

A wonderful day out at Snowdon Rocks!

Excitement! Today's the day, Snowdon Mountain Railway here we come.

A cloudy start soon gives way to watery sun. Once in Llanberis, there are crowds waiting outside the station, along with a lovely choir, 'Tenovus Cancer Care Sing with us', who entertain us while we wait in the warm sun for our train. We meet the Rotary Club stewards for a welcome briefing, and are given straps to wear bearing the motto, "By your side, love, hope, strength, foundation."

Our fellow passengers are all ages, cancer sufferers/ survivors and those with dementia. We are loaded into carriages with a drink and a bun and off we go, grinning like schoolkids.

I didn't know what to expect and was surprised at the height we had reached almost as soon as we left the station. Then, a lovely two-part waterfall, thundering into the river below, was very picturesque.

We trundled along - the train making quite an effort to carry its load - Half-way Rocky Valley Halt, Clogwyn Station then the actual summit.

By this time the weather had improved dramatically but the summit was cold and misty. I was amazed at the hundreds of foot soldiers slogging to the top of Wales' highest mountain. Many of them waved at the train - and we waved back. Another surprise was the new Summit Café, packed to the rafters with hundreds of walkers. We had our photo taken with the 'Snowdon Summit' sign behind us to prove we had made it. We also caught a glimpse of Mike Peters, the rock star, who joined our homeward train.

Of course, the mountain range just defies description; Crib Goch, Moel Eilio, y Lliwedd, Llechog etc, truly breath-taking and awesome. It's hard to imagine such grandeur unless you see it with your own eyes. The road like a silver ribbon, far below.

The mood was one of great camaraderie, we met the loveliest people. Such a happy atmosphere pervaded the train. We could not have contemplated this adventure without assistance and support and we are sincerely thankful for the opportunity.

We were filled with happiness on our trip home and will remember the day very fondly.

~C Longworth, Conwy carer