



CHESTER MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER

14 issue 2

March 2014



Mark Whelan engages in some extra-curricular mountain bike activity on the recent Scottish Winter Meet

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EVENTS NEWS

Wednesday Evenings Outside (Paul Drew) If you look a bit further on at the Events Calendar, you'll see that there is now a full list of Wednesday evenings planned, some well-known venues and some different places for a bit of a change. The first evening out is 2nd April. You'll normally find CMC members at the chosen crag from around 6-6.30pm but for latest details it's always worth checking the website or Facebook.

New Members' Meet at PCU 11-13 April (Jim Jones) Jim has sent out a comprehensive pack for new members (attached at the end of this newsletter), and adds the following:

"Hi All,

First of all the money stuff for non CMC members! The meet is at our hut PCU; full details of the location and what you will need to bring with you are attached. For those of you who are not yet members of CMC you will have to join CMC (currently £15.00 application form also attached). The total cost to you comprises membership + hut fees at £3.50 per night. Apologies for all the do's and don'ts in the attached doc' most of that info' is for the benefit of outside bookings and CMC members using PCU for the themselves first time, CMC members will be around to show you everything you need to know. The only stuff you will really need to know is highlighted in the text.

Currently there are about 8 people going 2 of whom are new or prospective new members. Just turn up at the hut (details attached) on the Friday evening and hope for some good weather! Plan is of course to go climbing both days weather permitting. Also other club members will be on hand for anyone planning on doing some hill walking. On the Saturday evening we will most likely wander down to Llanberis for a meal usually at the Heights; I'll book a table in advance for us assuming enough interest in this.

See you Friday,
Jim."

So clearly room for more new or old members if you fancy going along.

Annual Dinner 8 November (Paul Drew) A long time off yet but the date's fixed so you can get it in your diary. The exact location is yet to be finalised, but it will be in Llanberis so you can stay at Pen Ceunant (or any of the Hotels/B&B's in Llanberis if you don't fancy the walk back up the hill at the end of the festivities).

Scottish Winter Meet 14-21 March 2015 (Rich Fahy) Even further in the future but even more important to get your dates sorted and let Rich know if you want to go, as this meet usually fills up fast. See the report of this year's trip later in this issue if you want a flavour. Next year the meet will be based at the Ratagan Hostel by Loch Duich (Kintail, Glen Shiel, etc)

GENERAL INFORMATION AND NOTICES

New President

After 3 years hard work including help with the 60th Anniversary celebrations and editing the Journal, Simon Jefferies stood down at the AGM amid thanks and congratulations for a great period of presidency. He is succeeded by Ken Williams, who will be familiar to almost all CMC members. As well as being known for his walking, travelling and frequent hut residency, Ken organised the "Welsh 3000's" meet for many years, and is now the Club's mainstay in the success of the Fylde Exchange Meets. We welcome Ken to his new post and wish him a happy time as president.

Subs

If you read Kev's notes on the recent AGM you'll see that the motion to put the subs up from 2015 onwards was passed. Fortunately, we don't have to do this too often - I think last time they went up was back in around 2006. But, as many members pay by standing order, treasurer Phil's not really looking forward to chasing all the members that don't change their instructions to their banks. You have nearly a year to do it, it only takes a phonecall or five minutes at your computer, so please don't give Phil a hard time!

Mountain First Aid Courses

CMC Member Jason Day runs first aid courses, and it would be possible for Club Members to fill spare places on his courses at reduced rates, or he could alternatively run a weekend course specifically for us at the hut. Details would need to be firmed up, but we would like to gauge current interest, so if you are interested in participating in a course can you let one of the committee know so that we can judge potential numbers. It was generally felt that a similar course run at the hut by Iain Cairns a few years ago was very worthwhile to those who attended.

Great Gear Giveaway! (Colin Green)

I recently received the following note from Colin, who some members might remember for his iron-fisted rule as PCU Custodian (and his 1970's ascents of routes like Big Groove on Gogarth and Slanting Slab on Cloggy which were considered a bit pressing in those days):-

"Under pressure from Mrs G, who is in de-clutter the house mode, I am getting rid of all my old climbing gear. I am happy to give it all away and I wonder whether an advert in the CMC newsletter might be in order.

- About 30 alloy carabiners. Mostly Clog with one or two Cassin and Stubai. Only one or two have been stress tested but I don't know which ones!

- Various rock pegs and ice screws. Does anyone still use pegs?

- "Camp" short metal ice axe. Banana shaped pick and rubber coated shaft. Used on lots of grade 4 ice. It looks brand new.

- MacInnes Terrordactyl ice hammer. An old fashioned way of getting badly bruised knuckles. Well beaten up.

- 2 pairs of Salewa crampons with neoprene straps. One pair is what I used for general mountaineering and snow & ice climbing - 12 points. The other pair are 8 point walking crampons and are unused.

- Clog figure of eight descendeur. Probably out of date but it got me down 4,000 feet of the North Ridge of Piz Badile.

- 1 pair of Troll tape etriers (stirrups). Used twice - once on an ascent of the Super Direct at Malham Cove, and once with you when we nailed our way up a route on The Cinque Torre in The Dolomites. I decided I didn't much care for that sort of engineering.

- Pair of size 12 Dolomite reverse leather high ankle mountaineering boots - rigid soles. They only weigh about 5 lbs each.

It's all old but still in good order having been stored in the dry and in the dark in a drawer in the house. I can't bring myself simply to chuck this stuff out. Do you think it is sensible to offer it all as a give away, or has gear moved on too much since I was at it? For some student or someone who is otherwise hard up there might be some salvageable stuff here. The Camp ice axe still looks pretty modern to me."

Colin stresses he doesn't want any payment, so if you are interested can you contact him direct (01244-380352 cs.green@yahoo.co.uk)

Now that all the relevant stuff has been confirmed at the AGM, your 2014/15 handbook and membership card will be on its way to you by post by mid April. This year we have decided to revert back to the A6 style booklet we had in previous years (now that I've worked out how to make them at a reasonable cost!)

EVENTS CALENDAR

For more information on any of the events, contact the Meet Leader. Note that as the year progresses meets sometimes do get changed and moved around as plans get firmed up. So if you are making long term plans, make sure the meet leader knows so he/she can consult you and keep you up to date.

For the events that are marked as a "PCU Outside Booking", it is worth remembering that

(1) If the hut has been booked by another club, they have paid a fee for the hut as a whole, but the hut is still available for CMC members to use provided that they sleep in the small (Members) dormitory - ie up to 6 places available.

(2) If a booking has been made by a CMC member for use by himself/herself and a group of friends, then they will not be paying for the whole hut, so members may use any of the places not taken, eg "CMC Member + 5 friends" means that only 6 places have been reserved.

	2014	Event	Contact/Comment
Wed Indoor Meet	26-Mar	Indoor Climbing - Liverpool	Paul Drew
Wed Evening Meet	02-Apr	Harmers Wood (B)	Paul Drew
Wed Evening Meet	09-Apr	Frodsham (B)	Paul Drew
Outdoor Meet	11-13 Apr	New Members Meet PCU	Jim Jones
Wed Evening Meet	16-Apr	Harmers Wood (B)	Paul Drew
Wed Evening Meet	23-Apr	Helsby	Paul Drew
PCU Outside Booking	25-27 Apr	Dacorum Adventure Group	
Wed Evening Meet	30-Apr	Pex Hill (B)	Paul Drew
Outdoor Meet	2-5 May	Families Meet PCU	Rob Parkinson
Wed Evening Meet	07-May	Castle Inn / Marian Bach	Paul Drew
PCU Outside Booking	09-11 May	Vibram MC	
Wed Evening Meet	14-May	Dyserth Castle / Waterfall Crag	Paul Drew
PCU Outside Booking	16-17 May	Dave Allan + 5	
Wed Evening Meet	21-May	Monument Boulders (B) / Trevor	Paul Drew
PCU Outside Booking	23-25 May	East Yorks	
Outdoor Meet	18-25 May	Kalymnos	Jim Jones
Wed Evening Meet	28-May	Llanymynech	Paul Drew
Wed Evening Meet	04-Jun	Llanddulas	Paul Drew
Wed Evening Meet	11-Jun	Nesscliffe	Paul Drew
PCU Outside Booking	14-Jun	Rich Fahy's birthday celebrations	Rich Fahy
Wed Evening Meet	18-Jun	Pandy Outcrop	Paul Drew
Outdoor Meet	22-Jun	Wilderness Grit	Jim Jones
Wed Evening Meet	25-Jun	Monument Boulders (B) / Trevor	Paul Drew
Fylde Exchange Meet	27-30 Jun	Stair	Ken Williams
Wed Evening Meet	02-Jul	Barbecue (+ Helsby)	Rick Newcombe
Outdoor Meet	4-6 Jul	Welsh 3000's PCU	Andy Cole

Wed Evening Meet	09-Jul	Wilton	Paul Drew
Outdoor Meet	13-Jul	Gogarth	Jim Jones
Wed Evening Meet	16-Jul	Dinbren	Paul Drew
Wed Evening Meet	23-Jul	Pothole Quarry	Paul Drew
Wed Evening Meet	30-Jul	Pen Trwyn	Paul Drew
Wed Evening Meet	06-Aug	Craig Arthur / Worlds End	Paul Drew
Outdoor Meet	8-10 Aug	Cloggy Meet PCU	Andy Cole
Wed Evening Meet	13-Aug	Penmaen Head	Paul Drew
Wed Evening Meet	20-Aug	Llanymynech	Paul Drew
Wed Evening Meet	27-Aug	Frodsham (B)	Paul Drew
Wed Evening Meet	03-Sep	Pex Hill (B)	Paul Drew
Wed Evening Meet	10-Sep	Frogsmouth	Paul Drew
Wed Evening Meet	17-Sep	Harmers Wood (B)	Paul Drew
Outdoor Meet	19-21 Sep	New Members Meet PCU	
Wed Evening Meet	24-Sep	Helsby	Paul Drew
Wed Indoor Meet	01-Oct	End of Summer Social - Cross Keys	Paul Drew
Outdoor Meet	05-Oct	Yorkshire Grit	Kev Sales
PCU Outside Booking	10-12 Oct	North Kingston Hillwalkers	
Fylde Exchange Meet	24-26 Oct	Little Langdale	Ken Williams
Dinner Meet	08-Nov	Llanberis	Paul Drew
Wed Indoor Meet	12-Nov	Members Slides - Cross Keys	Paul Drew
PCU Outside Booking	28-30 Nov	Croydon MC	
Outdoor Meet	07-Dec	Bogtrot	John Buckle
Wed Indoor Meet	10-Dec	Christmas Social - Cross Keys	Paul Drew
Sat Indoor Meet	20-Dec	Christmas Curry - Chester	
	2015		
Wed Indoor Meet	14-Jan	Chairmans Quiz - Cross Keys	Jonathan Clarke
Wed Indoor Meet	11-Mar	AGM - Cross Keys	Kev Sales
Outdoor Meet	14-21 Mar	Scottish Winter Meet - Kintail	Rich Fahy
Note that on the Wednesday evening outdoor climbing meets, (B) denotes bouldering venues but it is also possible to top rope at all of them			

MEET AND TRIP REPORTS

Annual General Meeting 12 March (Kev Sales)

This year's AGM was held at the Cross Keys Inn, Chester, attended by 18 members.

Jonathan (Chairman) opened by saying that a highlight of the year was the 60th Dinner and thanked Tanya for organising it, the speakers for their contributions and Simon for producing the 60th Journal. We had a good range of climbing, walking, ski-ing and biking meets both abroad and throughout the UK in 2013. However, it was also a sad year with the loss of three long-standing and important members; Les Williams, Ernie Owen and Duncan McNeil; our thanks for what they have done for the Club.

Phil (Treasurer) reported that 2013 has been an expensive year for the club with the re-wiring of PCU, upgrading of the gas and water systems and the 60th Journal. However, usage and income from PCU were slightly down on 2012. The accounts circulated with the last newsletter have now been audited.

Jim (Membership Secretary) said that membership is about static at 223 and the website, Facebook page and the posters recently put up at local climbing walls were proving effective in generating interest in the Club

Simon stood down as President and Ken Williams was elected to succeed him, whilst the remainder of the Committee were re-elected unchanged from last year:

Chairman	Jonathan Clarke
Secretary	Kevin Sales
Treasurer	Phil Moore
Membership Secretary	Jim Jones
Hut Secretary	Tanya Rumney
PCU Hut Custodian	Mark Whelan
Hut Technical	Rob Parkinson
Outdoor Meets	Rich Fahy
Evening Meets	Paul Drew
Website	Dave Rumney
Newsletter	Andy Cole

The motion to increase membership fees to £30 for full members and £20 for Associate members and under-25s was passed unanimously.

There then followed a discussion on two key points:

- i) The management of PCU given its declining use by members and guests. It was agreed that PCU is currently a valuable asset for the membership but in the long term we may need to re-visit its use and management. It was generally agreed for the present however that the CMC exists to promote mountaineering and even if it were to help finances the hut should not be let out except to bona fide mountaineering and outdoor organisations.
- ii) The aging membership profile and recruitment. It was agreed that recent initiatives were proving successful but there is possibly an opportunity with walkers if a walking meets list with leaders can be put together. The Committee would welcome any advice, help support in recruiting.

Scottish Winter Meet Braemar 1-8 March (John Buckle)

‘The best SWM of the recent series’ was the quote from a more recent habitu  of these meets. It was a week of snow, wind, occasional fine weather, and minimalist ice – but compensated for by haute cuisine, good company and the occasional



adventure and derring do. With 19 attendees, this was one of the best attended SWMs for some time.

Hugh Williams got the award for the furthest travelled – showing great dedication coming from Kent and logistical skill in linking in with Phil Reay



and Paul Watson en route. Andy Lafferty again built up his air miles to put in a half week, bequeathing the usual uneaten (& non-imbibed) riches to the parish poor on his early departure.

These were winter conditions – but not as we know them. There were some who never unholstered an ice axe or crampon all week despite getting on the tops every day. Instead walking stick, mountain bike, skis and snowshoe were more the order of the day and, for the technologically enabled, GPS. The latter piece of equipment proved its worth in a week where tops were typically enveloped in deep snow and low cloud with navigation proving tricky in plateau tops ringed with steep cliffs edged with record size cornices. In these conditions the Cairngorms were like grandmother's apple pie – flat on the top but with a thick pastry crust all round the sides ready to crumble off at the slightest touch. With cloud level typically at 8-900m it was a real test of dead reckoning navigational skills. All returned safely.



In the course of the week there were numerous excursions to the near surrounding hills – An Socach, Cairnwell, Carn Aosda, Cairn an Tuirc, Morrone, Glas Maol, Creag nan Gabhar, Carn Bhac. Parties also pushed further out to Glas Tulaichean and Monamenach near the Spittal of Glen Shee, as well round to Loch Muick for excursions to Lochnagar, Broad Cairn and Cairn Bannoch. More ambitious (or longer) forays were made to Mount Keen, the Glen Clova area and to Cairngorm and Coire Sneachda itself (by Jason, Dave and Hugh) – in search of winter routes which was rewarded with a Fiacail Couloir ascent.

failed to prove the efficacy of snow shoes over traditional step kicking on steep soft snow to Malcolm and Dave. Steve dusted off his skis for some cross-country. A few worthy soles attempted to keep up trudging in the snow after Paul Watson.

In lighter moments ascents were made of the south face of the Queen Victoria suspension bridge at Cambus O May, followed by an SAS style descent of the support wire by Richy – a true meet leader's challenge. Mark – tempted by the prospect of a royal log for the fire - was saved from a treason charge by a small Scottish man. Everyone enjoyed the delights of a sumptuous feast delivered by head chef Paul – CMC's own Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. With the culinary bar having been set so high the Braemar butcher did brisk business all week. After the distillery tours and the regal sylvan bimbling had been done there was nothing left but to head south again as the winter season closed once more. The prospect of Kintail and Ratagan YH beckon for next year.



Those present: Rich Fahy, Mark Whelan, John Buckle, Steve Hinde, Malcolm & Julie Barr, Jon Clarke, Andy & Jay Russell, Phil Reay, Nick Owen, Jason and Vivien Day, Dave Easton, Andy Parkinson, Hugh Williams, Andy Lafferty, Paul Watson, James McDowell.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

If your details have changed recently, let Jim Jones know. Changes since last newsletter are shown below. No changes in this Newsletter because the Handbook with all recent changes will be out soon.

CLUB CONTACTS

Website: Don't forget to check out the CMC website at: <http://www.chestermc.org/>
Send any comments to Dave Rumney (daver@chestermc.org or david.rumney8@gmail.com)

Membership Information: Any corrections or changes to personal details in the Handbook should be sent to Jim Jones, 22 Kelvin Grove, Newton, Chester CH2 2EL (jonesjudejim@aol.com)

Newsletter: Any stories, news items, photos of CMC activities, meet reports, etc for the next newsletter to Andy Cole, 1 Dormer Close, Rowton, Chester CH3 7SA (andyc@chestermc.org or cole.andrewj@gmail.com)

Remember I can only include what I have, so if you have done anything that you think the rest of the club might be interested in, just send me a brief report in whatever form you like (e-mail, post, handwritten, etc) with photos (again in whatever form you like) if possible.

----- **deadline for next issue is Friday 25 April** -----

Appendix

Information for new members re New members Meet 11-13 April

(note: Appendix pages 9-12 not included in Postal Newsletter version due to economic postage size limits)

New Member...

Climbers...

The CMC is a great way to meet fellow climbers and mountaineers of all levels of experience and you're more than welcome to come along on some meets first to decide if you want to join.

I've attached a recent newsletter, which provides both a snapshot of what we're about and lists all our official meets this year. As well as the official meets programme there are plenty of other ad-hoc and unofficial meets arranged by members, some of them via our website www.chestermc.org.

Every Wednesday in the summer from April to Sept, the club meets at a local crag (see website). In the winter (or summer if it's raining) there's normally number of the Chester club at either (or both) the North West Face climbing wall Warrington or Awesome Walls in Stockport on Wednesday evenings.

Walkers...

We might be worth a try, although we're mostly focused on climbing and mountaineering activities we have many members keen on hill walking.

I've attached a copy of a recent newsletter to give you a flavour of what we're about, so let me know if you're interested.

If you decide you'd like to join, associate membership is £15 for 6 months during which members are encouraged to integrate by coming along to the pub and/or going on some outdoor meets. At the end of this period, associates can apply to the Committee for full membership (£20 per year).

Members get the following:

- Access to the CMC owned hut in Llanberis, North Wales.
- Reciprocal rights to use other club huts in the Lake District.
- A membership handbook containing hut details, discount details and list of all members contact details
- A membership card, which entitles you to discount at many outdoor shops.
- A periodic newsletter
- BMC club membership including third party insurance

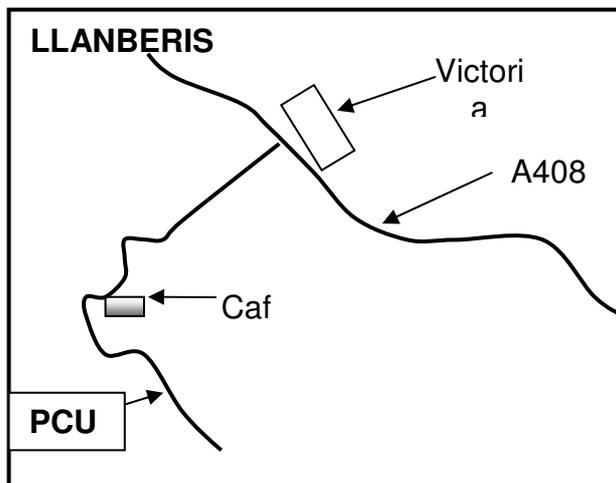
Either let me know when you're planning to come along or just turn up on a Wednesday evening. Hope this helps, but don't hesitate to contact me if you want to know anything else.

Thanks,
Jim Jones
CMC Membership Secretary

CHESTER MOUNTAINEERING CLUB – STAYING AT PEN CEUNANT UCHAF - HUT INSTRUCTIONS 2014

How to get there

The hut is located at O.S. grid reference **581 591**. Turn off the A4086 at a small roundabout opposite the Hotel into Victoria Terrace and follow the road across the cattle grid and up the steep hill for 3/4 of a mile. The hut is set back off the road on the right just before a gate blocking the road. Turn into the drive and unlock the gate with the key. Park cars beside the hut. **In winter** bring a shovel to grit the hill up to the hut. Grit is supplied on the hill and grit and a shovel are in the hut.



Local Amenities

The hut is 20 minutes walk from the centre of Llanberis where there are several climbing shops, cafes, pubs and 'take a ways'. There are two neighbourhood stores which open until late in the evening, one of which has a cash point. Llanberis has many other tourist attractions for days when you are not on the hill.

In bad weather climbers are within reach of climbing walls at the Beacon and Plas-y-Brenin, also the sport climbing along the N Wales coast.



PCU in summer



The kitchen

Accommodation

The hut consists of a common room, dining room, kitchen, male and female toilets and washing facilities, a shower and a drying room. Upstairs is a split dormitory that can accommodate 18 guests on Alpine style communal mattresses. Sleeping bags are required. The small dormitory on the left at the top of the stairs is reserved for club members only.

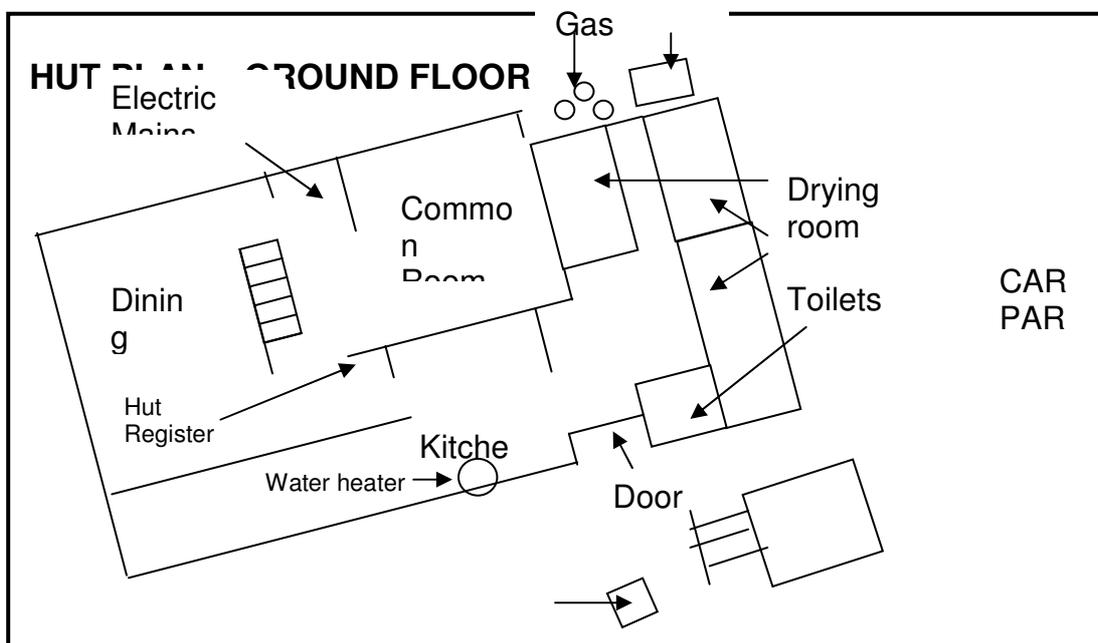
Cooking is by Calor gas stoves and a microwave. Fridges, pans, crockery and cutlery are provided. Heating is provided by storage heaters, electric fire (in the dining room) and a coal fire in the common room.



The dining room.



Main Dormitory.



On Arrival

A club member (hopefully the meet leader!) will be around to show you around and the hut will be ready for you.

Enter the hut by the door located at its rear, on the left when standing in the car park. The same key is used for all locks, and is available to members only. In the event the meet leader has not yet arrived;

- When you arrive the downstairs lights will be ready for use.
- Switch on the “General Circuits” board at the main switch inside the board (open the plastic cover from the top).
- You should not need to switch anything else on except via local switches.
- Switch on one gas bottle located outside. If gas runs out switch knob on top of regulator 180° to second bottle. A spanner to connect spare bottles is by hut register. Please ensure only one bottle is turned on at any one time.
- Plug in water heater and fridges in kitchen.
- Sign in hut register club or organisation and names of all people in the group.

Using the Amenities

- **Heating** - There is a coal fire in common room. Paper, wood and coal are by the fire, extra coal is outside in the bunker, and door key fits lock. Extra wood is in the shed outside back door. There is also an electric heater in the dining area.
- **Storage heaters** - During the winter month’s night storage heaters are timed to heat the hut during the weekends. Do not adjust the local controls on the storage heaters.
- **Electrical trips** - If a circuit trips (eg a light blows), it can be reset by the relevant RCD inside the “General Circuits” board or the “Essential Circuits” board (in the cupboard above).
- **Using the drying room** - to heat the room switch on both heater and timer switch, also switch on the extractor fan to remove damp air.
- **Using the Shower** - Switch on the power switch outside the room. Adjust the flow to get the correct heat left hand dial. Switch power level to /// right hand dial. Turn power level back to cold after use and ventilate room
- **Cooking** - **All cutlery, crockery pans and utensils are provided.** Cooking is on gas or Microwave. Ensure one gas bottle is turned on outside (If a bottle empties turn the knob on top of regulator through 180° to switch on other bottle). Also turn on the stopcock to each appliance when required. Matches will be around.
- **Sleeping** - Upstairs are two alpine style dormitories. The small dormitory, left at the top of the stairs is reserved for CMC members. The larger dormitory is split into two halves. **Bring your own sleeping bag.**

Security

The hut is situated next to a popular tourist path up Snowdon. **It is therefore essential that the chain on the gate to the car park is locked and the hut is locked and secure when it is empty and at night.**

Health and Safety

The hut is fitted with a fire alarm, smoke detectors and emergency lighting. **Do not use the emergency lighting as ordinary lights.** For your safety:

- Note the location of fire exits and fire extinguishers
- Internal fire doors should be closed and not propped open
- Keep the fireguard over the fire when it is unattended
- Smoking is prohibited in the hut

- Please see important information about the water supply below.

Camping and Pets

- No camping is allowed outside the hut
- No dogs or other animals are permitted in the hut

On Leaving

- Please leave the hut clean and tidy. Clean and lay new fire
- Take all food and rubbish away. Glass and clean card/paper can be taken to the recycle centre on the road to Dinorwic power station.
- Switch off Water Heater and Fridges and leave fridge doors open.
- Turn off gas taps in hut and bottles outside. Switch off electric power to circuit unit.
- Switch off the “General Circuits” board but not the other circuits (which power the water supply UV system).
- Check all windows, skylights and fire exits are closed (check members dormitory)
- Ensure front and back doors are locked and also lock coalbunker and chain at gate.
- Switch off downstairs lights and exterior light by back door.
- As you leave, front exterior lights and upstairs emergency lights may be on, ignore this.

We hope you have a good stay.

Emergency Numbers

- **Hut Custodian – Mark Whelan 01606 872732**
- Hut Secretary – Tanya Rumney 07812 568843