

**Trip Report: The Berwyns**

**Date:** 23rd February 2008

**Group:** Tony (leader), Jim G, Ian, Elena, Sabina, Rares, Sue, Mike, Lesley, Lynn, Tilly and Mollie

**Route:** Cadair Bronwen 780m, Cadair Berwyn 827m, Moel Sych 827m, Pistyll Rhaeadr

**Total Distance:** 13.3 miles

**Total Ascent:** 3346 ft

**Weather:** Cloudy but dry with strong winds on mountain tops

Good early start from Bunbury meant a 9.00 am start to the walk from a farm in the Cwm Maen Gwynedd valley east of the Berwyn mountain range in North Wales. Elena had brought along her two children, Sabina and Rares. Sabina had expressed an interest in joining the BUMs so I was hopeful today's walk wouldn't change her mind. After promising them that on today's walk they would see a waterfall taller than Niagra Falls (true) it became difficult holding them back. So difficult in fact that we missed the footpath off the road up to the top of the Berwyn range. It was a hard slog from the valley up to the Berwyns but we made it and were able to enjoy the views as the mist had started to clear when we reached the top.

We had time to add an extra peak to our route so we struck off across the duck-boards towards Cadair Bronwen with the wind starting to gather pace.

The cairn at the top of Cadair Bronwen was not much more than a pile of rocks but it provided shelter from the elements for some of the group.

The next peak was due south along the ridge to Cadair Berwyn with the strong winds and swirling mists adding to the excitement. The trig point at 827m was a welcome marker and holding on point.

We carried on to Moel Sych and then a welcome descent out of the wind down towards a peaceful Llyn LLuncaws where we decided to carry on and stop for lunch in the Rhaeadr valley opposite the famous Pistyll Rhaeadr waterfall (one of the seven wonders of Wales).

There was even time to view the water close up and take plenty of pictures:

There then followed an easy flat walk along the valley followed by an unexpected arduous walk up out of the valley through a forest on the flanks of Godor. With continual promises from the leader and map-reader that there was only 1 mile to go we finally reached the cars after 2.5 miles and then took the tourist route home via Oswestry.

A bit longer and higher than the leader had originally intended

nevertheless we all had a great day out, and the dogs looked as tired as the walkers in the bar when we met up later in the Dysart.

Tony