

## **Trip Report: The Clwydian Hills**

**Date:** 18th November 2006

**Group:** Tony (leader), Lynn, Mike, Lesley, Chrissie, Selena + 2 canines

**Route:** Llangollen - World's End - Ruabon Mountain - Dinas Bran Castle

**Total Distance:** 14 miles

**Total Ascent:** 1500 ft

**Weather:** Bright and Sunny

With a journey time of just 45 minutes to Llangollen we treated ourselves to a 8.00 am start, and remembering to avoid the hidden North Wales speed cameras on the way, we were soon off along the Clwydian Way in beautiful sunshine. The surrounding limestone escarpments of Eglwyseg Rocks looked their very best in the sunlight and we stopped to admire a wooden jackdaw clasping a chalice. We followed the Clwydian Way as it snaked its way through woodland enjoyed by Tilly and Tess and then joined up with the Offas Dyke long distance footpath at the foot of the Egwyseg escarpment.

We climbed up Egwyseg and were soon up high and looking down upon World's End and its waterfalls, which we were supposed to see a bit more close range. Welsh farmers armed with barbed wire fences saw to it that we missed the waterfall, but all was forgotten as we reached the high moorland of Ruabon Mountain and followed the route through the heather to the romantically named Montain Lodge. The dogs had fun chasing after the Red Grouse and someone had kindly set-up a road-side bench for us to enjoy a welcome lunch break.

After lunch the route across the moor became more difficult to navigate with no obvious paths and in sight, so out came Mike's compass which worked a treat, and we were soon back on minor roads winding our way to the well-known Panorama walk towards Llangollen. Why they allow cars along a supposed walk is a mystery to me but this inconvenience was soon forgotten with our first view of Castel Dinas Bran.

It may have not been a walk full of tough hill-climbing but after 12 miles the group still needed a little persuading to get to the top of the wind-blown castle and the descent brought us back to the start of the walk and the wooden raven and goblet.

Back to Bunbury in 45 minutes and to the Dysart for refreshments.

Tony