

I think the dry summer finally gave way to rain for the outing to Llangynog but thankfully it didn't affect our numbers. It wasn't raining as I turned up at the village car park where many were eating their picnic lunch. I had selected routes from the previous four visits; a chance for members to retrace their steps or explore parts they had not been to before. The keen botanists set off up the lovely valley parallel to the main Bala road. This little used lane, unscathed by wide tractor wheels, is full of lovely plants.

Less able members were able to wander around the village and take coffee in the pub. I led a small party in the opposite direction down the valley on the back road back towards Penybontfawr where we were able to take the slate path which climbs quite gently up the hill side below Craig Rhiwarth. We saw the lovely parsley fern growing in the stone walls, the little tiny English sedum clinging on to the loose slate and corydalis climbing over the bracken. We tried our best not to catch up with Mike Backhouse who was bird watching but he hung back for us and we enjoyed his knowledgeable company through the oak woodland and up in to the hanging valley, Cwm Glan-hafon with Craig Rhiwarth and its ancient hill fort towering over us. We stopped to admire the equipment used by farmers to cut some of the bracken, the stripes most evident on the hillside. We continued along the public footpath to its end by the sheep pens leaving Mike to enjoy his lunch in peace and made our way back down, crossing over the Nant Sebon stream to descend this most beautiful of valleys to the lane below. Crossing over the Tanat floodplain to reach the river itself we followed another public footpath back to the village. Here we met the rest of the party in the Memorial Hall where the hall committee once again had prepared another splendid tea. We were joined for tea by my husband John, recuperating from illness and kindly fetched by Mike.

Several members had driven along Cwm Pennant to Pennant Melangell near the very special shrine church and re-visited Nant Ewyn, in English, Shepherd's Stream. Steve Attwood-Wright gives an account below.

8 members visited Shepherds Stream where we had a warm welcome from Peter and Gill Burton. They showed us their amazing HEP system installed in 2014. The 15 Kw generator is housed in a wooden building alongside a 17th Century priests house being converted into accommodation and had generated over 70,000 Kw/h in the first year - enough for 15 households! We followed the stream steeply uphill through a lovely wooded dingle to view the weir where the system catches up to 30% of the flow. We then explored the woodland and returned in a heavy shower to visit Melangell's shrine in the adjoining church.

Plants seen in the village: - Herb Robert, Ragwort, Grondsel, Hedge Convolvulus, Foxglove, Wall Rue, Parsley Fern, Polypody, Gorse, English Sedum, Autumn Hawkbit, Wall Pennywort Rowan. Thanks to Mary Oliver.

Thanks to Mike Backhouse for the bird list: -

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.