

Trip Report - Saturday 15th October 2022

Location : Cadair Bronwen, Berwyn Mountains, North Wales.

Distance : 11 miles

Ascent : 2300 feet

Weather : Sunshine, rainbows and heavy showers.

Squad : Tony, Lynn, Lesley, Janet, Jim, Mike H, Mike W and Selina.

Dogs: Ponya.

This was a trip that seemed to be one dominated by the weather.

First of all the leader suggested (a bit late in the day perhaps) that the walk should shift to Friday instead of Saturday because the weather was forecast to be sunnier and drier. But then the leader had stupidly forgotten all about his Friday dental appointment (first since pre-Covid days) and so we were back on for the Saturday.

Amazingly it's only about an hour's drive to the mountains from Bunbury so we had a not too early 8am start from the Pavilion. Jim volunteered to drive and we were all dying to see the new Tesla out on its first BUMs trip, but alas not this time !

The weather was dry and bright as we arrived in the pretty village of Llandrillo near Corwen, and with a free car park and nice public toilets the day was off to a promising start. Lynn and I had our newest BUMs walker with us : Ponya, a Cocker Spaniel all the way from war-torn southern Ukraine.

After the usual wrong turns out of the car park we found a lovely green track following the edge of Cefn Pen-llety wood and started our gradual ascent of the Berwyns. The sunshine was certain following us as we walked and for the moment we were avoiding the distant downpours, complete with rainbows.

The ground then started to get boggy and the path less certain as we carried on our climb and there were rabbit-hole stumbles for the leader and Selina. After a short coffee stop at the small plantation the path took us to the ridge just south of the summit. Handy duck-boards raised us above the mire and on to the top of Cadair Bronwen (784 m) and we still hadn't seen a single walker all day ! But to be back in the mountains again was great and the views all around were magnificent.

The route then took us along the ridge and on to a memorial plaque to a Welsh Rambler. This was a convenient stop for lunch which we shared with a few trial bikers (more about them in a minute).

With lunch finished we then took the track which started our longish descent back to Llandrillo. After a couple of miles Mike H realised he must have left his phone back at the lunch stop and had to go all the way back to retrieve it and then of course the rain started to fall quite heavily...

We carried on through lovely if wet countryside and Mike eventually caught us up back in the car park thanks to a lift from one of the trial bikers !

Back to the Dysart for the usual rehydration after a great day out and Ponya took Riley's old place by the fire.

Lynn and Tony