



Society News.

Edition 6 June 2024

Welcome to the sixth 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

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:

25th September – The Wildlife of the River Usk. A talk by John Gibbs at The Bear, Crickhowell 7.30pm.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS: CAN YOU HELP?

At our recent AGM David Thomas stepped down from his role as Honorary Secretary of the Society and Sue Hoddell (who was previously our Minutes Secretary) will take on this role with David continuing to manage the website. Derek Thomas will become our new Minutes Secretary.

We still have vacancies for a Social Media Secretary and need an assistant to help with our Events programme.

Can you help us with as much or as little time as you are able so that our Society continues to thrive and we achieve yet more for our National Park and the people who work, live and visit there.

We are also looking into setting up hybrid talks at some point in the future so that members could join via a Zoom link to attend our talks programme online. Costings for this proposal are underway, but in order to achieve this we will need someone with technical skills who is able to volunteer to set up the equipment at the event on the night. If you could do this, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please get in touch via the mailbox@breconbeaconsparkociety.org address.

The **Social Media Officer** works with the Communications Officer and others on the Executive Committee, advertising our work, informing our members and the general public using appropriate platforms and reaching across the age range.

Events Secretary Assistant. Our lead is Alun Flynn who organises and manages the delivery of our talks programme and ad hoc events. He would welcome help with this role.

The Society relies on volunteers to keep operating. Please consider helping in some way if you have skills or interests that may be of use. We always need volunteers to help with leading walks, planning the walking programme, website admin, scrutinising planning applications and helpers with technical and social media skills. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you might be able to assist in any way!

STOP PRESS! BEACONS WAY

There are still a couple of spaces available for the first two days of the guided Beacons Way walk on 29/30th June – see the website for further details.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024



There was a great turnout for this year's AGM held at the village hall in Llangorse on 8th June. Our Chairman Martin Buckle welcomed everyone and proceeded with the business in hand, covering issues such as our continuing successful walks and events programme. The aggregate distance now walked by all is over 35,000 kilometres a year- that's a good walk in anybody's books! Martin also touched on our involvement in a range of important issues such as Dark Skies, Tramroads and Rights of Way as well as the work on planning issues and the recently established Renewable Energy Policy (to aid us in considering planning applications of this nature). All this means a busy and productive society and a positive impact on the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

This year being the 75th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, the importance of our work with partner organisations and authorities involved with the Park takes on an even greater significance, and the dialogues between our Society and the National Park Authority are proving productive and helpful. We hope that you all find the newsletter a useful way of keeping our members informed of both our work and the wider picture regarding the work of other involved organisations.

David Burden reported that our membership numbers and financial position remains healthy. As always though, we are keen to welcome new members.

After the close of formal AGM business, we were treated to a talk by Keith Noble who shared his extensive and enthusiastic interest in the dragonflies,

butterflies and birds of Llangorse lake. Having been blessed with a day of good weather, if a little windy, two groups headed out to enjoy the lake, one to walk around part of it and another to walk the common. The breeze did keep a few of the flying residents away, but nevertheless, lots of insects and plants showed themselves and a good walk was had by all.

As well as providing the chance to get an update on the work of the Society, the AGM provides the members with a chance to meet up, so if you were not able to make it this year, keep your eyes peeled for the date in June of next year and we hope to see you there!

Note for you diaries:- There is an Open Day at Llangorse Lake on July 8th. Besides Keith Noble, there will be nature specialists in various disciplines on hand to talk and show you the fascinating natural world of the lake and its shoreline. Children and families especially welcome. And its FREE!



Members on one of the walks in the afternoon.

TRAMROADS PROJECT

Roy Manning is pleased to report that we are back-on-track regarding using the BBNPA's Volunteer Framework to cover volunteers working on the project. Roy had a meeting with BBNPA on the 22nd of April to discuss the details. Alan Bowring attended the meeting, and it was confirmed that he will hold the role of Volunteer Co-Ordinator which is a very positive outcome.

A meeting was held with the volunteer cohort at Libanus Mountain Centre on the morning of Thursday 9th May. This was also attended by Amanda Brake, and Alan Bowring. Alan gave the presentation on the Clydach Tramroads which he recently delivered to the Park Society at the Bear Hotel. Amanda provided details of the volunteering framework. Unfortunately, two of the 6 volunteers have withdrawn their offer of support.

Richard and Paul Shapley continue to make progress on de-bugging the QField app and a training session concerning the surveying methodology and the use of the app has been arranged for the morning of 5th of July at Libanus Mountain Centre.

Since the failure of the PAVO bid we are receiving support from Barbara Anglezarke (BBNPA) on obtaining funding to bring on board a 'Community Archaeologist'. We are also being helped in this regard by Zoe Arthurs from Heneb. This issue has arisen since CPAT ran out of funding to support the project.

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

BBPS CAR SHARING GROUPS

Are you attending a Brecon Beacons Park Society Event or Walk?

Would you be willing to offer or accept a lift to the event or walk?

If you would, you would be helping to reduce traffic in the Park, reduce pollution, avoid overcrowding car parking facilities and perhaps save some money as well as making friends.

Brecon Beacons Park Society currently have the following **WhatsApp Car Sharing Groups**:

BBPS Abergavenny BBPS Cwmbran

BBPS Hay BBPS Brecon

BBPS Bristol BBPS Llandeilo

BBPS Cdf BBPS Llangynidr

BBPS Chepstow BBPS Monmouth

BBPS Crickhowell BBPS Penarth

BBPS Hereford BBPS Swansea

You can join as many as you wish by contacting Clive Counsell

(clive.counsell@btinternet.com). I will need your Name, Mobile Number and the names of the group(s) you wish to join.

Once in a group all you need to do if you are looking for or offering a lift is to place in each of the appropriate group(s) a message along the lines of "Hi, I'm going on Anyone wanting (offering) a lift? ADD YOUR NAME."

(The name is important as other members of the group would like to know with whom they are conversing).

If you see a message and it doesn't apply to you either because you are not attending or don't want to share on that occasion just ignore it. If you want to reply privately just press on the message and a menu will pop up at the bottom of which is the option "more". Press this and another menu appears in which this the option to Reply Privately.

You can remove yourself at any time from the group, but if you do so accidentally just let me know and I will let you back in.

BRACKEN BASHING

If you go out walking on the hills this time of year, please walk on the bracken if you can, rather than keeping to the paths to prevent the narrow paths becoming overcome with tall bracken later in the summer and to help prevent this invasive plant outcompeting other plants, providing a haven for ticks causing disease in livestock and humans and releasing carcinogenic spores to livestock which may have a negative impact on human health.

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.

Brecon Beacons Park Society

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