

Newsletter 10

September 2008

£80,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government!!

As those of you with access to the Trust's website or email will have heard the long hoped for news has been received that the Trust has been successful in obtaining a grant for the purposes of renovating and upgrading Dolgoch. The grant, part of monies allocated for economic regeneration in the County, will be administered by Ceredigion County Council. Sole responsibility for the application has rested with our member Pearl Chalk and it cannot be emphasised sufficiently how much work this has entailed and is still ongoing. The project contract alone with appendices numbers some 93 pages! One wonders whether Pearl has a filing cabinet large enough to contain all the correspondence and notes of numerous meetings she has had with the council. Grateful thanks to Pearl from the Trustees and without doubt all our members. It is appropriate also to mention the help and co-operation Pearl has had from the Council, principally through its officer Gareth Rowlands in presenting the Grant application without which her task would have been even more burdensome.

The Grant provides for the employment of a paid Project Manager and Project Administrator. Interviews have taken place and the Trustees are pleased to announce appointments have been made in respect of both posts.

SPONSORED WALK

Jeffrey Matthews was again responsible for a very successful sponsored walk taking in Drygan Fawr which has added over £3500 to Trust funds. The event, which was blessed with good weather, was followed by an enjoyable barbecue also arranged by Jeffrey. Vice Chairman Steve probably stole the day's honours by completing the "walk"(!) with/on his cycle. Thanks to all who contributed through participation or organisational help.

For anyone considering joining a future event it may be worth bearing in mind that employers will sometimes matchfund monies raised in this way for a charity, so do consider an approach to employers.



Steve and Steed
F Passey



Summit "Beehive" Cairn
D Edwards

TRUSTEES MEETING

The Trustees met at the end of August to review progress and consider changes to the general running of the Trust. The following were decided:-

1. Although we have over 300 members the number of active volunteers is very small placing a heavy burden on those few. Accordingly the Trust will focus on mandatory activities i.e. those necessary to keep the hostels operational.
2. Open meetings will continue to be held but only those individuals holding formal committee posts will be entitled to vote.
3. A decision of the committee would be regarded as a recommendation to the Trustees who would make the final decision.
4. Two battery powered lights will be placed on the staircase at Dolgoch.
5. The Trustees will meet twice yearly.

DEBATABLE ISSUES

The Trustees are aware that there has been debate recently on the introduction of electricity to Dolgoch. A survey has indicated there is potential for a hydroelectric scheme based on water from a steep running stream half a mile from the hostel. Solar power is also a possible but much more limited source of supply.

The issues are:-

- 1) Is there a need from a safety point of view for lighting in the dormitories?
- 2) Should we be relying on gas, an expensive fossil fuel which adds to our carbon footprint?
- 3) Should we remove the gas lighting and with it the much loved character of the hostel?
- 4) The successful project bid included a wood fired boiler needing electricity for start up and UV water filters also requiring electricity.

What are your views? Let us know and help the Trustees make an informed decision. Contact Steve Griffith on 0208 8337409 or email griffith531@hotmail.com

PUBLICITY

We can only reiterate what was said in the last newsletter - how all important this is. There are still many outdoor organisations which are not aware of our existence. Members can help by

- ◆ Writing an article about the Trust for Groups you have contact with.
- ◆ Making a presentation on the Elenydd. We have a Powerpoint Presentation that can be adapted for most purposes.
- ◆ Distributing leaflets at hostels and outdoor shops, etc.
- ◆ If an organisation has a website, enquiring whether the Elenydd site can be added as a link.

Again contact Steve (see above) if help and guidance are needed.

HOSTEL USAGE

It is pleasing to note that Dolgoch has already notched up 1000 bednights and Ty'n Cornel seems likely to do so before the year is out. Why not help boost these figures - bookings can be made through the YHA Contact Centre on 0870 7708868 or on line at www.yha.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BOOKING SYSTEM

Volunteers are urgently needed to provide occasional relief cover for those who access the YHA booking system for the purpose of maintaining an effective booking service for our hostels. Instruction would be given. Please contact Steve Griffith (see above).

WARDENS

The success of our venture depends in large part on staffing our hostels for as long a period as possible. 2009 is not far away and Joan Meek will be pleased to hear from you. If you haven't already booked a slot please contact her by phone 01283 537440 or email

wardening@elenydd-hostels.co.uk

A reminder - all wardens and persons accompanying them must be CRB checked. Contact Russ Johnson (see below) **NOW** for the all important paperwork.

New stipulation - ID photo badges must be worn and photos placed on view in the hostel. We have therefore to ask **ALL** who will be wardening in the coming year to supply three passport type photos. Please send these to our CRB co-ordinator Russ Johnson 1 Gordon Road, Horndon on the Hill, Stanford le Hope, Essex SS17 8NP telephone 01375 675999

WARDENS' TRAINING COURSE

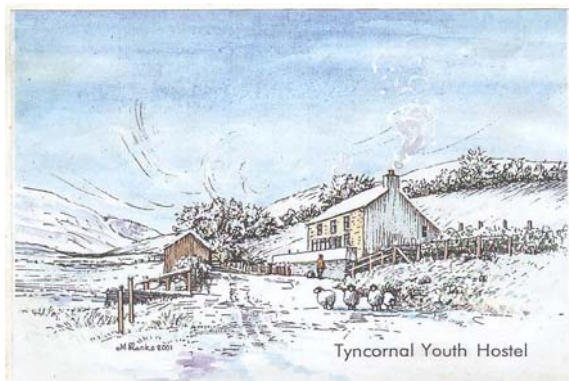
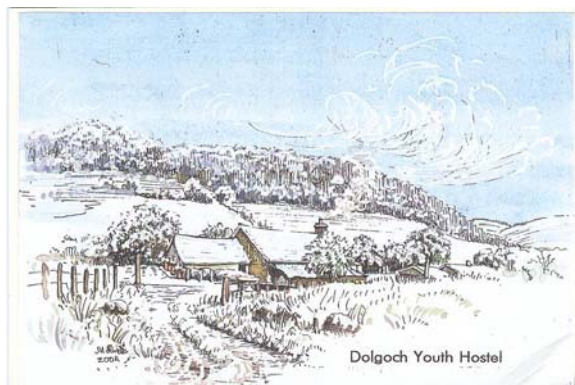
This has been arranged for those who would like to warden but have not previously undergone a training course. It will take place on the weekend of the 21st/22nd March making use of both hostels. To book a place on the course please contact Marilyn Barrack (02920 732289 or wardening@elenydd-hostels.co.uk) One advantage of attending a training course is that CRB checks can be dealt with at the time provided the necessary paper work has been made available.

MEMBERSHIP

This remains steady with currently 346 members but we are always looking for more supporters.

An enquiry has been made about Gift Aid. Simply put, this is a scheme which allows a charity to reclaim tax on a donation where the giver has previously paid UK tax on at least the amount of the gift. The gift has to be accompanied by a gift aid declaration. Donation and membership forms contain an appropriately worded declaration. These can be found on our website www.elenydd-hostels.co.uk or obtained from membership secretary Mark Willcock.

CHRISTMAS CARDS



Our member Frances Passey has arranged for the above cards to be made available for purchase with all profits going to Trust funds. Martin Hanks, who we have to thank for the

popular illustrated leaflets of walks from our hostels, is responsible for the cards which measure 6" x 4". The price which includes P&P is £4 per pack of 5 of either hostel or £7.50 per pack of 10 containing 5 of each hostel. To order please send a note of your requirements with cheque or postal order in favour of EWHT to EWHT Cards, c/o Frances Passey, 86 Cumberland Road, Reading, Berks. RG1 3JT or telephone 01189 676129. Do not forget to include your address, also telephone number in case of queries. **NB** The name Ty'n Cornel will be correctly spelt on the printed cards.

SKIDDAW HOUSE FOUNDATION

Skiddaw has a paid permanent warden but despite the pleasure and enjoyment such a post provides he does feel the occasional urge to look at the outside world thus providing an opportunity for others to briefly sample "high life" in the Lake District. Bill Sellers, the Foundation's Chairman, invites those fancying a sojourn in Lakeland to contact their Trustee Michael Douglas 0191 4206324 email potfrog@hotmail.com

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

Members may like to know that YHA Trustee and staunch Elenydd Trust supporter Helen Maurice Jones has co-authored with Lindsey Porter a book chronicling the history of the YHA in England and Wales with a strong focus on the early days. "The Spirit of YHA" can be obtained from YHA Contact Centre 01629 592700 for £20 post free. It is understood the net proceeds of sale will go to a small hostel.

Dates for your Diary

11 am Saturday 8th November open meeting at Ty'n Cornel
11 am Saturday 17th January open meeting at Ty'n Cornel
21st and 22nd March Wardens' Training Weekend at the two hostels
6th June Annual General Meeting at Tregaron

Chair:
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Treasurer David Bicker has received from the Post Office an empty opened envelope, post mark not decipherable. If anyone has made a donation which has not been acknowledged please contact him.

DOLGOCH HOSTEL CO-ORDINATOR

There is a vacancy for a hostel co-ordinator who will be responsible for basic hostel maintenance at Dolgoch. Ideally suited to a local person who enjoys the outdoors, he or she would be expected to visit the hostel on a regular basis and liaise with the hostel wardens. The post is a voluntary one, but some travelling expenses could be paid. The current post holder would provide an appointee with a complete rundown of the duties entailed. For further details contact Marilyn Barrack.