



Sharing memories of Alfred Wainwright

"I THINK MR ELSE and myself should feel rather guilty because one of the reasons he has this image of being a curmudgeonly old duffer is because we didn't get to him earlier." Those were the words of Eric Robson, presenter of the Alfred Wainwright TV series, during a unique event which brought together around two dozen people from many different walks of life but who somehow shared a connection with the life of the revered guidebook author.

Also present at the event was the series' producer, Richard Else, and Eric laid the blame of AW's public image at both of their feet: "We never saw him as the young Jack-the-lad Wainwright that appears in *Pennine Journey*, for example," he said, "and he was actually a kind, gentle, generous caring man."

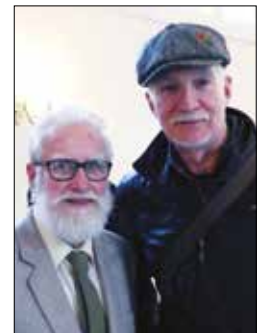
The tale was just one of many related at the event, held at The Villas Levens, near Kendal, organised by AW archivist Chris Butterfield and his wife Priscilla. It was their way of thanking the many people who, over the last three years, have helped Chris amass an unprecedented collection of Wainwright memorabilia and artefacts from the production and printing of his seven-volume Pictorial Guide and other works.

Chris explained that, during the time he had been forming strong friendships during the pursuit of his passion, he had become aware that many of those he was in touch with had never met before, despite their associations with AW, who died in 1991. Others, including Richard Else and Andrew Nicols, had not met for thirty years. The event gave them all that opportunity, and the chance to share the many unique stories each had.

The photograph above was taken to record the unique event by Kendal photographer Steven Barber, who photographed Wainwright during the making of the *Coast to Coast Walk* TV series. Pictured are: **back row, from the left:** Andrew Nichol, former *Westmorland Gazette* works manager; David Rigg, former Titus Wilson managing director; Paul Duff, son of Percy, former colleague of Wainwright at Kendal Borough Council treasurer's department; AW's friend Bob Swallow, a



Life of a Mountain filmmaker Terry Abraham (left) and Lakeland mountain guide David Powell-Thompson, whose new DVD is reviewed on page 46, who both attended the special event



Chris Jesty (left) and Clive Hutchby, who have each worked on new editions of Alfred Wainwright's Pictorial Guide, to keep it relevant for new generations of fell-walkers

member of the Blunderers walking group, of which Betty Wainwright was honorary president; TV producer Richard Else; journalist Clive Hutchby, who has revised AW's *Pictorial Guide*; Wainwright TV series presenter and Wainwright Society chairman Eric Robson; artist and photographer Andy Beck; and Graham Wilkinson. **Middle row:** Helen Richards, wife of Mark and Wainwright family friend; Kay Duff, wife of Paul; artist, writer and Wainwright protégé Mark Richard; Lakeland Walker editor John Manning; cartographer Chris Jesty, who revised the second edition of the *Pictorial Guide*; Esther Beck, wife of Andy. **Front:** mountain guide and film safety consultant David Powell-Thompson; filmmaker Terry Abraham; Sandra and Mark Duff, brother of Paul; event organisers Priscilla and Chris Butterfield, Wainwright archivist and administrator of the Facebook group Alfred Wainwright Books & Memorabilia.

● See also *Back to the Coast to Coast*, page 32