

# Elenydd Wilderness Hostels

Charity Commission Registration number 1115946

[www.elenydd-hostels.co.uk](http://www.elenydd-hostels.co.uk)

## Hosteli Unigeddau'r Elenydd

### News Letter 8

January 2008

New Year Greetings from the Trustees to all our readers  
and happy hostelling in 2008

A momentous year is behind us - perhaps something of a roller coaster liberally laced with hope and doubt. However, the acquisition of Dolgoch (yes, the Trust is now the legal owner) and completion of the lease of Ty'n Cornel ensured a triumphant ending to 2007.

The New Year will no doubt bring new challenges - another hostel to run and maintain for starters not to mention urgent refurbishment. However, if the enthusiasm and support of the old year is sustained there is no reason why there should not be cause for further celebration in the years ahead.

#### **TY'N CORNEL**

One thousand one hundred and twenty three (1123) bednights for the year, substantially exceeding even our ever optimistic hostel manager's prediction. What perhaps gives greatest satisfaction is that through the co-operation and hard work of all concerned the hostel has been successfully managed by the Trust for a full year.

Pearl Chalk's dedicated work in applying for Grants has resulted in the Big Lottery's off shoot "Awards for All Wales" making the Trust an award of £3433 for work to be carried out at Ty'n Cornel. This will include installation of fire doors and a fire alarm system, an electric water heater and a UV water treatment system. It is hoped to complete the work prior to the Easter holiday period. A presentation cheque will be handed over by local MP Mark Williams at a small ceremony at Ty'n Cornel on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

It is encouraging too to know that the effort put into improving the hostel is being noticed and approved by hostellers. Our trustee Steve Griffith, a keen cyclist and chairman of the Rough Stuff Fellowship encourages friends and fellow cyclists to visit when he does a wardening stint at the hostel. Comments made to him such as "far more cared for and cosy"- "great to see the character of the place retained" - "a great place to return to after a day on the hills" must mean the Trust is getting things right.

## **DOLGOCH**

The Trust's ownership of Dolgoch is likely to provide us with some of 2008's more exacting tasks but until the result of the Grant application referred to in the previous News Letter is known there is little to report. Thanks to a David Davies working party a start has been made on improving the track to the hostel. It is hoped to install before Easter new gas lighting on the ground floor, partly paid for by a sum the YHA agreed to contribute at the time of sale. A representative from the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth has inspected and will be making recommendations for future improvements with the "green aspect" of such work to the forefront.

## **BOOKINGS**

Both hostels are presently available for use and can be booked through YHA Central Reservation 01629 592707 or online [www.yha.org.uk](http://www.yha.org.uk)

## **WARDENS' TRAINING WEEKEND**

As mentioned in the last News Letter this will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Both hostels will be used with accommodation at Ty'n Cornel on Friday night and Dolgoch on Saturday. Bookings should be made through Richard Hollins telephone 01684 563097.

## **CRB CHECKS**

Russ Johnson who deals with these will be out of the country until the 5<sup>th</sup> March. Please, **NO** completed forms or other communication to be sent to him until his return.

## **VOLUNTEER WARDENS**

Always needed. Joan Meek who prepares the rota will be glad to hear from you as there are gaps to fill. Telephone 01283 537440 or email [jclift@8pineclose.totalserve.co.uk](mailto:jclift@8pineclose.totalserve.co.uk)

Reminder: all wardens and persons accompanying them must be CRB checked.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership secretary Mark Willcock thanks all who have renewed their membership during October - December. The Trust is heavily dependent on the support of its members especially in this formative period when there are lots of 'up front' expenses. Quite a high proportion of the renewals were for the extended period of 3 years which provides working capital when it is likely to be most needed. However, there are still 67 outstanding from this period i.e. 30%. Mark has done his best to contact all those whose membership has lapsed so if yours is outstanding please consider this a last reminder. It would be appreciated if you would contact him to either renew or to let him know you will not be doing so. If a membership form is needed one can be printed off from the website (same form for renewals) or phone Mark with any queries you may have. He can be contacted on [members@elenydd-hostels.co.uk](mailto:members@elenydd-hostels.co.uk) or 01226 764052 (evenings only, please leave a message if no answer). Please too, bear in mind the benefit to the Trust of introducing new members.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This will be held in the Memorial Hall at Tregaron on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 11am. In the afternoon of the same day the Dolgoch launch will take place to celebrate its official opening following acquisition by the Trust. More details will appear in the next News Letter and on the Website.

## **SPONSORED WALK**

This will take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June and is again being organised by Jeffrey Matthews who will be producing a route map and entry forms. These should be available mid February. It will be possible to download them from the web site or application may be made to Jeffrey for hard copies - telephone 0117 9094748, mobile 07793964714.

The two planned walks will both begin at Abergwesyn village hall and head up to Drygarn Fawr. The shorter 10km walk will finish at the fords below the Devil's Staircase. The 14km walk will end at Dolgoch Hostel taking in Drum yr Eira and Drum Nantygorlan. We look forward to your enthusiastic response. Some of us can barely wait!

## **SKIDDAW HOUSE FOUNDATION**

In our last News letter mention was made of the above Foundation. Michael Douglas, one of their Trustees has written outlining progress and it was felt members would welcome news of an organisation experiencing and coping with the same problems as our Trust so here are extracts from his letter.

"In the winter prior to opening last April part of the roof blew off during winter gales. The resident wardens had a rather cool moist time whilst the roof was being repaired with great support from John Waugh the land owner. The members pulled together with the wardens to improve the décor, water supply and to repair the gas heaters so that guests could enjoy hot water and a shower. Plans have been put in place to improve insulation, install solar panels and upgrade the sewage system.

The first paying guests were a group of Geordie police officers. Since then, despite a slow start business has grown steadily, particularly throughout August, September and October and an encouraging interest shown in early winter usage. The word is beginning to spread and people are discovering the magic of a wild and quiet place. You have to experience the views from the front door and enjoy the craic around the fireside in the evenings but being enthusiasts of the Elenydd Trust Hostels I think I am preaching to the converted.

Skiddaw House is closed during most of January and February and reopens 1<sup>st</sup> March. Present prices are published on the web site [www.skiddawhouse.co.uk](http://www.skiddawhouse.co.uk) "

## **MARKETING AND PUBLICITY**

Steve Griffith gave a presentation on the Elenydd Trust to the Gatliff Trust in December. The latter has been very supportive both financially and in giving us publicity. The presentation is suitable for any interested group eg cycling/walking. Please contact Steve for further details.

The Trust is still seeking a publicity officer and would welcome interest from anyone prepared to help.

## **MEETINGS**

The next open meeting when all are welcome to attend will be at Dolgoch on the 29<sup>th</sup> March at 11am.

### **Chair:**

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