

Trip Report: Moel Siabod

Date: 6th December 2014

Group: Tony (leader), Lynn, Lesley, Mike, Jim, Mike H, Ian, Jeff, Colin, Steve, Sarah, Sue and Billy

Route: Up and Down

Total Distance: 7.9 miles

Total Ascent: 2572 ft

Weather: Clear and sunny at start, mist and poor visibility on top, snow and ice.

Time: 5 hours

I could have saved myself time by doing a copy and paste job on a previous BUMs walk some of us did on Friday 31st August 2012: just amend the list of participants, make the weather look cold and miserable, and wipe out all views from the summit. But that would be cheating and what else would I do during my work lunch hour?

Anyway we had a very good turnout for this walk and we were also ready to welcome a newcomer Billy, but unfortunately he wasn't at the Pavilion when we had to leave at 7:40 and the 12 of us set off in 3 cars.

Fine, clear cold weather met us in Snowdonia and there were some beautiful views of our snow-dusted Moel Siabod destination as we left the car-park near Capel Curig and followed a well signposted track from Pont Cyfyng bridge over Afon Llugwy.

It remained clear but with threatening clouds gathering we passed Bob H's old climbing/sheep station where we were happy to provide assistance pushing a Vauxhall people carrier which had unfortunately got stuck in the mud outside the hut.

Climbing steadily, and still dry under foot, we made our way to some old quarry works pools, which I remember when I was here in summer once were turquoise in their luminescent brilliance but today nothing but a dark damp miserable sump.

Now the mist came down and the ground got very boggy so that cheered me up a bit and we reached the edge of Llyn Y Foel where it was a matter of grinding the route of our scramble to the top. Not an easy matter even with 3 Satmaps and 3 leaders, but we managed to find something that looked like the way up, made more difficult in the ascent by the deepening snow and ice.

When I'm a bit unsure of the route I find it always helps if you spot some other walker going the same way - surely he/she must know the way! And then just out of the mist came a lone adventurer - who turns out to be

missing Billy who had amazingly tracked us down on the mountain after getting to Bunbury just a few minutes after we'd left that morning. It was advertised as an easy-grade scramble but with the ice and snow around it became something a bit more demanding and we were all happy to see the trig-point summit appear finally through the gloom. The descent was an easy broad level route north-eastwards toward Capel Curig where half-way down we took our lunch in a sheltered spot close to the forest and Jeff could rest his recurring Coastal path ankle injury. The mist had cleared as we descended and we enjoyed a pleasant stroll through the forest along the banks of the Afon Llugwy stopping for a while to watch and admire a couple of canoeists perform dare-devil stunts through the river rapids. It was then back to the Yew Tree for the usual drinks and merriment by a roaring fire ,and welcome back home, Selina !

Tony