

## BUMS Trip Report

### **Bryn Alyn and the Clwydian Range**

Date: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Route Description: Ascent of Bryn Alyn from layby on the A494 then crossing the Alun valley just south of Llanarmon-yn-Ial then ascending to join Offas dyke path for a stretch of the Clwydian ridge.

BUMS: Selina(Leader), Mike H , Mike W, Jim G, Jeff , Steve

Trip length: 12 miles

Total ascent: approx 1500'

Duration: 6 hours

Weather: Fine and dry, good views

Ground Conditions: Dry

This walk was rescheduled from the usual Friday slot because of a number of commitments to the Walking for Health training Day , which was a shame as the leader had decided on the location of the walk to avoid Friday afternoon traffic..... which I guess I did !

The squad set out from the car park at 8.30 for the hours drive to the start of the walk (via the scenic Wrexham route to avoid Chester morning traffic).

The first ascent of the day was Bryn Alyn, and as there are 2 'tops' marked on the map at 403m the team insisted on bagging them both (with the exception of Mike W who was excused on account of his knackered knees and only did 1). It was only when we were on top of the 2<sup>nd</sup> that Jim spotted another 3<sup>rd</sup> top at 408m so we all did that one too! The walk was already looking like being longer than anticipated.....but the reward was great views looking back to Moel Famau and some beautiful limestone pavement scenery, including some early purple orchids.

The diversion to the third top meant we had to undertake a little bushwhacking to find the very poorly signposted Clwydian way which we then followed all the way to the south of the village of Llanarmon-yn-Ial, the latter part of this involving some more bushwhacking and a lot of help from Jims GPS, as the welsh farmers confirmed their reputation for blocking off footpaths. However, there were still rewards to be had as we found ourselves making our way through some beautiful woodland full of bluebells and cowslips, so much so it was looking like turning into a wildflower walk (much to Jims delight). Eventually we found our way around a caravan site and stopped to enjoy coffee in the sunshine on a bench beside a football pitch (a first?).

We then followed a much more obvious path across the valley and up to meet the Offa Dyke Path on the ridge. Certain members of the squad decided they hadn't done enough tops yet and diverted from the OD path to bag Moel y Plas. This second part of the walk involved no further navigation challenges and after another sunny stop for lunch and some more great views we arrived back at the cars for the easy drive back to the Yew Tree and the usual rehydration.

Another good walk within an hour's drive of the village