



Hosteli Unigeddau'r Elenydd

Elenydd Wilderness Hostels

Rhif Cofrestru Comisiwn Elusennau / Charity Commission Registration number: 1115946

www.elenydd-hostels.co.uk Swyddfa Gofrestredig / Registered Office: 7 Azalea Close Cyncoed Cardiff CF23 7HR Llywydd / President: Trevor Fishlock

NEWSLETTER 39 – SPRING 2021

Hostels opening from 12th April!



The Trustees have decided that the hostels can open from 12th April. Although the Welsh Government rules allow for an earlier opening we have decided to wait until cross border travel is allowed. The hostels will be open initially as “self contained” accommodation meaning that only one household will be able to stay as any one time. The arrangements will be,

Dolgoch – bookings will be taken throughout the week and at weekends. The warden will stay in their own self contained accommodation in the warden’s room.

Ty’n Cornel – bookings will only be taken for weekends (Friday night to Sunday night) the warden will stay in the hostel during the week.

We have done a lot of work to make the hostels Covid compliant. Non essential items have been removed from the kitchens and common rooms, the hostels have stocks of Covid cleaning materials, new arrangements for bedding and laundry are in place and the wardens have Covid cleaning instructions. We have also achieved registration with an external agency which is approved by Visit Wales, “We’re Good to Go”. This will give visitors re-assurance that we have appropriate Covid procedures in place.

As the rules change we hope to open up the hostels more. One aspect that we are looking at is whether we can allow campers, who are largely “self contained” anyway, to stay at the same time as hostel occupants, using segregated toilet facilities.

Another chance to attend a Trust Open event without leaving your home!

Our last open meeting in November was very well attended and generated a lot of discussion and some useful contributions from attendees. Given this success, and the continued Covid restrictions, we plan to hold another meeting on 23rd May. All members and supporters of the Trust are welcome to attend.

We will outline recent development and forthcoming projects such as the installation of a shepherds hut at Ty'n Cornel and update attendees on other recent developments. However, we also intend that members and other users of the hostels will have the opportunity to engage with those of us who run the hostels and the Trust by asking questions and participating in discussions. Details of how to access the meeting will be sent to you a day or two in advance.

If you are interested in joining us let Colin know huwscol@hotmail.co.uk

We would love you to attend - either to just listen or to participate

Dolgoch update

A lot of work has already been done to prepare the hostel for opening. We will be doing our normal, annual treatment of the water supply prior to opening. In addition Richard will be fitting an LED UV water filter, similar to the one already in use at Ty'n Cornel. This will be able to run off Dolgoch's existing PV electricity supply but will also be "future proofed" so that it will still work when we upgared the hostel's electricity supply. Fitting this new filter will mean that we no longer need to boil water for drinking. The new borehole supplied water is of a far higher quality than the previous stream supply and has passed all independent tests. However, the new filter will give an extra layer of security.

We continue to plan for an upgrade of the elctricity supply at Dolgoch and an Aberystwyth based company is due to visit the hostel in the coming weeks to assess our requirements.

Ty'n Cornel Update

The site design for the shepherd's hut has now been agreed by the Trustees. The planning application has very recently been submitted. Most preparatory work cannot be started until we know the planning permission has been granted. However, the field hedge along the approach track has already been cut back to allow the hut to be delivered. (This work had to be carried out during the period when hedge cutting is permitted).

As at Dolgoch, the annual treatment of the water supply will be done shortly in preparation for hostel opening.

Dark Sky information



A Zoom conference on the Cambrian Mountains Dark Sky project was held in March. Dafydd Wyn Morgan gave a presentation on night sky photography in the Cambrian Mountains which included an impressive picture that he had taken of the Milky Way above Dolgoch. Dafydd said that the skies around Dolgoch and Ty'n Cornel are some of the least affected by light pollution anywhere in the Cambrian Mountains. We hope to promote astronomy at the hostels and our Dark Sky co-ordinator, Geoff Williams, is looking into us holding a Dark Sky weekend later in the year.

New Recruits!

Following our previous appeal for help in running the hostels we have now recruited **3 new people!**

Rhys Russell has agreed to fill the role of Marketing Officer and is already giving a huge boost to our public presence. Anyone using Instagram, Twitter and other social media will see our increased presence following Rhys' efforts.

Nicola Payne is the wife of one of our wardens, Derek Payne. She is a professional bookkeeper and has agreed to help our very hard working Treasurer, Dave Matthews.

Ioannis Iordanidis – has become our latest Trustee. Ioannis and his wife Katie have been wardens for a number of years. Ioannis is an enthusiastic supporter of the hostels.

The rest of the Trustees/Management feel really pleased that we have been able to recruit three high calibre and enthusiastic members. However, we are still very keen to encourage other members to get involved in keeping our lovely hostels running so if you feel that you can help please do get in touch with Marilyn barlam@yahoo.co.uk