What's this about 'one for luck'?

There is an old tradition in the Ceiriog Valley that you always get a little more than you ask for!

So buy this pack of five walks and you get the sixth one free, just 'for luck'!

The Ceiriog Country Code

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
Guard against all risk of fire.
Leave gates as you find them.
Keep any dogs under close control.
No dogs during lambing!
Keep to public rights of way across farmland.
Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
Take all litter home.
Keep all water clean.
Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
Take great care on narrow country lanes.
Make no unnecessary noise.
Promote goodwill with all users of the land.

If you encounter a problem

with the route, please report the details to:
The Rights of Way Officer,
Wrexham County Borough Council, Crown Buildings,
PO Box 1293, Wrexham LL11 1WQ.
Telephone (01978) 297154.

This is one of a series of leaflets for walkers of the 21st Century.
Compiled by The Chirk and Ceiriog Valley Partnership.
This leaflet was produced with the support of Cadwyn through the European Leader II programme, and of Wrexham County Borough Council.

Welcoming walks in the Ceiriog Valley

Part One of a series of Walk Information Leaflets describing routes from selected villages along the length of this beautiful valley.
Each walk description shows the distance, height gain and the average actual walking time. Please add on any time for stops. These walks are not suitable for wheel chairs, pushchairs, horses or cycles. The public footpaths are well signed and way marked.

It is strongly recommended that you carry an Ordnance Survey map and compass. Use (in order of preference) either the OS Explorer no. 255 Berwyn & Llangollen; Pathfinder 827 Chirk and Ellesmere; or Landranger 126 Shrewsbury.

For your own safety, wear boots or strong heavy tread shoes and take warm and waterproof clothing, a drink and a snack. Whilst these walks are all on public rights of way, please remember that you are crossing private land. Respect the land and the people who earn their living from it. Please read the **CEIRIOG COUNTRY CODE** printed on the back page. Local people will almost always appreciate a friendly word from walkers, so please find the time to stop and speak!

**Facilities in Pontfadog**

**TO FIND PONTFADOG**

The village is easy to find. By rail, take the Birmingham-Chester line to Chirk thence by bus or taxi for 5 miles up the Ceiriog Valley. Buses run from Chirk centre. By car, use the A483 from Chester or the A5 from the Midlands or Snowdonia to Chirk (on the English/Welsh border). Then take the B4500 for 5 miles to Pontfadog.

The 'Bridge of Madoc' from which the village takes its name, lies just behind the War Memorial. It is a fine, high arch over the swiftly flowing Ceiriog river.

**PARKING**

Parking space in the village is limited but there is some roadside space and two lay-bys near the Church (please note that these are also used by the school and for Church on Sundays). Do not park in gateways to fields or premises. Better still come by bus from Chirk. Bus numbers 60, 64 and 65 provide a service at least hourly and often more frequently. Timetables are available by phoning (01798) 266166.

**SERVICES**

In the village there is a good and very friendly PO and general store, a fine Inn, a helpful garage and the Tramway museum waiting room. All are well worth a visit!

**DON'T RUSH AWAY!**

Stay for a few days in the Ceiriog Valley! There are more walk leaflets in this series for other parts of the valley and literally dozens more walks locally. You won't find a more beautiful area in Britain! There is a wide selection of Hotel, Guest House, B&B and self-catering premises. Details from Tourist Information Centres at Llangollen (01798)860828, Wrexham (01978) 292015 and Oswestry (01691)662488.

**PLEASE HELP US PRESERVE OUR BEAUTIFUL VALLEY**

The people who live and work in the Ceiriog valley are proud that it remains largely unspoilt, peaceful and not swarming with visitors! We welcome those who love and respect the countryside but we do ask that you abide by the Ceiriog Country Code and take especial care during lambing time (generally in March and April).
A ‘Bird’s eye view’ of the village

2km. (1 1/2 miles); height gain 45m. (150ft) about 45 minutes.

Six minutes walk along the main road towards Glyn Ceiriog reach a signpost to Llwynmawr. Take the opposite lane, which doubles back above the village. Where the tarmac swings L., keep ahead on a stone track heading generally north. Twelve minutes along the stone track, reach the buildings of Pentre farm (it may be muddy here), to emerge onto a tarmac lane. Go L. uphill for 3 minutes to where a stream passes below the lane. Go R. up steps and cross fields following path 9 to a driveway. Go L. up the drive for 1/2 minute, then go R. into a field passing a large upright stone. Keep on path 9, eastwards (fairly level) across fields, then at a stile, turning R. down to a tarmac lane. Turn R. and follow the lane back to the village.

This is a good introductory walk to the area, for you will pass through most of the village and as you rise above it you obtain excellent views of the centre and of the surrounding landscape.

You will be passing fairly close to the oldest oak tree in Britain which is 41 1/2 ft in girth and is calculated to be 1600 years old! It began life as the last of the Romans were leaving and was a fully mature tree when King Offa built his dyke! Unfortunately it is not visible from the public road or paths.

See sketch map overleaf.

The Oldest Oak Tree in Britain
Walk ‘B’

Around Nant Gwryd

A beautiful valley with fine views.
4.5km. (3½ miles); height gain 150m. (500 ft.)
about 1½ hours.

Woodland walks, stony tracks, grassy ways and country lanes.

Six minutes along the main road towards Glyn Ceiriog, take the lane on the
L. signposted Llwynmawr. Cross the river, and 1 minute later, by Felyn Lyn turn
L. uphill for 1 minute then go sharp R. onto a driveway/footpath. Pass below
the cottage garden onto path 36 for about 10 minutes. You walk with lovely
oak woods on your L. and views across open meadowland below. Emerging
onto a track, cross it through a gate into a field. You are now on path 28
which keeps uphill, close to the fence for 5 minutes. The forest edge now
briefly descends to your path. From here follow a line of mixed old trees
diagonally across a sloping meadow heading for a group of 5 old birch trees.
Pass them, and ahead to ‘Siamese twins’ of Ash and Oak which cunningly
conceal a stile! Again ahead and slightly upwards for 80 metres to a stile onto
a track. Take this downhill but only for 1 minute before taking a contouring
path on L. above the cottage and buildings. Cross a couple of fields, then the
path drops steeply for 10 yards down a wooded bank between fields. Follow
the lower fence towards the old farmstead of Cilnant.

The formal right of way passes through the farmyard
but the owner asks walkers to use his signposted
alternative. Once beyond the buildings, walk uphill on
the farm driveway (ignore fork to the right) to a tarmac
lane. At 275m. (900ft.) above sea level, this is the
highest point of the walk.

Go downhill, on the lane, turning a sharp bend by
Craig-y-oryn and down to a lovely old house and barns.
Here take the R. fork (or L. if you fancy refreshment from
the Golden Pheasant Hotel!). Continue for 18 minutes to
a junction of lanes. Go R. and in 6 minutes you are back
at Felyn Lyn. Fork L. over the river, then R. onto the main
road and into the village.

See sketch map overleaf.
Walk ‘C’

Around ‘Brown Billy’ Hill

Wonderful 360° panoramic views!
Good tracks and country lanes.
6km. (4 miles); height gain 270m. (885 ft.)
about 2½ hours.

By the War Memorial in the village centre cross the river bridge, steeply uphill for 2 minutes and follow the road sharp R. upwards to the Graig. Along this lane for 3 minutes to a diagonal cross-roads and straight ahead onto an (initially) tarmac track, rising within the woodland of Coed Pen-craig.

Follow this clear and attractive track for 45 minutes to a clear cross-roads. Turn L. onto a green lane, reasonably level for 6 minutes to a tarmac lane. Go L. gently down hill, passing Henmer House. Just over 1 minute beyond this, go L. still on tarmac, gently uphill again. About 11 minutes walking brings you to a wood (you reach your highest point of 365m. (1,205 ft) above sea level just before the wood). Keep to the lane which drops quite steeply to the R. and below the wood. About 25 minutes after reaching the wood, arrive at a T junction with a tarmac lane. Ahead, take the stile between two gates. This short path bends R. and drops to another tarmac lane. Go L. downhill for about 10 minutes to reach the river bridge and village.

See sketch map overleaf.
Across Sunny Hillsides

Explore the south facing slopes of the long ridge which divides the valleys of the rivers Ceiriog and Dyfrdwy (Dee).

5km. (3½ miles); height gain 223m. (736 ft.)
about 1 hour 45 minutes.

Lanes, bridleways and ancient tracks. Quite muddy, rocky, rough and sometimes wet in places.

From the Post Office follow the lane uphill past the Swan Inn and just beyond the Methodist Chapel fork L. About 7 minutes later you pass between the house and barns of Pentre Farm and 40 metres beyond that take the driveway to the L. which rises for 5 minutes to the open-ended barn of Tyn-y-twll. Opposite this barn, go R. up an (often muddy) tree lined bridleway. After about 8 minutes emerge onto open meadowland, keeping straight ahead, following a hedge on your R. Approaching woodland, look for a waymark which leads up through delightful broad-leaved trees. It becomes rocky underfoot and sometimes with running water, so good boots are essential! Keep straight ahead until reaching a ford through the main stream, then rise immediately to the tarmac lane.

You are now about 40 minutes into the walk and those who are weary could follow the lane down, back to the village. However, our walk goes L. up hill on the lane for 4 minutes to a T junction and telephone box. Go L. still uphill but more gradually for 6 minutes to a fork by Bryn Arddyn. (Walk E diverges from this walk here.) Go L. along the fine terrace lane ‘Unsuitable for motors’ and enjoy superb views over Pontfadog and the Ceiriog valley. After 10 minutes see a track leading L. signed to Tyn-y-Mynydd. You could choose this, for an old stone track will lead you back to Tyn-y-twll, but our walk goes straight ahead, ignoring the bridleway to the R. (Walk E rejoins this walk here.) Descend this ancient and attractive track for 16 minutes ignoring the farm drive to Pen-y-brongyllon L. and two footpaths on your R. to reach a tarmac lane. Turn L. dropping to an arrowhead crossroads. Go L. again and in under 2 minutes, see a track on the L. (signed to Bodgers Cottage). Take this and in 150 metres, take the R. (lower) path. You may spot a Mongolian Yurt dome amongst the trees! Keep ahead for 300 metres, the path becoming a track and later swing sharp R. downhill onto a tarmac lane. This brings you onto the main valley road. Go L. for a 6 minutes walk back to the village centre.

See sketch map overleaf.
Walk ‘E’

Sunny Hillsides to the Ridge Top!

An extension of walk D to the northwest of Pontfadog, affording views of the Ceiriog valley, the Vale of Llangollen and the Llantysilio ridge beyond. 8km. (5 miles); height gain 290m. (960 ft.) 2½ hours.

Lanes, bridleways, meadowland footpaths and old tracks.
Quite muddy, wet and rough in places.

Follow the first half of notes for Walk D, to the fork of lanes at Bryn Arddyn. Diverging from walk D we enter the farmyard gate and bear R. between the barns and enter the field behind. Whilst the public path (Path 6) keeps to the R. of a fenceline, the owner is happy that anyone nervous of grazing horses may opt to follow up the L. of this fence. The route rises gently to the north crossing four stiles. About 14 minutes after leaving the farmyard, go directly across the lane to enter a field with golden gorse bushes. Keep straight ahead for about 3 minutes to open up excellent views of the Llantysilio ridge with the Vale of Llangollen deep down below. A place to sit and stare!

Retrace your way back to the ridge lane (3 minutes) and go R. along the lane gently uphill for 7 minutes to your highest point of the walk at 410m. (1360ft). Here a minor lane forks off obliquely L. and a bridleway leaves the tarmac through a gate at 90° L. Descend this lovely grassy bridleway for about 14 minutes taking in a new range of views across Glyn Ceiriog and away to the high Berwyn ridge in the west. Reach tarmac lane and follow it downhill for 5 minutes to find a bridleway on L. with double steel gates and a wooden bridle gate. Enter this, rising with a wall to your R. and continue along this track, keeping above a spruce wood, after which the route levels out and then falls. Keep above the stone wall and enjoy another set of panoramic views! This bridleway will take about 11 minutes. When you reach a tarmac lane, turn R. We have now re-joined Walk D, where the notes say “Descend this ancient and attractive track . . .” Follow those notes back to the end of the walk. See sketch map overleaf.
Walk ‘F’

The one for Luck!

A lovely walk to the north east of the village, but quite a strenuous one with steep gradients.

5km. (3½ miles); height gain 286m. (950 ft.)
1 hour 45 minutes.

From the Post Office follow the lane uphill past the Swan Inn. Just beyond the Chapel, take the lane forking right. You will pass the attractive buildings of Tan-y-garth farm on your right and just beyond it bear right at another fork. Straight ahead now, still on the lane, through delightful native woodland. Ignore the first track forking off to the R. but keep climbing more steeply on the tarmac! A second track on R. is signed as a bridleway (you are now some 20 minutes from the start). Walk (thankfully) downhill through this spruce wood then along a clear track, passing through 3 bridle gates (with their no dismount gate catches). Cross the stream and up to the fence line ahead. The main track swings R. here but we go L. up the side of the gorge. Keep close to the fence until a stile gives access to a clear firm track, take this uphill, passing R. of Ty-nant. 3 minutes beyond this, take the L. fork of tracks and continue ahead to the recently renovated old farmhouse of Pennant.

Take the lane L. and after 100 metres (unless you are weary!) take the R. fork. This soon becomes quite a steep pull up past the modern Winlle farm. The long hill is rewarded by fine views across the valley and out to the N.Shropshire and Cheshire plain. As the lane passes young woodland on R. the slope eases and at a mono-pitch stone barn ahead you have reached your highest point at almost 670m (1,200 ft) above sea level. It’s probably about 1 hour and 10 minutes from the start and time to return! By this barn, turn sharp L. down a lane for 4 minutes. On a R-hand bend, a green lane forks R. Make a choice here, for the green lane is more direct, but is steep, eroded and a bit awkward in places. A more gentle way is to keep on the tarmac and take the R. option at the hairpin which will take you home. However, the green lane is more attractive, dropping with the valley to a farm, then ahead on a steep tarmac lane to rejoin the outward route at Tan-y-graig. Go R. here back to the start.

See sketch map below.