**THE ‘ZENECANS’ WALK GROUP.**

The ‘Zenecans’ was founded nine years ago by a few friends lead by John Coutts, who had become a keen walker in his retirement. It comprises a group of 20 invited ex- UK Sales and SAI colleagues who all have a strong association with each other. We meet annually in September for two nights at favoured locations and currently undertake two half –day and one full day walks. Venues have ranged from the Isle of Wight to the Scottish Borders.

This year the ‘Forest of Bowland’ was chosen, an area new to most. The event was wonderfully organised by John Cotterill and Harry Crossley. We were based at the ‘Old Posthouse Hotel’ in Clitheroe, a little gem which can be thoroughly recommended to others. We had the hotel to ourselves for a tariff reminiscent of 2-3 decades ago, a tribute to John and Harry’s well- learned negotiating skills.

On the first afternoon we did a six mile warm-up taking in the River Ribble, a circular walk starting and finishing at Waddington, a small village a few miles from Clitheroe. The full walk on the second day was about 13 miles in the undulating pastoral country and foothills west of the Trough of Bowland. It started and finished at Chipping with an opt-out after 8 miles at Dunsop Bridge, the claimed centre of Great Britain. Tea and icecream were well deserved by this point. Those who carried on for the full distance unfortunately finished in a heavy rainstorm, without much sympathy being apparent from those who took the early bath.

The final morning was bright and sunny and we climbed Fair Snape Fell and Parlick Hill in the west, with wonderful views all around including Morecombe Bay with its banks of wind turbines and the Lakeland mountains to the north. Windscale was also prominent and Blackpool Tower and Wheel were visible to the SW.

Photos of our trips are put on a ‘Zenecans’ website ( <http://www.zenecans.co.uk/>) organised by Kevin Eddison for us all to view.

These gatherings always generate a great joie-de vivre and a real pleasure in old friends meeting again, who worked and played together, made their contributions to a successful business and whose ties have endured. When departing, all of us were already turning our thoughts to next year’s event on the Dorset coast.

Peter Northwood.