

Trip Report: North Wales**Date:** 28th January 2011**Group:** Jim Walker (leader) Lynn Quinn, Ann Bodfish, Jim Grant, Jean Walker, Ollie**Route:** Llangollen and Maesyrychen Mountain**Total Distance:** 10.38 miles**Total Ascent:** Unknown**Weather:** Unknown

A respectable departure time from the Pavilion at 8.30 as it is only a short ride to Llangollen. Immediate black marks to the leader and a bollocking from the Chairman as the promised toilets were locked! We were blessed with good weather which ensured excellent visibility on this very scenic route. Leaving the car park we made our way to Valle Crucis Abbey where the leader attempted to introduce some culture into the proceedings by explaining its history. He was quickly reminded that culture is Tony's remit in BUMS and gave up any further attempt.

After crossing the Eglwyseg River we followed the Clwydian Way for a few miles. Knowing that we had Madam Chairman with us, the leader had thoughtfully provided a bench seat for a coffee break, and this went some way to redeem the early faux pas with the toilets.

We then passed under the Eglwyseg Mountain which was the scene of last year's epic walk led by Jim G in thigh high snow. We then started the first climb of the day by Gribin before emerging above the Horseshoe Pass at Bryn-yr-odyn and then descending to pass by what must be the most padlocked gate in Wales at the Ponderosa.

The second climb of the day up Moel y Faen followed and at the summit, in a field of heather, lunch was taken. Here the leader managed to lighten the load on his rucksack by producing cakes and red wine for all to celebrate Jeans birthday. This must be a first lunch stop on a BUMS walk where there were no pork pies consumed by anyone.

A partial descent of Moel y Faen was followed by an inevitable ascent and finally the summit and high point of the day at Moel y Gamelin was attained. The good weather continued to allow us to see this splendid region in all its glory.

A steep descent to regain the Clwydian Way and the route back to the cars via Rhewl rounded off a great day out in the hills.

The usual rehydration stop at the Dysart ensured tradition was maintained, although Tracey now takes over the mantle of asking for the most unusual drink by drinking port and lemon!!

A few words of introduction about our guests for the day:

Tracey is a doctor and as she reminded us at lunch break can either certify you as dead or as insane.

Heather is a proof reader which will prove useful to those of us who struggle to write trip reports. She is also Scottish which is always a welcomed bonus.

John has two Domino's pizza franchises - enough said.

Ollie is a very well behaved dog who needs to practise his style climbing technique.

Jim W