

THE 24TH SEPTEMBER sees a significant anniversary as far as Wainwright devotees are concerned. It will be seventy years to the day since AW, as a young man in his early thirties, left Blackburn and headed to Settle for a two-week walking holiday he had devised.

His intention was to walk up the eastern side of the northern Pennines as far as the Roman Wall at Hexham, follow the wall westwards for approximately forty miles and then return down the western side of the Pennines to Settle.

Upon his return home he wrote his recollections of the walk, showed this to a few colleagues at the town hall in Blackburn, where he was a senior clerk in the treasurer's department, and then put it away in a drawer.

It remained there untouched for nearly fifty years, until he was reminded of this while working on *Wainwright on the Pennine Way* for Michael Joseph publishers in the mid-1980s. He showed this to Jenny Dereham, the editor at Michael Joseph, who then decided to publish it.

Now, seventy years on, the Wainwright Society and one of its members Andrew Lambert are looking at creating two slightly different walking guides to this route. (Andrew's version was explained in July's *Dalesman*.)

In 1998, David Pitt and his wife Heather set out from Settle on the first long-distance walk of their own creation after eighteen years of following other people's walks. They had been mindful for a long time of a comment made by AW in his guide to the Coast-to-Coast Path encouraging walkers to plan their own routes.

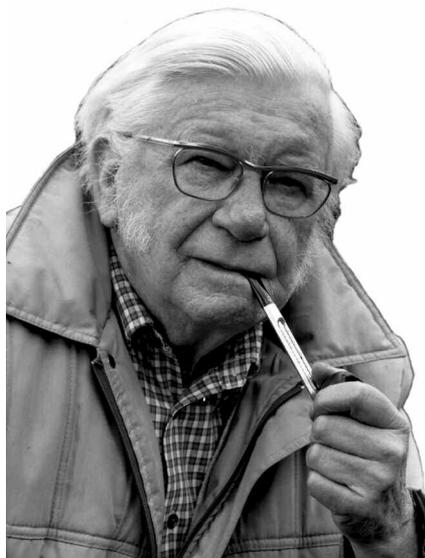
Having, after early retirement in 1991, read *A Pennine Journey* it seemed natural to try to devise a route that would take in as many as possible of the places mentioned on the route taken by AW. The walk they did covered 231 miles (370 km) and, coincidentally, was completed sixty years to the day that AW began his 'Pennine Journey'.

AW's book was never intended to be a walker's guide but a narrative. He travelled north through the countryside traversed by the rivers Wharfe, Ure and Swale, over the bleak moorland country around Tan Hill before encountering the valleys of the rivers Tees, Wear and Tyne. Just beyond Hexham he came to Hadrian's Wall, which he followed west for a while, then headed south, crossing the Pennines from the high moorland town of Alston, passing through Appleby and Ingleton, before returning to the start of his journey at Settle.

His description of the route is at times sketchy and in view of the limited time at his disposal involved a lot of road walking — albeit on minor ones. In 1938 this would not have been so hazardous — it certainly would have been sixty years later.

From their collection of maps and walking guides David and Heather put together a revised 'Pennine Journey' using public footpaths. The walk takes in sections of other long-distance paths such as the Pennine Way, Ribble Way, Dales Way, Hadrian's Wall Walk and the Westmorland Heritage Walk as well as AW's *Walks in Limestone Country*.

Following a suggestion that David made at the Wainwright Society's AGM in 2004, the



## Pennine journeys