent, while stretching our minds to ascertain why we were here, and realising we had another three 'tops' to conquer!

Our next conquest was Hanging Stone (for the observant members among you at monthly meetings – the photo at the bottom of the U3A banner showing Phil, Annie & Ian), followed by Highcliff Nab, two outcrops of sandstone with evidence of Mesolithic activity on the top. The views across Teesside and along the coast are stunning, and the day was a perfect one for walking.

After resting for lunch, we headed across the Moors, eventually reaching Captain James Cook's Monument, another viewpoint from which we could see our previous three landmarks. Having put the world to rights, studied the geology of the area and taken some photographs (on the website – hopefully!), we headed downhill (thankfully) to the cars, followed by a well earned cup of tea in Great Ayton. An excellent 10 mile excursion!

Ruth Sansom



The ascent to Roseberry Topping

Wow! A view worth the effort –
Roseberry Topping





Let's go that way.....

Hanging Stone



The view across Guisborough and out to the coast.



Cook Memorial – Nearly finished! All downhill now.