



Community update

Autumn 2016



Hello and welcome

to the Autumn 2016 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.

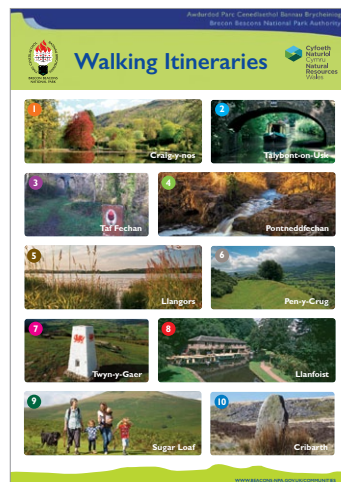
John Cook Chief Executive Officer, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

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Enjoy the Brecon Beacons National Park with our new walking itineraries

An 'Inspironment' project run by the National Park Authority Communities team, has led to the production of a new series of walking itineraries aimed at community groups- but anyone can use them.



The project, a partnership between the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and Natural Resources Wales, supported community group leaders and their groups to spend a day in the National Park, enjoying the outdoors through a variety of different activities, thus helping to improve their health and wellbeing.

Ten bilingual walking itineraries have now been produced which give detailed directions with maps for a variety of scenic walks in different areas of the Park. Suitable for all abilities and interests, they are graded easy, moderate and strenuous and range from 1-5 miles in distance. Some are easily accessible and level, some are more strenuous, but worth a bit of extra effort for the fantastic views you get from the top.

Detailed information on nearby parking, public transport access, toilets and refreshments are included in each itinerary, along with links to further information available on other websites. There are even suggestions for different activities suitable for each walk such as birdwatching, geocaching or making a journey stick!

'Links to Recovery' group leader Lee Dennis said: "Since the Inspironment project we have noticed more of our service users getting out through a variety of activities including volunteering, geocaching and informal walks."

These itineraries are available to print off from the National Park Authority's website
<http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/communities/walking-itineraries-inspironment-project/>



Geocaching Project enthuses local youth groups to get out and about

The Geocaching project, funded by Sport Wales and the National Park Authority, is well into its second year and has engaged with 283 'hard- to -reach' young people.

Many of these young people are excluded from normal activities due to behaviour, opportunity or disadvantage. 90 leaders and 15 volunteers have been trained to help enable the youth groups to carry on with geocaching activities. Many of the newly trained leaders are now running their own geocaching sessions. Dare Valley Country Park now has its very own geocaching trail. Look out also for a new trail starting at Parc Taf Bargoed.

For a better look at what we do there is a video available at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPc_OawNueE&feature=youtu.be

MIND Eco Project benefits local group- and the environment!

The Brecon and District MIND Eco project enables volunteers to contribute to environmental conservation work including wildlife surveys, pond clearing, invasive plant control and bird box siting amongst many other interesting and enjoyable tasks.

This project is run in partnership with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and Wales Council for Voluntary Action. Volunteers from the local branch of mental health charity MIND, are assisting in the management of the wildlife garden at the National Park Visitor Centre and are also given the opportunity to gain recognised accredited training in rural skills through courses run by the Communities Team from the National Park Authority.

Not only is this helping improve the environment but working outside can have lots of positive health benefits such as improving fitness and meeting like-minded people. One volunteer on the project said:

'It gives me structure, makes me utilise the daylight and get out of bed. It gives me something outside of myself to nurture and look after and that helps me to look after myself better.'

Above: Volunteers on a tree identification course at Craig-y-nos Country Park.

Also pictured: MIND Volunteer Coordinator Matt Sowerby and Ceri Bevan, National Park Sustainable Communities Officer



If you are a youth group in Torfaen, Blaenau-Gwent, Merthyr Borough or Rhondda Cynon Taff and wish to engage in the project email: geocaching@beacons-npa.gov.uk

Young people geocaching on Mynydd Illtyd, near Brecon

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Priorities for 2016/17

The Sustainable Development Fund is a grant fund designed to support projects to develop and test ways of achieving a more sustainable way of living in the National Park.

In 2016/2017 we are actively seeking the following types of projects:-

Energy – Generating energy from renewable sources and saving energy, both leading to reduced carbon usage

Business – Promoting rural economic development

Natural and built heritage

Community resilience

Health and wellbeing

For more detail on the priorities and the Sustainable Development Fund please refer to the Authority website:

<http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/communities/sustainability-2/subsustainable-development-fund/>

If you have a project idea, please contact our office where Helen or Ceri will be happy to provide development support and advice.

helen.roderick@beacons-npa.gov.uk or telephone 01874 620417

ceri.bevan@beacons-npa.gov.uk or telephone 01874 620471



Pontsticill volunteers preparing for a litter pick. The village regeneration project has been supported by the Sustainable Development Fund

Upland Path Volunteers form new three year partnership

With funding from the National Park Sustainable Development Fund, the Brecon Beacons Upland Path Volunteers have formed a new partnership with Gwent Drug and Alcohol Services (GDAS) for the next three years.

As part of the project, four members of GDAS and a member of staff will join the Upland Path Volunteers each year to carry out essential upland path maintenance. In addition they will receive all the usual opportunities to undertake training.

At present 10 volunteers have received Lantra approved accreditation in the safe use of brush cutters. This has allowed the group to expand their skills and undertake additional tasks to assist the wardens. Most recently, 1.5 km of the Beacons Way has been cleared of bracken using brush cutters and hand tools.

The volunteers have also received bespoke Ambassador training in geology, bio-diversity and tourism to enable them to answer questions and engage with members of the public when out maintaining paths.

In the coming year both GDAS members and Upland Path Volunteers will be offered further training in ecology, first aid and navigation.

The training will enhance the already valuable contribution these volunteers make to the conservation of the upland environment.



Upland Path Volunteers after
brush cutter training

Buggy-cise proves a huge success!

The spring edition of Community Update announced the launch of a brand new activity for mums and their babies called Buggy-cise.

Run in partnership with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Freedom Leisure and the Western Valleys Communities First initiative, it has become very popular. The aim of the project is to get mums outdoors and more active in their community taking along their baby and buggy.

One participant, Katie Wilkinson said, "Being a mum of three I don't have time to go to the gym and neither do I have babysitters, so Buggy-cise has been fantastic. I can get out and get active with my baby and am able to exercise and get fitter. I'm able to take my older children along in school holidays which they enjoy. It has also given me the opportunity to meet other mums and to learn about new walks and trails in the local area".

Buggy-cise runs every Thursday at 1.30pm, either at Craig-y-nos Country Park or from Ystradgynlais Sports Centre. The session is run by a walking group leader and a qualified fitness instructor who has been trained in pre and post-natal exercise. Each week the activity includes a walk and a number of exercises.



For more information please look at the SblashaSbri Facebook page where the session is advertised. <https://www.facebook.com/SblashaSbri/?fref=ts>

Eleri Thomas from the National Park Authority (second from right) with some mums attending Buggy-cise.

Criw Craggy make a big impact at Craig-y-nos Country Park

Criw Craggy or Friends of Craig-y-nos Country Park was set up in January 2016 by a group of National Park Authority volunteers who have been working on the site over the past 5 years.

Eleanor Flaherty of Criw Craggy explains: "During this time we have all developed a passion for the site's unique history, culture and environment. The Friends already have plans underway for some short term projects in biodiversity, with bulb planting, bat and bird box projects to involve the local community later this year. We have other more ambitious plans to develop areas for children and families, run art and cultural events, to undertake feasibility studies in green energy production, plus many community engagement activities.

We are working closely with Ian Penn, Country Park Warden, to ensure that all our projects enhance and add to the work already underway by the National Park Authority.

We are pleased to say that we have already secured funding from the Brecon Beacons Trust for our autumn biodiversity projects, promotional materials and accessories for the new tractor coming to Craig-y-nos. We are inviting people to support the group with as much or as little time as they can spare.

The best way of keeping up to date with us is our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/criwcraggy/> or email eleanorflaherty@hotmail.co.uk. If you'd like to meet us, we will be at the Classic Car Show at the Country Park on 4th September and it would be great to see you there.

Criw Craggy with Craig-y-nos Country Park Warden Ian Penn (back right)



'Fair Play' scheme for schools continues for another year

Our 'Fair Play' scheme provides funding to pay for transport for schools in disadvantaged areas of Wales to come to education courses in the National Park.

With reduced costs, it enables more pupils to join our Education team and learn about the National Park, the environment and also benefit from being outdoors in this special area.

Over 300 pupils have enjoyed a visit with this scheme over the last year. If your school has over 20% of pupils eligible for free school meals, watch out for an email being sent to all schools early September. Funding is limited and on a first come, first served basis.

For more information about the Authority's Education Service see:
<http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/learning/>



Pupils enjoying a walk near Pen y Fan.

Forest School is popular with children in Llangattock

Pupils of Llangattock Church in Wales School now have the opportunity to spend their time at a very different type of school.

A Forest School in the beech woodland nearby was created by two Trainee Wardens from the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority - Richard Taylor and Sarah Bagley- who met the children at the outdoor classroom earlier this year.

Mrs Liz Thomas, a teacher at the Llangattock primary school said, 'The school already uses the woods for outdoor learning activities, but we were very keen to set up a dedicated space where children can sit down in a circle to play games and carry out activities. Forest Schools offer a fantastic learning experience and gives pupils the opportunity to experience the natural world. We are very thankful to Richard and Sarah who took the time to create this for us; the children enjoy every minute of learning here in the woods'.

Days out at the Forest School can include activities such as shelter building, wood working, crafts and looking at the flora and fauna in the beech wood. The space will now be used by other local schools and community groups, such as scout groups.



Trainee wardens, Richard and Sarah with teacher, Liz Thomas and the Reception class.

National Park Ambassador Schools go from strength to strength

The 'National Park Ambassador School' scheme helps pupils to discover, enjoy, understand and conserve their own area and the wider National Park.

Hayley Sharp, Education Officer, reports:

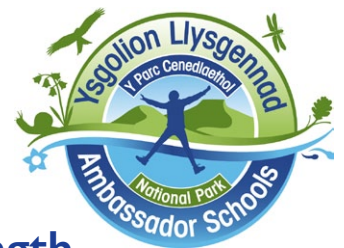
'Our National Park Ambassador Schools continue to make the most of their outdoor classrooms through pond dipping, den building and bug hunting as well as exploring further afield in the woods and mountains of our National Park. More local schools have signed up to become an Ambassador School and interest and momentum seems to be growing! In the autumn there will be opportunities for school teachers to attend twilight training sessions to gain more confidence in using the outdoors as a learning resource. Watch this space!'



If your school is interested in the scheme, please check the web page <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/learning/ambassador-schools/>

To contact Hayley phone 01874 624437 or email enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk

'Ambassador school' pupils on a walk near Brecon.



Our plans for the National Park Visitor Centre (Mountain Centre)

In June, Members of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority agreed a proposal to secure the future of the popular National Park Visitor Centre at Libanus, near Brecon.

The proposal agreed came from a Member/Officer working group which was set up in response to substantial budget cuts from Welsh Government. The plan will mean that visitors continue to enjoy a visitor centre with toilets, car park, café, seasonal shop and information point. This plan proposes a more commercial model to ensure the future of the Centre.

When the proposals were announced, Andrew Fryer, Chair of the Brecon Beacons Tourism board commented "We are supporting these changes which we believe will enable the National Park Authority to continue taking an active role in promoting the tourism offer in the Park to our visitors."

From the 1st of October information will be available from an information point on the ground floor of the NPVC. A staffed information point/ small shop will be available from spring 2017 for the peak season. There will be no shop or staffed information centre upstairs over the winter although the tearooms will operate as normal. In addition, over the course of this Autumn/Winter the Authority will be seeking a partner to run the tearooms from April 2017.

Photograph © jamcreativestudios



Telling the Story of 'Brecon at Agincourt' in the Cathedral

Brecon's involvement with the battle of Agincourt has been brought to life through a project at Brecon Cathedral in commemoration of the important contribution the men of Brecon made to the famous battle fought in France 600 years ago.

The project is part of the Agincourt 600 Wales Legacy project and was supported by the Agincourt 600 Commemorative Fund. Working with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, new interpretation has been created which includes a virtual Agincourt Archer.

Newly created leaflets and hand held information paddles are now available in the Cathedral for visitors to take a self-guided journey to discover the stories behind the commemorative pieces.

Suzanna Jones, Interpretation Officer for the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority said, "Brecon played an important part in the Battle of Agincourt and is one of eight sites across Breconshire, Monmouthshire and the Forest of Dean that form the new 'Agincourt Wales Trail'. We wanted to celebrate this by telling the story to both locals and visitors alike and interpreting the Cathedral's existing collection was a fantastic opportunity to do this. We think everyone – especially younger visitors – will enjoy meeting the archer that comes to life via an iPad"



Reporting Rights of Way Issues

You can report any issues regarding our rights of way such as damage to footpaths, stiles or fingerposts to our Rights of Way Officer, Eifion Jones

eifion.jones@beacons-npa.gov.uk
or call 01874 620452

Planning Surgery

This is available for advice on householder developments every Wednesday from 9.30-12.00 am and 1.30-3.00 pm at the National Park Offices, Brecon. Appointments are available in 30 minute slots and must be booked in advance.

To make an appointment or for any general planning enquiry, please call 01874 620431

Sustainable Development Fund Enquiries

For further information and advice about the Fund please contact either:

Helen Roderick
or Ceri Bevan on 01874 620471

Email
helen.roderick@beacons-npa.gov.uk
ceri.bevan@beacons-npa.gov.uk

Sustainable Development Fund

2016 Grant application deadlines:

- 31st August
- 2nd November

A New Future for Biodiversity Conservation in Wales

Wales is leading the way in the UK, by putting in place the legislation needed to manage Wales' natural resources in a more proactive, sustainable and integrated way.

Alongside a variety of biodiversity partners, the National Park Authority is planning how best to rethink and refresh what was the 'Local Biodiversity Action Plan' to meet the new requirements and opportunities, and ensure it moves forwards to celebrate, conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity that the National Park supports.

Below are just two examples of new projects and initiatives being led by biodiversity partners in the National Park

New Welsh Meadows Leaflet



The lovely wildflower hay meadows at Craig-y nos Country Park features in a new leaflet on Welsh meadows by Plantlife Cymru.

Wildflower-rich meadows are a habitat which have dramatically declined in the UK over the last 60 years. It's hoped that the new bilingual leaflet will help encourage people to become interested in meadows, discover why they are so important and visit their local meadows to explore further.

To download the leaflet see: <http://www.plantlife.org.uk/publications/welshmeadows>

Above: Craig-y-nos meadows

Welsh Clearwing Moth Surveys

This iconic Welsh moth has an interesting history. It was discovered near Llangollen in the 1850s but was not seen for over 100 years, until it was rediscovered near Dolgellau in the 1980s.

It has always been scarce although more recently it was discovered in the Brecon Beacons National Park for the first time. Ongoing surveys by Butterfly Conservation have now discovered a handful of sites – all in the eastern part of the National Park and which represents the UK's most southerly known populations of Welsh Clearwing.

See: <http://butterfly-conservation.org/1034-7180/welsh-clearwing.html>

Welsh Clearwing moth
(N. Lowe)



Need a meeting room in Brecon?

We have the following available for hire:

- Conference Room
- Video Conference Room
- Members Room
- IT training room

Catering available
For details contact
01874 624437 or check
<http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/hire-a-room/>

Community Marquee Available

The Community Marquee loan scheme offers groups, schools, charities and other nonprofit organisations within the National Park the opportunity to use the 20' x 30' Community Marquee at their local events. A donation is requested.

For booking forms please contact
Ceri Bevan on 01874 620471 or
ceri.bevan@beacons-npa.gov.uk

Webcasts

All the Authority's meetings are available to view via our webcasts microsite.
To find out more visit:

<http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/webcasting/>

Events Late August - December 2016

For an extended list and further details of activities and events in the National Park please visit <http://www.breconbeacons.org/events>

Events at the National Park Visitor Centre (Mountain Centre)

Tuesday 23rd August

Take pART Pottery Workshop

Be inspired by the natural environment around you and create your own masterpiece.

Suitable for adults and children aged 5 and up. Children under 12 - make sure you bring an adult with you.

Cost: £6.00 per person. Parking charges also apply. Booking essential.

To find out more and to book a place call the National Park Visitor Centre on 01874 623366.

10am - 1pm.

Wednesday 24th August

Take pART Felt Picture Workshop

Make your own felt and then create and decorate your own felt picture.

Suitable for adults and children aged 5 and up. Children under 12

make sure you bring an adult with you. Cost and booking details as above.

10am - 1pm.

August Bank Holiday Saturday 27th - Monday 29th

Brecon Beacons Summer Fayre

Family fun, local food, craft and artwork.

It's a great family day out supporting local Welsh producers.

Free entry. £2 to park for the full day.

10am - 5pm.



Our Visitor Centre and Country Park are open every day of the year except Christmas Day. Free entry but parking charges apply.

National Park Visitor Centre (Mountain Centre)

Libanus, Nr Brecon LD3 8ER

- Information
- Tea Rooms and restaurant
- Gift shop
- Toilets
- Room Hire
- Weddings

Tel: 01874 623366

npvc@beacons-npa.gov.uk

Craig y nos Country Park

Pen-y-cae, Swansea Valley SA9 1GL

- Changing Seasons Tea Rooms and Restaurant

Tel: 01639 731498

- Disabled toilet with baby changing facility open 24hrs
- Room hire
- Exhibition space
- Craft centre
- Glass studio
- Photography studio and courses

Tel: 01874 624437

enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk

Events at Craig-y-nos Country Park

August Bank Holiday Friday 26th - Monday 29th

Tawe Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers Annual Exhibition

Admission Free. Parking charges apply.

10 am - 5 pm, Hibbert Room.

Sunday 4th September

Classics at the Country Park

Classic and vintage cars and motorcycles on display from 11 am to 3pm ending with a motorcade where all the cars will parade out. Visitors will be entertained with classical music and vintage musical theatre on the steps of the Pavilion and a brass band during the afternoon.

Free entry (£4.00 parking)

Saturday 1st - Sunday 2nd October

Saturday 29th - Sunday 30th October

Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th November

Crafts in the Park at Craig-y-nos Country Park

Local crafts fair in the Hibbert Room with "Crafts of the Valley"

Free entry. Parking charges apply. 10am - 3.30pm.

Saturday 3rd December

Glass and Crafts Fair at Craig-y-nos Country Park

Free entry. Parking charges apply. 10am - 4pm.

Saturday 17th December

Christmas Fair at Craig-y-nos Country Park

Free entry. Parking charges apply. 10am-4pm.

Other events

Saturday 1st October

Brecon Beacons Food Festival

Local food and products. Free Entry

Market Hall, Brecon.

10am - 5pm.

Saturday 26th - 27th November

Hay Winter Food Festival

Local food and products. Free Entry

Memorial Car Park, Hay-on-Wye.

10am - 5pm.





Your Authority A-Z

Your helpful guide to contacting the Authority
for information or services

Service or Team	Lead Contact/Officer	Contact Details	Telephone N°
General Enquiries National Park Authority Headquarters, Brecon	Reception	enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Craig-y-nos Country Park Pen-y-Cae	Reception	enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Chief Executive Officer	John Cook	jean.packer@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620469
Democratic & Office Services	Julia Gruffydd	julia.gruffydd@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620400
Director of Countryside & Land Management	Julian Atkins	jeanpacker@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620469
Director of Planning	Christopher Morgan	danielle.french@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620428
Ecology	Brad Welch	bradley.welch@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620411
Education, Interpretation and Information	Reception	enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Fforest Fawr Geopark	Alan Bowring	alan.bowring@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620415
Finance	Elaine Standen	elaine.standen@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620467
Heritage	Alice Thorne Rosie Burton Janet Poole	alicethorne@beacons-npa.gov.uk rosie.burton@beacons-npa.gov.uk janet/poole@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620418 01874 620413 01874 620413
Human Resources	Richard Mears	richard.mears@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620425
Information Technology	Paul Funnell	paul.funnell@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620459
National Park Visitor Centre 'The Mountain Centre' Libanus	Information Officers	npvc@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 623366
Planning Services Administration	Jane Pashley	planning.enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620422

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way
Brecon, Powys LD3 7HP
<http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/>

www.breconbeacons.org

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



Keep up to date with our tweets at **@BreconBeaconsNP** or our Wardens Team at **@BBParkWarden**

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Follow us on Facebook **www.facebook.com/breconbeaconsnationalpark**

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See our Youtube Channel Videos **www.youtube.com/user/BreconBeaconsNPA**

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Our Instagram feed is **www.instagram.com/breconbeacons**

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way
Brecon, Powys LD3 7HP
<http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/>

www.breconbeacons.org

Your Authority A-Z

Your helpful guide to contacting the Authority for information or services

Service or Team	Lead Contact/Officer	Contact Details	Telephone N°
Management Plan	Matt Scanlon	matthew.scanlon@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620465
Planning Enforcement Team	Fiona Mead/Kathy Jenkins	enforcement@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620416
Planning Strategy & Policy Team	Helen Lucocq	helen.lucocq@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620429
Press and Marketing	Jo Maurice Clarissa Price	communications@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620406 01874 620420
Rights of Way	Eifion Jones	eifion.jones@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620452
Sustainable Communities	Ceri Bevan/Helen Roderick Francesca Bell	communities@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 624437
Sustainable Tourism	Richard Tyler	richard-tyler@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620405
Volunteering	Jackie Thomas	jacqueline.thomas@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620451
Warden Service	Judith Harvey	judith.harvey@beacons-npa.gov.uk	07854 997510

