

Edition 8. December 2024.

Best Wishes to all for a very happy Christmas and New Year!

Welcome to the eighth 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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8th January 2025 Protecting Waterfall Country – Natural Resources Wales. We all know the pressures the Waterfall Country is under from the huge number of visitors. This talk will explain their project to work with all interested parties to achieve an holistic approach to visitor management and the protection of the environment. See the [website](#) for more details and on how to book a place at one of our free talks held at The Bear Hotel in Crickhowell. All talks commence at 7.30pm

15th January 2025 Taster Walk. We are offering a special “Taster Walk” in the Crickhowell area designed for people new to hill walking or returning from injury or illness. Details on our [website](#).

BRECON BEACONS TOURISM MEMBERSHIP

The Society has joined Brecon Beacons Tourism at an annual cost of £155 for 2025 with a view to raising our profile and informing local residents and tourists to the area about the work we do and the programme of activities on offer. Membership will also help us network with other groups in and around the National Park. We will review the benefits of membership before rejoining for 2026

Executive Committee News and Vacancies: CAN YOU HELP?

We are still seeking volunteers to form a team to create and edit a new version of The Beacon magazine for members. Don't be shy – contact katherinejordan1@hotmail.com if you could help in any way.

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**. 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>

Alternatively, you can pay by 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.

Finally, a reminder to those members who currently pay by **Standing Order**. Please can you ensure that the amount paid is **£20.00** for **Individual** Membership and **£30** for **Family** Membership in line with the increase in subscription rates on **1st July 2023**.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

If you would be interested in making a gift of membership of the Society for a friend or relative please contact our Treasurer David Burden by email at hontreasurer@breconbeaconsparkociety.org to make the necessary arrangements.

MILTON MOUNTAINEERS- Can you help?

A group of blind and partially sighted walkers (Milton Mountaineers) is coming to Brecon 17th & 18th May 2025. We would love to offer them volunteer companions/helpers who could walk with them. No training needed, merely empathy. Their walkers are pretty experienced, but I think each needs a personal guide. On Sat 17th, Pen y Fan, and on Sun 18th waterfalls are planned. If you can offer your help, please contact lau on walkssec@breconbeaconsparkociety.org as soon as possible. Obviously, one cannot commit this early, but it would be really helpful to the Milton Mountaineers to know how many of us might be able to help. Thank you.

Notice to members regarding ROW matters

This is a general reminder to members experiencing any obstacles/difficulties using Rights of Way to report the problem to the ROW Lead using the form on our website. Should you have any difficulty doing so, Phil O'Shea is happy for you to contact him directly philoshea51@hotmail.com (07912943881).

More specifically, there have been reports that some members attempting to follow certain Rights of Way have been challenged and turned away by landowners. NPA have asked, if you are challenged, to make a note of the location and description of the person challenging you, what was said, date, time etc.. Please then refer the matter to Phil as above, who will liaise with NPA. Your help in keeping ROWs accessible is appreciated.

TRAMROADS PROJECT UPDATE

If you are interested in this project and would like to volunteer please contact Roy Manning via:- mailbox@breconbeaconsparkociety.org

Since the last up-date we have been busy applying for match funding from the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority – Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) to support the work of a part-time archaeologist. This support is needed to take the project forward and in particular to: provide specialist training to our volunteers; assist in field work; provide the formal conduit for enhancing the Historic Environmental Record (HER); and to provide assistance in the writing of schedule cases when appropriate. If you know anyone with professional archaeological qualifications who might be interesting in bidding for this work or indeed offering their services on a voluntary basis please e.mail the Tramroads Project on (tramroadsproject@breconbeaconsparkssociety.org) marking it for the attention of Roy Manning

In late November we received the great news that our application for SDF funding had been successful, so we hope to be in a position to bring on board a professional archaeologist very soon and move into the field with our small group of volunteers in spring 2025. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers so please if you want to get involved in this exciting project, please contact Roy Manning using the above address.

CARN PICA WAUN RYDD RESTORATION UPDATE



The pictures above show the cairn before restoration work and as it is now with restoration almost completed.

A few words from Stuart Iles who has been carrying out this much needed work:

“In 2007 Carn Pica was totally rebuilt in memory of Jon Innes of Crickhowell Adventure. Prior to this, the cairn was in a poor state and the rebuild was total. Early in the new year of 2018 there were reports that the cairn had suffered a significant and sudden collapse. Theories included a lightning strike and frost damage.

Since then, the cairn has continued to deteriorate. In September of this year, I returned to restore the cairn with support from others from the Talybont community. 3 significant cracks in foundation stones on the north face were unusual and suggestive of frost or lightning. The rebuild has been slow but the restoration should be complete by the end of the year. Information about the site and its historic origins can be found in the online

database Archwilio- Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust,1981, site visit record- PRN936 and PRN4396 Hall, J&Sambrook,P,2009,Uplands initiative- Brecon Beacons(East)”

Stuart Iles

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@breconbeaconsparkociety.org and provide additional email addresses to be added to our list.