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## NATIONAL PARK HAS DISCOVERED ITS 300<sup>TH</sup> AMBASSADOR



**B**RECON Beacons National Park's 300th Ambassador is helping visitors to discover the culture, heritage, natural environment and wildlife experiences on offer to encourage them to stay for more than a day.

Debbie Taylor from Brecon Beacons Experiences specialises in bespoke holiday itineraries within the Park. She became the Park's 300th Ambassador last month and has been busy getting to know other tourism providers and how she can help them to ensure visitors get the most out of their trip.

The contribution that Debbie and her fellow Ambassadors bring to tourism and the wider economy of the Park region was celebrated at the annual Ambassador exclusive event in April, where Debbie was presented with her certificate by Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Chief Executive Julian Atkins.

Debbie said: "Being an Ambassador is a valuable opportunity to connect with others who are passionate about the Park, to get to learn lots more about it and to help visitors get the most from their trip".

The Authority now has 30 Mountain & Moorland Ambassadors, just over 100 Geopark Ambassadors, 51 Dark Skies Ambassadors, 32 Welsh Culture Ambassadors and 15 Wildlife Ambassadors.

Delegates at the event were treated to a voyage of discovery with four workshops set up, Discover the Dark Skies, Discover Instagram, Discover Trees and Discover Archery & Electric Bikes, showcasing the variety of experiences on offer to visitors.

Mr Atkins said that Ambassadors played a significant contribution to the National Park as a whole.

"I am always delighted to host these events," he said. "And to say thank you on behalf of the Authority and myself for the work they do in promoting the Park. To have 300 Ambassadors is quite an achievement. I also discovered at the event that we now have three super-ambassadors who have attended all of our courses.

"The Brecon Beacons National Park really is a special place and with the support of our Ambassadors we are able to promote the area but at the same time communicate the very important messages about nature recovery and protecting this living-working landscape for future generations."

# A NEW HERITAGE AND CULTURE NETWORK IS COMING TO BRECON



Attractions and organisations in the heritage, culture and arts sectors in Brecon are being encouraged to shout out about what they offer residents and visitors to the town.

A new digital network provides an opportunity for the town to highlight its fascinating and rich history and to promote how local people are involved with exciting music, theatre performance, dance, art and other cultural activities

The network is currently identifying those who can make a contribution to the project. We are looking for creative and unique stories featuring Brecon and showing what makes it an attractive place to visit and stay for those looking for countryside, heritage and culture.

We are also looking for individuals with an interest in putting Brecon on the cultural map, who can volunteer their time and get involved. We are particularly looking for volunteers who can help us share our cultural attractions and activities online and by using social media channels.

Get in touch if you wish to learn more about the network: contact Andrew

[Andrew.arwain@breconcathedral.org.uk](mailto:Andrew.arwain@breconcathedral.org.uk)

The digital network project has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.



## ADELINA PATTI

Friday 27th September 7pm  
Commemorating Adelina Patti

Craig-y-nos Country Park, The Boat House.

On the centenary of Patti's death we will be celebrating her life with a short operatic performance in the Boat House at dusk and a commemorative ceremony. Refreshments provided but do bring a chair to sit on and a torch/lantern. £5 suggested donation.

Saturday 28th September 1pm – 6pm  
Community Day

Craig-y-nos Country Park, Pavilion Field & Castle Theatre – FREE

A day of music, arts, theatre and family entertainment. Not only did Adelina Patti perform internationally, travelling from Craig-y-nos to venues around the globe, she also performed to the local community and encouraged people to share their talents in her theatre. This afternoon will showcase the talents of our community, with opera, traditional and contemporary music, school groups, talks, walks, artists, performers and entertainers. The event will happen on the Pavilion Field with some performances in Patti's Grade I listed theatre in the Castle. Come and enjoy an afternoon with us and if you are lucky you may well meet Adelina herself.



To find out about more events keep an eye on this facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/Adelina-Patti-Celebrations-2019-256274701986019/](https://www.facebook.com/Adelina-Patti-Celebrations-2019-256274701986019/)

For events at Craig y Nos Country Park :

<https://www.facebook.com/criwcraggy/>



## SUNSHINE POWERS CWM PORTH AND TURNS THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S FFRWDGRECH DEPOT 'ENERGY POSITIVE'

Solar power has brought electricity to Cwm Porth and enabled the National Park Authority's Ffrwdgrech depot to produce more energy than it uses per year. Cwm Porth car park in the waterfalls area of the National Park now has electricity

thanks to solar panels and battery storage, replacing an old system which required updating. This has enabled a number of new facilities to be offered at the site including internet, allowing credit card payments and chilled drinks sales. This site has no mains electricity so all the power comes from the sun.

We have also installed 10kW of solar panels at the depot which have so far generated 2.46MWh of electricity. This is enough energy to take an electric car over 9840 miles three times the distance from Brecon to New York, do 2460 loads of washing or power an average four bedroom home for five months. This system has also saved 962kg of CO2 and is on course to produce more than five times the energy the depot uses in a year.



## BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK DRIVES GREENER TRAVEL

Public electric vehicle charging is now available at the National Park Visitor Centre, Craig-y-Nos Country Park and Ffrwdgrech Depot. The installation was carried out over the winter so there are now 3 chargers available, one at the National Park Visitor Centre and one at Craig-y-Nos Country Park and at the Ffrwdgrech Depot. The charging points are on the Pod Point network and can be activated using their app available for both iPhone and Android. All the posts are 7 kw units allowing about 28miles of range per hour with the exception of the depot which can deliver a full 88miles of charge per hour with compatible vehicles assisted by 10KW of solar panels. Charging costs 24p per KWh all posts are clearly marked in green for electric vehicle only charging and are listed on Zap Map. All the points are powered by 100% green electricity from Good Energy. So come and enjoy some food in the tearooms or a stroll in the country park while your car gets a recharge.



# DAY2STAY

The Brecon Beacons & Cambrian Mountains destinations will be working together on a Day2stay project, working together on converting day visitors to staying visitors. The evening economy will be used as a key driver with quality promotional videos and photography, supplemented by events organised by local businesses and communities.

The themes that the project will focus on are:

## DARK SKIES

stay to see the night sky

## SUNSETS

where to watch them

## NIGHT LIFE

walks and observation tours

Cultural events will also be highlighted that take place in the evenings.

Funding has been awarded by Visit Wales. Work will start in June with a finish date of December 2020.

For further information contact Carol Williams – [carol.williams@beacons-npa.gov.uk](mailto:carol.williams@beacons-npa.gov.uk)

## ANNUAL TOURISM CONFERENCE

SHARED goals and the passion for the Brecon Beacons were evident at the annual tourism conference in March 2019.

The conference brought together more than 50 businesses and tourist providers at Theatr Brycheiniog.

The theme for the event was Day2Stay, with delegates discovering more about each other's businesses and how they can work together to encourage visitors to stay in the Brecon Beacons for longer.

Julian Atkins, Chief Executive of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, said there is so much to discover in the National Park.

"As well as the impressive mountains, there are so many hidden treasures in the Brecon Beacons for visitors to enjoy," he said. "The rich culture and heritage of the Park is reflected by many of the tourism providers, so visitors can enjoy the unique landscape and finding out more about the history of the area.

"This event helped inspire the businesses and community groups present to think about different ways of enhancing the overall visitor experience."

Tourism Manager for Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Richard Tyler was delighted to see representatives from across the whole of the Destination at the event.

"We were delighted to welcome so many tourism businesses at the conference," he said. "It was exciting to see delegates discussing their shared goals and pledging to work together to promote the Brecon Beacons as a destination. Communication is key to its success and the destination is looking forward to welcoming a predicted 5 million visitors in 2019."

The conference was organised jointly by Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and Brecon Beacons Tourism on behalf of the Brecon Beacons Sustainable Destination Partnership.

# WATERFALL COUNTRY UPDATE



For those of you who are familiar with our work in Waterfall Country, we are continuing to work in partnership with the three Local Authorities, Community Council and Natural Resources Wales (amongst others) to address issues associated with high visitor numbers.

Consultants completed their report, gaining

the views and input of local people and their representatives throughout the process. They identified ways in which visitors to the area may be better managed, reducing the pressure on narrow country lanes and lack of sufficient parking provision.

From this we have been able to make some short term improvements with the support of local landowners and the Highway Authorities. We are now looking to formalise some of these and are working towards securing funds which will bring greater benefit to local communities, businesses and visitors alike.

For customers who wish to visit the area, we continue to advise the following simple steps in order to get the most from their visit:

- **Avoid peak times such as weekends and bank holidays in fine weather – plan your trip for the early part of the week**
- **Park considerately as directed in designated car parks or bays – remember that local people will be going about their daily lives**
- **Remember where you set out from and stick to marked routes to avoid getting lost**
- **Wear suitable footwear and be prepared to walk along forest paths and down steep gorges – the majority of the falls are a fair distance from car parking and facilities**

Please be sure to check the information available at:

[www.breconbeacons.org/waterfall-country](http://www.breconbeacons.org/waterfall-country)

# WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR DOG'S DOO?



The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority recently attended Crufts alongside counterparts from The New Forest, Cairngorms, Dartmoor and the South Downs.

The five National Parks have got together with Dicky Bags to encourage...

**'Dog owners who care, pick up everywhere'**



Everyone is aware of the bacteria that is carried by dog faeces and risks to the health of humans, other dogs and livestock. What isn't always considered is the damage it does to the habitat it comes into contact with.

Owners are familiar with damage to their lawn from faeces and wouldn't dream of putting it in their garden compost.

By raising awareness of this, we know people will do the right thing and pick up after their dog in our most sensitive and protected landscapes, our National Parks.

A barrier to this is often the unpleasant experience of carrying a poop bag when out and about as there are often no bins available. Luckily Dicky Bags provide a neat solution to this as an airtight holder that will carry your doggy doo until you can dispose of it responsibly.

For those who like home-made solutions, try an empty margarine tub secured with an elastic band!

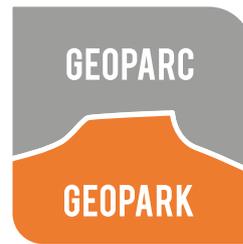
You can buy special Brecon Beacons Dicky Bags on our web-site and at the National Park Visitor Centre in Libanus

For more information about dogs in the Countryside see our Dogs Code: [www.breconbeacons.org/dogs](http://www.breconbeacons.org/dogs)

# VISITOR GUIDE 2019

The 2019 Brecon Beacons Visitor Guide is now out. Pear are distributing the guides throughout the Brecon Beacons and along the M4 corridor. The best way to order copies for your business is to request a delivery online at

[www.peardistribution.co.uk](http://www.peardistribution.co.uk).



## ON THE UP!

Fforest Fawr Geopark trains its 100<sup>th</sup> Ambassador recently and we're looking to push that number higher. As existing Geopark Ambassadors know, participants come away with an enhanced knowledge not just of the western half of the National Park but of the wider area. If you're not already amongst their number then watch out for further dates in the autumn 2019 and spring 2020.

## LLANGORSE COMMON COMMUNITY TOILETS

Charity No: 1178226.

Members from Discover Llangorse & Bwlch have set up a charity to enable them to fund raise and replace the existing old toilet block with a sustainable new toilet facility which will last well into the future.

A lease agreement with Powys County Council has been signed giving the group the responsibility of running the toilets for the next 25 years.

All surveys have been completed which produced findings of the lesser horse-shoe bat. This has enabled the group to have a Cathedine night bat roost built on the site.

The new facility will comprise two unisex toilets and a disabled toilet, aiming for sustainability, the new building will include solar roof panels, rain water harvesting and an electric charging point for vehicles.

Other facilities will be an adult changing table and a dog wash.

Building work commences on 3rd June with an anticipated completion date of 16th December 2019.

For further information contact Jim Price (Treasurer) [01874 658616](tel:01874658616).

# COMING SOON - GEPARK DISCOVERY POINT

From September 2019 Craig-y-nos Country Park will be home to a new Geopark Discovery Point. The Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark covers the western half of the National Park and the new Discovery Point will allow people to plan their visit and find out more about the Geopark.

The terraced area outside the restaurant at Craig y nos will sport a 3D bronze model of a large section of the landscape around the Country Park. The model is currently being designed by local artist Rubin Eynon and will be cast at a Welsh foundry before being placed in situ later in the Summer.

Three new wooden 'monoliths' will provide inspiration on places to discover in the wider Geopark and help answer questions for example, what is a UNESCO Global Geopark? Dotted around the terrace will be new benches with interpretive table tops, each with a different theme, giving visitors something to explore whilst enjoying refreshments and the far reaching views.

For updates follow [@fforestfawrgeopark](#) on Facebook and Instagram.

Funding for the Discovery Point is being provided by the National Park Authority and Welsh Government.



# SUMMER SHOWS 2019

There are some simply stunning shows taking place this Summer in the Brecon Beacons. If you haven't been to one, it is one thing to add to your "must do" list.

Listed are the shows which you and your guests can enjoy in August & September this year.

## AUGUST

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Brecon County Show [www.breconcountyshow.co.uk](http://www.breconcountyshow.co.uk)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Llangadog Show [www.Llangadogyfcshow.com](http://www.Llangadogyfcshow.com)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Llanthony Show [www.llanthonyshow.co.uk](http://www.llanthonyshow.co.uk)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Vaynor Show [www.vaynorshow.co.uk](http://www.vaynorshow.co.uk)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Llanigon Show [www.Llanigonyfcshow.com](http://www.Llanigonyfcshow.com)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Llandeilo Show [www.visitllandeilo.co.uk](http://www.visitllandeilo.co.uk)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Talybont on Usk Show [www.talybontshow.org](http://www.talybontshow.org)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Llangynidr Show [www.llangynidrshow.org](http://www.llangynidrshow.org)
- 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> Talgarth Festival of the Black Mountains

## SEPTEMBER

- 7<sup>th</sup> Sennybridge Show [www.sennybridgeshow.com](http://www.sennybridgeshow.com)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Usk show [www.uskshow.co.uk](http://www.uskshow.co.uk)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Trecastle Show
- 21<sup>nd</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Llandovery Sheep Festival  
[www.llandoverysheepfestival.co.uk](http://www.llandoverysheepfestival.co.uk)

## DARK SKY RESERVE

"The Brecon Beacons National Park is an Internationally recognised Dark Sky Reserve, with low levels of artificial lighting making it an ideal destination for star gazing. The National Park Authority organises a number of star gazing events at its National Park Visitor Centre, in partnership with Dark Sky Wales and the Cardiff Astronomical Society. Tickets are now on sale for these events, and details can be found on our website [www.breconbeacons.org/events](http://www.breconbeacons.org/events)

This year's events are:

**Perseid Meteor Shower – 15<sup>th</sup> August**  
**2019 7.00pm start** £15 per ticket

**Star Gazing Night – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019**  
**7.00pm start** £15 per ticket

These events always sell out early, booking early is recommended.

Booking and further information:

[www.breconbeacons.org/events](http://www.breconbeacons.org/events)

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