

## **Sunday 21 December 2014**

For their last walk before Christmas, on Sunday 21 December, the Lower Wye Ramblers chose a favourite local walk from Tintern. A good turnout of 17 members and a lady newcomer from Hamburg enjoyed a leisurely 7 miler starting from the wireworks carpark, crossing the bridge over to the Gloucestershire side of the river and ascending the steep, and sometimes rocky, twisting path through the woods to Offa's Dyke ridge and on to the Devil's Pulpit for a short break to admire one of the classic viewpoints in Wales, looking down into the valley to the Abbey. The threatened rain kept off and the party continued along the Dyke under grey skies to Madgett Hill, where they dropped anchor for a picnic lunch and took in the fine views across Brockweir Common.

Suitably refreshed and with batteries recharged, they followed a series of paths across the Common and descended again through woods to emerge on the river bank near Brockweir. After a short visit to the Moravian Church - tucked away almost unseen behind the village inn - they crossed the river back onto the Welsh side and followed the easy but muddy riverbank path past the Old Station, now closed for the winter season, and back through the village to complete a pleasant morning in some of the most delightful parts of the Wye Valley.