

Hut Warden's Report, AGM, 2009

My first year as Hut Warden has been a gentle introduction to this celebrated post, supported hugely by Dave and Liz, to whom I'd like to say thank you, and of course the many and considerable efforts of those who've attended the two working meets, and undertaken all manner of other jobs during the rest of the year.

My objective over the coming year is to build upon the successful work that Liz and Dave undertook, make the hut run as efficiently as possible, reduce the Hut Warden workload, and so hand the cap over in another year.

The hut is in good shape considering that it's in almost constant use. We have a list of jobs that need doing this year over and above the normal maintenance activities, including replacing the cooker in the kitchen with a dual fuel cooker, and upgrading the hot water tank to include an immersion heater, the objective being to reduce the gas consumption and thus the need to change the cylinders as often. The hut requires woodworm treatment which necessitates reserving some weekends back to back to move fittings and furniture - we will need some volunteers please, keep an eye on the forum. Finally, we're considering buying a midge eater to combat the dramatic increase in midges around the hut - we have to ensure the hut experience remains a good one thereby ensuring the bed occupancy and revenue stays as it is.

We also have a long list of "round to its", including replacing the kitchen Rayburn with a stove and back boiler, and repairs to the main roof, both of which will be costly.

With regards to legislative compliance, we have almost completed the work needed to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, and those that visit the hut will find a Fire Safety book in the kitchen. The one remaining item concerns the designation of a "Responsible Person", which the legislation requires each organisation to appoint. As a committee we have decided that this is outside the remit of the Hut Warden post and not to appoint at this time.

We have undertaken a full electrical inspection and all, but one recommendation, are completed, with the final one being scheduled for this April's working meet. We have a Child Protection policy that covers meets and in particular when members take children other than their own to the hut, see the downloads section on the website.

Moving onto the wood situation, in response to H&S concerns, public groups, such as the MCC, are no longer able to enter forests to collect wood, which means that

we don't have easy access to the tonnage of wood we have all enjoyed and perhaps have taken for granted in the recent years. Again, Dave Wilson's sterling efforts in negotiation with the Forestry Commission have resulted in an agreement that we can collect from the roadside when available. Alongside this, we now have a coal bunker behind the woodshed and a store of bagged anthracite, to be used only in the Rayburn.

Regarding the lease, this is due for renewal and, again, through Dave's discussions with the Land Agent, we understand that this will be a simple renewal process, with the lease cost to be agreed.

Finally, I'd like to ask for all your help in managing the hut - when you're visiting the hut, please offer to buy and take replacement stocks, for example, washing up liquid, toilet rolls; it is much appreciated. There will be a stock list on the inside of the understairs cupboard door. Likewise, if you've time to fix the odd broken light fitting, or chop some wood, or dig out the bin, it's all very much appreciated. After you've visited the hut, please email me with a brief report / list of shortages and/or jobs that need doing. We've been trialing this since January and it works very well, making the management job less onerous and time consuming for one person.

I look forward to your invaluable support over the coming year, and see you in April, at the working meet.

Deborah Nugent Cowsill
Hut Warden,
Mynydd Climbing Club