



Community update

Summer 2014



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Hello and welcome to the Summer 2014 edition of Community Update from the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. We very much hope you will enjoy catching up with work, news and stories from across the National Park. If you would like to be placed on our mailing list or contribute to future editions, please be sure to contact the Communities Team via the A-Z of services at the end of this newsletter .

Many Thanks,

John Cook Chief Executive Officer BBNPA

LATEST NEWS... LATEST NEWS... LATEST NEWS...

It's Play Time at The National Park Visitor Centre



The National Park Authority's Visitor Centre at Libanus known to many as the 'Mountain Centre' will be a whole lot more appealing to visitors of a younger generation thanks to the installation of a new adventure play area. Andrea Mansfield Visitor Centre Manger said " The new adventure play area has certainly met the approval of our younger visitors judging by the amount of use the equipment has seen already. It's ideal location in front of the tea rooms allow mums and dads the chance to grab a drink whilst still being able to keep a close eye on their children at play".

For more information on the National Park's visitor centre visit <http://www.breconbeacons.org/national-park-visitor-centre> or call 01874 623366

Latest News

COMMUNITY MARQUEE

AVAILABLE

The Community Marquee loan scheme offers groups, schools, charities and other nonprofit organizations within the National Park the opportunity to use the 12m x 6m Community Marquee at their local events **FREE** of charge.

For booking forms please contact Ceri Bevan on 01874 620471

Webcasts

All the Authority's meetings are available to view via our webcasts microsite.

visit:

www.breconbeacons.public-i.tv/core/portal/home
to find out more

'I am the doorway to your past...' – an inspiring interpretation panel for Maen Llia

Maen Llia is the largest standing stone in the Brecon Beacons National Park, a significant feature in the windswept Llia valley. Recent vandalism, in the form of spray painted graffiti, highlighted the fact that some people



did not value it. The spray paint was sensitively removed, and the Park Authority considered that an interpretation panel would encourage visitors to form a connection with the stone.

It is thought that the stone was raised in this upland environment around 4,000 years ago, in the Bronze Age, but we do not know the exact reason.

Any interpretation installed would have to be sensitive to its dramatic, exposed location. The design brief that we issued was an unusual one in that we asked for a creative solution using shaping and transparency. Fitzpatrick Woolmer supplied an innovative design that mirrors the shape of the stone. Part of the panel is softly transparent so that the landscape it sits in is visible. This means that as the vegetation and light conditions change, part of the panel reflects them.

Our wording and timeline encourage visitors to reflect on why the stone may have been raised, and why its location may have been important to our ancestors. We invite visitors to observe whether the legend associated with it – that it moves on Midsummer's Eve - is really true..

A creative writing group based in Brecon, organised by writer Adele Nozedar, has taken Maen Llia as the inspiration for a forthcoming booklet of their work. During site visits, the interpretation panel has given them food for thought.

Lucy Newton, Interpretation Officer

Eleanor Flaherty, Education Officer

News & Projects

National Park to benefit from share of £6 million Fund for Nature

Following months of work to provide useful advice and ideas to the Welsh Government during their consultation on a new £6M Nature Fund, we are delighted that this has paid off. On May 16th 2014, the Environment Minister Alun Davies AM announced that seven “Nature Action Zones”, including the Brecon Beacons (focussing on management affecting the Wye and Usk catchments), will form the focus of spending this cash to help nature, and biodiversity to recover and thereby safeguard and restore ecology so that the ecosystem goods and services that we rely on continue. A number of different organisations, including the Park Authority, submitted proposals that identified the Black Mountains as a suitable project area. We are now awaiting further word from the Welsh Government whilst they set up a series of workshops in the Action Zones, to invite those organisations, and their ideas, to come together to develop projects, hopefully not just short term projects but ones that reach into the future over a number of years. It is very early days as yet but this is potentially very exciting news for the Park, its wildlife and its people. For more information, you can read the Welsh Government’s official statement here: <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/publications/140516-nature-fund-update-may-en.pdf>.

Paul Sinnadurai, Conservation Manager.



The photo's above illustrate the need for action the photo left is of Waun Fach the highest peak in the Black Mountains circa 1960 and the photo right is the same location in 2012 .

(1960 photo published with kind permission of the Douglas Campbell photo collection <http://donduncan.org/dcml/>)

A Warm Welcome to Abergavenny

Abergavenny Railway Station has been given a facelift with newly installed welcome panels in the waiting room and on the wall outside. They give a flavour of the town and the wider National Park, and were jointly funded by the National Park Authority and Natural Resources Wales.



National Park Interpretation Officer Lucy Newton worked in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council, Arriva Trains Wales, Abergavenny residents and supplier Platform One to create the panels. The town’s map was adapted to show the ‘safe walking route’ towards the town centre and bus station, helping journeys to continue by public transport.

Interestingly, our supplier had been based in the Station Master’s Flat in the 1980s, and this had inspired a name change to Platform One! The panels give a warm welcome and will encourage people to explore the area.

News & Projects

National Park Authority to Offer John Muir Award

Members of Staff from Wardens, Visitor Services, Education and Communities teams recently undertook training to support the introduction of the John Muir Award Scheme.

The award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places. It encourages people to connect with, enjoy and care for the natural environment and has three progressive levels that are open to any age range and ability to complete.

For more information on the award visit www.johnmuiraward.org

Formally opened on Saturday 14th June, The new wildlife garden at the National Park Visitor Centre, near Libanus



Over 1,000 people enjoyed a great day of sunny weather for the event at the National Park Visitor Centre. The Centre hosted a day of pond dipping, minibeast hunts, falconry, face painting, a bouncy castle, wood turning, metal working, glass blowing, leather work and bike hire

The garden has been funded and supported by Natural Resources Wales and the National Park Authority and over the past year, many organisations have been involved in creating the wildlife garden at the Centre. These include the Brecknock Wildlife Trust, Gwernyfed and Brecon High Schools, Keep Wales Tidy, the Probation Service as well as National Park volunteers and staff. It is hoped that this garden will inspire people to make their own gardens friendlier for different kinds of wildlife – even if they have limited space.

The wildlife pond is now thriving and has become a magnet for pond skaters, diving beetles, frogs, dragonflies, newts, pond snails and much more.

Volunteers and staff have been creating minibeast habitats and pond dipping platforms for the National Park Education Service to use with school groups.

Schools can contact the Education Team to book a visit on

01874 624437 or e-mail enquiries@breconbeacons.org

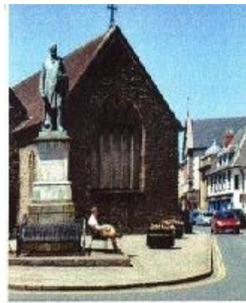
Community Support

5 things you should know about Dementia

1. It's not a natural part of ageing.
2. Its caused by diseases of the brain the most common of these is Alzheimer's.
3. Its not just about losing your memory— it can effect thinking communicating and doing everyday tasks.
4. It's possible to live well with dementia.
5. There's more to a person than the dementia.

For more information on Dementia, contact **The National Dementia Hotline** on **0300 222 1122**

Brecon & Hay Dementia Supportive Community



making Brecon a
**dementia
friendly
community**

Valuing and respecting the person

Brecon Guildhall, June 20th saw the launch on making Brecon a Dementia Friendly community, part of the Brecon and Hay Dementia Supportive Community initiative.

This grass roots, community-led venture, supported by Brecon Town Council, will see Brecon become the first officially- recognised Dementia Friendly town in Wales. A growing group of committed individuals have been delivering dementia friends awareness sessions to organisations and businesses across town, as well as producing and distributing handy hints leaflets to help further increase understanding and challenge some of the myths and stigmas associated with the disease.

The back bone of this initiative is the Dementia Friends campaign. Recently launched by the Alzheimer's society in Wales and backed up with advertising and high profile media coverage, the aim of Dementia Friends is to raise awareness and improve understanding through five key messages; helping to create dementia friendly communities and improving the lives of people living with dementia and their carers.

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority fully back this movement, with former Chair Julie James and Authority Members committed to Brecon Beacons becoming the first Dementia Friendly National Park in the UK. This will involve steps such as all the Authority's staff and volunteers receiving dementia friends awareness sessions led by staff Dementia Champion Huw Price Community Development Officer , supporting staff and their families by including consideration of the effects of dementia within our Human Resources policies, and consideration within the Park through social inclusion and visitor strategy.

The Authority has also become part of the local Dementia Action Alliance, and will work with tourism providers to increase awareness of the need for accommodation and facilities for the 'golden traveller', many of who will increasingly be living with or supporting someone with a dementia.

For more information www.dementiafriends.org.uk

Or contact; info@dementiafriendlybrecon.org.uk or call 07946 445234

Community Support

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

2014 Grant
application deadlines:

3 September 2014

5 November 2014

Sustainable Development Fund Enquiries

For further
information and advice
about the SDF please
contact either;

Helen Roderick or
Ceri Bevan on

01874 620471

or email
helen.roderick@beacons-
npa.gov.uk

ceri.bevan@beacons-
npa.gov.uk



July 2014 Sustainable Development Fund Grant Awards

The SDF panel met in the first week of July and approved three projects.

Llangorse Sailing Club were awarded £15,000 towards the cost of building a new clubhouse. The sailing club, run by volunteers, is keen to promote participation in the



sport and has taster days and junior training sessions. For more information <http://www.llangorsesailing.com/index.aspx>. BRfm, a community radio station on the Park boundary in Nantyglo has been awarded £3,204 to modernise their computer equipment to ensure their continued successful operation. To see the activities of the radio station watch the following video. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOKGbXJBL74>. Abergavenny TIC operating from the Tithe Barn in Abergavenny received £7,500 towards the operation of tourist services from this new location.

Coleg Powys Students Gain Rural Skills



Councillor David Meredith was delighted to present students from Brecon College their Agored Cymru certificates in Countryside Awareness during a recent field trip to the new Llangasty bird hide.

The qualifications were gained as part of the Rural Skills project run by the National Park Authority which aims to develop skills, boost confidence as well as increase the participant's knowledge and awareness of the National Park and the environment.

If you would like further information on the Rural Skills project please contact Huw Price Community Development Officer 01874 620451 or email huw.price@beacons-npa.gov.uk

Community Support

Brecon Beacons Young Archaeologists' Club

The Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) is the only UK-wide club for young people from the age of 8 up to the age of 16 who are interested in archaeology. YAC's vision is for all young people to have opportunities to be inspired and excited by archaeology, and to empower them to help shape its future.

For more information contact branch leader Natalie Ward
natalie.ward@beacons-mpa.gov.uk

PLANNING SURGERY

For advice on householder developments and general enquiries, Every Wednesday 9.30am – 2.00pm BBNPA HQ Brecon

Appointments are available in 30 minute slots. Please call to book 01874 620431

FAIR PLAY GRANT BENEFITS PARKS YOUNG PEOPLE



The recent "Come and Try it Day" at Craig-y-nos Country Park near Pen-y-cae was again the jewel in the Forest Fawr GeoPark festival crown thanks in part to the 'Fair Play in the Park' grant which supports community groups working with children and young people experiencing financial hardship. The grant provides transport to activities in the Park they would usually be unable to reach. The day saw over 800 hundred visitors try activities from Orienteering and Geocaching, to a zip wire across the main meadow.

Last year the grant helped over 700 young people to access a range of activities right across the National Park ,

Beneficiaries included Abergavenny youth club who under took canoeing and



mountain biking trips, Llanddeusant Home Education Group visited Dan-yr-Ogof show caves for a hands on geology lesson, and Lower Cynon Communities 1st Fortitude group climbed to the National Park's highest point the summit of Pen-y-Fan!

The Fair play grant also helps schools which have a high percentage of pupils on free school meals by funding transport for educational visits to the Park.

For more information on the 'Fair Play In The Park' grant please contact Community Development Officer Huw Price huw.price@beacons-mpa.gov.uk or call 01874 624437

Countryside

Reporting illegal Off- roading

The National Park has a zero tolerance policy to illegal off road vehicle usage any concerns or reports regarding this issue can be reported via our online form on the website please visit: <http://www.beacons-mpa.gov.uk/the-authority/reporting-illegal-offroading/>

Reporting Rights of Way Issues

Any issues regarding rights of way such as damage to footpaths, stiles or fingerposts can be reported to our Rights of Way Officer Eifion Jones

eifion.jones@beacons-mpa.gov.uk
or call
01874 624437

Wildlife Recording – (and how you can get involved) a crucial part of biodiversity conservation

Most of us are now aware of the pressures placed on our native wildlife by changing land-use and development in the modern world. In order to inform decisions on where to focus conservation action for wildlife and implement the laws designed to protect biodiversity, good quality biological information is vital. Biological recording is making a note of the plants and animals we see, as well as where and when we see them. In its simplest form, a record consists of a date, species name and location. Together these records can help to tell us how different species and habitats are doing over time.



How can we know if a species really is rare or threatened, if we don't have an accurate picture of where they are and how their population or range is changing over time? Today's common species may be tomorrow's rare species; we won't know it's happening and won't be able to help, if we don't know where they are. Monitoring species can also help us detect other kinds of change, such as climatic change.

Over the last few decades, a network of Local Biological Records Centres have been developed across the UK with the aim of collecting, collating, storing and sharing biological information. This information is made available to conservation organisations, academics, local naturalists, the general public as well as local authorities, planners and industry. Through Local Records Centres everyone can help to safeguard their local wildlife simply by contributing records of the wildlife they see. In this electronic age, it has never been easier to get involved with recording and never fear, whatever your interest you can guarantee someone wants to know!

To learn more about wildlife recording, and how easy it is to get involved, why not take a look at our region's Local Records Centre. The Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and the Brecon Beacons (or 'BIS' for short!) has recently launched its new website, which has been developed so it can also be used on tablets and mobile phones. You can now see what wildlife



has been recorded in your area and easily add sightings using the BIS's online Wildlife Recording Database (WiReD). Plus you can see all the records you've submitted – so if you want to keep your very own list of wildlife sightings for your garden you can. For more information see: <http://www.b-i-s.org/>

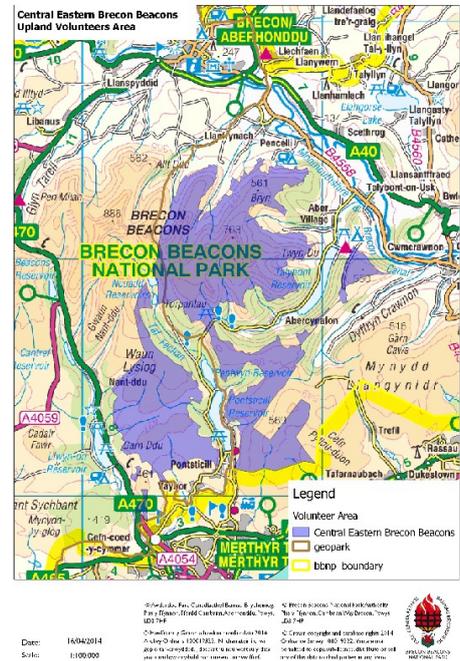
Volunteering

Central Eastern Brecon Beacons Upland Volunteer Group to be created

The huge success of the Black Mountains Upland Volunteers who help the Authority monitor and maintain the large network of mountain paths has highlighted the need to establish further groups in areas under high visitor pressure.

Assistant Conservation Officer Jason Rees said “ The Central Eastern Brecon Beacons is an ideal location for the set up of a sister group to the Black Mountains Scheme. We are looking for volunteers willing to help us in undertaking practical tasks to maintain the paths such as clearing drains and pitching of loose material ,repairing slab and stone work, alongside monitoring tasks and actively engaging with members of the public out on the mountains to highlight their work”.

For further information please contact Huw Price Volunteer Coordinator huw.price@beacons-npa.gov.uk



Gwent Mountaineers Lend Helping Hand



The Gwent Mountaineering Club has been lending a hand to the conservation of the hills above the Talybont Reservoir.

Hardy members from the Club braved mixed weather over two days, to assist The National Park Authority’s Conservation team to clear upland cross-drains and water-bars along a steep section of mountain path on Craig-y-Fan Du.

Huw Price Volunteer Coordinator for the National Park Authority said “It’s great to work with user groups that enjoy visiting the National Park on a regular basis, The club has helped with the maintenance of an extremely popular route, which gives access to the heart of the Central Eastern Brecon Beacons. The weather wasn’t always in our favour although at least we could instantly see that the drains we had cleared were working to stop water running down the path !”

For further information about volunteering with the National Park Authority please see our webpages

www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/volunteering



Activities and Events

Brecon County Show

Sat 2nd August

The Show is based around the Cattle, Sheep, Horse & Pony classes which attract exhibitors from all over the country. It also has over 200 trade exhibitors bringing you the best in British Farm Produce, the latest tractors & farm machinery and cars, to anything for the garden. From clothing and jewellery to hand made cards, there is something for everyone. Combine this with vintage and modern machinery, dog show, rides and stalls for children, a beer tent and much more you will be sure to have a great family day out.

For more information visit: [Brecon County Show](#).

Brecon Jazz Festival

Fri 8th Aug 2014 - Sun 10th Aug 2014

The programme for the world famous Brecon Jazz Festival 2014 will have a sprinkling of stellar names and leading lights of the Jazz world.

This is the third year for Wales-based festival operator Orchard following their successful start in 2012.

This year the atmosphere will again be enhanced with colourful street entertainment that proved so popular in keeping all ages entertained around town, and Orchard will once again work closely with Brecon Fringe to put a complementary programme of music into Brecon's bars and smaller venues.

Perseid Meteor Shower - Star gazing event

Tue 12th Aug 2014

Times: 19:30 - 23:00

Come and view one of nature's finest shows: the Perseid meteor shower, live from the dark skies above the National Park. Experts from Dark Sky Wales will help

you explore the heavens in their portable planetarium; view stars and planets through telescopes. If it is cloudy there will be a range of lectures on the subject at the National Park Visitor Centre, Libanus, LD3 8ER

Cost: £10:00 per person (min.age guide 8+ years). Price includes parking, entry to the planetarium and a hot jacket potato.

Booking essential on 01874 623366.

Brecon Beacons Summer Fayre

Sat 23rd Aug 2014 - Mon 25th Aug 2014

If you're a fan of food, music, or the arts, the National Park Visitor Centre Libanus, near Brecon is the only place to be this August Bank Holiday weekend for the tenth annual Brecon Beacons Summer Fayre.

Come rain or shine join the fun at this celebration of Welsh food, drink, arts & crafts from 23rd to 25th August. You'll discover over 70 stands to explore, children's activities and live entertainment set to spill on to the front lawn and surrounding fields. While you browse through an endless array of local food, arts and crafts, your little ones will be kept entertained by a range of inspiring activities including willow sculpting, badge-making, face-painting, pottery turning, a bouncy castle, and guitar and folk dancing lessons. The selection of local produce on offer at this year's Summer Fayre includes organic meats, dressings, fresh fruit and vegetables, jams, chutneys, smoked foods, honey, bread, ciders, beers and wines, cheeses, biscuits cakes, chocolates, ice creams and more. It's a great family day out supporting local Welsh producers. It's free entry and only £2 to park for the full day.

The festival runs from 10am to 5pm each day.

For an extended list of activities in the
National Park

please visit : www.breconbeacons.org

National Park Visitor Centre

Libanus, Nr Brecon

• Tea Rooms and
Restaurant

• Gift shop &
toilets

• Room Hire

• Weddings

Tel: 01874 623366

visitorcentre@breconbeacons.org

Craig y nos Country Park

Pen-y-cae, Swansea
Valley

• Tea rooms and
Restaurant -

Changing Seasons
Tea Rooms and
Restaurant Tel:
01639 731498

• Gift shop

• Disabled toilet
with baby
changing facility
open 24hrs

• Room hire.

Tel: 01639 730935

Email:

cynop@breconbeacons.org

Our Visitor Centre and Country Park are open every day of the year except Christmas Day.

Entrance is free but there is a charge for car parking

If you are a regular visitor you could save money on a season ticket.

Your Authority A-Z

Your helpful guide to contacting the Authority for information or services

Service or Team	Lead Contact / Officer/s	Contact Details	Telephone Number
General Enquiries National Park Authority Headquarters, Brecon	Authority switchboard	enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
National Park Visitor Centre, Libanus 'The Mountain Centre'	Visitor Services	npvc@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 623366
Craig y nos Country Park Pen-y-Cae	Country Park Office	cyncp@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01639 730395
Brecon Beacons Young Archaeologists' Club	Natalie Ward	natalie.ward@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Chief Executive Officer	John Cook	john.cook@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Community Development & Sustainability	Ceri Bevan / Helen Roderick / Huw Price	communities@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Democratic & Office Services	Julia Gruffydd	julia.gruffydd@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Director of Countryside & Land Management	Julian Atkins	julian.atkins@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Director of Planning	Christopher Morgan	christopher.morgan@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Ecology	Brad Welch	bradley.welch@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Education ,Interpretation & Information	Sunita Welch	education@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Fair Play in the Park Project	Huw Price	huw.price@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Fforest Fawr Geopark	Alan Bowring	alan.bowring@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Finance	Delyth Stephens	finance@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437

Your Authority A-Z

Your helpful guide to contacting the Authority for information or services

Service or Team	Lead Contact / Officer/s	Contact Details	Telephone
Human Resources	Richard Mears	<a href="mailto:richard.mears@beacons-
npa.gov.uk">richard.mears@beacons- npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Information Technology	Paul Funnell	<a href="mailto:paul.funnell@beacons-
npa.gov.uk">paul.funnell@beacons- npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Management Plan	Matt Scanlon	<a href="mailto:matthew.scanlon@beacons-
npa.gov.uk">matthew.scanlon@beacons- npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Planning Enforcement Team	Helen Rice / Rhodri Davies	<a href="mailto:enforcement@beacons-
npa.gov.uk">enforcement@beacons- npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Planning Services Administration	Jane Pashley	<a href="mailto:planning.enquiries@beacons-
npa.gov.uk">planning.enquiries@beacons- npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Planning Strategy & Policy Team	Ryan Greaney	<a href="mailto:SPH@beacons-
npa.gov.uk">SPH@beacons- npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Rights of Way	Eifion Jones	<a href="mailto:eifion.jones@beacons-
npa.gov.uk">eifion.jones@beacons- npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Volunteering	Huw Price	<a href="mailto:huw.price@beacons-
npa.gov.uk">huw.price@beacons- npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Warden Service	Judith Harvey	<a href="mailto:judith.harvey@beacons-
npa.gov.uk">judith.harvey@beacons- npa.gov.uk	01874 624437

Stay Up to Date

There are now even more ways to keep up to speed with all the latest news and information from the National Park Authority you can



Tweet us on [@BreconBeaconsNP](https://twitter.com/BreconBeaconsNP)
Or our Wardens Team on [@BBParkWarden](https://twitter.com/BBParkWarden)



Follow us via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/breconbeaconsnationalpark>



See our Youtube Channel Videos <http://www.youtube.com/user/BreconBeaconsNPA>



View The Brecon Beacons Flickr Photo group <http://www.flickr.com/groups/breconbeaconspark/>