

# Thanks for the tip

**HELEN JELLEFF** is a Joondanna resident with an adventurous streak. After reading a recent **SPEAKER'S CORNER** by Marshall Willan about a walking tour of Wales, she was inspired to strap on some runners and grab some nordic walking sticks and tackle the land of the leek.



• Helen Jelleff (wearing visor) with some new-found friends on her trek across Wales.



• Bodelwyddan Castle.

IN October 2010 you printed an article in *Speaker's Corner* called *Wales of a time* by Marshall Willan.

I was so captured by the article I contacted Marshall, which ended with myself and a friend going to Wales and doing a similar walk.

I looked at the website in your article then contacted the people from the Clwydian Walking Holidays, who emailed me suggestions for a wonderful six-day walking holiday in the Wales Mountains.

In May 2011 we flew into Manchester and spent time with family there who then drove us to meet Bill Eckersall who is a director of the company. We arrived at the Springfield Hotel Halkyn to be met by Bob Eckersall another director (whom we had been emailing) complete with cups of tea and sandwiches.

This hotel is complete with gym and swimming pool, which was perfect for the body aches after a long day's hiking in the hills. These aches slowly went away as we found ourselves fitter and fitter in the clean air of Wales.

All our meals were at our hotel and a packed lunch was provided each day when we went walking with Bob and others. We always stopped for a coffee break from the bottomless thermos Bob carried. We were picked up by car each day and driven to places such as Bodelwyddan Castle: There were many tourists here as we walked all round the beautiful gardens and trailed walkways.

On a day too wet to walk Bob drove us to Conwy, which was magnificent in itself. The castle, Big Orm and Little Orm, the smallest house in Wales—so much to see. A little bit of shopping where we bought some winter bargains, as it was quite cold, windy and wet.

We even checked the inside of their quaint beautiful hotels,

the view. We were lucky enough to be able to see the Snowdonian Mountains, as it was clear enough. Even out here Bob needed to pay for parking!

We composed the following poem for the group.

*Thanks for the Memories*

*For our summer in Wales  
With our Nordic walking sticks  
Up hills and down dales.  
We loved the kissing gates  
But not the wobbly styles  
As we walked the many miles.*

*We saw Denbeigh and  
Llanrhaeadr,  
Great and Little Orm,  
Ryhl, Ruthin and Conwy.  
All in such great form.  
We had lots of shared laughs and  
Many a tall tale from  
"The Boy stood on the Burning  
deck"  
As we explored the hidden trails.*

*Thanks for the coffee  
And your company there and  
back  
As we walk every step of the way  
"Off the Beaten Track"*

At the end of a wonderful six days' walking holiday Bob drove us to Holyhead to catch our ferry to Dublin, where we continued our holiday to Northern Ireland, UK, Malta and Rome then home to Perth after almost seven weeks away.

Thank you for your article Marshall: The people we met all loved meeting you and hope to see us all back there one day for another walk.

which were nice and warm. We drove home along the coast via Rhyl, etc.

One evening we went to the Anthony Hopkins Theatre, which was presenting "The Taming of The Shrew". What a wonderful performance it was, complete with front row seats.

Next day a guided tour of Denbeigh. We were in awe of it all. Denbeigh has a beautiful bronze statue of Stanley, who'd asked "Dr Livingstone I presume" all those years ago. Stanley came from Denbeigh and the town honoured him with this statue in the main street. The castle was built in 1282 and finished in 1310. We walked along some of the seven miles of walled walkway all round the castle.

We shared a lovely meal with Bob and his wife Janet, along with some friends in their home and afterwards they played the guitar for some light entertainment.

Early next day up and off to Ruthin, then higher up we climbed some of Moel Famau, which is 554 metres at the summit.

This was too much for us so we sat halfway up and enjoyed

"Come to me, all you who labour and are over-burdened, and I will give you rest." Mt 11: 28

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