

## **Centre for Alternative Technology - Tuesday April 25th 2017**

### **Organizer Maureen Preen**

The awful weather forecast caused some members to cancel, and others who had visited in the past did not feel inclined to do so again, but the 26 who made the trip to CAT were very impressed with all that is on offer, and I had comments of "Must come again.....bring husband.....thank you for introducing me to this place".

The drive through Mwynder Maldwyn was stunning, with sunshine and glimpses of snow on high places, and apart from a couple of dry hail showers we had fine weather all day. As our late Chairman, Mr Wyndham Evans, always said, "We are blessed again".

I had chosen this location because the new quarry trail was opened last October, weaving through the treetops of managed broadleaf woodland to a viewing platform for the dramatic quarry face, skirting a waterfall and reservoir before opening out to reveal panoramic views into Snowdonia National Park.

Woodland Officer, Rob Goodsell, had arranged free entry for us, and when we assembled at the top station after our exciting trip in the water-balanced train, he gave us an introduction to the site.

We then went our separate ways, those unable to do any of the 3 quarry trails choosing to botanise the main site, where there are interactive displays, working examples of environmentally responsible buildings, renewable energy generation, sustainability in the home, organic growing, composting and waste management. These displays are not just for now: they are part of a thriving, sustainable organisation run on renewable energy generated on site.

Many of us supported the charity by buying food and drinks in the impressive cafe, and our plant and bird lists will be sent to Rob as a thank-you for a great day.