

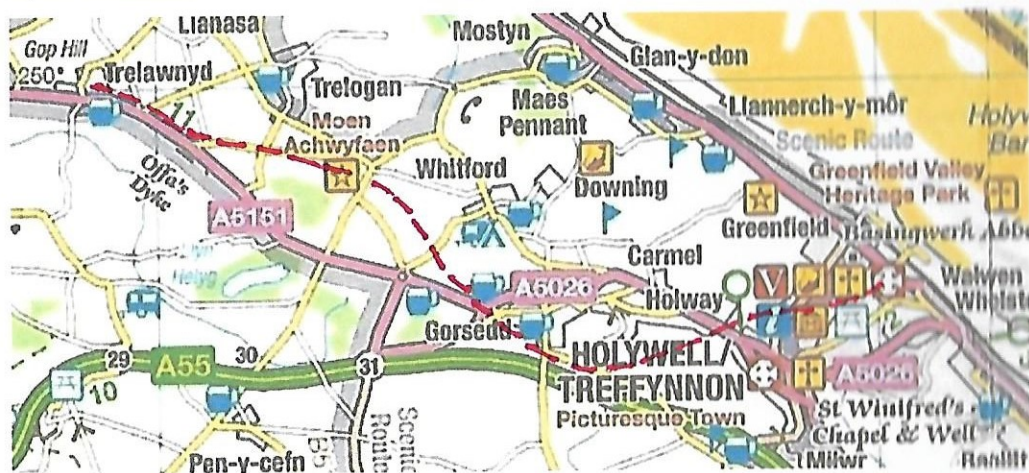
THE NORTH WALES PILGRIM'S WAY



AN OCCASIONAL WALK ALONG THE
NORTH WALES PILGRIM'S WAY, WITH SOME
SLIGHT VARIATIONS.



① HOLYWELL TO TRELAWNYD

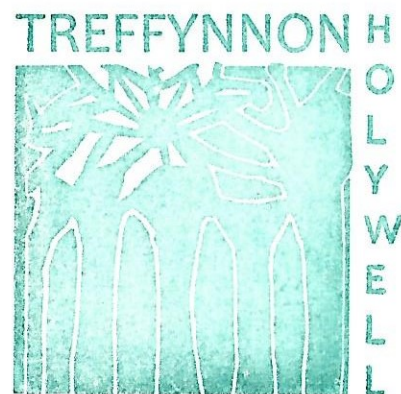


Parked in Trelawnyd and caught the No 19 bus to Holywell. Visited Basingwerk Abbey and St. Winifride's Well and then followed the path up through the woods, past an old lead mine, up to Pen-y-Ball. Beautiful day with good views of the Dee estuary and the offshore wind farms.

Watched the ferries leaving the Mersey for Belfast & Dublin.



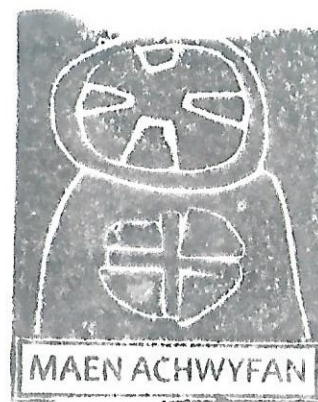
BASINGWERK ABBEY



On to Pantasaph Friary and a cup of tea and a Welsh cake in St. Pio's Cafe.

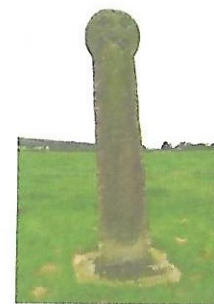
Along Monastery Road past Pant y Wacco and "The Rock at Lloc" pub.

Met an Anglesey Couple at Maen Achwyfan. My heel was playing up by now so I missed out Llanasa and headed down quiet lanes for Trelawnyd.



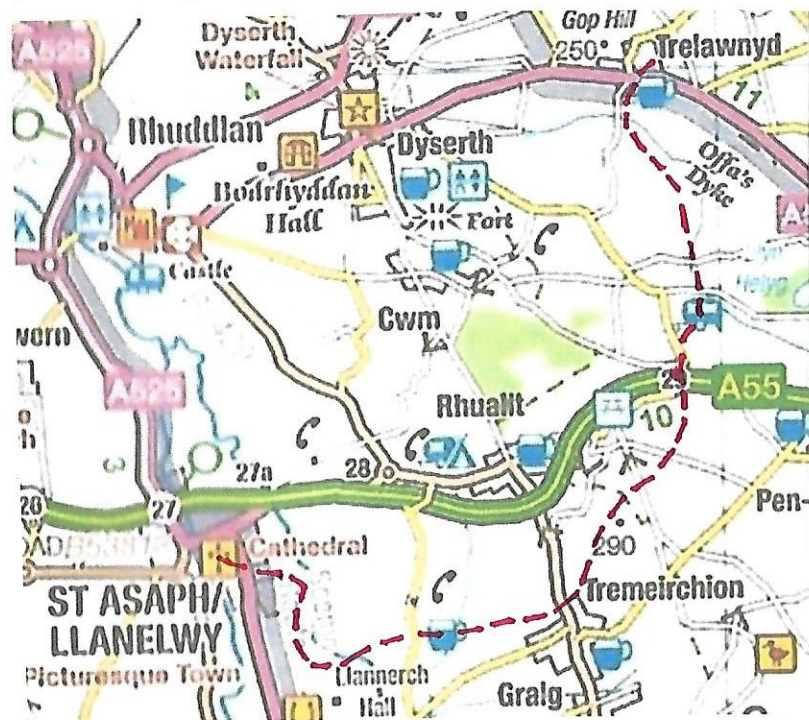
20.9.17

~ 8 miles.



MAEN ACHWYFAN

② TRELAWNYD TO ST. ASAPH

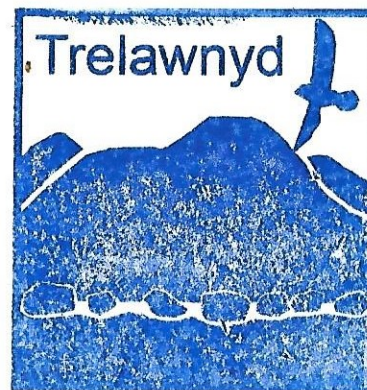


Number 19 bus again, this time from Prestatyn to Trelawnyd. Called in St. Michael's Church then followed the Pilgrim's Way through farmland



ROADSIDE PRODUCE STALL

and woods along the Flintshire/Denbighshire border. Well signposted but very muddy in places, and at one point I had to carefully straddle an electric fence.



Over the A55 dual carriageway, across a field of sprouting daffodils and down into the Vale of Clwyd. Lovely views from high up on the Clwydian Range. Squirrels, Buzzards, Fieldfare, a GOLDCREST! and a Dipper on the river Clwyd.

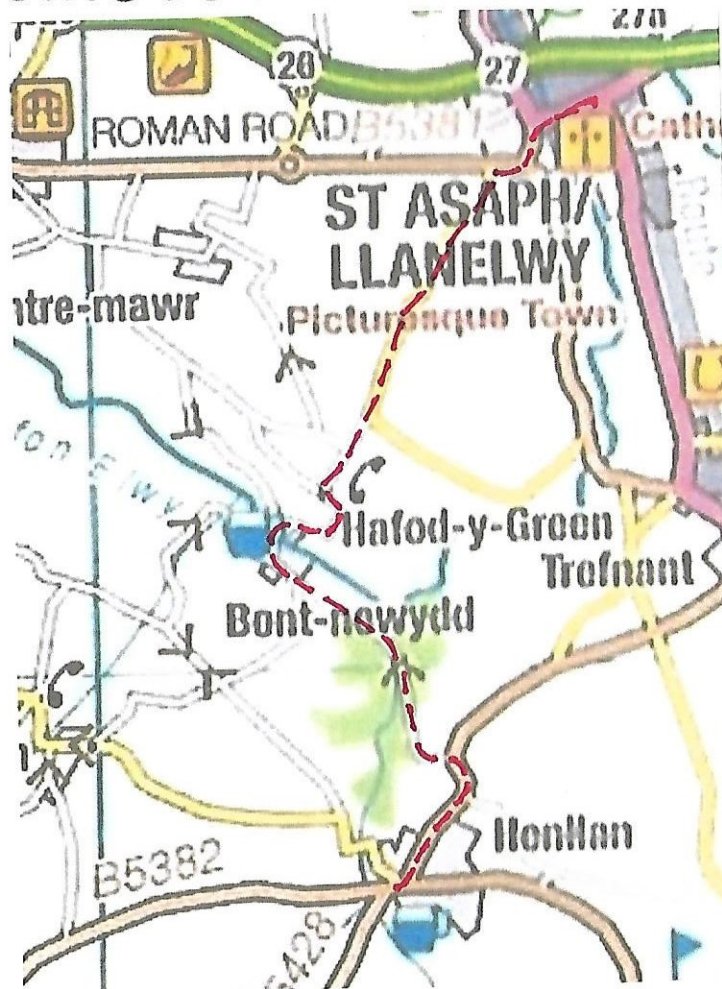
Called in St. Asaph Cathedral then caught a bus to Rhyl and another back to Prestatyn.

1.11.17
~ 9 miles



③

ST. ASAPH TO HENLLAN



BONT-NEWYDD

7.11.17

~ 5½ miles

Left the car in Henllan and took the N° 66 bus to Denbigh and the N° 5.1 to St. Asaph. Had a coffee and a flapjack in the Fair Trade Cafe then walked down through the town, past the famous Foxons fly-fishing shop and Pen-y-Clink. Called in Cefn church to stamp my book and met a bloke who said he used to sail on

Menai Strait One Designs in the regattas years ago. (like me)

Past the limestone caves and over Bont-newydd crossing the river Elwy.

Cefn Estate seems to have the area sewn up -

"Private fishing, no canoeing, no bathing, no entry..."

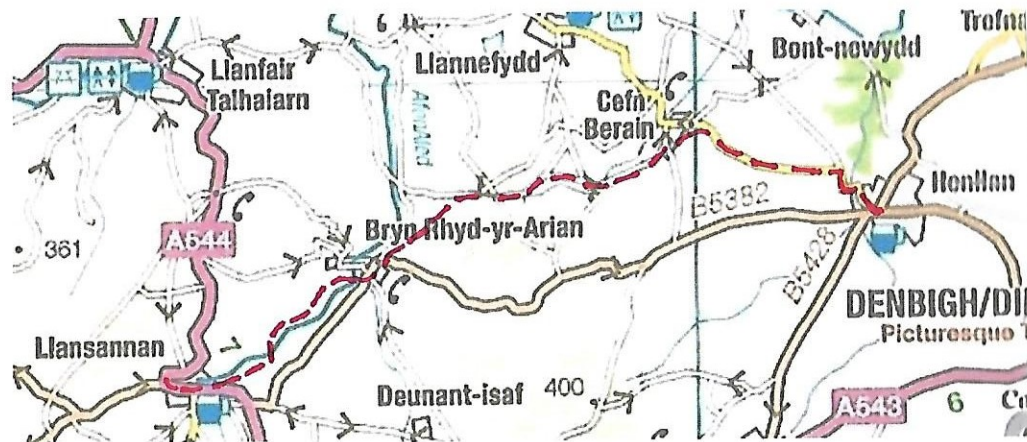
Detoured from the official Pilgrim's Way here due to infrequent buses, and headed up the steep hill through woods to Henllan.

(Deer management taking place here with high velocity rifles). Jays, Gt. Spotted Woodpecker, Treecreepers, squirrels and another Goldcrest. When I arrived back at the car it finally stopped raining!



(4)

HENLLAN TO LLANSANNAN



Drove to Llanfylltyd and felt very lonely
Waiting for the only bus of the week (TIA)
to Denbigh (Morrisons).

Changed here to the Henllan bus and walked
along the Clwydian Way, now in Conwy County,
towards Llanfylltyd.



Past Cefn Berain where a mobile library
was visiting, and past a large organic
farm at Bryn Cwyn. Lovely sunny day -
perfect for walking. Looked like good
Badger country but I didn't see any.
Just rabbits, squirrels and some jays.

Over the hills on the western side of the
Vale of Clwyd and down to the river Aled.
Back on the Pilgrim's Way at Rhyd-yr-Arian
and along an interesting woodland track
to Llanfylltyd.

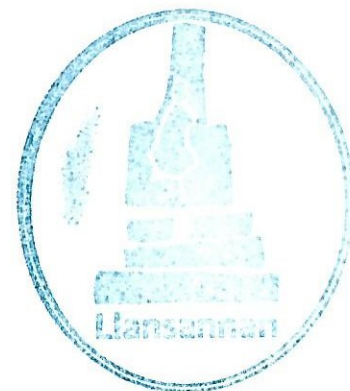
Arrived 5:30 - Just getting dark.

17.11.17

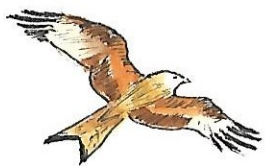
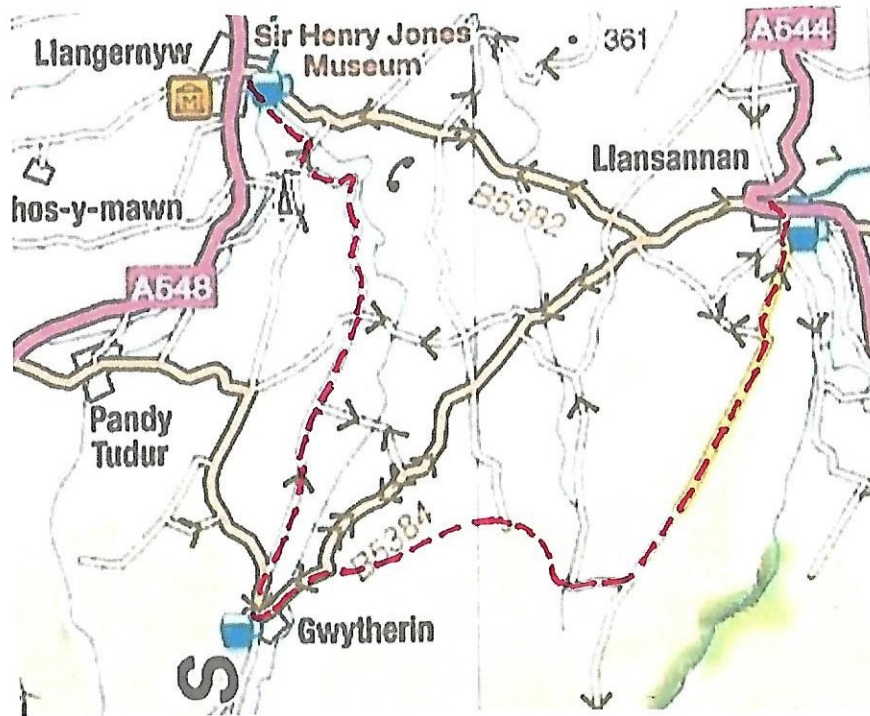
~ 7 miles



CERFLUN Y FERCH FACH



⑤ LLANSANNAN TO LLANGERNYW



Parked by Llangernyw Primary school and had a coffee and a chat in the village shop before catching the NE 43 bus to Llansannan. Followed the Clwydian Way as far as Gors Llyn Gwyn, then the Pilgrim's Way footpath to Gwytherin. Nice sunny day but cold N'ly wind - good views of the snow-covered Carneddau.



PONT SYLLTU



ST DIGAIN'S CHURCH

Must be pretty bleak up here in real winter weather. Got a bit lost around Llethr farm but soon found the little Pilgrim's Way arrows again. Watched a dozen Red Kites close above me, Ravens doing somersaults, a kestrel, a Sparrow Hawk, Fieldfare and hundreds of Starlings.

After Gwytherin (where the pub was shut!) I walked along the quiet lane following the lovely Afon Cledwen, and finally into Llangernyw along the riverside footpath.

29.11.17

~ 11 miles



⑥ LLANGERNYW TO TAL-Y-CAFN



Luxury today - two cars!

Left the Lupo at Tal-y-cafn and Rhiannon dropped me off at Llangernyw. Some sunshine to start with but huge dark clouds approaching. Followed the Pilgrim's Path up and down over rolling farmland. Very wet and muddy after recent snow and rain.



EGLWYSBACH



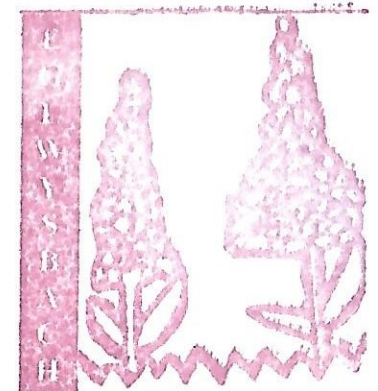
SNOWDROPS

The clouds arrived and it did not stop raining until I reached Eglwysbach. Very annoying because I could see blue sky and sunshine down towards Llandudno. I followed the pretty Hiraethlyn Valley into Eglwysbach, then round Coed Ty Gwyn back to Tal-y-cafn.

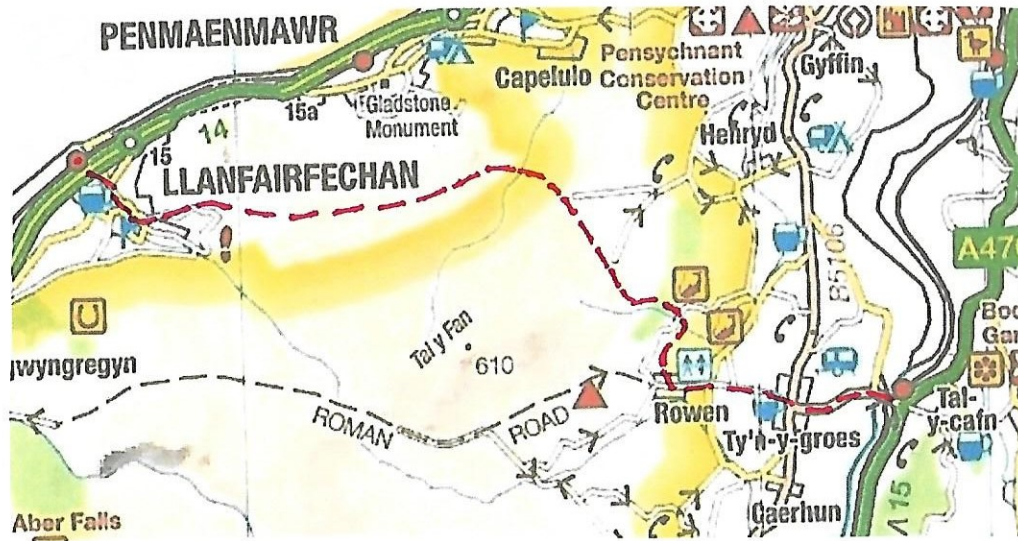
Not much wildlife today, I think they were all sheltering, but I did see a squirrel, rabbits, a Little Egret, jays and Buzzards, and lots of snowdrops.

23.1.18

Approx 8 miles.



⑦ TAL-Y-CAFN TO LLANFAIRFECHAN



THE COFFIN PATH



ST. CELYNNIN'S CHURCH



STONE CIRCLE

Parked on the front in Llanfairfechan and caught a train to Llandudno Junction and another to Tal-y-cafn. Walked across the bridge over the river Conwy and up to Ty'n-y-groes, then along a narrow lane to Rowen.

I had hoped to get a coffee but everywhere was shut. The last shop shut a couple of years ago.

Stamped this book in Capel Seion and picked up some handy local walk leaflets from the "Book Swap" telephone kiosk.

Talked to a local gardener who told me 28 of the houses in the village are now holiday homes.

Steep climb up through Parc Mawr

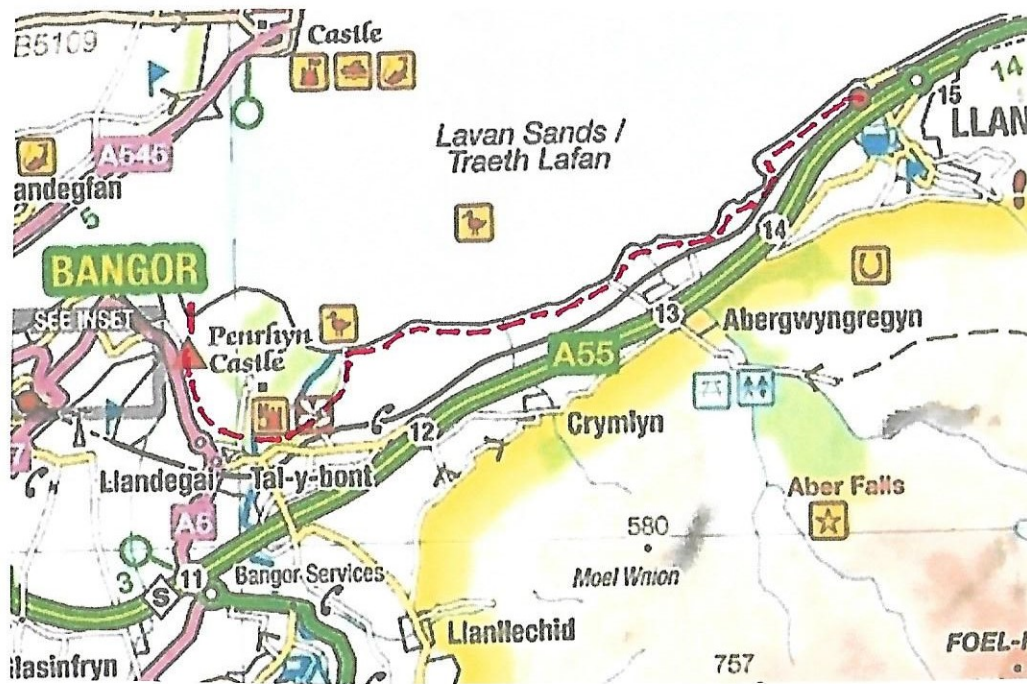
(Woodland Trust) and on along the "Coffin Path" to St. Celynnin's church, one of the oldest in Wales, with a holy well (frozen over today) in the churchyard.

Lovely day now with blue sky and amazing views over the Great Orme, the Conwy estuary and over to Colwyn Heights. Onwards over the moors towards Penmaenmawr. So many tracks up here I had to check the map constantly to see I was on the correct one. At one point I was on three named paths at the same time: The Pilgrim's Way, the North Wales Path and the Wales Coast Path (upland section). Past some impressive stone circles then down the old quarry tracks to Llanfairfechan. Watched a flock of about 15 Choughs enjoying the updraughts.

12.2.18 ~ 10 miles



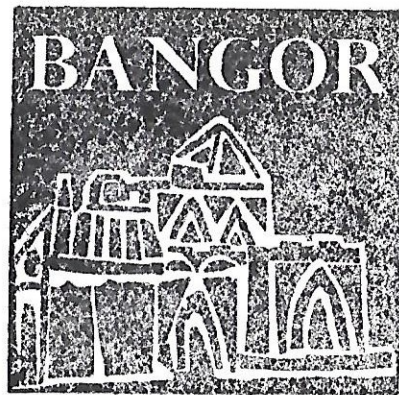
⑧ LLANFAIRFECHAN TO BANGOR



PENMAENMAWR



OGWEN



Number 5 bus from Bangor to Llanfairfechan and walked down to the promenade.



Met the Beaumains sailing crowd just setting off to walk over the top to Conwy. I followed the Wales Coast Path all the way to Bangor. lovely day with clear views across to Beaumains and Puffin Island. It was a high spring tide so many birds had been forced above the High Water mark for a few hours. Birdwatchers were peering out of the hides as I walked past Aber.

I spotted Ringed Plover, Little Egrets, Shelduck, Redshank, Wigeon, Teal, Lapwing, Gt. Crested Grebes and flocks of Dunlin and Oystercatchers.

But I was put to shame when I called in the Spinnies bird hide at Aber Ogwen and saw their list for today was 43. Up the lane, over the Ogwen and through Llandygai to Bangor.

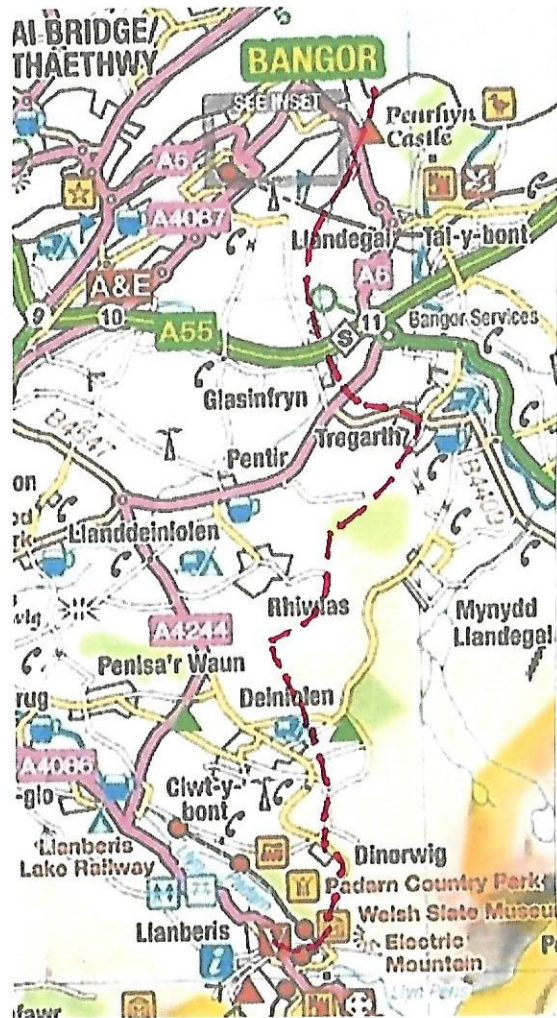


~ 9 MILES

17.2.18

9

BANGOR TO LLANBERIS



LLYN PADARN



AFON CEGIN FORD

Parked in Llanberis and caught the No 85 bus on an epic journey to Bangor via Brynrefail, Clwt-y-bont, Deiniolen, Rhiwlas and Ysbyty Gwynedd.

Started the walk at Port Penrhyn and followed Lôn Iars Ogwen, meeting the Pilgrim's Way again at the ford over the afon Cegin. Herons high in the trees and a bat flying around in the sunlight.

I missed the turn-off footpath and ended up in Tregarth but picked up the trail again in Sling. Good views over Anglesey and I could almost see our house in Llansadwrn. Into the dark dark woods under Moel y Ci with two or three woodpeckers hammering away, and frogspawn in the ditches, then up behind Rhiwlas and over the boggy moors past Maen Meddygon.

Over Moel Rhiwen and down through Dinorwig to Llanberis, Goldeneye and Mergansers on Llyn Padarn. Back to the car at 17:30 - Worn out!



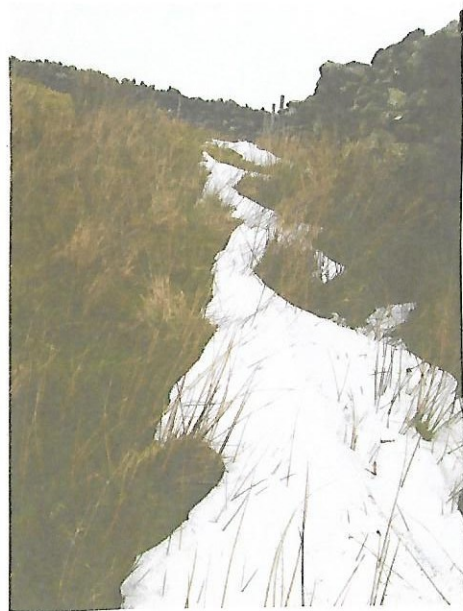
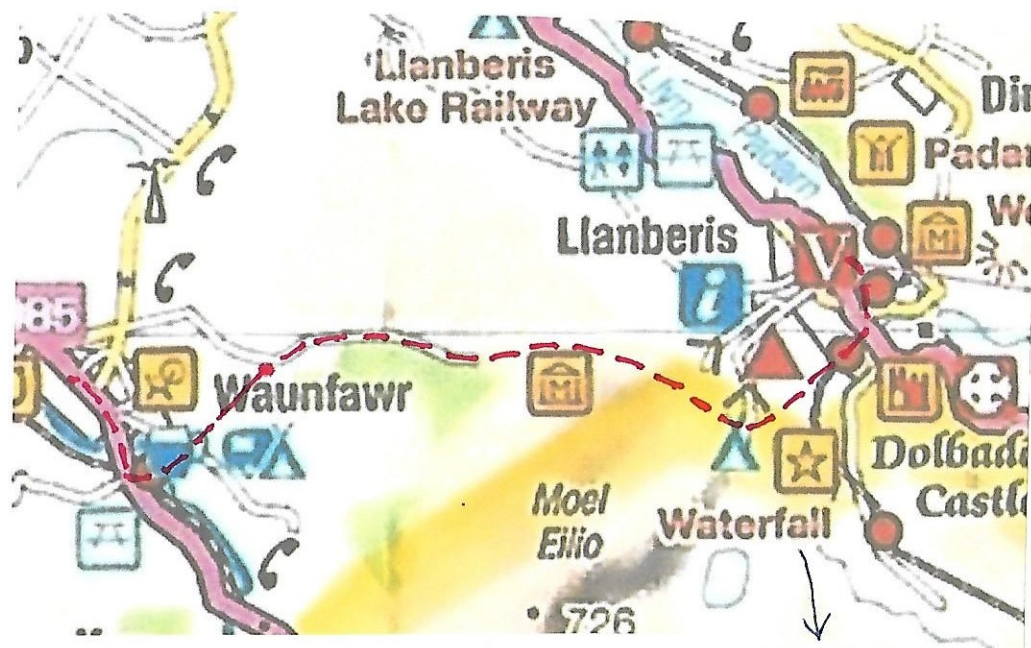
PENRHYN DOCK



INTO THE WOODS

21.2.18 ~ 10 miles

(10) LLANBERIS TO WAUNFAWR



CEFNDU



LLANBERIS WATERFALL

Drove to Waunfawr and caught the 54 and 88 buses to Llanberis. Coffee in Cafe Gronant while changing buses in Caernarfon. Those free bus passes are very useful.

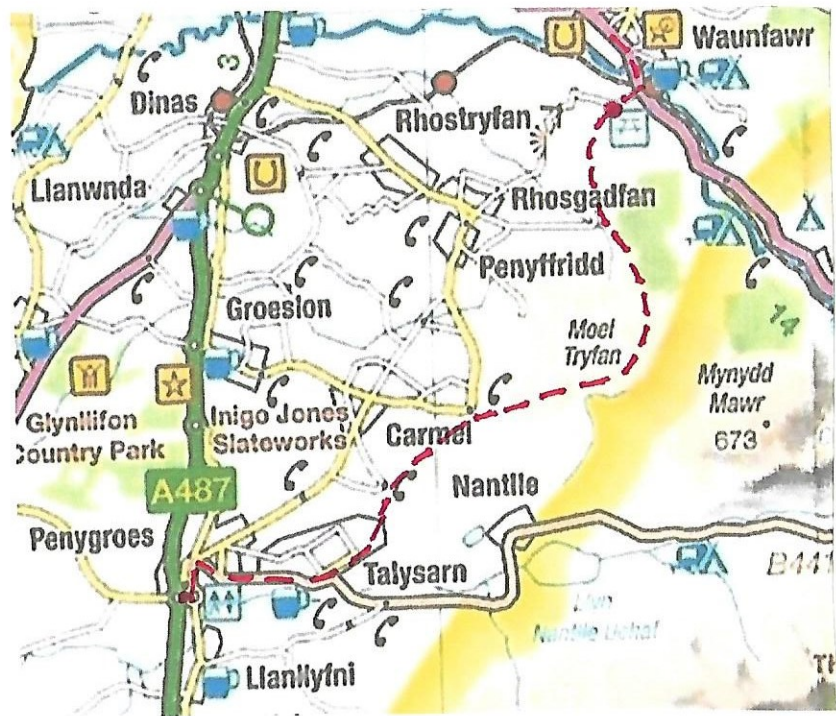
Walked up to have a look at the Afon Hwch Waterfall then up to the old track leading over Cefn-du to Waunfawr. This is now part of the new Lwybr Llechi Eryri (Snowdon Slate Trail).

I could see men working on the Snowdon Railway up near Halfway House, and the little train was running on the Llanberis Lake Railway. Ravens over the old slate tips. Good views down the Llyn Peninsula but I couldn't see Bardsey yet. Coming down into Waunfawr I wandered down the little lanes Rhiannon and I used to walk, many moons ago. Came out by the Afon Gwryfai and watched grey Wagtails and a Dipper. Cup of take-away coffee from the "New Shop" in Waunfawr, then home.

6.3.18

~ 4 miles

(11)

WAUNFAWR TO PENYGROES

In bus from Penygroes to Caernarfon, and the S4 to Waunfawr. Over the Gwyrfan and up through the woods to Braich Moel Snythor. Round the old cottage where a TV Series was filmed, about life here 100 years ago, and past Moel Tryfan where Darwin found marine sediment in 1842.



SNOWDON



ST. THERESA



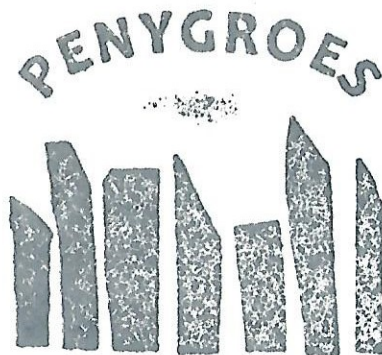
TALYSARN QUARRY

Sunny day now with Sky larks singing and good views of "The Elephant" and Snowdon. I walked round a frog sunning himself on the footpath, then down past Tlyn Ffynhoman to Y Fron.

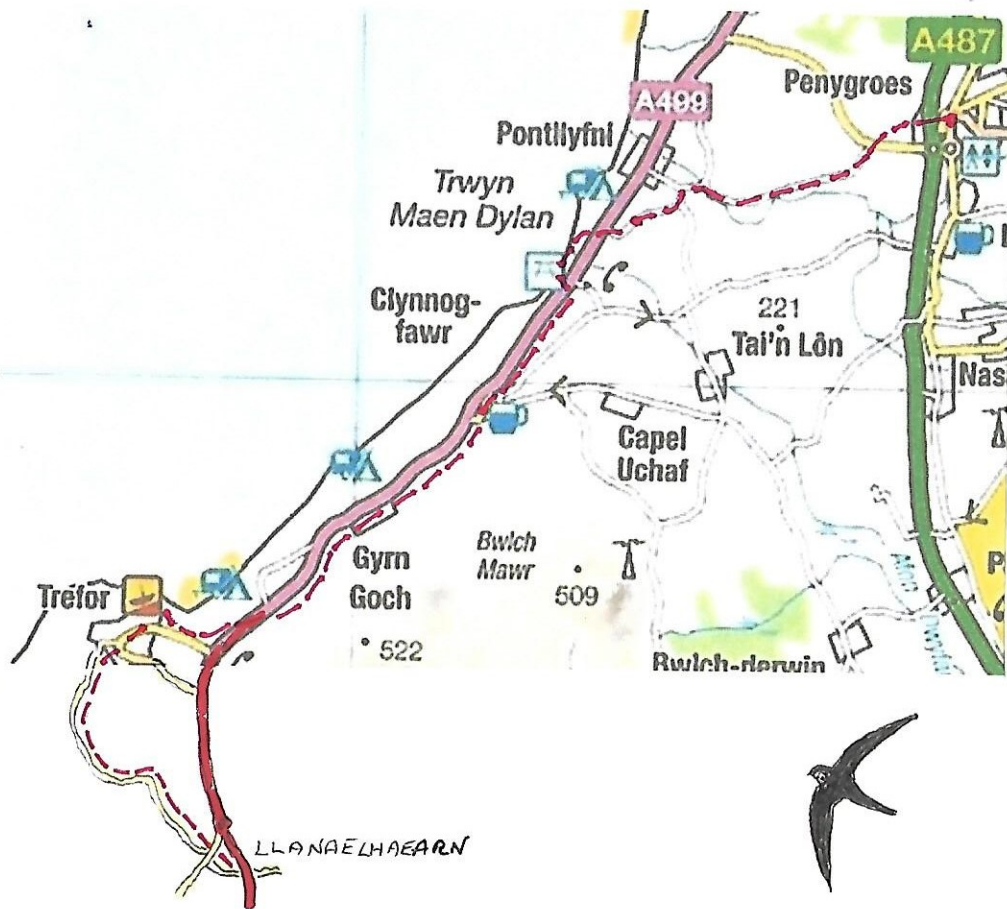
On past the old slate quarries to Cilgwyn and down to Talysarn. Watched a Green Woodpecker flying over one of the flooded quarries. Finally along the road past Pant Du Vineyard to Penygroes.

13.3.18

~ 8 miles



(12)

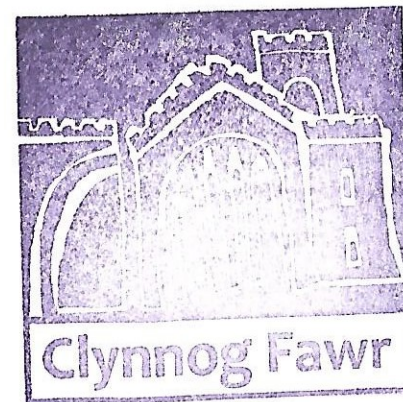
PENYGOES TO LLANAELHAEARN

After a five month break due to illness, I am back on the Pilgrim's Way, occasionally.

Two buses from Clynnog Fawr via Dinas to Penygroes, then down quiet lanes following the river Llyfni to Pont-y-Cim.

Buzzards, Swifts, Mushrooms and blackberries today.

Another lane to Aberdach beach and a rest on one of the benches watching the waves. Tide was too high to walk along the beach so I followed the cycle path alongside the A499 to Clynnog Fawr. 18.8.18 ~ 5 miles.



CLYNNOG FAWR



TREFOR

Bus from Llanaelhaearn to Clynnog Fawr. Splashed some water from St. Beuno's Well over my head (you never know?), then alongside the A499 to the Trefor turn off. Had a paddle by the pier then up the steep lane towards Bwlch yr Eifl. I have been over that way a couple of times so for some variation I carried on along the lane to Llanaelhaearn. A dead Barn Owl on the lane, Bilberries and blackberries, and goats on the slopes of Yr Eifl (I once heard them "screaming" here).

30.8.18 ~ 6 miles.

13) LLANAEHAEARN TO NEFYN



Caught the Llyn Coastal bus (O Ddws i Ddws) from Nefyn to Llanellhaearn and started walking back up the hill in the rain.

Turned down the lane before reaching Llanellhaearn and on to the byway and across to Pistyll. Sun and blue sky suddenly appeared with good views of St. Tudwal's islands and down to mid Wales.



CHARENTE STEAMSHIP COMPANY FLAG IN LLŶN MARITIME MUSEUM.

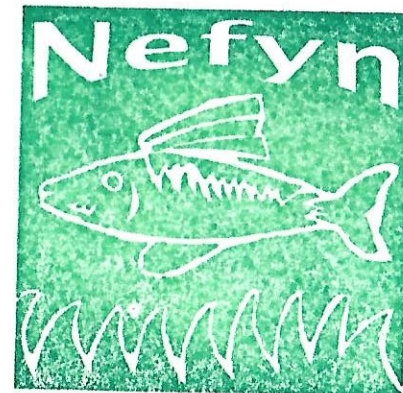


Stamped my book in St. Beuno's Church, then rejoined the Pilgrim's Way up and down to Nefyn. Very clear visibility now across to Holyhead and the Irish ferries, and Gannets diving offshore.

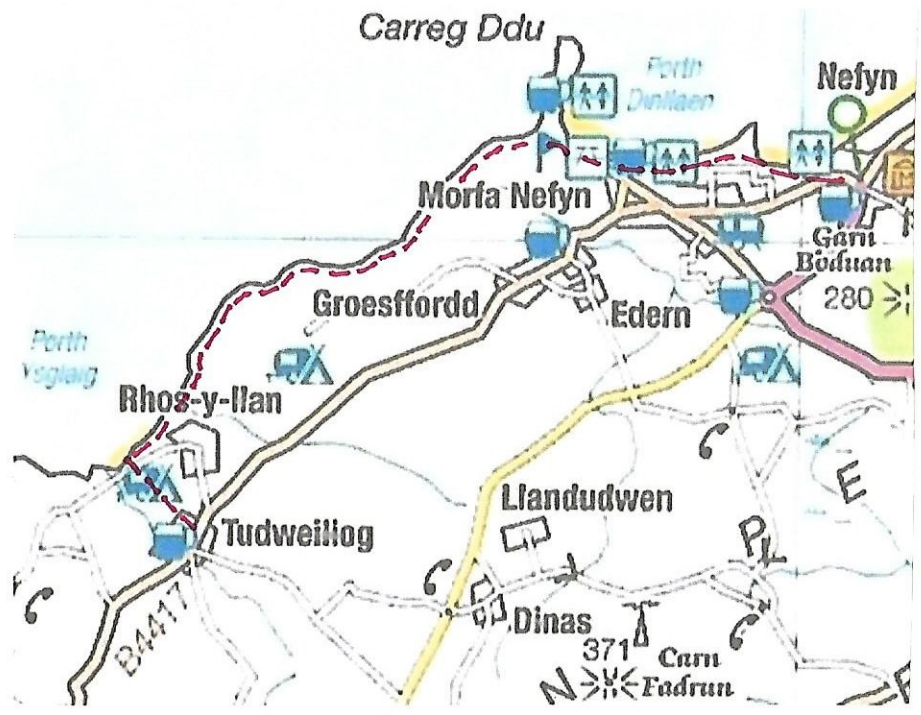
Called in the Llyn Maritime Museum in Nefyn.

Very interesting, including the company flag of the Charente Steamship Company who I used to work for.

6.9.18 ~ 7 miles



NEFYN TO TUDWEILIOG

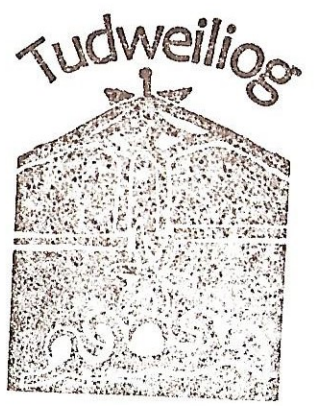
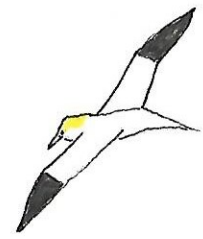


AFON GEIRCH



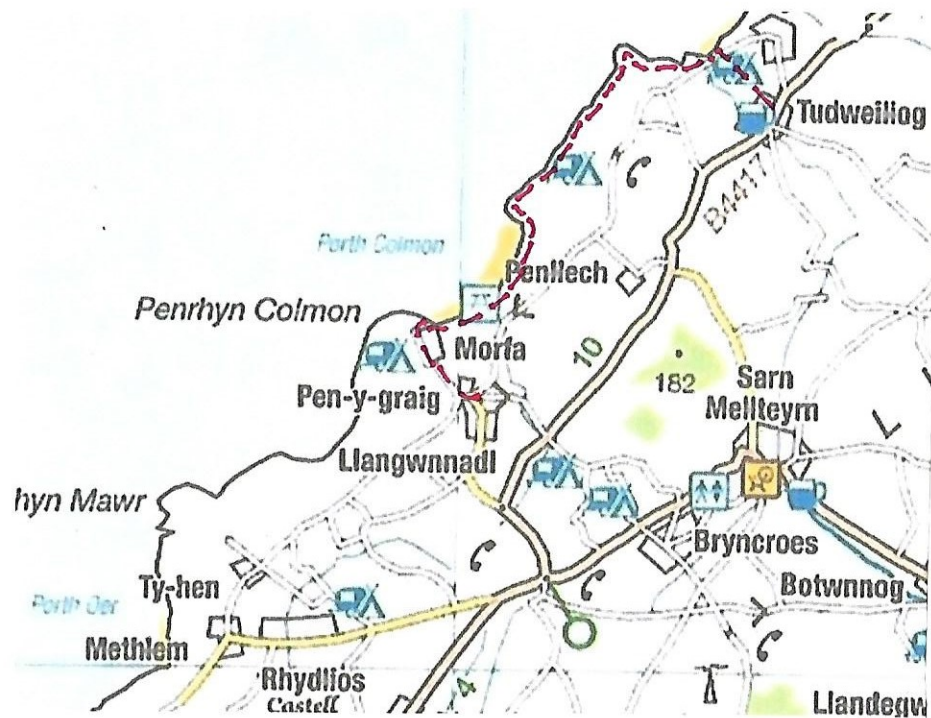
No 8 bus from Tudweiliog to Nefyn then back along the Wales Coast Path / Pilgrim's Way. Coffee in Caffi Pen Llŷn then across the busy golf course where you have to have eyes in the back of your head.

Across Afon Geirch, mentioned in 'The Fish ladder' by Katherine Norbury which I read recently. About 40 seals hauled out at Penrhyn Cwmiskin including one with a new born pup. Three choughs flying around Porth Town and more Gannets fishing further out. Through a field with a bull in it and up past Dalon's Cafe (shut) and along the footpath back to Tudweiliog



10.9.18 ~ 7 miles

15) TUDWEILIOG TO LLANGWNNADL



TRAETH PENLLECH



PORTH
CYCHOD

Parked in Llangwnnaddl and caught the Coastal Bus to Tudweiliog. Walked back down to the sea at Porth Towyn, now deserted after the summer holidays.

Along the coastal path against a very strong headwind - the beginning of Storm Helene, past Porth Ysgaden and the other old harbours to Traeth Penllech. This is one of my favourite beaches, especially at low tide when you can walk its one mile length.

More seals and Choughs, some Wheatears and a large group of Goldfinches.

On to Porth Colmon then back up the lane to Llangwnnaddl.

Had a look round St. Gwynhoedl's Church - a bit like entering the Tardis - three altars.

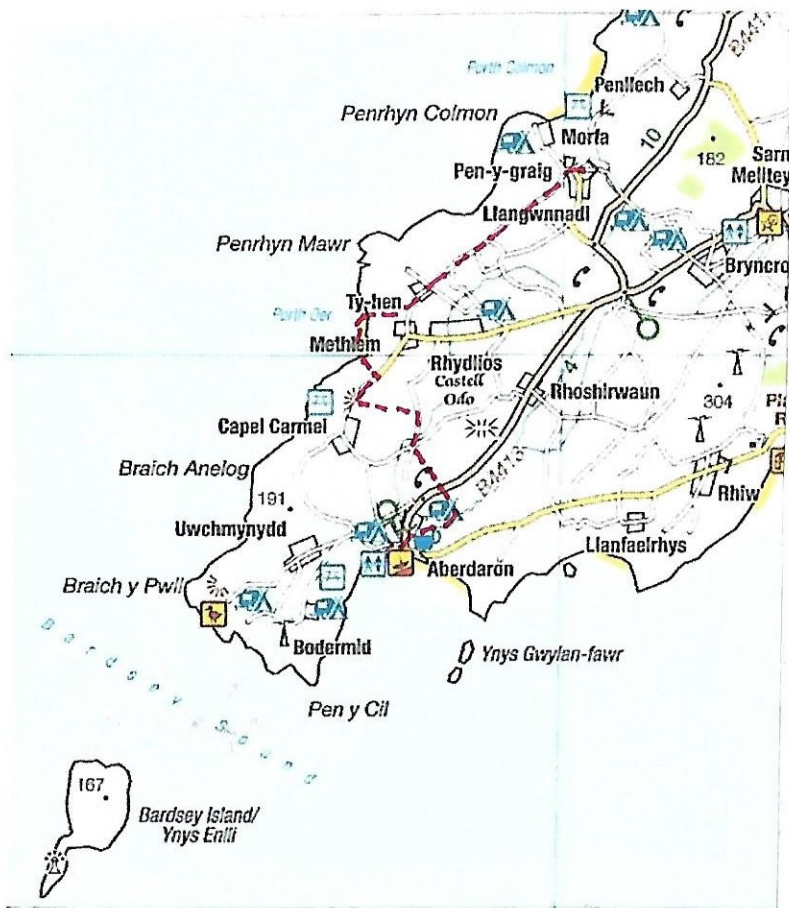
17.9.18 ~ 6 miles



ST. GWYNHOEDL'S

16

LLANGWNNADL TO ABERDARON



HOLIDAY COTTAGE



Coffee in Becws Islyn in Aberdaron, then back onto the Coastal Bus to Llangwnnadi. (Quite a few more walkers on the bus this time).



PORTHOR

I walked down the lane and picked up the Pilgrim's Way again near Porthor. On to the beach to test the sands - and the cafe was open! Chocolate cake and a mug of tea. Up the lane near the Jasper quarry and past Carreg farm, then down paths and lanes, over the Afon Cylllyfelin and along the Afon Daron to Aberdaron. Some Choughs, lots more Goldfinches and still-eatable blackberries. Signed the Pilgrim's Book in St Hywyn's church and had a look round Aberdaron where we used to come for summer holidays about 67 years ago! Horrible weather forecast so it looks like it will be next year before I get across to Bardsey. No - P.T.O....



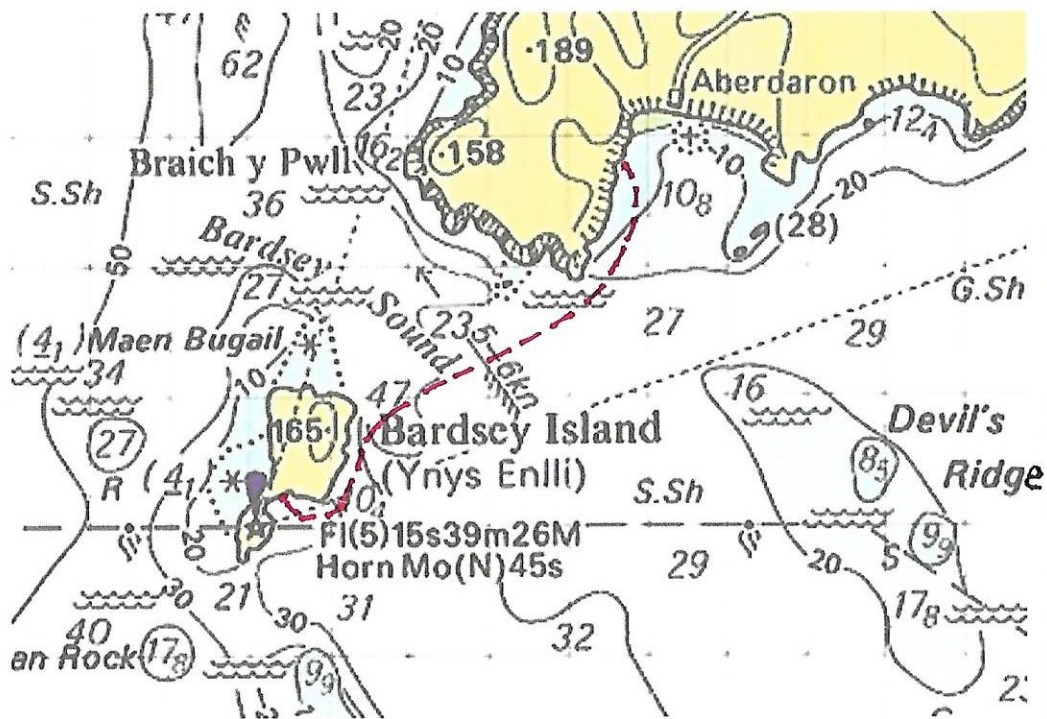
4.10.18

~ 7 miles

TOTAL MILES ~ 128

(17)

ABERDARON TO BARDSEY ISLAND



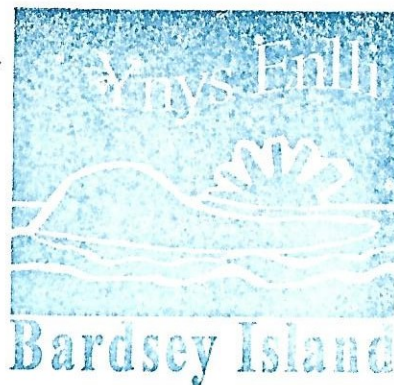
Rhiannon and I went out from Porth Mennwy with Colin the boatman and a trailer full of fencing, on the livestock boat powered by three 135 HP outboards (he let me have a go coming into y Cefn). Walked up the track and had a look round the Bird Observatory - no doubt they were watching all kinds of exotic birds but we only saw the usuals.

Post Llofft Plas Bach where we stayed for a few days some years ago. Noticed the original Bardsey Apple tree had gone but I am sure there will be others somewhere on the island, and maybe Bardsey Cider before long I hear.

Followed the track to the Abbey then along the West Coast path to the lighthouse where Colin hopes to establish a whisky distillery in the near future.

Lots of seals and their pups in Henllwyn and Porth Solfach. Back to the mainland on the usual boat Benlli III.

Lovely day!



Great Pilgrimage - What am I going to do now?