

Trip Report: The Breidden Hills

Date: January 15th, 2022

Group: Steve (leader) & Sarah, Ann, Janet M, Chrissie, Lynn and Tony, Colin, Dave, Della and Richard, Jim, Bob

Route: A circuit of the Breidden Hills from Middletown

Total Distance: 8 miles

Total Ascent: 2400 ft

Middletown is a village just over the Welsh border when driving from Shrewsbury to Welshpool. At 9.15 on Saturday morning its tranquillity was broken by the arrival of thirteen BUMS - including first-timer Janet - itching to get going on the first club walk of 2022, even though the leader had given notice of the long climb at the start!

After crossing a field the path ascended steadily through woodland and the group started to spread out. Unfortunately, Chrissie was feeling unwell and took a long pause before deciding that it would be best for her to return the short distance to the cars. So while Bob and Colin escorted Chrissie down, the rest of the group pushed on to the summit of Moel y Golfa where the Uriah Burton monument stands. This monument was built by romany gypsy Uriah Burton in 1963 as a memorial to his father Ernest, who died in 1960. Following Uriah's death in 1986 a plaque was added commemorating his life. Almost by the time we had read the plaque and opened flasks Bob and Colin were back with us.

The descent off Moel y Golfa was a bit scrambly but we were soon back into woodland and tramping leaves underfoot to eventually reach a narrow lane. We covered about a mile up the lane before turning off to then follow a bridleway into the woods on the other side of the road. This took us up to another monument on the top of a hill - [Rodney's Pillar](#) (click for details). The pillar is presently surrounded by fencing which, as explained in the link, is because of cracks in the structure, and the repair bill is estimated at £200K !

After enjoying lunch with a glorious view we followed a rather muddy trail down to a stream and across into a field that was one of the few sections of flat terrain on the whole route. But it didn't last for long and soon we arrived at the bottom of Bulthy Hill, a sharp little up and down leading on to Middletown Hill. There were a few groans at this point as the final challenge of the day became apparent. However, the weather was being kind and the views to the south made it possible to pick out some Shropshire hills to the south. Soon everyone was over the top and heading down on a trod through old bracken towards the village and the cars.

Well done all and particular congratulations to Janet on completing her first BUMS walk and post-walk Dysart visit!