

Friday 14 April 2023

RAILWAY 66



The Great Little Trains of Wales do a Gold Card - one ride on every line (except Snowdon) for £123. Is now a good time to buy one? I did!

Llanberis Lake first. It is many years since we have been here, indeed the line has been extended from Gilfrach Ddu into the centre of Llanberis. A ticket for the over 60s is £9, so I got a free ride and Julie had a £9 ride too. We had time for coffee and a Welsh cake before the 1100 train left. Llanberis first, then back along the Lake, following the route of the Padarn Railway which used to transport slate down to Port Dinorwic. There was snow on the top of Snowdon, and the weather was not too bad. A lovely run - about an hour long. A bit of shopping afterwards - it has been decreed that I need a new fleece, and we'll need a fridge magnet from each railway.







Then to the **Bala Lake** - a lovely drive across to Betwys-y-Coed and along the A5. Then through Bala and to the railway's terminus at Llanuwchllyn. There was nothing on their website about disabled access and the station building does not have a disabled loo - she fought her way into the ladies. Nice soup and a chat to the lad behind the counter who is at Durham. It started raining as the train arrived back from its previous jaunt. The guard said they do have disabled access, and Julie would travel free - so £14 saved by each of us. She also learned some more Welsh.

It is a lovely line beside the Lake, but the weather was getting wetter and wetter. By the time we got to the Bala terminus it was truly precipitating. I asked why they were using the loco with no cab - "it's the only one that's bloody working". They are trying to extend the line into Bala, but every time they move forward they seem to get knocked back. A slightly drier ride as we went back, and we were glad to have done the line.







We drove back into Chester, went via Tesco's, and had a quiet night in.