

Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival 2012



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

Join us across Fforest Fawr Geopark – *the western half of the Brecon Beacons National Park* - for 16 days of walks, talks and exhibitions from **Saturday 26th May to Sunday 10th June 2012**. You will find more details and advice on how to get the most out of this events programme on Fforest Fawr Geopark website's Festival page at www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk/geopark-festival-2012/ - any updates to this programme will be posted there.

KEY: ◆ **walks** □ **talks** NPVC = the National Park Visitor Centre, a.k.a. the Mountain Centre. Well-behaved dogs are welcome on short leads **unless otherwise stated**.

① = **access for all:** short, flat(ish), barrier-free walks suitable for wheelchairs & pushchairs, ② = **easy:** relaxed pace suitable for novice walkers, ③ = **moderate:** steady pace but some ascent involved, ④ = **energetic:** some steep ascents, ⑤ = **strenuous:** longer walks with several steep ascents requiring a good level of fitness.

Each walk has a maximum number of participants – book ahead to avoid disappointment! Please remember to bring warm/waterproof clothing/sun protection /personal medication as appropriate and a packed lunch & flask for all walks which last more than ½ day. If you are 17 or under, please bring a parent or guardian. Ordnance Survey grid references are given – all walks are on OS Explorer map sheet OL12 'Brecon Beacons National Park: western area'

FESTIVAL WARM-UP: Wednesday 23rd May, 7-8.30pm

□ **Myddfai: a Geopark community**

Dr Tony Ramsay, scientific director of the Geopark gives a warm-up talk for the festival which begins in earnest a few days later. Tony will explore links between geology, landscape, history and myth.

Venue: Myddfai Hall, Myddfai, Carms SA20 0JD
(OS grid ref SN 772301)

For more info: phone NPVC on 01874 623366

Suggested donation: £2/person

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GEOPARK FESTIVAL DAY 1: Sat 26th May, 10am-4pm

◆④ **Carreg Cennen Castle Roundabout**

This energetic walk in partnership with the Brecon Beacons Park Society explores the rocky landscape of this western corner of the Geopark. Visit pillow mounds, farm enclosures, burial cairns and a trig point.

Meet: Carreg Cennen Castle car park
(OS grid ref SN 667193)

Length: 11km / 7mi / 6hrs

Total ascent: 450m/1500ft

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366.

Places: 24

Dogs: well-behaved and on leads please!

Suggested donation: £5/person

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Sunday 27th May, 10am-1pm

◆③ **From Cwm to Cwm**

Join us for a walk 'From Cwm to Cwm' following this trail on the southern slopes of the Black Mountain, visiting Cwm Pedol and Cwm Berach. Wet underfoot in places. This walk above the Amman valley can be paired with the 'Brynaman Field Study Visit' (see below) – why not make a day of it in the Brynaman area - and eat locally?

Meet: Garnant car park, Brynaman
(OS grid ref SN 686134).

Length: 8km / 5mi / 3hrs

Total ascent: 230m/750ft

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366

Places: 24

Dogs: well-behaved and on leads please!

Suggested donation: £2/person

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Sunday 27th May, 2-5pm

◆② **Brynaman Field Study Visit**

Follow the 'Rocky Ravines' trail in the company of three experts – a geologist, a botanist and a zoologist. Visiting Coal Measures sandstones and shales, acid grassland, oak woodland, willow and birch scrub and upland streams. A partnership event with the Department of Adult Continuing Education at Swansea University. This field study visit can be paired with the walk above –

(continued from overleaf) 'From Cwm to Cwm' – why not make a day of it and eat locally?

Meet: Black Mountain Centre car park, Brynaman (OS grid ref SN 714143)

Length: 4km / 2.5mi / 3hrs

Total ascent: 110m/350ft

For more info & to book: phone 01792 602211.

Places: 24 – **prior booking essential!**

Dogs: sorry - no dogs!

University charge: £5/person

Suggested donation: £2/person

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Monday 28th May, 7-8.30pm

□ **Limestone Landscapes**

A talk by Alan Bowring, Fforest Fawr Geopark's development officer, on the crags, caves, quarries and kilns that decorate the thin white line of rocks which stretches from Carreg Cennen to Cribarth and from Penyllt to Pontsticill. 350 million years of nature and 350 years of mankind have left their mark here!

Venue: Abercraf Miners Welfare Hall, Abercraf, Powys SA9 1XA 0JD

(OS grid ref SN 815127)

For more info: phone NPVC on 01874 623366

Suggested donation: £2/person

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Tuesday 29th May, 10am-1pm

◆② **White Water and Black Powder**

An easy walk in partnership with the Brecon Beacons Park Society exploring the remains of the Gunpowder works which were set alight in 1930. Strung out along a couple of miles of riverside in one of the Waterfall Country's most beautiful wooded gorge. See what's left 80 years after the works were deliberately destroyed. This walk at the head of the Vale of Neath can be paired with 'Faults, Folds & Firebricks' – why not make a day of it at Pontneddfechan - and eat locally?

Meet: Dinas Rock car park, Pontneddfechan (OS grid ref SN 911079).

Length: 3km / 2mi / 3hrs

Total ascent: 30m/100ft

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366.

Places: 16

Dogs: well-behaved and on leads please!

Suggested donation: £2/person

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Tuesday 29th May, 2-5pm

◆③ **Faults, Folds and Firebricks**

A moderate 2.5 mile (4km) walk exploring France's role in creating one of our finest landscapes – amazing stories played out by nature and man. And one of Wales' seven geological wonders—have you seen the recently revealed Bwa Maen yet? This walk at the head of the Vale of Neath can be paired with 'White Water & Black Powder' – why not make a day of it at Pontneddfechan – and eat locally?

Meet: Dinas Rock car park, Pontneddfechan (OS grid ref SN 911079).

Length: 4km / 2.5mi / 3hrs

Total ascent: 250m/800ft

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366.

Places: 16

Dogs: well-behaved and on leads please!

Suggested donation: £2/person

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Tuesday 29th May, 7.30-9pm

□ **Dry stone walling and geology**

A talk by Philip (a.k.a. Charles Gordon) Clark on dry stone walls, a common feature of this area & elsewhere in Wales & upland Britain. He will examine their intimate relationship to the underlying geology.

Venue: Brecon Guildhall in centre of town. Plentiful parking available nearby. LD3 7AL

For more info: phone NPVC on 01874 623366

Suggested donation: £2/person

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Wednesday 30th May, 10am-1pm

◆② **Walk, talk – and possibly lunch?**

Join us for an easy/moderate 2.5 mile (4km) walk across Mynydd Illtud common that includes a mysterious spiritual centre, an industrial site, a final resting place, preparations for war, an unsolved mystery and a little known wonder. This walk from the Mountain Centre can be paired with 'Bountiful Bogs and Marvellous Mires' – why not make a day of it on Mynydd Illtud - and take lunch at the Centre?

Meet: NPVC car park (OS grid ref SN 977262)

Length: 4km / 2.5mi / 3hrs

Total ascent: minimal

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366.

Places: 24

Dogs: well-behaved and on leads please!

Suggested donation: £2/person

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Wednesday 30th May, 2-5pm

◆② **Bountiful Bogs and Marvellous Mires**

Join us on Mynydd Illtud again, for an afternoon exploration in partnership with the Brecon Beacons Park Society of Daudraeth Illtyd – water-filled rock basins near the Mountain Centre where wildlife thrives in a very special habitat. Wellies recommended and binoculars useful. This walk from the Mountain Centre can be paired with 'Walk, talk – & possibly lunch?' – why not make a day of it on Mynydd Illtud - and take lunch at the Centre?

Meet: NPVC car park (OS grid ref SN 977262)

Length: 5km / 3mi / 3hrs

Total ascent: minimal

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366.

Places: 24

Dogs: sorry – no dogs!

Suggested donation: £2/person

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Wednesday 30th May, 7-8.30pm

□ Geodiversity and geological sites

A talk by Dr Adrian Humpage of the British Geological Survey looking at the rocky foundations of Fforest Fawr Geopark. The BGS has recently completed a review of those localities in and around the area which are of regional importance for the understanding of its geology and geomorphology.

Venue: Brecon Guildhall in centre of town. Plentiful parking available nearby. LD3 7AL

For more info: phone NPVC on 01874 623366

Suggested donation: £2/person

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Thursday 31st May, 7-8.30pm

□ Tropical Seas, Dusty Deserts and Grinding Glaciers

A talk by Geraint Owen of Swansea University on the 400 million year geological evolution of South Wales with a focus on the Swansea Valley/Cwm Tawe in particular. Delve into the area's deep past for a better understanding of a landscape you thought you knew.

Venue: Coelbren Church (provisional), Heol Eglwys, Coelbren

(OS grid ref SN 849117)

For more info: phone NPVC on 01874 623366

Suggested donation: £2/person

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Friday 1st June, 10am-4pm

◆③ Cairns and Ferns on Cefn Cil-sanws

Join archaeologist Edith Evans and wildlife expert Phil Sutton on a 5.5 mile (9km) exploration of a rocky mini-mountain rising above Cwm Taf – and one with several extraordinary stories to tell. From Bronze Age burial sites to Britain's rarest tree – and some fossil ones thrown in too for good measure. In partnership with the Brecon Beacons Park Society, Brecknock Wildlife Trust and the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust.

Meet: Merthyr Tydfil golf club car park off Cloth Hall Lane Postcode: CF48 2NU

(OS grid ref SO 030084).

Length: 9km / 5.5mi / 6hrs

Total ascent: 250m/800ft

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366.

Places: 24

Dogs: sorry – no dogs!

Suggested donation: £3/person

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Bank holiday Monday 4th June, 10am-4pm

◆④ Llŵch Lively!

Join a National Trust warden on this walk up to Llyn Cwm Llŵch and over Pen Milan to look at the life in this lake beneath Pen y Fan, the ice age legacy and see how the Trust manages this area. In partnership with the Brecon Beacons Park Society.

Meet: informal parking by Nant Cwm Llŵch

(OS grid ref SO 006244)

Length: 8km / 5mi / 6hrs

Total ascent: 400m/1250ft

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366.

Places: 24 – please book to guarantee your place.

Dogs: sorry – no dogs!

Suggested donation: £5/person

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Bank holiday Tuesday 5th June, 10am-1pm

◆③ Romans to Railways

Follow a 2000 year old road and a 200 year old tramway – see how both Romans and industrialists left their mark on the southern slopes of our hills on this moderate 3.5 mile (5km) walk. In partnership with the National Trust. This walk at Coelbren can be paired with 'Fossils, Ferns and faults at Henrhyd Falls' – why not make a day of it in Coelbren - and eat locally?

Meet: Coelbren Miners Welfare and Memorial Hall, Station Rd, Coelbren

(OS grid ref SN 851117)

Length: 5km / 3.5mi / 3hrs

Total ascent: 60m/200ft

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366.

Places: 30

Dogs: well-behaved and on leads please!

Suggested donation: £2/person

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Bank holiday Tuesday 5th June, 2-5pm

◆③ Fossils, Ferns & Faults at Henrhyd Falls

A one-way 2 mile (3km) walk (with shuttle return) delving into the history and geology of the wooded ravine into which the waters of the Nant Llech plunge at Henrhyd Falls. In partnership with the National Trust. This walk at Coelbren can be paired with 'Romans to Railways' – why not make a day of it in Coelbren - and eat locally?

Meet: NT car park, Henrhyd Falls, Coelbren

(OS grid ref SN 853120)

Length: 3km / 2mi / 3hrs

Total descent: 200m/650ft

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366.

Places: 16

Dogs: well-behaved and on leads please!

Suggested donation: £3/person

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Wednesday 6th June, 10am-2pm

◆① Tawe Time Trundle Family-friendly

Easy morning walk of 1.2mile (2km) through Craig-y-nos Country Park followed by activities at the country park classroom after lunch. Take a fresh look at deep time and how this valley came to be what we enjoy now. Bring picnic lunch or eat at Changing Seasons café in the grounds.

Meet: by café at Craig-y-nos country park

(OS ref SN 840155)

Walk length: 2km / 1.2mi / 2hrs

Total ascent: 20m/70ft

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366.

Places: 16

Dogs: well-behaved and on leads please!

Suggested donation: £2/adult

Wednesday 6th June, 2-5pm

◆③ **Cwm Gwrelych Geo Heritage Trail:
walking back in time**

Experience coal swamps, cockroaches and climate change in Carboniferous South Wales on this moderate 3 mile (5km) walk.

Meet: Geo Heritage lay-by between Pont Walby and Cwm Hwnt

(OS grid ref SN 890065)

Length: 5km / 3mi / 3hrs

Total ascent: 120m/400ft

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366.

Places: 16

Dogs: well-behaved and on leads please!

Suggested donation: £3/person



Wednesday 6th June, 7-8.30pm

□ **Penderyn; a Geopark community**

A talk by Tony Ramsay, scientific director of Fforest Fawr Geopark.

Venue: Penderyn Community Centre

(OS grid ref SN 950079)

For more info: phone NPVC on 01874 623366

Suggested donation: £2/person



Thursday 7th June, 1-5pm

◆④ **Karst and Conifers**

An energetic walk exploring sculptures in the forest around Garwnant and nature's sculptures on the hills beyond the forest boundary. In partnership with Forestry Commission Wales.

Meet: Garwnant Visitor Centre

(OS grid ref SO 003131).

Length: 9km / 6mi / 4hrs

Total ascent: 150m/500ft

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366.

Places: 24

Dogs: well-behaved and on leads please!

Suggested donation: £3/person



Thursday 7th June 7-8.30pm

□ **The Geopark from the air: archaeology,
industry and landscape**

A talk by Dr Toby Driver of the Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historic Monuments of Wales. Thousands will have admired the superb aerial images which the RCAHMW have taken across Wales, many taken personally by Toby in his role as aerial survey project manager. Enjoy a bird's eye view of thousands of years' evolution of the Geopark's landscape at the hand of man and nature.

Venue: Theatr Brycheiniog, Brecon, LD3 7EW

Tickets: available from theatre; £5/person

Contact: www.brycheiniog.co.uk/ or ring 01874 611622



Friday 8th June, 10am-3pm

◆③ **Limelights of Allt Rhongyr**

A moderate 6 miles (9.5km) walk with Ben Mullen of the Brecknock Wildlife Trust looking at the botany, geology and zoology of this fascinating reserve in Cwm Tawe.

Don't forget your sandwiches and a flask! In partnership with the Brecon Beacons Park Society.

Meet: Craig y Nos Country Park car park

(OS grid ref SN 840155) (pay & display)

Length: 9.5km / 6mi / 5hrs

Total ascent: 150m/500ft

For more info & to book: phone 01874 623366.

Places: 24

Dogs: sorry – no dogs!

Suggested donation: £3/person



Sunday 10th June, 2-5pm

◆② **Mynydd Myddfai Field Study Visit**

Another chance to take a look at the restoration work carried out following the gas pipeline construction in 2008. This moderate 3 mile (5km) walk will also visit the linear quarries of the Tilestones and Waun Ddu SSSI. This is a partnership event with the Department of Adult Continuing Education at Swansea University.

Meet: Usk Reservoir car park

(OS grid ref SN 835286).

Length: 5km / 3mi / 3hrs

Total ascent: 140m/450ft

For more info & to book: phone 01792 602211.

Places: 24 – **prior booking essential!**

Dogs: sorry - no dogs!

University charge: £5/person

Suggested donation: £2/person

All of the Festival walks are led by competent and experienced leaders who hold First Aid certificates and recognised group leadership qualifications. The leader will make sure you have the appropriate footwear/clothing/equipment for the day. If they are not convinced that you do they may say that they cannot take you along on a particular walk. Leaders may also change the route of the walk depending on the weather conditions or the needs of the group. If you've any questions if a particular walk is suitable for you, please ring the number given for that walk.

Though booking is not essential (except on the two field study visits) it is strongly advised - our leaders are not permitted to take more than the maximum agreed numbers on the walk and if you just turn up on the day, there is a risk that you might be disappointed!

