

# NEWSLETTER 54 – WINTER 2024

## Christmas and New Year

We still have availability over the Christmas and New Year period at both hostels so, if you fancy a break at one of our fantastic hostels you still have time!

### Dolgoch

We had a very successful work party at Dolgoch over the weekend 15th-17th November. It was so popular that we had to restrict numbers! Although one intrepid attendee camped and another slept in his van we were still a bit pushed for sleeping accommodation. With most work parties now of “more mature” years opting for a top bunk is a lot less appealing than it was.



Despite the logistics of sleeping arrangements, the large numbers meant that we had plenty of help with the jobs. Outside we filled in well over 100 pot holes on the track. We managed to refill one and a half of the two empty log stores, giving us enough ready to burn logs to last well into the winter of 2025. The north gable end wall was painted, the grass given a last cut, the barn was tidied up. Inside there was lots of cleaning and tidying up done. Bill and Peter also managed to plant some replacement oak trees next to the old dead one in the south corner. We hope that these will survive and thrive. Bill and Peter spent a lot of time erecting a fence to protect the saplings from predatory horses and sheep. Lisa, our environmental officer, decided on removing the beech trees by the camping area and a couple near to the car park. Matt, our professional tree surgeon member, did the felling. This will allow more light to reach the understory. Some of the trees will be replaced by trees local to the area.

On both Friday and Saturday nights we had a very enjoyable communal meal of veggie mousaka, lasagne and ratatouille, not to mention apple pie/crumble and fruit salad followed by lots of chat around the fire, although quite a few struggled to stay away from their beds after 9pm.

Many thanks to Marilyn, Lisa, Frances, Leila, Mary, Liz, Glenys, Kathryn, Simon, Matt, Peter, Anthony, Dominic, John, Bill, and Andrew.



## Disabled accommodation

We have had a disabled annex at Dolgoch ever since the major building work at Dolgoch 15 years ago. This is usually referred to as the “warden’s” accommodation and is indeed used by the Dolgoch wardens during their wardening period. However, we have always been keen to attract more disabled visitors to the hostel. We have now produced an access statement which spells out exactly what facilities we can offer to disabled visitors as well as the limitations compared with staying in more specialised disabled accommodation. The access statement will be put on the website. In addition we have contacted two agencies which specialise in such accommodation.

### Ty’n Cornel

The new porch is almost complete! In late October, the old porch was demolished and the new block walls were built, with footings, damp-proof course, and insulation. The old electric meter box was removed, and the electrical supply now goes direct to the consumer unit inside the hostel. A few weeks later, the builders returned to add the double-glazed hardwood windows and door, and the roof. The floor will have slate tiles. The only photos that we have of the new porch were taken on a very wet day, but it’s already obvious that it’s a great improvement. It will even have a light switch and a power socket! Inside the hostel, the front wall of the common room has been re-plastered. Most of the mess created by the building work has now been cleared away. The electricians will return next week to replace the consumer unit, and install extra emergency lighting and power sockets around the hostel. We took advantage of the short closed period to re-decorate the common room, and to get all the duvets laundered. The new plaster has been left to dry for a few more weeks. The common room has new curtain rails, which slide much more smoothly.



Several other jobs have been done over the autumn. Several improvements requested by the Fire Officer have been performed, including new “thumbwheel” locks on the shepherd’s hut, and extra signs and smoke alarms. The preservative on the shepherd’s hut and the new benches has been re-coated. We’ve made several improvements to the spring and the water supply, to reduce the need for frequent maintenance and to correct the acidity of the water, which flows out of a peat bog. The disorganised collection of keys which used to be kept in the sideboard drawer has now been organised into a new keysafe. Collection of falling leaves has kept many wardens busy for several weeks.

New jobs appear almost as fast as we complete existing tasks. The recent heavy rain has caused some erosion of part of the hostel track – the section above the disused turbine house. Cars are still able to get past with care, but repairs are urgently needed before the erosion becomes worse. Richard has reported the damage to the Council’s highways department, and is also in contact with the local councillor.



## Financial examiner

At every AGM one of the essential sections is for the members to receive the annual report and accounts. This is not the most exciting part of the day and it often seems that the role played by our treasurer is not always recognised. This is even more the case with the financial examiner. This important role is a little like auditing the accounts so that we have an external person to check that the income and expenditure is correct.

For many years Alan Southgate has undertaken the role of financial examiner. He is now finally retiring and all of the trustees would like to thank Alan for his diligent and conscientious work over the years under a series of treasurers. Alan’s departure means that we will now be looking for someone else to take on the role. While not wishing to diminish Alan’s role it is by no means a full time job but does require fairly intense activity over a period of a few weeks in the spring. If there is anyone who thinks they could help with this vital, if unglamorous, role they should contact our treasurer Malcolm James for more information.

## Prices

At their recent meeting in November the trustees decided to keep our prices unchanged for 2025. An overnight stay will therefore be just £15 for an adult and £7.50 for a child. Camping will be £10 per person. Booking the whole hostel will be £210 at Ty’n Cornel and £250 at Dolgoch.

## Events calendar

When	What	Further details
	New wardens training weekend	Frances, frances.adelaidecottage@gmail.com
8th-9th March	Dolgoch work party	Colin <a href="mailto:huwscol@hotmail.co.uk">huwscol@hotmail.co.uk</a>

## Membership

If you are not yet a member why not join us? EWH will only survive and prosper if we have a continuing inflow of new people. Even if you are not able to help in an active way there are a number of jobs that can be done remotely including a grant applications officer and marketing roles. To become a member please email [members@elenydd-hostels.co.uk](mailto:members@elenydd-hostels.co.uk)

Colin Hughes ([huwscol@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:huwscol@hotmail.co.uk)) (On behalf of the Trustees)