

NANTMOR NEWS

The newsletter of the Nantmor Mountain Centre.
Group accommodation in the heart of Snowdonia.

It's been a busy and exciting few months, what with the bathroom work, a load of new members and the 45th coming up next year..



NEW WASHING FACILITIES

After over six months of hard work by dedicated volunteers, involving many weekend visits (and even longer planning) **the new bathroom is finished at last!** Hot water has been successfully flowing through the new system and intrepid groups have been discovering the delights of the new facilities.

The original room has now been entirely transformed: enlarged, new ceiling and floor, new walls now gleaming with tiles from top to bottom, a sealed floor, good lighting and heating. **Two new showers and individual changing areas, washbasins with vanity units and the separate toilet cubicle**, together with a much improved water supply allow the bathroom to be used simultaneously by several people, making all too familiar queues a thing of the past. Photos of all this can be found on the website www.nantmor.org

We are indebted to those who have helped to create these fabulous new facilities, in particular to our team of volunteer plumbers, the 'men from Manchester' – all past visitors to the Centre – who have given so much of their time and energy over the past few months: to Keith for his unrivalled plumbing skills, and for obtaining many of the materials at low cost; to Dave for his unflinching head for heights (and seeming impartiality to immersion in cold stream water); to Alex who, amongst his many talents excelled in plastering (didn't they all?); to Barry, the cheerful master of multiple skills; and to John for liaising, rounding up the team on so many occasions, and above all for his enthusiasm, perseverance, and his tireless energy in seeing this project through.

On behalf of the Association, thank you all!

SCOUTS LEAD THE WAY

First to indulge in these five star facilities were new members Northampton Venture Scouts when a group of their leaders, led by Rodger Adams, stayed for a night in August after staggering off Snowdon, the final goal in their daunting 36 hour Three Peaks Challenge (well, nearly – the stairs proved almost too much for some). Well done, 'big scouts'! The weary travellers, pampered by utter luxury and self indulgence in the pristine showers, soon regained enough strength to enjoy their night of sheer comfort at Gelli Iago. They look forward to returning with younger scout groups. **We also welcome** as new affiliated members Hartpury College, The Jersey Adventurers, and

St Matthew's Walkers and Birchwood Church Youth Groups, who've all obviously been listening to bathrumours and are desperate for a shower...



45th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

We simply can't wait until the 50th Anniversary to see everyone again, so YIPPEE we're having a 45th! This will take place as an **informal 'gathering'** at Gelli Iago next **May Day Bank Holiday weekend, 2nd – 4th/5th May 2008**. There'll be a **day-time buffet** on the Saturday, and an **evening barbecue and social**, with accommodation in the Centre for some (book early), outdoor fiends camping out, and hotels for the sedate (with Saturday transport arranged). Our aim is to bring together as many members as possible, and we'd like to celebrate this wonderful 45 years with a really happy and memorable occasion. More details will be sent out in the New Year, but **book the dates in your diary now!**

ALL GOOD FUN

The Centre sometimes provides a base for more unconventional visitors, whose weekends give valuable training for their essential and very special work, as reported by Flash, on behalf of the **Search and Rescue Dogs Association**:

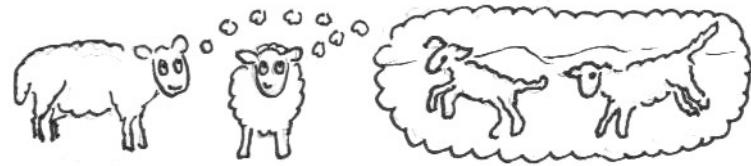
"Yo folks! It's me Flash – and I'm going to tell you a bit about our last training weekend at Gelli Iago at Nantmor. Us SARDA dogs all love it there – no roads so we get to run around and sniff – lots of sheep smells, and its quiet, by a river, and so close to the mountain. Us hounds have to sleep in the cars – mine was next to Fly's car, but she's in season so I couldn't go near – heh, heh!"

On Saturday me and Boss were late, so we went up behind the house to work, I found lots of people hiding, but all the other dogs were there first, so lots of dog smells to work out as well. Boss likes it at Gelli Iago too, so he was happy. Sunday we worked in Cwm Dylifi, which is hard work, and there was hardly any wind, which makes it tough.. All good fun though! Sniff you soon!!"

Flash would have written more if we'd had room, but he keeps a blog, if you'd like to read more of his adventures: <http://journals.aol.co.uk/benbowphil/DogBlog>

Since the Centre was inaugurated in 1963 countless people have stayed there, and their lives have been influenced in so many different ways. Long may this continue!

Nantmor is a **very special place**, as depicted in these articles:



FOND MEMORIES from David Pitt, Solihull

"Last week whilst on holiday with my wife and young children in North Wales I was reminded of a very happy fortnight spent at the Nantmor Mountain Centre in August 1970, when I was a 16 year old member of St Alphege Church Youth Club, Solihull."

Twenty or so of us were taken there on what was supposed to be a walking holiday. We did do some walking, I remember an assault on Snowdon, and a walk round one of the Moels, but my lasting recollections from that Flower Power age are of a few of us upon arrival and the initial exploration of the farmhouse and immediate surroundings, divesting our garments and taking to the plungepool in the stream. Another is of my pal Steve and I playing Led Zeppelin songs on our acoustic guitars in the old ruin as the sun set. Fond memories of cooking the evening meals, done on a rota by groups of four, and less fond memories of washing up after...

So, last week I took the lane from Llyn Gwynant and found Gelli Iago (I've never known how to pronounce it). Parking on the lane I opened the gate and ventured up the long drive, longer than I recall, and found the door open and two families resident. I announced my presence and explained how and why I knew the place, and they invited me in to have a look around. I was surprised how relatively few changes have been made, that the wooden hut has lasted so well, and disappointed that "Ty bach" has disappeared from over the stream. As we were a 50:50 mixed group, the girls had the only indoor toilet whilst we lads roughed it with the stream rushing below! Thirty seven years later my memories are of a very happy time, and I'm glad I had the experience."

David Pitt, Solihull. Sept '07

FROM THE WARDEN:

"When you're at the Centre please, please, PLEASE recycle! Paper, card, cans and glass must be either taken back home with you for recycling or put into the containers on Beddgelert car park, and **not** left in the wheelie bin. There's simply not enough space in North Wales to bury all our junk! **The wheelie is for non-recyclables only - please bag up food waste securely** to keep the bin clean - and I'm not talking a load of rubbish. Many Bob

CLUB MEETS

Don't forget Club Meets, first weekend of most months, ALL members (and guests) welcome: walk / climb / relax / shower / whatever – the time is yours; just bring your own food (and maybe a bottle), cost about £13. Forthcoming dates: Nov 30th–Dec 2nd 'Christmas Pud' weekend, Jan 4th–6th, Feb 1st–3rd. Contact meet leaders if you're interested. See you there!



HAPPY TIMES

"Twenty three years ago I first set eyes on Gelli Iago. I had been asked by Bob James to drive a minibus from his school in Redditch, and to spend the week helping with the school trip that Bob was running. I had never done any walking in mountains (nor had I driven a minibus along such a lane). We climbed Snowdon, camped out for two nights, walked in scorching heat, and by the end week I was hooked to such an extent that I have been helping on Bob's school 'Wales Trips' ever since, mostly twice a year, sometimes three. For some years we have spent two nights camping at Twin Lakes, and this has become a magical place for me.. .Gelli Iago has provided me with many happy times, and it has been very rewarding to see so many children overcome the challenges. My thanks go to those who originally established the Nantmor Mountain Centre and to those who have worked over the years to maintain it and improve it. **I shall be forever grateful.**"

John Gilmore, June '07

(We're grateful too, as John now helps to run the Association - Ed)

Thank you to Flash of SARDA Wales, to David Pitt and to John Gilmore and for their contributions to the Shower News. If you have any news, views, reports or memories for the next issue 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 farmhouse accommodation for groups in its stunning location between Nantgwynant and Nantmor village in the Snowdonia National Park. Our members include Schools, Colleges, Scouts and Ramblers' 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: Bob James, 07889 570483 bj13@btinternet.com or

The Secretary: Jane Pedley, 07891 367206 jane137@gmail.com

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