



NANTMOR NEWS

Welcome to the second issue of the Nantmor News!

What a response there was to the first issue! Several new groups have joined, lapsed members renewed, and things are looking good at the Centre (even new curtains are about to be hung ...on poles that *don't* fall off!) We're delighted this time to include several

From the 7th Malvern Scout Troop:

WINTER CAMP 2005

'The centre was visited by 14 members (5 adults and 9 young people), of the 7th Malvern scouts in mid December. The aim of our visit was to allow our older scouts and younger explorer scouts the opportunity of some mountain walking. As things transpired the weather didn't allow for much in the way of views but the raw energy of the mountains was experienced by all, for some a reminder of the harshness of the environment and for others just a shock. Snowdon, living up to its reputation with snow over 2500ft, was particularly treacherous.

The long dark evenings were filled with cooking and games, drying out and keeping warm near the new fire. The fire was superb, giving so much heat the door to the stairs had to be opened regularly. Surprisingly the younger members had little energy for high spirited fun and were in bed by 10.30. Others of us sat and chewed the cud until the late hours, planning the day's activity for all.

Sunday dawned brighter and raised the spirits, as did the decision to walk low along the valley into Rupert Bear country and Beddgelert. The flesh pots of civilisation proved a lure to some and much hard earned cash was parted with in the Warehouse. As lunch was on the move all that was required was to clean up and remove the rubbish. All arrived home safe, tired and satisfied back in Malvern to clog the drains with the baths and showers removing good honest toil and Welsh mud.'

Dick Brocklehurst

Scout leader.

Cleaning up, Sunday.
(You can't get the staff
these days..)



On the disused railway track at Aberglaslyn.



Year 12 students from Waseley Hills High School, Birmingham couldn't have crammed much more into their overnight midwinter visit ...one wonders did they sleep at all?

CHRISTMAS AT NANTMOR

After their exciting arrival and frenzied claiming of bedrooms the group set off to discover the delights of Cnicht on a wet and murky December day, entertainment from Mr Perry's elusive hat and Mr Boden's impromptu lesson on mosses providing some compensation for lack of views.

'On our return we were welcomed by the warmth of the fire, and the delicious smell of chilli con carne. A challenging evening followed, with aggressive card games and a jenga Marathon in the dining room, the suspense of this speaks for itself! Back copies of Tractor magazines, the more mysterious of Nantmor's facilities, were then ingeniously used to provide entertainment ...the teachers quizzed us on the most reasonable prices and tractors conditions! This just goes to show that even the most urban groups can become tractor enthusiasts!

We snuggled into the bunk beds listening to the wind and rain howl outside wondering what more tomorrow and Nantmor could bring.

The students awoke in the morning after a comfortable nights sleep. Breakfast was eaten, the dorms were tidied and we set off for Snowdon assuring ourselves we would return for another jenga-laden evening at Nantmor in the future!

By Robyn Smith, Rebecca Brooke, Emily Thomas, Matt Evans



MARCH CLUB WEEKEND ...Arctic or Alpine?

For the third consecutive year the March club weekenders had a taste of winter ...well more than a taste! Heavy snow before the weekend discouraged all but an intrepid few to venture. Memories will long remain of the epic and final stage of Friday evening's journey, having left cars in Nantgwynant, up the otherwise impassable lane by archaic Land Rover, crammed dubiously into the back under a mountain of gear. Above groans of both vehicle and contents could be heard Tony's muffled pleas for "...the air conditioning..." primitively yet swiftly answered by the icy blast of a window flung open...



Saturday was spectacular! Unbelievably clear winter conditions drew some up Cnicht via frozen Twin Lakes to the summit, where we basked in Alpine sunshine. Others steered (just) a more sober (?) low level route via the comforts of Beddgelert. By then road conditions had improved and we were joined by Fran and Gil James, young veterans of Gelli lago who, after days of deliberation, even cancellation due to weather reports, could no longer resist the pull and made their first visit for years. A memorable weekend!



Gil reports...

'We threw our things into the car, grabbed some nourishment and hit the road early on Saturday. An absolutely beautiful morning, cold, but clear blue skies and nothing on the road. At 10.40 we pulled in at Llangollen for the usual! We set off again, plenty of snow though the road was clear and still no traffic, absolutely wonderful. A very eerie but exhilarating experience. North Wales at its most stunning.



We arrived in Nantgwynant, stopped to admire Llyn Dinas and Cnicht behind, clothed in white and backed by a clear blue sky. We toggled up and headed up Cwm Llan, a stiff test for my new knees! The National Trust presence is beginning to show in new paths etc. The weather held to give us a beautiful afternoon walking in deep snow with wonderful views of Snowdonia around us.

We managed to get the car up the lane and bumped into Owen, Jane and Liz, just returning. An enjoyable evening followed, enhanced by two other intrepid travellers - Tony and Colin. A great weekend to be at Gelli lago.

Many thanks. Gil James

PS I enjoyed it too - didn't miss my ensuite, satellite TV etc. Excellent company and glorious winter weather. Many thanks Owen. Fran James.'



FIRST IMPRESSIONS...

From The Dodderhill Mountaineers, our newest (if not youngest!) members who though initially dismayed to find their usual hut in Tremadog double booked, were driven by providence to Gelli Iago for their Winter Meet in January.

'We found the Centre to be beyond our expectations! The kitchen was superb. We pride ourselves on our cuisine on these trips and were delighted with the results! Forewarned about kindling we had a fine fire going very soon and found the upstairs heating and the constant hot water more than enough to combat the worst that Snowdonia could throw at us.

On arrival we did Cnicht and the ridge, descending by headlight to the chapel. The next day we did Cnicht again, then on to the slate quarries and down the incline to Croesor. On the third day all of us went up the Watkin and two of us continued to the summit. Our last day's walk was down to Nantmor and Beddgelert, via the Aberglaslyn fisherman's path and back over the stream.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable stay and we hope to come up on some later meets during the year.'

Geoff Briscoe

FROM THE WARDEN...

Bob James,
Warden of the
Centre for an
immeasurable
number of years,
and closely in-
volved for longer
than we dare to
remember:

'The first thing that hits you on going into the dining room these days is of course the new fire (makes a change from curtain rails, I agree...). Well and truly established now, it requires a certain technical skill in lighting, quickly mastered by reading the instructions. It's lit with its door closed so **remember to take paper and kindling**, no more cheating with the gas poker. And remember flimsies for evening wear, it can get very warm...



Thank you to all those who succeed in leaving the Centre clean and tidy! We realize it may be an unwanted chore when you're in a hurry to be off, but we rely on you to leave it ready for the next group. In particular the kitchen, and especially the griddle which has sometimes been overlooked, to be later discovered as a bacterial skating rink!

Rumours that the bunk beds have become more comfortable are completely unfounded, but we do now have pillows, so **please bring a pillow-case**. Those who have experienced problems with the new back door will be pleased to hear that a new, non-jammable one is on the way, likewise the cause of water supply problems has been identified and will soon be sorted.

...which leads me to mention **the next working weekend, 2nd - 4th June**. There's loads to do, not just cleaning and painting, but technical and thrilling jobs like pipe de-clogging, gardening and lots more. Something for everyone, plenty of good company and **what's more it's free!** Just bring your own food, booze and a willingness to work and have fun. The Centre depends for the most part on a dedicated few for its running, so weekends such as this are an opportunity for others to help. See you there!

Email / phone asap to book (See below.)

Please send your news and reports / photos / comments / stories / places of interest / ideas / whatever, to be included in the next, Summer, issue 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 farmhouse accommodation for groups in its tumbling riverside 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:

Jane Pedley/ Lesley Dawson April 2006

The Warden: Bob James bj13@btinternet.com Tel: 01905 345688

The Secretary: Jane Pedley jane137@gmail.com Tel: 0116 2876886

Also find us on our website: www.nantmor.org