

National Centre for Alternative
Technology.

Llwyngwern Quarry, near
Machynlleth.

This journal commences with
my arrival at Llwyngwern, on
February 2nd 1974.

Alister

Project Manager.

South West gale
rain.

Arrived at Machynlleth with Pat Keiler.
Found the Centre very much as we had
left it. A Douglas Fir had fallen across
the top of the road, but all the
structures are intact.

The evening at Lady White's cottage,
Panteg. Most comfortable.

AWK

1974 February

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3 Sunday

Week 5 (34-331)

4TH AFTER EPIPHANY

Warm, sunny and
calm.

We installed a window frame into the
East cottage, using existing timber,
and ran gutting ^{er.} along the back.
Pat took some photographs.

At dusk we travelled to Aberystwyth
to give an interview for "Good
morning Wales" (BBC Radio 4).

Alwyn

Rain early, then broken cloud with sunny intervals.

We cleared the debris from the upper rooms of the cottage, noting that much of the structure is very damp, due to holes in the roof.

Repairs to the roof have begun, hopefully to be completed tomorrow.

Most of the existing window frames will be retained, which will speed up the installation of windows, which has not been progressing as rapidly as I had hoped.

Winters

1974 February

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5 Tuesday

Week 6 (36-329)

Misty during the morning, then heavy rain.

Pat has repaired the largest leaks in the cottage roof. The upstairs narrow window has been framed. Our work was interrupted during the afternoon by the arrival of two local press-men.

The bathroom has been cleaned up, and it has been decided to run the drainage out of the back, having first excavated along the back of all three cottages.

My car was overhauled by Jones the Garage, and seems to run much better.

Alita

Wednesday 6

(37-328) Week 6

Gale, with sleet and rain early, abating as the day progressed.

We have completed the window framing, and Pat has been working on the roof all day, in spite of the weather. The GPO telephone man arrived, saying it would be some weeks before the phone would be installed.

We met Cliff Collins at the station, who is most impressed with the centre and its possibilities.

I attempted to follow up Steve Boulter's lead re-digester tanks, but came to a full stop.

Humphrey's, the iron-monger has neither glass nor beading in stock so it looks like a trip to Aberystwyth.

Al S

1974 February

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7 Thursday

Week 6 (38-327)

Clear, sunny and calm.

Pat spent the morning taking photographs, and the afternoon on the roof. Cliff has commenced taking wind readings with his anemometer, a record of which will be kept separately.

We now have glass and beading, and hope to start tomorrow.

Tony and Viv. arrived from London, have dined with us and are spending the weekend in the cells at Coris. Tomorrow we join them.

We have started to cut wood and stack it in the nearest shed.

Pat saw what he believes is a peregrine falcon.

Alvin

Heavy rain all day.

The rain has done some damage to the road, requiring two of us to ditch and fill. The front of the cottage has been glazed by pet. It is not possible to floor the front room yet as no polystyrene is available in Machynlleth.

Another 7 people have arrived, so we are now twelve, housed in the Corrie Cells.

John Beaumont seems worried about the question of tourism, and I hastened to reassure him of how I feel. Audrey has 3 beds and mattresses for us.

Cliff recorded a gust of 70 kph today.

Alister

1974 February

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9 Saturday

Week 6 (40-325)

Rain early, clearing later.

Diana talked with John Beaumont this morning, to reassure him that we are not interested in making money from tourism.

A busy day, logging and ditching. Pat has directed the spring at the back of the cottages into a slate tank at the west corner. The glazing has been completed. Cliff has made a slate culvert at the bottom of the road, but we are unable to discover where the water should ultimately come.

John Sandilands called with the Asst. Head of Forest Hill School, and has promised 6 pupils tomorrow for path building.

Diana kindly cleaned the cottage interior, separating the tools from the catering, which makes life much more tolerable.



Intermittent rain all day.

A most productive day. The pupils arrived and did a good day's work making a path to the tunnel. We have built a culvert at the bottom of the road, which has remained in quite good condition.

We have roofed half of the Engine Shed with used tin, a quick job, but it will keep the worse of the weather out.

Our weekend volunteers worked willingly but I found it difficult to organise jobs for them, due to lack of tools and bad weather.

Diana as usual has been marvelous, keeping us well fed, and never ceasing to work. She cleared the rotting wooden floor from the engine shed and reorganised the cottage in a much tidier way.

W. W.

1974 February

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11 Monday

Week 7 (42-323)

Rain and wind all day

Today was scheduled as a day off!
It began with the arrival of 2 tons of bagged cement. The vehicle was unable to negotiate the road so 38 bags now reside in John Beaumont's stable.

The drain at the top of the road had blocked overnight and will need a proper culvert. John has offered us some 10" pipes for this purpose.

We shopped in Madrugalla in the morning and then drove to Newtown where we were able to buy polystyrene for the kitchen floor. We visited a most fantastic hardware shop, owned by a Charlie Evans, that seems to stock everything we might need.

We now await the arrival of Lady White, who is staying this night and departing tomorrow

Arthur

Rain Early clearing later

This morning I arranged with Mr. Davis of Furnace Earthmoving to provide us with concrete pipes for the culvert at the bottom of the road, to deliver a cubic yard of sand, and to trans-ship the cement to the Centre.

We have started a rough slate path in front of the cottages but our work was interrupted during the afternoon by the arrival of visitors among whom were Owen Pryce of the Welsh Office, and Stan Blowers, who has a peat smallholding near Aber. Therefore, little was accomplished after lunch.

Today is the 73rd birthday of John Beaumont, the elder, and we were invited to his party at Plas Llwynguern. The distinguished guests showed genuine interest in our project.

Andrey provided a splendid spread, including vegetarian items for Cliff. Altogether, a grand evening.

White

1974 February

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13 Wednesday

Week 7 (44-321)

Fine and Sunny early, but
showers after noon.

We now have sand, cement and pipes
on site. This morning has proved how
essential it will be to have a van.
Anything bigger will not negotiate the
road; anything smaller is useless.
We are not as fit as perhaps we should
be, as the morning's efforts left us limp.

After lunch in town, we cleared a
break in the heap of dirt at the top
of the car park, perhaps the dirtiest
and most frustrating job we have
yet attempted. Rock, mud and sticks
mixed. Not the easiest material to
work in.

News from Guildford — Scaffold poles,
tools and perhaps wood are on the
way.

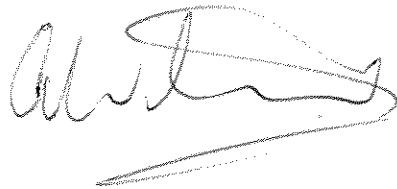
We intend to carry out destruction
tests on our experimental aerogenerator.
We will rig it at the weather
station, let it run free, and see
what happens.

Intermittent rain.

We met Paul Welsley in Town today which, with shopping, occupied the whole morning.

After lunch, we completed the path from the car park to the cottage. Not a very productive day and it seems that trips to town are time consuming and must be kept to a minimum.

The evening was spent at Paul's, listening to a talk by Dr. Leopold Core, somewhat confusing, but he is an advocate of small communities.



1974 February

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15 Friday

Week 7 (46-319)

Showers.

Today was spent indoors, pottering about the cottage. We are suffering from lack of materials. Cliff has removed much of the old plaster, revealing how damp the cottage really is, but the roof seems to be keeping most of the water out.

We have painted the aerogenerator, and erected the pole, and will rig it tomorrow.

Adrian

Intermittent rain

The aerogenerator is erected and looks most elegant.

Cliff is still stripping plaster, and spent some time building a fireplace in the master bedroom, without success. The lesson seems to be that slate is not the material for building precise items.

The bedrooms are drying up thanks to the roof repairs. We have removed the partition between the two small bedrooms and will now call it the guest room. It seems that plastering will have to wait and we must be content with stone walls.

ahub

1974 February

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17 Sunday

Week 7 (48-317)

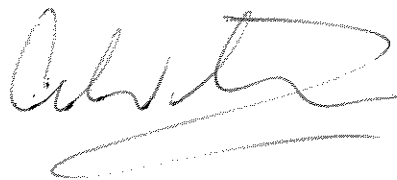
SEXAGESIMA

Sunny Intervals, warm.

at last some good weather. This morning I mortared up the chimneys, which should keep the rain out for a season or so. The long term answer is to rebuild all three roofs. We have stripped much of the plaster from the guest room, to enable it to dry out.

We have started to unbuild the two bridging walls at the back of the cottages. A backbreaking task. Cliff has taken over so photographs, which we can later use for publicity, planning etc.

We discussed the possibility of aerobic treatment of sewage in an oil drum, as being the least problematical and in line with A.T. practice.



Warm, dry, overcast.

Cliff has left for London, and will return on Friday.

I carried on excavating the back of the cottages, all day, in preparation for a visit from a heating engineer on Tuesday evening.

It will be possible to excavate quite deeply, but the problem of where to run waste to remains.

Adrian

1974 February

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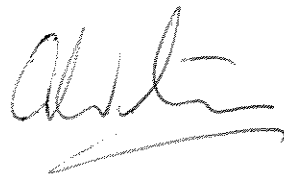
19 Tuesday

Week 8 (60-315)

Warm - Sunny intervals

No visitors all day, thank God.
A dirty day digging, mostly with hands to prepare a drain at the rear of the cottage. I have discovered that a makeshift drain exists, and these efforts will help to dry the cottage out.

I met Ron Isles, heating engineer, in the evening and he was most helpful. He can provide a tank and a shower/bath-basin unit, a plastic cold tank, and will look for a back boiler. The only solution to the toilet problem will probably be a chemical one - until we have more time to install a better system. Unfortunately, the plumbing will take at least 3 weeks.



Dull - drizzle later.

Today I have opened up the back sufficiently to enable the cottage to dry out.

Mady White returns on Friday and it is difficult to decide what to do. To sleep in the cottage will be most uncomfortable, and to accept John and Audrey's offer, I feel, would be an imposition. To complicate matters, Martin is planning to arrive with four children.

Chris

1974 February

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21 Thursday

Week 8 (52-313)

Today I travelled to London for a short planning meeting with Gerrard et al.

I am disturbed by the proposed size of the project, and that we seem to be split between those who think big, and those who are more down to earth.

Pat was there, and I hope communicated some degree of reality to the gathering. Steve is still hung up on his exhibition hall, although no-one has any idea what use it might be.

I saw John this evening on my return, and told him of my accommodation dilemma, which he promptly solved by insisting on accommodating us all. I am greatly relieved.



Fr.

This morning was mostly taken up by the Mammoth clean up @ Lady Whites. I lunched in town and met Cliff, at the station, who has returned with lots of windmill data. He, at least, is prepared to do his homework. Martin arrived late with his brood of four.

White

1974 February

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23 Saturday

Week 8 (54-311)

Fine

We started to lay the kitchen floor this morning putting polystyrene on top of sand. Really quite easy.

after lunch we laid a few slates, but it is most difficult to find the right size.

Alvtr

Fine, Sunny and Warm.

The floor is going very slowly, and I have become angry and frustrated at our slow progress. I was determined to finish it today, by candle light if necessary, but we were brought to a standstill after lunch by a succession of visitors, including Dennis Humphries, the last resident of our cottage, who gave us much valuable information.

Jack Grasse and a friend came at about 4 and gave us a hand to uncover a soak away at the front of the cottage, and we now have a patio.

1974 February

Fr Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur
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25 Monday

Week 9 (56-309)

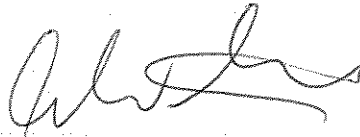
Still, and overcast,
clearing later.

Today we finished the floor.
It was a much longer job than I
had anticipated, but it now looks
most elegant.

We had a thorough clean up
of both downstairs rooms a good
morale boost, and it's now possible
to visualise it as a home.

A good days work.

Cliff now has 20 years of
weather data.



Still, with sunny intervals

Early on site today to begin plastering. Much of the old plaster had to come down, making a lot of mess. We are using a mixture of cement, sand and plasticiser which goes on quite well.

Later we removed some tin from the roof of the south shed. We calculate it will take 100 man hours to remove it all, using a scaffold tower.

White

1974 February

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27 Wednesday

Week 9 (58-307)

ASH WEDNESDAY

Cold and grey, but day.

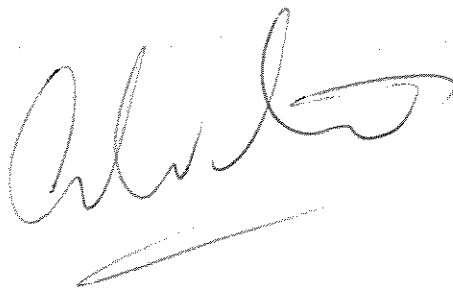
This morning we bought a loo in
Towyn, and then spent a long and
exhausting day in the furniture
Sale in Madhyalath.

We have acquired some excellent furniture
extremely cheaply, as well as bedding
and other odds & ends.

White

Cold, overcast, showers later.

Today was spent de-plastering the upstairs rooms, a long and messy job. I am most anxious to move in as rapidly as possible and I am probably kidding Cliff quite hard, but he responds well and is cheerful.



1974 March

Fri 1 Sat 2 Sun 3 Mon 4 Tue 5 Wed 6 Thur 7 Fri 8 Sat 9 Sun 10 Mon 11 Tue 12 Wed 13 Thur 14 Fri 15 Sat 16 Sun 17 Mon 18 Tue 19 Wed 20 Thur 21 Fri 22 Sat 23 Sun 24 Mon 25 Tue 26 Wed 27 Thur 28 Fri 29 Sat 30 Sun 31

1 Friday

Week 9 (60-305)

ST. DAVID'S DAY

Cold, with rain.

We have given the master bedroom a first coat of plaster, or rather, mortar. It is a dark khaki colour and looks hideous, but it keeps the wind out.

Another hard day's grind.

Charles arrived from London, and it is a great morale boost to see a familiar face. Steve has not yet arrived with his party of students as his car is up but we will meet the late train and hope he is on it.



Showers. ~~dry~~ Sunny Intervals.

A busy day, with nearly 30 people on site at one time. It has become clear that Steve is still serious about his railway project, and it is fast becoming a local joke. He has organised the clearing of vegetation without consulting anyone. A obvious divergence of views is occurring, so much so that I suggested we adjourn to John's in the evening to discuss our differences and to put our cards on the table. This we did and our long term views seem to roughly co-incide, tho' Steve leans toward an academic set up.

Alto

1974 March

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3 Sunday

Week 9 (62-303)

1ST IN LENT

Sunny.

Charles left for London this morning, taking 3 of Steve's party with him. He worked most productively improving the road, and I hope we see him again soon.

This afternoon I visited the highest part of the Quarry for the first time, a most rewarding climb. On the way down I saw Steve in the Quarry, near where ravens are nesting, knocking vegetation. I was extremely angry and threatened to throw him off the site. He is determined to go ahead with his Disneyland concept, and I am determined that he won't. I phoned Ron Isles, who will have all the plumbing bits soon.

Alvin

Overcast, occasional rain.

Col. Beaumont kindly allowed us to use his landrover to move our furniture up to the cottage, and we have now moved in. We have set up the three beds and mattresses given by Audrey, and found that all the furniture fits quite nicely. We had to remove the upstairs back window to get some of it in.

It is cold and very damp, but habitable.

Arthur

1974 March

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5 Tuesday

Week 10 (64-301)

Sunny intervals.

A general tidy up and fixit day.
Steno has left for London, to return
Friday, and Ruth and Joy have arrived.
As we have no doors, we have fixed up
curtains, which makes upstairs look
cosy, but it is still damp.

Ants

Rain all day.

This morning was spent logging. We consume an enormous amount of wood keeping the fires going to try to dry out the house.

Gerrard and Diana arrived for the day. I had a long discussion with Gerrard, who outlined future proposals, some of which are probably not realisable, particularly with regard to the time scale proposed.

Owen Pryce, from the Welsh Office, also talked with Gerrard.

Ruth has transplanted some saplings on to the lower slopes, and later in the day, de-plastered the living room.

In the evening we all went to John's for a bath. Audrey seems very anxious about something.

We now have a temporary hardboard ceiling in the guest room.

In the Slaters Arms, in Corris, later, we met Jack Grasse, who has spent some days and much hot effort helping us.

He invited us for fried eggs and coffee - welcome indeed.

A full and tiring day.

Ruth

1974 March

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7 Thursday

Week 10 (66-299)

Dry, occasional sunny spells.

I began the day with the feeling that the centre is being controlled by the guests rather than by me, but this soon passed.

I went to see John, who, as I thought, does not accept Gerrards idea of housing 50 volunteers under canvas on site.

In fact it is becoming clear that it will not be possible to house anything like that number for some time to come.

This afternoon I explored, for the first time the escarpment behind the cottage.

As a result of last weekend I have marked no-go areas with orange painted marker sticks. Tomorrow we will indicate routes to be used with white markers, and insist that everyone, including staff, stick to the paths.

I think it is going to be very difficult to preserve much of the existing ecology here.

White

Grey and Cold.

This evening Gerrard and Diana arrived and later, stave with Martin, Pat and three students for the cottage project.

Earlier Roderick James visited to give his opinion on the walls of the big sheds. He was optimistic about stonework, but not so sure about our grandiose schemes.

That evening at Plas Llywyngwen a large scale hot discussion about the project took place, to be continued tomorrow.

1974 March

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9 Saturday

Week 10 (88-297)

Rain and Wind, very cold.

Ruth and Joy left early. I feel that their visit has not been a success. A conference took place in the cottage, which was freezing cold, in which Pat Kedler was brilliant, bringing the mood right down to earth. The outcome is that our priorities are now some what in order, the first being to restore the cottages and install some A.T. simultaneously. Subsequent development of the big shed is to be left open, but the double-deck scheme is shelved.

I feel much happier about the whole project.

Steve and Martin proposed to install some instant central heating, which, to my surprise the completed within the day. It consists of a coil of copper tube in the fireplace, connected to a radiator in the bedroom alcove, and it works. A.T. has arrived!

Ron Isles arrived mid-day ~~etc~~ with all the plumbing. It all looks promising but complicated. He assures me it will be simple to fit.

John

Rain and wind, possibly colder.

A miserable day, although we have accomplished quite a lot.

John Sandiman came with 16 pupils and made a dent in the ~~big~~ pile of dirt at the top of the car park, now referred to as the Khyber Pass, and surfaced the area next to the Engine Shed.

Pat spent all day in the rain de-tinning the roof, an extremely slow, difficult and dangerous job. Martin has begun on the plumbing, connecting up the boiler, but there is lots left to do. I feel uneasy about it for some reason.

The evening was spent in the White Lion in Maelmullett, and later at John Sandiman's house, where we were superbly fed.

Alister

1974 March

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11 Monday

Week 11 (70-295)

Cold, windy but dry.

Steve, Pat and Cliff all left this morning, leaving me on my own, which in a way, is a great relief.

The whole day has been spent in cleaning up the mess left after the weekend. I have moved some furniture and now have a bedroom of my own.

Laundry is a problem. Most of it fell off the line into the mod, and had to be done again.

I was able to dry out lots of clothes, and some bedding.

John's - Senior and Junior visited, most pleasant to be able to entertain in my own home, however rude it may be.

I was in the middle of cooking a nice non-vegetarian dinner when Nigel arrived, quite unexpectedly, so my hopes for a quiet meditative week have been dashed.

Learning to live with people is harder than learning to live without them.

Alv

Windless, overcast, clearing later.

A trip into town to buy food has occupied most of the morning. I had intended to travel to Cheshire to see my parents, but will postpone it until tomorrow.

Nigel, who has been lent some books by Audrey, has begun to dig the garden, and I turned my attention to the plumbing, and, as I feared, got no-where.

All the connectors are the wrong size or wrong sort.

WWS

1974 March

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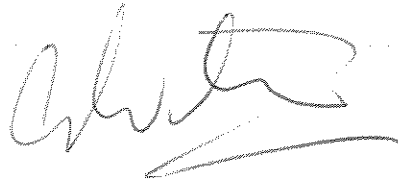
13 Wednesday

Week 11 (72-293)

Fine and warm.

After nearly six weeks of uninterrupted work I decided to take a day off. I drove to Cheshire to visit my parents and the break was most productive.

I was able to stand back and consider our progress objectively. I ought to programme a system of days off.



Fine and warm.
rain in the evening.

I returned at lunch time to find we have been invited to dinner at the house of Paul Wesley.

Unfortunately Nigel had allowed Paul to dig up two birch trees from the west of the sheds. I was rather angry at this, but Nigel was not so know of last weeks trouble in this respect.

At Pauls we met a young lady called Frances, who had been involved with the same sort of building problems that we have, and her understanding and sympathy were comforting.



1974 March

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15 Friday

Week 11 (74-291)

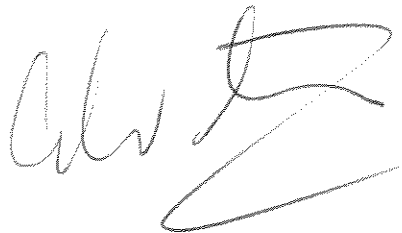
Warm, Rain all day.

I have rigged up a tarpaulin in the roofless centre cottage to keep the rain off our west wall. It also provides a storage space for tools and a small work area. Yesterday a certain amount of equipment arrived, including 6 wheelbarrows + picks.

I fixed the holes in the floor of the guest room with used timber, although it has not yet fully dried out. I fixed up a sink unit and cut some holes for tubing.

A long hard look at the collection of plumbing fittings gave no clue as to how to connect it all up. I shall need some help.

Deana phoned to say that no-body will be coming up from London so we are in for a quiet week-end.



Overcast.

Two students from Aberystwyth arrived, and helped to drive a drainage access hole in the bathroom wall.

I have fixed up a sink unit and pierced the walls in the appropriate positions

Atwell

1974 March

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MAR 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

17 Sunday

Week 11 (76-289)

3RD IN LENT ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Grey, rain later.

~~Peter~~ Barker

Mark and Mary Matthews, who are staying nearby, called. They spent the day cutting wood. Mark is unemployed, and would like to work on site. He is a "dome" man. I have suggested they take over the guest room and do it up. They may accept the offer in a couple of weeks.

We dined with them at Aberdovey. Mary is a good cook. Jack Grasse brought a small party, and the ditch at the back has been extended.

White

Rain.

The morning was spent in town.
I have succeeded in connecting
up most of the drainage system,
and have assembled the shower.
I have phoned Ron Isles, and
will visit him tomorrow.

ahut

1974 March

	Fr	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fr	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fr	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fr	Sat	Sun							
MAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

19 Tuesday

Week 12 (78-287)

Rain Squalls, Sunny Later.

I drove over to Fairbairns to see about the plumbing, and now have a good idea of how to connect it all up. I will have to disassemble all that Martin has done, and start again.

I have managed to connect the boiler to the tank an untidy job, but it should function.

about

Fino and Weon

A productive day. All the plumbing is connected except for the soldering, which I should complete tomorrow.

The soak-away at the back of the cottage - blocked, and consumed a lot of time. Its level is only slightly below that of the bathroom floor, so it will have to be dug out before the fall is satisfactory. Nigel is leaving tomorrow.



1974 March

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21 Thursday

Week 12 (80-285)

Sunny and warm

A hectic day. I finished connecting the plumbing and turned on the supply. Several leaks developed, requiring the system to be drained each time. I was using a calor cooking ring as a blow lamp, which made soldering difficult. Several joints came unsoldered.

Finally, after a very nervous day, listening for leaks, the system filled and I was able to light the stove. Lo! Hot water.

By this time it was very late and the whole place is in a mess, with tools and fittings everywhere. Bursting to share my triumph, I went to see John, who kindly gave me supper. I hadn't eaten all day.

An anxious night - kept hearing drips, entirely imagination.

WHT

Cloudy, but dry.

I spent the whole morning in a giant clean up. I filled a whole barrow with dirt from the house.

After lunch I assembled the shower, and was able to take my first bath. Delicious, but the bathroom is soaking wet.

I now appreciate hot water as never before.

I visited Jack Grasse, who has arranged for a Forestry Commission man to fell the overhanging ash at the back of the cottage.

Albert

1974 March

Fri
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23 Saturday

Week 12 (82-283)

Cloudy and colder.

Jack arrived with a small party of boys and we turned our attention to drainage. The level of the soakaway is only a few inches below the outflow from the shower and what we thought was a vertical soak has turned out to be a horizontal drain. It heads away from the cottages in a SW direction. We have excavated some length, but it may turn out to be a huge job.

I will leave it until the location of the main sewage system is decided.

W.L.

Cloudy and cold

George from Corrie called and we had a long chat. As a result, not much work was done, so I decided to make it a day off.

AWK

974 March

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15 Monday

sek 13 (84-281)

Cloudy, a little warmer.

The local water-bailiff call, a man called Brian Wood. He seems at first acquaintance to be a helpful character. He has offered help with the gardening.

A general pottering - clean up day. The F.C. man arrived and felled the tree in less than one minute - with a chain saw.

I have cleaned and treated with size, the fireplace wall in the living room. A quick, cheap solution.

Ally

A Fine and Warm.

Brian Wood arrived, and spent a long time talking, but didn't get much work done.

George came with a chain saw and we got a great deal of logging done.

The 12v HD battery, which I had charged in John's workshop is going flat - I hadn't charged it for long enough - so I am back to oil lamps. I have cleaned and painted the stair area.

[Handwritten signature]

1974 March

	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun							
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27 Wednesday

Week 13 (86-279)

Cloudy, sunny later.

I have constructed a glass front door, from a pane my father gave me, and used timber. It looks quite handsome, and makes quite a difference to the amount of light in the cottage.

I replaced the bathroom door and fixed up a shower curtain, which keeps the place much drier.

awt

Cloudy, Sunny later.

I re-hung the door, as it was jamming, and put a coat of paint on it. I also cut the old bathroom door to fit my bedroom.

Brian Wood spent a lot of time talking, but disappeared as soon as my serious work started.

aut

1974 March

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29 Friday

Week 13 (88-277)

Sunny and warm.

John Beaumont received a series of messages regarding who was arriving, how and when. A most confusing situation.

It appears that Steve had, some time ago, arranged a visit to the Plant Breeding Station at Aberystwyth, but had not bothered to inform me.

It was necessary to muster everybody, some 10 souls, from two points and take them over to Aber. Needless to say we arrived late, and listened to lengthy talks on grass hybridisation and hill farming, none of it appropriate to our venture.

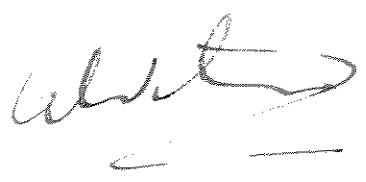
A complete waste of an afternoon. This is a construction site at this time, and not an academic institution.

Albert

Sunny and Warm.

My 10 willing volunteers have been hi-jacked by Steve to visit a hydro-electric scheme at Rheidol. Happily, half of them elected not to go, so I will at least get some work done. I spent the day on the roof of the main shed, removing tin. It was not so difficult as I had imagined, and I succeeded in getting the whole of one side off. Meanwhile, helpers have roofed a further quarter of the engine shed, which will be used as a store-room.

The sight-seers did not return until the evening, and Steve has bought a Kelton wheel for £7.



1974 March

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31 Sunday

Week 13 (90-275)

PASSION SUNDAY

Sunny and warm

All the volunteers left this morning. The total amount of work done over the entire weekend averaged $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours per head, not counting the fact that I lost an ~~and~~ afternoon. The cost probably works out at about 75p per hour for labour. We would be better off employing professionals.

This morning Steve and Diana and I discussed some immediate objectives and made some measurements.

We may arrange for Davis of Furnace Earthmoving to dig the service tunnel which is an extension of the excavation at the back of the cottages, to terminate at the service area near the engine shed.

W/S

Cloudy, cold wind.

The warm weather has broken. Another big clean up day, as Steve and Diana will move in tonight.

At 3pm Steve arrived to announce that we had an immediate appointment to meet a chap in town, to go and visit a water-wheel nearby.

The remainder of the day was spent scrambling over a quarry about 20 miles away - another wasted afternoon.

all →
→

1974 April

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2 Tuesday

Week 14 (92-273)

Cloudy, but warmer.

I spent the day plastering the front wall of the living-room. I am beginning to get the hang of it.

I was continually interrupted by visitors, among whom was Mr Morgan, who delivered the Petton wheel.

It is very old and rusty and will take a lot of work to refurbish.

Ant

Sunny, but cool.

Steve left this morning. I have finally caught up on laundry, which I ought to be doing daily.

I made a bedside table out of a piece of slate and some lumber - a sloppy job which I will re-do later.

A Mr. Armistead arrived with two color-cookers. I will build kitchen units to accommodate one of them.

Wuts

1974 April

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4 Thursday

Week 14 (94-271)

Fine and warm.

Today Mark and Mary Matthews are expected, also Jane from Guilford. As we will now have a population problem, I have decided to take the day off and visit Cheshire. I spent the morning cleaning up, and left Diana working in the garden at midday.

Albert

Fine and warm.

I returned refreshed at midday after a fast run from Cheshire to find Mark, Mary and Jane have arrived, on all were working busily clearing the space at the bottom of the road, to prepare for the arrival of several caravans which we are buying.

After a brief lunch we cleared the floor of the engine shed, of timber, in order to store any more materials that may arrive.

We have been given 50 scaffold boards by McAlpine.

Albert

1974 April

Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue
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6 Saturday

Week 14 (96-269)

Sunny and Warm.

Two volunteers arrived from London, Rolando and Gerry, who had been given a lift by an Australian called Pete Wright. Pete turned out to be something of a prize as he was able to help us to lay a drain at the bottom of the road, a real professional job. We hope to remain in touch with him. He was merely passing thru, but gave us most of a days work.

It looks as tho' the railway is to be a going concern, and I must concede defeat.

Gerrard and Steve arrived at midday. Jontino and Marriane arrived unexpectedly during the evening and will have to sleep in the engine shed.

Albert

Sunday and was in.

A busy day, spent mostly in preparing the engine shed as a storage area. It appears that Gerard had bought a pre-fabricated house to be erected to the west of the sheds.

This is Tony Williams's last entry in the journal. On Monday 6th day, Gerard Morgan - Grenville asked me to carry on with the journal. I have managed to only fill in a few days in the intervening month. In general, however, the following work was done: - engine shed roofed, floor of engine shed levelled, brestle tables and benches constructed for engine shed (temp. feeding arrangements for students & volunteers). Work was started on the other upstairs room in the cottage. The walls have been plastered, and one wall has been prepared with batons ready to take plaster board. The top caravan was turned into a catering caravan for Diana.

Harry Paterson

1974 April

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12 Friday

Week 15 (102-263)

GOOD FRIDAY

Diana off for 10 days.

Jane & May took Tony to hospital. ill
"Aberystwyth with a snatched toe. Visited
"Friendly Stores" & did various shopping.

1974 April

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14 Sunday

Week 15 (104-261)

EASTER DAY

Easter day - day off!
Long lie. Easter egg hunt.
Chicken on spit over fire.
Derek Eastmond arrived, and stayed
for a couple of days.

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April 1974

Monday 15

(105-260) Week 16

HOLIDAY IN ENGLAND, IRELAND AND WALES

Ideal Base arrived & unloaded.

1974 April

Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue
APR 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

16 Tuesday

Week 16 (106-259)

Ideal house brought up with help of
tractor & trailer. John ~~is~~ drove tractor

Nick Saunders ("Alternative London")
& wife stayed for the evening. He
wants to include us in "Alternative
England & Wales". Thanks we should
stick to technology and forget about
veg gardening etc. Don't think he got
a very good impression of the place
from Fay.

1974 April

APR 1 Mon 2 Tue 3 Wed 4 Thur 5 Fri 6 Sat 7 Sun 8 Mon 9 Tue 10 Wed 11 Thur 12 Fri 13 Sat 14 Sun 15 Mon 16 Tue 17 Wed 18 Thur 19 Fri 20 Sat 21 Sun 22 Mon 23 Tue 24 Wed 25 Thur 26 Fri 27 Sat 28 Sun 29 Mon 30 Tue

18 Thursday

Week 16 (108-257)

Tony's birthday.

1974 April

APR 1 Mon 2 Tue 3 Wed 4 Thur 5 Fri 6 Sat 7 Sun 8 Mon 9 Tue 10 Wed 11 Thur 12 Fri 13 Sat 14 Sun 15 Mon 16 Tue 17 Wed 18 Thur 19 Fri 20 Sat 21 Sun 22 Mon 23 Tue 24 Wed 25 Thur 26 Fri 27 Sat 28 Sun 29 Mon 30 Tue

22 Monday

Week 17 (112-253)

Cliff and Larian left this morning.

if a if to Stourbridge.
Jane left this morning
Tony & John left. Diana expected
back

1974 April

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
APR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

24 Wednesday

Week 17 (114-251)

Col & His Clutton-Brock ("Cold Comfort Comforted") visited today.

Timber arrived (small load)
from Darlington Timberwork Ltd
Court Street
Nortonhamptstead,
Devon.



Dave & Tony dug out car park drain.

1974 April

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue							
APR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

26 Friday

Week 17 (116-249)

Last 3 animals arrived.

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April 1974

Saturday 27

(117-248) Week 17

It x It returned from Stanbridge.

1974 April

APR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

28 Sunday

Week 17 (118-247)
2ND AFTER EASTER

lunch with the Beaumonts.

Diana badly smashed her fingers
with a large slab of slate and
had to have 6 stitches!
Car park drain pipe laid and ditch
filled in.

1974 April

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
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30 Tuesday

Week 18 (120-245)

Ken Goddard and John Bungey
up from harden for a few days.
Both very willing workers & get on
well with everyone.

Ken & John brought up 2 cookers from
2 caravans to kitchen caravan for
Diane.

Gerard arrived.

Large load of timber arrived at the
bottom of road from Guildway Ltd
Peasmarsh
Potsmouth Rd
Gulford, Surrey.

1974 May

	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
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2 Thursday

Week 18 (122-243)

Tu & Fern arrived with land rover and cement mixer.

Caravans were moved with the aid of the landrover.

Bottom drain eventually dug out.

John Seymour (of "Self-Sufficiency" fame) turned up and stayed for a few hours and told many interesting tales of his self-sufficient God-acre farm in Pembrokeshire. We (Hank, Mary, Dave, Gerard, Tim, Lem) spent the evening with him in the Red Lion.

1974 May

	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri							
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4 Saturday

Week 18 (124-241)

John Seymour came back with his friend from B.B.C. Cardiff, Selwyn Roberts, who would like to do some filming here in a couple of weeks.

Tony came back from London with the Bedford with the Asot. water heater, water pump and heat transformer. He has resigned and Hak & Marylaine have asked to take over.

Mark's Beale arrived with Tony for the weekend.

Ekens and tents erected. Shower was hied out and works okay.

David, Diana, Gerard, Clark & Mary started work on the footings of the Ideal House. Very difficult digging the trenches in that slate waste. We discussed whether we should accept the offer of 4 pre-fabricated concrete houses for ~~£4400~~. Although they would help with accommodation, they are not even attractive, and they are most certainly not ecologically sound housing. We would probably not even get them up this year. But they are cheap and the materials might be useful. It's rather an expensive way of buying tiles! We all decided that none of us would want to live in one and that many volunteers would feel the same way. So we have more or less decided against them, but will leave the final decision till it has to be made in 2 month's time. Partin made a sign to the quarry in English and Welsh. He also started putting legs on Diane's kitchen table, but this was not finished, and Gerard had to finish it on the following day.

1974 May

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6 Monday

Week 19 (126-239)

HOLIDAY IN SCOTLAND

Hartu' left before 6 o'clock this morning.

The students from UCL and Steve were expected today to start work on the cottages (already one week behind schedule). Most of the day was spent doing last minute things to get services, accommodation etc ready for them. The culinary kitchen in the top caravan is now functioning. The engine shed has been made into a reasonable dining/common room. We got a brazer going in there, but it was not over-hot in the evening. Students did not arrive. Steve arrived about 10.30 p.m. - the students all have food poisoning and won't arrive for another week!

~~Handwritten scribbles and crossed-out text in the right margin.~~

Tony left late morning. David Cote (and his 2 pussy cats) arrived at lunch-time and will take over the caravan in which we were staying. We moved into Tony's old room, after many weary hours had been spent cleaning it out. David is still hanging under the kitchen table in the cooking caravan!

2 pussy cats

Sludge tank ~~is~~ for Elsan contents installed at the bottom of the road.

The pump that Tony bought in London to get water from the stream to the water butt down by the caravans was found to be useless, so some other method must be devised.

Hot & sunny.

Footings trenches completed. Demarkation lines fixed to show where the concrete footings & the exterior wall of the ideal house should be. Very hard and exhausting work.

Gerard left in the morning.

David was not feeling too well, so he volunteered to try to get some missing fixtures from the Ascot water heater that Tony brought back from London, from the caravan shop in Taryn. He also went back to his old cottage to collect the rest of his belongings.

1974 May

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8 Wednesday

Week 19 (128-237)

Warm and bright.

Water supply very low. Decided to install a lead from the lower reservoir. Diana bought 450 metres of $\frac{1}{2}$ " plastic tubing, and some fittings. David Cooke spent half the day digging out the rest of the fittings. David & Steve put in the step levels for the fittings. Made contact with Welsh tourist board in Machynlleth, whose site employee is Gwen, of Corris, who will send likely candidates in an Iwelchar. Also request for volunteers sent to N.U.S. in London and London Tourist Board. Steve met Cyril, the builder, who has got us 20 sheets of plaster board, which we have to pick up. Mr. Tinkham of Braich Goch quarry said we could have 50 yds of rail.

Paul and Mary collected their belongings from Starbridge, together with things for notice board, 2 cart. of plaster, and brick-brac of general use.

David's cat had kittens.

Cold, wet, windy.

Deek arrived with a marvellous collection of tools, together with work benches and tool cupboards and has begun to set up the workshop.

Foundations for the house were roughly levelled and all the plant prepared ready for concreting. (pouring the footings) tomorrow.

Rain water line installed supplying cottage, catering caravan and building site, with a reliable supply of clean water at good pressure. Copper water piping installation in cottage could not withstand the water pressure and burst a joint. Emergency efficiently coped with and ~~the~~ fault rectified by faxes Steve and Mark.

Another 9 a.m. - 12.00 ~~a.m.~~ midnight working day!

1974 May

10 Friday

Week 19 (130-235)

Hotly ~~and~~ wet and windy, but some sunny spells.

All participated, with great vigour, in basework, mixing, pouring and levelling concrete for the footings. We were joined after lunch by Louis Cagné whose efforts were much appreciated. He recently arrived from Canada in order to visit BRAD, us and other AT projects. He has agreed to stay for some days to help.

He, in conjunction with many others, will soon be setting up an AT project in Canada.

The Chamberlain of Bangor University (Agric. Dept.) also visited briefly, to get the lay of the land. He is interested in (recycling) methods of farm wastes, and may visit again.

We are sad to report that the best of David's cat's 3 kittens was killed by one of the cats today.

The cementing of the footings is completed.

Showers with bright intervals

The first job of the day was to move a heavy 300 gallon galv. tank from its position near the cottages down to the caravan area, where it is to be used for ~~storing~~ storing clean contents, pending collection by local authority. The first method of transport tried utilised all 7 people available walking along supporting the tank on 2 parallel ladders. This was very effective until, prompted by the less energetic members of the team, method 2 was tried. This was resting the fronts of the 2 ladders in the back of David's mini van, and supporting only the rear. This evolved into method 3, where 2 wheelbarrows took the weight of the back of the 2 ladders behind. A lesson from all this was that the first crude method ~~was~~ would have been the quickest, though probably the most energetic. The labour saving gadgetry was proven prone & required much attention. (~~The same thing~~ the same ^{old story} all over again).

The catering cooker was brought up in the Bedford and installed satisfactorily in the engine shed.

We were visited by Patrick Rivers*, who is writing a book on Alternative Society. He helped Steve position the floor levels in the cottages.

Other work done included: clearing a wood chopping and storage area, clearing the cottage front garden, maintenance of caravans and engine shed and locking away a concrete block which is a worry to Derek in his workshop.

As there were 8 of us, we had to eat in the engine shed - and a good meal it was too!

* author of "The Restless Generation" and just finished another book on pressure groups.

1974 May

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12 Sunday

Week 19 (132-233)

4TH AFTER EASTER

Today was ~~the~~ declared a holiday, but Derek carried on chipping away at his block of concrete all day. The water heater was installed, 2 notice boards made and the paperwork sorted out into files.

In the afternoon the first semi-official meeting of the community was held. Those present were: Mark, Mary, Diana, David, Steve, Derek, Stewart and Nicola, friends of David who turned up, who are farming 6 acres of land ^{nearby} and who will be able to supply us with fresh vegetables, were also present. The order of work for the following 3 days was agreed upon. Steve accepted responsibility for directing the restoration of the cottages, including the pouring of the floors in the next few days, in order that the rest of us ~~were~~ free to complete Service Area, Stage I, ~~and~~ to clear shed opposite the cottage for storage of slabs, the old weighing shed on the right of the entrance to Cutting Shed II, and the maintenance and provision of the Elvan disposal tank. It was also agreed that the best possible development of the site as a whole must be the right viewpoint against which to decide between priorities of different ~~activities~~ activities on the site for which different people were responsible. The immediate priorities ~~are~~ are the provision of adequate service facilities for community and volunteers and the setting up of the proper workshop and organised tool management for these are the resources with which we must build the future.

* Paul & Terry

Louis went to visit Brad.

Mark & Steve went to see Peltan wheel at bottom of Cedar (dis), and picked up 2 volunteers on the way.*

Mark & Mary visited the Beaumonts in the evening and gathered that the fields in which we were interested are to become a chalet park, and there is no question of planning permission for the caravans being extended.

Cold, showers a sunny intervals

A lorry load of aggregate arrived first thing in the morning, as did a team of G.P.O. workers who spent the day digging holes for telegraph poles.

The lay on the side of the Engine Shed was completely cleared and the metal sorted into scrap and recyclable classes which were stacked in appropriate places. Wood was moved from the upper car park area to the new woodpile and the corner by the turning towards the cutting sheds was dug out, in preparation for the manoeuvring of the service caravan into the newly cleared bay.

Paul and Terry show themselves to be good and willing workers, with a good sense of humour.

Ridge and Jill arrived and Ridge spent the day helping Steve to level the cottage floors and put in some shuttering and dampcourse, in preparation for the pouring of the concrete floor.

John Beaumont came up with the message that B.B.C. Wales want to send out a film crew here on Wednesday or Thursday. Steve phoned them to say that next week would be more suitable.

A man from the Ministry of Agriculture, came through to take silt samples from a stream entering the reservoir, as part of a national survey of levels of Cadmium and other minerals which are associated with sheep diseases. He ^{kindly} agreed to send us the results of his analyses.

1974 May

Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri							
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14 Tuesday

Week 20 (134-231)

Hot and Sunny.

Today:

David cleared shed opposite cottage & stored the slabs there. Toured & helped in the afternoon by Louis who returned from BERTS.

Paul and Terry cleaned, sealed and made a lid for the Elsan fluid tank. Terry got a rash, apparently an allergy to the paint & had to retire to bed bedding unwell.

Laurie dug the front garden of the cottage.

Steve and Ridge finished the shuttering of the cottage ready for pouring.

Deek, with occasional help, continued to sort out the workshop.

David planted a herb garden & planted more in the big garden.

Mark, with help, cleared the ^{old weighing} shed in preparation for restoration as a tool shed. He also met the Jones, the garage proprietor, who took him home to show him a peltor wheel, complete with all fittings and in perfect order. David Jones's uncle, an old engineer, is very keen on A.T., as is David. They are both keen to visit us, and may be a great help in the future.

A meeting was held in the evening to discuss points of finance arising out of Deek's unauthorised purchase of £ to worth of materials on account in Hachynlletl the previous day. In future any spending on accounts must be authorised by Mark, or David, of domestic, and agreed by all if it is for more than £1 or £2. It was agreed that we need for more information on plans concerning the cottages, the ideal house, the railway & the service David before it is possible to organise any of these things. It was felt necessary to plan well ahead in order that there be time to obtain all the materials possible that would be required for the projects from charity.

JUN 1 Sat 2 Sun 3 Mon 4 Tue 5 Wed 6 Thur 7 Fri 8 Sat 9 Sun 10 Mon 11 Tue 12 Wed 13 Thur 14 Fri 15 Sat 16 Sun 17 Mon 18 Tue 19 Wed 20 Thur 21 Fri 22 Sat 23 Sun 24 Mon 25 Tue 26 Wed 27 Thur 28 Fri 29 Sat 30 Sun

May 1974

Wednesday 15

(135-230) Week 20

Hark and Mary to Edinburgh for 3-day seminar on "Homes".
Hot day.

1974 May

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16 Thursday

Week 20 (136-229)

Hot all day.

JUN 1 Sat 2 Sun 3 Mon 4 Tue 5 Wed 6 Thur 7 Fri 8 Sat 9 Sun 10 Mon 11 Tue 12 Wed 13 Thur 14 Fri 15 Sat 16 Sun 17 Mon 18 Tue 19 Wed 20 Thur 21 Fri 22 Sat 23 Sun 24 Mon 25 Tue 26 Wed 27 Thur 28 Fri 29 Sat 30 Sun

May 1974

Friday 17

(137-228) Week 20

Hazy, then hot

Rain.

With the help of a small bogey thrown together with a couple of wheelbarrow wheels, the ground floor sections of the house were speedily and easily wheeled to the site, where Mr Friend and Derek succeeded in assembling and erecting them. All this activity was filmed by a crew from BBC Wales who stayed for lunch, and seemed very impressed by our activities.

John Seymour, Selwyn Roderick and ^{their} BBC 2 colleagues turned up within an hour of the former team leaving, and seemed very amused at being outmanoeuvred by Welsh T.V.!! They'll be returning for more filming tomorrow.

Steve arrived in the morning and supervised the U.C.L. students in constructing scaffolding at the back of the cottages and removing the slates from the roof.

It rained most of the day and everyone got very wet but work proceeded as normal.

A meeting was held in the afternoon, attended by Gerard, Mark, Mary, David & David in which future plans and developments were discussed, and a possible contribution for the citizens of the Queen's Army was proposed by Gerard.

1974 May

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22 Wednesday

Week 21 (142-223)

Work continued through driving wind and rain on the construction of the house. At 8.30 p.m. hunger, wet, lack of light and tiredness brought the working day to a close, with the upper storey of the house still less 3 sections.

The students (Dawn, Mary and Chris) continued removing slates from the roof under the instruction of the B.B.C. 2 camera team. Slates were unwisely broken as a result. Further close up shots and personal interviews were taken after lunch in the Cutting Shed, and Daria was filmed digging the garden, in which she did some planting.

~~The~~ The end of the busy day was spent convivially around the open fire with cups of beer in the cottage. The misunderstanding between the students and the ~~parents~~ Llyngruan Citizens was resolved, resulting in their decision to return to London to fulfil their other various commitments and to return to give us their full-hearted co-operation the following week.

Wind and Rain again.

Gerard left early in the morning. Charles Friend, whose good humour, know-how and hard work had enabled us to complete the main structure of the house so quickly, left in the afternoon, taking Paul and Terry with him.

The remaining members felt very tired and, after some clearing up, decided to use the following day for getting up to date with paper work and personal chores.

1974 May

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24 Friday

Week 21 (144-221)

Today was declared a holiday, and L-c's went about their own businesses, getting up to date with personal chores.

Sunny intervals & occasional rain.

~~He~~

Mr. Davies from Abergegnolwyn, who works a windmill and has used various A.T. devices during his life, came up and took us down to see the old mill in Mr. Jones's coal yard. Mr. Jones has said we may borrow his sawbench, if and when we need it.

Mark & Steve & Dana

Steve left for London.

Mr. Roberts, scrap metal merchant, came up to see the scrap and will come up again on Tuesday and tell us his decision, when he has made some enquiries. He also said he can probably get us some second-hand staves.

Dana, David, Mark & Ray walked round the Forestry Commission nature trail in the late afternoon and Mark & Ray spent the evening at David Jones's house. He told us where we might get second hand staves and where there is a blacksmith who might be able to supply us with some ties.

Day, with sunny intervals

Today we attempted a new routine of breakfast 7.30 a.m., work beginning 8.00 a.m., lunch 12 noon, and supper and end of work at 6.00 p.m.

The trusses on the roof of the Ideal House were finished and the roof was leveled and packed.

Numbers of volunteers turned up from Aberystwyth for the day. They succeeded in digging out the third room of the cottage, collecting scrap metal from around the place, shefting wood to the wood pile and dismantling the old shack at the bottom of the road.

Robin ^(from Bristol) arrived in the afternoon and is staying for a week.

Dan, a Canadian directed to us by the Tourist Office in Machynlleth, visited and will return next week to work for a few days.

Paul, one of the Aberystwyth students, will organise an effective work force, and will get in touch viz the arrangements. Tony, another mature student from Aber, who was a professional photographer was pleased to take on the job of photographic recorder for Llwyngrwm over the next 2 years. We must try to arrange for film to be donated by Kodak or some other company.

Diana & Ray stopped very hard digging fresh ground by the vegetable garden.

~~Mr.~~

Mr. Humphries (Per. Way Supervisor) volunteered to come up & see the Quarry. Agreed to allow Frank to cut sleepers on the Sunday work (2 June).

Wed.

Plat out all day on floor.

B. did some feeding - sweet
turnips, beetroots, sp. onions.

Louis left, suffering from a surplus
of onions & beer.

ENG arrived

Thurs.

ENG and D.B. arrived.
floors of Cottage fitted back from
Ridge left. S. today. Ridge & D.C.

Caravan move started. till 9 pm.
Bonfire cleared away. Scaffold planks
Teatage. moved.

Cows.

Fri.

ENG. Caravan moving completed.
+ David's

D.C. Potage. Ready by 10 pm.

D.C. Aggregate (7 cu. yd.) no yellow
furnace. sand.

D.B. -

P.M.

Tany. Students.

1974 May

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24 Friday

Week 21 (144-221)

Sunny intervals & occasional rain.

Today was declared a holiday, and L-C's went about their own businesses, getting up to date with personal chores.

~~He is in~~

Mr. Davies from Abergennolwyn, who works a windmill and has used various A.T. devices during his life, came up and took us down to see the old mill in Mr. Jones's coal yard. Mr. Jones has said we may borrow his sawbench, if and when we need it.

Mark & Steve & Dava

Steve left for London.

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Dava, David, Mark & Ray walked round the Forestry Commission nature trail in the late afternoon and Mark & Ray spent the evening at David Jones's house. He told us where we might get second hand staves and where there is a blacksmith who might be able to supply us with some ties.

Dry, with sunny intervals

Today we attempted a new routine of breakfast 7.30 a.m., work beginning 8.00 a.m., lunch 12. noon, and supper and end of work at 6.00 p.m.

The trusses on the roof of the Ideal House were finished and the roof was leveled and packed.

Numbers of volunteers turned up from Aberystwyth for the day. They succeeded in digging out the third room of the cottage, collecting scrap metal from around the place, sheathing wood to the wood pile and dismantling the old shack at the bottom of the road.

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Paul, one of the Aberystwyth students, will organise an effective work force, and will get in touch viz the arrangements. Tony, another mature student from Aber, who was a professional photographer was pleased to take on the job of photographic recorder for Llwyngrwm over the next 2 years. We must try to arrange for film to be donated by Kodak or some other company.

Diana & Ray stopped very hard digging fresh ground by the vegetable garden.

~~Mr~~

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1974 May

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26 Sunday

Week 21 (146-219)

SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

Hot & Sunny

Work on the house continued. The whole structure was cemented and pegged in round the bottom, and some work was done on the floor.

Mary & Ivain broke in some new garden. Tom, the neighbouring farmer, came over & chatted for a time and invited us to visit him on the 12th or 14th of next month when he'll be sheepshearing.

Numbers of other visitors also arrived.

Robin and David persevered on the floor of the house. Derek and Mark worked on installing the staircase, part of which had to be completely rebuilt. ~~Bob~~

Bryn came up & helped Harry nailpulling and moving wood to the site of the Deal House, in preparation for additional building. Some of the flats were stacked in Jones' pantry.

1974 May

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28 Tuesday

Week 22 (148-217)

Cold, wet & windy.

Most of today's activities were concerned with organisation:—
a visit to Llanwrin school to assess the potential resource, making enquiries and considering the costs and benefits of carrying the sleepers up here for stacking in the east end of Cutting Shed 2 from Madynlleth Station, ~~drafting~~ and typing of letters to 13 universities with notices and information for volunteer labour, making of notices for caravans and notice boards, phoning various universities to prepare the ground for the volunteer labour promotion exercise.

Derek and Robin continued the construction of the upper sections of the staircase in the Ideal House.

3 persons turned up to have a look round (they'd seen the notice in Corris Youth Hotel). They were soon collared, and made a good start on building a slate shower basin in the Engine Shed.

Mr Roberts turned up at about 7.00 pm with his wagon and took a good load of old corrugated sheeting away. He will come tomorrow for a second load. In return he has agreed to spend a day helping us with his lorry to move the sleepers up here.

6 visitors turned up this evening, members of a farming commune in Caernarvonshire on their way ^{home} from an Alternative Technology Conference in Derbyshire, where they heard of us from Peter Harper. They all seem really nice, hard working, practical and well-informed people, ~~who~~ are willing to help us when they can.

Warm and sunny

~~(Bill)~~ (Bill) Harry and Bill, who is a qualified freelance architect with experience of restoring old cottages, went round the cottages with Mark and gave some very useful advice on the reconstruction thereof. They left in the morning, Harry and his wife is going to return on Monday with his lorry and trailer to help us move the sleepers. Bill is keen to send some of his community in pairs to help us for weeks at a time when he can spare them.

The staircase was completed. Lignum was cut. Drainage channel was partially constructed from the engine shed to the stables. More work was done on the floor of the Ideal House.

An interviewer from the Radio programme, "Good Home in Wales" interviewed Mark. He seemed suitably impressed and seemed interested in doing a longer follow-up programme for the World Service.

David, Derek and Mark spent the evening examining the cottages and drawing up a provisional work chart of what needs to be done.

1974 May

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30 Thursday

Week 22 (150-215)

Warm and sunny.

Robin and Derek made a good start on the masonry work support in the Ideal House. David did the last part of a drain which will take the water from the Engine bed roof, the shower and the catering caravan across the road to the soak away. They cleared and marked the public footpath that goes through the quarry. The following organisational work was done by David & Mark:-

1. contacted the Chapman of B.R.
2. got onto G.P.O.
3. found a source of unused second hand states in numbers sufficient for our needs at 5p a time
4. also provisionally agreed with scout master for the use of mature, well organised, supervised scouts to do work here in the future.
5. Discussed roofing of Ideal House with Ernie Cooper (local builder) who considered that we'd be better doing it ourselves and agreed to supervise if needed.
6. Some inroads were made ~~to~~ the accumulation of correspondence needing attention.

Dry.

We have got as far as we can get on the Ideal Horse with the materials we have in hand. The drain from the Equine Sled to the soak away is completed, together with a cover for the soak away. Some maintenance was done on the Humber.

1974 June

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1 Saturday

Week 22 (152-213)

Today was declared a day-off. Old Trevor Woods, the one time engineer for Llynghwern, and his wife came up to see how things were going. He was very keen on our activities and offered to help in any way he could.

Robin, Gary & Mark visited Dolgell hotel where Mr Davis has a pelton wheel together with saw bench and power attachments and small caterpillar tractor, all functioning. Although unwilling to sell, he is willing to consider lending things to us if we could give him satisfactory insurance.

Craddy Jones, long time quarryman at Abergynolwyn, founder and keeper of the museum there, had heard of our activities and also offered to help us in any way he could. He suggested we contacted John "the Forge", one time foreman of Llynghwern, for historical records and information on the site.

Mr Davis, also of Abergynolwyn, retired quarry engineer, who has a failsafe electricity supply powered by a windmill in his garden, has offered to check any turbines and generator equipment we might be interested in for us and supervise its installation.

Diana began to clear a space for the sleepers in No. 1 cutting shed.

Tim Fox, a friend of Mark & Gary's from Starbridge, turned up in the evening & will help us with the sleepers in the morning.

Torrential rain in the morning,
sunny intervals in the afternoon.

The day was started with a 7.30 breakfast in order that David, Tim and Mark could be down at the shunting yard to assist Frank in the cutting of 500 of the 1000 sleepers, which first had to be removed from the wagons.

This was very heavy work, with further assistance from Robin in the afternoon and was completed shortly before 6.00 p.m. Jane, Ray and Robin worked particularly hard in the morning clearing the east end of No. 1 Cutting Shed for sleeper storage area.

Paul, Tony and Neil came up in the afternoon and constructed the shower, in which they made a slatted wooden footboard. They also covered the hole by the back door of the Engine Shed, (~~filled up the woodshed~~) and stored the remaining roofing slates in "Jane's pantry".

Derek hauled up various pieces of wood and scrap was lying about the site, and put some 'Eco' on some of the peas and beans.

1974 June

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3 Monday

Week 23 (154-211)

HOLIDAY IN IRISH REPUBLIC

Dry, sunny intervals

Mark and David joined the Roberts at the station at 8.30 and began loading and moving sleepers up to the cutting shed where they were being stacked by Derek and Ray. By the second load, however, the G.P.O. (for whom we've been waiting for about a month, and who had intended to come at last tomorrow) had arrived with their big lorry and machine to dig the holes for the telegraph poles, which completely blocked the road for the whole of the day. The Roberts agreed to return with his lorry at 1 p.m. tomorrow, Mark removed the ^{back} seats from the van and will be assisted by David and Diana in their minis tomorrow morning in ~~in~~ a concerted effort to bring up the small sleepers and some of the big ones in one day. Removal of the 20 stakes from the cottages was completed.

Dawn arrived on the 10.10 pm train from London and was met by David.

Mark phoned Charles Friend to arrange for the delivery of all the wood needed for finishing the house.

Warm and sunny

The morning was spent by Mark, David and Diana (and later Derek) bringing up half sleepers in the Bedford, David's mini and Diana's mini respectively. The process was very quick as the minis could drive right up to the stacking area. Mary and Dawn borrowed and stacked the ones from the Bedford.

In the afternoon Mr Roberts assisted in his lorry and half of the large sleepers were brought up in 7 trips. Derek and Mr Roberts loaded at the station and Mark and David unloaded and stacked at the site. Dawn was completely unable to take an end of a whole sleeper, so Mary could not be utilized either, 2 or 4 people being needed.

By the end of the day half of the small and half of the large sleepers were brought up and stacked.

Diana's parents visited and had a look around in the morning, then took her out for the rest of the day.

Mr Rees, the local sanitary inspector from the Dept of the Environment and his deputy came up in the afternoon. He was very nice for us by the end of Mark's talk to him. Mark asked if bacteria counts could be done on our water. The Council, however, cannot collect our sewage from the tank at the bottom of the road.

Dawn did some photographs and measurements on the cottage roof. She finally managed to contact Mary who is unwell and suffering from , so probably will not be able to get up here.

1974 June

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5 Wednesday

Week 23 (156-209)

Rain

Derek, David and Hank, using the 2 minis and the Bedford, continued to move half sleepers for most of the day. There are 305 whole sleepers yet to come.

Mr Owen Price, from the Welsh Office ~~Planning~~ ~~Authority~~ came up for a social call and was met by Derek. He let it be known that should we have difficulty with planning permission we should get in touch with him.

Mr Bambridge visited to offer some $3/4$ steel that he has, and says he can get some threaded rods used in railway couplings, that could be welded onto rails to make tie bars.

Diana and Ray did some paper work and read some relevant magazines and articles which we are meant to cover, note & file.

Rain, some sunny intervals.

Today we finally finished moving the sleepers, but not without further delays. An oak tree was blown down blocking the road up to the quarry after ~~the first loading and~~ several loads, and driving wind and rain made the task dangerous and uncomfortable, as the heavy sleepers became very slippery. Mr Roberts was paid £14 for his services with the lorry, which took a good hammering.

Mary and Diana spent a hard day digging down to the footings around part of the cottages in preparation for a deep course and concrete reinforcing.

Mr Dodd of T.R.A.D.A. arrived after a 4 1/2 hour drive from Bristol, looked at the musses and stayed for lunch with us. He was most impressed by what we are trying to do and said if there is anything at all that we ever need to know about wood, he'd be very happy to help us. His managing director is considering giving us £1000 in some form and asked Mr Dodd to report on his impressions.

A 50 gallon drum of Cuprenol arrived in the morning and 3 students, Richard, Andy & Dave, arrived in the afternoon to stay and do a week's work. Their first job on arrival was the construction of a sleeper bridge across the service channel.

1974 June

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7 Friday

Week 23 (158-207)

Mostly Dull but cloudy.

George, from Carnio, was up and led the scaffolding construction team on the cottages. More of the foundation trench was also dug out.

Derek, with one of the students, spent most of the day sawing up and removing the oak tree that had been blown down over the roadway and was blocking the road.

Mark, Mary and Diana spent much of their day on letter writing and office work.

John Beaumont was given the letter from the Nature Conservancy about Asulox and responded ~~in the following way~~ in a characteristically sporting way by replying that the lease should be signed within the next few days.

Ernie Cooper, the local builder, came up and gave us some advice about problems concerning the reconstruction of the cottages. He also asked if he could do the plumbing for the Beal House for free.

David spent the day getting up to date with his personal chores and reading some of the literature that we all should be doing, but never have time for.

Mostly cloudy, some short showers

David gave his attention to the Ideal House where the upstairs sections are being propped up and anchored in their final positions.

The 3 students, Richard, Dave & Andy, completed the scaffolding of the second cottage and nearly finished digging out the trench round the foundations.

3 separate counts were made of the railway sleepers. David is now satisfied that there were of them there. There are nearly 500 of them in halves.

Mark and Kay wrote a number of letters concerning the project and, in the afternoon, a meeting of the staff was held, at which it was agreed that David should take on responsibility for the library at the moment and should devote some of his time each day to that side of the work.

Later in the afternoon Mark visited Josie Ellis, manager Abergeffeni Quarry, and Cyril Harrie, a local builder, for advice on the stones that Mr Mills can provide us with from his estate. On balance it was considered that they are worth buying, but we should not pay for them until they are in situ, as number of them may be broken during transit.

Mark, Kay, David and Diana attended a concert given by a Dutch male voice choir, in conjunction with Hachyulleth choral society at Hachyulleth High School, in the evening.

1974 June

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9 Sunday

Week 23 (160-205)

TRINITY SUNDAY

Cloudy with some heavy showers.

Richard, Dave and Andy continued work on the cottages, and were assisted and supervised by Derek. The footing trenches are ready to be poured, and the scaffolding is progressing.

John Payne arrived from Liverpool, with 2 friends, Mick and Pat, just in time for lunch and did some work for us in the afternoon. John and Mick moved and stacked the scaffolding poles from their original position opposite the Engine Shed to beside ~~the~~ Cutting Shed I, ~~at~~ by the tool shed, so that its previous location can be used for sand and gravel. Pat prepared some vegetables for Diana and made a slate slab path from the kitchen caravan to the sink in the Engine Shed.

Derek and David set up the cement mixer by the cottages, ready to pour the footings on Tuesday.

Mark left in the afternoon for London, to get the Bedford serviced and to pick up Cliff Collins and his aerogenerator. He will also try to attend an environmental meeting on Tuesday evening.

Diana made a path to the vegetable garden and did various paper work, as did Mary.

Cold and cloudy, rain later.

Richard, Dave and Andy had a day off, and went off to Aberystwyth.

David spent most of the day getting cement, ~~the~~ calor gas and various plumbing fittings. The cement is needed for pouring the cottage foundations tomorrow. ~~The~~ Humphreys could not supply us with cement, so David had to buy some from Mackynlleth Farmers - 1 ton for £19.25. Calor gas was restored to the Ascot and water to Dara's caravan.

Derek touched up the trenches round the cottages in the morning, and had a bonfire by the veg. patch in the afternoon.

Dara and Ray spent most of the day painting the caravans grey, and were helped later in the afternoon by David. They almost managed to finish before the rain which had been threatening all day finally descended. The last bit of painting will probably have to be redone.

1974 June

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11 Tuesday

Week 24 (162-203)

Overcast, but dry

Derel, David and the 3 students spent the morning pouring the concrete around the cottages to stabilise the foundations. They kept a steady pace and got about half done.

Diana and Hay did the paintwork on a couple of the canvas walls, which had been ruined by yesterday's rain, and finished the rest. Diana redid the signpost by the Douglas Rd.

Just after lunch some telephone people came up to put in the last pole. They also told us that another team would be coming tomorrow to install cable and phones. However, the ways for the cables have to be cleared which involves a vast amount of tree branch cutting. David, Derek, and later the 3 students, spent the rest of the day chopping and sawing branches, but it really is a major task and probably will take all of tomorrow too - so we will have to wait another day for our phone.

One of the telephone engineers is a member of the local council, and told us the sad news that John Beaumont had had a heart attack yesterday and is in Aleyshyff Hospital. Diana & Hay went down to see Audrey, but she was not in. They left notes of good wishes for John, and hope it is not too serious.

Hay did a bit of painting in the cottage to ~~to~~ brighten it up a bit, and Diana dug a trench to bury the plumbing by the engine shed and planted her onion sets.

David carried on with tree clearing after supper.

Very warm day

Derek and the 2 students, Dave and Andy, spent the morning and part of the afternoon finishing the concreting round the trenches.

David, helped by Gary, cut down some more of the branches in the way of the telephone cables. A man from the G.P.O. came in the early afternoon and saw to the cutting of the remaining branches. We expect the G.P.O. team to install cables and telephones tomorrow morning.

Most of the afternoon was spent by clearing all the branches that had been cut and sorting them into piles of firewood.

He Lees and another man came to take a bacteria count of our water.

Richard left on the 10.46 a.m. train back to London, and the other 2 go tomorrow.

Mark and Cliff returned in the Bedford from London with the aerogenerator, together with the batteries (12) which weigh over 1000 each.

1974 June

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun							
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13 Thursday

Week 24 (164-201)

Hot and sunny.

Today the telephones were finally installed and are functioning. Diana has a green one in her caravan and Ray and Mark have a red one in their sitting room. ~~and~~ There is an outside bell on top of a telegraph pole by the parking area, and our number is 2400.

A lot of time and effort was spent moving scaffolding and equipment to the top of the second ridge, which were used in the construction of a windmill tower. Raising it was a major operation and, owing to a fault in the way in which we used the scaffolding fittings, the poles distorted out of the windmill rotor table, while the tower was propped up at 45°. We have fixed it in that position for the night so that tomorrow we can lower it back down, ~~reconstruct~~ reconstruct it and attempt to erect it once more. It was decided to erect the windmill on the second ridge on the south side of the quarry, rather than on the very top as was first intended, for 2 reasons -

- 1) The work involved in carrying the batteries up & down to the windmill, being as heavy as they are, would have been a ~~very~~ major operation, to be repeated each time they are charged.
- 2) Cliff's daily wind readings taken over 3 weeks did not indicate that there was necessarily that much more wind at the higher position.

Jack prepared the north wall of the cottage for underpinning with concrete. George from Cornis came ^{in the afternoon} & helped in improving the plumbing system and with the windmill. Diana crosscut some sleepers & Ray did some tidying up in front of the cottage & levelling off of the wall.

3 visitors from Aberystwyth area who are very interested in A.T. and are considering enlisting it in their own small holiday came up to look round. They have connections with Aber University.

Hot & Stumpy.

The windmill again took up a lot of the blow force for the whole of the day. The tower was lowered, fixed more safely together and gradually highered with Acro jacks until before ^{supper} it was possible to give it the last heave onto the 4 legs.

Cerard arrived in the afternoon and lost 10 hrs in towing one of the caravans from the bottom to a place between the cottages & the engine shed on the left of the service channel.

Derek concerned himself with the plumbing & the cleaning out of the service channel behind the cottages.

just before supper ledge ^{and fill} turned up with 5 others, (~~with his family~~) who will be helping ledge with his plumbing & doing some work on the site.

Diane did some work leveling the top of the road and the area for Cerard's caravan.

Mary had a day off, during which she picked another mass of nettles for another batch of nettle beer.

1974 June

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15 Saturday

Week 24 (166-199)

Hot and sunny.

Work continued throughout the day on the windmill, which was left at supper time ready to secure its sails.

Ridge and his camera team did a lot of filming around the quarry and of the windmill erection and its progress. At other times they worked on the service track which they succeeded in joining to the part already dug out behind the cottages. Gerald spent much of his time constructing a battery hoist which, it was hoped, could take the batteries up and down between the windmill and the service area.

Most of the wood cut for the telephone cables was cleared & taken to the woodshed.

Mary made a milk clock, then, with Dave, visited Tom the farmer and John Beaumont who was much better and home from hospital.

Tony (Standley) came up in the afternoon and up in the afternoon to take pictures, accompanied by wife, baby, friends and all.

Wet.

The sails were put on the windmill at ~~the~~ which moment the wind obliquely blew and turned them merrily.

More work was done on the skyline, which did not work because of knots in the cable upsetting the trolleys.

Numbers of small jobs were accomplished.

A meeting on finance was held in the afternoon.

Visitors today included :- Nick Saunders of 'Alternative London', ~~and~~ a young businessman from London, ~~for a long time~~ who has bought some land in Wales, wants to be self sufficient and was directed to us by John Seymour, and John Beaumont.

1974 June

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17 Monday

Week 25 (168-197)

Fairly warm & sunny

Today began with a meeting of Diana, Gerard, David, Hank and Harry about priorities. Derek joined in when he arrived.

Cliff had a final look at his windmill and then left for London.

Gerard contacted the Forestry Commission and managed to borrow a skyline to haul our batteries up and down to the windmill. He collected it also, and set about installing it.

Derek spent most of the day having a bonfire with the small brushwood left from the telephone operation, and was helped by David & Gerard.

Hank & David secured the windmill blades which were making a peculiar noise.

Gerard phoned Charles Hurd re the missing parts of the Ideal House.

Hank took Diana's mini into Jones's Garage & had it valued at £150-£200. It was decided that only one mini was necessary and should be made over to SET for the use of all staff. Diana's is in the best condition & would be the one to be kept & she would be compensated.

Hank went to Corris and saw Ernie Cooper and Cyril Harris to find out whether they would be available to do some work for us on the cottages & Ideal House. He returned with encouraging news.

The plumbing of the service area & the 3 caravans was completed and the pipes buried.

Diana and Gerard went to dinner with Cederek Jones and his wife at Cennas Road.

Brian, a hitchhiker given a lift last week by Cliff & Hank, turned up this evening to stay a couple of days.

Harry replied to various enquiries received in the post, and Diana did some gardening & paperwork.

Coldish & windy, rain in the evening.

Dauid went to the dentist in Aber just this in the morning.

Gerard, Hank and Brian worked on the new skyline received from the Forestry Commission and on the windmill, and got the skyline set up and the windmill generating. However, before long the windmill began to make an odd noise, the blades were rubbing against the scaffold tower, and the blades fell off — just missing Gerard etc (~~etc etc~~) had a near miss! It seems to be a right off.

Dauid left in the morning for her cooking demonstration in Suvay and various SET business, and a cooking weekend.

Just before lunch, Andrew Wilson, another volunteer, turned up to stay for a week. He and Brian worked together in the afternoon making a steeper bay at the top of the car park for gravel.

Dauid moved the remaining wood to the woodshed.

Tony turned up at Katiné with a friend, and took some photographs.

After tea Dauid, Gerard, Hank, Brian and Andrew worked together taking off the cottage roof. Ernie Cooper turned up about 6.00pm and discussed the Ideal House (drawings etc) with Hank & Gerard.

A meeting was held in the evening of Gerard, Dauid, Hank & Mark.

1974 June

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19 Wednesday

Week 25 (170-195)

Rain in the morning, clearing up in the afternoon

Bran and Andrew did some wood shopping and stacking in the woodshed. Gerard, Hank & David improved the dining area in the Engine Shed by making it waterproof by means of a polythene sheet nailed to the trusses & beams over the table, and the replacement of the treodes by sleepers for the 'table' to rest on. It is now 5 planks wide & looks very grand.

Deek spent the morning shopping in Newton.

Gerard, David, Hank & Hay met to discuss the Central Facility.

In the afternoon Gerard had an appointment with Miss Roberts of the Planning office regarding an improvement grant.

More work was done digging out the service trench at the back of the cottages and an outside tap was fixed up.

Hot & sunny all day.

Brian left this morning, and may return on Monday with Dais.

The main work of the day involved completing the digging out of the trench behind the cottage and the removal of the roof timbers and one of the chimneys on the first cottage.

2 couples turned up who are acquainted with David, who are involved in the back-to-the-earth movement. David has lent them his cottage for 3 weeks.

In the evening we walked round the proposed route of the railway.

1974 June

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21 Friday

Week 25 (172-193)

Very hot & sunny.

A number of important events occurred today: -
Ellen Peart came from the Welsh Tourist Board and informed us of the possibility of obtaining a grant for the main faculty, car park and road.

Gerard, David and Paul went out for lunch with associates of Lord Elleglin (inventor and professor of physics at Nottingham) who are trying to get an association with us to push some of their commercial products which they want to develop to cash on in the environmental business.

John Beaumont gave us the news that in principle we are allowed to have Llanwrin school if we demolish it and re-ere it.

BBC Bangor phoned. They want to do a film of us for Nationwide BBT (Wales Today), and would like to come next week. Gerard will phone back.

The tops of the wall of the cottage were cleared & cleared ready for the shuttering to be put on for the pouring of the coping. Railway line was collected in preparation for coping reinforcement. The debris thrown down from the top of the building was cleared away.

Not a sunny

Mark & Mary went off for the weekend to a family do near Benlury.

David, Andrew and Derek had a day off. Gerard stayed at the site and made a 3-D model of the site.

1974 June

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23 Sunday

Week 25 (174-191)

2ND AFTER TRINITY

Sunny

David, Gerard, Andrew and Derek put up the scaffolding on the end cottage, and set up the shuttering and capping board on the one wall, ready for capping.

cloudy in the morning, sunny later on.

A part of the windmill was dismantled.

The capping was poured on the cottage wall prepared yesterday and some more concrete underpinning was done behind the cottage.

Mr Peter Law from the B.R. Research & Development Centre at Didly visited and looked at the proposed route of the railway. He took details of the features we would require in a special carriage, which his dept. may build for us, and seemed impressed with our scheme. "The most exciting project I have visited in years"

Emi Cooper came up in the evening to get started on the planning & measurements for the Dead House.

Diana returned with her car loaded full of goodies
 Ivan Roberts from BBC Bangor phoned again to say that they are coming tomorrow to do some more filming and interviews.

1974 June

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25 Tuesday

Week 26 (176-189)

Hot & sunny.

David and Mark dismantled the windmill tower in the morning and brought down the remaining parts of the windmill before coffee time.

Most of the rest of the day was spent preparing more shuttering on the first cottage in conjunction with the building of a safe scaffolding around the top.

Members of the BBC Bangor T.V. team stayed for lunch after doing some filming. They interviewed Gerald before leaving.

Ernie Cooper arrived in the evening and did some work on the local house.

Cloudy, a cool

Work continued on capping the walls of the first cottage and half of one wall remains to be done. It was decided to remove the chimneys at either end ~~so~~ to make a complete ring of capping and to simplify construction of the roof. The chimney holes have been left and shuttered round, so that they could be used at a future date, if required. All the remaining parts on the first floor level were removed.

The painting of the service caravan was also completed.

Roderick and Gillian Jones came up in the morning and helped with the work throughout the day. 2 students from Swansea University came up to have a look and will return next week to work for a week or so.

1974 June

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27 Thursday

Week 26 (178-187)

Cloudy but dry - cool.

Today the capping on the end cottage was completed and the north side of the middle cottage was also capped, with the better part of the roof remaining in situ.

The middle room of the second cottage was cleaned of rubble and the level of the floor lowered.

Cloudy all day, rain in the evening.

The shuttering, reinforcement and concreting of the capping on the front side of the middle cottage was completed.

Mr Whybrow of [unclear] who are interested in going into production of AT devices and have both the facilities and the technical know-how to make this possible, came with his wife & child on a visit. He seemed keen on our venture, and has offered to come up & do some work for us on his holiday, and invited any of us to visit his & see his workshop facilities when we can.

The wood for the roof and completion of the mansard of the tubular frame house arrived.

1974 June

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29 Saturday

Week 26 (180-185)

Dry, Sunny intervals,

Derek and David had a day off.
Dave & Mary restacked the woodpile properly
in cutting shed to.
Gerard & Mark prepared the lintel between the
2 cottages for pouring, removed the middle wall
and set out the levels for the floor.
During the afternoon a visit was made to
the Hills' estate to see about sites and the
quarry from which they were being removed
was visited.

Day, sunny intervals

The hardware was laid in the middle cottage.
 Various odd jobs were done, and various visitors
 arrived, including Tony, the photographer, who
 is taking photographic examples for his application
 to the Arts Council for a grant to do a photo-
 graphic account of the changes at Wisingsworth
 Park & May had a day off.

1974 July

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1 Monday

Week 27 (182-183)

DOMINION DAY, CANADA

Dry and sunny.

Gerard left for London, after a meeting first thing in the morning, at which points raised in all previous discussions were clarified, and the plan of work for the coming months agreed upon in some detail.

The day was taken up with catching up on correspondence, office duties and library work.

Nigel, Brian, Paula, her and Greg, friends of Cliff, arrived in the evening, to stay for a week or two.

10 boxes of Digestive Biscuits from McVities 'Mixed Biscuits' arrived.

All trooped down to Bob John's house to see Northside - Oakes today in case we were ~~SA~~, and, of course, we weren't.

Very wet all day.

A lot of work was put into removing and landscaping. The great piles of slate debris, that had been growing around the cottages, as a result of the activity therein.

Wood was soon ready for assembly to complete the mansard round the local house.

The unused part of the skyline was returned to the Forestry Commission, where the Daniel demonstrated a skyline trolley. He gave us 2 pulleys which were taken to a local garage and welded together with 2 pieces of steel to make a very effective trolley hanger.

David Jones, of Jones's Garage, agreed to lend us his peltor wheel, providing we look after it properly.

David demonstrated how 9 hot wet bodies in his caravan, in conjunction with a paraffin heater and a small stove burning waste paper, were able to create a very warm, muggy pleasant atmosphere within 5 mins.

Diane and Derek went to Tawyn to see a house which is clad with slate in the way that Eric Cooper suggested we do the timber frame house, and came back disgusted.

A ~~London~~ Lanco Duplicator unexpectedly arrived from the Gas Board in Wrexham. ~~The door f.~~

The door frames, doors, door fittings, skirting board and nails arrived from Countrycraft Homes.

1974 July

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3 Wednesday

Week 27 (184-181)

then
Sunny morning, Heavy Rain. ~~at night.~~

A lot of work was done on moving some of the rubble from the front of the cottages to make up the level of the paths and landscaping the remainder. This was given a treatment of top soil and Eco in preparation for seeding with a mixture of all kinds of things.

A trench was dug to take the waste water pipe from the Ideal House to a soak away about 10 yds away.

Numbers of raggies were cut in preparation for the completion of the mausoleum.

In the morning Mark visited the Hills post office engineer, who said he would do what he could to obtain telegraph poles and fittings for us. He (Mark) also visited the Humphries, who came up to the quarry later with a load of bitumen for doing the house roof. Mark also spoke with David Jones, who said he would be happy to lend us his pelton wheel for a year or so, if we could guarantee to look after it properly.

Heavy rain all day.

Some of the reusable timber from the cottages was taken to the second hand wood store, and the nails removed in preparation for reuse.

The soak away was dug for the 10th house, and more timber was prepared for the completion of the mounds.

Some small repair jobs were also done in Mark & Mary's cottage.

David, Jim, co-social workers of Tim Fox, Social Services, Didday, came over for the day, to assess the possibility of sending a party of 8 boys youths for a fortnight during the summer, as remedial treatment for social stress. They left very keen on the idea of the boys working for us & helping with the demolition of Lawson's School. They would try to sell the idea to the relevant committee and thought that a financial arrangement in the region of £25 per person per fortnight would be satisfactory.

Mr Ramage turned up in the evening with 2x1" diameter 18' steel bars for us to use as wall ties, for which he would only accept £2, although he had paid 30p for them and had had to bring them from 60 miles away. He was interested in our pelton wheel scheme and might prove to be helpful. He phoned later in the evening with the name of Mr Richards of Quilfield, who he thought could obtain chipboard for us. Mark telephoned Mr Richards, and he gave most valuable information. ie he could supply us with all our chipboard needs etc at reasonable price.

Diane made 12 lbs of superb looking bread!

1974 July

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5 Friday

Week 27 (186-179)

Cloudy, but mainly dry.

We got up this morning to find that streams and waterfalls were springing out all over the place, where ~~they~~ before it had seemed quite dry. The waterfall which descended into the upper parking area spread itself across the road and all the way down taking a lot of road with it as it went. Some emergency work was done on the road, to channel the water more effectively, and David diverted the stream which was feeding the waterfall from the field above the wood at right angles from its original path along the boundary of the field from which it arose. He also built a small dam around the lower esplanade, which was in danger of floating away in a 6" stream of water, which has to be forded to reach the lower caravans.

A number of small jobs were done, and work on the timber frame house continued.

Sarah Judgeon arrived, probably to stay till the end of the month.

Warm and sunny

The nansaid was given a big boost forward with the people working on it the whole day. All the strings and roggins were put in their correct positions, and brought to a common level.

The part of the roof support system which had been (been) left on the middle cottage was cleared of all nails and rotten pieces, and all the timbers was given 2 generous coatings of cuprindol.

Sarah collected some wild plants from around the quarry, and replanted them in the newly landscaped banks outside the manager's cottage.

Some fine carpentry was done in the workshop by Messrs. Gary & Sarah, so that all the pieces needed for the nansaid were ready in time for their use.

Dez's brother, David, who was an electrical engineer in the army, and is interested in camping do work with us, came to visit and look round.

Quahan, from Hedyulleth, a trainee teacher who visited us some weeks ago after seeing us on T.V. came up and showed himself to be a very able worker. During his holiday he is going to come up & help us whenever he can weekends - he is employed by the Forestry & during the weeks.

1974 July

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7 Sunday

Week 27 (188-177)

4TH AFTER TRINITY

Cloudy, but dry and calm.

The mauseid was firmly secured in its new position.

A cut off drain along the side of the upper car park to prevent water running down the road and washing it away.

Some clearing was done in the cutting sheds, and a place cleared in a corner beside the engine shed for 2 large water tanks for emergency storage.

Elderflower wine making was set in motion.

A number of the workers went for a swim in the afternoon and returned dripping from their skinny dips (~~and~~ with stale auto). It remains to be seen whether they are still capable of earning their daily bread.

Numbers of gardening and tidying jobs were done.

Jon Wright, of hestle table, ~~and~~ first workbench and bird table fame, was followed by his parents today. Mr Wright is a farmer and a very practical man, as is his wife a very practical woman. They are going to stay in a caravan and work for us for a couple of days.

David managed to coax Sarah out on a visit to his cottage in Carmo.

Dry, with sunny spells

The various stunges were all judiciously fixed in position.

The Bedford Van seats were made up into proper seating accommodation in the Engine Shed.

Work was started on improving the drainage and rectifying the not inconsiderable damage done to the road.

The long laborious task of chipping away the old paving in the centre carriage was started.

The film taken up here about 2 weeks ago was shown on Nationwide ^{last today} and also rationally on News Extra BBC 2. It began with reference to the growing body of opinion concerned with the possibility of future disasters, and pointed out that this was a new led by number of much respected influential people, including Roy Jenkins and Peter Scott. The Society for Environmental Improvement were making a start in finding solutions to some of these problems. In a year or two there could be a national Mecca of alternatives where people could learn about these things. It needed much money but SEI would attempt to do it for a fraction of the cost by people giving money, materials, blows and advice. Gerard was seen explaining the environmental crisis in a nutshell. The narrator explained that he had asked a volunteer worker whether he was dropping out, and the volunteer had replied that he was dropping in to the future. During the narration there were number of shots ~~grip~~ of the work going on at the site and of everyone having their lunch. Mary & Derek were the only 2 to stand out, other than Gerard, who gave a magnificent interview.

1974 July

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9 Tuesday

Week 28 (190-175)

Warm & sunny

Local labour was mobilised on continuing the groundwork.

Core plaster was removed in the cottages.

The tar plant was prepared ready for the roofing.

Paul & Jerry arrived.

We received 3 telephone calls resulting from yesterday's T.V. broadcast. George Pease of Ross a Cranbury, an architect & town planner, and Brian Cornelius an agricultural engineer from Breckshire, both are extremely interested to come & see the site & help us however they can.

Heavy rain in the morning, dry but cloudy after that.

The morning was wet and miserable.

More roadwork was done, and a number of tidy up jobs in the Engine Shed.

Some plastering was done in the third cottage, and plaster was removed in the second cottage.

David went to Oswestry to inspect some chipboard sheets 6' by 8', which seem very good value for £2 each.

Brian Cornelius came over, and showed himself to be a man of much relevant experience, & practical ability and knowledge. He has offered to help us in number of possible ways through his links with number of experts in United Nations and other organisations.

He will come & do some work with us next week.

George Reese phoned to say he is arriving tomorrow.

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Alec and Doreen, who had been wonderful workers and company. They hope to return & we hope so too.

1974 July

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11 Thursday

Week 28 (192-173)

Dry with sunny spells

We were at last able to get a clear run on the timber frame house roof. By supper time all but the 2 ends of the roof were in position. After a concerted effort by six willing helpers under Eric's instructions all that part of the roof was tarred and felted by 10.00 p.m.

Three jobs were done on the cottages - (1) the ~~concrete~~ top of the back wall of the middle cottage was at last properly tied in to the top of the first cottage with concrete, reinforced with railway line (we could not complete this job earlier because the redstart's brood which were being brought up in a crack in the wall in that vicinity had not flown), (2) Sechois were cut out from the concrete coping at either end of wall cottage in preparation for the main purlin, and (3) a wall which is to close up part of the opening between the first and second cottage was begun.

The main purlin was cut from a piece of one of the trusses. This 70 year old exposed piece of wood once cleaned and cupruated ~~to~~ was a joy to behold. The grains were straight as a die and when tapped it was sonorous as a bell.

Robin Temple returned with his cousin Norman, Bruno Gilbert arrived from Glasgow, and George Peese from Ross a Cromarty. The latter I had seen on a T.V. and want to help. Bruno is an art college student, and George Peese an architect and town planner for Easter Ross. Our numbers have now reached 16, and we may soon have an accommodation crisis.

Dry, sunny spells.

The road maintenance work was completed under David's direction. Ernie, the first to come up it after its completion, wondered if we were trying to deter all 4 wheeled visitors.

The laying of the wooden roof on the Deal House was nearly completed.

The joists for the flat roof and the first floor of the first cottage were cut.

Some timbers salvaged from old houses were cleaned and treated with Cupriol, in preparation for their use in the form of an H frame which will prevent the back wall of the middle cottage falling any further in, and will support the floor joists.

George Pease prepared the positions for the main roof purlin, supporting the flat roof to sit in. This ^{5" x 10"} purlin was raised and positioned with ease and with the help of scaffolding, an old railway wheel used as a pulley, a rope, and many pulling hands, proving the maxim that many hands make light work.

It was David's birthday, and a birthday cake was baked for tea, and 6 litres of wine were bought and much sipping a jollity was enjoyed around Paul's newly erected fire.

974 July

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3 Saturday

ek 28 (194-171)

Showers, some sunny spells

Greg and Paula departed.
Diana left for Berkshire to remove 3500
bricks with Gerald, Fern, and Tim tomorrow.
John Payne arrived & started work on his
experimental slate flat plate solar water heater.
3 friends of David visited, ~~one of them~~, and
people from the Welshpool, one of whom, Bill
is staying for the rest of the weekend.

Work done today comprised:-

The partial walling up of the back door of the
first cottage with slate & lime cement mix.

The removal of the loose plaster on the second
cottage was completed.

A temporary tool shed was constructed which
houses the garden tools.

The planning and measuring was done all
preparation for the electricity grid installation.

~~Other work done~~
The roof rafters for the middle cottage were
it.

The window doors were repaired.

Graham from Hockynketh came for the day
and helped in the construction of 2 heads, which
I think says will do for a museum exhibition.
He also did other very useful work - a really
good guy.

Family day, with some sunny spells.

Robin and Norman continued their work with the rafters on the first roof of the cottage. George Pease also did some work on the roof before leaving in the afternoon.

Paul and Bruno worked on the roof of the Ideal House, and more helpers joined in later in an attempt to get it finished and tarred before the rain in the evening.

Ernie was here all day, and Bryn came in the afternoon and sawed a lot of firewood for us.

Bill Johnson, from FOC Welshpool, helped David building the stone wall to fill in the door way on the back wall of the manager's cottage.

Brian and Nigel finished building the tool shed, Amy and Sarah did a lot of domestic work, as well as finishing chiselling at the rotten wood of the roses, and clearing the path from the washed to the tunnel.

George R. Robie, of ITDG whom Gerard had told us to expect today, did not turn up. A family who had seen us on T.V. turned up and were shown round by Mark and joined us for tea.

Bill Johnson returned to Welshpool.

1974 July

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15 Monday

Week 29 (196-169)

to wet morning, but clearing up later.

Due to the heavy rain all morning, a lot of tidying up in the Engine shed of the tools and dining equipment was done.

Dana returned at lunch time, having, with the help of her brother, Gerard, Tim and Fern, removed the majority of the stacks ready for Mark to pick up this week. Gerard also brought up the dustbin methane plant, also to be collected and brought up by Mark.

Robin and Norman continued work on the flat roof. Bruno did a splendid job rendering the wall of the upstairs room in Mark and Mary's cottage.

An old bottle dump was found which might prove quite valuable!

Brian Cornaline arrived in the afternoon to stay till the end of the week. He has started ~~the~~ marking out the path of the railway. Eric will bring up his leveler for Brian to use tomorrow.

Mark Poffard, a volunteer from Keele, arrived. John Payne continued working all day on his state of the art solar collector, which he managed to finish in the evening. He left at 9.00 p.m. to return to Liverpool.

A load of road chippings, for use in flooring and concreting, was brought up this morning. Brian and Nigel, the last of the 5 from Bronley FOC, left this morning.

A dull start, but warm & sunny later.

Bruce Cornelius organised the workers on the railway clearing. The route from the tunnel to Hank and Mary's cottage was cleared, and also a start made on the section from the manager's cottage to the Engine Shed. Mr. Humphreys came up in the morning and approved the proposed route. He says there are some plates which will be going to scrap at the Vale of Rhydydd railway. He will be able to give us them if we write to higher authority that we heard they were going to scrap etc. Then he would be authorised to give them to us. He is quite amiable, however, to get us fish plates small enough for our needs.

Robert and Norman continued their splendid work on the flat roof, and that section is now nearly complete.

Paul ~~continued~~ continued work on the roof of the Coal House.

A Jack Walker arrived at lunchtime and had a long talk with Hank. He used to be part of an organisation doing research into windmills some years ago. During a freak tornado the roof was blown off the building they were working in and all their notes etc blown to the wind. He has also done some research into solar collectors. He is keen to help us get through the testing stage that his organisation had to go through, and is trying to get whatever information he can retrieve for us. He probably knows more about windmills than any one else in the country, and said that our windmill site is not the best one, as there is too much turbulence there. He said a better site would be at the edge of the tip over looking John's proposed Chalet field.

A Derek Leary, who read about us in "The Making" arrived to stay for a few days.

1974 July

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17 Wednesday

Week 29 (198-187)

Very warm and sunny.

Work continued on the clearing of the railway track from the tunnel to the Engine Shed. The pit from the tunnel to Hank & Mary's cottage was lowered by removing the layer of grass, heather etc to expose the original track bed. A number of old sleepers were also exposed. It was thought that drainage by the tunnel entrance would be a problem, but after one big stone was removed and a metal gaship put in its place, the water began to drain away swiftly. At the end of the day, Brian's measurements with the levels of bearings ~~was~~ were spot on.

Joists on the flat roof were fully secured with 3 sets of braces between each lot. Robur and Norman then joined Paul on ~~refitting~~ felling the roof of the Ideal House roof. It is now all but finished.

Derek returned from a 4 day visit to BRAD, with news that their solar roof is working well. They, like Roderick, made all their own windows, and we decided that we should do so too. An estimate today from a local joiner was £400+. Derek has agreed to take on the building of the windows, helped by Robur and Norman, who are proving to be very good chippers. He is visiting Roderick tomorrow morning to see how he has done his.

The window in the Ideal House beside the door window on the west wall was moved to the north side. A hole was made for it, but it has not yet been fixed in.

David and Brian left in the late morning to go down to Berkshire to take off the remaining slates on the barn roof. A local haulage contractor has been hired to go down with his lorry tomorrow to pick them up. David & Brian will help to load up the slates onto the lorry, and return to the quarry tomorrow evening.

Cloudy in the morning, warm & sunny later.

Paul brought up another load of boiling tar, and the roof of the Deal House was finished.

Paul and Derek Leary spent the day working out an electricity requirements and drew up plans of the circuit round the whole site, including the cottages, Deal House and engine shed. From this they can make an inventory of all the cable, fittings etc we shall need, and that can be organised.

Terry and Sarah took over the kitchen for the day to give Diana a rest. She went up with Derek (Eastmond) to visit Rodrick Jones, when he went up to see how to do the cottage windows.

Diana spent the rest of the day in the garden, cutting a lot of bracken for the compost heap which she has been building up, and which is working up very well.

Work continued on railway clearing and levelling. The section from the engine shed to meet the track at the far end of cutting shed I was cleared, and levels put in for the rest of it.

A French couple, who were given an address by Rene Dumont, visited today. They are specially visiting us and other to project in this country, with a view to getting something similar started in France. They were very nice and very encouraged by what we have been able to do here already.

Mr Evans, from the local 'Eva Wake' at Ceuniss came up. He said he could undertake to do the fish plates for us, if we can supply the steel. He will take on any welding etc work that he can, if we need something like that done.

Paul had lunch with the Beaumonts.

Brian gave us some good advice concerning filling in the forms for the Prince of Wales Award, and Industrial Development Grants.

Brian & David arrived back in good spirits from their days in Berkshire. He states will arrive just there in the morning.

1974 July

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19 Friday

Week 29 (200-165)

Dry in the morning, becoming cold and wet later.

The heavy load of states arrived first thing in the morning and was unloaded ~~was~~ within an hour.

After that the laboring of the local base was started and the best part of the laboring of the lower half was completed.

The frame in the middle cottage was fixed up and secured in position.

Some states were split in preparation for the facing of the local base.

The building and clearing was done for the railway. The digging out of the state on either side of the service road by the engine shed was begun, and also the removal of part of the state wall. Sarah and Bruce helped Brian with working out levels, including some Arvik measuring in the tunnel.

Some remaining items for the local base were delivered from Boys and Bowden - umbrellas, nails, staples, roofing felt and state labours. The chicken wire and rolls of Andersons green grey felt were missing.

Paul did more wiring diagrams of the site.

Philip Bawdler arrived ^{from Manchester} at lunchtime to visit for the day with a view to perhaps coming back for a longer stay, and Peter Jones, a volunteer, arrived in the afternoon.

Hark, Mary and David went to the local Paul Perthog village hall meeting. It was their AGM. Hark was elected onto the community council and was asked to do something especially with the children and youths, which we will think about and do whatever we can.

Started off wet & cloudy, becoming warm & sunny in the afternoon.

Brain put in the remaining levels of the railway to the local house & beyond, before leaving at lunchtime. A large number of stakes were split in readiness for cladding the local house.

Botany continued on the Drabthase.

David started cleaning of 2 old trusses to be used as ~~posts~~^{beams} in the cottages.

The walls for receiving the beams to support the first floor joists were prepared.

Brain came up with his power saw and did alot of log sawing for us.

John Payne visited with his mother.

Mark & Ray had a day off day with some others & they all climbed Cadet Dris.

Solar water heater was fixed.

1974 July

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21 Sunday

Week 29 (202-163)

6TH AFTER TRINITY

Warm sunny, becoming cloudy after lunch.

Phil left after breakfast.

Graham from Dechnyeth came up and did some very hard work clearing some of the slate waste by the kitchen caravan, which had been piled up by the service trench by the ICB, for the railway track. Work went on also at the other end of that stretch, by the manager's cottage, clearing undergrowth, and levelling slate waste for the railway. Brian came up in the afternoon and put his back into it too.

Diana continued clearing the 2 trusses to be used as beams in the middle cottage.

The joists on the flat roof were secured to the main beam.

The outside wall of the local house was coated with Unibond Cement mixture.

Mark & Mary's upstairs room was rendered.

Paul continued to work on the electric and wiring of the site.

Mark worked on job schedules, and David on the library. Peter Stokes, who has been sending us up-to-date photostat copies of all his literature, and who is running its information service on Waste Disposal, visited in the afternoon with his wife. He was able to give David some useful advice on a filing system for our library here.

Rain in the morning and evening, dry but cloudy in the afternoon - Strong wind all day

Scaffolding was erected on one side of the tool house. Battening was put up round the bottom of the mansard, and the window which had been closed up was braced.

The pulley system for getting building slates to the top of the first cottage was set up.

The beams in the middle cottage were secured in position.

Work continued on clearing and leveling the railway section from the ~~new~~ 1st cottage to the kitchen caravan.

Mark and Mary's upstairs room was plastered with a thin wash, and part of it was painted over in white emulsion. The woodwork was cleaned with a wire brush, and ~~work~~ has come up very well.

Dr Gifford from the Dept of Building at Aston University visited with his wife. He is extremely interested in everything going on here and will help in whatever way he can e.g. we could get some of our research done by his students taking it on as an honours thesis.

A new volunteer from Cyprus, Peter Johnson, arrived this afternoon.

Brian Cornelius arrived back in the evening.

~~Eric Cooper started full time work with us today.~~

1974 July

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25 Thursday

Week 30 (206-159)

Dull, with some showers.

The day started off with a discussion about length of working days, conditions etc. It was decided that the working day was not too long, but that people would like more time to see more of the countryside round about, so that there should be a statutory $\frac{1}{2}$ day off for all, as well as the day off. On the half day everyone could be taken out together in the Bedford. $\frac{1}{2}$ day will be Wednesday, and day off will still be staggered. A suggestions book will be provided.

Railway leveling and sleepers laying by the kitchen caravan continued. B.R. sent their man from Shrewsbury to meet Hank at Hedywell, and he announced that they will supply us with 1200 plates, to be collected from Abergynwyth on Tuesday. It has been passed down from higher up that we are to be supplied with all our railway needs.

Matt's upstairs room was completed, carpet laid and they moved in. Now the other upstairs room can be done up for extra accommodation.

Work on the Owl House was slow, most of the day being spent correcting past mistakes on the mansard. The batons had to be wedged at every nail, so that they lie flush. Bruno cut stakes to fit the batons, and some floor leveling was done.

Work continued on the flat roof parapet.

Paul began digging a large hole in the slate waste at the 'lower spur' windmill site to take the telegraph pole on which a windmill will be fixed.

Cool & cloudy.

Batoning on the felted mauseid continued. Work on the flat roof was abandoned for the day as Robin & Norrie had a day off. Peter joined Brian and David on the railway, and steps leading from the kitchen caravan to the first cottage was completed. Mark & Mary's 'guest room' was almost completely rendered, ready for plastering and painting. Jerry did some sewing for curtaining the upstairs rooms. Paul did some cementing of the hole he has been digging for the telegraph pole windmill support. He has also been monitoring the amount of flow ~~to~~ to and from the reservoir every day.

A load of ballast was left at the bottom of the road. The chipboard arrived from Oswestry but was found to be not as we had specified. The company were not prepared to let us have it cheaper, and it was sent back.

A lady from Gloucestershire Conservation Group visited and was shown round by Paul.

Tony, from Aber, came up in the afternoon with his wife and child. He took some photographs of the railway and the upstairs of M & H's cottage, amongst other things.

A couple arrived from Bristol who would like to come and work in September. They will visit again next weekend.

Liz, David's sister-in-law, arrived to stay for a few days. The FOES from Liverpool arrived late in the evening to stay for the weekend.

An architect from the Daily Home Magazine visited. He is very enthusiastic about all that is going on here and will try to get his editor to visit, with a view to getting some money donated. He said he would not take on Mark's job for less than £50,000 pa. to spend on materials ~~and~~, staff of 7 and skilled labour.

Derek, who seems to have some misgivings about this project and the people involved arising out of a feeling of not being fully accepted here, left. He did not know where he would go or when he would be back, and asked us to keep his pots for him.

1974 July

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27 Saturday

Week 30 (208-157)

Cool, with some heavy showers.

The screeding of the ground floor of the local hall was begun by 2 of the FOEs from Liverpool, Peter & Richard, who are both architects. They did a marvellous job and completed more than half. They also said that the way we were doing the lower half of the outside wall of the local hall was a nonsense and would not keep out the damp. Fortunately it is not too late to change it, and the decision will be made use of elsewhere later on. One of them, Peter, is very keen to return to work for a longer period. Batching the masonry continued, as did stone cutting for the stonework.

Robin and Norman started putting in the floor joists in cottage I.

Some railway sleepers were laid along the track towards the woods, in readiness for positioning correctly for Brian's return.

Brian did some very useful work going through the forms for Regional Development Grants and making notes. He left after lunch for the weekend, taking with him Roland back home.

Plastering was done in Mark & Mary's cottage and Peter Johnson started making doors for the upstairs.

Paul made some proper plans for all the houses which are to be reserved. Brian has been taking rainfall and waterflow measurements with Paul, so he can take over when Paul goes.

Paul & Mark visited Mr Davies at Dolgellau Hotel, where they persuaded him to lend us his generator, which doesn't work, until April. He was not willing to sell it, but if we can get it to work, could be very useful till the spring.

Paul Westby turned up with about 20 people + a dozen children, from the Peace Centre in B'nar. Mary gave them a guided tour.

David Leavelly arrived with 3 friends to stay for 2 weeks. David is Terry's cousin.

John Payne arrived for the weekend to repair his solar collector.

Heavy rain in the morning, dull & cloudy with some showers in the afternoon.

Plastering was completed, doors were made for 2 doorways and some curtains were made and hung upstairs in Hank & Mary's cottage.

~~(The service trench at the back of the cottage was dug out & cleared)~~ The floor of cottage 2 cleared out and levelled, and the drain along the side of the road cleared again.

Rebun and Norman had to work on lengthening the floor joists for cottage 1 which had been made too short.

Paul took apart the generator lent to us by the Davies of Dolgellau Falls Hotel, and was able to diagnose its fault.

Graham Hughes, a friend of Derek's brother, and instructor at Aberdovey Outward Bound, visited in the morning. He was shown round and had a talk with Hank about the possibility of supplying us with some of his boys to do some work.

The 2 fairs from Liverpool working on the local house did as much screeding as they could, but heavy rain held up the procedure, as did lack of cement. A second side ^{of the house} was scaffolded.

David Rowley and Gordon decided to leave tomorrow morning. Gordon was very upset that his 2 friends who also arrived yesterday had disappeared before ~~just~~ this morning. They were rather shy & overwhelmed by so many people, and rather out of their depth and homesick. David Rowley himself, will probably return, as Paul & Terry are also back.

We ploughed BLAD and found that Derek was there. He says he will return mid-week to collect his tools.

Gerard, his son Hugo, and Jill Whitehead arrived in the evening to stay till August 9th.

1974 July

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29 Monday

Week 31 (210-155)

Dry, but dull and cloudy.

Some more railway sleepers were laid along the ~~at~~ front of the cottages, accurately levelled and positioned securely in ballast.

Erni and Bruce worked on a complete inventory of all materials still needed for the local house.

Paul and Terry left in the morning. Paul has taken on the design and printing of a poster about the Centre which will ~~also~~ attract skilled personnel and ideas. He has also taken on the windscrew attachment, a rainfall indicator and a 1 kw inverter, et al.

Robin and Norman continued work on the lengthening of the floor joists for the first cottage by 2".

A staff meeting on general policy was interrupted by a spate of visitors. John Beaumont brought some Rhododendron friends of his up to see around. Mr & Mrs Thomson (80 yrs and 60 odd yrs ~~and~~ respectively) who had seen an advertisement in the Soil Association Journal and previously written to Gerard, arrived to stay and work. He will be unable to work, but she is very keen to. They had a rather traumatic beginning to their stay by the brakes on their mini van failing and getting stuck in the Drain Ditch at the side of the road. Nevertheless they were in good spirits at supper time.

John Hubley, a microbiologist from Guelph University, who gave Steve much advice on his methane book, arrived with his wife, ~~his~~ Penny.

Mr Davies, the engineer who has an aerogenerator working in his garden at Abergynedwyn, visited. He gave Mark much useful advice about the siting of the pelton wheel, and has borrowed Cliff's thesis on aerogenerators.

Brian Cornelius returned from his weekend home.

Wet, windy and cold.

The Thomsons surprised us all today. She was offered some easy jobs like sewing curtains, painting, cleaning out a caravan, and said "is that all you've got - I want some hard work", so Hank gave her a pick, shovel and wheelbarrow, and she worked hard all day. She, helped by her husband and Hugo, cleared out the floor of the second cottage, barrowed the rubble away and levelled it out on the road. We really take our hats off to them, as the weather was filthy and they worked happily. Liz and Bruce worked together on the toilet base finishing the screeding of the floor. Some more sleepers were laid in position along the front of the cottages, and some more painting was done in Hank & Mary's cottage.

Brian, David, Peter and Bruce went to Maenofferen Quarry to get out the rails from the quarry to the top of the incline plane, to be taken down the incline plane tomorrow. All got thoroughly soaked.

Diana went to Aberystwyth to the Cash & Carry, collecting 600 plates from the Station there.

John Kenny left after lunch, just before the next influx of people.

Dr Brinkworth, the solar energy expert from Cardiff University, visited and spoke with Gerard. Hank showed round 2 Jones who were visiting + a land agent who also arrived out of the blue. Mr Wilkinson from the Planning Office came to see Hank about the improvement grants for the cottages. He saw round Hank & Mary's cottage and said we should get £1000 for it, if we spent £1000. On the other 2 cottages he said we'd probably only get £450. As Hank was occupied, he will make an appointment on Aug 12th to come back to the site. 2 families each with 2 children turned up - both had seen us on T.V. It seems that the site is becoming a place for local tourists to visit on wet days!

Diana Eccles and her daughter, Alice, were shown round the site, as was Virginia Morgan - Grenville who arrived later in the afternoon.

In the evening all found various places to see us on "The Wild Wilderness" at 8.30. We were on for 5 mins, and it was not as good as the news film, but much as we expected.

31 Wednesday

week 31 (212-153)

Very heavy rain all day again.

Screeding the floor of the local house continued, until Liz had to go to Aberystwyth in the afternoon to collect the remaining logs and plates for the railway.

The 12 who went to Maer Offera Quarry got all the rail etc down to the bottom of the incline plane for loading onto the lorry today.

The gully along the side of the road had to be repaired and the culvert unblocked due to the torrential rain in the past few days.

A pair of curtains were made by the Thomsons, and the upstairs room in Hank & Mary's cottage cleaned up and the carpet relaid. Peter set to making a third door for the upstairs.

Mr Gallyer & Mr Power from Subtegans visited the site. They are prepared to send us 5 tons of insulation for the local house, and to use the house as an experimental house for a new type of insulation.

John Beaumont came up in the afternoon with the Lord Lieutenant of the County to discuss the visit of H.E.H. Prince Philip on October 21st.

Other visitors today included George Hay, Press officer of the Environmental Conservation in London, John Fletcher, a lecturer in Chemical Engineering at the University of Aston, who will be prepared to help us with anything which requires knowledge in chemical engineering, and Chris Middleton, a civil engineer, who heard about us in an article in "Community", written by Steve Boulter.

Gini Page arrived in the evening to stay for some days. He does overland trips to the Sahara.

Dry with some sunny spells.

Bitumining & felting of the road base continued, as well as building the parapet round the roof of Cottage I and josting of cottage II.

Some more road repairs and general tidying up were done.

Craig, Mark, Tim and Brian went to Macniffen and loaded up the lorry of rails, trucks, and a stone cutter, which was a present from the quarry manager because of the way the lorry on Monday worked in the most appalling conditions. The lorry arrived at the quarry in the afternoon and took some time to unload.

Roderick and a friend of his visited for the afternoon. A Dutch visitor arrived in the morning & were shown round by David. Gary Lewis, from Australia, visited in the afternoon, as did a lecturer from Belfast University and his wife, who had seen us on T.V.

1974 August

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2 Friday

Week 31 (214-151)

Dry, with some long sunny spells.

Brian Cornelius had to leave today - it will be a great loss in many ways.

Due to the miserable conditions everyone had worked in during the week and the long hours, today was a day off for all who wanted. Mark, Ray, Robin, Norman and the Stoneys had a day off, and Bruce & Peter a half-day.

On the site, a section of railway was permanently laid, and a truck was set on it. The stake cutter was moved over to the tool house in readiness to be used, batoning and bolting of the tool house and joining of the cottages continued.

John Bridges, from Surrey, arrived at lunchtime to stay a couple of weeks. Sue & Robin Hicks arrived, and also Tim and Fern.

Dry, warm and sunny.

There was a lot of men, and women, power on the railway today, and another stretch has been permanently laid. The completed stretch now goes from the kitchen caravan to the path in front of the cottages. It looks most impressive, and the speed with which it is being laid is most heartening.

Bobbing and felting on the ideal house continued and one side is now completed.

Robin and Norman continued today on the roof of cottage I, but both have expressed desire to change their job, as they have now been on it for some weeks. Work was done on the roof of cottage II, but progress was slow and only 2 rafters were put in. Upright walls, and so on make an otherwise straightforward task somewhat complicated.

David worked hard on clearing the 'car park' near the top of the drive, to give additional parking space for a couple of cars, as well as catering excellently for 20+ people.

~~The rest of the afternoon was spent working on the ideal house.~~

Byrn came up with his power saw and sawed a great number of logs for us.

Amazingly enough, we don't seem to have had any visitors or tourists today!

1974 August

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6 Tuesday

Week 32 (218-147)

Warm and sunny.

Work on the site today comprised the building of the parapet round the flat roof on cottage I, the fixing of some more rafters on cottage II, the rebuilding of the wall above the newly inserted sleepers/lintels on the back wall of cottage II, and the leveling & leveling of the floor of cottage II. Some more sleepers were laid outside the kitchen caravan, and a loading bay was made of stake slats on the carpark side of the service trench.

Alan Gans of Sountain Farming visited, and Andrew Wilson arrived back to stay for some time. Quite a number of Hank's relations visited in the afternoon.

There was quite a heated discussion over dinner about a proposed fund-raising document that Fern had typed out all the afternoon, and some amendments were made.

Dry in the morning, but wet & miserable in the afternoon and evening.

Gerard and Hank went with Mr. Humphreys in the morning to visit the Vale of Rhydydol railway. We may get a couple of 9' by 5' goods trucks and some telegraph poles from there, but the rail itself that Mr. Humphreys is scraping is too heavy for our track.

The floor of cottage II was finally cleared, levelled and hard core laid in readiness for concreting, as was part of the Engine Shed. More work was done on the flat roof, some gardening & some more steps were laid towards the Deal House. A number of people had a half day.

George Collier, a land agent from Stafford, returned and did some work on the railway. He also brought a windmill design he has made, of which he says we can have 69% of the copyright. He seems to be staying for some days - he has a caravan at Merdony.

David Harris, a senior lecturer in Chemical Engineering at Clonmel Polytechnic visited. Cecily Smith who has been living in Canada for one year also visited, bringing some useful information from the other side of the Atlantic.

Bar Keller arrived in the evening.

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8 Thursday

Week 32 (220-145)

Rain and sunny intervals

The building of the wall at the back of the second cottage was completed. More railway track was laid towards the local house, and one side of the local house was fascia boarded.

Pat Keilber had a discussion with Emie, Gerard, Hank, Mary & Davis & Davis in which he stated that he could no longer work for us without a proper architect's fee, which ~~we~~ we could not afford. In his opinion, we do not need an architect at all at this stage and that Emie can cope perfectly well. Emie agreed that this was so. It was decided that for speed and efficiency the building & plumbing etc of the cottages would go on in the conventional way, and that special AT plumbing go in specially designed buildings at a later stage.

George Collier spent the day here again, and brought in many muskies from Aberdorey.

Hank & Mary's friend, Angela, arrived to stay for a few days.

Sunny intervals a rain.

Work was done on the railway and the slating of the lead house. Bad weather & few people made work on the cottages unfeasible - also a great number of visitors.

Visitors included Lady White & 2 children, Michael Bray, and many others including John Eyles, a model maker, who is prepared to take on the making of an 8' by 6' model of the site for the Sunday Times Exhibition - Competition.

Emi went home early as it had been rather unwell.

George Collier's mussels were duly cooked & very much enjoyed by all who had them & food was washed down by lots of wine which he very kindly also donated.

1974 August

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10 Saturday

Week 32 (222-143)

Heavy dry with some sunny spells.

Gerard, Jill, David and Peter all left this morning - but not before hearing Gerard's interview with Robin Hicks on 'You and Yours' on Radio 4, which was excellent. Jill and Peter both expressed interest in returning sometime, and David will be back after about a week when Gerard has to go to France.

Bruno and George Collier lined up the rest of the railway section to the Ideal House, and some more clearing and leveling of ground was done.

Angela and Robin worked on staking the Ideal House. It seems that all the stakes have to be cut as the batons have been put up at the wrong spacing.

Mark Poffard returned and 2 friend girls, friends of his, arrived to stay for a couple of weeks.

Mark, Hay, Angela, Andy, Bruno, Robin, and Diana went off to Peter Whypard's party at Science Workshops at Wanderslo. Unfortunately the managing director of Multiflex (John Hester) LTD was not there, nor was Cliff's aerogenerator ready to take back. As it became evident that the 1 of us were not going to get much sleep in the Bedford, and there was nowhere else for us to sleep, we drove back through the night and arrived at dawn.

A bright sunny morning, but rain in the afternoon & evening.

Most of those who had been at the party last night slept well at least lunchtime - Mary and Angela had to have the day off.

John, Mark, and the 2 friend girls started the ideal house, but progress was rather slow. Everyone else who was able-bodied worked on cleaning and leveling for the railway.

Tony Standley came up with his camera and one friend. He will try to come to stay next weekend.

John Eyles came up again from Combs, and will probably come to stay with his wife tomorrow for a week or so to work on the model he has offered to do of the Centre for the Sunday Times Competition.

Robert Chapman, a futurologist, arrived to stay for a few days. His cousin from Barnwell worked for the day.

George Collier went back to Aberdarey for the day to be with his family & take them to church.

1974 August

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12 Monday

Week 33 (224-141)

Rawly dry, some sunny spells.

Work continued on skirting, the railway and the rafters of cottage 2. The stakes put up yesterday by Mark Lofan, John & the 2 French girls was arranged to be taken down and redone.

Bruno was in bed with flu today - Ray was also in bed with a bad cold.

Peter Barnes, a volunteer proposing to stay for one month, arrived today. John Eyles, the model maker, and his wife, Ann, moved into one of the caravans, and have been working on the railway. Mark has not yet been able to get in touch with Pat Keller concerning the competition.

George McBride arrived with his family. He was very taken by the whole scheme, and will be consulting his I.D.G. colleagues about ways in which we could co-operate to our mutual benefit, with particular attention to the energy problem.

Mr Jones, the Building Inspector, visited to advise us on septic tank installations for the cottages and local house.

This evening the first of our after-dinner talks by visiting guests was given by Roland Chaplain, who talked about Jurisprudence, his work in this field, and alternative society & activities.

Peter Barnes, a volunteer proposing to stay a month or so, arrived.

Pat's paper mix

Dull with rain at times

Work was done on the railway, the skirting of the dead house, and the rafters on the roof of cottage II. An inventory was drawn up of all the timber needed for the cottages and dead house.

An architect, Anthony, visited today. He was very interested in all that is going on and has offered to help wherever he can.

High Shaman of Beavertown also visited. He is taking over high impact technology from Andy McKillop in 3 months time and is very keen to cooperate with us.

Chris Dawson, who has been staying at Lawrence Hills' farm, came this evening to stay for some days.

Mark & Mary's friends, Jane, and a couple of friends of hers, arrived to stay for a couple of days.

Just before midnight, Diana came riding over to announce that Peter Harper and 4 German friends of his had arrived unexpectedly, and Diana had to give up her caravan yet again and sleep on Mark & Mary's sofa.

1974 August

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14 Wednesday

Week 33 (226-139)

Very wet.

Story of the Ideal House continued, and the spreading of the Engine Shed floor began. Peter Harper's German friends started work on the flat roof, but rain made that impossible. Some chopped down trees were cleared from the sides of the road, sorted & stacked.

Emi had to go home at lunchtime as he was very unwell, and it was also a half day for the larger team volunteers.

3 gentlemen from the Electricity Council visited. In principle they seemed willing to co-operate on the heat pump idea, but are only interested in air to air machines.

John Beaumont came up with a visitor of his to be shown around.

The "Country Store" arrived, as did the wood burning stove from Jotel.

The BBC were on the phone again - this time wanting to feature us in "Tomorrow's World".

George Collier and Peter Harper entertained us after dinner.

Our numbers rose to 24 for lunch and 22 for supper - more than enough to cater for ~~everyone~~ and seat comfortably.

Paul and Mary attended the Thanksgiving Service for the life of Trevor Cox who died on Sunday at the Chest Hospital in Northampton. It took place in the church at Sawthorpe, and the whole of the local community were there at the service which was very moving.

Heavily dry and sunny.

Work was done on the railway, the roof of cottage 12, and the section of the Engine Shed floor was concreted under the direction of George Collier. More clearing up of wood around the site and the on the sides of the road was done.

Dr Trevor Roberts visited with his wife and family. He and his wife are keen to return to work for a couple of weeks.

Phil Bowler arrived with his girlfriend to stay for a couple of days. A couple from Coventry who had read about us in Undercurrents cycled all the way & want to stay for a week to work. Ron Earncliffe, a recent university graduate, also arrived to stay for some time.

John has been collecting some small flowers, & things etc for mounting on his model of the site.

Diana & Ray collected some raspberries and brambles & did some work in the garden.

1974 August

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16 Friday

Week 33 (228-137)

Dry, with sunny spells.

Peter Baines & Philip Bowdler have been working on the skirting of the new said of the bed house and that is now progressing at a reasonable speed. Robin and Andy are getting on well with the roof of cottage II too. Frank and Jane, the couple from Coventry, are working on the flat roof, and George & Bruno have taken over the driveway again.

Maureen went to Aberystwyth for the Cash & Carry & other shopping. The wheelbarrow for home brewing was bought.

The Coler Gas representative visited today, and also Mr Wilkinson of the Planning Dept., concerning improvement grants for the cottages.

Louise, Clare, Phil and Nick all left this evening, so our number are reduced to 16.

Sunny spells, dry.

Slating, roofing and work on the cottage roofs continued.

Kenneth Shaw, who has a grant from the Prince of Wales Award to do a general study on ways of producing more fish in Wales, came up this morning. ~~He~~ Lady White brought him up to discuss the possibility of a pisciculture research scheme here on the site. He thought the idea possible and desirable. He, and Lady White on his recommendation, agreed to approach Prof. Edwards of West University (who has recently been given a sum of money towards fisheries research) on this idea. He and his friend, Philip Needham, helped with work on the railway and made a useful truck for it.

Barain Humphrey came up (with his girlfriend) to look around the site and discuss ways in which the Prince of Wales Committee might be able to aid our project. The grants they are able to offer have never exceeded £500 to a single organisation in any one year, but they are able to use their influence to chat up companies and other organisations to help worthy causes. It was felt that it would be better to put in a specific application for a particular sub-project within the total scheme rather than a general submission. Other things discussed included an approach to the Freshly Commission for a timber/brick house which could be used as a display & information centre.

Mark was invited to join Lady White and her guests to the theatre in Aberystwyth.

Simon Thorpe, from Total Stoves Ltd, who have given us a lovely woodburning stove to heat the central facility, came up this afternoon and showed us how to install, use and maintain the stove. It all sounds incredible - almost too good to be true!

1974 August

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18 Sunday

Week 33 (230-135)

10TH AFTER TRINITY

Dry, sunny spells.

Mr Humphrey came up and inspected the railway - he is much happier about it and said that it was quite satisfactory.

Staking continued, still unfortunately on the west side. Jane and Frank have nearly completed one side of the parapet on the flat roof, and Robin has done an amazing job of pointing the chimney at the far end of the second cottage. 3 sinks, which Frank managed to get cheap, are in the process of being installed in the Engine Shed.

Frank & Mary had a day off.

Bright and sunny.

George and Bruno laid some rails along the shed of sleepers that have been laid outside the Engine Shed towards the local house.

Sliding continued but progress was slow as Peter was making on his own due to Peter not being well.

John, helped by Ann, is getting on with the model.

Jane and Frank are getting on with the parapet on the roof of cottage I.

All the rafters are now in position on cottage II.

The 3 sinks installed yesterday in the Engine Shed were plumbed in.

David Branch from Aston, who, amongst other things is on the Common Market Board on Engineering Education, came to discuss ideas for integrating AT options into Engineering courses. After much discussion, the position was left as follows: - That there was a possibility of groups of engineering students coming here to do practical projects on AT as part of their course e.g. reconstructing the Inclined Plane, installing the Pelton wheel with piping, constructing a water wheel, constructing waterways for pisciculture. It was stressed on his side that in order for him to be able to persuade those with the hand on the purse of the viability of such a plan and its educational advantages, any such scheme would have to be very well organised in advance. On our side the point was made that in providing such an educational service, SEI would require the financial backing commensurate with it. He will get in touch with us again after discussing the plans further with his colleagues.

1974 August

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20 Tuesday

Week 34 (232-133)

Warm and sunny.

Staking continued on the massaid of the local base, but the brackets had all to be wedged and adjusted and progress was slow.

More work was done on the chimney at the far end of cottage II - it was rendered and its pots put on.

Work continued also on the flat roof and the laying of nails.

A flat area was made by the railway bedding way for the dumping of sand etc. and the kitchen cupboard relevelled after its moves. The large cooker was put back by the new sinks on the concreted part of the Equit Shed.

David Cross, an architect from Portmadoc who has already given us some advice a design of a window mounting, came this afternoon. He made out some plans of the cottages for the application for a Improvement Grant, and will submit the form & the plans on our behalf free of charge.

Two partitions and a lintel were made safe in Arthur Shed II.

The first delivery of Cement from Blue Circle arrived this morning - 2 tons (40 bags).

Brian, who stayed here some weeks ago, revisited for the day on his way to Snowdon.

Pottery Day

John Walton, from the Isle of Man, arrived in the morning & stayed to work for the day. He did some work on the railway. He has a double-decker bus in the Isle of Man which incorporates an exhibition of steam power & various steel devices. He is willing to give us the bus and all its niches if we want it here.

Paul & Mary left this morning with George for a few days' holiday.

A half day was taken by most people who were left. Work continued on the model, college 2 roof, and the staking. Good progress was made on the railway and chimney stack between colleges 2 and 3.

Aun Harris, who has a 'self-sufficient' small holding in N. Wales, arrived to stay for a few days before going on the Bath Festival on Fri.

There was a phone call from Arthur Holland from Fordhall Farm in connection with a project at Keele University to do with AT in farming. He will get in touch directly with Gerard.

An odd bod called Willie from the Isle of Man arrived late in the evening. He refused the offer of a caravan and kept beside the ashes of the fire in the Engine Shed.

1974 August

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22 Thursday

Week 34 (234-131)

lovely a sunny

Willie, who offered work to do, disappeared & was never seen again.

Steady progress on roof of cottage I, and of mansard of local house. Pointing and rendering of chimney between cottages 2 and 3 complete, as was the points system on the railway. Work continues.

Eric dealt with Mr ~~Heath~~ Heath from TAC (Asbestos Sheets) who arrived to measure up the engine shed roof and end wall for asphalt sheeting.

Mr ~~Cooper~~ Cooper from the Dept of Trade and Industry, Cardiff, visited in the afternoon. Bobbi showed him round - his reaction, "astounded." He was apparently interested only in getting a L-shaped of the place.

Diana had her first birth for 'months'. George came back from Stafford with pantomime and various useful bits & pieces, then left to join his family at Aberdovey.

Some rain.

Rod Earncliffe left in the morning.

Days off were had by Bruno & Peter, who spent the day making a birthday present for George - a do-it-yourself railway kit, consisting of a 4" section of polished railway track and a ^{wee} spirit level. Diana also made him a birthday ~~cake~~ cake, but George did not appear today.

The cottages were worked on. An A frame truss was made and erected in cottage 2 (from sleepers), and the roof of cottage 1 continued.

Geck & Sue Conway arrived this evening to stay for 10 days or so.

1974 August

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24 Saturday

Week 34 (236-129)

Sunny morning, followed by heavy rain.

Diana left this morning to visit her parents for a few days, and Hank & Mary returned from their holiday in Stafford.

An H-plane was begun in cottage II. Work on other projects continued.

Mike Baker, from Glasgow, arrived to stay for a few days.

Robin and Andy cooked supper tonight - it was absolutely delicious, and everyone agreed that men should do the cooking more often.

We were appalled to read an article on us by the Liverpool Daily Post, which gave quite the wrong impression of the project.

Very wet.

Due to the heavy rain all day, efforts were concentrated on concreting the next section of the Engine Shed floor, which was finished by tea time. Work also continued on the railway which is now approaching the Ideal House.

David and Margaret arrived in the evening and will stay till Friday.

Lay Stedley, wife & baby, visited for the day. He and John Gyles filled in the form for the submission of the model to the Exhibition at the Serpentine, and got it off in the post.

Frank & Jane had a day off.

1974 August

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26 Monday

Week 35 (238-127)

HOLIDAY IN ENGLAND, N. IRELAND AND WALES

Very wet, a few dry spells

Work continued on the railway which is rapidly nearing the Coal House. Staking continued on the Coal House - a very long & tiresome job. One side of the house is now nearly finished. The 3rd wall of the roof of cottage 2 was brought up to rafters level. We now have to build a scaffold tower to hold the pulley next to the last remaining wall, as the pulley lifting gear ^{which} is now sitting on it, is preventing us from building it up at the moment. Work continued on the road, which is now beginning to recognisably take shape.

Dave arrived back from his bargaining holiday with Gerard in France, and George came up from Aberdovey to stay, till the end of the week. Many other visitors came & went.

Robin Spence, a material scientist from ITDG who is researching into alternative cements which could be capable of local manufacture, came up to look round the site and to discuss the possibility of a demonstration plant of this nature being sited here at a future date.

Bryn came up for the day & saved lots of eggs for us. He brought some flowers from his garden, and some lovely home made jams and chutney, which were enjoyed by all.

Lovely sunshine - a welcome
 and pleasant change.

The sleepers are now all laid right up to the Ideal House - that is progressing very well. Slating continues on the Ideal House. A scaffolding tower is now being erected on the left wall of cottage I in order to complete the parapet.

Jane returned from her few days in Yorkshire and everyone was very pleased to see her back.

Quite a few other visitors came up, including Hank & Mary's aunt who is staying at the Wyntney for a few days. Brian Conelino arrived in preparation for tomorrow afternoon's meeting with John Beaumont & the Lord Leffersant.

Jon Wright arrived at about 11.00 p.m.

1974 August

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28 Wednesday

Week 35 (240-125)

David (from Australia) and Peter worked on the 'Ideal Home', finishing off the slating on the north mansard roof.

On the railway Bruno and Mike continued to straighten and lay the rails, while Diana filled in between the sleepers with ballast. Sue and Mandy also contributed to the effort on the railway by sawing off the ends of rails to make them the right length, a very slow job with the small hack saw that we have.

Margaret helped out with domestic duties washing up and preparing lunch, while John and Anne took a break from their model-making and squared up the 1st floor joists on Collage 2.

John, Crec and Robin completed the construction of the scaffolding tower for the pulley block, that will enable the last part of the parapet on Collage 1 to be built ready for putting on the roof. The last pieces of scaffolding were also taken out from inside Collage 1.

In the afternoon it was half-day. David, Margaret, Sue, Crec and John & Mandy made various expeditions into the surrounding country-side.

Bruno went into Machynlleth Station to pick up an enormous man-line 'Jim-Crow' to help with bending the rail.

Mr. Fred Gallager from Fiberglass arrived with some rolls of the Fiberglass he is sending us. He wanted to test out the ability of the various thicknesses of Fiberglass to stick up between the ceiling joists unaided, and in fact the results were not particularly encouraging.

There was an invasion of top brass in connection with 'the visit', they arrived in a police car which, at the bottom of the hill Mark commissioned to carry the crate of milk bottles and John Beaumont, Col. Windber et. al. had to foot it up the hill. They were escorted round the site by Brian and Mark and entertained to tea.

David had spent the day at the Comtek Festival in Bath which he found hadn't really got going properly although there were many interesting people there.

Sandy & Jill (sister of John & Mandy) arrived for supper on a Yamaha, and stayed the night at the local Youth Hostel.

We lost some of our work force in the morning as Mike Baker left for Bath while David and Margaret set off to find the Finbar community in Scotland. Mark and Mary also took a day off as Mary's aunt had come to stay and they were going to walk over to Abergynulwyn.

David, Jill, Sue and Sandy constructed a level-crossing by the door of the engine shed which was much needed to allow barrows and vehicles to cross the line easily.

Peter managed to finish off the slating on the north side of the Ideal Home and John and Chuck started constructing the last part of the parapet on Cottage 1, helped by Mandy.

George & Bruno painstakingly laid some more lengths of rail on the last straight to the Ideal Home, using the big new jim-crow that has to be transported around on a dolly and operated with 2 crow bars.

In the evening there was a friendly visit from the local police who were conducted round by David, Presumably they are slightly paralysed by the thought of having to cope with a visit of H.R.H. and are doing as much preparatory ground work as possible.

1974 August

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30 Friday

Week 35 (242-123)

Bright and sunny.

Derek arrived during the morning to sort out and collect up his tools, ready for collection tomorrow. It has an incredible amount of stuff and John and Anne helped as they could not really continue work on their model.

John W., Mandy and Sandy were working on the parapet of Cottage 1 and made great progress, while Bruno was helped by Chuck on the railway. David began working with Jill and Sue completing the level-crossing and then unfortunately did his back in by trying to lift a flag-stone from an awkward position. It has apparently happened before and the best remedy being lying still David had to retire to his caravan.

Ernie and Robin did some calculations for the cost of roofing the Engine Shed in Hessian and Aquaseal rather than the asbestos cement roofing. By ringing up Owens in Mackynlithw for prices it was found it would cost about £220, and would be even cheaper if another method, using roofing felt and Teroulac 5128 adhesive were used (cost £80). This was good, cheery news because the thought of putting up the asbestos roof had been weighing on our minds and to find a possible cheap, convenient alternative was a great relief. Mark is going to send in a report to Gerard suggesting that we temporarily abandon the idea of asbestos roofing and also that we should draw in our horns a little, concentrate on getting the Ideal Home weatherproof for winter and just accept the fact that we won't be able to get done everything that we had hoped to do. Ernie is in full agreement and as the days pass and the chip-board etc. still has not arrived the prospect of getting the cottages ready for winter diminishes.

In the morning Mary left with her Aunt for a week's holiday in Yorkshire.

In the afternoon a mini-bus load of 6th formers arrived from a local field Centre. They were from Blackburn, Lancs, and were quite willing to help for a day, but Mark explained we really needed people to stay longer. One useful job they did offer to do was to take a copy of the hand-out and reproduce some more copies, in return for the privilege of writing something about the Centre, with the strict proviso that all names & addresses of the Centre be left out to foil the would-be day-trippers.

The diary, for the meantime is being written up by Robin

Cool, with some showers.

DEREK arrived at 9.30 am. to supervise the loading of all his possessions into a huge cattle truck, complete with straw bedding, that he had hired from Caemes Rd. He left after coffee and John, Anne and Peter set about constructing a new waste-bench from the inevitable half sleepers and some fine pieces of hemlock wood that had been ordered for the cottages and never used. We found that with the tools given by Stanley and others Derek's departure was not too disruptive though he has left us with out any ladders. John Wright tried making a rope ladder for getting up on to the parapet of Cottage 1, but found it was easier just to climb up the scaffolding.

The rain halted work on the Ideal Home and Cottage 1 so we concentrated on getting the levels prepared in the Engine Shed for the laying of the last slab of concrete. John W. and Sandy were in charge of leveling while Jill and Mandy, helped by Peter, and Check had the boring job of bashing up slate to make the head-core. By the evening we were perhaps half way to being ready which was a sad reminder of how slowly things progress - at morning coffee we were confidently considering finishing the concreting that day.

Bruno supervised the laying of a few more lines of rail towards the Ideal Home helped by Sue, Check Anne and Chris Mathews who arrived in the afternoon with his delightful little 2 yr. old daughter. He has travelled widely in Morocco & Germany and is interested in the possibility of staying here for the winter. Up till now he has been living in a V.W. combi.

With Mary away Mark has had to call upon Diana and Sue to help him type out his correspondence.

David was still laid up with his bad back in his caravan, trying to rest it as much as possible and continuing to tackle the deep thoughts of Jung.

We were about 17 for supper - with Tony the photographer staying overnight plus Mike Baker back from Convek at Bath which he found a little uninspiring though in places quite good, and Roland from Swansea, back for another week.

Bruno managed to get most of the home-brewed beer that he and Peter had brewed up in a blue plastic duobin, into bottles. Unfortunately in heating up the bottles previous to filling them the temperature in the oven had risen too high and weakened some of the bottles which subsequently broke, most inconsiderately, when they were full of beer and the concrete floor was a-swirl and the Engine shed smelt like a brewery with a busted pipe.

1974 September

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Sunday

Week 35 (244-121)
2TH AFTER TRINITY

Cool, with frequent showers.

Since the weather was not particularly suitable for outside work it was decided to try and finish off concreting floors of the Engine Shed, up to the partition.

We did manage to do some work on the railway, and one was so keen to finish it that he worked on regardless of rain with valiant assistance from Mandy and Sue.

Robert and Anne tried to finish the wedging of the batters on the west side of the Ideal Home but eventually conceded defeat - the impossible task of trying to get the batters in a horizontal & vertical plane at the same time.

John and Peter pressed on with the parapet until rain made other work impossible. But by that time Ethie, Roland and Chris had got the levels ready and the mammoth task of concreting could begin. Once the mixer was going it was only a matter of adding on until it was finished, just doing one barrow load of concrete at a time.

Since we couldn't all help with the concreting ~~and~~ we did some typing for Mark and John and Anne continued with it model which is taking shape very nicely, and John and Czech did some rendering in [Mark's cottage].

The final bit of floor was floored by 8.30 p.m. and those who had been on the mixer were able to sit down to a huge meal, an omelette & brown rice that had been kept warm and ready on a coke brazier that we had going to warm people up.

After the mammoth effort a bus load of us retired to the flats to celebrate and quench considerable thirsts while others remained behind by the fire and tried to put the world to rights.

David unfortunately is still laid up in his caravan and plans to see a doctor tomorrow as his back seems to be little better.

John left on the train for London in the evening as he had to get back to Bromley by 10.00 am tomorrow to help his sister Jill with a play-group she is organising. Sandy & Jill left in the morning on the Yamaha to get back to London too.

Douglas arrived on a Honda 50 from Buckinghamshire - he is a 4th yr. Biochemistry student at Oxford

Lots of rain.

Mark declared a general day of rest to allow everybody to recover after the huge effort of concrete laying the evening before. As Chris and his delightful little daughter, Clea, were leaving and Anne too was returning to her small holding near Derbeigh Chris took Anne plus Cateen and Sue. Mark, Bruno, Peter and Mandy all went off to Aber after a luxurious late breakfast, and John and Anne went into Maen with a pile of soggy washing to take advantage of the town's tumble drier.

So for lunch we were a very depleted party of eight, Roland and Doug, being relative newcomers were working on dismantling the scaffolding on the side of the Ideal Home which has been completely slated. Robin's parents also stayed for lunch.

For tea about 6 people arrived from an Adventure Centre near Abergynolwyn, who suggested that there might be a possibility of students coming up for week-end to do some hard labour. They seemed quite a strange lot, called themselves "funny people", and perhaps are not exactly what we need here.

In the evening there was quite a big discussion round the fire when it was decided it would be nice to have the Elson tent in the corner by the washing line, because its not really adequate for bad weather conditions.

1974 September

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3 Tuesday

Week 36 (246-119)

Blustery with rain and patches of sun.

A really bad night with heavy rain and strong winds. Both Elsan tents were blown flat and since the whole question of the Elsan had been discussed the night before it spurred us into action and a new Elsan place was erected in double quick time from sleepers, polythene and tri. Thank goodness for B.R. sleepers.

There was also much discussion about positioning of the Jötun Stone, and Bruno erected a abut. between Engine Shed and Caravan which had been off since the concrete had been down.

David had managed to get up and was able to light jobs around the Engine Shed, John and Ann carried on with their model and the rest of the work-force concentrated on the Ideal Home - setting up some scaffolding on the south side and getting the other side ready for plating. Mandy and Sue pulled off all the cladding batons ready to put them on ready for the weather-boarding.

Mate went down to Humphries and came back with a whole lot of new tools - including a long 18' ladder which we really need. Robin and Bruno started making an inventory of all our tools, counting numbers on them in the hope that some trace could be kept of them all.

The rain and wind go on.

The unremitting rain and wind made it a subdued day despite Mark's cheery singing and Bruno's whistling. The main work-force concentrated on the Ideal Home, with Peter leading the slating team of Sue, Mandy and ~~Chris~~ ^{Czech} Doug, Roland and Robin completed the scaffolding on the south side and since it was half-day only about 2 rows of slates were laid.

Mark and David and Bruno set up some shuttering for the last strip of concrete next to the caravan wall of the Engine Shed.

After lunch a load of windows and doors arrived for the cottages, donated by Bolton & Paul. Ernie was very impressed by their quality and the fact that they were primed and undercoated on delivery. The lorry could not make it up the hill so they were all loaded into the Bedford van and brought up the hill, loaded onto the dollies at the level-crossing and taken along to the I.H. on the railway. It was really good to see the railway being so useful after all the feeling that it was a bit of a white elephant, consuming large numbers of valuable man-hours.

Jack returned to help for another day, and made some really good music round the fire in the evening.

Peter arrived in the evening from Downestry.

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5 Thursday

Week 36 (248-117)

The rain continues with monotonous
persistence.

When the rain permitted, which wasn't very often, work continued on the Ideal Home, with Peter, Sue, ~~Chris~~^{Czed} + Ernie slating the west side and Roland and Robin sorting out the stringers on the southern side.

Douglas and Peter bravely worked on in Collage 1, setting the floor joists level in very wet conditions and Matek and Bruno finished off the concreting along the wall.

In the afternoon, after an exceptionally heavy storm of rain it was decided that the polythene structure that had been put up to keep the rain off the table, and did so unsatisfactorily should be replaced by a more effective structure, made from the transparent sheeting given by I.C.I. Matek, Bruno and Ernie erected a very impressive structure which actually works.

Jack applied his considerable experience to organising the toolshop a bit more effectively and he erected some very useful display cards for the tools.

In the evening 4 new people arrived, Hugh from London on a Triumph, Patsy, Brian and two friends late at night: Not forgetting Bill from Birkenhead in his van!

Will it ever stop?

Douglas did a good job waking up everybody before eight o'clock and we were 18 sitting round the breakfast table. With such a large number of able-bodied men on site work was going on both on the Ideal Home, Cottage 1, and Matz and Mary's cottage, where the kitchen is being re-done, the ceiling removed and walls rendered.

There was also time for Peter and Hugh to size up the problem of getting the telegraph pole up the hill in preparation for the setting up of the windmill that is being repaired at Peter Wybrow's Science Workshop.

Also we had notification that Latham's lorry load of plaster-board and chip-board would be arriving so Bruno organised the arrangement of some sleepers by the level crossing so that the wood could be brought up the hill & stored before being loaded onto the railway to be taken to the Ideal Home.

The lorry arrived at tea time and it took till 7.30 p.m. to get all the chip-board off - each time it began to rain, which was very 1/4 hr. loading had to stop. The wood was left at the bottom wrapped snugly in polythene & tarpaulins, and we just have to hope that we don't get a gale.

We had marvellous meringues for supper covered in hot chocolate sauce.

Jack left for Scotland after breakfast, we had a visit from somebody connected with the Welsh museum at Cardiff.

Special note from Czech (note spelling) - good progress was made on the slating of the Ideal Home and it would have been completed except for the rain.

1974 September

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7 Saturday

Week 36 (250-115)

Very strong winds and heavy rain.

With the weather as wild as it is there was little point in going outside jobs so we all had to do little jobs in doors. Douglas, Barry, Martin and Peter II worked on Maite and Mary's collage, rendering a wall in the kitchen. In the engine shed Bruno laid a concrete ramp for the door, George, Peter and Hugh tried to fix up the flue pipe for the Totul and Bill and Robin continued to tidy up the workshop. John and Anne's model is coming along very well with a vegetation being put in place.

Holga from Australia arrived at lunch on a big B.M.W. bike and is thinking of staying a month.

The rain and weather in general is extraordinary and the heavy burst - its banks in the evening, making the road to Maellynleth impassable. It's very frustrating waiting for the rain to clear with a tons of timber at the bottom of the hill which can't be getting any drier.

With the rain coming in heavy, squally showers it was possible to do some out-door work. The road was repaired by Martin, Barry and Peter II, and they also built a foot bridge from sleepers to cross the stream down the bottom of the hill. Up till now we have had to trace the casawars by crossing on stepping stones.

Hugh and Brian made a path along by the railway line to Mark and Mary's cottage which was becoming very boggy. And Peter I and Bill worked steadily on with the slating, in between showers, and have all but finished the south side of the mansard.

Douglas and others had a go at fixing the floor joists in cottage 1 having levelled them off the day before. Helga and Robin finished off lining up the stringers ready for battering tomorrow.

George assembled a remarkable looking cupboard from chip-board sections which he has donated to S.E.I.

The Totul finally got its fire fixed and burned away inconspicuously producing remarkable heat.

We still haven't managed to get the wood up from the bottom of the hill, but the forecast says the weather will be clearing and we may have a chance tomorrow.

1974 September

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9 Monday

Week 37 (252-113)

Heavy showers in the morning and beautiful sun in the afternoon.

Bill, Ernie and Helga started work on the Ideal Home in the morning but with showers arriving every five minutes it wasn't really worth trying to do outdoor jobs.

Peter I left for London to have a rest and we had one newcomer Ruth, also from London, who arrived at tea time.

Peter II, Brian and Hugh constructed an aerial clothes-drier to hang above the Jotue stove to make use of all the heat it gives off. Douglas and Barry continued with the joists in Cottage 1, and Mark managed to get hold of some roofing sheets for the roof of Cottage 1, with felt lining on one side.

Diana made a much needed path from the Engine Shed, through the cutting shed to the garden.

Bruno arrived back from his stay with Roderick & Jill in the cottage and after tea the transporting of the chip-board up from the bottom of the hill began. The first load was a slight disaster and slipped out of the back of the van before it had got 20yds up the hill, but from then on things ran smoothly and one pile was brought up to the top, and stored safely in the chest house.

Tom ? from Southampton paid a visit - apart from a personal interest in A.T. construction of paraboloid mirrors for solar reflectors with wet concrete he suggested that the University had many projects that could be suitably investigated at the Centre.

Cloudy at first and then the sun breaks through.

Tea Chest
MIND

With fine weather at last, work proceeded at a great pace on "Tea Chest House" with Holga, Hugh, and Ruth doing the slating and batten preparing.

Peter, Diana and David made innumerable journeys up and down the hill in the van transporting the chip-board - and there is still some more down the bottom but it should all be up by tomorrow.

Bruno and Douglas finished off the 1st floor joists on Cottage 1, making them level in both directions and cementing them in the walls.

In the evening there was a meeting before supper to try and sort out work allocation for the time that Mark will be away in London. It was really prompted by two bits of good news:

a) The solar roof people have confirmed that they will get the solar roof on Cottage 2 by Oct. 14th. This means that we can go ahead with slating the back of cottage 2 and we don't need to make any modifications to the roof.

b) The roofing sheets for cottage 1 are all ready to be put up. They will need pitch putting between the butt joints of each sheet but it shouldn't be too difficult a job.

Another piece of news that has come through is that Ferranti's are going to be able to supply a demonstration model of a unit they produce which converts solar energy directly into electricity. This will be on display on R.D. (Royal Day?) as it euphemistically is called.

There are 3 people staying for some length of time - Holga, Hugh and Peter so they have each chosen a project which they will try and follow through and see completed, rather than chopping and changing all the time.

For supper we had a delicious fruit steam pudding made from apples that George gave us and blackberries that Douglas had picked during his early morning walk along the road to Slarowin.

The Centre was featured on the radio saying that Prince Philip would be visiting the National Research Centre at Madingleith.

1974 September

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11 Wednesday

Week 37 (254-111)

Dry for most of the day, but cloudy.

With the dry weather continuing we were able to carry on with the jobs that we had voted out in the meeting last night. Bill, Hugh and Ruth carried on with slating while Holga and Ernie prepared the south mansard for slating.

On Collage 1 the big sheets of chipboard were transported down on the railway and painted on the underside by Douglas and Robin. The problem of getting the 8' x 4' sheets onto the roof presented an interesting test of lateral thinking and after two attempts at taking them up the outside via the scaffolding tower we finally followed Bruno's suggestion and lifted them up the inside through the joists. Fixing the boards down is not particularly straightforward as 2" x 2" beacons must be put in between the joists along the edge of every sheet.

Mate, David and Peter started to sort out the bits of timber in Cutting Shed 2 in preparation for stacking up the rest of the timber that came from Lathams.

The afternoon was half day - Diana had to stay on site to meet a Mr. Brown from Everest Double Glazing, but the rest of us all piled into the van and went off to Aberdovey to find a 44 gal. drum which David had seen on the beach so that Holga could have a chance to make an A.T. furnace. He also took the kite with us which even got off the ground after being hastily repaired with pieces of Elastoplast.

We found the drum where David had expected it to be and apart from a few dents it was fine - having the top and bottom intact which is what is needed for a furnace. As a bonus we discovered a huge 10' log that must have weighed about 5 cwt. and by the eight of us heaving and rolling, pushing & puffing we carried it from the beach to the road and managed to stick it in the back of the van. We're not quite sure what to do with it yet! The tide was wrong for collecting mussels - it has to be fairly low, so we all retired to a posh pub at Penrse called the Riverside Inn and supped some Newcastle Brown while Holga & Mate recounted anecdotes of their travels in Africa. We phoned through to Diana to say when we would be arriving back and found a delicious nut roast waiting for us.

After supper Peter, Hugh and Diana tried assembling Diana's spinning wheel.

John and Anne managed to climb Cader Idris looking for plants for their model.

Overcast, muggy & some rain

Due to a phone call last night from the architect who is putting in a claim to the local government for a renovating grant in which he suggested that, professionally, he would not pass the state of Cottage 1, we cannot really do any work on them until we know for certain that they won't be condemned. He is coming up on Sunday afternoon with the county surveyors to have a look and we shall have to wait till then to know. It may be that we would have to re-build part of the wall which would set us back a great deal.

Douglas and Robin tickled up round the Cottages to give the right impression.

On tea-chest house Ethel led the slating team of Hugh, Holga and Ruth and they finished off the east mansard.

David, and Peter worked away on bringing up the rest of the timber which was stored away in the end of the cutting shed once the old posts had been moved.

It's been generally agreed that we must make more effort to keep the site a lot tidier, and if we make an effort now it will be much easier to keep clear in future.

1974 September

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13 Friday

Week 37 (256-109)

Drizzle and rain but eventually sun.

The very wet first part of the morning meant that it was impractical to do any outside work on the Ideal Home so Etnie and Holga turned their attentions to making the A.T. forge from a 44 gal drum, but were held up for want of an Eclipse saw for cutting the metal. Ruth painted the remaining fascia boards with creosote emulsion and by the end of the morning it was good enough to go back on to the 1.4. In the afternoon Holga tackled the inside, moving some of the studding joists so that they would match up with the joists in clasp-board and save us having to cut edge boards.

Peter and Bruno carried on with the interior decoration of Collage 3 and then Bruno went back on the railway and tried to bend the little jim-crow straight using the big jim-crow and a huge R.S.T.

Douglas was occupied in the kitchen and produced a delicious supper of some cheese concoction like glorified Welsh rarebit.

Mark came back in the afternoon after scoring a great success at the local slate quarry. Mr. Lloyd the owner is reputed to have said, "Never have I been touched up so nicely before" when Mark managed to get out of him, asch-scavage of the Valley that he is, a 4'x3' slab of slate + use of his labourers for the engraving all for a fraction of the cost of engraved slate on the open market. A 2'x3' slab that Prince Philip will unveil in Maellynlleth costs £35, and Mark has managed to get ours for £10.

Diana and Robin did general tidying up jobs around the cutting sheds. In the evening we opened the 2 thermostats that had been sent for the methane generator and found one of them broken.

David left today for London, he has left Llwyn-gwern for the time being and after going down to London is returning to live in his cottage at Carno, about 14 miles away.

A beautiful start, but it didn't last.

Ernie broke 2 ribs last night when he fell downstairs and is now in Aberystwyth hospital. Fortunately a friend was with him at the time because we didn't discover until this morning when he didn't appear at breakfast.

Dr. Palmer put a spanner in the works as far as getting on with the Ideal Home at top speed but Holga & Ruth pressed on with the plate-battering & felting. We didn't feel confident enough to start the cladding without Ernie being present so the rest of the workforce was diverted to other things. Bruno and Douglas continued to straighten up the rails at the level crossing and started to put the big dogs in which can only be done when the rail has had Bruno's seal of approval that it is as straight as humanly possible.

The rest of us did general clearing up jobs round the engine-shed and cutting shed 2. Diana discovered a marvellous mossy wall opposite David's caravan. She suspects it marks the edge of an old foot-path that probably went over the hill towards Cefn, and it would be very good if it could be cleared and made useable again.

Mark went into Aber. in the afternoon to visit Ernie.

Paul Wesley of the Peace Centre came for tea, and he and our cheerful post-lady came up to pay us a visit. We are giving her a piece of off-cut chip-board to do her 'looseme' on.

1974 September

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15 Sunday

Week 37 (258-107)

14TH AFTER TRINITY

Rain started off the morning, but it turned out fine.

Peter and Hugh started off on the methane project, setting up the digester and getting suitable material for the slurry. Mark managed to get some cow-pats from M. Williams the farmer and nettles were also tried, but it turned out that they made the whole mixture too fibrous and the agitators would not have been able to do their job properly, so the nettles had to be removed.

Holga and Ruth battled on some rain or other line, meeting the usual crop of problems with spacing of the batons but they don't seem to be too disheartened by it all.

Bruno and Douglas worked with the railway, after Douglas had become a secretary for the morning, using his provident skill at typing to do some of Mark's letters. It seems that the railway will continue to be woodshed despite it being out of line and the incorrect gauge.

The County Surveyor and friendly architect came just after lunch and gave the go-ahead for the cottages which is a great relief. Now it should be possible to press on with roofing Cottages land 2, as fast as possible.

Tim, Mark's friend from Stourbridge, and an old guy that Mark once looked after came to visit for the afternoon and we also had Bryn and May up for a short time. Bryn showed Mark how to use the chain-saw and he has been given permission by Bryn to use it, but he alone. It is good that we now have his official sanction to use it and it should prove v. useful.

John and Anni's model is nearly completion and looks remarkably good.

Some beautiful sun, all day.

The sun brought its usual blessings, and everybody's spirits lifted. Holga and Ruth took the day off and rode off on Holga's B.M.W.

In the morning Peter and Hugh and Diana cleaned up the level crossing in front of the engine shed and made a drain to take water off the engine shed roof. In the afternoon Hugh, Peter and Robin worked on tea chest house, finishing off the battering on the south mansard and started on slating.

Diana continued with uncovering her path through the trees and Brian and Douglas continued to extend the railway along towards the wood-shed.

In the afternoon Jack Grass from the Forest Hill School Centre came up with Mr. Jones from the Abergynolwyn slate quarry museum, and he was able to tell us something of what it was like here when the quarry was actually working.

John Beaumont came up in the morning to see the model of the quarry that Mark is taking down to London tomorrow.

Gerard arrived for supper and will be staying a week.

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17 Tuesday

Week 38 (260-105)

Rain that finally cleared.

The morning was a great mess trying to get Mark and the model off to London in the Bedford van. It involved making a sort of beaver out of sleepers and using fibreglass as padding. Since it was raining Douglas got a lift from Mark as far as Oxford so his Honda 50 was stuck in the front of the Bedford too. John and Anne also left for London and the workshop now looks quite bare.

As it was too wet to work outside Hugh and Peter carried on setting up the methane digester and Holger and Ruth started on the forge until Gerard suggested that ITDG would be bringing down a forge for the day so the priority of making on was not so great.

Later on it cleared up and Holger et al went on with the slating while Bruno continued with the railway.

Brian arrived at coffee time for a meeting with Gerard about Oct. 29th. It was to sort out the details of the programme and actual timing of the different events. We will be getting a steam engine now rather than the electric engine and we had to work out how P.P. would be travelling on the train.

We had two new arrivals in the afternoon Tony, from Leeds who knows Roland Chaplain, and Pip a student.

In the evening 2 people arrived interested in the commercial aspects of aero-generators. An engineer and aircraft pilot, they reckon there is going to be a big boost in the market for aero-generators, and they want to be there when it happens.

We had great difficulty in thinking of what to put on the slate - slab that P.P. is going to unveil - it was meant to have been taken up yesterday but Gerard & Diana went up to see Mr. Lloyd and got an extension till the week end.

Fantastic sunny day.

Hardly believing our luck with the weather we pressed on with the roofs of Timber Frame House and Cottage 1.

Holger, Peter and Ruth attempted to put some more Ruberoid on the Timber Frame House but they had a bit of difficulty and got almost more tar on themselves than went on the roof. Hugh continued with the slating and then they all took the afternoon off.

Rabin and Tony started on the claspboard roof of cottage 1, and there were very few problems and 3/4 of the roof was laid in the day. Pip painted the rest of the boards with bituminous paint and then cleared out some of the caravans.

Genard worked hard on the railway straightening out the section between the kitchen and the cottages, but was forever being interrupted by the telephone.

Denise, a friend of Peter's arrived in the evening.

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19 Thursday

Week 38 (262-103)

The fairly good weather continues.

With the rain holding off for another day we were able to continue on both Timber Frame House, where Holga, Peter and Ruth continued slating, and on Cottage 1, where Robin and Tony finished laying down the roofing sheets and actually managed to get some tar going and sealed up some of the joints.

Ernie returned to the site from hospital - still having to take it easy and having to use a stick to get about. We had a bit of a confrontation about the gutter for the flat roof - Ernie wanted one let into the joints, where as Gerard and others wanted to adopt the simpler solution of putting holes in the bottom of the parapet and allowing the water to drain away onto the roof of Cottage 2. In the end it was decided, for reasons of Ernie's delicate health to adopt his solution.

Other things going on included some rendering in the M.M. collage by Hugh and Ruth, who also fixed up a more efficient flue for the boiler stove in the kitchen.

Gerard continued on the railway when he could, helped by Pip.

We also had two visitors - Duff Hart-Davis from the Sunday Telegraph who had come up to collect material for an article in the Telegraph about the Centre in connection with a series they are running about Government expenditure on research. - and hopefully he will plug the line that we should be getting some of the Govt.'s money.

The other visitor was Richard Kyte, a 34y. old civil engineer who is considering coming to live here and work. He was shown round the site by David who had come over for the day from his Collage at Camo to pick up some things. A very good guy and someone well worth having here except he has complications in the nature of wife and three children.

Cloudy but dry.

The dry weather seems to have come at just the right time for us to get on with the roof of Cottage 1. It will be a psychological booster to have that all sealed off. Peter and Hugh continued to nail down and fix the tanning boards and prepare for flooring.

Holga and Ruth almost completed the south mansard slating and have only to do the window insets. We can then move the scaffolding round and do the last pick. The suberooid is being left for now.

On the railway Keith worked and Robin's cousin Mark who was visiting for the morning. Tony & Pip decided to take up Diana's offer of a lift up to Chester where they were heading and stayed on till afternoon tea, doing some useful digging in the garden.

Gerard took the inscription for the plaque up to the quarry to be carved, and met the engraver who seems to be a very interesting if somewhat apocalyptic gentleman. It was finally decided to keep the plaque simple, just commemorating P.P.'s visit, and no quotation. In connection with the plaque, Gerard had a very interesting visit from someone we must presume was a plain clothes policeman. He came up pretending to be a tourist passing through saying he had a message for Gerard from someone in Aberdovey whose name he could not remember, to the effect that any inscription going on a plaque to be unveiled by P.P. must first be approved by Buckingham Palace!

On the evening Bill arrived from London for a few days. And by remarkable coincidence sat opposite Fern on the train all the way. Without realising they were both coming to the same destination. Fern is staying for a few days. Diana left after tea to visit her parents in Leeds.

Mary's parents were passing by and came up to look around. Unfortunately Mary is in Barbury staying with Mark's sister.

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21 Saturday

Week 38 (264-101)

Mostly sunny but it ended up raining.

Holga and Ruth had resolved to finish off slating the south side of Timber Frame House and they managed it by lunch time. All that remains now is the insets on the west side and the whole of the east side to be done.

Gerard and Keith worked away on the railway and very nearly got it as far as the wood shed - all the sleepers are down now.

Bill put cross-ties in between the first floor joists and Robin completed the gutter so that everything is ready for felting. In fact we started a little bit of felting and had all the tar boiling hot when the rain came down in a real storm and put an end to everything for the day.

In the afternoon Holga and Ruth started rendering the kitchen of M & M's cottage helped by Nora who had come up from Aberystwyth to have a look at the place. She is writing a dissertation on self-sufficient communities in Central Wales and was up here before in the early days when Steve was still around.

Fem had rather a busman's holiday and had to deal with the large post bag that arrived at breakfast.

Peter, Hugh and Denise had the day off.

With the roof of Cottage 1 too wet to continue the tarring all our efforts were concentrated onto the Timber Frame House. Holga, Ruth and Keith started putting up the Kraft paper around the outside walls in preparation for the cladding with weatherboards. Hugh and Peter cut out pieces of Rubensid to go round the window insets before we start slating and Bill cut out the rest of the header-boards.

In the afternoon Gerard had finished on the railway and helped with the house. Johnathan arrived from Aberystwyth on his bicycle - he had been up before when Tony was still here and has promised to come back at the week-ends. He helped Robin put rubensid on the header boards with Tas.

Bryn came up in the afternoon and used his power saw to cut up a whole lot more timber for the Tonal stone. Peter and Denise had a bake to replenish our supply of bread.

Godfrey and Sally Boyle, editors of Undercurrents arrived for tea from BRAD. They were interested in writing an article about the Centre and taped some conversations with Gerard.

1974 September

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SEP 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

23 Monday

Week 39 (266-99)

Showers most of the day, some sun.

The rain again kept us off the mansard roof where we have fiddly jobs to finish round the windows. Peter, Hugh and Denise tried to do some cladding round the bottom but the rain was too heavy so they turned their attentions to the methane digester - fixing up a lid for the container that will hold the fibreglass insulation. Bill and Keith also potted about waiting for the rain to stop - clearing up and organising a huge pile of firewood for the Jotue stove. Holga and Ruth were able to get on with plastering in the cottage in the day.

At coffee we had a discussion about money and the need to maximise our efforts and not waste time - Gerard tried to drop some hints that we want everyone to pull their weight. It seems to have had some effect but however much enthusiasm there is there is not much to replace a bit of actual know how which enables people to get on with jobs without being supervised all the time.

Diana arrived back from Weatherby during the afternoon bringing with her the pistis for the ceiling all the way from Leeds and they didn't do the roof rack of the Mini much good.

Gerard and Fern left after tea - Gerard taking the hand Rover which was making v. expensive noises in the transmission above about 20mph.

Sunny but with an autumn nip.

We thought we were in for another rainy day at the start of the morning so Keith, Bill and Denise began to whitewash the inside walls of the engine shed. To save on white wash we used a formula that Ethic has used before to save money. It consists of 1/2 bucket lime, 1/6 tin of white emulsion and some Unibond adhesive. It seemed to work very well and they managed to give 1 1/2 walls 2 coats altogether. It has transformed the engine shed and makes it much lighter. After the rain has stopped Holga and Ruth began to get the ceiling joists ready for cottage 2, a rather boring job of measuring up pieces of timber and cutting them to length.

On the timber-frame house Hugh, Peter and Robin began the cladding with weather-board, finding some difficulty because the levels on that house are anything but level.

During the morning we had visits from two sets of police - the first lot were testing out communications links so that the Duke's drive can be followed all the way from the station to the Quarry and will mean posting a transmitter hand-over on the top of a hill to the south of the Quarry. The other police were top brass from Aber- Chief Sup. Fishes and Morgan. They were really bringing up Elfed Bowen from the Welsh Press Office and probably checking up on the site. Ch. Sup. Fishes will come back when Gerard gets back to see about the actual programme of the visit. They envisage having 6 cars coming up the hill, depositing their passengers and then returning to the bottom. It also appears that there may not be more than 12 press people coming which will make the whole visit a lot easier to organise.

Tony came up in the afternoon with a representative from Kodak from whom he hopes to obtain free film to do his photographic project.

We also had a delivery of Aquaseal, unfortunately the lorry - driver got half way up the hill, baulked and tried reversing back but managed to reverse straight into the drain at the bottom. With all his load at the front he had no hope of getting out and we called up Mr. Williams the farmer and he is bringing a tractor over tomorrow at 9 o'clock. The driver stayed the night with us - goodness knows what he made of the conversation round the supper table with Holger holding forth about the eccentricities of Geoff Gale in Exeter.

1974 September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	
SEP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

25 Wednesday

Week 39 (268-97)

Heavy showers with brief sunny spells

It was hopeless trying to continue with the cladding of Timber frame house with the weather so poor so Hugh, Peter and Denise started to paint end wall of the Engine Shed with white wash. The wall painted yesterday really makes the place quite bright when the sun shines.

Holga and Ruth cannot continue to fix up the ceiling joists on Cottage till we have the generator and power saw going. Each joist has to be cut and all our saws are either too blunt or away in Corros being sharpened so the plastering in the kitchen was continued.

Mr. Williams the farmer very kindly turned up to try and pull the Aquasol lorry out of the ditch but after 2 hrs. effort the lorry was even further in the mud and we had to get a big breakdown crane from James Rd. to come over and bodily lift the back of the lorry out. He left the Aquasol - a 40gal. drum down the bottom and we will have to bring it up with the Bedford.

The drain that takes all the water from the Serbs and the kitchen was blocked up and even rodding it down with alkathene tubing did not help so Robin had to actually dig up part of the drain to find the blockage, which turned out to be 2 tea bags which had somehow got thrown down the drain.

Just before lunch Peter Jones from the Western Daily newspaper arrived with a photographer from Swansea. They are doing an article on the Centre, presumably in connection with the visit of Prince Philip and Robin showed them round and various pictures were taken of Denise using the solar panel, Ernie with his petrol oil heater and Holga and Hugh washing away making their oil-drum forge. The article will appear on Friday, Saturday or Monday.

Wednesday being half-day Holga and Ruth went off to the beach on the B.M.W. and Hugh tinkered with his bike.

We had a phone call from Peter Wybrow saying he would be coming up on Saturday to do the windmill whatever the weather which is good news.

Mark rang to say his father was in Stroud hospital with a heart attack so he will be calling in there on his way back from Stowbridge.

Mostly dry.

Although the morning started off fine the weather was too unpredictable to risk doing the felting on Cottage 1, so Hugh and Peter and Denise carried on with the cladding of the Timber Frame house. Martz and Mary moved house to George's caravan in Aberdovey and Høiga had a day off. Ruth left for Bristol hoping to hitch to Shrewsbury and down the M6.

Just before lunch M. Davies arrived from Hlanelli to see about the getting up of the solar roof on Cottage 2. He saw no problems from the construction side of it and was very encouraging in that he has taken on to do the whole of the south side of Cottage 2 roof and will bring up some joiners and bricklayers to do all the necessary slating, flashing etc. The large tank that is needed will probably go on the first floor in the bathroom.

We got the little Honda generator of Gerard's going and fixed up a pipe so the exhaust goes outside the building. We had a visit from Jack Grasse & Terry with a load of school kids who set about the clearing of engine shed 2 with great gusto. They also deepened the pipe for the seotank at T.F.H. The big G.E.C. generator was also off-loaded from the Bedford by attaching it to a tree and pulling it out onto a stack of sleepers. The problems will come when we try and get it up to and through the tunnel!

1974 September

Bob's
Junk

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
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27 Friday

Week 39 (270-96)

The rain held off but it was cold.

Hugh and Peter have really 'got into' the cladding of Timber Frame House so they continued with that most of the day, assisted by Mary to begin with.

Diana had another session clearing up the garden which was just about finished yielding its produce.

In the afternoon Mark, Hugh and Ernie went along to Ernie's look up at Aberllefenni and brought back a huge cupboard, a table and all sorts of bits and pieces that will be useful. Ernie had been paying 40p a week for the ice - up which had been broken into and so was useless.

We had a visit from David Wilshaw. Croll from the Building Science Dept. of Newcastle University who expressed an interest in the project.

Bob, from Southampton University a lecturer in electronics and easy control science came to stay for a week.

Cold, miserable rain.

From 8 till 9 the sun shone and it promised to be a lovely day so we thought we might have a chance to do some felting. But the inevitable rain came down and put an end to most outside work. Bob tried to do some cladding but gave up and set himself the problem of designing a stand for the windmill which will have to be put up the hill where there is no room to put stays. The answer will probably be to build a tetrahedron of strong cross timbers bolted onto the telegraph pole.

Hugh, Peter and Denise had a day off which was fortunate because there wasn't much to do. Robin started whitewashing the last wall of the engine shed, helped by Tony and his friend Chris who had come up for the day.

The permanent staff had a meeting just to discuss anything that happened while Mark and Mary was away. There was slight disagreement about whether to charge people for the use of the S.E.1. mini and there was a bit of confusion about who should be sending off the invitations for the visit and reception afterwards.

Holger plastered on in the kitchen in his own thorough way, and then helped Peter Wykrow who had brought up the bits of the windmill and two keepers, Fann and Anne.

The weather is really cold and nobody seems able to warm up.

1974 September

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29 Sunday

Week 39 (272-93)

16TH AFTER TRINITY

Again the rainy cold.

The cold and rain made working outside on fiddley jobs like cladding really impossible. But it was possible to do energetic digging jobs and Bob, Mary and Bryn carried on digging out the cesspit for the Timber Frame House, Diana too had an energetic job clearing up round the kitchen and trying to reclaim some of the slate waste along by the railway.

Peter Wybrow, John and Mark continued to assemble the windmill and during the morning a whole lot of kids arrived from Forest Hill Centre and were put to work on mending the road and making the path to the cottage better. They were also very helpful in being able to help lift some of the truss timbers up the side of the hill to where the windmill will be.

Holga, Steve and Penny continued on in the cottage painting the walls and putting some plaster between the ceiling joists. When that is finished we will be able to use it as a sitting room and have the back boiler going for hot showers. The engine room is really too cold for anything much and the Tiptul has a fruitless time trying to heat it. Holga also managed to finish off getting the ceiling joists up so that is great to have that done and there are only a few problems to overcome before we can start felting and battening.

Hugh, Peter and Denise did some work on the methane generator while it was raining - finding out what sort of cooling characteristics the insulated dust bin had. In the afternoon they managed to get the Ruberoid round the window on the south side of the Timber Frame House so the rest of the slating can now be done there and once the first layer of Ruberoid is on the scaffolding can be dismantled for Cottage 2.

Peter Wybrow et al left after tea with the windmill partially constructed. Holga is doubtful of how long it would last in a high wind and we might just put it up and leave it fustled for the day. We had a visit from a man from the Ideal Home magazine and he interviewed Mark.

Diana and Roben went to see Roderick & Jill in the evening for supper.

The sun shone all day.

Our first real sunny day for longer than it beats remembering. There was so much waiting to be done that we didn't really know where to start.

The first priority was to get the tar base going so that we could get on with the Ruberoid which would allow us to remove the scaffolding.

So Peter and Hugh began by putting in the window sills on the south side, Bob, Robin and Ernie put the Ruberoid down with out repeating all the mistakes which we had made on the first attempt. Steve and Perry tackled the difficult task of getting the last few slates in round the window - it took them a whole day to do one window because it is such a fiddly job.

Mary and Diana tackled the cladding with great gusto and Mark and Peter worked on the roof of the Engine Shed - managing to get into position two of the I.C.I. plastic transparent sheets. The Engine Shed is quite transformed with a bit of light inside. Bob had managed to rig up the Honda generator so that we could take 240v AC of it and use the drill which we needed for getting through the roofing sheets. Bob also checked over the Lucas batteries and found most of them needed charging. We know have a hydrometer so we can keep a check on them.

We have also moved into a new routine whereby we stop work at 6 o'clock and supper is later so that people have a chance of using the remaining day-light to do something in. The evenings are drawing in and it starts getting dark at about 7 o'clock.

Ernie brought in a copy of the Western Mail with the article about the quarry in it. It is much better than that in the Liverpool Post, but Ernie objects to being called a volunteer.

Peter III arrived in the evening.

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1 Tuesday

Week 40 (274-91)

Another cloudless day.

With luck running our way two days running we carried on catching up with all the urgent outside jobs.

Steve and Perry left and said they were looking for somewhere to stay the winter. They took with them all their slating knowledge so Hugh and Peter III started on slating the rest of the windows inserts and managed to get all 3 completed. Below them Diana and Mary worked away on the cladding and have now completed the last two sides. The Timber Frame House is beginning to look like a house now that the cladding is up.

Ernie and Robin tarred and felted the flat roof of Cottage 1, which would now hopefully be water tight and weather proof. Bob and Olga started on the back of Cottage 2, but before they could put any felt and batons on they had to make good some of the slates on Cottage 1, removing some of the rotten batons and capping the wall with mortar. In fact that took practically the whole day and if the sun stays with us tomorrow they should be able to get that roof done.

Mark and Peter carried on putting roof lights in the Engine Shed roof and lining up the corrugations of the sheets ready for putting the Aquaseal on.

For supper we had a very tasty nut-roast followed by blackberry pie and blackberries picked by Denise.

It ended up dry with showers.

The heavy rain for the first part of the morning meant that we couldn't start on any big jobs and everybody was doing fiddly things inside. Hugh was trying to fix the points system, Holga carried on making his forge and Peter and Denise took a day off and started to draw up a graph of the cooling curve of the methane generator so that we can have some idea about how much heat it is going to need to keep it up at 90°F.

Diana and Mary ignored the rainy weather and pressed on with the cladding which ran into its usual crop of problems when they found comers were neither square nor vertical.

Mark and Mary had a puncture on their way in from Aberdovey but arrived eventually and Mark worked with Bob on the electrical side of things, sorting out about the batteries and discussing our needs of cable to give to Bicc. It seems that we might be asking for about £1,500 worth if we follow their specifications of not more than 3 v. drop over the transmission system.

Ernie and Robin put the corner pieces in round the window on the west side of Timber frame house and the rest of the header boards. It is oney another days work and the scaffolding can be removed.

In the afternoon after tea the permanent staff went for a walk to discuss various problems of administration and although we talked for about 3 hrs no definite solutions were reached.

Holga, Hugh, Peter & Denise went for a trip in the afternoon and Hugh got a puncture outside Dolgellau. Peter & Denise had to hitch back and only got back about 9 o'clock.

1974 October

	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur							
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3 Thursday

Week 40 (276-89)

Dry but a little nippy.

We started off the day with a grand concerted effort to get the telegraph pole that will support the windmill, to the position it will occupy on the second ridge up the side of the quarry. With the long metal fitting at the top of the pole to take the windmill it was quite a weight and we had to physically drag it all the way up on the end of a rope. Once it was up there we had the problem of getting it erect which proved much harder. The idea was to use an A frame and pull it up by brute force. Unfortunately Peter and Denise had to leave for Nottingham in the morning and we just didn't have enough people to pull it up, besides which it was highly unstable and dangerous anyway. So we left it until such time that we had more people or had thought of a better, safer way to get it up there.

Bob also had to leave after lunch and he took with him some of the batteries which were most flat to try and get them re-charged. He also left plans for how the Pelton wheel should be attached to the generator to help us design the house in which it must go.

Mary and Diana continued with the cladding of the Timber Frame House while Holga and Peter III began felting and battery Collage 2. Ernie and Robin finished off the corner pieces on the mansard roof and they are almost ready for the scaffolding to be moved.

Mark and Hugh tackled the problem of felting the Engine Shed roof but met some obstacles. Firstly the small can of Tersulac was the wrong sort - more like bituminous paint, and secondly the weather was so cold that the Tersulac would not go tacky and stick the felt down. They tried lighting the Jstetl and braziers to heat up the roof but it is going to be a long, slow job.

Gerard did not arrive because he still had a temperature so will hopefully arrive tomorrow.

It just managed to stay dry.

Our numbers suddenly seem very few. - only five at breakfast and Hilda and Hugh took the day off to find a back tube for Hugh's motorcycle so our work force was down to five.

Diana went into Aberystwyth at lunch time to do the week's shopping after doing some work on the cladding with Mary. It has reached a stage at the moment where pieces have to be individually cut to fit up against the noggers which is a very tedious business.

Eric and Robin finished off the windows, cutting and fitting the Ruberoid round the sills and then Eric turned his attention to his waste oil burner which he managed to get going. All he needs now is a tank to hold the oil and give sufficient pressure to feed the oil into the vapourising tube.

Robin and Peter began to dismantle the scaffolding and because it was such a precarious structure, once started it had to be finished and eventually the last vertical came down at about eight o'clock.

Gerard arrived after afternoon tea, somewhat recovered from his accident but cursed with a common cold to add to all his problems.

Mark had to attend a meeting in Mall in the evening that was dealing with the preparations for the Duke's visit to the town. It was extremely comical to hear how much thought and effort was going into every detail - preparing the Plas and scouring the countryside for bunting and all for about 13 min. of the Royal presence.

We had a visit from Mr. Trevor Wood's brother from London who is staying at the bottom of the hill.

John Payne arrived in the evening for a few days.

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5 Saturday

Week 40 (278-87)

Warmer and sunny.

With all this good weather it is a pity we haven't got any more Ruberoid or tar to carry on with the roofs of the Timber Frame House and Collage 1. As it was Holga and Peter were able to continue felting and battening Collage 2, while Hugh and Robin started to erect the scaffolding on the east end of the Timber frame house, which looks quite different now that the scaffolding is down. Mark and John straightened out more sheets on the Engine Shed roof and Gerard had a look at the Tensulac and it really was not working properly at all. In the afternoon Gerard made a very fine set of steps for H.R.H. to walk down to get to the T.F.H. Diana and Mary continued fitting the last of the cladding boards round the bottom and decided it would be nice to have them varnished a slightly darker brown with the woodwork round the windows being painted slate grey.

Just before lunch Tony Standley arrived with Paul from Aber. to take some more photos.

We had a visit from a prospective volunteer who wants to come and live here for the winter. We also had a new arrival called Dave.

In the evening the P.S. and Gerard went over to George's caravan at Aberdovey for a working supper - the visit, party and post-visit conference were all discussed. Britanny might be the venue, subject to the price being right.

The rain began and never ended.

Definitely a day for indoor jobs although there were some brief dry spells in the afternoon when Mark and John were able to get back on the roof of the Engine Shed and do a few more straightenings of the galvanised sheeting. Gerard is going to ring up Aquasol tomorrow about the failure of the Tensulac, and he will also be able to sort out whether Multyflex will be able to do the roof for us. Their quote of the cost being £1500-2,000 seems grossly unrealistic and must be an attempt at a quick cop-out because of their present financial difficulties.

The scaffolding on the east end of Timber Frame House was completed but there is not quite so much urgency about the scaffolding for Cottage 2.

Holga, Dave and Pete white washed the walls of the Cottage 3 kitchen and that is now ready to have some comfortable chairs and a sink and cooker base in. We had a consultation during the morning about what to do with the various buildings and it was decided to have the bottom two rooms of Cottage 3 as a sort of eating / common room for volunteers because it would be hopeless trying to heat the Engine Shed during winter.

We also had a long discussion about who should answer all the letters that keep pouring in about people wanting windmills etc. Diana is going to do letters from volunteers, Robin will do the enquiry letters and May will do Mark's correspondence.

In the afternoon Tom Beaumont arrived with his sister & brother-in-law to sort out the final details of the visit. We have to be very careful with T.B. and make sure we don't put a foot wrong with the protocol on 30th. - it is a highly significant event for some people and they can be touchy about the oddest things.

Lovely sunny day.

The weather was marvellous and allowed us to get on with most of the outside jobs which need doing. Etric carried on with his roof of Collage 1, putting up the breeze-block parapet, helped by Peter and Mary.

On the T.F.H. Dave and M. Temple started felting and battening the last side of the mansard, with great success, while Mrs. Temple painted the cladding with Creosote. The colour seems to have come out very well.

On the Engine Shed roof progress was not quite so rapid. The Aquaseal has to be painted onto both the roof and the felt and allowed to go tacky. The largest part of the operation is striking the felt clean and ensuring that it will go into all the corrugations. Just before lunch we had a slight accident when Peter slipped off the roof when a cat-ladder dislodged from the ridge. He jarred his heel rather badly and lay down for the afternoon. Mark later took him into the doctor and he went down to Aber for an X-ray. We shall have to be more careful about the ladders and make sure they are properly secured at the top.

Mark has made out a provisional programme of jobs to be done, just so that we have some idea of how we are meeting the various dead-lines that have to be met. It should be possible to do most of the jobs with 10 men in 10 days, - given no hold ups. We really want to finish the construction jobs by the 24th Oct.

1974 October

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11 Friday

Week 41 (284-81)

The marvellous warm sun shore.

Hardly believing our luck we continued apace with our out-door jobs.

Dave and Melfyn (no longer called Mr. Temple) did a marvellous job finishing off the battering and started slating under Ethie's supervision. They had great difficulty fitting a straight soffit board and fascia board onto a beautifully bowed wall.

On the roof we had quite an army - Diana, Robin, Hugh, Pete, and the 3 girls that came up with John from Liverpool - Leslie, ^{Christine} Godwin and Sarasa. Once the sun came out the felt went on beautifully easily and we were quite encouraged. But we ran into problems organising the supply of tarred felt and after tea the temperature had fallen too much - the felt goes quite unco-operative below a certain temperature. Mary had a go tarring, but it did no good for her hands.

Mate did various odd jobs getting ready for the removal of the generator by the students that we hope will be coming tomorrow.

Martin arrived in the afternoon and set to work straight away putting up the soffit boards at great speed.

John tidied up his solar collector ready for the day.

Peter III has got a compound fracture of his heel and will have to keep his weight off it for 6 weeks. He will be leaving on Monday to stay with his parents.

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October 1974

Saturday 12

(285-80) Week 41

All the intercourse activity on the 6th

light rain all day.

1974 October

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13 Sunday

Week 41 (286-79)

18TH AFTER TRINITY

light rain all day

All the intensive activity on the Engine Shed had to come to an abrupt halt because of the rain. The further into October we go the less chance of a sunny day there is.

Dave and Merfyn carried on with the slating, regardless of the weather and Martin did some more roofboards after making an opening window for the Royal Dec in record time. It is a real pleasure to watch a craftsman at work who knows what he is doing.

Mostly we were working at inside jobs - Diana organised the erection of one of George's glass screens by the side of the stove to try and separate the kitchen from the rest of the general mess of the work shop. Christine, Leslie and Sandra were all doing decorating jobs in the Engine Shed and Collages - painting the benches in the engine shed with creosote and brushing down the ceiling joints in the living room of the cottage.

In the afternoon about 15 people from Aberystwyth arrived to help move the generator. We were 27 turned the chimney table which is almost a record. But with so much physical strength we were able to move the 1/2 ton generator right through the tunnel - using a dolly andcaffolding poles as rails - it is a great psychological step.

John left with his gear in the evening and the whole party went down to the pub except Diana, and Peter was collected by two friends in a hand-Rover and taken to Welshpool where he will be put on the train for home.

Dull drizzle.

After the enormous number of people yesterday we felt a very small band of workers. Mark and Mary were moving so they had the day off and Audrey stayed in bed with a streaming cold.

It was a day for little jobs - generally cleaning up the site - Diana did great work on the new loading bay outside the kitchen building a dry slate wall. Hugh and Peter IV cleared up the wood in the Ideal House and put up the fibre glass in the upstairs rooms and began building a ramp for the Royal carriage. The carriage arrived at about 6.30 pm - having come all the way from Derby and looks very splendid in white and black livery. Hugh and Ray who brought it up stayed the night in the white lion and we will take it off tomorrow with a wheel that Mark has managed to borrow from the Forestry at Cerris.

We had a visit from a reporter from the Daily Telegraph and he is going to come to supper tomorrow night so he will be able to meet Gerard and Mark.

Mark did a good day's work on the cottage's windows which are being replaced by ones that open.

The kitchen area around the stove is getting quite organised now with cupboards and working surfaces.

Mark and Mary's cottage is very posh with polished copper pipes and oak panelling. It will be good for Mary to have such a civilised place to live.

5 Tuesday

sek 42 (288-77)

Warm and cloudy.

The major event of the day was getting the Royal carriage
 the lorry onto the rails. The driver and technician were very
 and blocks - Hugh & Ray and by building up a ramp of
 steps and using a wire the carriage was pulled off the
 lorry and lowered by jacks. It took about till the time in the
 afternoon to get it off.

Apart from that the arrival of the Daily Telegraph journalist
 and photographers occupied quite a bit of time. The photographer
 meant to be the best woman photographer in Britain and took
 dozens numbers of pictures of everything. They stayed to
 supper too - which was really quite a landmark as we all
 + round 2 small tables - the big scaffold plank table having
 been dismantled and had a marvellous cheese fondue and
 one by candle-light. Gerard had also just arrived and
 time stayed too to share the wine. There was great discussion
 and argument between Hodge, who had just arrived back from
 Bristol and almost everyone else. It will be interesting to see
 what impression John, the reporter takes away with him.

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Still remains dry.

Although we have all this dry weather our numbers are quite small and things go slowly - Dave left today to return to Poltsmouten.

Gerard and Mark had a lot of administration and phoning to do - it appears that Calor Gas are not prepared to give us gas or fittings only to install any that we buy. But the Forestry Commission has agreed to lend us some sentry box logs for the Receptions after the visit.

Hugh Peter and Holga managed to push the caravan over to allow enough clearance for the Royal Kaboose to get by and Holga also drew up some plans for the construction of the house that will take the Pelton wheel and generator.

Merfyn made the last two header boards for the side he and Dave plated. Gerard fixed up some guttering on T.F.H., Robin, Mary and Mark continued to arrange the sheets on the last slope of the Engine Shed roof. It may be that we will have to leave the Agnassal till we have some really dry weather - perhaps next year.

After lunch we all had quite a long discussion about the discussion the other day about Hugh. Holga was a bit up-tight about it and since Hugh has been so much more willing to get jobs done he will not be leaving now as originally planned. It is all a bit uncomfortable but at least it has been openly discussed.

Gerard is staying in a flat in Pernal and left before supper which we all had round the fire.

1974 October

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17 Thursday

Week 42 (290-75)

Even a little bit of sunshine.

The remarkable spell of rain-less weather continues and allowed us to almost complete re-roofing the Engine Shed - just the ridge and valley remain to be properly fixed. We tried putting on another sheet of felt but the sun was too low and also the Aquaseal had been thinned down with paraffin so nothing would stick.

George arrived the evening before and employed his jovial attention along with Hodge and Hugh, to getting the Pelton wheel installation sorted out. There appear to be 2 schools of thought as to how to get the water from the reservoir to the wheel - Mate reckons it would be less trouble to take it the long way round over the loose slate series, while Hodge et al. reckon it might be easier to take it straight down the vertical west wall of the quarry, with the help of mountaineers who could attach it to the face. A man from the Water Board came up in the afternoon to try and help with the valve gear that we will need.

We also had a visit from a representative of Fawcett's who brought with him a prototype of the solar panel they hope to install as a demonstration on the T.F.H. The small 1 sq. foot photo electric panel had actually cost £5,000 but they hope to sell them at £15-20. It produces $\frac{1}{4}$ amp at 6v, and they will probably have it linked up to a small motor on the day.

Other work going on was in the cottages where Pete finished the white washing. Mervyn made some header boards and Audrey did some more painting. We had a visit from two Australians in the afternoon who helped on the railway.

Diane and Gerald went out to dinner with somebody from Tomorrow's World who wants to do a programme on the Centre. Round the fire we had quite a discussion about all sorts of things - heavy later a very tasty meal cooked by Pete.

The rain came down.

The rain hardly let up all day but somehow there were enough indoor jobs to go round. Mattin and Mestyn tackled the Timber Frame House putting in doors and windows and Gerard did some more guttering when he had time to spare.

Holga carried on with his forge - making some very effective bellows out of vinyl sheeting and chip-board and Peter Hugh, Mary and Audrey carried on in Cottage 3 painting and papering the walls.

There was quite a long discussion after lunch between Gerard, Holga and Hugh about what the Centre is meant to be. Holga, Hugh and Pete have decided to leave tomorrow and go up to David's cottage at Cans to see if there is anything they can do for him there. They felt that the Centre wasn't quite living up to its name of Alternative Technology Centre which should be preparing for the post-revolutionary period. Gerard tried to explain that the brief was a little broader - trying to establish a bridge within the system. It seemed to end up quite amicably with everyone agreeing to differ.

Two New Zealanders arrived, very wet, in the afternoon from Cambridge - John and Beverly.

Round the fire in the evening the discussion continued - this time about how far we should go in imposing our ideas on the 3rd World, and also about education.

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19 Saturday

Week 42 (292-73)

Half dry, half wet.

The day started in quite a promising way with sunshine and work continued on fixing the roof sheets, repairing the drain down the side of the road which had almost been washed away with all the rain, and slating on the T.F.H.

Just after coffee Paul and Tony arrived from Aberystwyth with a whole lot of people ready to do some work and they started on the pipe-line - moving the plastic pipe up into position. One of them, Phil, was a co-ordinator of an industrial archaeology museum and got hold of a boot and he reckoned it would be too difficult to take the pipe-line straight down the vertical cliff to the tunnel mouth. So George has accepted responsibility for getting the generator and Pelton Wheel to the end of the tunnel and fixing the pipe to the rock face. It is going to be quite a rush if everything is to be in place for the day.

After a lunch for 27, (John and 3 girls had arrived) the rain began and it was difficult to find enough work to go round. Painting continued in the cottages and clearing up in the T.F.H.

Mr. Mitchell of Bio Gas arrived just before supper with his active slurry and it went straight into the warm container.

Holga, Hugh and Pete left for David's Cottage in the van - loaded up with a week's supply of food.

Sun and showers 10th AFTER TRINITY

Although the sun sometimes shone the roof never really dried out enough to allow us to continue patching up the roof, so our activities were mainly concentrated indoors where the Engine Shed was made more presentable.

John and Beverly put up some chipboard screens that were painted white and will serve as notice boards for the reception, Ray, Clive and Faith removed the old roof storage space and moved it over so that it was above the kitchen area which was given a complete ceiling of chip-board and scaffold planks and insulated with all the bedding and bric-a-brac that were in the roof store.

Robin, Merfyn and Audrey put in George's other window frame above the sink unit to let in more light and it makes the whole area look quite respectable now.

M. Mitchell pattered about with the methane collector - giving it a coat of paint and setting it up properly.

Genard put up some more guttering along the edge of the Engine Shed roof. Ken and George worked away in the tunnel setting things ready for the installation of the Pelton Wheel and generator.

Mark left in the afternoon to go down to see Peter Wybrow and collect the solar panels.

John Payne and the 3 girls were planning on leaving in the evening but John managed to lose his car keys so they had to stay overnight.

May, Diana and Robin retired to Mary's cottage after supper for coffee and hot bats.

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21 Monday

Week 43 (294-71)

Mostly rain and cold.

Paul and Terry appeared for breakfast - having been picked up by George from Bala where they had spent the night after a nightmarish journey up from London on the coach they day before. They were full of spirits as usual and Paul was able to have a fruitful discussion with Mr. Rees of B.I.C.C. about the installation of the cable and general distribution problems of the site.

Merfyn and Audrey left after lunch for Oxford, taking Paul and Terry with them and George also left in the afternoon to go to Broadway to see him and Don Weaver. During the morning there had been a great exercise getting a dolly of sleepers along the long tunnel to the tunnel mouth ready for the Peltan wheel - all the time photographed by a man from the Sunday Telegraph who had come up to take pictures for Duff Hast-Davis' article soon to appear.

Other work going on included Gerard fixing up the last problems of Holga's forge, Ffion and May doing painting and rendering in the cottage, Diara painted the front door of The Ideal House, and John and Beverly prepared some more in the engine shed. Mark arrived back from Llanelli with the solar panels.

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25 Friday

Week 43 (298-67)

It was trying to rain.

John and Anne and Bob and his wife Liz and son Jamie had all arrived the evening before so our work-force was back to strength again.

Bruce and John pressed on with the header boards on the last side of the mansard so that the scaffolding can be taken down. The fiverest double-glazing people came to fit the glass and after one or two problems like the french window aperture being too small they sorted it out quite well.

Bob Mark and George, who arrived for lunch, all worked at the Pelton wheel with the help of Bryn who has taken 2 days off to help us out here.

Beverley and Mary white-washed the outside of the Cottage 3 which makes quite a difference and Diana worked at clearing up the front garden.

Ernie and Robin started slating on the roof of Cottage 2 round the solar panels - helped by Hugh, Gerard's god son who arrived complete with very good tools to spend a few days with us.

Gerard had to spend most of the day in consultation with the security people and police. We had a bit of heat searching about the sensation that people like Olga and Hugh could have on the day and we decided to send telegrams putting them off.

General drizzle.

The party of 12 from Leeds, led by Terry and Pip, had arrived in the night and were discovered sprawled all over the Engine Shed floor in the morning. Breakfast was somewhat hampered by the fact that the milkman had not delivered any milk but eventually everybody got going.

The main jobs were in the Quarry - moving the generator and setting up the water pipe. There were also all sort of clearing up jobs - Beverly and John cleared out the cottage 3. Gerard painted the fascia board and put up some proper guttering. Inside the Engine Shed John and Anne did great work setting up the windmill display and preparing the model for Timber frame House.

Paul and Terry arrived with their friend Michael and they set about getting the cable laid from the wheel to the Engine Shed, although, despite our asking for 60m more than we needed it ended up 40m short.

On the solar roof Ernie, Hugh and Robin started slating round the panels and with a lot of slates having to be cut to size the job didn't progress very quickly.

Byrn and Mary came up to help - Mary swept the Engine Shed Byrn cleared up the wood shed.

Diana collected the slab from Kewbeam and left 3 bottles of wine in return. We also had a delivery of 4 Calor Gas heaters + gas.

Telegams were sent off to Holga, Hugh and co, plus a letter asking them not to come. It was rather heavy handed and will probably make them furious for being so impersonal but they will have to be the first casualties.

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27 Sunday

Week 43 (300-65)

20TH AFTER TRINITY

Rain and cold wind.

With the clocks changing to make the day an hour later there was a bit of confusion getting going in the morning. The wind and rain didn't particularly help matters. The gang from Leeds carried on with the road, knocked down the wall that wasn't allowing the engine through and did lots of useful tidying up jobs.

John and Beverly tidied up the cottage and glazed the other bedroom windows so that Paul and Terry could sleep there, Ernie Hygin and Robin finished off slating the solar roof and after lunch the whole site concentrated on fixing and securing the water-pipe down from the reservoir to the Pelton wheel in the quarry. It was very dangerous work in the cold and wet - with the slate very slippery and it involved slating up rounds of slate all over the pipe to stop it moving when the water pressure was applied. Also a complicated system of guttering was set up to feed the pipe with water so that it could siphon from the reservoir.

The party from Leeds left after a high tea, Bob, and his wife Liz had to leave after lunch and we had one new arrival Dave, a friend of Liz Gladstone.

Paul and Michael spent the day laying the cable and gutter that fixed up and Terry and Sarah cleaned up the Ideal Home.

In the evening Mark, Mary and Robin went out to supper with Lady White in her cottage. She has offered it to us for the winter which will be very nice - modern kitchen, bathroom and all mod cons.

a gem

Sunshine and rain

Things start to get faster and faster - hundreds of people seem to be coming and going all day.

We had B.R. up to check the Royal coach, it seemed to run quite smoothly until Mr. Law discovered that the brake was on, after which it ran very smoothly.

Calor gas sent up a filter to fit in the heaters to 2 1/4 cylinders.

Harbilt Electric Cars had a man up to deal with the slight problem that the Royal Electric car couldn't get up the hill - he fiddled with the current regulator and it eventually got up.

The police came up to see about fixing the Royal standard to the electric car.

The telephone people came to fix the telephone wire which had snapped the day before when a tree fell on it. They managed to disconnect the line just as Gerald was speaking to Buckingham Palace so they had to connect it up again quickly.

Brian Cornelius arrived, and Richard Kyte came for a visit to show his wife around.

We had a visit from a lady reporter from the Manchester Guardian and Vic Mitchell the Methane man arrived back to sort out the methane generator.

Tony was up to do some photographs.

Admitted all these visitors some work was actually done - the most incredible of which was that just before supper we got our first bit of power out of the generator - lighting up some Coloured lights - we also managed to get the Ruberoid done and the scaffolding down.

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29 Tuesday

Week 44 (302-63)

Cold but autumn sun.

The day before - remarkable control and calm, really just small tidying up jobs around the site. A lot of work was done getting the collage ready for Prince Philip, painting and best-lagging the slate floor. Timber frame house was ticked up and a general clear-up in the Engine Shed, with everything just thrown into heaps in the corner out of the way. Trevor Barber came from Oxford to get the steam engine going and it made a marvellous sight puffing back and forth with clouds of steam - the straw pellets were a dead loss they could not really be used for fuel at all.

There were also lots of police around doing last minute checks.

Paul did a lot more wiring in the Engine shed - setting up lights all over the place and the Pelton wheel was adjusted so that we were getting a good 200v. from the generator. The generator is not yet self-exciting so it is using batteries that will eventually run down. Paul is going to make up a self-exciter when he gets back to London.

There were one or two panics about the electric car not being able to get up the hill but they were eventually sorted out.

Penny and Clive from the Telegraph arrived for supper as well as Mark's sister and the group to play on the day.

The rain started at 12.

The Duke's day - rather the anti-climax that was expected. He arrived a little early and caught everyone completely unaware in the Engine Shed - all the volunteers were introduced - Terry and Sarah were introduced separately as they were out when he actually arrived.

Otherwise the visit went as planned - he went up to T.F.H. and saw all the exhibits in the Engine Shed including the T87 which Simon Thorpe the agent had come up 2 hrs. before to get lit ready for the Duke.

The permanent staff had a long chat with him in the Lodge over coffee - secretly recorded by Paul on his tape machine. He didn't go and see the Pelton wheel which was a shame. After he had unveiled the plaque he answered questions from the press, being fairly political and non-committal about the need for government backing for this type of research.

The reception afterwards went with quite a swing - plenty of wine around. Brian Johnson unfortunately did not turn up but other important people were there.

The security team of about 6 special Branch were a bore and overstayed their welcome. Everyone just sat around after the visitors had left till about 6 o'clock when we all went over to Fern Beaumonts to see ourselves on the TV. The B.B.C. Wales programme report was fairly cynical but the ATV was very good, detailed and sympathetic.

We had a supper of soup and cheese and did a lot of heart searching about what the Centre was doing and whether it had got its priorities right.

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31 Thursday

Week 44 (304-61)

Mild and drizz.

After the tremendous tension of yesterday the atmosphere was most relaxed - almost too relaxed and we found that the locals who had been invited for two o'clock were arriving as we were still eating lunch.

The morning was occupied with departures of Bruno, George, and Paul and Terry. John and Beverly went down to the aundrette to do some overdue washing and John Payne and Dave and Anne went to pick apples at H. Bambridge's and came back with two big baskets full and some potatoes and swedes.

The permanent staff were occupied with Penny the photographer who wanted to make a definitive picture of what we were doing here and tried to catch the 4 elements in one picture - Mattie was playing with a pile of earth, Diana was warming her hands on fire (burning netts) Robin was splashing water and Mary was drawing leaves to symbolise wind.

The party for the locals went quite well - not too many could make it - they all seemed very friendly and helpful, and had a look around the site.

John Payne left for Liverpool in the evening with Jen and Beverly and so our numbers were much reduced. Mary, Bryn and friend stayed for supper.

Cloudy but dry.

The Quarry is very sub-dried. With only 6 of us here we hardly make any noise at all. Mark was having a day off but had to meet two influential students - one the Environment Officer of the N.U.S. and the other connected with Bangor University. They stayed from coffee till tea and talked a great deal.

Diana left for her cooking engagement just before lunch - she was very depressed with the whole situation - the lack of progress on Timber frame house, the appalling living conditions in the cottages. We have mobilised a full scale programme to try and get something ready for when she returns after the conference. It will mean doing up one bedroom and trying to put some of the plumbing in.

John, Anne and Dave did a lot of work putting up insulation and laying some of the floor.

Eric carried on with the solar roof trying to tie it in with the 3rd cottage roof. It will be a patch up job at best.

Mary and Fern did some hard work trying to sort out the accounts of the Quarry which had been left till after the visit.

John Beaumont says up Gerard who said he was absolutely thrilled with the events of the last 3 days - a lot of glory is being reflected back on him and he is full of good will.

Mr. Thorpe of Totul has given us another 6kw. stove for the Engine Shed. He reckons he will be able to sell 4000 next year.

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2 Saturday

Week 44 (306-59)

The afternoon was wet.

With our very much reduced work force we don't seem to make much impression on all the 1,001 things to be done.

John and Anne concentrated on Diana's bedroom in the T.F.H. putting up some of the ceiling panels, and finishing off the floor. We have a slight problem with the bathroom in that the roof is leaking through a hole made by Peter when doing the rubberoid. To fix it means laying the next strip of Rubberoid which can only be done when the strip that was wrongly laid by Holga and Co. has been taken up which might need blow-torches etc.

Dave was looking after the cooking - baked some marvellous bread, made soup for lunch and a Scottish supper of baked potatoes, wedges and cheese on toast.

Etric and Robin worked away on the roof of Cottage 3, trying to nail it up to the last solar panel. But rain stopped play before it could be finally completed.

Ridge and Filly arrived for afternoon tea, having driven down our horder. They went to work straight away on putting up some Fibreglass insulation - a horrible nasty job that leaves you with itching skin and a sore throat.

In the evening Fern came to supper and we discussed what Ridge would talk to the conference about. He has had experience & insight about the problems of setting ground rules for a community.

Heavy rain & sleet.

The weather made it impossible to work on the Cottage roof and since we didn't expect to have much labour after the week end we decided to go down to the Llanwrin school that we have been given and take out the folding doors that could be used to make the Engine shed a little more habitable. We borrowed a ladder from the lady who cleaned the school for 40yrs. and introduced ourselves to Miss. Humphries who lives next to the school. Her nephew had a book of his brother Richard's, giving names of all the Pelton wheels he supplied in the district. Gerald went down and had tea with them and they were very friendly.

The folding doors weren't too much of a problem to get out - there were 18 of them - very good condition and just what we need. We had to make 3 journeys to get them up and we also brought back doors, immersion heater, lots of copper pipe and fittings.

Mr. Thorpe from Tŷtŷl arrived with the stove he has given us, a beautiful black twig - 8 kw. which can go in the cottage, plus stainless steel chimney.

We also had a visit from John Roberts - B.B.C. Bayes who want to do an in depth report on what we are trying to do here.

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12 Tuesday

Week 48 (318-49)

Our first day back at the Quarry after the Conference in Bath. Mark and Mary stayed in Macc. to do letters and reports. Diana moved all her belongings over to the room that Joan and Anne had prepared for her over at the T.F.H. and she had a Calor-gas heater which, with all the insulation, keeps it nice and warm.

Diana (from India) a Journalist, Jill and Pamela (2 girls from New Zealand, worked away in Cottage 3, putting in the ceiling and insulation in Diana's old room.

Robin tried to get some sort of office sited out on the ground floor of Cottage 3, but it is so damp and dark it really discourages people so much it will be nice to have somewhere better as soon as possible.

The room within a room made from the glass doors from Harwin Schoss is kept very warm by the fire-stove and we also had a Telley lamp going which gave us plenty of light.

In the evening Mark, Mary, Diana and Robin were going back to Maccyulity and ran out of petrol in the Bedford which was behaving v. badly. By chance we met Mr. Humphreys of B.R. on the road. He invited us back for drinks as it was his wife's birthday and was extremely friendly to us - showing us all his B.R. souvenirs.

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November 1974

Wednesday 13

(317-48) Week 46

Rainy, hail and wind

Still very subdued with only seven of us on site - George spent the morning with us before going on to Aber. to pick up his daughter, Petra, from the hospital. Robin met him at Hlanwyn school and he had a look at the possibility of salvaging any of the timber. The general conclusion was that it wouldn't be much good for anything except firewood for the Ffritell - the match-boarding and floor boards - perhaps a few joists and the roof could be salvaged. George also had a look at the drainage proposals for the cottages and to avoid a great deal of impossible digging we will have to raise the level of the showers to get the necessary fall - we might also be able to utilise a natural drainage system that is there already for sink wastes etc. He was generally scathing about the architects and all theoreticians in general.

For lunch we had Byron? - a designer friend of Gertrud's who was holidaying in the area. He plans to go into the production of bold table cloth designs. Also we had a visit from Martin Beale and Ian on their way to Stroud. They stayed till tea - effectively tying up all Mark's time.

Diana & Mary went along to a furniture sale in Mach and managed to pick up some fantastic bargains - a big table for 50p - 11 chairs for £1.60 and a 3 piece suit for £1.

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14 Thursday

Week 46 (318-47)

Still wet and windy.

Really a day for office work - we got the office organised with tables and a calor gas fire and May & Robin tackled the letters and they tried to work out an efficient filing system for all the letters that we have coming in. Mark and Diana moved all the furniture up the hill by transferring it to the Bedford van to the Mini. The van has finally packed up and will have to be towed into Mach. to be repaired.

Pamela and Jill finished off as much as they could in the bedroom of the cottage and they did some work on the road that is getting washed away by all the rain that we have been having.

Mark ring up to find out how much it would cost to have post the casavans down to Peter Whybrow's - about £25 each - which might not make it worth his while.

Both wet and dry.

Diana and Mark were going off together - Diana to her home in Weatherby, Mark taking a train up to Edinburgh for the A.G.M. of the Conservation Society.

We had a huge pile of letters to deal with which had come up from Hascombe - all the people of the Daily Telegraph article writing in asking about windmills. Letters from Paul, George and Cilla and Ridge. We realised that the conflict is going to be between administration work and organising the actual building programme.

Fill and Pamela were getting a bit fed up and feeling useless because they didn't really have anyone to supervise them in what they were doing. Mary rang up Roderick who won't be able to come up till next week sometime.

The Bedford van had to be towed in to Tari's garage to be repaired as we were without transport.

Ken Goldard arrived at tea time - just as Mark and Diana were leaving and his Mini had a fault with the suspension. Mary tried to catch a bus home but it didn't stop in the dark and as Ken's car was out of action Mary had to spend an uncomfortable night in Diana's room.

Robin went along to a meeting of the Cairns Community Council to hear about proposals that Cairns should become part of Gwynedd rather than Powys. - everybody (it was a well attended meeting) was against the change.

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16 Saturday

Week 46 (320-45)

Beautiful clear day.

There was quite a bad frost overnight, and the water pipes were frozen.

As Ken was keen to do something on the roofs he started with Pam and Jill to plate the back of cottage 2. The sun was actually shining for some of the time and it made all the difference.

Mary and Robin tackled some of the letters that had arrived from Hascombe, and fortunately we weren't disturbed by any visitors.

The garage had managed to fix the Bedford quite speedily and Robin went in on the bus to pick it up - Mary walked home at about 4pm. While in town, Robin picked up Adrian, who had arrived on the train from Nottingham. He is the Energy Co-ordinator for Lin & Don's enterprise and could prove a very useful contact - at the moment he is working in a factory in Nottingham.

In the evening Ken, Jill and Pam went into Mace. to the pub. it was the night of the R.A.C. round Britain rally and the town was absolutely packed. Blyn was a marshall at Eveson's Bridge.

Still stayed dry.

Mary got a lift in with Bryn and Mary when they brought the papers. As it was a dry day again it seemed a good opportunity to do some work in the garden - so Pam and Adrian did some digging while Ken and Jill came on with clearing the roof.

The digging was very slow work, having to take out all the broken rhizomes as we went along.

In the afternoon Bryn came up and gave us a hand by cutting some wood for the Tsetse.

Because the work has to stop about 5 o'clock, when it gets too dark, the evenings seem very long. But everybody seemed to find something creative to do - Pam siled the spades & pick axes to stop them rusting, Adrian tinkered with the bike to try and get it working and Jill painted some signs that we hope will stop visitors wandering around the site aimlessly.

Both Mary and Robin are very tired - 1/2 hr's digging left them absolutely exhausted. It's a week since we got back from Bath but we can't really afford to have a day off till Mark and Diana get back.

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20 Wednesday

Week 47 (324-41)

Cold rain.

As Diana and Mark didn't arrive back from Liverpool and Yorkshire till quite late last night we didn't get going too early.

Ker and Angela started building up the doorway in Collage 2 with slate while Pam and Jill knocked the plaster off the walls in Collage 1, ready for putting the windows in.

The permanent staff had a meeting, as decided in the post conference conference that we had had, but unfortunately it lasted all day, partly because we kept on being side tracked into rather fundamental issues which cannot quickly be resolved.

The sort of things discussed were - fire regulations - how is T.F.H. to be heated, the road will not take the 10 ton fire engine, should we have a fire, how long should we ask Jill and Pam to stay, the fund raising leaflet, days off rota, and a long discussion about how we should answer all the enquiries that we are receiving.

Also discussed was an interesting idea of a composting loo that does not need any drainage pipes, just a source of electricity.

Roderick does not want to start work till he can get into it properly and he sees himself becoming involved with the project on a long term basis - so it may not be till the beginning of December.

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Thursday 21

(325-40) Week 47

Mostly rainy.

Paul had arrived from London the evening before and Mark and May brought him up. They then had to disappear down to Malvern to visit Mark's father who is still rather ill.

Geoffrey Saisons, an architect from near Maidenhead who arrived yesterday evening, offered to go down to Abergwyth to pick up some 1000 gauge polythene to make the Pelton wheel house with, but when he got down to T.D. Wlyods they didn't have any!!

Paul fixed up his self excitation unit onto the generator and it worked for a bit but then blew up. So we did have some lighting but it was from the batteries, which are now quite flat.

We had a whole group of students from Aber come up for an afternoon's work - they finished off digging the trench that will take the cable to T.C.H. They also rigged up a temporary line, running it through the trees.

Paul Wesley came up too in the afternoon and stayed to supper.

Another interesting visitor was Rupert who is Hydro-electrics consultant to L.I.T. - he comes from Cornwall and knows everything about Pelton wheels. He is actually looking for dis-used ones in this area - so we kept quiet. He stayed the night and talked non stop about all sorts of A.T. gadgets.

Other visitors we had were Phil Bowdler & his girl friend Tanya from Greece, & a friend from S.T.C. who might be engaged on the Apprentice project that Paul is organising.

1974 November

Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat
NOV 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

24 Sunday

Week 47 (328-37)

LAST AFTER TRINITY

Blustery rain

The sort of day when nothing much concrete seems to have been done.

Paul was occupied with Rupert the Pelton wheel - hearing about all the possibilities for the site's energy which he will communicate to Gerard in a report.

Philip and his friend after rising for morning coffee did some good work putting in a temporary cable from the engine shed to the cottages. They had to leave at supper time but were very nice & Phil even gave us an apple tart that we had for lunch.

Bryn & Mary came up with the eggs & paper and split some logs for us - they have offered to sell us 6 chickens in the Spring

Pamela spent most of the day giving all the tools a really good clean-up & Jill painted a notice asking people to keep them clean.

Angela fixed up the bits of tending around the cottage's upstairs window.

Paul converted the alternator back to working off batteries and we actually ran power over to Diana's room and into the kitchen which makes all the difference. We are running at 110% to conserve the batteries.

In the evening Pam & Geoff learnt the delights of playing Bridge.

Ken managed to fix up his Mini with wooden blocks under the suspension - they will keep the car up if he travels at 30mph all the way back to London - he will have to leave at 6am tomorrow.

Still raining.

Paul, Pamela and Jill all left today. Paul took his self-excitation unit back with him to modify it and hopes to be back before Christmas, Pam and Jill finally had had enough of the bad weather and were heading for the bright lights of London.

With only 4 of us left on site we seem to do very little each day. Geoffrey and Angela finished off the ceilings in both the upstairs rooms of Cottage 3, now that the roofs are weather-tight. Angela also worked away at making a water wheel for Morte's programme on A.T.V.

Diana began getting the workshop into shape, removing some of the partitions to extend the space available.

Geoffrey got the boiler going and we were all able to have lovely hot showers, Diana & Robin discussed some points that we will have to raise when Gerard comes up next week - all the sorts of details that were not really discussed at the conference. Roderick also says he is coming up on Thursday - he seems really enthusiastic about joining us but wants to be quite clear on what basis he works here - not a short term contract as Ernie had.

Windy and wet.

Sally is actually called Susela and she left on the 8.30 am train from Macc. Mark and Mary had not arrived back in time to see her. They came in in the morning and had a whole lot of mail to catch up with.

Geoffery and Robin fixed up the total flue that Geoffery had brought up from Macc. It makes such a difference to the living area it means everybody can sit round the stove and the 6' of flue that is heating the room as well. The next step is to put some sleepers against the wall.

After that Geoff. & Robin set up some scaffolding to try and repair the gas chimney on Cottage 3 which was leaky badly. Mary and Mark had to attend to all their mail and Diana cleared up the workshop. Angela did some painting and cooking and made more of the waterwheel that Mark is going to use in his T.V. programme.

We had her up for supper & afterwards she showed us some of the crochet work that she uses to teach her W.I. classes - it was very good & some actually won a prize at the Royal Welsh Show. We also had a look at some Macramé work and we all had a go at it - it was blowing very strongly during the evening and when Mark and Mary went out to go home they found a tree had fallen right across the road onto Robin's caravan - and crushed it. The amazing thing was it had landed right where Robin usually sleeps the 3' just at the end of the caravan. And any other night except this one he would have been in bed when it fell!! So he went back with M. & M. to sleep.

974 November

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Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat

8 Thursday

ek 46 (332-33)
ANKSGIVING DAY, U.S.A.

Still blowy.

With all the shopping to do in Mach. Mark, Mary and Robin
didn't get up to the site till about 10:30. As always there were letters
attend to and office work to be done. Geoffrey and Robin
rushed off the scaffolding and managed to repair the chimney.
Then Geoffrey and Angela turned their attentions to putting the
windows in Cottage 1. It makes a surprising difference when they are
... like the eyes in a face.

We had 2 visitors. - a bloke who makes greenhouses who
offered to help, and a girl who works in the Press office of
N.E.S.C.O. who reckoned that we would be more likely to get
money from some organisation like that than from Government.
We had a letter from John & Anne who are at the Moorland
Hage and they want to come back and work here.

We cut down the tree that had fallen onto Robin's caravan and
moved over into the big one that Jill & Pam had had. When
John White's cottage becomes vacant on 15th Dec. he can move in
etc.

In the evening Geoffrey, Angela, Diana and Robin went over to
Roderick & Jillie's for coffee and baths. They have finally completed
his house now with a fantastic large open room with fire at
the end. Roderick came up and discussed with Mark the
resettlement plans and was of the general opinion that a lot more
planning should be done before we rush ahead with anything.

Quite bright.

After the disappointment of Tony Standleys Royal Photos it was decided to take on the photography of the site ourselves and Robin borrowed Diana's camera and just took a few general photos to see how they would come out.

Geoffrey and Angela carried on with the windows in Collages 1 and 2 and made them look square although they were not quite actually square.

It was another day in the office for Mary although she did get a chance to get the Christmas puddings together in the morning. Mark had a lot of shopping to do and spent a lot of the evening discussing with Geoffrey about his talk on T.V. Poor Mary is getting very tired again and feels that they are not really getting away from the site on time. It is a great problem because Mark always seems to stay too long in the evening.

Diana, Angela, Geoffrey & Robin had a very nice quiet relaxed evening round the Table. Angela taught Geoffrey how to spin and Diana knitted a sock sock & Robin practiced his cricket for when Lena comes again.

74 November

NOV 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat

74 Saturday

48 (334-31)
ANDREWS DAY

Dry and surprisingly mild.

Again a day when nothing very dramatic happened - no loss and only 6 of us on the site. Geoffrey left for London after breakfast and promised to return again. He has offered us the use of his offices in London for Paul and all the other work that has to go on there - it should be very useful indeed.

Mark and Mary were again mostly involved in correspondence most of the day - Mary also managed to cook the Christmas puddings & some cakes.

Angela finished off the model water wheel that Mark will use & Mark practiced the ditty he will say, using a tape recorder to see what it sounded like.

Diana continued to plough through all the junk in the work-
sp.

He had to choose from Tony's photos for all the volunteers & people like Fibre glass who want photos of the Duke to put in house journals.

In the evening Diana invited Angela and Robin over to her room in the T.F.H. - very cozy & warm.

Cammy & wain

A day of agonising discussions. Gerard, Mate, Mary, Diana and Robin, later joined by Roderick in the afternoon got down to some pretty basic discussion about what we were all meant to be doing here. It seems to be a sort of watershed as we have to decide how we are going to develop the Colleges. That depends on who is going to live in them and that depends on what we are trying to do here.

There is still a polarisation between being a "mini-Harwell" as Gerard put it - displaying all the currently available hardware of A.T. or whether we should be more of a community - just working things out for themselves and using it as an example of an attempt to be self sufficient. We had not really resolved anything when we stopped at 6 o'clock.

Pam Edwards from A.T.V. arrived to discuss with Mate about the T.V. programme. We had two friendly visitors, a Pelton wheel man and an engineer, who were very helpful and offered us a Pelton wheel.

Ker also arrived in the evening with a flock he had given a lift to called Dick from Newport.

The deliberations continue tomorrow - everybody is a little depressed.

1974 December

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue							
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4 Wednesday

Week 49 (338-27)

Just about day.

Another day of meetings. After yesterday's slightly destructive discussions about what we were all doing here we tried to be a little more constructive. We couldn't have too much time together because people kept arriving. But in the morning we had quite a difficult time facing the rather stark facts of the conflict between Diana & Mark which had reached a point of crisis about on Monday. We all resolved that we had such a chance to make a go of this project that we would have to resolve personal differences. The atmosphere seemed a bit lighter afterwards but we still have a long way to go.

2 blokes from I.C.I. arrived at coffee - quite high up so they've given the Full works.

Roderick turned up for lunch and we were just about to get down to business when the tiles arrived but couldn't make it up the hill - however many stones we threw under his wheels - he ended up having to back down the hill with a shattered gear box, we unloaded all 4,000 quarry tiles at the bottom and the lorry was towed away - a new box will cost £600 for William of Skir.

Later on in the evening John Nolan arrived - a self-employed engineer from London. Obviously a man full of ideas & keen to help us when he is self supporting. - also a v. good engineer on the design side. Probabey will work well with Paul & Gordon.

Roderick also had a lorry stuck at Cwm Coe, delivering top soil. They managed to burn out the clutch of his jeep trying to pull the lorry out.

Lera came in the evening to show us a bit more of her craft. Gerard managed to get himself entangled trying to make a macramé belt for his daughter.

A desperate attempt to get all the business dealt with while Roderea & Gesard are still here.

We decided to convert the 3 cottages into 3 separate dwellings which was a load off our minds - to have made a decision. But Roderea will have to work out the details and Hapley for grants. We shall probably have to put in septic tanks due to the difficulty of getting a Compost Bog passed the planning people.

The greatest blow of the day was to learn that the 6mm clup-board that we had been planning to put up in Tea-chest House is in fact illegal and we cannot use. We will have to resort to plastic-board, but we are stuck with £600 of clup-board on our hands. Gesard will try & negotiate something with Lathams, also he will try and change the roofing from Tynes & Newall into pipe.

We only had 2 visitors - Simon Thorpe came up to consult Gesard about his agency in Wales & Julian Hale, from the Telegraph paper came, on his way to do something about John Seymour's Agricultural Self-sufficiency.

We had a potter come to stay for the night from London, having seen the model in London. - very good guy from America.

Friday

Week 49 (340-25)

Gerard left on a later train for London. Angela and Diana
 dug up the niches, all rather small, preparing a space for the
 old frames by the south facing wall.
 en (Jeffrey) carried on with his frame for the Pelton wheel and
 Angela and Robin brought up 2 more loads of tiles from the bottom
 of the hill. It was a v. time-consuming process with the tiles being
 handled 3 times in all.

We have made a general resolution to get a bit more done
 each day. It really depends upon the atmosphere so much
 our jobs are tackled, & we hope that now some of the dark
 clouds have been cleared.

Mark left for his week-end conference in Sheffield.

Angela + Robin went down with Mary and had a good hot bath
 very pleasant change from the shower!

Saturday 7

(341-24) Week 49

Mild and misty.

Mary stayed down in Mach. writing letters in her cottage so there were only 4 of us on site.

Angela + Diana put another coat of floor sealer on the concrete floor, and re-organised the living space a bit

Ken battled on with the Pelton wheel house which is very nearly completed.

Robin did some cooking in the morning, baked some bread and did some tending of the far chimney of Cottage 3 in the afternoon.

We had 2 visitors - Bart + wife from Hedbury. He is Swedish and generally interested in the whole field of A.T.

Diana + Ken went down to Mary's for a shower in the evening

1974 December

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue
DEC 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

8 Sunday

Week 49 (342-23)

2ND IN ADVENT

A very damp day

A day of visitors. Bryn and Mary came up with the eggs just after we had got up (we treated ourselves to an extra hour's lie-in). They came back after lunch with a car load of firewood which was very kind.

Diana & Robin took the table & extra chairs back to Costris church hall and got back to find 2 Australians who were looking for somewhere to live in the Aberystwyth area. We couldn't really offer anything so they moved on.

Mr. Davis from down the bottom came up with a family and had a look round. John Payne's brother came with a friend and another bloke from Londen who was interested in the engine.

Mr. Brooks the windmill, came up as he was passing through but mask was away at Sheffield.

In the evening 2 people from Londen arrived on their way to see an estate agent in Aber. about 5 acres of land they want to buy close to Devil's Bridge for an amazing £2,500! They seemed a bit green & it'll be interesting to see if they make a go of it.

First fine day for a long time

With the sun actually shining we were able to do quite a lot of work. Ken finished off his Pelton wheel house, Angela painted the windows with Syntha-bond & Robin cleared up, finished the chimney & took some roofing sheets off the Cutting Shed roof.

Mark arrived back at lunch-time from Sheffield. He had been staying at Rad. Tech, where Robin Fielder lives and had met Peter Harper & many others in the field and had tried to explain the Centre a bit more.

In the afternoon a man from Haswell arrived. He had the impression that we had not really got enough technology here.

In the evening we all went along to see Paul Wedley in his house in Maclynuleth. It is an amazing place, with hundreds of rooms and we met Rose his wife & their little daughter.

After supper we all retired to Diana's room.

1974 December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
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10 Tuesday

Week 50 (344-21)

Very wet & windy.

A day for indoor & office work.

Mark stripped part of Robin's bashed caravan, pulling out the copper piping and making a light fitting for the office. Mary & Robin tackled the filing system, & all the AT Bumper mat that has accumulated over the last few months - a very daunting task.

Angela did some painting of window frames & baling.

Diana continued with the workshop and also started putting up some cluiboard & insulator against the corrugated iron wall of the engine shed. The insulation is old crumpled newspapers in paper bags. - should be just as effective as Cozywrap.

In the evening heracame up and had supper. Mark and Ken disappeared to the pub, and the girls did crochet.

180 lbs of Digestive biscuits arrived, long overdue and gladly welcomed.

Quite bright & cold.

After a very stormy, windy night the rain held off long enough for us to get outside to do some work. Angela was having her day off. Ken started organising the batteries & also tried out some different forms of aggregate for the road. Mr. Davies has offered us his T.C.B. at £3 an hour, & a dumper at £5 a day which is a better arrangement than giving us a contract for the whole road which would be an unknown quantity. We will probably use aggregate and a proper drain to take away all the water.

Diana & May worked on the railway, filling in between the sleepers to make it into a proper path.

Robin removed the rest of the tin from Cutting Shed 1, and cleared up a bit.

George arrived at tea time to spend a few days with us.

Roderick just popped in for lunch and went over to visit Braumont, just to lay any rumours that he is not going to sign the Teax.

George took Diana & Robin out to dinner. Angela's boyfriend Canon came down from Guderbuzger and Ken, Angela, Canon all went out to dinner with Mark and May.

Two interesting visitors - Lyell Watson's father from Bermuda came up and Mark showed him round.

1974 December

DEC	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue							
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12 Thursday

Week 50 (346-19)

Rain all day.

Depressing day with perpetual rain.

Crion & Angela painted some window frames and made a cold frame in the garden out of sleepers.

Ken started making the frames for a windmill taken out of Survival Scrapbook.

We had a newcomer called Helen from London, who had written to John Eyles and he had said she could come. She is only staying a couple of days but helped George who is tackling the windows in cottage 2. The holes have to be built up to fit the window frames.

Mark and Robin moved most of the Fibreglass from T.F.H. to the Engine Shed store and it seems to make the whole place warmer.

We had a good evening round the Jubel, helped by George's cids and music on the guitar.

1974 December

DEC Sun 1 Mon 2 Tue 3 Wed 4 Thur 5 Fri 6 Sat 7 Sun 8 Mon 9 Tue 10 Wed 11 Thur 12 Fri 13 Sat 14 Sun 15 Mon 16 Tue 17 Wed 18 Thur 19 Fri 20 Sat 21 Sun 22 Mon 23 Tue 24 Wed 25 Thur 26 Fri 27 Sat 28 Sun 29 Mon 30 Tue 31

12 Thursday

Week 50 (346-19)

Rain all day.

Depressing day with perpetual rain.

Crion & Angela painted some window frames and made a cold frame in the garden out of sleepers.

Ken started making the frames for a windmill taken out of Survival Scrapbook.

We had a newcomer called Helen from London, who had written to John Eyles and he had said she could come. She is only staying a couple of days but helped George who is tackling the windows in cottage 2. The holes have to be built up to fit the window frames.

Mick and Robin moved most of the Fibreglass from T.F.H. to the Engine Shed store and it seems to make the whole place warmer.

We had a good evening round the Jubel, helped by George's acid and music on the guitar.

A dullish day.

George and Helen put in a good day's work on the windows of Cottage 2, building them up so that they are at the bottom of the holes in the wall letting in more light.

George did his back in doing up his noses in the morning so had to have a lie down in the afternoon.

Canon and Angela left on the 10.40 train - sad to see them go. Hank and Mary did some shopping and tried to pick up the electric car which was to be weighed at Jones before it can be taxed.

In the afternoon a photographer from Queen/Harper's Bazaar came up in draw pipe jeans and tinted spectacles to take some silly photos for the articles they are doing. Poor bloke was paranoid schizophrenic about it - hating the superficiality of it yet wanting the money. Robin refused to be photographed.

George & Helen left in the evening.

Kev had been finishing off the Peltan wheel house and started to make some frames for an aero generator blade.

Myall Watson's father came up again and left a book by his son the "Romeo Factor".

1974 December

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14 Saturday

Week 50 (348-17)

Quite a fine day.

Mark and Mary had the day off in Aberystwyth doing Christmas shopping.

Ken carried on with the windows in Cottage 2, Robin did some digging in the garden joined by Diana in the afternoon Derek's compost was spread out over the dug garden and a little more broken roots were dug up.

We had no visitors which was a nice change.

In the evening we had a meeting with the beginning of our chairman's talk, with Mary taking the chair. It worked very well, with all the business being over within an hour. We also discussed the memo we had received from Gerard about how much work and effort we should be putting into the project.

General drizzle.

Not really a day for working outside, although Ken carried on with the windows for a while.

Office work continued, sorting out the filing system and preparing to send off all the hundreds of Christmas letters to all the people we know.

During the morning about 12 people from F.O.E. Cardiff arrived and MaHe gave a lecture, Ken showed them round and then they actually did a bit of work although they were most cursorily dressed.

Diana & Robin went out to lunch with Beady White and got instructions for taking over.

Tony Stardley, Paul & friend came in the afternoon & helped dismantle the squashed caravan. Bryn & Mary were up in the evening telling tales of the old days.

6 Monday

ek 51 (350-15)

windy & wet

Mark and Mary had to stay down in town to get the Christmas letters Rones'd at Artist Valley Press. Then in afternoon there was all the 250 letters to be sent off in envelopes & stamps.

We had a discussion about Gerard's memo and had to decide what to do about it.

In the evening Diana & Robin moved up to Lady White's cottage called Part-Teg (dry valley), just above ours. We had to collect the key from Mrs. Pugh who owns for Lady White. It is a superb little cottage and they felt very luxurious after the conditions of the navy.

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Very windy.

At lunch Diana, Mark and Mary discussed what to do about Gerard's memo. It was felt that some positive reply should be made, a proposal of what we are actually trying to do here.

In the afternoon Diana & Mark went off to get some greenery for decoration and to have a look at the farm up above Pantpesthrog, which we might be able to rent from the Forestry. They met Stephen on the way back.

Mark and Mary were going out to supper with Roderick & Jilly so Diana, Robin & Stephen retired to Lady White's Cottage again.

There was a big panic trying to get all the letters off before the last posting date. It has cost us about £15 to send out all the letters - lets hope it was all worth it.

1974 December

DEC	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue							
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18 Wednesday

Week 51 (352-13)

Mainly dry & cold.

Mark and Mary spent the morning wrapping up parcels for Christmas and sending off Christmas cards.

Diana had a clean up in the kitchen and Stephen and Zoben tackled the last window in Diana's old room which proved to be a bigger job than expected and involved making a new sill and enlarging the aperture.

Diana also put up a whole lot more Fibreglass curtains. Mark started getting the bus together, which we have decided to sell anyway and Mary was back on letter writing.

In the evening Lena came up to Park-Teg for supper.

All day pour.

Most of the day was spent finally dismantling the caravan - we've got a lot of good wood from the frame and some good sheets of aluminium too.

Diana and Robin finished off the wood shelter made from sleepers and corrugated iron. It is remarkably effective.

Stephan worked on the window in Diana's room - putting in the frame and double glazing.

In the evening Robin and Diana had to pay a visit to John Beaumont's - we were given sherry and lots of nuts and had to stay for 2 hrs talking small talk. - all the children were there too - Nigel, Andrew, Hugh, Lucille & Peter, John.

Ken and Sarah came over to Pant-tig to have a bath. The water supply at the cottage dried up - the little 1" pipe from the stream had blocked up.

1974 December

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue		
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22 Sunday

Week 51 (356-9)

4TH IN ADVENT

Dry at last.

Bryn and Mary suddenly presented us with presents as we had to dash down to Mace. to get something - very embarrassing. Mary had plucked a goose for Diara she will have to take it on the train tomorrow.

It was generally a day for tidying up - preparing for the party in the evening - all the mince pies that had been carefully baked mysteriously disappeared (Sarah thought she heard someone walking around the site last night.)

With the post came a whole lot of enquiries - Mary had to spend the day sending off photos to people.

Ken and Sarah stacked wood and made a stock list of it all.

Mark brought up some charged batteries from Mace and we had electric light again carefully saved for the party.

Stephen had the day off and butchered down to Aberystwyth.