

Trip Report: North Wales

Date: 26th August 2016

Group: Selina (leader) and Mike (co-leader), Lesley, Jim G, Sue L, Heather, Mike H, Chrissie, Amanda, Steve and Sarah

Route: Llandegla

Total Distance: 9.5 miles

Total Ascent: 1800 ft

Weather: Fine and sunny

A this was the Friday before a busy bank holiday weekend, the brief for this walk was to stay fairly local and keep it shortish in order to be back in the Yew Tree before the worst of the traffic.

So a leisurely 8.30am start from the Yew Tree was in order as the drive to Llandegla was just 50 minutes.

We met in the car park opposite the tiny church and whilst some were booting up others of us took time to read the information board there and we were staggered to learn there were once 16 inns in this tiny village. Funny how that is the one point that stuck in our minds.

We set off on the Offas dyke path, the leader had reccied the walk earlier in the week to make sure there were no navigation errors, but due to enjoying such engaging chat with friends managed to go wrong on 3 occasions within the first mile, so then retired to the back and allowed her co-leader to take over. We followed the well marked ODP all the way to a col on the Clwydian ridge where we stopped in the sunshine to take a coffee break and review our onward options. The way forward was agreed by all the party and we headed down off the ridge for a while through some rather tall bracken. We thought we had lost Lesley at one point but she emerged at the lane at the bottom smiling as always. We then climbed back up again through a farmyard and a rather muddy track before stopping once again to admire the views and have our lunch.

The way back down included more tarmac than I would have liked but our plan to cut diagonally across a field to avoid a stretch of road was thwarted when we thought we spotted a farmer on his quad bike at the point where the official footpath met the road, so we decided to keep to the path. It turned out that it wasn't a farmer but a biker on a very elaborately decorated motorbike. After we stopped to "admire" said bike and have a quick chat we headed off down the lanes and field paths back towards Llandegla. We passed through a field of cows and the pace picked up a tad as we realised that one of the cows was in fact one very large bull. (I've never seen Amanda move so fast!), although to be fair I

think a few of us were keeping a keen eye out, those of us who were brave enough to look.

The walk turned out to be slightly shorter than advertised which resulted in some of the support team (no names John) being woken from their afternoon naps to join us at the Yew Tree.

Thanks to all who came and enjoyed another sunny day in the hills.

Selina