

## **Tales from DalesRail A Spring DalesRail Walk Peter Walker**

*DalesRail may not be operating in 2020 but that doesn't stop us sharing our many interesting experiences about our journeys. We hope you will share your interesting stories, favourite walks, fascinating anecdotes and pictures about DalesRail. Please send them to [richard.watts.crl@gmail.com](mailto:richard.watts.crl@gmail.com) or [simon.clarke.crl@gmail.com](mailto:simon.clarke.crl@gmail.com)*

**Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer OLI9 – Howgill Fells & Upper Eden Valley.**

Brilliant weather and a punctual train combined with helpful Northern Rail staff were positive omens for our day in the Dales. My 14 mile 'B' walk from Kirkby Stephen to Garsdale included six regular DalesRailers and one newcomer. Paul, Patricia, Alan, Mike, Philip and Trevor (back Marker) all had something to offer on the walk, whether it be local knowledge, historical association or just good at identifying surrounding hills and dales. This was to be a walk up to the main Pennine watershed of England where three grand rivers rise – the Eden, the Swale and the Ure, but also a walk passing many places of historical interest.



The upper Eden Valley – Pendragon Castle (John Barnes)

Approximately twenty minutes after leaving Kirkby Stephen we arrived at Wharton Hall, built by Thomas Wharton in about 1436, with the gatehouse added in 1559. It was then on to Lammerside Castle, a fortified peel tower where we had an early lunch and where fleece jackets and jumpers were packed away as the day started to warm up.

The next place of interest was Pendragon Castle, reputed to have been founded by Uther Pendragon, the father of King Arthur no less. According to legend, Uther and a hundred of his men were killed here when the Saxon invaders poisoned the well. The present castle was

built in the 12th century by Hugh de Morville who was one of the four knights who murdered Thomas a Beckett in Canterbury cathedral on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1170.

We then followed field paths and crossed the River Eden before entering the attractive village of Outhgill, where the local blacksmith was the father of Michael Faraday, the famous scientist. Our group stopped here to admire the Jew Stone, a stone column originally erected in 1850 by William Morrissey, an eccentric and linguist, to commemorate his journey from the mouth to the source of the River Eden. The 'professionals' in the group had no trouble reading the Latin and Greek inscriptions on the stone.



The upper Eden Valley – Lammerside Castle (John Barnes)

From Outhgill it was a stiff two miles' climb to the summit of High Seat (2326ft), where we had magnificent views in all directions, from Cross Fell and Mickel Fell in the north, to Ingleborough in the south, to the Lakeland peaks in the west, and to Swaledale in the east. Now came the speed walking along the top of the spectacular escarpment of Mallerstang Edge (clearly visible from the train beyond Garsdale heading north), down to Hell Gill where everybody peered over the bridge parapet to look at the infant Eden some hundred feet below.

From here we joined 'Lady Anne's Way', named after Lady Anne Clifford, who renovated Pendragon Castle in 1660, an indomitable Tudor Lady who lived to the age of eighty-six and travelled to her estates between Skipton and Brougham near Penrith by horse litter surrounded by servants and possessions. Until the modern road was built in 1825, Lady Anne's Way was the only road up this valley.

By now several members of the party had the Moorcock Inn at Garsdale in their sights, so they were given 'permission' to leave the group to quench their thirsts while the rest of us sunbathed alongside Ure Force.

At Garsdale Station we had time to admire the recently commissioned statue of Ruswarp, read all the information boards in the newly refurbished waiting room and use the super 5star toilets.

A walk full of interest, spectacular scenery, and warm spring sunshine – what more could a man or woman want from life??



153304 leads the DalesRail train south at Garsdale (Craig Ward)