



Cymdeithas Parc Bannau Brycheiniog
Brecon Beacons Park Society
www.breconbeaconsparkociety.org

ANNUAL REPORT

2018/2019

FOR THE PARK, ITS PEOPLE AND ITS VISITORS

Registered Charity No. 1075345

Chairman's Report – Martin Buckle

This is now the thirteenth Annual Report of the Society, although the origins of the Society go back to 1992 when it was first formed. This is, however, my first report as Chair. It has been a busy year for me and for the Executive Committee, and another successful year for the Society, with a growing Membership. I trust that it has also been a fulfilling year for our Members. In looking forward to the year ahead, it is always sensible to reflect on what has been achieved over the past year.

The Vice-Chair

While Jim Wilson stepped down from his role as Chair to being Vice-Chair at last year's AGM, he continues to be a very active Member of the Executive, in particular working closely with the National Park Authority (NPA) on the Dark Skies and Gunpowder Works projects. Indeed, the Society continues to have an excellent working relationship with the NPA across a range of activities.

The Guided Walks and Events Programmes

Both programmes have maintained their usual momentum throughout the year. However, to some extent both programmes have been victims of their own success, and we have needed to find ways of responding to growing numbers of participants. It's a good challenge to have!

The Walks Programme

During the year we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the Walks Programme, with a well-attended walk on January 2nd from Talybont on Usk up Tor y Foel and led by Chris Playford, one of the original walks leaders. Anthea and Wally James have continued to play a vital role as our Walks Secretaries, but they are stepping down from this role during the course of 2019. A phased handover to Nic and Hilary Groombridge as our new Walks Secretaries has been gathering pace, and it's good to see this key role being passed on to another enthusiastic partnership. Many thanks are due to Anthea and Wally for all their hard work.

The Walks Programme continues to be a key focus for the Society, helping our Members and their visitors to enjoy both the National Park itself, and some of its wider surroundings. The Walks Secretaries are of course dependent on the support of our numerous walks leaders. Without them, and the support for them provided by Iau and Clive Counsel, there would be no programme. We are always pleased to welcome new walks leaders. Anyone interested in developing their skills in this important but enjoyable role should contact Nic or Hilary at bbpswalks@gmail.com.

The Events Programme

A series of interesting talks has taken place throughout the year under the careful guidance of Janet Callear, our Events Secretary. These have been held roughly once a month, with most taking place at the Bear Hotel in Crickhowell. Some of the talks have had a local focus, while others have ranged across Wales and into Europe.

Communications

Keeping our Members well-informed on issues, activities and events continues to be a key priority for the Society. The Walks Programme has continued to appear as a quarterly publication co-ordinated by Anthea and Wally, while the Society's colourful magazine The Beacon, is published twice a year under the oversight of Chris Barber as editor.

We also work hard to update Members on a more frequent basis, using our web-site which is co-ordinated by David Thomas. This is supplemented by the use of Twitter and Facebook through the efforts of Nic Groombridge, who fulfils the role of Publicity and Communications Officer.

The Executive Committee

The Committee has continued to meet every six weeks at the Bear Hotel in Crickhowell. Alan Roberts, our former Honorary Secretary, who organised a very successful AGM last year, has stepped down, and we offer him our thanks. We are fortunate that David Thomas, an existing Member of the Executive Committee, has now taken on this role.

Committee Vacancy

For those Members of the Society who would like to play a more active role, we do still have a vacancy for a Minutes Secretary for the Executive Committee. If anyone would like to help the Society to run smoothly in this role, please contact Jim Wilson, the Vice Chair, or myself.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

As Members will know, we have been preparing for some time to change the status of the Society to become a CIO. This will establish the Society on a firmer footing, enabling us to work more effectively, helping us to manage our risks, and protecting us against liabilities. Discussions with the Charities Commission have proved very favourable, and we will be in a position to move this process towards its conclusion at the Society's AGM. Many thanks are due to our Honorary Treasurer, Ben Sladen, for the many hours of work he has put into achieving this.

The Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes

We continue to meet regularly with colleagues from the other Welsh National Parks Societies and other organisations interested in the designated landscapes. The Alliance is also working to strengthen its relationship with the Campaign for National Parks, which brings together all of the National Parks Societies and Authorities across England and Wales.

Welsh Government Policy on the National Parks

Shortly after our AGM last year, the Welsh Government published “Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government’s priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks”. After a long series of reviews over recent years, and associated uncertainty, this statement was explicitly aimed at bringing this period of review and reflection to a close.

The statement is broadly supportive of the role of National Park Authorities (NPAs) and AONBs, but emphasises the need to reach out beyond traditional audiences to engage a more diverse cross section of Welsh Society. In launching the statement, the Minister, Hannah Blythyn, also made a welcome announcement that cuts to NPA budgets were being put on hold.

The Minister’s statement, which has been broadly welcomed by the Alliance, also emphasises that all landscapes matter, whether designated or not. It proposes closer collaboration between NPAs and AONBs, as well as with landscapes beyond their boundaries. To facilitate this, it proposes to establish a National Partnership of stakeholders to provide more scrutiny and challenge for the designated landscapes. This Partnership is something that, working through our colleagues in the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes, the Society will need to take an active interest in.

Planning Proposals

With planning decisions playing such a major role in guiding change throughout the National Park, monitoring and responding to planning applications is an important element of our activities. Liz Gibbs, the Society’s planning lead, has had another busy year. It is pleasing to see that our comments are influential, with a scheme for a telecommunications mast at Capel-y-ffin being withdrawn and proposals for a luge at Upper Cantref being refused, both schemes to which we had objected. We have also recently commented on proposals for the redevelopment of the Mid Wales Hospital site at Talgarth, and have objected to substantial housing

proposals on an un-allocated site at Llantilio Pertholey on the edge of Abergavenny.

The Circuit of Wales

We are taking a keen interest in the application by Blaenau Gwent Council to renew the consent for the proposed Circuit of Wales race track. The site is to the north of Ebbw Vale on the boundary of the National Park. It appears that the proposals have a different emphasis from the existing consent, with a greater emphasis on jobs and some different leisure uses. This does call into question whether it should be dealt with as a fresh application rather than a renewal of consent. The Council is having to prepare fresh environmental and transport statements in support of the application because the original ones are now out-of-date. As a result, it is unlikely to be determined until the Autumn. It is understood that the scheme is no longer seeking financial support from the Welsh Government, instead looking for funding from the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal programme.

Brecon Beacons Local Development Plan (LDP) Review

The NPA has been reviewing the vision and objectives for the LDP, and identifying options for future growth. They have also made an initial call to landowners to submit candidate sites for development. We have made comments on updated sustainability scoping reports at this early stage of the review. We will be looking very carefully at the draft Preferred Strategy, which is due out for consultation during May and June.

The National Park Management Plan

In parallel with the LDP Review, the National Park Management Plan, approved in 2015, is also under review. A new plan will be prepared for 2020-2025, and we will be taking a close interest in this.

Place Plans

The NPA is encouraging local towns and villages to prepare their own Place Plans, which would be taken into account in preparing the LDP review. They have prepared a tool kit to help town and community councils in doing so.

Rights of Way

Issues concerning the rights of way network around the Beacons are regularly brought to our attention, mostly by our Members. These are then taken on by Phil O'Shea, our Rights of Way lead, and pursued through the NPA. This year has also seen consultation on the update of the NPA's Rights of Way Improvement Plan, to which we have made a

comprehensive response. This is the first update since the original plan was prepared in 2007. We look forward to the Plan being progressed to final approval, and hope that the resources will be available to secure its full implementation.

Historic Tramroads

We have recently had some discussions within the Executive Committee about the extensive network of historic tramroads which reach across much of the National Park. Although not always recognised as public rights of way, these form a key element of local walking networks in parts of the National Park, and are an important part of our heritage. Most of them, however, have little statutory recognition or protection. Following a report prepared by Chris Barber, we will be seeking a dialogue with the NPA and Cadw on the matter.

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

The legislation which laid the foundations for national parks in England and Wales reaches its 70th anniversary this year. The Campaign for National Parks is co-ordinating a series of activities and events across England and Wales to celebrate this anniversary. Later in the year within Wales, through the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes, we are also looking to organise a co-ordinated series of walks throughout our national parks and AONBs.

Membership – Ben Sladen

Membership shows a small increase again, to 889 members and 685 households, comprising 498 sole-member households and 193 families. 372 households pay the sub by direct debit, with 240 using cheque or standing order. Most new members adopt the direct debit choice.

Geographically, 211 households have Newport postcodes (NP), 128 Cardiff (CF), followed by Herefordshire 70 (HR), Llandrindod Wells 68 (mostly Brecon, LD3) and Gloucester 30 (GL). They total 568, somewhat crudely, those are households which might consider any of the Society walks for a day's outing or even attending this meeting!!

Financial – Ben Sladen

Thanks to the resilience of membership numbers, subs continue to rise. If all members renew next year, those subs would be identical in total with the past year. The surplus for the past year is flattered by the negative

charge for the AGM. The venue has failed to invoice us for the lunch or for use of the venue itself (apart from a small deposit). The net charge has been around £600 usually, so a 'gain' of some £900. For more information please refer to the Statements of Accounts.

Guided Walks - Wally & Anthea James.

Again in 2018-19 we have been able to put on a substantial and varied walks programme of around 200 walks, across the park and outside, thanks to the work of our volunteer walk leaders. Not only do they lead on the day, but they recce and pre-walk most walks as well as taking a two-day outdoor First Aid course every 3 years.

In the 12 months to the end of the Winter 2018-19 Programme an estimated 776 Members/guests walked 45,330 miles. There were 187 walks. Wednesday Wanders had on average 24 walkers over the year (28 averaged the last Winter period). 68% of the walks were either in the East of the Park or outside the Park while only 12% were in the West. In terms of percentage of walkers, only 7.8% were in the West. These stats are available thanks to the efforts of Clive Counsell.

It maybe we that we have been too successful, and having more than 20 walkers (a few have had 40 plus walkers) per walk is not sustainable. There are challenges in terms of safety, insurance, quality, parking, environmental footprint and so on with these kinds of numbers. We are seeking positive ways to overcome these challenges to ensure the success of the walking programme continues.

Development of the digital process for submitting and presenting the walks and events programme on the BBPS website has now largely been completed. Producing the print version remains time consuming but has been improved.

Fortunately, a few new walk leaders came onboard in the year, and a few have dropped out for various reasons, but we are always welcome to offers from potential leaders.

It was with sadness that we heard of the death during the year of Jane Milde, one of our recent leaders.

It was the 20th anniversary of the Walks Programme on January 2nd and a successful and popular celebratory walk and 'indoor picnic' was held at Henderson Hall Talybont.

Rob Pritchard continues to run the Get Lost navigation courses with much success and we are always grateful to Soo Turnbull, Ruth and Anthea for all their hard work every quarter, getting the printed version out to everyone. It would save the Society considerably though, if more Members accepted email notification and used the Web version. Martin Rees has been diligently proofreading for Welsh errors.

Wally and Anthea are retiring after the AGM. We wish Nic and Hilary Groombridge, who are taking over, all the best for the future of the walks programme. Many, many thanks to all those who have supported us over the past three years. Diolch yn fawr.

Walk Leader Support – Iau Counsell

We have 48 walk leaders, 21 of whom have had some formal training in leading groups and/or navigation. Existing leaders who have stopped leading for any reason have been offset by roughly the same number of new leaders; about seven. Some of our long-term leaders had been out of action and have happily returned to leading.

All leaders have qualified for outdoor emergency First Aid thanks to Allan Gibbs' teaching. First Aid kits have been bought, offered to all and supplied to those who have asked for them (WAAT4 made a generous donation of £200 for this) We now have 15 BBPS kits on loan to leaders. All leaders carry kits, but many have made up their own. This year First Aid courses have seen a reciprocal arrangement with Crickhowell Walking Festival leaders, giving all the advantage of two dates to choose from if needed. We have also re-distributed the 31 BBPS group shelters to those most in need of them. I have secured a supplier of First Aid kits and group shelters who will give us an excellent discount in the future.

Robert Pritchard has run two National Navigation Award Scheme courses, enabling five more of our leaders to gain a Silver award.

Allan Gibbs has run a Steep Ground and Water crossing course at Longtown which was fascinating and well attended. He has planned more courses for the autumn, including, hopefully, a modular Hill and Moorland Leadership course (avoiding the cost of a residential course) and a night-navigation exercise. BBPS leaders are also invited to the one-day course on 26 October which is being run for Crickhowell Walking Festival leaders. – more details to follow.

Events Programme – Janet Callear

The Events' Speakers this year have been drawn from the Society, other charities, business and more. It is impressive to realise just how much is going on so close to or within the Park! All our speakers showed such energy, enthusiasm and commitment whether about walks, search and rescue, bringing history back to life or the produce they sell.

But we also learnt that all is not “rosy” in the Park, and Himalayan Balsam and other non-native invasive species are a threat which needs our attention both now and in the future.

One of talk of particular note was the evening of January 2nd after the celebratory walk, when Chris Barber gave a humorous and well-illustrated talk on the 20 years of the Society's Walks Programme

Thank you to all our speakers for giving their time and to everyone for supporting these events.

Rights of Way – Phil O'Shea

Most of my role involves receiving notices of problems from Members which I report to The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) and receiving announcements from BBNPA which I convey to Members by posting the announcements on the Society's website. I deal mostly with Eifion Jones, The Rights of Way Officer and occasionally Lisa Lloyd his Assistant. Both provide a really good and timeous service.

It is not always easy for me to identify the Member's problem from their descriptive e-mail to me, which is sometimes due to a Member referring to a farm, or a local description with which I'm unfamiliar. During the year I came across the website www.rowmaps.com which is simple to use and enables users to identify the name/number of the footpath which they are reporting. Citing the name/number, gives a more accurate description and helps me and BBNPA to locate it. There is a link to www.rowmaps.com on our website and anyone reporting issues to me is encouraged to use this. Also, on the Society's website is a form to report any difficulties Members encounter with Rights of Way (ROW) or you can email me at row@breconbeaconsparkociety.org

Reports also come to me from Members who encounter aggressive dogs. I will happily take this up with BBNPA but in the first instance, the Member is encouraged to refer the matter to the police. BBNPA will, if it's deemed

appropriate, prosecute the dog owner, so the more evidence/witnesses, the better.

All reports that come to me from Members and BBNPA are posted onto The Society's website and, where I'm able, I also keep the Member informed of the progress or outcome of their referral. Occasionally, if I think it might be helpful to draw leaders' attention to any change, I seek Iau's help in disseminating the information to leaders.

Why not try a different path? (I emphasise this is my view and does not necessarily represent the opinion of the Executive Committee.) When leaders are putting together a proposed walk, I ask that they consider using a footpath (FP) that they might not have used before, or which might appear a little overgrown. FPs used infrequently often become too overgrown and therefore, over time, obsolete but it also helps identify FPs and stiles etc in need of attention which can be reported to me. I appreciate it's the leaders' decision, but I invite you to consider alternatives.

Development and Planning – Elizabeth Gibbs

The aim of the society with respect to Development and Planning is to try to ensure that the Statutory Purposes of the National Park are upheld, in particular the first purpose: to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park. To this end we have continued to monitor all planning applications submitted and attend the PAROW meetings (or watch the web cast) where planning decisions are made. Detailed local knowledge is important so we really appreciate members contacting us with any matters of concern. Covering the whole Park is quite a large task so we would be delighted to welcome anyone interested in joining the team particularly to cover planning issues in the west of the Park.

We have continued to object to proposed developments which are likely to have a detrimental visual impact and affect the tranquillity of the Park, whether due to the activities they involve or due to the effects of increased traffic, especially on narrow roads. We were pleased to note that the application for a Luge at Upper Cantref, to which we objected, was refused unanimously when it came before committee. We continued to object to the proposal for a telecommunications mast, near Capel-y-ffin, and also to a similar one at Ty Canol, on the ridge between the Talybont reservoir and the Dyffryn Cwannon valley: both have been withdrawn and we await revised applications, hopefully for less sensitive sites. We contributed to

the consultation on the Talgarth Former Mid Wales Hospital Development Brief.

The statutory protection of National Parks extends to all activities affecting National Parks whether those activities lie within, or in the setting of, the designated areas. We have been concerned that there is growing pressure to expand Abergavenny to the detriment of the NP, and objected to a proposed housing development at Llantilio Pertholey which would span the border. Other fringe applications to which objections have been made, have been for a wind turbine near the southern border of the NP in Blaenau Gwent, and for a large development of agricultural-type buildings for a falcon breeding business, visible from Twyn Y Gaer on Mynydd Illtyd. We were also concerned to see that Blaenau Gwent have put in an application to renew the permission for the Circuit of Wales, which borders the NP. This is to enable a new consortium to develop the site. The business model is based on the track and its facilities being used as a laboratory and testing facility for the automotive sector but it would potentially be able to host Formula One. We will continue to vigorously oppose this. Fringe applications pose an additional difficulty as they can easily be missed since they do not necessarily appear in the weekly lists of applications for the NP. Again it is helpful if members alert us to any such applications.

The NP has decided to prepare a new Local Development Plan (LDP), rather than just undertake a review. We have responded to the various consultations so far and the current stage is the preparation of the Preferred Strategy, which will be consulted on in May-June. It is important for anyone living in the NP to make sure they are aware of this and how their community may be affected. The NP wants to work with local communities and officers are prepared to arrange to meet individual councils. It seems that the best way any community can ensure that it has the maximum influence over its future development is to create a Place (or Village) Plan.

Fforest Fawr Geopark – Dilys Harlow

Our focus this year has been to create a new Geopark Hub at Craig-y-Nos Country Park to replace the disbanded centre at Pontneddfechan. Unfortunately there is no spare indoor space at CyN so the old geoterrace, in front of the café, is due to be transformed by the autumn. The centre piece will be a striking bronze relief map of the Geopark, plus new displays, interpretation boards & furniture. Watch this outdoor space!

The Geopark Ambassador scheme has now trained more than 100 tourism businesses to provide information about the Geopark & the wider National Park to their clients.

We are continuing to look for ways to encourage tourism in the Geoparks of the European Atlantic Area as part of the Atlantic Geoparks EU Interreg Project by promoting the geological & cultural heritage of this extensive area.

As part of the above we are developing a charter template for Geodiversity Conservation & hope that this will encourage the Welsh Government to develop a Geodiversity Charter for Wales, as Wales is now the only area in the UK without one.

We are collaborating with the Department of Earth & Ocean Sciences at Cardiff on a research project to better understand the tectonic histories of the Neath & Swansea Valley Disturbances.

Finally, this year's Geofest takes place between May 25th & June 9th. BBPS has provided joint walks with the National Trust & Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust.

The Dark Sky Project – Jim Wilson

The dark skies of the Brecon Beacons International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) continue to be very popular with visitors and residents alike, our reserve and the dark sky movement in Wales continue to flourish, we have gained considerable recognition both at home and abroad, commercial benefits are being delivered to our local community, and we are considering a new and exciting dark sky initiative.

Overall there were about 3000 participants in stargazing events in the reserve, and our observatory has had a very successful year with most of the events fully booked and about 2000 people enjoying the night sky through our telescopes.

Our observatory director, Martin Griffiths has published a book "Dark Land Dark Skies" on the connection between Welsh mythology and the constellations. He was also a speaker at the world famous Hay Festival on this topic, where the work of the IDSR and the Park Society was generously acknowledged.

What we are doing here in Wales is also commended in an e-book “Light Pollution: A Global Discussion”. Additionally we have been collaborating with the Aoraki-Mackenzie IDSR in New Zealand to draw out parallels between our two IDSRs and find ways we could benefit one another. This collaboration has involved Canterbury University in Christchurch with one of their staff writing an academic paper on the future of the dark sky movement. The Brecon Beacons will feature prominently in this publication.

We were also asked by Lonely Planet to give input to the development of their book on astrotourism. The Society has also been invited to speak at an international conference on dark skies and light pollution in Ireland which is yet more recognition of what we have achieved here in Wales. Local businesses continue to gain advantage from being in an IDSR with over 80 businesses now qualified as Dark Sky Ambassadors.

Our IDSR is being protected by the application of the Special Planning Guide to development applications within the IDSR (the entire National Park). Over 180 planning applications have used this guide to create plans for development that do not damage the reserve. Additionally the latest version of Wales’ top level planning policy acknowledges the value that dark sky reserves deliver to Wales.

We were successful in a bid for funding from VisitWales in collaboration with the Elan Valley Dark Sky Park and the Cambrian Mountains Initiative. The funding (£83,000) is targeted at attracting visitors to enjoy our dark skies, stay overnight and deliver more financially to our local communities.

Unfortunately a much larger application for funding from EU sources for dark skies development (1.5 million Euros) with partners from Scotland, Ireland, France, Spain and Portugal was unsuccessful, although it did develop a good working relationship with dark sky organisations in those countries.

Wales is currently the world leader in percentage of our landmass with dark sky protection and we are in early discussions with the International Dark Sky Association (the awarding body for dark sky status) on the development of a new status “Dark Sky Country”.

The Society has enjoyed considerable success with its Dark Sky initiative and we are now considering kicking off an IDSR Phase II project to build on what we have achieved. This potential project would aim to further

develop and protect our IDSR, investigate the benefits gained from the gaining the IDSR status, and make progress on the aspiration of Wales becoming the world's first Dark Sky Country.

Gunpowder Works – Jim Wilson

The objectives of the overall Gunpowder Works programme, appropriately called “Explosive Times”, are to secure the long term future of the Glyn-Neath gunpowder works structures in the Mellte gorge, and to protect and re-establish the ancient woodland and hence improve the bio-diversity of this part of the National Park.

Very good progress has been made on the protection and renovation of the industrial archaeological structures, and a time lapse video is being made of the progress of this work.

Various successful community events have been held. In all there has been outreach to more than 1400 people (including Society members) who have enjoyed a walk, talk or hands on experience. Additionally, there have been visits by 13 community groups and 112 school children.

One event example being the woodland day for people to learn about the special ancient woodland in the unique gunpowder works site, and how the Society's bio-diversity project (within the overall programme) will help protect and expand the ancient woodland.

There is currently an access issue to the site as a local land owner is contesting the right of way into the valley and has erected a fence and a lockable gate across the access track. The National Park Authority's legal advisor is negotiating with the landowner but litigation is a possibility, although the gate has so far not been locked.

The woodland around the gunpowder works structures contains some of the few remaining fragments of ancient woodland in Wales. The Society's Bio-Diversity Improvement project will achieve its bio-diversity improvement aim by removing invasive tree species and replanting or re-generating native species. This will help to re-establish a greater extent of ancient woodland which has a far higher bio-diversity than woodland comprising of invasive species.

There have been protracted negotiations with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) over various permissions and licenses, and delays due to NRW updating some of their processes.

This has meant that the forestry work missed the autumn window for this activity. Additionally the forestry work and some of the structural protection work cannot proceed in parallel and a higher priority had to be given to the structural preservation work due to already in place contractual agreements.

All of this has meant that we have had to postpone the forestry work from autumn 2018 to Spring/Summer 2019 (this has no impact on the overall programme either on the timescales or the budget).

Quotes for the forestry work have been received and it is expected that work will commence in early May and continue for 10 weeks.

Once the major clearing of invasive species is completed and the re-establishment of the native species is in place the project will move on to setting up bio-diversity monitoring capabilities and the creation of woodland paths and information panels.

Publicity and Communication – Nic Groombridge

Publicity for the Society is carried out in both old and new media and by word-of-mouth or in person.

Old media publicity is usually a matter of persuading the Brecon and Radnor Express to carry a report of our activities and a photo or two. Examples are of the 20th Anniversary of our walks programme. If any member has good contacts with other outlets do let me know as the B&R cannot be guaranteed to carry our material or notify us why. *The Beacon* is our own old media outlet and is edited by Chris Barber.

New media publicity is mostly posting on Facebook and Twitter. These might be announcements or reposting or retweeting material from groups with whom we are associated like the Campaign for National Parks or of interest to members. The Facebook group also enables members to post photos and stories. Clearly the website and emails are our major and authoritative source of news for members. These can be generated by most committee members.

Members of the Executive are sometimes invited to attend meetings at which we have the opportunity to advance the Society's influence. It is

hoped that this in person word-of-mouth work is something all members can do in persuading people to join.

The Beacon – Chris Barber

The Society Journal is produced in full colour twice a year (in January and July) and contains a wide range of articles on topics mainly relating to the Brecon Beacons National Park.

A steady flow of material is needed for inclusion in future issues and Chris Barber, the editor would be very pleased to receive contributions from our Members. Articles should be between 500 and 1,000 words in length. Make sure any pictures you send on a CD or e-mail are high quality JPEGs. Please send your articles, poems, letters etc by email to: thebeacon@breconbeaconsparkociety.org or by post to Chris Barber, Blorenge Cottage, Church Lane, Llanfoist, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 9NG.

Declaration

In accordance with Charity Commission requirements, the Executive Committee (being the Trustees of the Charity) confirms that the activities of the Society have been and are being delivered for the public benefit.