



Society News.

Newsletter. September 2025, Edition 11

Welcome to the eleventh 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

PARK SOCIETY TALKS

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

17 September - Dr Robert Richards - Early Ironmaking in the Upper Sirhowy Valley. The presentation will be based on iron making activities at Pontgwaith yr Haearn (an isolated location immediately south of Tredegar) in the period up to about 1765.

22 October - Maria Golightly and Joanna Perrin from the Brecon Beacons Local Nature Partnership will tell us how they have built a network of 45 members spanning a wide range of organisations and groups (including the Park Society) and give us examples of projects they have delivered.

3 December – Owen Thomas, a professional playwright raised on a farm in the hills above Bronllys will tell us about his writing and his appointment as the inaugural **English language writer in residence for the National Park**.

21 January – Roisin Normanly from the National Park Authority will give us a talk on **ground nesting birds**.

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS AUTUMN

DARK SKIES FESTIVAL 2025 - 20th September

This will take place on Saturday 20th September at Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Visitor Centre when the Centre will come alive with a full day and evening of talks, activities and stargazing sessions for both children and adults. For more details and to book tickets visit [Bannau Brycheiniog](#).

ARCHAEOLOGY/HERITAGE DAY - 4th October

The Park Society has joined forces with Heneb (the Trust for Welsh Archaeology) and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to organise a day of presentations and learning at the Henderson Hall village hall in Talybont-on-Usk. Please look out for more details on their website in the coming weeks. [Heneb.org.uk](#)

GEOPARK 20TH ANNIVERSARY - 27/28 Sept & 11/12 October

Celebrations are taking place at two sites on two different occasions: i) the National Park Visitor Centre at Libanus, over the weekend of the 27/28 September and ii) Craig-y-nos Country Park over the weekend of 11/12 October. Both weekends will involve a combination of guided walks and talks, together with displays and some hands-on activities largely courtesy of the Geopark's partners as represented in the Geopark Management Group (GMG). Details and tickets will be available via the [National Park](#) website and the [Geopark](#) website shortly.

CELTIC ROOTS FESTIVAL 2025 - 26th October - 2nd November 2025

An exciting new venture will be taking place during October half-term designed to celebrate the rich Celtic Heritage in the St Catwg Ministry Area. Events will include pilgrimage walks, music and poetry events, and historical talks. For further information on the programme of events please look at the new website: celticroots.org.uk which is due to be launched early in September.

VACANCIES

HONORARY SECRETARY

A small group of Society members, including all the trustees, normally gets together once every 6 weeks or so for a couple of hours to help run the Society. This group we call the Executive Committee. It's a friendly and supportive bunch of people, and we generally work through consensus. We normally meet in Crickhowell, but people can also attend online by zoom from the comfort of their own homes. We currently have a vacancy for an Honorary Secretary, a role which would include becoming a trustee.

Our broad aims focus on safeguarding and enhancing the national park. Much of our committee activity centres on supporting our programme of walks and talks. We do also get involved in projects such as Tramroads and Dark Skies, often jointly with the National Park and other environmental societies.

The role of the Secretary includes scheduling our committee meetings and organising our Annual General Meeting. It also includes managing our insurance and making any adjustments needed to the Constitution.

The role should not take up too much time. It helps us to ensure that the Society continues to run smoothly, and that we play our part in helping people to enjoy the special place that is the National Park.

If you are interested in supporting the Society in this role, please contact the [Chair, Martin Buckle](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

We are also seeking a volunteer **Social Media Manager** to join our friendly team of volunteers running our walking programme and working to protect, enhance and enjoy our National Park. You'll be instrumental in expanding our digital footprint by developing and executing social media strategies across platforms such as Facebook and Instagram etc with a view to increasing followers and our membership. Interested? Contact [Katherine Jordan](#) for a chat and further details.

WALKS SUBCOMMITTEE – NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!

The Walks Subcommittee is seeking new members who are neither walk leaders nor Executive members but who are walkers, to join our small subcommittee which meets quarterly. The subcommittee's terms of reference are available on our website. Please contact [Iau Counsell](#) or [Phil O'Shea](#) to express your interest or if you have any questions.

BEACONS WAY LEAD

We are seeking a volunteer who would be interested in being the lead on the Society's involvement with the Beacons Way walking route. If you might be interested, please contact [Phil O'Shea](#) for more information.

SOCIETY NEWS

AGM 2025

A successful AGM was held in Abergavenny on 28th June. Our Chairman, Martin Buckle, presented his report on the year's activities. The motion to end the walks booking system, proposed by Kevin Boardman, was thoroughly discussed with views on both sides for and against the motion being aired. Following a vote, there were three members in favour with an overwhelming majority against.

Meryl James, our new Events Secretary, was elected as a new Trustee and any members wishing to become Trustees were invited to put their names forward.

After the conclusion of the formal business of the AGM Roisin Normanley of BBNPA gave a talk on Curlews and the current project

she is involved in to help save this endangered bird. After lunch several short, guided walks were offered around Abergavenny followed by tea at the end of the afternoon.

AGM 2026

We are considering holding next year's AGM in Brecon possibly on 27th June 2026. Details will be confirmed later this year!

THE MAGIC OF BANNAU BRYCHEINIOG

Chris Barber's new magazine The Magic of Bannau Brycheiniog was sent by email to everyone early in August. We hope you enjoyed reading the articles. Chris is a long-standing life member of the Society and former editor of The Beacon. If you have any comments, please email [Chris](#).

TRAMROADS PROJECT

Since the recruitment of archaeologist Charina Jones in January of this year the project has been busily recruiting and training volunteers. Most of the training has been centred around the Brinore Tramroad and Henderson Hall in Talybont-on-Usk. Work has also progressed on the detailed mapping of other tramroads using QGIS, the free open-source geographic information system software. When the mapping work is complete the team will be in a position to survey other tramroads in the National Park. Should you want to learn more about this project and maybe volunteer to become a member of the team, please contact [Roy Manning](#).

and finally,

Anything you'd like to Raise?

Your Executive Committee invites all members to raise any concerns or issues for discussion so that the Society is as democratic as possible and is in touch with the membership. If there is any matter you would like to raise, please get in touch!

Legacies and Donations.

Leave a legacy of kindness. Including a gift in your Will or making a

donation to Brecon Beacons Park Society is a meaningful way to support the causes you care about – forever.

Newsletter Circulation List

If you have a family membership and would like this online newsletter emailed to others in your family , please contact [David Burden, Membership Secretary](#), and provide additional email addresses to be added to our list.

Brecon Beacons Park Society

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