



ARIENNIR GAN Y LOTERI  
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Hosteli Unigeddau'r Elenydd

Elenydd Wilderness Hostels

Rhif Cofrestru Comisiwn Elusennau / Charity Commission Registration number: 1115946

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## NEWSLETTER 33 – AUTUMN 2019

### Ty'n Cornel Welcomes The Hostel's 10,000<sup>th</sup> Visitor



Photo shows warden Bill Hine with award winners Howard Smith, Bryan Donoghue, and Damian Bevan, in front of Ty'n Cornel hostel.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> May this year warden Bill Hine awarded the prize for being the 10,000<sup>th</sup> visitor to Ty'n Cornel hostel to three cyclists Bryan Donoghue, Howard Smith, and Damian Bevan.

Bryan Donoghue, one of the award winners, said: "It was a great honour to be told that we were the 10,000<sup>th</sup> visitors to Ty'n Cornel! Bill made us feel very welcome, and we all shared a glass of Penderyn whisky to celebrate the event. Thanks so much for this special award - we had a wonderful time visiting both Dolgoch and Ty'n Cornel. Now it's back to everyday life in the office."

Ty'n Cornel hostel managers Richard and Janet Hollins said: "Many congratulations to Bryan, Howard, and Damian. It's always gratifying to see visitors enjoying their first stay at our hostels – for many of them it's a whole new experience to stay in such a beautiful, remote location. We look forward to welcoming many more visitors to Ty'n Cornel!"

## Family Christmas At Dolgoch

For a different sort of Christmas why not stay at one of our hostels? Angharad and her family stayed at Dolgoch last Christmas and the children enjoyed opening their presents in the lounge

Angharad was delighted to be there;

*"We had a brilliant Christmas up in the hostel and are looking forward to going again soon"*



## Wardens

The Trust relies on its voluntary wardens and is very grateful for all they contribute. The annual Wardens' Training Weekend was held in April 2019 and a good bunch of people attended. Apart from some burnt porridge from the trainee breakfast cook, all went well!

Steve Thompson was one of the people attending and describes his subsequent first experience of wardening.

*What are my memories after my first week of wardening at Dolgoch? There are many - all the visitors I met, each one interesting and engaging; the enthusiasm of the visitors - this was their holiday; meal times - some delicious stews, soups and breakfasts that I was invited to share; the "wilderness" element, in particular the constant wandering and interplay of the horses, the relentless visits of siskins, blue tits, great tits, chaffinches etc and at night the regular appearance of two barn owls; the peace of being on my own - in the day and on a couple of occasions at night (there was reassuring phone support from committee members); the "busy-ness" when guests arrived; and the hard work of cleaning and preparing, ensuring the hostel looked good for the visitors.*

*My wardening week was the last week of July. I had a full hostel booking on the first night - a group of fourteen social cyclists who had provisions and a boom box(!) dropped off by a loyal girl friend ; a group of 4 cyclists who booked the 6 bed room; campers who booked for 3 nights to walk and relax; a Dutch family who turned up on spec to camp; and then a variety of groups who booked via AirBnB at short notice - a local farming family taking a break, a friendly Lithuanian group and a relaxed French family. It was great to see the children working through the games boxes, intermingling and enjoying the space.*

*I found it hard work at times. I was determined to make sure the bedrooms looked good - no cobwebs, no fluff!, I worked hard on the showers to make them fresh; cleaned windows and sills in the common room, as well as working through the daily list of cleaning surfaces, hand basins, sinks, toilets etc. There was a useful check-list to keep me in order and I always had time to my self in the afternoon for bike rides and walks.*

*I had approached the week with some trepidation, but left pleased that I had done it - and enjoyed it. And yes - I have already booked another week to do it all again.*



We are changing the training weekend from spring to autumn and bookings for wardening weeks can be made from October for the following year. So wardens please note that you can now book wardening weeks for 2020 from OCTOBER this year. Contact Frances Passey if you would like to book onto the next course, which will be next Autumn, or arrange a wardening week - frances.adelaidecottage@gmail.com

## AGM

There was a good attendance at our AGM on the 29<sup>th</sup> June at Y Talbot in Tregaron. Lots of business was carried out, lots of tea was drunk, and the annual hostel reports were extremely promising.

This of course would not be possible without all the hard work by our amazing members, volunteers, supporters and all involved in helping with the hostels in any way, no matter how big or small.

Two new officers were elected:

Liza Tomos is now our Environmental Officer and Andrew Phillips is our Health and Safety Advisor.



Our thanks again to Mick and Nia at the Talbot for providing the room and refreshments for us.

## CICERONE Cambrian Way New Guide Book

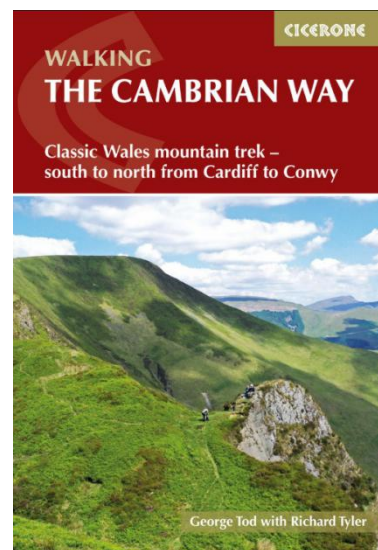
Ty'n Cornel hostel hosted a small launch party with cakes and tea, for a group of over 20 Ramblers on Thursday 8th Aug.

It should be said that they were late (we had sent out a search party) but it was a very hot day and there was plenty of overgrowth for them coming up the Doethie Valley.

One of the authors, Richard Tyler was with the group. Possibly the walk was a bit of a busman's holiday for him. but he and they all seemed to enjoy the tea and cake stop and the facilities at the hostel. Even the dog that they had with them was well behaved, Bill behaved as well!

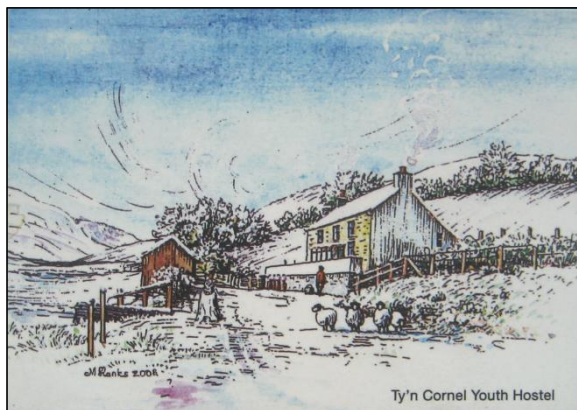
They all resumed their walk after less than an hour, walking off in 'Sunshine to Soar.....' possible first line of a song there.

Copies of the new book are available at Ty'n Cornel hostel, at present discounted to £10.



## Hostel Christmas Cards For Sale

*Cards featuring our two hostels are for sale again this year. The wording inside is 'With Best Wishes for Christmas and New Year'*



- Pack of 5 cards – chose Dolgoch OR Ty'n Cornel = £4  
Pack of 10 cards – chose Dolgoch OR Ty'n Cornel = £7.50  
Pack of 10 cards (mixed) - 5x Dolgoch AND 5x Ty'n Cornel = £7.50

Post order to: Nicky Price, 31 Thompson Street, Ynysybwl, Pontypridd, Rhondda, CF37 3EN.  
Email order to: [price.nicky48@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:price.nicky48@yahoo.co.uk)

Phone order to: Nicky Price on 07791838168

*(Please include your delivery address and exact requirements with your order)*

If paying by cheque please make cheque payable to: EWH

If paying by Bank Transfer make payment to: Sort Code: 404643 Account No: 51253182 and include reference 'Xmas & Surname' as appropriate.

The Christmas cards will also be for sale in the two hostels from the end of September.

## New Ty'n Cornel Hostel Stamp

Remember the days when you got your card stamped at a YHA hostel?

Bill Hine is keen to promote Ty'n Cornel as the most remote hostel in Wales and with Chris Chalk has organized a new rubber stamp for the hostel.





## Eisteddfod Genedlaethol 2020 – National Eisteddfod 2020

Next year the National Eisteddfod will be held in Tregaron 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> August. The Eisteddfod is an annual celebration of Welsh language and culture. It is held in a different location each year and this is the first time it has been held in Tregaron. The Trust has decided to have a stand at the Eisteddfod and we are looking for fluent Welsh speakers to help on the stand. Please contact Colin Hughes if interested , [huwscol@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:huwscol@hotmail.co.uk)

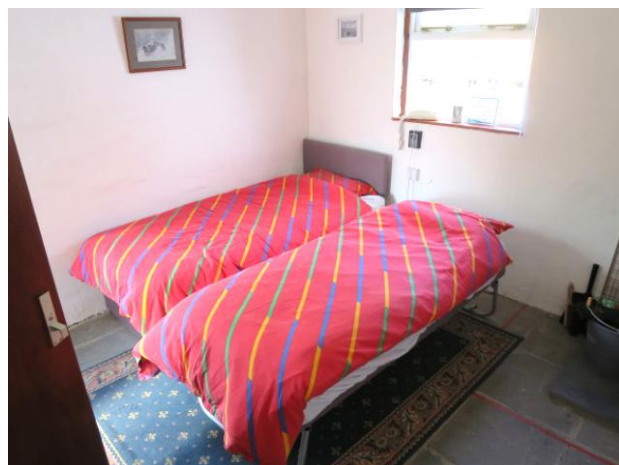
### Dark Skies At The Hostels

Both of our hostels are Dark Sky sites and, given the lack of light pollution, are ideal spots from which to view the night skies. As yet we have not attracted any astronomy groups to stay at the hostels but here are a couple of magical photographs taken at Dolgoch recently which show the milky way.



### Improvements To Warden's Room At Dolgoch

The warden's/disabled accommodation at Dolgoch has been transformed by the addition of a wood burning stove and changes to the sleeping arrangements. The stove really makes the room much cosier for wardens, particularly outside of the summer months. The metal bunk bed and single bed have been replaced by a single bed with a guest bed that fits underneath. This has created much more space but still provides sleeping facilities for two .



## Future Newsletters

We plan to increase the frequency of our newsletters to 4 per year. This will make some of the contents a bit more timely. We also plan to make the newsletter available to non members via a link on our website. If anyone has suggestions about the contents of the newsletter or would like to see particular topics covered please contact Colin Hughes - [huwscol@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:huwscol@hotmail.co.uk)

## And Finally...

Thank you so much for your continued support as a member of the Trust. An even better way to support the Trust and ensure the survival of our lovely hostels is to stay in them and to encourage families and friends to take a short break at Dolgoch and Ty'n Cornel – and this Autumn we are offering a 20% discount! . You might also want to attend our next open meeting at Dolgoch on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November. We always welcome members along to express their views and ideas.

