



Society News.

March 2024

Welcome to the fifth 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:

24th APRIL - Lundy and Skomer Islands. Sue Hoddell (an Executive Member) will give a talk describing these two islands and what it is like to volunteer on them for a week at a time.

5th JUNE- Lesotho – a talk by Philip Grant who has spent most of his life in Africa. For nearly 20 years he worked as a guide for tourists visiting Lesotho and the surrounding mountains. Now living in Brecon Philip's talk will be an introduction to Lesotho highlighting many of the similarities between Wales and that country.

*****AGM 2024*** DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – due to be held on JUNE 8th at Llangorse Village Hall - further details to follow.**

Executive Committee News and Vacancies: CAN YOU HELP?

We have vacancies for an Honorary Secretary, and a Social Media Secretary and need assistants for our Events and our Planning Oversight work.

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 hoping you can and if so please do contact

mailbox@breconbeaconsparkociety.org

The **Honorary Secretary** organises the dates and facilities for the Executive Committee meetings and the AGM and prepares the agenda and annual report. The Honorary Secretary is a member of the Executive Committee which meets about every six weeks. This is a role that can be undertaken by an individual or can be shared.

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.

Planning Oversight assistance. Elizabeth Gibbs leads on this role, reviewing and responding to planning applications, the Local Development Plan and other planning issues, and liaising with relevant bodies as appropriate.

Events Secretary assistance. Our lead is Alun Flynn who organises and manages the delivery of our talks programme and ad hoc events.

SENEDD VISIT TO MARK 75th ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE ACT IN WALES

On 5th March our Chairman Martin together with Executive members Sue Hoddell and Katherine Jordan visited the Welsh Parliament to take part in an event organised by the Campaign for National Parks to celebrate 75 years of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act in Wales.

The event was sponsored by Carolyn Thomas MS for North Wales and speeches were given by Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change and Llyr Gruffydd MS for North Wales. A lively speech from Alun Elidyr on the challenges of farming in Eryri entertained the audience of around 100 people. We also enjoyed a presentation by Dianne Spencer and Louise

Southwell on regenerative small-scale agriculture in Bannau Brycheiniog and the Our Food 1200 project as well as Primrose Market Garden Felindre.

The day provided a good opportunity to network with other Friends groups from around Wales as well as CNP staff and many others involved in our National Parks.

The encouraging speeches from the Senedd members will hopefully lead to another 75 years of our Welsh Designated Landscapes thriving for nature, our communities and the planet.

Martin, Sue and Katherine at the Senedd Event



PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY BLOCKED IN 32,000 PLACES.

In January, the BBC reported walkers wanting to enjoy footpaths across the British countryside are being blocked or obstructed in nearly 32,000 places across England and Wales. It's a reminder to us to protect our access to Rights of Way. Use them or lose them. In my view, Bannau Brycheiniog

National Park performs an excellent job, with resources provided, to address Rights of Way issues. All members can help and play a part in ensuring problems they encounter are brought to the attention of the National Park by reporting the issue on our website. It's a simple procedure. If you have any questions, I'm happy to hear from you.

Sometimes it becomes necessary to visit a location to inspect a ROW matter and I'm indebted to Angela Morgan (west), Helen Fletcher (central) and Frank Scott (east) who have kindly volunteered to assist should an on-site visit be needed.

Phil O'Shea -Rights of Way Officer

PENMARCH AND MERTHYR COMMON WIND FARM APPLICATIONS

We are closely monitoring proposals to develop several wind farms on the edge of the Brecon Beacons. One of these would be very close to the national park boundary on Penmarch and Merthyr Common to the north of the A465. Due to their scale, the proposals will be dealt with as Developments of National Significance and will be determined after a public hearing has been held. Having lodged an initial objection, the Society has been invited to attend at a date to be confirmed.

As a result of these proposals, the Society is in the process of developing a Renewable Energy Policy and has established a working group with a first draft of a policy nearing completion. The overarching policy once finalised should assist with the consideration of future renewable energy projects close to the national park boundary. If any members have a special interest in this issue or special skills or knowledge in the renewable energy field and would like to help finalise the policy please do get in touch.

WEBSITE

The Society's Strategy and Action Plan and Financial Assessment are now available to view on our website.

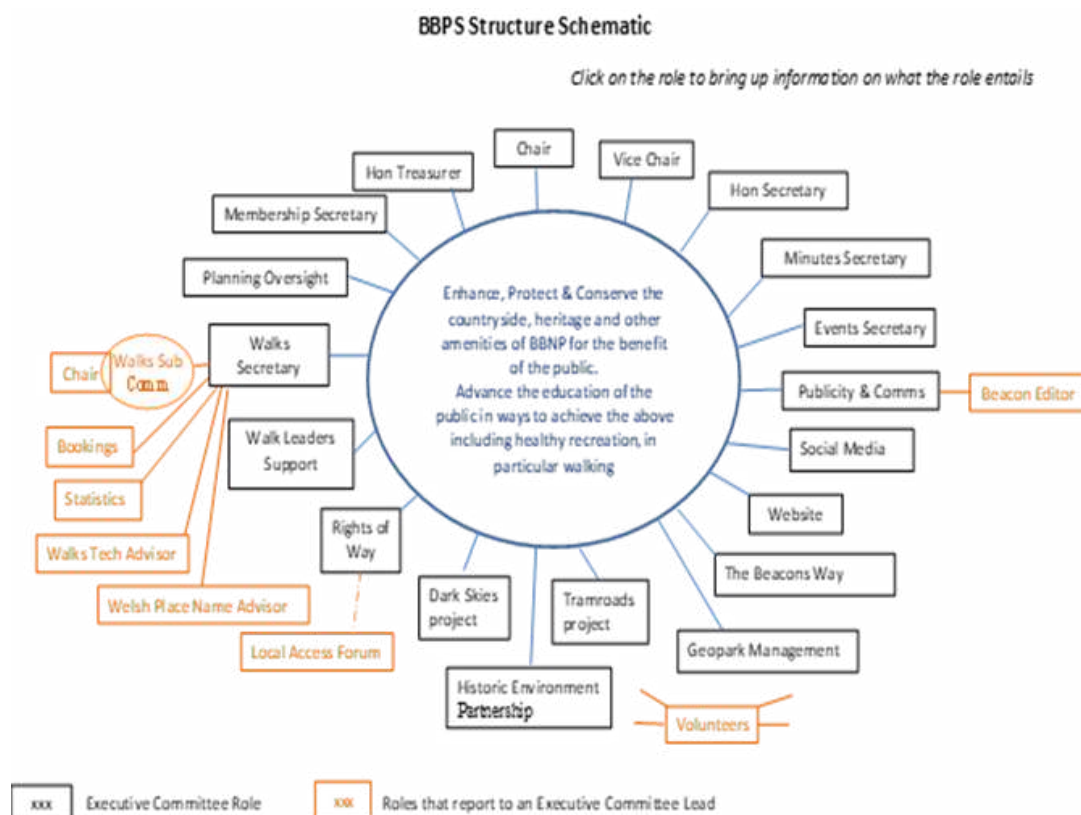
TRAMROADS PROJECT

Firstly, a big thank you to those members who have responded to our call for volunteers. We are hoping to make a start on volunteer training in April and make a long-awaited start on the surveying of the Brinore Tramroad soon after. We have six volunteers waiting to participate in the project, but

we are keen to take on more volunteers, particularly members who have knowledge and experience in industrial archaeology. For more information please contact Roy Manning via:-

TRIG POINTS

BBPS ORGANISATION



Give every child a school visit to a National Park, campaigners urge First Minister hopefuls. *(Press release by Campaign for National Parks - Feb 2024)*

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of National Parks, Campaign for National Parks and the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes are urging candidates Jeremy Miles and Vaughan Gething to safeguard the future of National Parks and Landscapes in Wales, if successfully elected as First Minister.

To help with these efforts, Campaign for National Parks and the Alliance have published a ten-point action plan to securing the long-term health of the parks and are calling on the next First Minister to implement them fully, for the benefit of people, society and the planet. The programme includes every child to visit a National Park as part of the national curriculum, greater regulation of Airbnb and holiday lets, and tighter nutrient management regulations to crack down on water pollution.

Commenting, Gareth Ludkin, Senior Policy Officer for Campaign for National Parks said:

“The three National Parks in Wales cover 20% of the country’s land surface and are home to over 80,000 people, yet it’s unclear where either First Minister candidate stands on the importance of our National Parks and Landscapes and what action they will take to give them a brighter future.”

“Too often we hear of children and young people who have limited or no access to our most treasured Welsh landscapes. Providing an outdoor learning experience for every child in Wales as part of the National Curriculum would help establish a deeper understanding of rural life in Wales as well as a lifelong love, respect and appreciation of the natural world, and all of the benefits they bring to our health and wellbeing.”

“In the face of climate breakdown, a nature crisis, growing inequality and a hollowing out of rural communities, Designated Landscapes can play a vital role in tackling some of Wales’ biggest challenges, if properly embraced by the next First Minister and their Government. “

“With another National Park being considered in Northeast Wales there are exciting opportunities for the successful candidate to set out a truly dynamic

and progressive agenda for our National Parks that provides for Wales's communities, environment and health. This includes delivering on nature recovery commitments made by the Welsh Government, as outlined in the 2018 Valued and Resilient report and 2022 Biodiversity Deep Dive."

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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