

BUMS Christmas Walk – Saturday 29th December 2018

Location: Llanymynech Hill

Weather: Dry, sunny and warm for December

Party: Mike A (leader), Lesley, Tony, Lynn, Steve, Sarah, Neil, Ann, Sue L, Jeff, Debbie, Colin, Jim G, Mike H, Ian, Frank. Spot, Elly & Riley (Canine)

Distance: 7 miles **Total Ascent:** 575 ft **Time:** 4 hrs

Christmas walks were intended for members to bring along children, partners, relatives and friends staying over Christmas. Times seem to be changing as the 'children' are now mostly at university and the relatives too old/infirm to undertake even a gentle stroll. So for 2018 the group consisted of members. One member has been absent from walks for several years and we had a job remembering his name. As soon as he spoke though, we knew that lovely scouse accent. Yes, Frank McHale came along.

The walk started from the small town of Llanymynech, a few miles west of Oswestry. Now until we had reced the walk a few days ago, no one had heard of this place right on the Welsh/English border. The start of the walk was from a heritage area where one of only 4 remaining Hoffman Kilns has been very well conserved with informative boards explaining the lime kiln process and history and economics of the system. This kiln burned for 15 consecutive years just pre WW1 and there is much evidence of the tram-road which carried the limestone from the quarry, which we walked around, down to the kiln. Coffee was taken here (a first walk to have a formal coffee stop before we had even started) whilst we had time to take in the buildings including a huge chimney, again very well preserved.

We proceeded onwards now and up to the quarry, then around the edge of woodland and a golf course, following the Offa's Dyke footpath for a while.

We moved quickly from coffee to lunch taken on a bluff with a view. Some of us saved space for forthcoming chips at The Yew Tree but others just got on with their turkey sandwiches, whilst clinging to the precipitous bluff.

We followed a bridleway down to the road again at Llynclys. Crossing here brought us to the engine sheds of the Cambrian Heritage Railway. Tony was disappointed to find the steam trains immobilised for the winter so we pressed on across fields, finally meeting the derelict Montgomery Canal, which is also being conserved.

So Ian got his wish of a tow path walk as we strolled back towards the start at Llanymynech.

An easy walk, with interesting features both geologically and industrially was enjoyed by all and less than an hour's drive from home. Back at the Yew Tree Sam had arranged for us to have lashings of chip butties, on the house.

Frank was heard to comment that he would pop up again on a walk in 2025. We will wait with bated breath.

Happy New Year to all members and hopefully see you at the AGM on Monday 7th January 2019 at The Dysart, 8.00 pm.

Lesley

