

Trip Report - Friday 28th June 2019

Location : Conwy, North Wales

Distance : 9.5 miles

Ascent : 270m

Weather : Sunny, warm, dry but windy on the tops.

Squad : Tony, Lynn, Mike H, Sarah, Ian, Ann, Mark, Rob, Debbie, Jeff, Lesley, Sue, John, Heather, Cate, Chrissie plus Andrea (guest).

Mutts: Riley, Spot, Ellie and Jess.

In warm and sunny weather 16 of us (plus Rob who was meeting us in Conwy - must be near a record turnout !) headed off from Bunbury to the North Wales Coast. The leader's plan was to meet up at the Beacons Car park next to Conwy marina and which some of the group did correctly but the other half (including the leader) somehow found themselves at the wrong car park next to a hotel.

We quickly re-grouped and walked south along the beautiful Conwy estuary where Mike pointed out a number of washed up barrel jellyfish along the sands. We then made another wrong turning and arrived on a dead-end metal bridge. With all the false starts and confusion I thought it wise to start counting heads, and later on I was glad I did.

The path took us past the smallest house in Britain and here was a great opportunity for a possible BUMs 2020 calendar photo. We carried on through Conwy town centre past the many nice smelling coffee shops and with Rob's local knowledge we arrived at the start of the North Wales Way and our ascent up to Mynwydd y Dref or Conwy Mountain (244m). The climb was along a lovely path complete with wild ponies and sublime views all across Conwy Bay and at around 11 am we found a great mountainside place for a coffee stop.

The route then took us west towards Penmaenbach and at the base of Alt Wen (255m) the group was given the choice of climbing to its top or resting at the base in the sunshine. The BUMs who climbed were met with unusually strong winds and so it was a very quick up and down. Another lovely grassy spot near Sychnant Pass was our lunch spot and a 'courting couple' promptly made their exit when we noisy lot turned up.

The sun was now getting hotter and with some military jets roaring overhead we went down the valley towards the village of Dwygyfylchi following a clear stream where the dogs took the opportunity to cool down in its flowing waters.

We headed past the small village church with sheep grazing in the graveyard and crossed the bridge over the busy A55 and down onto the beach. Once again I counted heads and

after finding there were now 16 of us I counted the same 16 again and then we realised we were missing Ian and Jess !

Rob and Mike volunteered to form an Ian and Jess search party and they found them both back by the stream in Dwygyfylchi with Ian blaming us all for deserting him - arf, arf !

Goodness knows what Penny would have said if we'd lost Jess.

After a bit of uncomfortable walking over large beach pebbles our final 2 miles were over nice wide open sands and we arrived back at the Beacons car park.

Our later re-hydration in the sunny Dysart garden completed a perfect day's walk (with a few mishaps including poor Spot who had to be taken to the vet after suffering from licking something nasty - perhaps a jellyfish ?)

Tony