

27 November 2011

Penderyn and Waterfalls

On Sunday 27th November, I took the Lower Wye Ramblers to Penderyn in the South of the Brecon National Park to do an 8 mile (13km) circular walk and with a planned surprise near the end. Penderyn is notable for welsh whisky and also of Dafydd Gam who was a man at Arms for Henry V and was instrumental in defeating Owen Glyndwr at Usk in 1412 and who died at the battle of Agincourt in 1414. Thirteen of us climbed from Penderyn, past the church and onto the high plateau towards Pontneddfechan, with a stop for coffee (and cake to mark a walker's birthday) near the bridge over the Affon Nedd.

The next stage began with the long climb through the Glyn Neath Golf club, where we saw a Red Kite flying high in a clear blue sky, to Clyn Gwyn. This stretch was one of the boggiest experienced in the history of the Lower Wye (or so I was often told along the way). Lunch was taken by the incredibly powerful Sgwd Isaf Clun-gwyn (fall of the white meadow) waterfall on the Afon Mellte; a spectacle of sight, sound and feeling at the thunderous roar of the falling water assaulted all the senses.

Suitably fed and watered (more cakes!) we headed off south through the forest to the "surprise" - the Sgwd yr Elra (falls of snow). An incredible waterfall that you can walk behind (something every one should do in life). The waterfall, however, was swollen with recent rain and the spray in front and behind was the worst I have seen. Consequently we all got very wet as we traversed to the other side, but it made it all the more exciting!

The final climb took us back up onto high ground and then into more mud and water towards Penderyn. In the end we took 5 hours to complete the circuit climbing and descending some 1850ft (530m) in what was stunning countryside and worth all the effort.

Steve Hunt

Lower Wye Ramblers