

Trip Report: Christmas Family Walk

Date: 29th December 2012

Group: Lynda (Leader), Tony, Lynn, Jim, Colin, Amanda, Ann, Neil, Eilidh, Caitlin, Emma, Brian, Ed, Jenny, Geoff, Lynn, Selina, Caryle, Ian. Dogs: Mollie, Roxie, Ollie & Nicki

Route: Figure of eight walk - Nant Mill, Coedpoath including Minera lead mines & the Iron works at Bersham

Total Distance: 7.45 miles

Total Ascent: 1158 ft

Weather: Occasional heavy showers

Time: 4 hours 11 mins

All met at the Pavillion car park prompt at 9.30am apart from the leader who had had to go back for her waterproof trousers! Good start Lynda. A quick check everyone was present and off we all went on a short car journey to Nant Mill Coedpoath car park.

We followed the Clywedog trail over the Ford and along the river heading towards Minera Lead Mines. The path was particularly boggy given the amount of rain we had had and looking at the clouds - about to have! Our very own Ford had appeared across the path causing many to stop and watch for the one that fell in; camera's waiting - but no entertainment this time! Minera lead mines loomed above us, a brief stop to look at the buildings and its works that had been left from years ago and then along the old disused railway track towards Minera mountain.

A slight lack of concentration created the leader to do a quick about turn to find the path onto the mountain side and yes the rain decided to arrive just as we got to the spot for a planned coffee break. Knowing that there were few other suitable stops without the wind howling around us, the opportunity arose to show the attributes of the fine shelter the Bums had invested in earlier in the year. Even an ambulance arrived as if by magic - there must be an automatic alarm call on this quite amazing piece of kit!!!

Skirting along the foothills of Minera Mountain and with the rain now disappearing for a short while, we were able to see across to Wrexham, Beeston & Peckfernton. We circled back to join the path taking us past the Lead Mines and then onto Nant Mill for lunch to meet up with Jenny, Ed, Lynn & Nicki the dog for the next part of the walk. The remains of the Christmas dinner i.e. turkey butties were the obvious choice for our now very wet Bums - Oh yes the heavens opened yet again- lovely.

Jenny very kindly brought her very own key for the toilets (I.e. Radar key for the disabled toilets) so no wild wee's after all for the group. Onwards

up the Clywedog River towards the Iron Works at Bersham. A sort of wheelchair accessible route made for some good team work across a bridge and unexpected fallen tree - sorry Jenny! Then the group photo at the end of the trail before heading back to Nant Mill. Oops the leader forgot to take you to the Iron Works - they were very good on a previous visit!!!! Oh and by the way Colin - we did notice the lack of back pack on the last bit of the trail - not sure if this complies with BUMS health & Safety.

All managed to get back safely ready for the return journey back to the Dysart for the traditional rehydration and chip butties in front of the fire. Lynda had to have an extra Brandy to get over the stress of leading her first walk - or that was her excuse any way☺

A fun day out in the local area, all be it a little damp.

Lynda