

Trip Report

Llantysilio Mountain - Saturday 14th January

Distance 9.3 miles, total ascent 2150 ft.

Group: Mike H (leader), Lesley, Della, Cate, Lynn, Sarah, Tony, Mark, Mike W, Jim, Steve.

After a couple of weeks of heavy rain the ground everywhere was saturated with many areas in flood, so choosing a suitable walk was a bit of a challenge. The leader has a reputation for wet walks so the weather forecast had been checked on a very regular basis. It came as a relief that following overnight heavy rain the Met Office were promising a relatively dry day. So the group set off from Bunbury in drizzle with dark, menacing clouds overhead suggesting further downpours. Arriving at the starting point in Carrog, we met up with Steve and Sarah and parked in a lay-by right next to the River Dee. The river was in full spate, looking very threatening and almost reaching the road. (Will the cars still be there on our return?).

So with everyone prepared for the wet weather we set off over the ancient Carrog bridge to access the Clwydian Way, the first part of our route. This first section was a steady uphill slog, so the initial enthusiastic chat and laughter slowly died away as walking and talking at the same time became too demanding for most. The route then continued across several fields bordered with locked field gates and ladder stiles, making the route not particularly dog friendly. Fortunately this was a rare occasion when we had no canine companions.

The next section of the route was across bracken and heather moorland and by this time we were greeted with blue skies and occasional glimpses of sunshine. Marching through the moorland we disturbed several Snipe and Black Grouse and eventually reached the path which leads up to the summit of Moel Morfydd. As this involved just going up and down a steep path to and from the summit (1833ft), this part of the walk was made optional by the democratic leader. Although it was optional, everyone made it to the very windy trig point at the top. The glorious 360 degree views made the uphill slog well worth the effort

As we made our way down back to the Dee Valley, we took the opportunity to have lunch in a sheltered spot which had a marvellous view of a decaying muck spreader and dumped farm waste! We continued our route through a farm which must hold a record for the amount of old discarded farm machinery. After passing through 'Clampits Farm' we joined the more scenic Dee Valley Way which took us back to the start.

So far we'd had no mishaps and were nearly at the end of the route but as we stopped at the final gate we realised we were one member short - looking back our missing member re-appeared, hobbling down the hill with a twisted knee.

Just a short walk along a tarmac lane and we arrived back at the cars, which were still on terra firma! So, a great day in the Denbighshire countryside with interesting companions and we didn't get too wet.

Mike H