

**Trip Report:** The Clwydian Hills first post lockdown walk

**Date:** Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020

**Group:** Jim G (Leader) Mike H, Mike W, Sarah, Steve, Ann, Neil, Colin, Cate, Mike A, Lesley, Ray (one mutt Flora)

**Route:** Ponderosa - Moel y Gamelin - Moel Morfydd - Llantysilio - Clwydian Way

**Total Distance:** 11.5 miles

**Total Ascent:** 2870 ft.

**Weather:** Hot & sunny!

Full Covid restrictions adhered to, a small fleet of cars departed from Bunbury at 8am with the walk departure scheduled for 9am at the Ponderosa café on the Horseshoe Pass, a slightly delayed start due to the usual suspects turning up late! Unplanned toilet stop was the excuse.

The walk starts off uphill straight from the car park with a flog up to the summit of Moel Y Gamelin, fine views and the temperature is moderated by a welcome breeze. The next part of the route continues along the crest off the ridge, with a few ups and downs until the trig point on the summit of Moel Morfydd is reached. Mutterings about a coffee stop are already reaching the leader's ears, these are resisted, until we drop down off the top and find a suitable spot nestled into the prickly but ripe bilberry bushes.

The route continues down a beautiful valley, with the temperature starting to rise as we drop down out of the breeze. We meet a track which turns into tarmac, the usual mutterings, down to the village of Llantysilio. Steve whips out his bumble bee guide and quickly identifies a red-tailed bumble bee, how exciting is that! We cross a couple fields, in the searing heat, before finding shade in the woods beyond. A short bash through deep bracken and around the corner to a disused quarry, where lunch is taken.

The route crosses over the valley, near to Crucis Abbey and re-joins the Clwydian Way. We continue along the Clwydian Way alongside the lovely Eglwyseg river valley, in the rising heat. We take a short tea break at Glyn cottage to regroup and rehydrate and then continue gaining height before the path eventually levels out where we can look across the valley, the end is now in sight. A pleasant path leads down to the Ponderosa and back to the cars.

A short uneventful drive back to the Dysart for rehydration. We join the Cadman's who are celebrating the birth of their first grandchild, a baby boy called Lorence. Oh dear, this does turn into a bit of an extended session!

Jim G