

## SEVEN GO WILD IN YORKSHIRE 4-8 JUNE 2023

Seven fossilising Penguins set off, for no apparent reason, to the Yorkshire Dales for a walking trip. A very well appointed refurbished barn in Swaledale provided a comfortable base from which to explore. The next few days saw Mick Martin's skills as Tour Leader tested to the full by an opinionated, and at times truculent, group.

A long drive to North Yorkshire had the benefit of continuous background music from the uniquely varied 6 hour long 'Graveyard Playlist', most of whose artists have left the mortal coil. The day culminated in an evening of supper and bar games at The Black Bull in Reeth. Pool and darts were both hotly contested, the Penguins being bested by a local duo in the former, and the Giants and Hobbits teams losing out to the victorious Transients in the latter.



**Pool – Always played best in sunglasses**

**Dai Evans (Winner) prepares to throw, watched enviously by Jem, Mick and Tony (all Losers)**

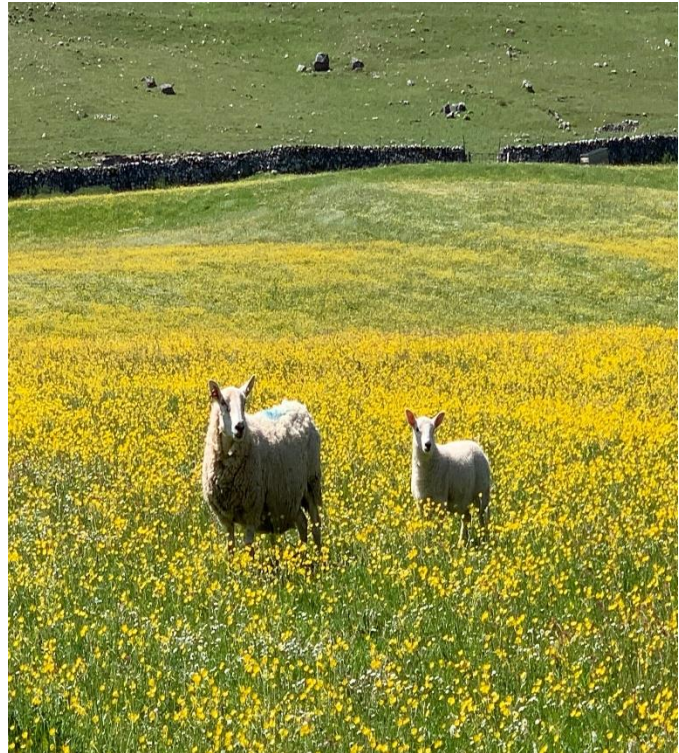
Next morning, after no breakfast, a stop for supplies in Leyburn was characterised by some confusion, as several Penguins independently bought sufficient beer for the whole party, as well as some food. One, rather foolishly in retrospect, bought a pork pie for a belated breakfast plus a further pork pie for lunch later that day.

The walking started in Upper Wharfdale crossed into Littondale, a beautiful and sparsely populated dale with all the meadows in full flower, before crossing back and reaching the George Inn at Hubberholme, for their weekly pie supper. We ascended and descended 2000ft in high summer temperatures.

The George was very accommodating, and we returned to the Barn for an eclectic selection of cover version tunes played by Dai Evans on his electric ukelele, whilst we enjoyed some of the Leyburn supplies. The accompanying singing was what one would expect from 7 middle aged ex rugby players – loud, enthusiastic and otherwise of dubious quality.



**Penguins Posing**



**Sheep Posing**



**21<sup>st</sup> Century George Formby**



The following day took us into Swaledale and across into Arkengarthdale to The Red Lion, Langthwaite, arriving slightly late for lunch. Mick remembered from the distant past that they served great food. On asking the 80+ year old sister landladies “are you still serving lunch?” he was met with the response “not for thirty years son”. Luckily, they had pork scratchings and crisps – just what was required after 5 hours of vigorous walking. The Red Lion did however, stock excellently kept Black Sheep Best Bitter which mollified the mutinous crowd somewhat. Back at the barn, Dai Evans staged another concert, accompanied by some Absinthe. The singing did not improve, although the singers thought it did.



**Liquid lunch at the Red Lion**

Day four involved a walk through the knee deep heather - complete with ‘babies head’ boggy protrusions and well disguised shake holes just at tibia-fibula height – ideal injury generating countryside. We trudged across Gunnerside moor, past Rogan’s seat, and descended gingerly through Swinner Gill which proved equally taxing to patience, balance and ageing knees. Arriving at The Farmers Inn, Muker we met a stereotypically brusque landlord who eventually furnished us with lunch. A relaxing afternoon stroll back along the beautiful River Swale put us in the mood for a final evening’s revelry in the pubs of Reeth, followed by a backgammon tournament and a homage to the late great Frankie Howerd.



### **Swinner Gill**

An outstanding few days of beautiful scenery, great food, endless 20<sup>th</sup> century anecdotes, buffoonery and questionable singing. Many Thanks to Mick Martin for his organisation, good humour and tolerance. Next year will see us in The Peak District. Dates will be advertised on the PAC website.

The Septet: Jim Boothroyd, Richard Docker, Dave Evans, Mick Martin, Geraint Thomason, Tony Wilson, Charlie Beardmore.