

Tal Y Fan

Walk Date: Saturday 16th September 2023

Distance: 9.22 according to Satmap

Ascent: 1948ft according to Satmap

Walkers: Dave Bond (leader) and Christine , Ann and Neil Bodfish, Mark Hallet, Carol Wallace, Lynn and Tony Quinn + Ponya

After a week of weather reports indicating rain for the day, it was a relief to meet up at the pavilion car park in pleasant September sunshine.

We made a prompt departure at 08.00, and, despite Ponya forgetting her lead which necessitated a quick dash home, both cars arrived at the car park halfway up the Sychnant Pass for a walk start time of 9.30 in cloudy conditions.

Heading round a small lake, the group made light work of the ascent to the ridge and soon joined the waymarked North Wales Path which weaved along the ridge. Surprisingly (and this must be a first!) one group of BUMS came across another group of BUMS enjoying a late scrumptious breakfast of carrots and turnips behind the gate.



Photos taken, we continued, with the surrounding hills now being covered in mist. A gap between the hills gave a brief glimpse of the North Wales coast at Dwygyfylchi. Alas the fine coastal views of Anglesey and the mountains of Snowdonia were lost in the mist.

Morning coffee was taken overlooking the footbridge over the Afon Gyrach before we continued onwards and upwards into the mist. After leaving the North Wales path we began to cross Cerrig Gwynion, and as the gradient eased a little, the leading pair of Christine and Ann were soon out of sight. (In reality they were only 30 yards ahead, but nevertheless out of sight). A short detour around a boggy section soon saw the group reach the ridge wall, and gamely opted for the short, scrambly section to the summit, rather than the tame grassy path. Visibility by this stage was now down to about 10 yards. After a quick hop over the stile to the Trig Point for photos and a quick hop back, lunch was taken.



The damp misty conditions and breeze on the ridge encouraged some to don coats, hats and gloves. Having done the hard work, the long descent began, and we soon dropped off the ridge towards an old quarry and came across a group on their Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. Their assessor had a missing group, lost somewhere in the mist, and asked if we had seen them (we hadn't), but seemed to think that only one missing group out of six was a good result.

As we continued our descent the mist started to clear and we were soon enjoying distant views over the Conwy valley (obviously not the Dee!) and the coast around the Great Orme.

The intellectuals in the group now focused their analytical minds and a short debate ensued over the best sweet to be taken on a walk (Fruit pastels a clear winner over Jelly Babies).

The gloves were now off (and hats and coats) and good progress was now being made, with the sun finally making an appearance. Passing the large standing stone of Maen Penndu and the large split rock of Maen Amor, we were soon walking amongst wild Welsh ponies and their foals enjoying the sunshine.



Good tracks and an easy downhill gradient led us back to the car for an overall walk time of exactly 5hrs, and a 100% turnout at the Dysart by 4pm.

The walk leader (on his first outing) relieved that the rain kept away and we didn't encounter any frisky bulls, wild horses, or angry farm dogs and he wasn't 'navigationally challenged'.

Thanks to all those who made it an enjoyable day

David