

Trip Report: A Circuit over Liberty Hall from Corwen

Date: April 25th, 2025

Group: Steve (leader), Sarah, Christine, Dave, Jim G, Clare, Lesley, Mike A, Mike W, Gerry, Dave C, Bob, Mark, Chrissie, Chris

Total Distance: 9.1 miles

Total Ascent: 1400 ft

First a bit of history: Liberty Hall wasn't so grand as it may sound! It was built in the early 20th century by the then owner of the Rhug Estate, Lord Newborough, to provide some accommodation for those involved in grouse shooting on the extensive moorland. The hall building was on the highest hill in the area and was a difficult place to reach, which led to its demise. It did get used as a lookout by the Home Guard in WW2 but by that time the building was quite derelict.

These photos show how derelict the site is today!



The walk started in Corwen on some steep paths through woodland and we soon reached a point named Pen y Pigyn where the view over the Dee valley allowed a stop to recover some breath! The path then continued to climb more gently up to the boundary of the woods and over a stile on to open moorland. A steady plod up a good wide grassy path delivered us to the rocky remains of Liberty Hall where we stopped for a refreshment break and a chance to take in the all around views.

With coffee consumption complete we began the downhill half of the route, heading south with a few zig-zags and soon into Cynwyd Forest, where the wide forestry tracks were ideal for group chatting! After a mile or so the track became a narrow tarmacked road and we continued steadily down to the village of Cynwyd. We paused here to regroup and then joined the North Berwyn Way heading north out of the village to join the route of a disused railway track (running until 1968 between Ruabon and Barmouth). At this point we had a choice of routes: either follow the old railway or walk around a couple of fields close to the River Dee. As another refreshment break was due we decided that the riverside route was preferable and sat down beside the water to eat and drink.

Continuing the walk around two or three fields next to the river we re-joined the North Berwyn Way for a kilometre or so and then walked the last kilometre on the A5 pedestrian path back to the centre of Corwen and its car park. I should mention that some of the group can claim an extra 20m of ascent on this final leg as a result of choosing a slightly different route!

All the cars made good time on the drive back to Bunbury and a sizable gang gathered in the garden of the Dysart. Thanks to all the walkers and in particular the drivers.

Steve