

# NEWSLETTER 43 – SPRING 2022

## Further relaxation of Covid rules

In line with changes in Covid guidance from the Welsh Government we have decided to open up the hostels to more bookings. For Dolgoch this will mean that we can take up to three bookings plus campers at one time. At Ty'n Cornel, two small bookings (whether beds in the hostel or campers) will now be taken during the week, at the same time as a warden being present. For the time being, there will still be no warden at weekends if there is a large group.

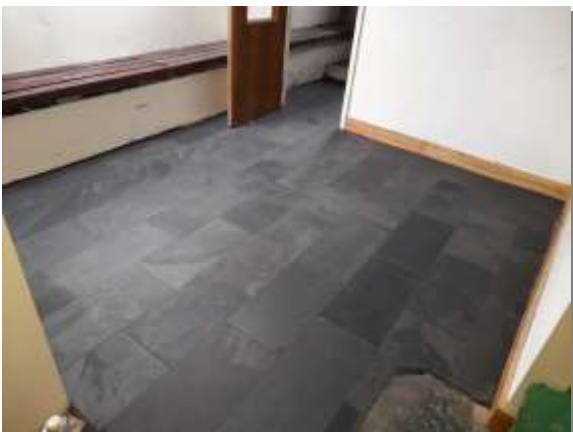
We are still not allowing shared dormitories and wardens are still being asked to undertake enhanced daily cleaning of frequently touched areas.

## Eisteddfod Tregaron – o'r diwedd!

After two Covid related postponements, the National Eisteddfod will finally be held at Tregaron 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> August. The Eisteddfod is an annual cultural festival held through the medium of Welsh. It is held in different parts of Wales each year. We are now in the process of dusting off the plans that we had prepared in 2020 to have a stand on the Maes (field) which will be staffed by volunteers. The stand will give us an opportunity to promote the work of the Trust. We already have a number of Welsh speaking volunteers but if any Welsh speakers or Welsh learners would like to volunteer please get in touch with Colin.

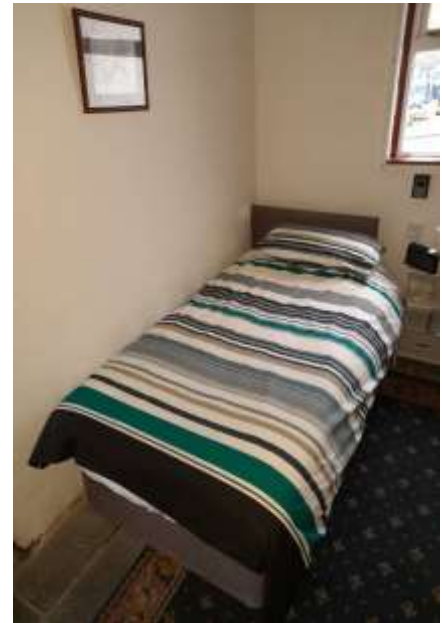
## Dolgoch update

**A new entrance floor!** As mentioned in a previous newsletter we decided to replace the unsightly concrete entrance area at the hostel. A local builder, Orwell Edwards, faced quite a challenge with uneven floors that needed levelling and walls out of line. However, he overcame these problems and we now have a very attractive slate tile entrance area. We only hope that we can keep it reasonably clean!



**Bookings** at Dolgoch have continued to do very well. February was particularly busy with a number of whole hostel bookings giving us the highest number of overnights in any February since the Trust started. So far we are comfortably in excess of 1,500 overnights for the year April 2021 – March 2022. Whilst not a record, this is an extremely good performance given the restrictions on bookings that were in place for most of the year and is only 10% lower than our best ever year 2016/17 when we had just over 1,700 bednights. Forward bookings for 2022/23 are also looking very promising.

**New bedding.** We took delivery of the new bedding and this is now being used in the hostel. We ordered 40 sets but have kept back a further 40 of the older bedding as a back up. Some of the older bedding will be going to Ty'n Cornel and the rest to a charity in North Wales which helps low income families and individuals.



**“Work party”.** In March we were able to have a work party for the first time in two years. Covid restrictions on the sharing of dormitories meant that we were restricted on numbers. Nevertheless we managed to get through lots of necessary work. The track was repaired (154 holes were filled in!), the ditch along the track was kept clear, and lots of kindling produced. Inside, the unsightly mould that had accumulated on several of the walls was removed and the affected dormitory walls were painted as well as one of the toilets and the entrance area. A thorough spring clean of the hostel was also undertaken. Many thanks to Richard Ward, Lyn and Owen Rook, Nic Fieldhouse, John Motley and Frances Passey.

## Ty'n Cornel Update

We've pressed the “Go” button to build the shepherd's hut! Orders have been placed for the hut itself and for the required groundwork and electrical work. The hostel's electricity supply is being upgraded from 100 Amps to 200 Amps, to provide capacity for the hut and for the installation of a charging point for electric vehicles. It's been quite a challenge finding tradesmen to do the work because they're all busy – we're now onto our fourth electrician! The hut will be assembled on-site in July.

Richard and Janet have visited the hostel several times over the winter to meet candidate tradesmen, and several other jobs have been fitted into these visits. The kitchen has been decorated ready for the new season, ditches have been dug out, and some potholes in the track near the hostel have been repaired. We've replaced components of the satellite receiver twice.

The track is currently only open to vehicles as far as the hostel, because of severe erosion on the section across the mountain to Soar y Mynydd. Richard is in contact with the Council about repairs, which are needed at several points along the track.

A good number of groups have stayed at Ty'n Cornel this autumn and winter. Several intrepid cyclists stayed in November and December. One visitor sent us this atmospheric photograph showing the road from the hostel in a low winter sun.



## Obituary Dennis Kinnaird



We were sad to hear that a long standing friend of the Trust, Dennis Kinnaird died this month.

Dennis and his wife Ann have been wonderful friends to Ty'n Cornel right from when they moved to Blaendoethie in 1989. They were always willing to go and check all was ok at the hostel or pass on a message to the warden (before the phone was installed). Possibly more importantly, wardens always knew that they could call at Blaendoethie, and always be welcomed and invited in for tea or coffee and biscuits and a long chat. They were very supportive of wardens and once told us that they made a point of visiting the hostel if they knew that a woman was wardening alone.

Dennis and Ann attended the initial meeting in 2006, in the Memorial Hall in Tregaron, to discuss saving both hostels when the YHA announced their plans to sell them. When the Trust was formed and took over running Ty'n Cornel, they continued to give their support as they had in YHA days.

Up at Blaendoethie, they were in a good position to see vehicles at the hostel and, out of season, often went down to check that there was no-one there who shouldn't be. As well as checking that all was safe, they were anxious that we weren't being deprived of any overnight money! Even in quite recent years, we kept them informed of the door code, wardens' rota and any winter bookings so that they didn't worry unnecessarily.

Dennis and Ann let us include their phone number and details of where to find them on the contacts list on the hostel door. This was invaluable before the phone, as anyone arriving without the door code could go up to Blaendoethie and ask for the code there. Dennis was also often called on to pull vehicles (sometimes, but not always, from the hostel), out of ditches along the track. As recently as last November he pulled out a camper van, thankfully not connected to the hostel - who thought they could drive over to the chapel and then got stuck going back up the hill.

Wardens and others connected to the hostel will miss Dennis (and Ann now that she is living in Tregaron) not only for assistance but as a friend. It will be odd to stay at Ty'n Cornel and look up at the farm and know that we can longer go and call on them.

We wish Gil and Simon and their families all the best for the future".

### AGM Date

A "Zoom AGM" will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, details will be sent out later. We hope to be able to return to holding a "live" AGM next year.

Colin Hughes  
huwscol@hotmail.co.uk  
(On behalf of the Trustees)