

Walk report for The BUMs trip to Clun in Shropshire, 1/4/26 (11.2 miles, 1800 ft of ascent).

Sixteen intrepid adventurers set out from the pavilion in beautiful spring sunshine - Mike Willis, Neil and Ann, Lesley, Bruce and Lynn, Sarah, Andrea, Cate, Janet, Della, Jim, Iain M, Dave Bond, Gerry and myself. Unusually, there were no dogs, perhaps due to the dire warning of adders, lambs and vertiginous styles in the walk info.

It was a long old drive to Clun - 1 hour 40 minutes there, and almost two hours home owing to the Friday night traffic. However, we were rewarded by empty paths, I think we only met one walker the whole way round. Free parking and civilised toilets in the Memorial Hall were greatly appreciated by the team.

Skies in Clun were not quite as lovely as they had been at home, but the visibility was still good enough to reveal the stunning Shropshire hills. Those who turned to look over their shoulders at the top would have had a good view of the Church Stretton hills. We walked past Clun Castle, out along the edge of the Unk river on the Shropshire Way. A steady climb took us up to our coffee stop on a rocky outcrop, then onwards and upwards to the head of the valley. The breakaway group, headed by Jim with his trusty digital map set a good pace, but they came off the intended route several times, and had to be recalled. The leader was heard to mutter that a sheep dog would have been a handy addition to the team, but in the absence of such, Neil had to run (seriously run) after the advance party at one stage.

We returned to Clun on the Offa's Dyke path and had our lunch on a lovely grassy bank. Steep, ankle-rolling descents were tackled without incident - well done everyone. Then we headed for home via bridleways and a short section on a quiet road. The rain arrived at this stage, but having done its job of soaking our trousers, it moved on leaving us to steam gently on the last mile or so. There were no incidents, apart from Jim reporting that Lesley had been bitten by a snake. Luckily, that was a slight exaggeration, and Lesley survived being attacked by a stick.

Thank you everyone for your excellent company. Thanks also to the drivers and the photographers. Bruce's jolly photo is attached.

Clare G