



Society News.

Edition 4. December 2023.

Welcome to the fourth edition of Society News, our online quarterly newsletter aimed at keeping members informed about what the Society has been doing and plans to do. If you have any articles you would like us to consider for publication or any comments on what you have read, please send them to mailbox@breconbeaconsparkociety.org

Wishing all members, family and friends a Very Happy Christmas and New Year!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As we are approaching the time of year when many memberships are due for renewal, this is a gentle reminder to members who do not use our secure payment agency GoCardless. As you may know from recent newsletters, our Annual Subscription rates were increased from 1st July 2023, and these are now £20 for Individual and £30 for Family membership.

We would urge all members that do not currently avail themselves of GoCardless to use this method if possible as it is, by far, the simplest form of payment. It is a secure site, and the Society will not have access to your banking details. Payments are automatically taken on an annual basis, and you have the option to cancel this arrangement at any time. Over 80% of our members have elected to use this form of payment and if you wish to do

this, please follow the one of the links below dependent upon the type of membership required:

Individual: <https://pay.gocardless.com/AL00074MABKPXJ>

Family: <https://pay.gocardless.com/AL00074MAVJ7JD>

Other Payment Options are:

Bank Transfer to: **CAF Bank: Sort Code: 40-52-40; Account Number: 00032509; Account Name: Brecon Beacons Park Society. Please use your name and / or membership number as the reference.**

Please note that members who pay by Standing Order will need to change the amount in their instruction to their bank.

Or you can pay by Cheque made payable to Brecon Beacons Park Society, and sent to the address below:

Hon Treasurer BBPS
26 Lodgewood Estate
New Inn
Pontypool, NP4 8EQ.

Taster walks January 2024

Last year, the Walks Subcommittee introduced the idea of offering 'Taster Walks' - easier walks at a relaxed pace, to encourage non-members to try before committing themselves to membership. Such walks also proved helpful to our members who, for whatever reason, are not now regular walkers. These walks proved popular, and we received good feedback about the positive physical, mental and social benefits of walking with a group.

It is planned to offer more of these walks starting with at least two in January, and details will appear on the Society's website under "Guided Walks". www.breconbeaconsparksociety.org

Dates for your Diary

See the [website](#) for more details and on how to book a place at one of our free monthly talks held at The Bear Hotel in Crickhowell. Forthcoming talks:

6th December 7.30-9pm Wildlife and Wild Places of the Upper Wye Valley
– an illustrated talk by Stewart Roberts at The Bear Hotel, Crickhowell

24th January 2024 7.30-9pm Scottish Peruvian Andes Expedition 1976 a talk by Jim Wilson who was the team leader and a long-term member of the Park Society.

The Campaign for National Parks & National Park Societies

Conference 18th – 20th October 2023

The Campaign for National Parks organise a conference annually and this year it was held in Kendal with the help of the Friends of the Lake District. The conference provides the opportunity to debate some difficult issues and to meet up with other Societies to swap notes - often providing new ideas and approaches. BBPS has regularly sent one or two Exec members to the Conference to glean as much as possible that could be used to help meet with our Society objectives. This year our Chairman, Martin and Vice-Chair, Janet, attended.

This year the conference was based around the Sandford Principle - the priority given to the first purpose of National Parks (conservation of natural beauty) when there is an irreconcilable conflict with the second purpose (public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks). And then of course not to confuse either with the 'duties' of the National Parkuhmm!

Talking with the other Park Societies a common theme resonated – involving younger people and using social media better. Many approaches were being taken but would anything help with our own difficulty in recruiting a social media Exec member – we will have to see!

All in all, it was a useful couple of days that the above paragraphs only touch on.

Guided Walks Online Booking System

There have been changes in the walks booking system, and although the following month's guided walks programme will be published a month in advance, it is now not possible to book a place on a walk until a fortnight before each walk date. It is hoped that this will result in less cancellations at the last minute as plans a fortnight ahead are less likely to change. The new system seems to be working well but will be kept under review.

Tramroads Project - Call for Volunteers

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to support the project but, as they say, the more the merrier. More volunteers would be most welcome.. You will be part of a team carrying out field work including surveying and monitoring activities at points of interest along, in the first instance, the route of the Brinore Tramroad. Volunteers will be covered under the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority's Volunteer Framework. For more information please contact Roy Manning via:-

mailbox@breconbeaconsparkociety.org

Trig Points

All of us who walk in the hills will have come across these enigmatic and now obsolete monoliths. Many are now in a parlous state and, as with tramroads, they form a part of our cultural heritage and at least some of them are worth protecting. We are in the early stages of scoping a project and, if you are interested, please contact us via our mailbox as above.

Planning Applications

The Society monitors all planning applications to the National Park Authority and comments on those that it feels are important or relevant. All our letters to the Authority can be found on our [website](#) . For many years Elizabeth Gibbs has undertaken this work, which often includes visiting a site, single-handed. We are glad to be able to announce that Kathryn Silk has agreed to join Liz.

Sustainable Food Strategy for Powys

We have been contacted by the Sustainable Food Partnership Co=Ordinator for South Powys, Chloe Masefield, who would like members' views on creating a sustainable food strategy. If you are interested, please complete the online survey in the link below:

<https://forms.gle/QWr6LAmzf3QV7h4r5>

Executive Committee News and Vacancies:

We are still looking for a volunteer with social media skills to join the Executive Committee as a communications officer with responsibility for social media. If you have social media skills and would be interested in taking on this role for the Society please do get in touch.

Our new Treasurer, David Burden has now taken over the role of Membership Secretary from Derek Thomas who continues to serve on the Executive Committee. David feels that the role of Treasurer works best when combined with the Membership Secretaries duties and responsibilities.

Call for Volunteers – please consider whether you have any skills or expertise to offer the society. The committee is always looking for help with our projects, walks etc.

Campaign for National Parks Reduced Price Membership Offer

Although the Society is a member of the CNP, it continues to offer reduced price membership to our members in the hope that more of us will wish to become directly involved and informed about its work. For further information and to access the form to apply for this offer click [here](#).

Newsletter circulation list. If you have a family membership and would like this online newsletter emailed to others in your family , please contact memsec@breconbeaconsparksociety.org and provide additional email addresses to be added to our list.

Brecon Beacons Park Society

c/o CRiC, Beaufort Street,
Crickhowell
United Kingdom



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