

Trip Report: North Wales

Date: 17th September 2016

Group: Mike (leader) and Selina (co-leader), Mike H, Lynda, Lesley & Mike, Ann & Neil, Jim G, Sarah, Debbie (+Dogs) Lynn & Tony, Colin

Route: Crib Lem and the Llech Ddu Spur

Total Distance: 8.7 miles

Total Ascent: 3280 ft

Weather: Cool but sunny, eventually

Meeting at the Yew Tree car park, as prompt as ever, gave us the luxury of figuring out how to distribute 14 bums across 15 seats. Simple! A more onerous task was to distribute the gear, as Ellie and Spot had claimed their rightful place in the boot of Debbie's car.

Once sorted, we all settled in for the 1.1/2hr drive to the thriving metropolis of Bethesda. A place known for its charm and character along with its plethora of parking spaces. We all found a suitable place to park, just not all in the same place though. I may have omitted to mention the car park at Gerlan before we set off. Thanks to the modern scourge of the mobile phone, we managed to meet up and commence the walk without further ado.

As is usually the case in the Carneddau, the clag was on top of the mountains although the forecast had promised us clear sky. As we made our way along the Cwm Pen-Llafar the clag started to brake up and tease us with a glimpse of the sunshine. Taking a coffee at Cwmglas Mawr the clag continued to lift as we prepared ourselves for the ascent.

The first part of the ascent was a slog up the steep rock strewn path keeping the stream to our right, once the rockface itself had been reached it was a case of passing that to our right until the Spur had been reached. This then was the start of the scramble proper and as forecast the sun duly shone for us. The scramble itself is not particularly tricky (grade 1) but for those amongst the group who are vertically challenged some of the footholds were deemed to be further apart than they need be. This caused the party to spread out a little but with Colin taking the role as "middle leader" contact was kept fore and aft. Dogs, Diehards and Virgins all made it to the summit of Carneddau Dafydd, where lunch was taken within the shelter of one of the cairns.

The remainder of the walk was straight forward, a somewhat undulating transit of Carnedd Llewelyn, Yr Elen and Foel Garol before making our way across the bogs of Braich y Brysgyll and back to the cars.

As we crossed the bogs we picked up a straggler attempting to navigate with no more than a written route disruption to the various mines in the Cwm. Once we had pointed him in the right direction he went on his merry way, his brogues squelching as he went!

Thanks to all who came and enjoyed our or their first sunny day on the Llech Ddu Spur.

Mike W