

Trip Report: The Clwydian Hills

Date: 5th December 2010

Group: Jim W (leader), Jean, Lesley, Mike, Jim G, Tony, Tilly

Route: Carrog - Clwydian Way- Moel Y Baer - Moel Morfydd

Total Distance: 10.75 miles

Total Ascent: Unknown

Weather: Unknown

A fairly local destination meant a lie in and a start from the pavilion at 8am. As befitting his status as Secretary, Jim G was picked up from his house, having gritted the lane to allow safe(ish) access. The journey to the start was exciting. We left Bunbury in good weather but the nearer we came to our destination the more snow seemed to be in the fields.

Two unfortunate cars had skidded on black ice just before us and one ended in a ditch and the other clipped a tree. However we arrived safely. The walk started badly for the leader as he had to announce no toilet facilities were available. However throughout the day various bushes were available. Competition seemed to arise as to who could wee their name into the snow. The men seemed to win this one.

The walk starts with a steep climb out of Carrog and this combined with a short snowstorm caused some mutterings. However once on the top with the snow fall stopped we were able to enjoy fantastic walking over virgin snow covered fields.

Cameras were to the ready to capture the fantastic landscapes, although Jim G did show an abnormal tendency to photograph animals, particularly sheep.

The track along the Clwydian Way was followed for some distance before we came to a col with a chance to gratuitously bag a peak called Moel Y Gamelin. With the clagg descending it was some relief to hear that Jim G had already been up this peak so we were spared what would have been a flog.

The track up the mountains we did climb were entertaining having hidden ice pools beneath the snow, and the leader displayed pure leadership qualities by stepping in most of them first, thus warning the rest of the crew. The descents were good fun through the snow and on more than one occasion Jean tried to play human skittles with her as the bowl attempting to knock down the others playing the skittles when she went out of control.

In view of the snow coverings the normal coffee and lunch stops were not held in sunny glades on benches, but instead sitting on heather and beside a metalled track respectively. Another black mark to the leader.

The return to the car park was uneventful, just more wonderful walking through the snow. It was a great day out, rounded off by the usual hydration treatment at the Dysart.

Interesting happenings:

There was much discussion on the merits of Christmas shopping. The women seemed in favour but the men against. The dog expressed no opinion.

A mild domestic in the A's household with Mike arranging some sort of computer teach in on a day already confirmed as the day he was to go shopping with Lesley. Despite being assured by Lesley that 'it does not matter', Mike for some strange reason took this to mean that it did indeed matter and rearranged the computer thingy.

3 surprising things about Tony: 1 he plays the guitar. 2 he has just bought himself a ukulele (Christmas party entertainment?). 3 he was the first to leave the Dysart

Jim W