

Walks, talks and more in the west of the Brecon Beacons National Park

Join us across Fforest Fawr Geopark for 16 days of walks, talks & exhibitions from **Sat 22nd May to Sun 6 June 2010**. You will find more details and advice on how to get the most out of this events programme on the web at www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk Any programme updates will be posted on the Geopark Festival 2010 web page.

KEY: ◆ walks □ talks ● exhibitions

Access for all: short, relatively flat, barrier-free walks, **Easy:** relaxed pace suitable for novice walkers, **Moderate:** steady pace but some ascent involved, **Energetic:** some steep ascents, **Strenuous:** longer walks with several steep ascents requiring a good level of fitness. Well-behaved dogs on a short lead are welcome **unless otherwise stated**.

NPVC - the National Park Visitor Centre, a.k.a. the Mountain Centre, is signed from the A470 at Libanus near Brecon. Lunch can be bought at the Centre. Parking charges apply. OS Grid ref SN 977262. Please remember to bring a packed lunch and flask for all walks of more than half a day's duration. Ordnance Survey grid references are given - all are on OS Explorer sheet OL12 'Brecon Beacons National Park: western area'

Sat 22 May & Sun 23 May, 10am-4pm, both days

◆◆ **Let it Rock!**

Family fun and displays over the Geopark Festival opening weekend with the British Geological Survey at the National Park Visitor Centre. Ever tried your hand at gold-panning or making your own fossils? **FREE. Venue:** NPVC Tel: 01874 623366

Sat 22 May, indoors; 11am-12noon & walk; 2pm-4pm

◆ □ **Walking in the Air**

From the comfort of the Mountain Centre, enjoy a remarkable virtual tour of the Geopark & wider Wales followed by an afternoon walk on Mynydd Illtud common looking at the relationship between the local landscape, its geology and the last Ice Age. **FREE. 3km/2miles Easy. Meet:** NPVC. **Leaders:** Dr. Tony Ramsay, Scientific Director, Geopark, Dr Peter Brabham, Cardiff University. Tel: 01874 623366.

Sun 23 May, 2pm-3.30pm

◆ **Walk, Talk & Tea - a guided walk** (repeated 6 June).

A short, easy circular walk including a mysterious spiritual centre, an industrial site with wonderful views of the Park's highest peaks, a final resting place, preparations for war, an unsolved mystery & a little known wonder. Followed by a delicious cream tea at the Visitor Centre Tearooms. **£2.50** - booking preferred. 2.5km / 1.5 miles, Easy. **Meet:** NPVC. **Leaders:** Peter Brock, NP Volunteer, Alan Bowring, Geopark Development Officer. Tel: 01874 623366.

Sun 23 May, 10am-5pm

◆ **Lakes, Ladies & Layer-cakes**

Join the Brecon Beacons Park Society (BBPS) to take a close look at the Old Red Sandstone & legacy of the Ice Ages around Bannau Sir Gaer, Fan Brycheiniog, Llyn y Fan Fach and Llyn y Fan Fawr. **FREE. 16km/10miles, 700m ascent, Energetic. Meet:** 'Water Board car park', Llanddeusant (SN 799238). **Leaders:** Dr Adrian Humpage, British Geological Survey, Clive Eiles, BBPS. Tel: CE on 01550 740188.

Sun 23 May, 2pm start

◆ **Nedd Fechan Field Study Walk**

A close look at the geology, botany & zoology of Coedydd Nêdd between Pontneddfechan & Pont Melin Fach with experts from Swansea University Department of Adult Continuing Education. A shuttle will return drivers to their cars. Sorry no dogs. Charge: **£5**.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL. 5km/3miles, Moderate. Meet: Pont Melin Fach car park (SN 907106). **Leaders:** Drs. Michael Isaac (zoologist), Geraint Owen (geologist), Charles Hipkin (botanist) (all DACE) and Helen Pye, NPA Warden. Tel: 01792 602211

Tue 25 May, 2.15pm-4.30pm

◆ **Brecon Town - past & present** (repeated 3 June).

A town walk visiting sites of distinction, discovering Brecon's fascinating past and residents of renown. Sorry no dogs. **FREE**, booking preferred. 3km/2miles, Access for All. **Meet:** Canal Basin outside Theatr Brycheiniog (SO 047282). **Leaders:** Peter Brock, NP Volunteer, Avril Barnes, NPA Rights/Way Officer. Tel: 01874 623366.

Fri 28 May, 10am-4pm

◆ **Pavements and Plants**

Join BBPS for a closer look at & the characteristic plant-life of gritstone & limestone pavements around Ogof Ffynnon Ddu National Nature Reserve with an expert from the Countryside Council for Wales. Some rough walking. Sorry no dogs. **FREE. 8km/5miles, 200m ascent, Moderate. Meet:** Penwyllt car park (SN 855155). **Leaders:** Dilys Harlow, BBPS, Jon Wohlgenuth, CCW reserves manager. Tel: DH on 01454 775731

Sat 29 May, 10am-2.30pm

◆ **The Ground beneath your Feet**

Where will you find colliding continents, collapsing mountain-sides & grinding glaciers? -here on this linear walk in the Central Beacons of course! Explore the geology, learn of the natural habitats & uncover the industrial heritage of this unique area. **FREE** - booking preferred. 7.5km/4miles, 510m ascent, Energetic. **Meet:** Welsh Water layby, south of Talybont dam (SO 099197). **Leaders:** Richard Ball, NPA Access Officer & Alan Bowring, Geopark Dev't Officer. Tel: 01874 623366

Sat 29 May, 10.30am - 4pm

◆ **Nant Byfre: Blaen Cwm Tawe**

Golygfa arall dros Flaen Cwm Tawe ar y daith gerdded hon ar Ian Nant Byfre gan edrych ar greigiau Carbonifferaidd a Hen Dywodfaen Goch yr ardal. Dim cŵn diolch. **DIM TÂL.** 5km/3milltir, Cymedrol. **Cyfarfod:** Gwyn Arms, Glyntawe (SN 846165). **Arweinydd:** Dr John Davies, Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd. Toby Small, warden APC Ffon: JD ar 01559 362429. **(Walk to be conducted entirely in Welsh.)**

Sat 29 May, 10am-5pm

◆ **What the Ice left!**

Join the BBPS on a southern circuit of the Central Beacons looking at the legacy of the last Ice Age. We take in Craig y Fan Ddu, Fan y Big, Cribyn, Pen y Fan and Corn Du and return via Taf Fechan Forest. **FREE.** 20km/12miles, 670m ascent, Energetic. **Meet:** Blaeny-glyn car park (SO 056176). **Leaders:** Anthony Furness, BBPS, Sam Ridge, NPA Warden. Tel: AF on 01873 860356

Sun 30 May, 1pm-4pm

◆ **Fossils, Ferns & Faults at Henrhyd Falls**

Walk delving into the history & geology of the wooded ravine into which the Nant Llech plunges at Henrhyd Falls. **FREE** – booking preferred. 4.5km/3mile, Easy. **Meet:** NT car park, Henrhyd Falls (SN 855 119). **Leaders:** Wyn Morgan, NPA Warden, Alan Bowring, Geopark Dev't Officer. Tel: 01874 623366

BH Mon 31 May, 10am-4.30pm

◆ **Northern Cwms of Brecon Beacons**

Explore the impressive northern flanks of the Brecon Beacons with a National Trust (NT) Warden. Climb to Pen y Fan and Corn Du via Cwm Mawr. Descend via Pen Milan & its quarries to Cwm Llwh and road walk back to Cwm Gwdi. **FREE.** 11km/7miles, 640m ascent, Energetic. **Meet:** NT car park at Cwm Gwdi (SO 024247). **Leaders:** Rob Reith, NT Warden. Tel: NT on 07771 980123.

Wed 2 June, 10am-3pm

◆ **Sinks and Swallows**

Though it's pitted with craters like a battlefield - the 'karst' landscape of the Brecon Beacons is quite natural - and it's unique in Britain. But how did all those holes get there? Find out on a gentle walk up the limestone and gritstone slopes of Cadair Fawr, a small hill but with outstanding views of the higher peaks. **FREE** - booking preferred. 11km/7miles, 225m ascent, Moderate. **Meet:** Layby opp junc. of minor road to Ystradfellte with A4059 (SN 945105). **Leaders:** Dave Ing, NP Volunteer, Alan Bowring, Geopark Dev't Officer. Tel: 01874 623366

Wed 2 June, 7pm-8.30pm

□ **When Britain Baked: climate change past, present & future.**

A talk by Professor Paul Pearson of Cardiff University on patterns and processes of global climate change in Earth's history. £5/ticket, £4 for concessionary groups. **Venue:** Theatr Brycheiniog, Brecon. Tel: 01874 620415.

Thu 3 June, 2.15pm-4.30pm

◆ **Brecon Town - past and present**

*Repeat of event of 25 May - see entry there for details.

Thu 3 June, 10.30pm-4.30pm

◆ **Colours of the Black Mountain**

A look at the geology, animal and plant life of an especially interesting corner of the Black Mountain. Kilns, quarries and gorges await. Some rough ground beyond Herbert's Quarry. Sorry no dogs. **FREE.** 5km/3miles, Moderate. **Meet:** 'Lookout' car park below quarry off A4069 (SN 730192). **Leaders:** Dr. Tony Ramsay, Scientific Director, Geopark & Dr. Michael Isaac, zoologist, DACE. Tel: 01874 623366

Fri 4 June, 10am-5.00pm

◆ **A Sacred Mountain: Bronze Age cairns of Mynydd-y-glog**

Join the BBPS for a walk over the gritstone moorland of Mynydd-y-glog - home to one of the most impressive groups of cairns in the Brecon Beacons. This walk will visit some of the best-preserved & look at how prehistoric people used the landscape. Some rough ground. **FREE.** 8km/5miles, Moderate. **Meet:** lay-by off A4059 N. of Penderyn Welsh Whisky Distillery, (SN 951084). **Leaders:** Soo Turnbull, BBPS, Edith Evans, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological

Trust, Alan Bowring, Geopark Development Officer. Tel: DH on 01454 775731.

Sat 5 June, 11am-3pm

□ ◆ **Penderyn Welsh Whisky - talk & walk**

Taste exceptional single malt whiskies on a tour of one of the world's smallest distilleries to see how groundwater from the hills & the wash from Brains' Brewery are used in a unique distillation process to make the first commercial whisky produced in Wales since the C19th. Followed by a short linear walk beside Moel Penderyn to view the landscape & its geology. See how it provides the groundwater that is so important in the production of the world class Penderyn Welsh Whisky. Sorry no dogs. **FREE.** 4km / 2.5miles, Easy. **Venue/meet:** Penderyn Distillery, (SN 951083). **Leaders:** Walk: Dr. Tony Ramsay, Scientific Director, Geopark, talk: Keith Tench, Penderyn Distillery. Tel: 01685 810651

Sat 5 & Sun 6 June, 9.30am-5.30pm, both days

◆ **In the Footsteps of Wallace**

In June 1846, Alfred Russel Wallace and his brother walked from Neath to the Brecon Beacons, collecting beetles & sleeping rough as Wallace was teaching himself to be a field naturalist, & planning a journey to the Amazon. Later whilst working in the Malay archipelago, Wallace hit on the idea of natural selection. His letter to Darwin provoked the latter to publish 'On the Origin of Species'. Join BBPS following in the footsteps of this great evolutionary biologist.

BOTH DAYS: PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL, SMALL CHARGE FOR MINIBUS

◆ **Footsteps - day 1**

Aberdulais to Ystradfellte via Resolven and Pontneddfechan. **Meet:** Ystradfellte village car park (SN 929134) for minibus transfer to start at Aberdulais. Leader: Dilys Harlow, BBPS 22km/14miles, 310m asc. Energetic. Tel: DH on 01454 775731.

◆ **Footsteps - day 2**

Ystradfellte to Cwm Llwh via Fan Fawr, Pen y Fan and the source of the Taf Fechan. 20km/13miles, 1070m ascent, Strenuous **Meet:** Nant Cwm Llwh (SO 006244) for minibus transfer to start of walk at Ystradfellte. **Leaders:** Dilys Harlow, BBPS. Tel: DH as above.

Sun 6 June, 2pm start

◆ **Berthlwyd Farm Field Study Walk**

A close look at the geology, botany & zoology of the area with experts from Swansea University Dept. of Adult Continuing Education. This National Trust farm retains once common unimproved land with hay meadows, rough grazing & marshy grasslands, with ash/lime woodland Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and excellent vernacular architecture. Sorry no dogs. **£5.** 4km/2.5miles, Easy. **Meet:** Berthlwyd Fm, nr Ystradfellte (SN 913133). **Leaders:** Dr. Michael Isaac (zoologist), Geraint Owen (geologist), Charles Hipkin (botanist) (all DACE) and Jon Pimm, NPA Warden. Tel: 01792 602211

Sun 6 June, 10am-5pm

◆ **Walk, Talk and Tea - a guided walk**

*Repeat of event of 23 May - see entry there for details.

15 May - 26 Jun, Mon-Fri: 10-5pm, Sat: 10-1pm, 2-5pm

● **Mapping Brecknockshire**

An exhibition exploring the diverse maps published for this part of the Geopark over the last 500 years. From Speed and Saxton to the Ordnance Survey and beyond. **FREE. Venue:** Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery, Brecon. Tel: 01874 624121



PARC CENEDLAETHOL
Bannau Brycheiniog
Lle i enaid gae'lonydd
Brecon Beacons
NATIONAL PARK
One of Britain's breathtaking spaces



This programme is also available in Welsh and in large print
Please read our legal disclaimer at www.forestfawrgeopark.org.uk