

What's in this Newsletter?

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Review of Tara's 'Experience Weekend', in the Cambrian Mountains



Well, that ended up being quite a special weekend. How many of us can say we have cooked Asian fusion foods with local foraged ingredients from the Welsh hills! Tara took us on a fascinating and educational journey into Indian food, explaining some of the meanings and attributes of the foods, the spices and the social aspects too.

You can take the person out of the city, but you can't take the city out of the person! Tara blends a childhood in urban London with her chosen profession as an outdoor professional, and she does it with style. Challenging norms and taking us into different ways of thinking about the countryside, nature and our relationship with them.

Whilst we had a really mixed age group, including younger children and experienced adults, Tara brought us all together on a fascinating journey throughout the weekend. We discussed bushcraft and countryside awareness; Welsh language and the importance of its meanings in understanding the place and its wildlife; we foraged for ingredients; we all got involved in preparing them for cooking; we lit the fire with a bow drill; we cooked and then ... we had a feast! Most importantly we shared a wonderful experience as a group, building a social experience around our enjoyment of this wonderful mid Wales farm with a common love of the countryside, wildlife and the outdoors.



Prompted by the amazing views across a diverse landscape, Steve did a short session on countryside heritage, reading the landscape and our relationship with wildlife more generally. This led the group into all sorts of nuanced and fascinating conversations around farming, wildlife, wilding, systems thinking and other aspects. Plenty to keep the conversation going over preparations of the numerous foraged ingredients!

The location was amazing too. Located high on the side of the hill in mid Wales, it has wonderful habitats which the owners farm to maximise the wildlife, maintaining old pastures, ancient trackways and patches of

woodland. The camp area is carefully laid out to minimise impacts, maximise enjoyment and takes careful consideration of waste and other factors.

Of course, no weekend with Tara would be complete without some music and, as always, she treated us to some evening tunes before everyone made their respective way to their beds.

We hope we will be doing lots more camps with Tara!

[Check the Community Page for more details](#)

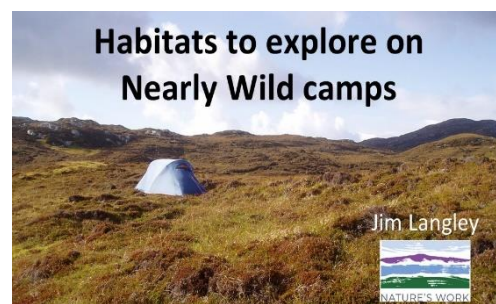
Winter Online Demonstrations and Presentations

As you know, we have been busy organising a range of **online demonstrations and presentations** for you to join in and enjoy through the colder, wetter months. We hope you will find these useful and informative, as well as fun and interesting. They are a great way for some younger members to be involved too.

Whilst many of us will still be camping during the winter period, many are looking for ways to make more of the long evenings. Why not make the most of this time to build skills and knowledge for next year.

We have already had our first talk, given by Jim from Nature's Work, about the various habitats in which we are likely to Nearly Wild Camp on our future adventures.

The rest of the series of talks will aim to be as practical and with as much demonstration as possible (they are online after all!).



NOVEMBER			
5	5-6pm	Pete from ProAdventure	Kit ideas
19	5-6pm	Brian from Glencoe Mountain Rescue	Mountain rescue team – kit demo and a bit more about its work
DECEMBER			
10	5-6pm	Lucy from Wild Cooke	Cooking and foraging, fun recipe demos.
	6-7pm	AGM	The Organisations Annual General Meeting.
JANUARY			
14	5-6pm	Karl from Otter Adventure	Camping with a canoe
28	5-6pm	Rupert from Feral Science	Wine and beverage making
FEBRUARY			
11	5-6pm	Steve & Irene (Founders)	Walking and running the Cape Wrath trail
25	5-6pm	Suzie Drew	Campfire cooking
MARCH			
10	5-6pm	To be confirmed	Animal tracks and signs
17	5-6pm	Steve (our Founder)	Preparing for the camping season – kit ideas, wildlife challenges and NWC activities

You can find details of all of the online presentations and talks, as well as links to the registration pages, on the Community Page.

[Check the Community Page for more details](#)

If you would be interested in providing a talk or you have a particular passion to share, then please do get in touch. We are keen to build this opportunity for members to **build their skills and knowledge about the countryside, wildlife and our relationship with nature as well as good, leave no trace, camping techniques and kit.**

If you have an offer, please contact nicholas@nearlywildcamping.org

Families and younger members

We know that we have a lot of younger people involved, and, judging by conversations with members, they are **not always getting to see the newsletter or the Community Page**. This seems a shame and we would encourage all family members to share the Newsletter and other emails with all the family. If only you see it, how does everyone know what is happening?



On this point, and following chats with a number of younger attendees at our camps, we are thinking it would be good to have a **young persons' section of the Newsletter and the website Community Page** and perhaps even some events and activities specifically focused on families.

We would love to hear from you and have your input on this. So, whilst Steve will be developing this further over the coming months, please let us know any thoughts or ideas by emailing Nick. nicholas@nearlywildcamping.org

REMINDERS and calls to action!

Ambassadors for social camps

Are you a keen Nearly Wild Camper who is also happy to help others get out more and get more involved?

We are keen to develop local member social camps where you can meet other members and start to develop local networks. As part of this, we are looking for members (camper and / location members) who are willing to occasionally be present at a specific date and NWC location to meet, greet and act as an informal supportive host to other NWCampers. You don't need to lead anything or provide an activity, just meet there! We know many of our members like to camp alone, but many also like to meet other like-minded members and have some social camping on their weekends. We hope these camps will provide an opportunity for members to learn from each other, meet socially and perhaps join in with each other's camp activities, at least some of the time.

If you are interested and able to help us with this, we aim to run a briefing zoom for social ambassadors in the winter, along with any follow up support needed, with a view to starting to run a lot more social camps in 2024.

To be clear, these social ambassadors will not have any responsibility for the other Nearly Wild Camping members that attend, it is simply to ensure that we have a set of dates (the dates do not need to be weekends and can be any time of year) and locations where social meets are happening and have someone present (who has had a greater briefing on NWC and what is happening that they can share with other members) to act as a link.

If you are interested and able to help in this way once, twice or more a year and are willing to commit to setting a date and location, then **please get in touch with Nick**. nicholas@nearlywildcamping.org

Promote your camp or activity

A number of member **businesses with an interest in helping people engage with nature or providing products that help them do so**, are offering member discounts. One of these is **Adventure Clinic** www.adventureclinic.com where members can learn more about our relationship with nature through bushcraft and other courses at discounted prices. Why not take a look at some of the other discounts available to you? these can be accessed by Members, when they are logged in through the Community Page.

[*Check the Community Page for more details*](#)

We are now developing much more opportunity for member and member locations to promote relevant products, activities and camps to other members for sale or for free. We hope this will help build our community and create more opportunity for everyone.

Obviously, it is important that these products, services and opportunities are appropriate to members and fit the club's ethos. We are therefore developing some simple guiding criteria to help you decide if what you want to offer is relevant.

Meanwhile, if you are running a camp, event, or provide a product relevant to other members and are willing to offer a discount or a member-only opportunity we would love to hear from you. As far as we are able, we will then start to promote these on the Community Page as well as in links in future newsletters. So, let us know as soon as you can. **Please get in touch with Nick.** nicholas@nearlywildcamping.org

Please send any feedback to nicholas@nearlywildcamping.org