

Dyffryn Ardudwy
Monday 7th September 2015
Organisers Sheila Turner and Sue Bosson

We arrived by coach to a chaos of roadworks and pneumatic drills. To escape this we made our way to the peace and seclusion of an impressive Neolithic burial chamber erected 3000-1900 BC. This is a scheduled ancient monument cared for by CADW. Here, while we ate our picnic lunch, we had fine views of the sea and mountains and a chance to admire the many lichens in the surrounding, amazingly intact stone walls.

We then made our way across open countryside towards Cors y Gedol, another burial chamber surrounded by large areas of gorse which was heavily scented in the warm sunshine. Ruth pointed out a patch of English Stonecrop, *Sedum anglicum*, on a rocky mound.

After a short detour to photograph the well preserved pack horse bridge, Pont Fadog, we reached the lovely wooded valley of the Afon Ysgethin. The river was in full flow with plenty of white water after the recent rain.

In the damp shade we found Hard Fern, *Blechnum spicant* and Hart's Tongue *Asplenium scolopendrium* amongst several moss-covered fallen trees. As we came to the end of our walk near Talybont the woodland floor was carpeted with Common Cow-wheat, *Melampyrum pratense* in full flower which shone out in the dappled sunlight.

From here Mr Gittins took us back by coach for an excellent and welcome tea at the community run Y Tebot Arian.

Birds seen and/or heard by Mike Backhouse, Sue and Richard Swindells

Common buzzard
Black Headed Gull
Herring Gull
Eurasian collared dove
Common swift
Barn swallow
House martin
Meadow pipit
Grey wagtail
Winter wren
Hedge accentor (dunnock)
European robin
Common blackbird
Song thrush
Mistle thrush
Blackcap
Lesser whitethroat
Chiffchaff
Spotted flycatcher
Long-tailed tit
Blue tit
Wood nuthatch
Eurasian treecreeper
Black-billed magpie
Eurasian jackdaw
Carrion crow
House sparrow
Chaffinch
European goldfinch
Common linnet