



Community update

Spring 2016



Inside this edition

P1 Sustainable Development Fund

P2 Community News

P3 Three Courses and a Competition

P4 National Park Authority News

P5 Conservation News

P6 Volunteer Achievements

P7 Spring and Summer events

P9 A-Z Authority Contact List

Hello and welcome

to the Spring 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.

Sustainable Development Fund supports community projects

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) aims to support projects which address economic, environmental, community and cultural issues and which also improve the quality of life for communities in the National Park.

Some of projects to benefit in 2015/16 were:

The **Corn Exchange Crickhowell** was awarded a grant of £9,200 for an administrative position to support the community led redevelopment of the former Corn Exchange.



Residents in Crickhowell show their support for the campaign to fund development of the Corn Exchange.

The **Black Mountains Badger Vaccination Project** was awarded £14,932 to support this project in its first year. The grant is part of match funding with a contribution from Welsh Government, who are supporting the project for 5 years.

Geocaching project goes from strength to strength

A geocaching project funded by Sport Wales and the National Park Authority, has been running for nine months and already there have been some remarkable successes. Double the initial target of youth leaders have been trained to run geocaching sessions.



Youngsters from Merthyr enjoying geocaching at the National Park Visitor Centre.

Some of the groups involved in the project have learning difficulties and/or emotional and behavioural issues. The strength of the project has been to allow these young people to participate and contribute to an activity where previously they may have been excluded.

The third phase of the project is now underway. This involves enabling those youth groups that are engaged in the project to start using geocaching in their areas and become more physically active.

The project is now looking at opportunities to reach even more youth groups in the Torfaen, Blaenau-Gwent, RCT and Merthyr Borough Council regions. Geocaching leader training courses are running on 27th February and in April and June.

Email: geocaching@beacons-npa.gov.uk or ring 01874 624437 for further details.

Sustainable Development Fund supports community projects

The **Canal and River Trust** was awarded £15,000 to support the 'Waterway Trail' interpretation along the Brecknock and Monmouth Canal between Goytre Wharf and the Brecon Basin. It was funded as part of a wider project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Brecon Beacons Trust.

St Mary's Church, Brecon was awarded £15,000 to fund elements of a wider heritage restoration project, including increased accessibility and safety via the south door of the church and also a braille table top trail map and audio commentary as part of the Heritage Timeline and Discovery Trail.

Pontsticill Community Group was awarded £7,500 to undertake their village regeneration project. This active group of volunteers, concerned with the reduction in services in their village, are focused on improving the village environment, re-opening the toilets, developing a village toddler group and tidying the Taff Fechan burial ground. The group are encouraging the whole village to become involved.

The Sustainable Development Fund is now accepting applications for the 2016/17 financial year. If you have any innovative ideas for projects and would like to find out if they are eligible for funding please get in touch with Helen Roderick helen.roderick@beacons-npa.gov.uk or Ceri Bevan ceri.bevan@beacons-npa.gov.uk Tel: 01874 620471. Deadlines are: 14th March, 8th June, 31st August and 2nd November.

COMMUNITY NEWS • COMMUNITY NEWS • COMMUNITY NEWS

'Inspironment' project helps groups enjoy the great outdoors

Community groups throughout South Wales are being helped to get out and enjoy the National Park through a series of leader training days and group visits. The 'Inspironment Project' aims to inspire those who are unsure how to access the Park or what is available for them to become regular visitors, more active and to enjoy its special environment.

The project, funded by the National Park Authority and Natural Resources Wales is led by the National Park's Sustainable Communities team. Initially, they ran six training days for group leaders providing information and resources about the National Park and highlighting opportunities for outdoor recreation and activities. Supported by the Communities team, the leaders are now bringing their groups to the Park for walks and activities such as geocaching. Funding is available to help cover transport costs and each participating group will be provided with an information pack of walk itineraries, leaflets, books and resources to help them with their own walks and activities in the future. The walks itineraries will be available for all to access at the end of the project in April via the National Park website.



Members of the Cardiff People First Group enjoying a visit to Craig-y-nos Country Park.

These give walking routes for different levels of ability and information on public transport, access and refreshments.

Groups participating have included those supporting people with mental health problems, recovering from drug and alcohol addiction, young carers and older people.

Feedback has been extremely positive:

"It has encouraged me to participate more in outdoor activities and it has raised my awareness of the National Park" L.S. SANDS Cymru (formerly Swansea Drugs project).

"This has been a very worthwhile project. It has enabled me to make several new friends and cope with the loneliness and often boredom of living alone." M.S. Six Bells Community First.

Take part in our photo competition and win an iPhone!



New Year's Day saw the launch of a photo competition being run by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to celebrate 2016 as Wales' Year of Adventure.

Funded by Visit Wales, the competition is designed to encourage residents and visitors from surrounding towns and cities to visit the National Park using public transport and to share photos of their journey and their adventure on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The National Park is the ideal place to have an adventure with its beautiful landscape to explore and exciting outdoor activities to try.

See www.breconbeacons.org for ideas and information.

Entrants have the chance to win an iPhone6s and it is hoped lots of people will get involved and take part. It's an ideal way to get 2016 off to a great start.

The competition runs until 14 March 2016 and entries should use the hashtag #destinationbreconbeacons and tagging the photos @BreconBeacons

If you do enter please make sure your account is not private or we will not be able to see your entries.

New Local Ambassador course available for communities

There are now 218 Brecon Beacons National Park Ambassadors who have attended three, day-long intensive courses to learn about the National Park. All are from tourism related businesses who are passionate about the National Park and share their newly gained knowledge with their visitors.

There is now also a Local Ambassador course which is ideal for communities and people who are not directly involved in tourism but do meet visitors, either because they volunteer at events, work in shops or are casual staff in pubs, cafes and restaurants. This course lasts for two to three hours and is usually run in the early evening.

If you would like further information about the Local Ambassador please contact Carol Williams, Tourism Growth Officer carol.williams@beacons-npa.gov.uk Tel: 01874 620478.

Try Buggy-cise to get fitter!

If your New Year's resolution was to try and get a bit fitter then read on: A new activity is being launched at Craig-y-nos Country Park and Ystradgynlais Sports Centre after the February half term.

Buggy-cise classes are for new mums to help them to get out and get active with their new baby. Not only will it give them an opportunity to increase their fitness levels but also to meet other new mums and make friends. This is the first venture into buggy-cise for the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority which is working closely with Western Valleys Communities First, Freedom Leisure, local health visitors and a not for profit organisation called Sblash a Sbri.

For further details check <https://www.facebook.com/Sblashasbri> or contact Eleri Thomas eleri.thomas@beacons-npa.gov.uk Tel: 01874 624437.



'Skills in Action' trainees learn traditional skills

In 2014 the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded funding to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to provide traineeships in conservation over three years. The scheme is run in partnership with Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and Torfaen Borough Council, collectively known as the 'Skills in Action' partnership.



This partnership recently brought together our 12 trainee wardens for a training programme working with Keep Wales Tidy officer, Tom Ward-Jackson and Moyrah Gall from Natural Resources Wales. Learning new conservation skills is a fundamental part of the project and the trainees were delighted to catch up and compare notes with their counterparts.

Our 2015/16 trainees braving the weather to complete a two day hedge laying course at Caeau Ty Mawr in January. Caeau Ty Mawr is one of the largest surviving areas of wildflower-rich grassland in the National Park and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY NEWS

A proud day for National Park Trainee Wardens

Not one, but two of this year's trainee wardens were at the National Park Visitor Centre in November to receive the very first Huw Price Volunteer Awards. Richard Taylor (23) and Steffan Edwards (21) were presented with the awards by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Chairman, Mel Doel and Louise and Henry Garnon-Price, Huw's wife and son.

Huw Price passed away in 2014 and a fund was set up in his memory. The award, which will be presented annually, celebrates the passion Huw had for working for the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and his commitment to the volunteers. Louise Garnon-Price not only gave out the Huw Price Awards but also collected one on behalf of her husband, as Chairman Mel Doel presented her with a posthumous award – the Order of National Parks to recognise Huw's outstanding contribution.

Richard Taylor said "Volunteering has given me a direction in life and the skills to get onto the trainee scheme. I really feel that this is the chance to do something worthwhile."

Pictured: Mel Doel, Chairman, Steffan Edwards, Richard Taylor, Louise Garnon-Price and Henry in the front.



Mel Doel, Chairman and Suzanna Jones, Interpretation Officer with the award.

above the Usk reservoir near Trecastle.

We are proud that this project has won the Landscape category of the Association of Heritage Interpretation (AHI) Award for excellence in cultural and natural heritage interpretation in Britain and Ireland. The judges said it was an 'ambitious and well thought and executed project and delivered an authentic and memorable experience'.

The App is designed to give all the information visitors need to plan their visit, support them whilst on site and then recommend other attractions to follow the Roman story. It is fun and easy to use and includes a 'Dress your Roman' option and features items such as 'Chariot & Sword' in the pre visit checklist. The App is freely available and can be downloaded from www.breconbeacons.org/romans. It needs to be downloaded onto tablets/smartphones before a visit as there is limited network coverage on the hill. If walking isn't your thing or the weather is too cold you can also enjoy the videos and audio on the website from the comfort of your armchair!

'Walking with Romans' is part of the Romans in Carmarthenshire Project, a Heritage Tourism Project supported by the Welsh Government through Cadw and further supported by the European Regional Development Fund.

**To find out more please contact Suzanna Jones, Interpretation Officer
suzanna.jones@beacons-npa.gov.uk Tel 01874 624437.**

International recognition as Fforest Fawr becomes a UNESCO Global Geopark



Fforest Fawr Geopark has been recognised as one of the UK's seven Global Geoparks under a new UNESCO initiative. The programme is the first formal recognition of Global Geoparks which now have the same prestigious status as UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.



Geopark Ambassadors receive their certificates from National Park Authority staff.

The status recognises an area of outstanding geological interest together with its distinct industrial, cultural and archaeological heritage, where the local communities promote the local, unique geology to stimulate economic development in the area.

This year's Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival will run from 21st May until 5th July 2016.

**For more information see
<http://www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk/>
or contact Alan Bowring, Fforest Fawr Geopark Development Officer alan.bowring@beacons-npa.gov.uk
Tel: 01874 620415**

Success for Rhianna in the Nature Fund Waun Fach project photo competition!

The National Park Education team visited 12 schools in the Black Mountains area to raise awareness of the aims of the Nature Fund. Pupils were invited to submit a photo of the Black Mountains and explain why they thought it was special.

There were lots of fantastic entries but Rhianna Haworth, aged 9, from Crickhowell Primary School was a worthy winner according to the judges-members of the Black Mountains Graziers Association. Rhianna won a mini - iPad for her school and National Park 'goodies' for herself. Rhianna explained that the Black Mountains were her favourite place to visit.

Pictured below: Rhianna and her winning photo with John Morris, Chairman of the Black Mountains Graziers Association and Anna Edwards, National Park Education Officer.



CONSERVATION NEWS • CONSERVATION NEWS

Welsh Government Nature Fund legacy benefits the Black Mountains

Following on from the report in our last edition of the Community Newsletter, efforts to restore degraded peat on Waun Fach are showing signs of success.



Signs of improvement after conservation work on Waun Fach.

The path between Waun Fach and Pen y Gadair Fawr has removed trampling pressure from the bog which will allow bare peat to be colonised by native plants. To assist this process biodegradable matting and heather cuttings have been spread over sensitive areas. The re-colonisation is expected to take a number of years, but the heather and cotton grass plants emerging from the bare peat are telling us that the efforts wardens and volunteers have made with the Nature Fund's investment are paying off. Work continues to stabilise the peat bog and manage the impacts of walkers across the hill. This spring we will be completing the path works, spreading more heather on bare peat, creating wind breaks using natural materials and blocking gullies to slow water flows.

By maintaining conservation works, Waun Fach should see a dramatic increase in vegetation coverage, improved grazing quality, an expanded habitat for upland birds and provide a better experience for visitors, while retaining carbon stores which help offset climate change.

But the Nature Fund benefits don't stop there. Graziers, large landowners, and conservation organisations have combined efforts to form the Black Mountains Land Use Partnership to take forward this Welsh Government legacy. The Partnership is developing funding bids to continue upland restoration and a variety of other conservation projects.

For further information contact Brad Welch bradley.welch@beacons-npa.gov.uk Tel: 01874 620411.

Other access projects

Elsewhere in the Park the team is improving Offa's Dyke path just outside Hay-on-Wye and on the Hatterrall Ridge.

We will be improving paths on Fan y Big in the Central Beacons and most importantly, our upland path volunteer teams will be maintaining the paths that have already been repaired.

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 9.30am with the last appointment at 11.30am 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:

- 14th March
- 8th June
- 31st August
- 2nd November

VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENTS • VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENTS

University students brave the elements to volunteer with National Park Wardens



Birmingham University Conservation Volunteers spent two days last November in atrocious conditions helping National Park wardens.

They worked hard clearing gorse and scrub from Garn Goch Iron Age hillfort, cutting and clearing willow and bramble from Carreg Cennen meadow and also clearing a blocked footpath near Llandovery. They had even intended to camp over the weekend but in light of the appalling weather Toby Small, Area Warden, arranged for them to stay in a bunkhouse.

Despite the soakings and battering they had by the wind and the rain, they said it was the best residential weekend they had ever been on!

Pictured above: Volunteers from Birmingham University clearing gorse and looking damp!

Dedicated volunteers excel at a variety of conservation tasks

The Black Mountains and Central Beacons Upland Path Volunteers have reached new heights of enthusiasm and commitment, gifting 2530.5 hrs in volunteer time in one year and carrying out essential maintenance on our upland paths.

Their work helps to protect the beautiful landscape within the National Park and retain its unique biodiversity. In addition to this work, the highly trained volunteers have also assisted the Ecology team by undertaking heather condition surveys and grouse counts to help gather information about Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the National Park. They will also take part in a pilot scheme this year to become Volunteer Ambassadors, undertaking extra training on biodiversity, archaeology and geology, which will help them pass on this information to visitors.

For further information about volunteering please contact Jackie Thomas, Volunteer Development Officer jacqueline.thomas@beacons-npa.gov.uk Tel: 01874 620451.



Upland volunteers on the Bloreng.

EVENTS • EVENTS • EVENTS • EVENTS • EVENTS • EVENTS • EVENTS

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'x30' Community Marquee at their local events. A donation is requested.

For booking forms
please contact Ceri Bevan
on 01874 620471

.....

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 February-August

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

Arts and Craft Fair

Come and browse a wide selection of arts and crafts. Many made locally. Free entry. Car parking charges apply.

Saturday 13th February- Sunday 21st February

Saturday 19th March- Sunday 3rd April

Saturday 27th May- Sunday 4th June

10.00-16.00 every day.

Stargazing

*A series of lectures by a former NASA astronomer followed by stargazing if weather permits. 19.30-22.00 every session. Adults £15 under 16s - £10 (minimum age 10 years). Includes parking, tea/coffee, talks and use of telescopes. **Booking essential.***

Friday February 26th

Friday March 18th

Friday April 29th

Friday May 27th

Friday June 24th

The Moon and Western Imagination

The Big Bang

Contact with Extra Terrestrial Civilisations

Starlight and the Lives of Stars

Astronomy and Art

EVENTS • EVENTS • EVENTS • EVENTS • EVENTS • EVENTS • EVENTS

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

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.

Tel: 01874 624437

enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk



Cotswold Tent Show

Saturday 30th April- Monday 2nd May, 10am-5pm

Brecon & Radnor Classic Motor Show

Sunday 7th August, 10am-5pm

Brecon Beacons Summer Fayre

Saturday 27th- Monday 29th August, 10am-5pm

Other events

Paws in the Park

Craig-y-nos Country Park, Pen-y-cae, SA9 1GL

Bring your dog to Craig-y-nos Country Park to meet the National Park wardens, see dog team demonstrations including police and working dogs and find out more about walking your four-legged friend in the Park and countryside.

Wednesday 17th & Thursday 18th February, 10am-4pm at Craig-y-nos Country Park

Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival

Walks, talks and exhibitions about the Geopark. Various venues and times.

Saturday 21st May – Sunday 5th June

Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival Day

Craig-y-nos Country Park

Activities for all the family. Wednesday 1st June, 10am-4pm

Hay-on-Wye Summer Food Festival

Saturday 2nd July, 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	anne.wilkinson@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620456
Director of Planning	Christopher Morgan	danielle.french@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620428
Ecology	Brad Welch	bradleywelch@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	Natalie Ward Rosie Burton	natalie.ward@beacons-npa.gov.uk rosie.burton@beacons-npa.gov.uk	01874 620418 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 Libanus 'The Mountain Centre'	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

www.breconbeacons.org
www.visitbreconbeacons.com
www.cyclebreconbeacons.com
www.horseridingbreconbeacons.com
www.mtbbreconbeacons.com
www.businessinfobreconbeacons.com

Design: touchdown 07973 711523

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](https://twitter.com/BreconBeaconsNP)

or our Wardens Team at [@BBParkWarden](https://twitter.com/BBParkWarden)



Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/breconbeaconsnationalpark



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



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

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way
Brecon, Powys LD3 7HP

www.breconbeacons.org
www.visitbreconbeacons.com
www.cyclebreconbeacons.com
www.horseridingbreconbeacons.com
www.mtbbreconbeacons.com
www.businessinfobreconbeacons.com

Design: touchdown 07973 711523

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

