

## **Trip Report: Franklin's Star Charity Walk Snowdon**

**Date:** 20th June 2015

**Group:** Jim G (Leader) Bob, Tony, Mike H, Colin, Ian, Selina, Helen, Alan, 15 guests and a few dogs

**Route:** Snowdon via the Llanberis Path

**Total Distance:** 9 miles

**Total Ascent:** 3200 ft

**Weather:** Wet, windy & warm

This walk was planned to take place in March but we did Moel Famau instead due to the poor weather. Following Danny's untimely passing away Tara still wanted to complete Snowdon to remember him and to support Tara's Franklin's Star Charity to raise awareness and money for Brain Tumour Research.

We set out from Bunbury at 7am and drove to the Snowdon Mountain car park in Llanberis to meet up with Tara, her family and friends. Well if we were looking for some mountain solitude we had chosen the wrong place and the wrong day for our walk. The car park was heaving and we found out there were a few others on charity walks up Snowdon, 500+ for Parkinson's Disease, 500+ for the Sikh charity "Kalsa Aid" for the Nepal Disaster and a race, The Welsh Three Peaks race!

We set off in nice conditions, warm but overcast, threading our way through the hundred's of others, up the Llanberis Path track alongside the Snowdon Mountain Railway. The conditions gradually deteriorated, as we got higher, until we disappeared into the clag just before the halfway house where we regrouped for a coffee break. It wasn't long before we were donning full waterproofs as it started to rain heavily and as the wind picked up it became very unpleasant. It was a long slow plod up the path before we stopped at the obvious rock pinnacle where the Pyg track merges in from the right, where we again regroup. It has been raining steadily and the wind has been getting gradually stronger the higher we go. Not far to the summit from here and about 15 minutes later we reach the summit cairn which resembles Piccadilly Circus, there are so many people milling about. Another regroup outside the summit cafe, we decide a summit picture is an impossibility due to the crowds, some opt for the comfort of the cafe for a cup of tea, the place is packed to the rafters! Some further regrouping is required before we set off down through the rain, wind and clag. We regroup again at the rock pinnacle, where we persuade a passing Paramedic to take us a group photograph. The conditions gradually improve as we get lower, passing hundreds of others still making their way to the summit. By the time we reach the halfway

house the rain has stopped, the clag has lifted and the sun has appeared and it is a very pleasant stroll back to the car park. On the road into Llanberis we were treated to free samosa's and water from the Sikh Charity support tent.

A bit of further regrouping in the car park, we say our farewells to Tara and friends for the drive back to the Yew Tree where we raised a glass or two in remembrance of Danny.

Jim