

Trip Report: Eglwyseg Mountain

Date: Friday 26th April

Group: Sue L (leader), Lesley, Chrissie, Cate, Mike W, Selina, Lynne, Tony, Jim, Bob, Mike H, Ann, Steve, Sarah, Jeff, Debbie and Colin. Three dogs.

Total Distance: 10.7 miles

Total Ascent: 2300 ft

A big turnout, perhaps due to the fact that we weren't leaving Bunbury until 8:15am. We finally got sorted into car loads, although we thought that we'd lost a few of the group before we'd even left the village. However, they were just following Colin back to his car in Queen St!

We started at the car park just above Horseshoe Falls on the far side of Llangollen. The walk takes you into woods almost directly from the car park and then out of the woods for a steady pull up and over Velvet Hill. We then had a pleasant meander through woods and fields full of sheep and lambs, stopping for an early coffee break as we came across a convenient seat with lovely views across to the Horseshoe Pass. It wasn't that long before we could see the escarpment of Eglwyseg Mountain high above us. We cut up through more fields and woods and onto the Offas Dyke path, which was quite a gentle route up onto the top. No sooner had we reached the top than the rain started! Once it was apparent that it wasn't just a passing shower we stopped to don waterproof trousers, something that Tony appeared to find particularly challenging! Once we were out of the wind we stopped for lunch and the rain gradually began to stop.

After lunch we proceeded along the tops, descending slightly to a stream. At this point due to a combination of hesitation on the leader's part and a lack of faith from some group members in her navigational ability (probably well placed!) a group of three forged ahead down a path by the stream and the decision was made to follow them, descending from the tops earlier than planned. The downside was that we missed a pleasant section under Trevor Rocks and had a longer road section, the upside was that we all got down safely, were still heading in the right direction and we saw some lovely orchids by the roadside.

We were soon back on course, following a footpath skirting round the foot of Dinas Bran, across another field of sheep and lambs, a short road section and then onto the canal towpath. The dogs were pleased to have the freedom of being off the lead and Riley couldn't resist practicing his doggy paddle in the canal. We made our way back to the car park via Horseshoe Falls.

A smooth journey back to the Dysart for rehydration. The leader usually misses this stage of the walks - going straight home for a cup of tea - but felt the need to have a celebratory Guinness with the group who had been very kind to her on her first attempt at leading a walk.

Sue