

**Trip Report:** A loop over Llantysilio Mountain from Rhewl

**Date:** Dec 2nd, 2023

**Group:** Steve (leader), Sarah, Ann, Neil, Mike W, Lesley, Jim G, Christine and Dave, Colin, Janet

**Route:** A circuit from Rhewl over the main hills that comprise Llantysilio Mountain

**Total Distance:** 7 (ish) miles

**Total Ascent:** 2200 ft (by OS map measurement, but seemed like more!)

**Photo's:** <https://photos.app.goo.gl/yrJVyWJe33jrKgpy7>

You know how some days can seem ideal for walking? Well I think that's how most of us were feeling as we got out of the cars at our starting point in the Dee valley. It was a very still morning with no wind and an air temperature below zero as we set off along a minor road, passing The Sun Inn, a 14th century Drover's inn which has opened and closed numerous times in recent years. When the road ran out at a property we continued on a bridleway that was largely covered in lovely crisp fallen leaves and soon led up to fields of grazing sheep. An unusual stile, which lacked a proper step, took a while to negotiate and allowed the leader (and his assistants !) to decide between a couple of route options.

There is a broad, stoney track that runs along Llantysilio Mountain over its various summits and with a bit of steady climbing we arrived at the track. The view from this point was impressive, looking towards Llangollen, Dinas Bran and beyond, so it seemed like a good spot to take refreshments while sitting in the heather. The track featured many frozen puddles and, as the photo below shows, Mike and Jim couldn't resist checking one particular icy puddle, with the result that Jim slipped and inspected it very closely! (Fortunately for him nobody was quick enough to capture the moment on camera!).



The track led us up and over Moel Morfydd, Moel y Gaer and then Moel y Gamelin. The frozen track made the climbing of these 3 hills a little easier than the usual loose gravel but descending icy slopes needed some care.

Leaving the main track we descended on a good path that leads around the southern side of Clogau Quarry. This quarry dates back to around 1700 and is still a commercial enterprise known as Berwyn Slate Quarry. There is a lot of spoil from the old workings and the leader thought that this area would offer a nice sheltered lunch spot. Unfortunately the leader didn't make a good choice! No sooner had we found some suitable rocks to perch on than the breeze increased and we seemed to be in a wind tunnel. With some clouds gathering and a couple of flakes of snow the lunch break didn't last long before everyone was ready to move on. That is everyone except Christine who had brought a banquet and nearly got left behind with her yoghurt!

Heading south-east from the quarry we picked up a path, through dead bracken and then some gorse, which gradually took us down towards the Dee Valley again. A short tramp across fields of sheep involved a footbridge over a stream and of course required the obligatory BUMS group photo to round off a grand day out.

Steve