

**Trip Report: Tal y Fan, Eastern Carneddau (an area of prehistoric and Roman legacy)**

**Date:** 26th October 2012

**Group:** Jim G (Leader) Mike H, Selina, Chris L, Chrissie & Rob

**Route:** Tal y Fan from Sychnant Pass

**Total Distance:** 11 miles

**Total Ascent:** 2262 ft

**Weather:** Cold & dry with some early sunny spells

**Time:** 4 hours 58 mins

After some last minute adjustments to the squad, five Bum's set off at 8am with a plan to rendezvous with Rob at the car park at the top of the Sychnant Pass. After some initial confusion (Rob!) we did meet up and set off in bright cold weather.

I was reminded that we had indeed scaled Tal y Fan on a previous occasion, but I had a new route in mind. The walk starts off following the North Wales footpath (idea for a future walk?) then cuts off to traverse across the western flanks of Maen Esgob with great views down to the sea and across to Puffin Island, off Anglesey.

An easy angled path takes us across the eastern flanks of Cefn Maen Amor (no not that amour Colin!) to a very large standing stone beneath some quarries, where we stop for a well earned coffee break. Chris seems to think that the stone has something to do with virgins and sacrifices, Chrissie says this is just one of his many fantasies.

We continue on; crossing a low col before turning southwards heading for the col between Tal y Fan and Foel Lwyd. We turn off a bit too early and end up bushwhacking through the mostly pathless heather, each Bum carving out their own path; after some bobbing and weaving we arrive at the col. The leader points out the optional gratuitous peak bagging of scaling Foel Lwyd (603m), there being no dissenters, the short out and back trip is enjoyed by all. We are rewarded with magnificent views down to the sea and across the Carneddau, although we are not very good at identifying the distant snow dusted peaks. A quick return to the col and then a short pull up to the trig point on the summit of Tal y Fan (610m) before dropping back down out of the brisk breeze where lunch is taken. Dropping back to the col; Bwlch y Ddeufaen, the Pass of the Two Stones, an old Roman Road passed over here. We head south down to a lane before heading along a pleasant wide track to Caer-bach (a small hill fort). After another kilometer or so we rejoin our ascent route, turning left crossing a low col, and passing the picturesque Llyn y Wrach before retracing our steps back to the Sychnant Pass and the cars.

En route to Bunbury a text to Carol & a phone call to the recovering Mike & Lesley (chief carer) for a rehydration rendezvous at the Dysart, this is achieved at the very respectable hour of 4pm! We rehydrate in front of a roaring log fire (still no Timmy Taylors though!)

Jim G

If you want to read more about the history of the prehistoric sites in this area (and lots more) get Bob Harris's excellent book "Walks in Ancient Wales" published by Sigma Leisure (2003) I am not his agent, honest!