

# 70TH ANNIVERSARY ASCENT OF THE CONWAY CRAG, SNOWDONIA.

Update 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

## BACKGROUND

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1946 a party of six cadets from *Conway's* Snowdon Group led by Canon J Williams (then Vicar of Llanberis) climbed the crag of Clogwyn Mawr on the lower slopes of Snowdon. The Climbing Club of Great Britain promptly renamed it The *Conway Crag* in their Club Guide but it has since reverted to its original name.



An expedition is being mounted to climb it again on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 - 70 years on - to plant a *Conway* ensign and leave a commemorative engraved plaque (see below). You, your partner, family and/or friends are all most welcome to join the expedition or come along as a spectator. The hotel have a had a cancellation so there are now lots of rooms available and so absolutely no limit on the numbers that can attend.



Above Left: *The Commemorative Plaque*

Above Right & Below: *Cadets On Conway Crag 1960 The steep bit is not on our route!*

## RIG OF THE DAY

Casual throughout, no need for suits, jackets, ties or ball gowns.

Snowdonia can be cold and wet in March so please bring appropriate clothing even if you are a spectator. If you are walking you must have waterproof walking boots / shoes (negative sea-boots), layered clothing, gloves, a hat and foul weather gear. I suggest you also carry a torch, mobile phone, drink and snack/chocolate bar. Many walkers swear by walking sticks. I will have a first aid kit. Anyone walking in an original *Conway* oilskin and sowester will get a free beer.

## ATTENDEES

There are now 56 people in the party; 13 spectators and 43 walkers including 32 OCs covering the years 1947 to 1974 and, I am pleased to say, six *Conway* MN Trust cadets. The complete list is below.



Name	Years	No Spectating	No Climbing	No OCs climbing
Sue Bailey	na	1	0	0
Alistair Barclay	64-66	0	2	1
Stephen Barnett	65-68	0	2	1
Robert Bellis	CMNT OC	0	1	1
Phillip van Bergen	69-71	0	2	1
Conrad Blakey	56-59	1	0	0
Fraser Bland	CMNT OC	0	1	1
John Bligh	66-69	0	2	1
John Bolton	51-52	1	1	1
Peter Booker	66-69	0	1	1
Frank Brown	53-55	1	1	1
David Couthard	62/64	1	1	1
David Croger	66-69	0	1	1
Richard Dauncey	64-67	0	1	1
Nick Dowden	CMNT OC	0	2	1
John Edge	52-53	1	1	1
John Evans	66-68	0	1	1
Matthew Evans	CMNT OC	2	1	1
David Fawcitt	67-69	1	1	1
John Gathercole	52-53	0	1	1
Peter Hamer	70-73	1	1	1
Paul Heaver	66-71	1	1	1
Andrew Hines	CMNT OC	0	1	1
Ian Johnston	52-53	0	2	1
William Langton	66-69	0	1	1
Steve Leavett	67-72	0	2	1
Ian Murray	62-64	0	2	1
John Pepper	58-60	1	1	1
Iain Petty	65-68	0	2	1
Adam Pope	69-72	0	2	1
Mike Reeves	56-59	1	1	1
John Spofforth	CMNT OC	0	1	1
Paul Warren	64-67	0	1	1
Alfie Windsor	64-68	0	2	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>32</b>
	<b>TOTAL FOR EVENT</b>		<b>56</b>	

## ACCOMMODATION & COSTS

The majority of us are staying at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Llanberis. A few have made alternative arrangements but will join us for dinner on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

If you want to join us please contact the hotel asap (01286 870253) to pay them your deposit on a room. Mention HMS *Conway*/my name. The cost is £42.50 pppn DB&B assuming two in a double or twin but £62.50 for single occupancy.

Alternatively, choose your own accommodation on <http://www.llanberis.org/Where-to-Stay.html>

There is no charge for the walk and we have a dinner, bed and breakfast rate at the Royal Victoria Hotel but I am afraid I could not avoid some additional charges. If you are staying at the hotel there will be a surcharge of £5.50 per person for the 'gala' dinner menu on 23<sup>rd</sup>, I had hoped to get these free of charge given the size of our party but did not succeed. The surcharge will however put a kitty of circa £100 behind the bar for our pre-dinner drinks.

If you are not staying at the hotel but are joining us for dinner on 23<sup>rd</sup> there is a charge of £20 per person for the 'gala' dinner menu.

I must pay these additional costs in advance so I'd be grateful if you could send me a cheque for the above amounts at your convenience, made payable to Alfie Windsor. Alternatively you can use PayPal quoting the email address below.



*Above: The Royal Victoria Hotel*

## ARRIVAL ON 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH

The hotel post code LL55 4TY, the nearest railway station is Bangor. Earliest check-in is 1400 hours (hrs). Most double rooms are in the main hotel building but singles and twins tend to be in the annex (where *Conway's* Snowdon Group met for some years) accessed via a long enclosed walkway. Rooms will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. There is free parking on site.

*Below: Dolbadarn Castle In Hotel Grounds  
Conway Crag marked. We approach over the saddle on the right*



Dinner starts at 1930 hrs so Jan and I will be in the bar from 1900 hrs. Our tables will be clustered together so just ask for the HMS *Conway* tables. You can eat whenever you want but last orders are at 2045 hrs and after 2000 hrs you may not be allocated a *Conway* table.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH – WALKERS

Jan and I have recc'd the walk and it will take about 2 hours each way. The first third is on a steep tarmac track, the second third is on the roughly surfaced Snowdon Path, the final leg is across country over grassy, probably wet ground, see photo right, with a bit of very easy rock scrambling at the very end. The Conway Crag is actually a series of low ridges rather than an isolated peak and is now called Clogwyn Mawr (OS OL17 SH595586).



*Above: Route From Track To Conway Crag*

- 0930 hrs: Assemble for safety briefing in the hotel.  
1000 hrs: Walk straight out onto the mountain.  
1120 hrs: Short break next to the railway line so we can wave the *Conway* ensign ( I have an ensign), hurl abuse etc., as the spectator's train chugs past.  
1230 hrs: Reach the Conway Crag, place a commemorative plaque and pause for lunch. The hotel can provide packed lunches, more details later.  
1300 hrs: (Approximately) depart Conway Crag.  
1430 hrs: (Approximately) stop for light refreshments at the licensed Snowdon Café <http://snowdoncafe.com>.  
1530 hrs: (Approximately) arrive back at the hotel.

I'm determined that the ascent will happen - subject to life threatening conditions of course - but fully accept that others may drop out in the event of really adverse conditions. If it's absolutely impossible on 23<sup>rd</sup> the ascent will be on the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> after check-out.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH – SPECTATORS

The train is £23 return and I suggest you catch the 1100 hrs departure from Llanberis. **I have not booked seats so please buy your tickets as soon as you can** online <http://www.snowdonrailway.co.uk> or by phone 0844 493 8120. Refunds are given if trains are cancelled because of bad weather.



*A Train Approaching Clogwyn Station*

- 1030 hrs: Leave hotel for Snowdon Mountain Railway station across the road from the hotel.  
1100 hrs: Train departs.  
1120 hrs: Look out for the walkers on your left shortly after Hebron Station.  
1145 hrs: There are no trips to the summit in March so the train will terminate at Clogwyn Station for a 30 minute stop with panoramic views, weather permitting! Note that Clogwyn Station is not the peak the walkers are climbing. You cannot see the Conway Crag from Clogwyn station.  
1215 hrs: Depart Clogwyn.  
1300 hrs: Arrive back in Llanberis.  
1400 hrs: Optionally, walk up the quiet lane to the [Snowdon Café](#) to meet the walkers for afternoon tea. Around 35-40 minutes walking and steep uphill for the first part.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH – DINNER

- 1900 hrs: Pre-dinner drinks in the bar, joined by those not staying at the hotel.  
1930 hrs: We are too large a party or their private dining rooms so our four course dinner will be in the main dining room.

## DEPARTURE 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH / THINGS TO DO

Depart after breakfast giving time to visit one of the many local attractions like:

- Dolbadarn Castle (free entry from hotel grounds – see photo on page 3).
- The National Slate Museum, the quarry's slate was shipped through Port Dinorwic (free entry, walking distance from hotel). <file://localhost/http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/slate>:
- The Electric Mountain (Dinorwig Power Station) is walking distance from hotel. <http://www.electricmountain.co.uk>
- Caernarfon Castle and the Conway anchor. <http://www.caernarfon-castle.co.uk>
- Plas Newydd. <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/plas-newydd-country-house-and-gardens>

The Llanberis Lakeside Slate Railway and the lake cruisers do not operate in March.

Llanberis town is 10 minutes walk from the hotel but to be brutally honest hardy merits a visit.



*Above: Conway Anchor, Caernarfon  
Below: Plas Newydd*



If you have any questions please contact me

Yours aye  
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