

Trip Report: The Wedding Walk

Date: 29th April 2011

Group: Mr. Richard Calder(leader) Mr. Jim Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Les Arrowsmith and Chris, Mrs. Della Kamil, K9. Polo

Route: Not Westminster Abbey.....Nant Gwtheyrn and the Yr Eifl hills

Total Distance: Unknown

Total Ascent: Unknown

Weather: Unknown

Richard and Della, residing in North Wales, declined to meet at the Pavilion so the Arrowsmiths were in charge of ushering the guests prior to departure at 07.30hrs and ensuring their safe arrival at McDonalds, Abergele, at 08.30hrs to meet Richard and Della. Arriving early Les took the opportunity to avail herself of a McDonalds hash brown or two for breakfast while she was waiting for the leader to arrive fashionably late! Once the congregation was complete the procession began to the venue some miles south of Caernarfon and arrived at 09.30hrs. Morning suits and tiaras were donned ready for the big occasion and we set off walking away from the hills!

The only problem was we were walking off the leaders map and he soon got lost in a complex of fields knowing where he wanted to go but not knowing where he was! Luckily Big Jim was at hand with his OS printout of the area and was delegated to get the procession back on course which he did with ruthless efficiency. Fortunately the resultant "bushwacking" did not seriously interfere with the arrangements and we were soon back on course heading down to our meeting with the briny (the sea). Our path took us down through woods and coastal banks swathed in bluebells, a most unusual sight so close to the sea. From the beach it was all uphill but before we got too far we needed a morning coffee break and the guests were surprised to learn that they did not need to get their flasks out as a suitable café was at hand., Les did not believe! but her bluff was called when we came up from the beach and suddenly emerged directly onto the cafe outdoor seating area at 10.54hrs precisely. Les and Della were even more staggered when the café had the royal wedding playing on the till screen and nearly lynched me as I paid for a cappuccino and Earl Grey tea just as a certain young lady was about to get out of a wedding car at a small church somewhere in London.....the till switched to keypad!

Needless to say you can't please all of the people all of the time. Jim became "Disgusted of Tilston Locks" claiming it could not be purely

coincidental that we had arrived at just the right time to see the dress! The leader of course denied the accusation and basked in the appreciation of the ladies, counting his brownie points smugly! Mike and Jim were indignant at the prospect of becoming "namby pamby" and paying for morning beverages and delved into their bags for sustenance. Jim was successful but Mike became more and more agitated at his inability to locate his sandwich in his sac. He began turfing stuff out of his bag and soon realized that the only place he would find it was in the fridge back home! Cap in hand he sheepishly asked the café if they could make a sandwich for him which they happily did. Good job the cafe was en-route!

Having consumed our pre-ceremony drinks we left the café and wandered uphill to our first summit of the day at the giddy height of 440 metres above sea level, a place we had too recently left! The weather was fantastic with a gently cooling breeze but limited visibility due to the heat haze; nonetheless the panoramic views were impressive.

During our descent Chris came to the rescue of Polo, the shortest legged member of the party and carried her down some of the bigger rock steps in spite of being allergic to dogs/cats, a brave man indeed. Polo was slightly allergic to Chris but in spite of this put on a brave face.

Tre'r Ceiri was chosen for the wedding breakfast and we dutifully "bushwacked" across the traverse below Yr Eifl, nobody but the leader understanding why we were not climbing directly to the summit.

Eventually we reached the entrance and Les was sent to the front to first foot and appreciate the wonder of our chosen lunch venue. She approved.

Tre'r Ceiri is believed to have been built in 150BC and is a stunningly complete hill fort with a continuous wall around the perimeter and about 150 circular houses within it. We ambled round and found a suitable place for lunch; we were all ready for it.

Lunch done we made our way out of the fort and on and down to a col before the final climb up to the main peak, Yr Eifl. Again the views were stunning and after a good look round we descended back to the cars.

We had been blessed with good company, glorious weather, fantastic views, stunning locations, sea views and a wedding to boot!

Can't say fairer than that!

Thank you all for your company.

Richard