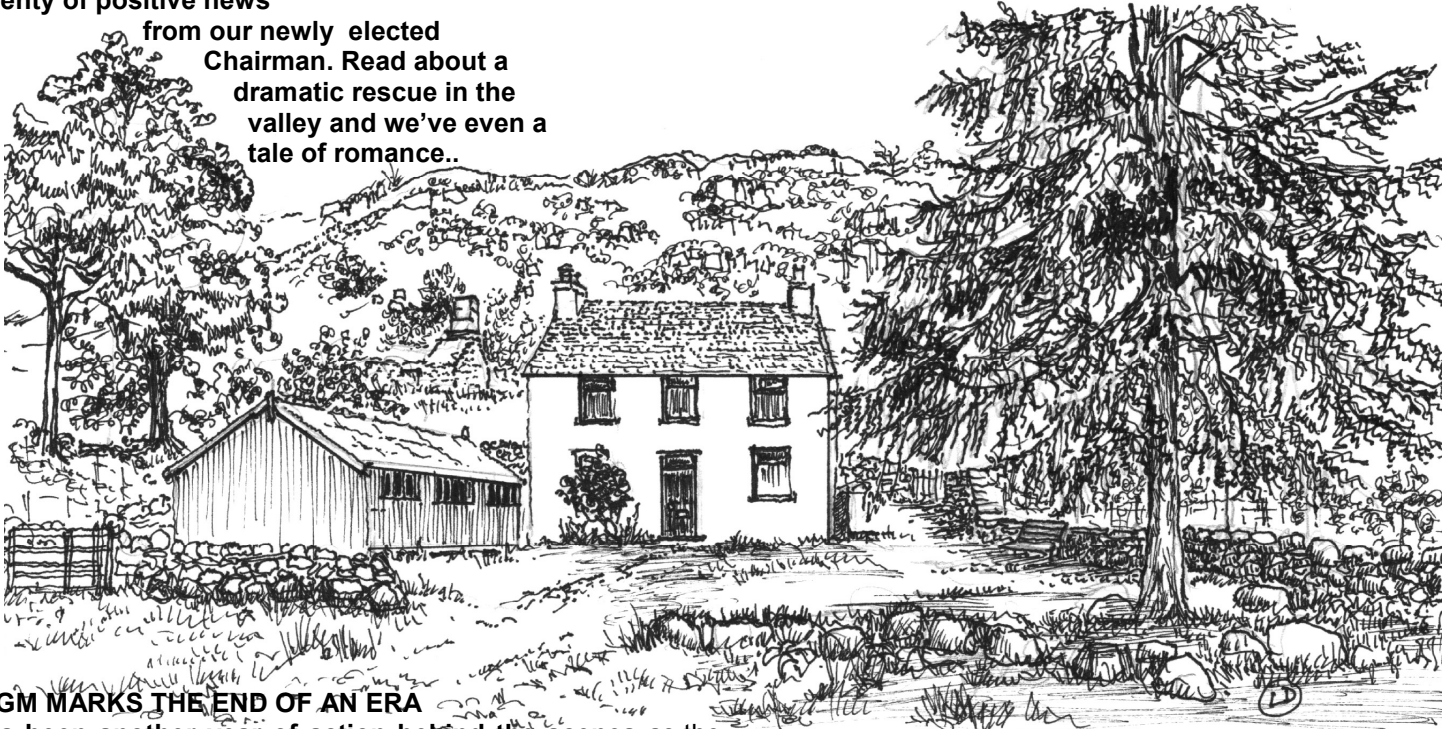


SUMMER 2016

There's a historic feel to
this edition with more than
a hint of nostalgia, but
plenty of positive news

from our newly elected
Chairman. Read about a
dramatic rescue in the
valley and we've even a
tale of romance..



AGM MARKS THE END OF AN ERA

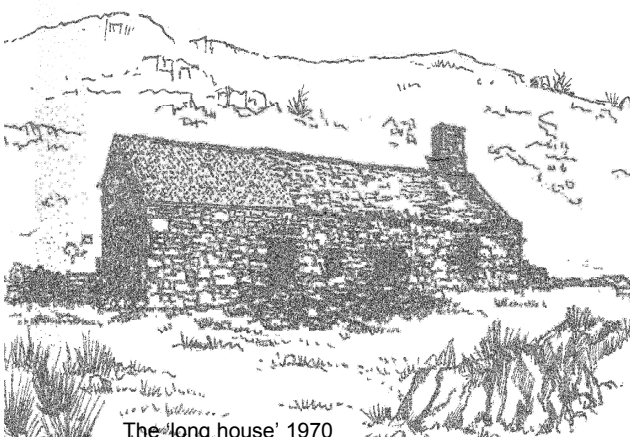
It's been another year of action behind the scenes as the Association has finally become a fully fledged limited company. Now that every document is signed and sealed, as well as a fresh lease with the National Trust, the new Association is well and truly up and running.

The AGM was a landmark, the end of an era which began long, long ago in March 1970 when two dashing young students were elected to the Nantmor committee. Their names were Bob James and Tony Tatford and they served the Association continuously, and incredibly, until this March. Their seventy years plus of combined service made it difficult to imagine a Nantmor without either, but times must move on and both reluctantly stood down to encourage others even more sprightly to step into their walking boots, as well they have.

Emotions ran high when, in recognition of their many years of outstanding and dedicated service, each was presented with a specially commissioned water colour painting by artist Lesley Dawson (who incidentally, with the secretary, was also on that '70 committee) Tony and Bob will indeed be hard acts to follow, but Ken and Mark have already taken up the challenge and show every intention of doing as fine a job as their predecessors.

Long standing trustee Les Borritt has also climbed down after untold years of service so, following the unprecedented ballot in March, we have a fresh team to take Nantmor forward, and joining those battle-scarred directors who've girded their loins for another innings we welcome Suzy as a completely

fresh
face,
though a
seasoned
club
week-
ender,
bringing
her skills
and tech-
nical
knowl-
edge to
the
scene.



The 'long house' 1970

CHANGES AROUND THE CENTRE

Late night arrivals, especially if they've been semi blinded by the new security lights or had a surprise encounter with the defibrillator, will be relieved to find a warm welcome in the dining room since the new storage heater has been fitted, giving ready made warmth and a cosy room after the long journey.

The defibrillator has been given as part of a legacy left by Angela Starkey, who loved the centre and walking in these hills, and is for use by visitors to Gelli Iago and members of the public alike. Remoteness from medical help and a phone can be a challenge in this location and maybe, through the unit, lives will be saved. We are indebted to Angela's family, and to Owen Evans for organising its installation.

The new, pocket sized, user friendly handbook now reminds leaders of the do's and don'ts of staying at Gelli Iago and what to bring, so no more excuses for forgetting those essentials.

Further afield, visitors this summer might notice happenings on the hillside above Gelli Iago with the arrival of the National Trust's latest micro hydro scheme, which will convert the massive power of water into sparks for the grid. Major improvements to the centre

are
expected to
start next
year as the
historic
classroom
which dates
back to the
early sixties
date will be
replaced,
so a busy
year ahead.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

With membership still on the rise we welcome St Ambrose College, Forge Short Stay School, Batchwood School and North Herts D of E Group, also Dragon LNG Walking Group led by Paul Howells, who's been an Individual member for years but now plans to bring his walkers from South Wales to explore the hills of the North. At the other end of the age range we welcome the Disney Family group, who report on their first visit overleaf..

CHALLENGING CLUB MEETS

Winter storms have been quite a challenge this year, with the lane frequently cut off by floods at both ends. The Christmas Pud meet became The Winter Flood meet, with continuous torrential rain and surging water levels ensuring the promised pudding was well and truly stranded chez secretary as were very nearly Tony and Colin, saved only by the heroic efforts of helpful neighbour Robyn o' Fedw Bach who escorted them back waist deep with his rope through the raging torrent-of-a-stream by the quarry, which had burst its banks for the umpteenth time this winter. Needless to say the grounded pud has been well laced and stored for next Christmas, so this could be a vintage year!

Short days and dismal weather didn't stop either youthful or mature from flocking to January's Port and Stilton meet, all equally engaged in the serious challenge of becoming as fine a connoisseur of the said liquor as their meet leader.

By way of contrast bowls of steaming Cawl were served to all as a Welsh twist to the March club weekend, marking St David's Day. Prepared by Owen "just as his auntie used to make it" he remained secretive about the recipe, but whatever the magic the Cawl was truly delicious, ensuring its place in the club meet calendar next year.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, KEN SCOTT-CLEGG

Ten years ago Ken wrote in this newsletter as leader of Cannock Chase Scouts about their first visit to the Gelli Iago. Now he writes in as Chairman:

"At the recent AGM of the association - the first of the newly formed Limited Company our long standing and hard working chair, Tony Tatford stood down and I was asked to take over. It's a big break with how things were. First we are now a Company Limited by Guarantee. This gives us more flexibility and greater protection as directors. Another change is that my background is not primarily education. I (along with my wife) run our own Accountancy practice. We have taken many groups to the Centre and continue to do so as well as attending Club meets with family and friends. While as a board our eyes are on the future, we wouldn't be where we are if it were not for the dedication and commitment of those who guided the Association to where it is today.

As we look to the future our aim remains to make the centre a safe and welcoming place to stay. We recognise that our customer base has changed. While young people still make up the majority of our guests, we no longer exclusively rely on youth and educational groups. We have a well built but ageing building that requires ongoing maintenance. Today, Mark, the new warden and I met with representatives from the National Trust regarding ongoing Maintenance. It was a very positive meeting but there has to be a commitment from both sides. Fortunately we have a good landlord

Although I have been appointed Chair, I am only one member of a team. Many of the directors have specific roles but we would like as many members as possible to be part of the team. Leaders of Affiliated Groups - those of you who bring groups - are now members in your own right and would be welcomed along with a guest or two on our monthly Club Meets. See the list and contact the meet leader to book spaces. You would also be welcome on our Work Weekends. It's your centre as much as ours and any skills you have - from cleaning to more advanced skills will help us look after the centre. We will be putting out a work list in due course. If you are able to help, just contact the Warden or myself.

So where are we going. As well as ongoing maintenance we are also planning to replace the classroom; we are looking to upgrade our water supply; the area below the wall is to be levelled to use as a car park while above the wall and to the side of the house will become outdoor areas. We are also looking at how we can best utilise the former warden's room."

Ken Scott-Clegg, May 2016

WORK WEEKENDS are booked for 30th Sept - 2nd Oct 2016 and 7th - 9th April 2017. Please contact Mark if you can help.

A SPECIAL PLACE...

The Disney Family group, one of our newest (and youngest!) members, have had their first exciting booking, with a romantic twist, as reported by Gina..

"Twenty years to the week that we came to the Nantmor Mountain Centre, my husband and I brought our two children Ivan and Ophelia back to reminisce.

In 1996, we made the trip for a Silver Duke of Edinburgh training expedition, from the Cotswold School in Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire. I held a torch for Alex at the time, but I think I was too 'square' for him! We finally re-met in 2006 through a mutual friend, though our paths had crossed at several points in the interim, even working for the same Pharmaceutical Company in Hull. We married in 2010 and have Ivan who is 2 and a half and Ophelia who is 9 months.

I joined the Nantmor Mountain Centre Association as a surprise for Alex so we could come back. After a brief detour (well it was 20 years ago and it is very difficult to find!), we arrived and Jane Pedley was kindly waiting with a lighted fire. We spent a lovely three days mainly around the centre and waterfall as Ivan had a fascination with the stream and spent hours exploring with Ophelia staring on in wide-eyed wonderment.

We are looking forward to many more adventures in Snowdonia and hope it will hold a special place in our children's hearts as well as ours". Gina Disney, April 2016

Thank you to Gina Disney and Ken Scott-Clegg for contributing to this newsletter. If you have any items for the next issue, or photos which can be printed for display in the centre or on the website, please send to: jane137@gmail.com.

The Nantmor Mountain Centre is a small and friendly organisation. It has charitable status and since 1963 has been active in providing simple but memorable farm-house accommodation for groups in its stunning location between Nantgwynant and Nantmor village in the Snowdonia National Park. Our members include Schools, Colleges, Scouts and Rambler's groups. We welcome interest from new users of this most unusual and rare facility. If you would like to have a chat with one of us and discuss how it might suit you or your group then please contact: The Warden: Mark Underwood, 01684 833004 mcunderwood@btconnect.com or The Secretary: Jane Pedley, 01766 890673 jane137@gmail.com. Also find us on our website: www.nantmor.org