

Trip Report: Snowdonia**Date:** 16th February 2013**Group:** Mike H (leader), John C (guest), Ian, and Jeff**Route:** Circular route from Llanberis - Moel Eilio, Foel Gron, Foel Goch, Maeswym Valley**Total Distance:** 9 miles**Total Ascent:** 2800 ft**Weather:** Unknown

Various events before we got underway suggested that this could be an ill-fated excursion. The original plan to venture up *Greggiau Gleision* was changed to avoid the soggiest of bog-trots. Then two late cancellations meant that our party was reduced to just four. So as we assembled in the pavilion car park our guest walker John volunteered to drive in his Range Rover. Following comments about the luxury and space being provided, the enthusiasm quickly turned to despair when the car failed to start. After a quick excursion to pick up my car, and reloading dogs and gear, the Range Rover decided to start. So we headed off for Snowdonia in comfort with the anticipation of RAC recovery for the homeward journey.

The walk from Llanberis car park to the summit of Moel Eilio involves a continuous up-hill walk of nearly 2500 feet. As we ascended, Ian provided John with good advice when walking with a group of BUMS - never lag behind because when they stop for a breather they start off again as soon as you catch up. As usual we became surrounded by mist as we approached the summit, but with a good weather forecast we hoped it would soon disappear. It didn't and we had thick clag all along the Eilio Ridge. Descending south from the summit on a clear grassy path (once I found it) we reached an unnamed summit, Foel Gron and then Foel Goch. To our left, if we could have seen it, we had crags with a steep drop to Llyn Dwythch far below. With such poor visibility it was good to have Mollie running ahead to lead the way. We hoped she would warn us with a yelp if she fell over the ridge - and we did have a vet in our group. As we descended steeply into Maesgwm valley the mist lifted and the surrounding fells came into view, lit by brilliant sunshine - described by Jeff as 'ethereal' as he snapped the photo. The return to Llanberis along a bridleway provided easy walking, now with fine views across to the Glyders .

As we approached the car park in Llanberis, John was almost sprinting - he was eager to see if the car would start. So no RAC call-out!! The return journey in the car was highly amusing as Ian and John seemed to

be long lost soul mates with similar political views of how to solve the Nation's ills - by founding the Silent Majority Party (though not so silent). So after a worrying start it all turned right in the end, and the discussions continued over rehydration in the Yew Tree, where we were joined by Mike and Les. A most enjoyable day!

Mike H