

Fell Walking in November 2025

Report Author – Phil Clarke

On Wednesday 26th November nine walkers met for the start of the walk at Surrender Bridge, a well-known meeting spot approximately halfway between Arkengarthdale and Swaledale.

Why is it called Surrender Bridge? --- Don't know, I give in!

The walk headed off eastwards past an old smelting mill towards Cringley Bottom (no not Crinkley Bottom as in Noel's House Party programme) towards the edge of Healaugh. After passing Nova Scotia Farm, just outside of the village, we headed northwest to the ford at Fore Gill Gate. Here the fun started! Some of the group tried to hum and/or sing the opening bars of the theme tune to the seventies' All Creatures Great and Small TV programme. The ford was used in the opening credits of the programme. As most of us had earlier driven over from the Stang and encountered the bridge the brains/memories had started ticking. They had continued to tick and thoughts/memories shared provoked the 'music'. As we hummed, we covered a little road walking, then headed up towards Great Pinseat. At the top the weather was still sunny but now a biting, freezing wind had joined us, therefore the original suggestion of bagging a trig point of 583m (1912ft) was turned down - it was only 10 mins away – in favour of a quick lunch whilst hunkering down in a sink hole for shelter.

After lunch we walked southeast with some brilliant views towards Old Gang Smelting Mills. Here we saw evidence of protecting Barney Beck. The measures being taken were aiming to reduce heavy metals being washed out of waste contaminated mines and thereby encouraging vegetation to grow. Very encouraging!!

The end of the walk finished back at Surrender Bridge. The walk was just under 10 miles but challenging. As a reward we warmed up in the CB Inn with a cuppa/coffee. The theme tune was still on our minds therefore one member used their phone to find the All Creatures theme music so that we could have a good listen, provoking further flashbacks! And yes, one walker was spot on with their earlier rendition.

Phil Clarke