

Trip Report: Ceiriog Valley, North Wales

Date: 25th March 2016

Group: Tony, Lynn, Caryle, Mike, Lesley, Mike H, Ian, Chrissie, Sarah, John, Heather, Debbie, Mike, Selina, Jeff and Sue.

Route: Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog round trip via Pand

Total Distance: 9.3 miles

Total Ascent: 2000 ft or so

Time: 6 hours

With a guaranteed advertised walk of no more than 9 miles and a super Spring day to enjoy it we set off from the Yew Tree at 8am on our Good Friday walk to the Ceiriog valley just south of Llangollen.

The weather and the promise of a nice and easy walk close to home brought out sixteen BUMs, probably close to a record turn-out, and it was good to see our newest member Sue join us (the first and hopefully not the last on one of my walks). Unfortunately Lynda was ill on the day so couldn't make it and after the grief she gave for missing her off the trip list !

Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog or LDC is at the head of the Ceiriog valley described by Lloyd George as heaven on earth and it certainly was hard to disagree with the man of Circuited as we passed through a Welsh countryside awash with green fields, daffodils and spring lambs. Unbelievably Warrington Council wanted to submerge the whole valley to supply water for its citizens in the 1920s.

So it was at LDC that we parked outside the Hand pub complete with its large wooden palm and we started off steeply up a lane along the flank of Mynydd Bach. This was certainly an early test for our newish walker, Sue, and she coped very well helped at the rear by Caryle.

With the main ascent now out of the way we travelled on along high moorland awash with the song of skylarks and buzzing bees and to the north we could spy the snow covered tops of the Berwyns - and it's true, Moel Sych really does sound great in a scouse accent.

Once over the top we reached a yellow gorse banked track and decided to stop for a coffee break above the river Teirw valley. Debbie's dogs got a bit over excited with the aroma of all the food and Monster Munch and so they had to be tied up for a bit.

We carried on down into the valley and passed an old farm which looks like it had been there for centuries (in-fact we saw no other walkers on the day) and through woods following the river before arriving at a Glass House at Pandy where Lynn then gave us all directions.

The walk then got even more interesting when we moved westwards along an old tram/railway line but as was quaintly typical of the whole area the information board on the edge of the trail was too faded to be legible. After lunch stop in an old building there was another unwelcome slog up a muddy path by Hendre farm and here the leader had to be firm and ignore Mike H's suggestions to carry on high (I must confess I was fearful of all that additional height and BUMs abuse) and we snaked round past Ty-newydd farm near Tregeiriog.

We entered a wood and at dead on 9 miles into the walk Ian and John stopped immediately - have they never heard of tolerances, especially when using a piece of string to measure the route ?

Luckily the tower of St Garmon church in LDC could just be spotted so we carried on happily back to the cars and it did take a lot of courage not to stop at the Hand for a pint (recommended by Mike and Selina).

Nevermind, we were well rewarded with the Yew Tree's beer festival where we were also joined by Delia, Penny, Lynne and Amanda to round the day off nicely.

Tony