

Pantmaenog - Cwmbelan 12/6/17

Organisers - Steve Atwood Wright & Sheila Turner

On a slightly damp morning 31 members met at the home of Colin & Mary Humphrey situated three miles slightly SW of Llanidloes. Aided by way - marks strategically placed on the sharp corners of the approach lanes we all arrived safely in time to eat our picnic lunch together. As we sat around the trestle tables which had been thoughtfully provided for our visit, Colin welcomed us and gave an informative background introduction.

When they bought Pantmaenog 20 years ago the 60 acre holding was unimproved with neither an approach road (the previous owner did not drive) nor any electricity .A lot of hard work and careful conservation management has resulted in flora - rich meadows rough pasture, woodland and restored hedgerows retaining the 19th century small-field system. Hedgerows are double-fenced under Tir Gofal with 18,000 shrubs & small trees planted.

As the weather improved we were keen to set off to explore. Clearly mown paths offered plenty of choices of walks, enabling us to botanise whilst enjoying beautiful views of upland Montgomeryshire. Lists of plants ,birds and butterflies seen were recorded but unfortunately no sightings were found of Petty whin *Genista anglica* or Marsh lousewort *Pedicularis palustris* which were allegedly seen on a survey over 20 years ago.

In 1996 Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust gave very serious consideration to buying this site as a nature reserve. As we saw on our very enjoyable visit it is clear Pantmaenog is in very safe hands. We left reluctantly to quench our thirst at the Unicorn in Llanidloes who provided a splendid tea.

Lists supplied by Kate Thorne Sue & Richard Swindells et al.