



Cymdeithas Parc Bannau Brycheiniog
Brecon Beacons Park Society

www.breconbeaconsparkociety.org

**GUIDED WALKS AND
EVENTS PROGRAMME
SPRING 2012**

Most of these walks go into the hills. **Participants are reminded that the following gear must be taken.** Walking boots, rucksack, hats, gloves, warm clothing (not jeans), spare sweater, water and a hot drink, lunch, extra food and of course waterproof jackets and trousers. A whistle and torch should be carried, particularly during the winter months. **Participants must satisfy themselves that the walk is suitable for their abilities.** You can take advice by ringing the walk leader whose telephone number is given. No liability will be accepted for loss or injury that occurs as a result of taking part.

An adult must accompany young people (under 18).

MOST OF THESE WALKS ARE FOR EXPERIENCED WALKERS

Leaders may change or cancel the advertised route due to adverse weather conditions.

Strenuous walks require fitness and stamina to cope with several steep climbs and/or cover a good distance at a steady pace.

Energetic walks generally involve two steep climbs but they will still require determined application.

Moderate walks will seldom have steep climbs but if they do the climb will be taken at a relaxed pace.

Dogs (well controlled) are permitted unless stated otherwise in the programme. It should be noted that under the CROW Act, when taking dogs onto Open Access land they **must** be on a fixed lead, no more than two metres long, whenever livestock are near, and at ALL TIMES from 1st March to 31st July.

Non-members of the Park Society will be asked to make a donation of **£5.00** each per walk. Half price for the under 16's, the unemployed and students. The fee is deductible from the membership fee on joining the Society within two months of the walk.

General Enquiries to:

Anne Pritchard, tel: 029 2061 0397 e-mail: eannepritchard@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES: SEE BACK PAGE

REGISTERED CHARITY: 1075345

GUIDED WALKS AND EVENTS SPRING 2012

FEATURES

Welcome to the Brecon Beacons Park Society Guided Walks and Events Programme for Spring 2012, we hope you will enjoy it. The programme includes walks every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, most Wednesdays, and two Bank Holiday Mondays, as well as our contributions to the Crickhowell Walking Festival and the Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival. We also have a repeat visit to Big Pit, a Bat Watch (booking essential for both these events) and two Illustrated Talks at the Bear. Many thanks to our volunteer walk leaders and speakers without whom none of this would be possible.

CRICKHOWELL WALKING FESTIVAL

A WEEK OF WALKS IN THE EAST, from Saturday 25th February to Sunday 4th March inclusive. The programme includes the remainder of the Society's contribution to this year's Festival. The walks also appear in the Walking Festival's programme where in some cases the walk descriptions have been changed slightly to make them more understandable for a wider audience.

Please note that although all the Society walks for the Festival are free for BBPS Members, BBPS Members do need to book their places on these walks in advance. Booking is on line this year at www.crickhowellfestival.com, where full details of the programme can also be found.

Please note that Society members need to book their place on all other Festival walks, for which the normal Festival rates apply as in the programme.

For safety reasons but also for people's enjoyment of the walks, the numbers for any given walk will be capped at a reasonable level. Some of the walks are already fully booked.

BBPS EVENTS IN THE FFOREST FAWR GEOPARK FESTIVAL

The Geopark Festival runs from Saturday 26th May to Sunday 10th June.

Full details are at www.fforestfawrgeopark.co.uk/geopark-festival-2012/.

Advance booking is advisable for all these events as there is a cap on numbers. Leaders are obliged to keep to the maximum number of participants permitted and cannot accept more. Please book ahead to avoid disappointment, at the National Park Visitor Centre 01874 623366.

There is no donation expected from BBPS members for these four events (and the three in June). A donation is suggested for other Geopark events.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The **Society AGM** will be held at Myddfai Community Hall on Saturday 16th June, and will be followed, as usual, with a topical talk about the locality, lunch and a couple of walks in the area. Society members will receive notification of the details nearer the time.

COURSES

The Brecon Beacons Park Society offers a series of two-day courses, which cover the basics of navigation for hill walkers – from understanding maps and using a compass to more advanced skills such as GPS potential and relocation strategies. The Get Lost Course is limited to 10 places and the Get Lost Again to 8 places. These usually get filled up some time in advance so it is essential to check for availability and to reserve a place on the course as early as possible.

**Further information about Navigation Courses with dates for 2012,
the Guided Walks and Events programme, and much more, can be found on:
www.breconbeaconsparkociety.org**

GUIDED WALKS AND EVENTS SPRING 2012

MARCH

CRICKHOWELL WALKING FESTIVAL: HIGH ABOVE THE HONDDU

Date: Thursday 1st March
Level: Energetic
Dist: 17.5km (11 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.00pm
Leader: CHRIS PLAYFORD
Contact: 01497 820074

*From Llanthony Priory car park GR SO 288278. A high level circuit on the ridges to the north of Llanthony. Ascend Cwm Bwchel and head north via Bal Mawr and Chwarel y Fan to the Blacksmith's Anvil stone. Drop down to Capel-y-ffin (with Father Ignatius' monastery, a church, and a chapel), ascend steeply to the Hatterall Ridge, then south before descending to Llanthony. No dogs please. **Advance Booking Essential on line at www.crickhowellfestival.com***

AN ORDINARY SOCIETY WALK: VISIT TO THE NAUGHTY STONE

Date: Friday 2nd March
Level: Moderate
Dist: 14.5km (9 miles)
Time: 9.30.am – 3.30pm
Leader: ROB SHORT
Contact: 01495 718254
07976 885132

Meet at the village of Trefil GR SO 120125 two miles north of the A465 Tredegar roundabout. Following the course of The Bryn Ore Tram Road to view the Naughty Stone and its view point. The walk takes in cairns, medieval enclosures and a sink hole draining Llyn y Garn-fawr. An optional visit to the Chartist Cave. Then returning to Trefil via a working quarry.

CRICKHOWELL WALKING FESTIVAL: THE THREE DARRENS

Date: Friday 2nd March
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 18km (11 miles)
Ascent: 660 metres
Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm
Leader: FRANK SCOTT
Contact: 01432 275388
07713 772499

*From Llanthony Priory car park GR SO 288278. A walk along the rocky crags to the east and west of Hatterall Hill. The walk follows good paths down the valley, then visits the Darren above Cwmyoy. After retracing our steps to our original path we ascend Hatterall Hill, join Offa's Dyke path then drop down to visit the Black Darren and Red Darren. Paths are vague, narrow & rocky in places. **Advance Booking Essential on line at www.crickhowellfestival.com***

AN ORDINARY SOCIETY WALK: A WANDER OVER THE CRIBARTH

Date: Saturday 3rd March
Level: Moderate
Dist: 13km (8 miles)
Time: 10.00am – 3.00pm
Leader: PAULA ACE
Contact: 07967 140689

Meet at the layby along the road next to the Gwyn Arms GR SN 846165. A gentle climb above Dan yr Ogof showcaves onto the Cribarth looking at some points of interest on the way. Returning over Penwyllt.

CRICKHOWELL WALKING FESTIVAL: BWLCH, CEFN AND CWMS

Date: Saturday 3rd March
Level: Energetic
Dist: 18km (11 miles)
Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm
Leader: ROGER WHITE
Contact: 01873 811539

*Meet at the Crickhowell Resource and Information Centre (CRiC), GR SO 218184, where a bus is arranged to leave for Bwlch at 10.00am. Our route follows the third stage of the Beacons Way, but in reverse, crossing the moors of Cefn Moel to Cwmdu, and then around the secret valley of Cwm-gu before descending to Crickhowell. No dogs please. **Advance Booking Essential on line at www.crickhowellfestival.com***

GUIDED WALKS AND EVENTS SPRING 2012

AN ORDINARY SOCIETY WALK: BLACK MOUNTAINS - THE BAL MAWR ODYSSEY

Date: Sunday 4th March
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 26.5km (16.5 miles)
Ascent: 3000ft
Time: 9.00am – 5.00pm
Leader: JASON WINNEY
Contact: 07798 521550

Park in the walkers' car park of the Queen's Head on the road from Llanfihangel Crucorney to Llanthony (£1 parking fee) GR SO 311221 OS Map OL13.
From the Queen's Head, walking tracks to the Grwyne Fawr, to Bal Mawr and beyond.

CRICKHOWELL WALKING FESTIVAL: CEFN LLECHID AND FAN FRYNYCH

Date: Sunday 4th March
Level: Energetic
Dist: 18km (11 miles)
Time: 10.00am – 3.30pm
Leader: KEVIN McANULTY & WILLIAM COOPER
Contact: 01633 667664

*Meet at the National Park Visitor Centre (Mountain Centre) Libanus GR SN 978263.
Out across open moorland to ascend Fan Frynych. Descend to pick up paths and lanes leading to Cefn Llechid before a picturesque stop at Cwm Camlais. Returning for refreshments in Mountain Centre cafe.*

Advance Booking Essential on line at www.crickhowellfestival.com

WEDNESDAY WANDER: AN ASCENT OF ALLT YR ESGAIR

Date: Wednesday 7th March
Level: Moderate
Dist: 11.2km (7 miles)
Time: 10.30am – 3.00pm
Leader: KEVIN MCANULTY & WILLIAM COOPER
Contact: 01633 667664

Meet at Llangasty Church GR SO 133261 on the southern shore of Llangorse Lake.
The walk steadily ascends Allt yr Esgair an outlier of The Black Mountains. Weather permitting fine views over coffee. A "posh" lunch stop with tables! Return leg via a mysterious hunting lodge. 2 steady climbs taken at an easy pace.

USK VALLEY AND CANAL CIRCULAR

Date: Friday 9th March
Level: Moderate
Dist: 16km (10 miles)
Time: 10.00am – 3.30pm
Leader: DAVE OWENS
Contact: 01446 773308
07580 354376

Park in Talybont-on-Usk GR SO 114226 meeting by the Post Office.
Following the canal to Pencelli we join the Usk Valley Walk through some pleasant scenery before briefly joining the Taff Trail. We then rejoin the Usk Valley Walk before descending to the canal and a lovely walk back to Talybont.

JOHN, PAUL GEORGE AND RINGO

Date: Saturday 10th March
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 20km (12.5 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.00pm
Leader: CLIVE EILES
Contact: 01550 740188
clive.eiles@hertford.oxon.org

From the top car park on the A4069 Llangadog to Brynamman road, GR SN 732188.
The peaks of Garreg Lwyd and Carreg Las, with their burial cairns, and on the way back the flatter peaks of Cefn y Cylchau and Cefn y Truman. And a taste of the life of the quarrymen who worked and lived on the mountain during the week, at a place without a name.

GUIDED WALKS AND EVENTS SPRING 2012

THE QUEEN'S HEAD CHAPTER ONE

Date: Sunday 11th March
Level: Energetic
Dist: 18km (11 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 3.30pm
Leader: MALCOLM WINNEY
Contact: 029 2062 8861

Park in the walkers' car park opposite the Queen's Head pub Cwmyoy (£1) Map OL13 GR SO 311222.
A walk up over the Gaer and along the ridge to Bal Bach, down Cwm Bwchel to the Abbey. Up on the Beacons Way to Offa's Dyke, over Hatterrall Hill and back to the cars. No dogs please.

SPECIAL INTEREST WALK: BELOW AND ABOVE GROUND

Date: Sunday 11th March
Level: Moderate
Dist: about 6km (3.75 miles)
Time: 10.00am – 4.30/5.00pm
Leader: DILYS HARLOW
Contact: 01454 775731
Expert: TOM SHARPE
National Museum of Wales

Meet at Big Pit car park Blaenafon GR SO 239088 for the underground tour – see www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/bigpit/access for details of conditions & restrictions underground. Lunch at Big Pit (canteen or picnic) then drive to the Foxhunter car park GR SO 263107 for a walk on the Blorenge around places associated with the coal and iron industries.
No dogs underground please!
Booking with the leader is essential as numbers are limited on the underground tour.

WEDNESDAY WANDER: Y GRAIG DESERTED VILLAGE, FOREST AND DAFFODILS?

Date: Wednesday 14th March
Level: Moderate
Dist: 6.5km (4 miles)
Time: 10.15am – 1.00pm
Leader: ROGER AUSTIN
Contact: 01873 810145
lynne.roger@btinternet.com

Meet at 10am at CRiC building in Crickhowell GR SO 218184 for car share OR 10.15am at starting point.
From Llanwenarth Hotel/Restaurant lay by on A40 GR SO 253161.
A steep climb through the forest.

LLANGATTOCK ESCARPMENT

Date: Friday 16th March
Level: Moderate
Dist: 20km (12.5 miles)
Time: 9:30am – 4:30pm
Leader: SOO TURNBULL
Contact: 01874 622136

Starting from the car park behind Crickhowell Information Centre GR SO 218184 (parking fee, or park elsewhere and meet us there). Llangattock, Waun Ddu, the tramroad, Hen Dy-aderyn, Darren Disgwylfa, fields and woods back.

A PEN AND TWO BLACK RIDGES

Date: Saturday 17th March
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 21km (13miles)
Time: 9.30am – 5.00pm
Leader: STEPHEN FLYNN
Contact: 07792 340933

Meet at the Blaen y Cwm car park GR SO 252285 for ascent of Pen y Gadair Fawr then follow the ridge south east to Disgwylfa, descend to Pont Cadwgan before climbing up again to the eastern ridge to return via Bal Mawr and Chwarel y Fan.

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YSTRADFELLTE CIRCULAR

Date: Sunday 18th March
Level: Moderate
Dist: 17km (11 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.00pm
Leader: SEAN O'DONOGHUE
Contact: 01497 822831
07816 821745
odonoghue.books@zen.co.uk

Car park in Ystradfellte village GR SN 929134.
North to Sarn Helen and then South to see a waterfall or two.

WEDNESDAY WANDER PAST THE PARK: CHEPSTOW AND LOWER WYE VALLEY

Date: Wednesday 21st March
Level: Moderate
Dist: 13.5km (8.5 miles)
Time: 10.30am – 3.30pm
Leader: KEVIN MCANULTY &
WILLIAM COOPER
Contact: 01633 667664

Meet at Chepstow Castle car park GR ST 534940 OS map OL14.
The walk follows the Wye Valley Walk for some fine views high above the river. Returning through little used lanes and paths.

ILLUSTRATED TALK: BRECON MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Date: Wednesday 21st March
Time: 7.30pm
Place: Bear Hotel, Crickhowell
Speaker: BRECON MOUNTAIN
RESCUE TEAM LEADER

A team leader from the Brecon Mountain Rescue Team will talk about all aspects of the team and how it works, with lots of pictures, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions afterwards.

A DAY OF CONTRASTS

Date: Friday 23rd March
Level: Energetic
Dist: 15.5km (9.5 miles)
Time: 10.00am – 3.30pm
Leader: FRANK COOK
Contact: 01600 860582

From the Porth y Parc car park GR SO 288166.
Up and over the Sugar Loaf, down to Ty Draw in the Grwyne Fechan and then to Llangenny. Returning via Cwm Cegyr, Llanwenarth Breast and St Mary's Vale. Purely medicinal stop at The Dragon's Head, if open!

LLANFRYNACH HORSESHOE

Date: Saturday 24th March
Level: Energetic
Dist: 17km (10.5 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.00pm
Leader: ROB SHORT
Contact: 01495 718254
07976 885132

Park in Llanfrynach village opposite the Church GR SO 07490 25768.
Classic circuit climbing to the Gist Wen ridge path, up to Craig Cwareli and Cwm Oergwm. The route follows the wall of the valley to the summit of Fan y Big, before returning via the Cefn Cyff ridge and fields to our starting point.

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PAST THE PARK: MYNYDD TWYN-GLAS & CWM LICKEY DINGLE

Date: Sunday 25th March
Level: Energetic
Dist: 21km (13 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm
Leader: CLINE GINSBERG
Contact: 01633 867653

Park at Cwmbran Railway Station (no car park fee). Location is behind the Stagecoach Depot GR ST 298958 Explorer map 152. Along the canal then up to Blaen Bran Reservoirs / Woods then ascending Mynydd Twyn-glas along the common, before the return section into Cwm Lickey Dingle following the Cycle Track and the Afon Lwyd river back into Cwmbran.

WEDNESDAY WANDER: LLANGATTOCK NATURE RESERVE AND TRAMROAD

Date: Wednesday 28th March
Level: Moderate
Dist: 11.5km (7 miles)
Time: 10.15am – 2.00pm
Leader: ROGER AUSTIN
Contact: 01873 810145
lynne.roger@btinternet.com

Meet at 10am at CRiC building GR SO 218184 for car share OR 10.15am at starting point.
From road opposite Horse Shoe Inn Llangattock GR SO 211177.
A gentle climb up Cwm Onnau to reach Craig Cilau Nature Reserve & a rocky path to the Tramroad.

PAST THE PARK: THE TWMBARLWM BASH

Date: Friday 30th March
Level: Energetic
Dist: 19.5km (12 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.00pm
Leader: MALCOLM WINNEY
Contact: 029 2062 8861

Park in the visitors centre car park at Cwmcarn, map Explorer 152 GR ST 228937.
Walk up through the woods and on to Mynydd Maen, down to the square and back up to the ridge. Along to Twmbarlwm and back to the centre.
No dogs please.

EASTERN CENTRAL BEACONS - TALYBONT ROUND

Date: Saturday 31st March
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 24km (15 miles)
Ascent: 3500ft
Time: 9.00am – 4.30pm
Leader: JASON WINNEY
Contact: 07798 521550

Parking by the Talybont Reservoir Dam GR SO 103205 OS Map OL12/13.
A circuit of the Central Beacons from the East.

APRIL

AROUND CWMWYSG

Date: Sunday 1st April
Level: Moderate
Dist: 14km (9 miles)
Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm
Leader: ANGELA MORGAN
Contact: 07801 915707

From Pont ar Wysg Car Park GR SN 82002715 a circular walk around the Usk Reservoir, along country roads and fields, skirting the edge of the mountain before returning through the forestry to the Car Park.

GUIDED WALKS AND EVENTS SPRING 2012

WEDNESDAY WANDER PAST THE PARK: MITCHELL TROY 1

Date: Wednesday 4th April
Level: Moderate
Dist: 10km (6 miles)
Time: 11.00am – 2.00pm
Leader: KEVIN MCANULTY &
WILLIAM COOPER
Contact: 01633 667664

Meet at Mitchell Troy Church GR SO 492103 map OL 14. This walk explores the little used area around Mitchell Troy. It is the first of 2 the second following later in the programme. This walk starts with a steady climb up to the Norman church at Cwmcarvan. We then head out over the land surrounding the church with a sense of remoteness. Returning via valley floor with a couple of steady climbs passing some ancient rock back to the church. Some up and down.

PAST THE PARK: CIRCUIT OF HILLS & FORESTRY SURROUNDING AFAN ARGOED COUNTRY PARK

Date: Friday 6th April
Level: Energetic
Dist: 21km (13 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm approx
Leader: WENDY WINNEY
Contact: 029 2062 8861
07773 389561

Meet in *car park at Pontrhydyfen – marked as picnic site and parking on map – GR SS 801943, OS Explorer 165 (*see website for more details). Exploring the areas north and south of the River Afan, taking in forestry tracks, open hills and riverside paths, plus a tea time visit to Afan Argoed Country Park where refreshments can be purchased (if open, closed for upgrading until Spring 2012). No dogs please.

NOT QUITE TO BRYNAMMAN

Date: Saturday 7th April
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 20km (12.5 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 5.00pm
Leader: CLIVE EILES
Contact: 01550 740188
clive.eiles@hertford.oxon.org

Meet at the Car Park on the A4069 above Brynamman, at GR SN 720162. A walk through the far west of the Park, across high moorland, some farmland, and via 9 Bronze Age burial cairns.

PAST THE PARK: ELENYDD MOUNTAINS - DOETHIE WANDERER

Date: Sunday 8th April
Level: Energetic
Dist: 24.5km (15.5 miles)
Ascent: 3000ft
Time: 9.00am – 4.30pm
Leader: JASON WINNEY
Contact: 07798 521550

Parking at Llyn Brianne GR SN 794484 OS Explorer Map 187. From the Dam, over to Soar y Mynydd and down the Doethie Valley, to Dinas.
Note: 1 tricky river crossing below Dinas over the Afon Tywi.

THE TRADITIONAL EASTER MONDAY THREE CASTLES WALK

Date: Monday 9th April
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 32 km (20 miles)
Time: 8.30am to 6.00pm
Leader: MALCOLM WINNEY
Contact: 029 2062 8861

From Skenfrith Castle on the B4521 Abergavenny to Ross road (park in the lay-by over the bridge GR SO 459202). A classic walk between Skenfrith, White and Grosmont Castles, with a pub stop at Grosmont. No dogs please.

GUIDED WALKS AND EVENTS SPRING 2012

WEDNESDAY WANDER: THE VALE OF GRWYNEY

Date: Wednesday 11th April Meet at 10am at CRiC building GR SO 218184 for car share OR 10.15am at start point.
Level: Moderate
Dist: 8km (5 miles) From lay-by at Cwrt Y Gollen Lodge on A40 GR SO 230172.
Time: 10.15am – 1.00pm
Leader: ROGER AUSTIN Two steep, short climbs, some tarmac and 12 stiles.
Contact: 01873 810145
lynne.roger@btinternet.com

SUGAR LOAF SUMMIT AND FIVE CWMS

Date: Friday 13th April Meet at Fro car park on minor road between Bettws and Forest Coal Pit GR SO 292201 for an ascent of Sugar Loaf summit, then circumnavigate the mountain visiting Cwm Trosnant, Cwm Cegyr, Cwm Bwch, Cwm Gwent and Cwm Nant Du. Some ups and downs and narrow paths, but good all round views if we're lucky!
Level: Energetic
Dist: 15km (9.5 miles)
Time: 10am – 4.00pm
Leader: ROS GRANT
Contact: 01873 854894
07773 262068 No dogs please.

PAST THE PARK: DINGLE COUNTRY

Date: Saturday 14th April Meet in the second car park (0.7 miles from the A44) GR SO 187596, Explorer map 200.
Level: Energetic
Dist: 20km (12 miles) This part of the Radnor Forest is characterised by attractive open high level moorland and steep river gulleys. The walk ends at the famous Water-Break-Its-Neck waterfall.
Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm
Leader: WENDY SLADEN
Contact: 01568 720424

PAST THE PARK: VIEW OF THE PARK

Date: Sunday 15th April Meet at car park on the road leading from Pont Walby to Rhigos GR SN 89599 06759.
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 21km (13 miles) From the parking area at Pont Walby ascending through Forestry to Craig y Llyn and its Pennant sandstone cliffs, a short section of the Coed Morgannwg Way, then return via forestry tracks to Cwm Gwrelych SSSI. Good views weather permitting.
Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm
Leader: ROB SHORT
Contact: 01495 718254
07976 885132

WEDNESDAY WANDER PAST THE PARK: THE DAFFODIL WALK

Date: Wednesday 18th April Meet at Anchor Bridge lay by on the B42159 (heading towards Leominster) GR SO 69720 31530 map OS Explorer 189, just outside Dymock Gloucestershire.
Level: Easy
Dist: 16km (10 miles)
Time: 10.00am – 3.30pm
Leader: KEVIN MCANULTY & WILLIAM COOPER
Contact: 01633 667664 A walk through fields and lanes and woodland which, if the seasons are correct, will be a mass of yellow daffodils. Lots of photo opportunities so bring a camera.

GUIDED WALKS AND EVENTS SPRING 2012

WATERFALLS, RIDGES AND RESERVOIRS OF THE CENTRAL BEACONS

Date: Friday 20th April
Level: Moderate
Dist: 14km (9 miles)
Time: 10.00am – 3.00pm
Leader: GERRY SMITH
Contact: 01989 565679

Meet at the Blaen-y-glyn car park GR SO 056176 for a circular walk in the Central Beacons. The route follows a series of small waterfalls, then takes the ridge to the spectacular Blaen Caerfanell waterfall, and round the escarpment to Fan y Big. Returning via the Gap, the Neuadd Reservoirs and the Taff Trail.

GAER - CRUG MAWR - PARTRISHOW

Date: Saturday 21st April
Level: Energetic
Dist: 19km (12 miles)
Time: 10.00am – 4.30pm
Leader: FRANK COOK
Contact: 01600 860582

Meet at the Walkers' Car Park (£1) opposite the Queen's Head Inn, Cwmyoy GR SO 311221. Northwards along the ridge below the Gaer up to the Revenge Stone, then down into the Grwyne Fawr valley, up to the summit of Crug Mawr, down to Partrishow church returning to the north of the Gaer.

CENTRAL BEACONS - BEACONS HORSESHOE

Date: Sunday 22nd April
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 24km (15 miles)
Ascent: 4700ft
Time: 9.00am – 5.00pm
Leader: JASON WINNEY
Contact: 07798 521550

Parking in the Taff Fechan Forest at the car park by the bridge with waterfalls, GR SO 042164 OS Map OL12.
A classic circuit of the Central Beacons.

WEDNESDAY WANDER: THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF THE PARK

Date: Wednesday 25th April
Level: Moderate
Dist: 13km (8 miles)
Time: 10.30am – 3.00pm
Leader: JUDY COX
Contact: 01495 773495
07982 442464

Meet at the car park in Penperlleni off the A4042 GR SO 321047 for a walk exploring the ridge at the south east corner of the Park.

BRINORE TRAMROAD

Date: Friday 27th April
Level: Energetic
Dist: 21km (13 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm
Leader: ANNE PRITCHARD
Contact: 029 2061 0397
07748 463545

Park (£1) at Henderson Hall situated just off the main road at the western end of Talybont-on-Usk (follow the Recycling signs) GR SO 113229, for a walk along the Brinore Tramroad, with a dip down into the Dyffryn Crawnon valley. Historical interest, pretty woodland, plus a chance of some fine views if we're lucky.

GUIDED WALKS AND EVENTS SPRING 2012

PANT MAWR & SARN HELEN

Date: Saturday 28th April
Level: Energetic
Dist: 20km (12 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.00pm
Leader: PAULA ACE
Contact: 07967 140689

Meet at lay-by at Craig-y-nos on the A4067 GR SN 8424 1513. Up to the National Nature Reserve, Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, along Sarn Helen, returning via country lanes.

THE LLANFRYNACH ROUND

Date: Sunday 29th April
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 26km (16 miles)
Time: 9.00am – 5.30pm
Leader: MALCOLM WINNEY
Contact: 029 2062 8861

Park by the church and loos in Llanfrynach GR SO 075257 map OL12.
A walk from Llanfrynach up to Fan y Big, across the ridge to Waun Rydd and on to Carn Pica. Down to Talybont Reservoir and Aber village and around Talybont Forest on the Usk Valley Walk and paths back to Llanfrynach. Lovely views if weather is good. Will alter if weather is bad. No dogs please.

MAY

WEDNESDAY WANDER PAST THE PARK: A CIRCUIT OF MITCHELL TROY 2

Date: Wednesday 2nd May
Level: Moderate
Dist: 10km (6 miles)
Time: 11.00am – 2.00pm
Leader: KEVIN MCANULTY &
WILLIAM COOPER
Contact: 01633 667664

Meet at Mitchell Troy Church GR SO 492103 map OL 14. Up through woods and fields for lunch at Penallt Church before descending back through woodland and field to complete a 12 mile figure of 8 walk.

A FIGURE OF EIGHT

Date: Friday 4th May
Level: Energetic
Dist: 14km (9 miles)
Time: 10.00am – 3.30pm
Leader: GERRY SMITH
Contact: 01989 565679

From the Castle Inn car park, Pengefnordd, on the A479 GR SO 173296 (parking fee £1). Up Mynydd Troed (609m), down to Cwm Sorgwm, up Cockit Hill to Mynydd Llangorse and a low level return.

ON THE BLACK HILL

Date: Saturday 5th May
Level: Energetic/Strenuous
Dist: 20km (12 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.00pm
Leader: CHRIS PLAYFORD
Contact: 01497 820074

From Gospel Pass GR SO 235351. Up to the Twmpa, follow the attractive Nant Bwch down to Capel-y-ffin, steeply ascend and cross the Hatterrall ridge, drop down to cross the Olchon valley, then climb the Cat's Back ridge to return via Hay Bluff. About 850m total ascent. Hopefully fine views over England and the Wye Valley.

GUIDED WALKS AND EVENTS SPRING 2012

CENTRAL BEACONS - PEN-Y-FAN AND FAN Y BIG

Date: Sunday 6th May
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 29km (18 miles)
Ascent: 3800ft
Time: 9.00am – 5.00pm
Leader: JASON WINNEY
Contact: 07798 521550

Parking at Cwm Gwdi car park GR SO 025249 OS Map OL12.
A good yomp around the Beacons from the north.

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY: 3 INTO 2 WILL GO

Date: Monday 7th May
Level: Energetic
Dist: 18km (11.25 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm
Leader: ANNE PRITCHARD
Contact: 029 2061 0397
07748 463545

Meet at Crickhowell High School car park GR SO 216185 for a circular walk setting out on the start of Day 3 of the Beacons Way and returning on the end of Day 2, visiting Pen Gloch-y-pibwr, Pen Allt-Mawr and Table Mountain en route.

WEDNESDAY WANDER: BLUEBELLS ABOVE CRICKHOWELL – COED CEFN

Date: Wednesday 9th May
Level: Moderate
Dist: 9km (5.5 miles)
Time: 10.15am – 1.00pm
Leader: ROGER AUSTIN
Contact: 01873 810145
lynne.roger@btinternet.com

From CRiC building GR SO 218184 Crickhowell at 10.15am.
Some tarmac and 10 stiles.

TAFF TRAIL, NATURE RESERVE AND ENCHANTED VALLEY

Date: Friday 11th May
Level: Energetic
Dist: 18km (11 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.00pm
Leader: GERRY SMITH
Contact: 01989 565679

From the car park opposite the Storey Arms on the A470 GR SN 982203. A walk along the Taff Trail before crossing to the dramatic Craig Cerrig-gleisiad, then down to the old turnpike road to Cwm-du. A steady climb onto Fan Frynych to the shoulder of Fan Fawr and back down to Storey Arms.

PAST THE PARK: OVER THE HILLS AND FAR AWAY

Date: Saturday 12th May
Level: Energetic
Dist: 20km (12 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm
Leader: MALCOLM WINNEY
Contact: 029 2062 8861

Park on the common at GR SO 084384 Explorer map 188.
A walk along tracks and paths taking in Mynydd Fforest (no trees), Cefn Clawdd and Llandyfalle Hill. No dogs please.

GUIDED WALKS AND EVENTS SPRING 2012

PAST THE PARK: BLUE BELLS OF MACHEN AND RUDRY

Date: Sunday 13th May
Level: Energetic
Dist: 25km (15 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm approx
Leader: WENDY WINNEY
Contact: 029 2062 8861
07773 389561

Meet Machen Village Hall car park, Forge Road, Machen (behind Social Club). GR ST 212891 Explorer map 152. A very varied walk visiting Machen Mountain, Craig Ruperra Summer House, Rudry wood where hopefully we will see bluebells, returning via Rhymney Valley Ridgeway and fields to Machen.
No dogs please.

WEDNESDAY WANDER: BLORENGE CIRCUIT

Date: Wednesday 16th May
Level: Moderate
Dist: 11.5km (7 miles)
Time: 10.30am – 2.30pm
Leader: KEVIN MCANULTY &
WILLIAM COOPER
Contact: 01633 667664

Meet at Keepers Pond GR SO 254197. Head out to the summit of The Blorenges for fine views over Abergavenny. Then descend to Punchbowl for lunch before returning via dram road to Keepers Pond.

ILLUSTRATED TALK: ARTISTS OF THE LLANTHONY VALLEY

Date: Wednesday 16th May
Time: 7.30pm
Place: Bear Hotel, Crickhowell
Speaker: William Gibbs

The Llanthony valley has inspired artists for hundreds of years. This talk by William Gibbs is illustrated with a power point presentation with over 130 images of the works of the many artists who either lived in the valley such as David Jones, Eric Gill, Arthur Holloway and Reg Gammon or passed through like Cotman, Turner, Piper and Ravilious.

SOUTH OF SENNYBRIDGE

Date: Friday 18th May
Level: Energetic
Dist: 24km (15 miles, approx)
Time: 9.30am – 5.30pm
Leader: SOO TURNBULL
Contact: 01874 622136

Start from Sennybridge main car park at GR SN 921287. Not sure of route yet, but the idea is we'll probably head south, hopefully end up at the trig point Fan Bwlch Chwyth, and come back via Crai and perhaps Fforest Fach.

LOW HILLS AND STEEP VALLEYS

Date: Saturday 19th May
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 18km (11 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 5.30pm
Leader: CLIVE EILES
Contact: 01550 740188
clive.eiles@hertford.oxon.org

From the higher car park on the A4069 Brynamman to Llangadog road GR SO 732187. To the low peaks of Garreg Lwyd and Carn Fadog, and then down into the steep sided valley of the Twrch and the Twrch Fechan. And back via Garreg Las and the waterfalls at the top of Afon Clydach.

GUIDED WALKS AND EVENTS SPRING 2012

PENCELLI – FAN Y BIG CIRCULAR

Date: Sunday 20th May
Level: Energetic
Dist: 17 km (11 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.00pm
Leader: SEAN O'DONOGHUE
Contact: 01497 822831 / 07816 821745
odonoghue.books@zen.co.uk

Meet GR SN 247094 in lay-by on south edge of Pencelli on west of B4558 for a walk up one ridge and down another with wonderful views along the escarpment (if we're lucky), returning along the canal.

VALLEY TO VALLEY AND BACK

Date: Friday 25th May
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 19km (12 miles)
Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm
Leader: STEPHEN FLYNN
Contact: 07792 340933

From Blaen y Cwm car park GR SO 252285. Up through woodland at first then open hill to the Blacksmith's Anvil. Descend to Capel-y-ffin, with its tiny churches and monastery before walking up the secluded Nant Bwch valley to its head. Returning via Rhos Dirion and the Grwyne Fawr reservoir.

SPECIAL EVENT: BAT WATCH

Date: Friday 25th May
Level: Easy
Time: 8pm
Leader: GERRY SMITH
Contact: 01989 565679
www.geraldesmith45@aol.com

Join The Vincent Wildlife Trust (Our Beacon for Bats project) in a bat watch to observe a large colony of lesser horseshoe bats emerging from an internationally important roost in the Upper Usk Valley near Bwlch. Meet in the lay by (picnic area /toilet) just off the A40(T) at Grid Reference SO 129226, situated ca.2km west of Bwlch (GR SO 150220), for car share to the roost. Please bring suitable clothing and footwear and a torch if possible. **Please book your place with the leader from 1st April as numbers are limited to 20 max.**

Expert: DAVID JERMYN
Vincent Wildlife Trust

ORDINARY SOCIETY WALK: WEST, THEN EAST, OF 'OFFA'S'

Date: Saturday 26th May
Level: Energetic
Dist: 20km (12.5 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm
Leader: FRANK SCOTT
Contact: 01432 275388
07713 772499

Meet at Llanthony Priory car park GR SO 288278. Walk up to Bal-Bach along to Garn-Wen before descending to Cwmyoy. Up to Three Wells for lunch before returning via Penywyrld and the Black Darren.

GEPARK FESTIVAL: CARREG CENNEN CASTLE ROUNDABOUT WITH A GEOLOGICAL TURN

Date: Saturday 26th May
Level: Moderate
Dist: 13km (8 miles)
Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm
Leader: ANGELA MORGAN
Contact: 07801 915707
Expert: TONY RAMSAY
Fforest Fawr Geopark

*From Carreg Cennen Castle car park GR SN 667193, through farmland up on to the Black Mountain. Visit pillow mounds, farm enclosures, burial cairns and a trig point, before returning past a spring to Carreg Cennen Castle. The free car park is owned by the National Park. There are tea rooms next to the castle. Dogs on leads please. **Advance booking is advisable as there is a cap on numbers, at the National Park Visitor Centre 01874 623366.***

GUIDED WALKS AND EVENTS SPRING 2012

ORDINARY SOCIETY WALK: LLANBEDR HORSESHOE

Date: Sunday 27th May
Level: Strenuous
Dist: 27km (17 miles)
Time: 9.30am – 6.00pm
Leader: Cline Ginsberg
Contact: 01633 867653

From Ty Mawr farm north-west of Llanbedr GR SO 234206 (parking fee).
A high level circuit of the Grwyne Fechan valley: Pen Cerrig-calch and Pen Allt Mawr, Pen Trumau, Waun Fach (811m), Pen y Gadair Fawr and Crug Mawr.

GEPARK FESTIVAL: WHITE WATER & BLACK POWDER

Date: Tuesday 29th May
Level: Easy
Dist: 3km (1.9miles)
Time: 10.00am – 1.00pm
Leader: DILYS HARLOW
Contact: 01454 775731
Expert: HELEN PYE
National Park
Waterfalls Area Warden

Meet at Craig y Ddinas car park Pontneddfechan GR SN 911079 for a walk beside the Afon Mellte exploring the remains of the Old Gunpowder Factory and learning about the National Park's management of this area.
Dogs on leads please.
Advance booking is advisable as there is a cap on numbers, at the National Park Visitor Centre 01874 623366.

WEDNESDAY WANDER: LLANGYNIDR - RIVERS USK, CRAWNON AND CANAL

Date: Wednesday 30th May
Level: Moderate
Dist: 6.5km (4 miles)
Time: 10.30am – 1.00pm
Leader: ROGER AUSTIN
Contact: 01873 810145

Meet at 10am at CRiC building GR SO 218184 for car share OR at start point at 10.30am.
From car park opposite Llangynidr Village Hall GR SO 154195. A flat walk along the canal, a short sidestep up the Crawnnon and a scramble along the river path.
lynne.roger@btinternet.com

GEPARK FESTIVAL: WALK & TALK ON MYNYDD ILLTYD COMMON

Date: Wednesday 30th May
Level: Easy
Dist: 4km (2.5miles)
Time: 10.00am – 1.00pm
Leader: DILYS HARLOW
Contact: 01454 775731
Expert: PETER BROCK
National Park Volunteer

Meet at the National Park Visitor Centre (car park charge) GR SN 977262 for a stroll over the Common including a mysterious spiritual centre, an industrial site, a final resting place, an unsolved mystery and a little known wonder.
Dogs on leads please.
Advance booking is advisable as there is a cap on numbers, at the National Park Visitor Centre 01874 623366.

GEPARK FESTIVAL: BOUNTIFUL BOGS & MARVELLOUS MIRES

Date: Wednesday 30th May
Level: Easy
Dist: about 4km (2.5miles)
Time: 2.00pm – 5.00pm
Leader: DILYS HARLOW
Contact: 01454 775731
Experts: TONY RAMSAY Fforest
Fawr Geopark & PAUL
SINNADURAI National
Park Chief Ecologist

Meet at the National Park Visitor Centre (car park charge) GR SN 977262. We will visit the water filled rock basins of Daudraeth Illtyd National Nature Reserve where wildlife thrives in special habitats. The basins also contain a record of climate change in South Wales since the last glaciation ended.
Wellies are strongly recommended and binoculars will be useful. Sorry no dogs.
Advance booking is advisable as there is a cap on numbers, at the National Park Visitor Centre 01874 623366.

**GUIDED WALKS AND EVENTS
SPRING 2012**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Brecon Beacons Park Society

I/We wish to apply for my/our membership of the Society

Title and Name.....

Title and Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Post Code.....Telephone.....

E-mail Address.....

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Membership year 1 January to 31 December

Membership for those joining 1 October to 31 December runs to following 31 December

Individual....£15.00 per annum. Under 18£8.00 per annum

Family....£22.00 per annum.

Life membership rates available, contact Hon.Treasurer

I/We enclose cheque for: £.....

(Please make cheques payable to: The Brecon Beacons Park Society)

We would be grateful if you could pay your subsequent subscriptions by Standing Order as this will save us time and expense. You might also wish to consider treating your annual subscription as 'Gift Aid' which will enable us to enhance the value of your donation. Please indicate below if you wish to receive details of these schemes.

Standing Order..... Gift Aid.....

Please return this form to:

Ben Sladen, Hon. Treasurer
Oak House, Aulden, Ivington, Leominster, HR6 0JT