



Following the dramatic failure of their two previous expeditions, in late winter 1926 luckless adventurers 'Leftguard Fletcher' and 'Dimples Amberfield' packed their bags for the black caves of Assendanowir. Their goal, to explore the unmapped matrix of caverns that lay beneath the ground.

Despite the most carefully prepared plans, disaster struck once more. Three weeks into their descent Dimples was struck by a calciferous tuba. Against all odds the thin Sprylon rope held his fall and he escaped without injury. But as Lefty hauled him back to the narrow underground pathway Dimples realised his torn rucsac was now lighter. Their supply of candles and matches had fallen into the dark abyss beneath.

With their only possessions now a zippo lighter and two hundred bars of rich, dark chocolate, once again the courageous duo were forced to abandon their plans and find a way home. This time without light, surviving on chocolate alone.

After two weeks crawling in the darkness Lefty fell groaning to the floor. The diet of rich chocolate had taken its toll on his usually stout constitution. His stomach groaned in grim defiance. Accepting the welcome reality of his fate, his body relaxed.



Instantly a deafening roar erupted from deep inside the seat of his tweed breeches, filling the air around them with an ungodly stench.



Hearing the noise Dimples fumbled for the lighter, flicking furiously as he squinted through the darkness. Suddenly a hot wind rushed past their faces and a vast ball of orange fire surged upwards to the ceiling. Their eyes watering from the smell, the pair looked at each other and smiled, realising this was the answer to their troubles.



With Lefty shovelling chocolate into his mouth by the handful and Dimples close behind with the lighter, it took them less than two days to find a safe passage out of the black caves.

Back in Blighty, Lefty and Dimples returned to Plas y Brenin, and their jobs as barmen where night after night eager drinkers leaned in to hear the triumphant explorers recount their story.

Hearing this incredible tale of ingenuity and determination, local brewer 'Humphrey The Great' founder of the now famous 'Nant Brewery' offered to brew a special ale in their honour.

The result was a legendary real ale entitled "Dark Winter" flavoured with rich dark chocolate and infused with 'natural gases'. Dark Winter is enjoyed to this day by visitors to the National Mountain Centre, helping them warm their minds and bodies after a long winter's day on the hill.

So the next time you visit Plas y Brenin, be sure to raise a glass to Lefty and Dimples and enjoy the taste of Dark Winter.

DARK WINTER

Brewed Exclusively For Plas y Brenin By Nant Brewery
Available Only At The National Mountain Centre

