

"I first made contact with the Mountain Club in the Autumn of 1962 after Tom MacDonald, who was Chairman at the time, was invited to address a group of first year student apprentices at English Electric. Building of Bryn Hafod was in full swing and new labour was always welcome. Trips of any sort to the hills were a relatively rare for penniless students and with working parties there was always the possibility that Hans Hoel would provide free transport. We did however have to pay for our food (12/- {60p} in 1963). I played a very minor role in the building work not least because for much of 1964 I was out of commission after a car accident. The list of food supplied by Jim Wiltshire was the standard fare for working parties and buying the weekend rations was the responsibility of the working party leader unless he could unload the job onto someone else.

After Bryn Hafod opened there was still work to be done, most obviously the construction of the generator hut, but enthusiasm for working parties gradually dwindled and communal catering for working parties ceased in March 1969. By then the charge for food had risen to 15/- (75p) per person. I know this as some time later I tore out and kept the menu page and the last attendance record when I reused the notebook (standard English Electric issue) for something else. Unfortunately the menu page has not survived. Just 5 of us on that working party (so well attended for the period). I think we would still have been working on the generator hut at that time."

Roger Chapman