

## **Pant Glas & Kerry Ridgeway 15/07/18**

Organiser Steve Attwood-Wright

On a fine sunny morning, members turned up early enough in Sarn for us to quickly transfer into a smaller number of cars and drive up to Pant Glas – our starting point for the Kerry Ridgeway. Being a little earlier than our usual meets we were able to set off at once with our packed lunches to explore this ancient trackway and landscape, viewing ancient signs of man's occupation of this area – Offas Dyke, an Iron Age hill fort and a Dark Ages ditch and embankment.

Days of great heat had created a haze that day which kept the temperature moderate though still allowing us to view the far reaching skyline – the Beacon Hill from the Turbary, through Cader Idris, the Aran range, Arenig Fawr far away, the Berwyns, Long mountain, Stiperstones, Long Mynd and Brown Clee.

We found a lovely picnic spot by a well established manmade pool and watched the Swifts, Yellow Hammers and Goldfinches and Damsel and Dragonflies while we enjoyed our refreshments and heard the lovely tinkle of a Goldcrest when we resumed our walk

Walking on to the Turbary, the last surviving area of heather moor, now a reserve managed by Shropshire Wildlife Trust, we were amazed at the number of Butterflies on the wing – clouds of whites all day and many other butterfly species recorded. Unusually for a Field society outing the botanical records were unexceptional (although at an altitude over 1000' the land is farmed quite intensively) but insects and birds were very numerous including the Bilberry Bumble bee seen in the heather and Crossbills heard in the Sitka Spruce plantation. Returning to our start point one couple saw a female Hen Harrier.

Our day concluded with a very fine tea at the Horse and Jockey in Churchstoke where thanks were given to the organiser of the outing and the tea providers at the pub. A perfect outing in a lovely remote upland landscape.

Butterflies: Ringlet, Peacock, Small White, Green Veined, Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Comma and Silver Y moth.

Emperor Dragonfly, Sue saw a Chaser?

Birds: Buzzard, Kestrel, Red Kite, Goldfinch, Swallow, Swift, Yellow Hammer, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Moorhen, Goldcrest, Raven, Carrion Crow, Sky Lark, Meadow Pipit, Willow Warbler, Chiff Chaff, Blue tit, Wood Pigeon, House martin, Chaffinch, female Marsh Harrier.

Common Lizard