

NANTMOR NEWS

CHRISTMAS 2008 EDITION

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

Welcome to this Christmas Edition of the Nantmor News, with updates on the Centre including an article by the Chairman, a report by Emily Tustin on Tewkesbury School's wintry visit, the chance to order limited edition prints ..even a hint of Dickensian spirit...

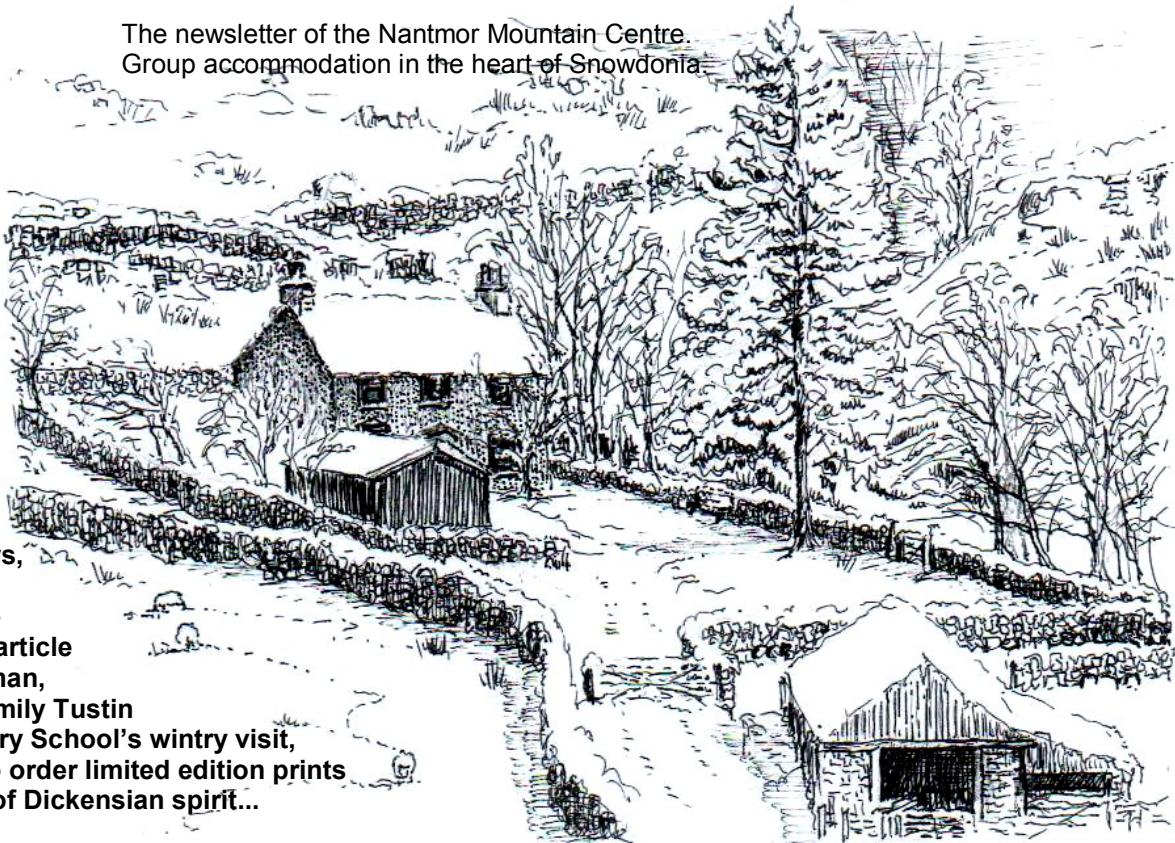
2008 - A MEMORABLE YEAR

Since the excitement of the 45th Anniversary celebrations last May the Centre has remained bustling with life, with over 20 of our member organisations ranging from schools and Scouts to youth groups using the facilities, and that's not including the monthly Club Meets. In fact around 230 folk have slept under its roof since then (well not all at once), many of them for several nights. And the place is looking and feeling just as good, the most recent mod con, the bathroom heater (yes, warmth at last) making the showers sheer heavenly luxury, and memories of the old bathroom more like an image from the dark ages..

A warm welcome to new members 6th Ashton Explorer Scouts from Tameside, Rydal Penrhos School from Conwy who discovered us one day last July en route to Cnicht, ("so we can actually stay at this place?"), Old UBBC's - University of Bristol Mountaineering Club's old (but not too old) students, The Flyford Benefice Youth Group, and Worcestershire's Outdoor Centre Llanrug who book in to Gelli Iago for an occasional night (of home comforts) in its raw mountain setting.

RETURN OF THE WELSH BLACKS

If you've ventured up the slopes towards Cnicht recently you'll probably have noticed large black beasts making themselves at home amongst the bogs and bracken slopes. Changes in land management as organic farming takes hold in the area have seen the reintroduction of cattle by the National Trust, their big feet (the cattle, that is) helping to stomp out nasties like bracken, so encouraging the type of vegetation, and ultimately fauna, which has more right to be there.



TEWKESBURY SCHOOL'S WINTRY WEEK

Emily Tustin reports:

"During October half term 14 Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award students and 5 staff descended on the Centre to ideally do training in preparation for our venture to Slovenia in July 2009. We completed the navigation exercise in Cwm Gelli Iago, which included a debate as to where to cross the river raging out of Llyn Llagi, and sheltering in the hafod against hail stones the size of peas. Overnight there was a fall of snow and with the weather against us (or for us, as some may say) we tackled Snowdon via the Watkin path. By the time we had reached the bottom of the South Ridge we were in a blizzard - one group returned and the other pressed on over Yr Aran. Returning to the house as eight snowmen it was bliss to remove wet clothes and steam in front of the fire. With the drying room full to bursting, emergency washing lines were hung before the fire to dry and warm those oh-so-important socks, while the boot waterproofer appeared in an attempt to keep feet dry the next day.



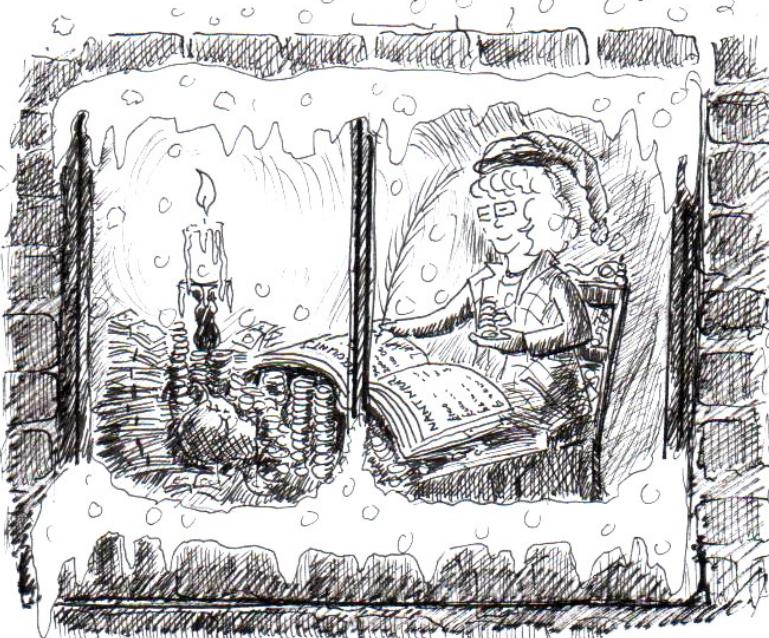
Halloween arrives early at Gelli Iago (30th Oct) and with fancy dress, apple bobbing and pumpkins cut out we celebrated the completion of our training."

WINTER AT LAST? Interesting recent weather patterns have seen near drought conditions in early summer, flash floods in October with the lane by the quarry chest deep (we think, but not worth finding out) and impassable for a few hours, followed by heavy snow in late Autumn ...a real winter?

TIDINGS FROM THE TREASURER

with a taste of Christmas Past..

"As you may have read elsewhere our running costs are increasing substantially. This means, I'm afraid, that we've had to put our charges up. Membership is now £12 for Mountaineering Club and Individual members and £20 for Affiliated members (reduced to £15 if paid before 31st January). After 31st Jan '09 electricity will be charged at 15p a unit (inevitable I'm afraid) and bednight fees will go up to £7 a night - **only £7!**



But think of the beautiful scenery and valuable experience (not to mention the luxurious bathroom) all still available at a really competitive price!"

Jenny Shardlow, NMCA Treasurer

FROM THE WARDEN..

"Firstly, congratulations to Stafford Scouts on leaving Gelli Iago in pristine condition after their visit. Well done!"

The Centre's looking good these days, but it still seriously needs new carpets: **if anyone has contacts or can help with bargain, good quality carpeting and / or fitting please get in touch.** We're constantly looking to improve facilities, and the next major project will be refurbishment of the classroom (amazingly *still* standing after 43 years), to see the Association through this century and beyond...

And finally, leaders please make sure that the gas is turned OFF before you leave (yellow isolation valve only), and the water too now that winter's here, but the bedroom heaters are left ON. Thank you!"

Bob James

CLUB MEETS

Now that the cold, dark nights are upon us the new dining room fire is proving its worth, its glowing coals blasting out heat, toasting toes / crumpets after a day on the hill (or even valley). December's meet brought festive spirit, with Christmas puddings, brandy sauce (or was it sauce-flavoured brandy), hot mincepies, Stollen bread... with promise of a New Year repeat in January. Hope to see you there..



Wishing a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all from the newsletter team!

Thank you to Emily Tustin, Tony Tatford, Bob James and Jenny Shardlow for their contributions to this Christmas issue. 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

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

A NEW LEASE AND THE FUTURE

"Our level of commitment to the Nantmor Mountain Centre has been such that we were keen to begin the process of negotiating a new lease for Gelli Iago some two years ago, in the hope of achieving a smooth and painless transfer in time for 1st April 2009. In the end, we have been in communication with the National Trust since September and are now seeking a common ground that will see the NMCA operating well into the future with financial and other commitments agreed at a level that support the shared charitable objectives of our two organisations.

The complexity of such negotiations can inevitably lead to periods of concern and frustration and we are grateful to the reception provided by members of the National Trust staff with whom we have had meetings and communication to date. At present there are some aspects of the anticipated agreement that will take much work to resolve. A small group of our Committee of Management has been authorised to carry out the negotiations on behalf of the Association. This group will report to and seek authorisation from the full committee for the final verification of the lease.

There may come a time when we shall turn to all our individual and affiliated organisation members for support in confirmation of the commitment we may have to make to secure our operational tenure at Gelli Iago. We shall endeavour to keep you informed of the progress of our negotiations. Equally, we would encourage you to seek information from or to make any offer of help you may feel to be appropriate through your committee representatives or contacts."

Tony Tatford, NMCA Chairman

PRINTS ON SALE

A set of five limited edition prints of drawings by Lesley Dawson (www.lesleydawsonartist.co.uk) is now available. Depicting some of the favourite spots around Gelli Iago, they're printed on A5 card, signed by the artist and numbered. Either available singly (£2.50 per print) or as a set (£12.50), all proceeds go towards NMC. If you'd like to order please send a cheque made out to 'Nantmor Mountain Centre Association', adding 50p per order towards postage to:

Jane Pedley, 48 Woodlands Drive, Groby, Leicester LE6 0BQ, stating which prints are required.

Hurry whilst stocks last!

