

Brecon Beacons Trip 2024

After bashing through more heather than planned, on Friday we visited the windy summit of Fan Frynych west of Pen-y-Fan and returned just ahead of the rain via the Taff Trail. Despite buckets of rain the previous night, we had an especially wonderful Saturday on Pen-y-Fan, starting with Corn-Du via Cwm Llŵch and finishing on Fan-y-Big. There were coach loads of people on the main summits. It was more peaceful beyond Cribin, and the 'diving-board' of our final top was popular for photos. The weather was fine all day, the ridges spectacular in a low autumnal sun and we made good use of Penstar's outdoor terrace for tea/beer and cake on our return.

Sunday's stop at Hatterall Hill on the way home was as delightful as ever, perfectly timed to match the previous night's fast moving storm blowing through. Who dares sometimes wins! We even scrounged a tractor ride back to avoid Dirt Farm's mountain bike trails.

Here is part of The Lofty Sky by Edward Thomas painted on the last farmhouse before its open hillside, perfect for Hatterall Hill:



Today I want the sky,
The tops of the high hills,
Above the last man's house,
His hedges, and his cows,
Where, if I will, I look
Down even on sheep and rook,
And of all things that move
See buzzards only above:—
Past all trees, past furze
And thorn, where naught deters
The desire of the eye
For sky, **nothing but sky.**

We were incredibly lucky the worst of the weekend's weather passed through overnight Fri and Sat. We barely noticed it in our tropical bunkhouse provided you were tall enough to shut the Velux windows to keep the mattresses dry. It even wasn't too wet under foot, overall a good introduction for a couple of new members.

