

Trip Report: North Wales**Date:** 16th March 2013**Group:** Ian (Leader), Jim G, Tony, Lynn, Colin, Jeff, Gerry, Ann, Neil, Eilidh, Molly & current Bum's dog of the year Roxie**Route:** Peris Slate Trail, Llanberis**Total Distance:** 11.12 miles**Total Ascent:** 2497 ft**Weather:** All Four Seasons in one day!**Time:** 5 hours 43 mins

A 7.30 prompt start from the pavilion saw us, joined by 'newbie' Gerry O'Neil, on our way to North Wales in bright sunshine. Arriving at the Dolbadarn Castle car park we followed the Snowdonia Light railway track crossing over Llyn Peris via a footbridge onto the site of the Slate Museum. We started to climb into the woods and stumbled upon our first sight of the abandoned Quarry workings- of all things a mortuary, Gerry was happy to pose for pictures outside but refused to lie down on the slab! In the light of our chairman's request that more experienced map readers should help the novices Jim pointed out that we had detoured from the original track but I decided that because we were moving in the right direction and the paths were well marked a detour was in order. Bathed in fantastic sunshine (it was about 7 degrees) we climbed slowly through the woods with fantastic views of Llyn Padarn, apparently Llyn is Welsh for lake or pool, we even had to stop and De-Layer could this be one of those exceptional days when the weather is kind to us?

Now joining the original proposed track we headed for the village of Caledffrwd stopping for coffee in the grounds of one of many disused cottages. Once out of Caledffrwd, and climbing again, the weather took a turn for the worst but not quite bad enough to require weather proof trousers-yet! Sadly the route then followed a lot of roads and Jim commented "I have not seen this much tarmac since I last visited the Trafford centre!" oh well.

It had all been going so well as regards my map reading until I made a small detour of approx. 300 metres, that in itself is not that bad except it was 300 metres up! So after referring to Jim's sat nav, and Colin concurring on his new sat nav, we made our way down to the original trail. This is when 2 things happened- firstly it began to snow and we donned our waterproof trousers and in doing so I forgot that I had tied Molly to a fence and strode off only to be called back by the rest of the group who all found it highly amusing, I put the error down to the pressure of leading the walk but don't tell Penny and the kid's. Considering this was

the Peris Slate trail and we were over two thirds of the way round imagine my relief when we finally saw some slate! The weather was absolutely dramatic with heavy snow but it only lasted for about 10 minutes and we settled in the shadow of Matilda & Victoria for our lunch(not 2 big welsh girls but in fact Slate Mountains) setting off back down the slate workings we passed some original workings and skirted Llyn Peris again to make our way back, sadly on tarmac again, to the grounds of Dolbadarn Castle and a photo opportunity with the local miniature goat population.

A return to Bunbury found us taking light refreshment in The Yew Tree to watch Wales playing rugby and England running around chasing them. On the conclusion of the last walk I organised the summary was "surprisingly Interesting" Peris Slate Trail can only be described as "surprisingly un-Interesting" still it was a day out and that's me done for another year.

Ian