

Trip Report: North Wales**Date:** 2nd August 2013**Group:** Selina (leader), Jim G, Colin, Mike H, Lesley, Mike A , Dave C, Jeff and Chrissie, Roxie**Route:** Worlds End from Llandegla forest**Total Distance:** 12.2 miles**Total Ascent:** 2620 ft**Weather:** Dry and mainly sunny**Time:** 5 hours 55 mins

The short driving time meant a leisurely 8 am meeting in the car park, followed by the short drive to Llandegla where fortunately nobody had taken up the limited public parking in the village. It was here that the leader discovered that half her water supplies had leaked all over the boot.

Undeterred we followed the Offas Dyke path up through Llandegla forest and out onto open moorland .After a short walk along the road we took a detour from the OD path and cut across more open moorland to the top of the little gully at Worlds End. We then descended back down to rejoin the official path, but not before making use of a delightful coffee stop where we enjoyed the sunshine and admired the view.

We then headed off towards Llangollen with the crags of Eglwyseg mountain towering above us. A short exciting bit of scree took us back down to the road where we joined the Clwydian Way. We climbed up through a valley, making a detour around a deep patch of slurry, well most of us went around, Roxie decided to go through the middle causing some angst to Lesley who feared she would get stuck. There followed a beautiful lunch stop against the wall of an abandoned farm house with more angst from Lesley, who was nervous about the fact that the so called abandoned cottage had a newly painted red gate, and that some mad axeman was going to appear and that would be the end of the Bums. Thankfully we all survived and once we had woken Dave and the other sunbathers up it was time to move on. At this point Lesley kindly refilled the leaders water bottle from her platypus and there followed much lobbying for 'carer of the year' award.

We carried on contouring round Cynr-y-Brain, well contouring was perhaps pushing a point as it was quite a pull up. Mike and Lesley brought up the rear and there followed more lobbying for carer of the year. From here we had a great view of the Horseshoe Pass and the leader entertained the group with the story of the missing baby who was found there.* The said leader then got a little help with some difficult path finding on

the next stretch of moorland but after a little bush whacking we found the path and dropped down to a tarmac lane. It was here that Jim G and Mike H took on a 'navigational challenge' around a 'new build' to avoid some retracing of steps (and some frisky bullocks). After we had all ploughed through a builders neatly raked gravel there was more angst from Lesley (theres a theme here), who was concerned about irate farmers/builders and so we bid a hasty retreat. After some hesitation and indecisiveness on the part of the leader, Jim refused to be beaten and we boldly went (some more boldly than others) where few had gone before to claim our 'right of way'.

Rehydration was taken in the sunshine in the Yew Tree beer garden where we all reflected on how lucky we were to have enjoyed such a grand day out.

*a quick google reveals that the incident happened in August 1998, and the baby was in fact 13 months old. The car his grandfather was driving left the road, although it appears there was no explanation of why. The grandfather died instantly but the baby survived, hidden in the bracken, by eating soil. He was found alive 3 days later by a 10 year old boy.

Selina