

## NEWSLETTER 35 – SUMMER 2020

# **AGM Cancelled**

The Trustees have decided to cancel this year's AGM. The AGM had been scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> July. At this stage we have not re-scheduled but it may be possible to hold the AGM at a later date. The Trust will still be producing the annual report and accounts and these will be submitted to the Charity Commission as usual. We also intend to circulate the accounts and key reports to members.

### **Hostel closure update**

The hostels have been closed since 20<sup>th</sup> March. We have offered all those who booked accommodation a full refund or the opportunity to rebook at a later date. The majority of those contacted opted for a refund.

The Trust applied for a Business Support Grant that the UK and Welsh governments put in place for small businesses and charities in receipt of small business rate relief. We were fortunate to be successful and have been awarded a £10,000 grant for each hostel. This will help to replace much of the income that we will lose due to hostel closure.

At this stage we do not know when the hostels will re-open or what steps we will need to take when they do re-open. It seems unlikely that we will be able to hold the warden's training weekend in October although at this stage we have not cancelled it.

The Trustees are still able to hold meetings and communicate via Zoom conferencing. When the regulations allow, the hostel managers, Colin and Richard and Janet will visit the hostels to undertake checks and required maintenance. In the meantime, external contractors are still permitted to do essential tasks such as the gas safety check at Dolgoch and PAT testing at Ty'n Cornel.

Like everyone else, we all hope that we can get back to normal as soon as possible and we will keep members informed of developments.

### **Hostels update**

#### **Dolgoch Less Able Accommodation**

Most members will be aware that Dolgoch has a Less Able Annexe suitable for use by a disabled visitor and carer. This annexe also provides accommodation for the warden and indeed is usually referred to as the "Warden's Room". We are however very keen to attract disabled visitors and to make use of the annexe. We have in the past contacted companies specialising in accommodation for less able visitors but without success. The annexe is bookable via the EWH website.

If any members have knowledge or insight into the disabled sector and have any suggestions on how we can increase usage in this sector please contact Marilyn.

## **Grass Fires near Ty'n Cornel**

Just before the lockdown in March there was a significant amount of grass burning near Ty'n Cornel. Bill Hine, who was visiting the hostel at the time, took some dramatic photos.



The hostel itself was not damaged although there was some charring of the posts surrounding the spring and a leak appeared in the hostel water pipe near to the spring which will need to be repaired.

It appears that Natural Resource Wales and the Rivers Trust have some concerns and are pursuing these.

### **Please continue to support the Trust**

Although this year looks like being something of a write off as far as visits to our beautiful hostels are concerned, the work of the Trust will carry on. Your support as members is really important for this work to continue. It is usually our members that provide the new ideas and active volunteers who are so vital for the work of the Trust. Please therefore continue your membership.

The Trust is continually looking to involve more people in its key activities. The majority of those helping to run the Trust are those who were involved in its formation more than 10 years ago and are not getting any younger!

We are particularly keen to hear from anyone with marketing experience. Once things “get back to normal” we will be looking to increase our marketing activity.

In addition Dave Matthews, our very hard working Treasurer, would like to hear from anyone with book keeping or financial experience who might like to take on some of the many tasks that he fulfils.

If you think to might be able to help with either of these roles or in any other capacity, please get in touch with Marilyn.

The hostels will only carry on if the torch can be passed to a new generation.