



School update

Issue 19 Spring/Summer 2013



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Moorland Indicators of Climate Change Initiative (MICCI).

This year saw the Brecon Beacons National Park take part for the first time in the Moorland Indicators of Climate Change Initiative (MICCI) project during this year's National Science and Engineering Week.

Pupils from Brecon High School, Crickhowell High School and Ysgol Maesydderwen braved freezing weather to conduct scientific experiments on two of the National Park's upland peat bogs. The data from these experiments have now been sent to Moors For the Future where they are held on a central database with results from all around Britain.

This project was set up by the Peak District National Park in 2007 as a way of engaging young people in science and the environment and to provide on-going data on the health of the upland environment. The annual project has now been adopted by many National Parks throughout Britain. Upland peat moorland is an important habitat for specialised plants, helps regulate water run-off and stores carbon. These environments can be damaged by changes in the environment as well as by human activity.

The pupils conducted experiments including soil pH, nitrate levels, vegetation surveys plus the popular peat depth measurements. This involved pushing drainage rods into the peat until they hit the bedrock to measure the amount of peat at that location. The record this year was Crickhowell who got an impressive 8m peat depth!!

All schools involved were enthusiastic about the project and recognised the value in young people doing hands on, on site experiments and data collection. This project will now be run on an annual basis.

For more information please visit: <http://anpa.nationalparks.gov.uk/lookingafter/micci-project>



Students at Trefil Quarry area

Fact: UK woodlands store 150 million tonnes of carbon UK peat moors store 3 billion tonnes of carbon - that's 20 times as much!



Ron Layton, Education Officer measuring the peat depth



Additional staff member to the team Anna Edwards



The Education department are very pleased to introduce Anna Edwards as the latest Education Officer to join the National Park team. She will be covering Eleri Thomas' maternity leave until the end of the year.

Anna has been a primary school teacher for 15 years, teaching at Fochriw Primary in the County

Borough of Caerphilly. Teaching throughout the age and ability ranges, she currently combines her role here at the National Park with teaching at the Primary School for a day a week.

Anna is a fluent Welsh speaker and a local resident of Brecon where she lives with her three daughters. She is thoroughly enjoying the move from indoor classroom to outdoor classroom.

Dark Skies Outreach

Primary school pupils around the National Park have been discovering the wonder of the night sky through a series of outreach workshops over the winter of 2012/13.

As part of our successful bid to become an International Dark Skies Reserve, Education Officers from the Brecon Beacons National Park have been helping youngsters understand why it is important to keep the night sky dark. Not only does it enable us to see into the depths of the cosmos but it connects us to the long heritage that humanity has had with the stars over the centuries.

Minimising the amount of streetlights helps to conserve energy and save councils money. Dark skies are also essential for nocturnal wildlife and for all of us to have a good night's sleep. Pupils had a



chance to become film producers and create a storyboard for a short advert to highlight the importance of dark skies on local wildlife.

Third Eco centre Green Flag for YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre

YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre has been used as a residential Study Centre since 1977. Originally, it was operated wholly by the Authority until it went into partnership with the Youth Hostel Association in 2004. For many years the Centre had been putting eco ideas such as recycling, monitoring landfill and using low energy bulbs into practice. However, it was not until 2006 that the



New Recycling awareness displays

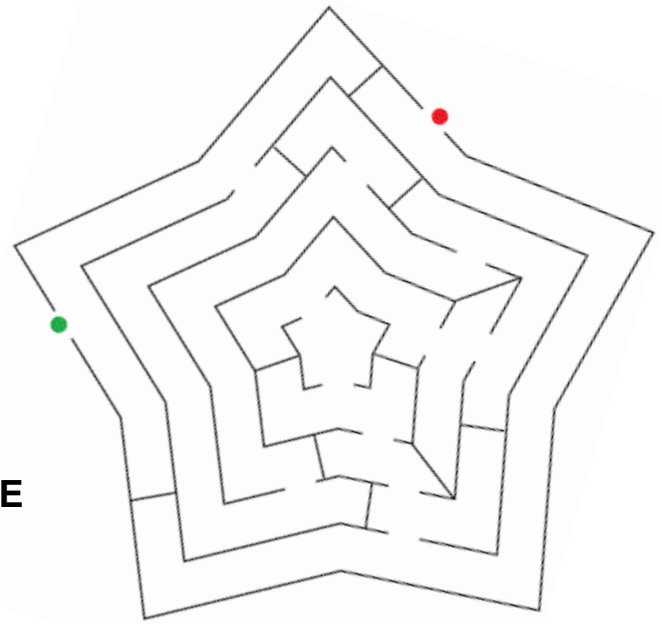
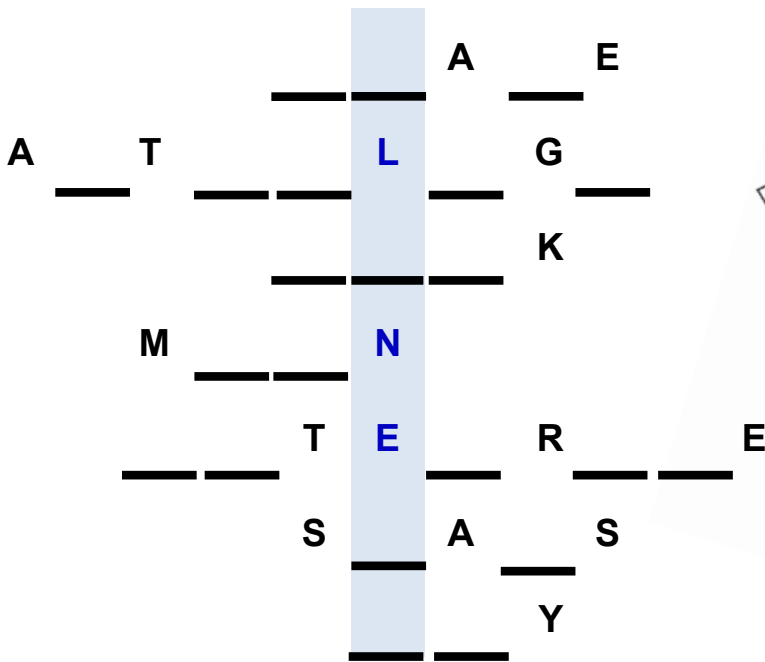
Centre formally applied for and was granted its first green flag followed by a second flag in March 2010. The last three years have seen a number of exciting developments such as planting trees for bats, installing charging points for electrical vehicles and building a bug hotel! The charging points achieved celebrity status in March when they were used by the Gadget Show while filming the latest electric bike in the area.



Bug Hotel

PUZZLE FUN.....

Fill in the blank words relating to space to reveal a highlighted word:



Find your way through the star maze

Can you name all eight planets of the Solar System? (remember Pluto is no longer included)

NEW ORIENTEERING COURSE AT CRAIG-Y-NOS COUNTRY PARK

A new exciting orienteering course has been developed at Craig y nos Country Park, Upper Swansea Valley....

We have installed a brand new orienteering course at Craig y nos to enhance our current map and compass day which has proved very popular with schools. With financial support from Fforest Fawr Geopark and Swansea Bay Orienteering Club, a professional mapper has produced two orienteering maps in English and in Welsh. One is a map of the whole Country Park and the other is a larger scale map of the meadow area, perfect for practising skills and for younger age groups. A number of courses have been designed- long and short-suitable for all ages and abilities.

In early May, National Park Education staff and Wardens will be completing the Teaching Orienteering Part I course certified by British Orienteering, after which we will be delivering orienteering



sessions with schools and other groups in addition to our existing sessions on compass skills, map reading and geocaching.

The National Park Authority are holding a 'Come and Try it' day (flyer attached) at Craig y nos during half term week on Wednesday 29th May to launch our new orienteering course. All activities are free and as well as orienteering you can try Geocaching, a zip wire, camp craft, wildlife and woodland activities and many more - come along and join us!



Have you booked your School visit for 2013/14?

Places are going fast!
If you're looking for
somewhere that's educational,
informative and fun, then look
no further:

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Education Service offers a fantastic choice of courses for outdoor learning. Our curriculum linked programmes feature unique educational courses for each age group.

The activities which support each course theme are designed to enhance learners

understanding and awareness of the natural environment, sustainability and the protected landscape of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

We have three educational centres set in stunning locations around the National Park; these are the National Park Visitor

Centre, near Brecon, Craig-y-nos Country Park, Penycae, Swansea and YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre, Talybont.

Why not have a go at minibeast hunting and discover what lives beneath your feet, up a tree or even in a river! You may like to take part in a guided walk over mountains and moorland with our qualified and experienced education officers. You could even have a go at enacting life as a Celt for the day making your own pottery, flour, brooches and take part in a battle scene between the Romans and Celts!

For more information on the many courses we offer, availability and prices please contact the Education Service on: 01874 620463 or email: enquiries@breconbeacons.org website: www.breconbeacons.org/learning

We are licensed by the Adventurous Activities Licensing Service (AALS) and all our Education Officers hold a PGCE or have been outdoor educators for over 10 years. Our staff have walk leading qualifications, first aid certificates and are CRB checked.





Events and Activities taking place over the following weeks....

Sat 11 - Sun 12 May The BIG SKILL weekend

The BIG SKILL weekend at the National Park Visitor Centre (Mountain Centre), Brecon Beacons will provide a family day out with a range of rural skills and local crafts workshops and demonstrations for visitors to participate in and enjoy.

The aim is to provide a 'hands on rural skills' experience; opportunities to register for more in depth and accredited courses. Art and craft workshops and crafts made from waste by-products. Activities for children include clay workshops, stone sculpture, textiles & paper making, bouncy castle, throwing a pot, felt making, photo with birds of prey. Access to the event is free (with a free raffle entry for those registering via the www.thebigskillfestival.eventbrite.com site) On-site parking charges do apply.

Sun 12 May 09:30 - 12:30: Bird Walk at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad (SO 971223)

Andrew King will lead a walk in this spectacular National Nature Reserve for some classic upland birds. Meet in car park/layby on A470 before you get to Storey Arms from Brecon. Suitable clothing and footwear for hill paths. Suggested donation £3. Organised by [Brecknock Wildlife Trust](#).

Sat 18 May: 19:30: Big Band Night

Kitty's Little Big Band will be performing at Talybont village hall (LD3 7YQ). A brilliant big band experience for you to either sit and enjoy or to get your dancing shoes on! Full details of tickets and prices will be updated on www.talybontonusk.com or for more information call Clare on 01874 676679

Sun 19 May 09:30 - 12:30: Spring Flowers at Allt Rhongyr, Penwyllt SA9 1GE (GR SN 852156).

Enjoy the flowers of our limestone grassland reserve, with grand views of the hills and valley above Craig-y-nos Country Park. Suggested donation £3. Organised by [Brecknock Wildlife Trust](#).

Thurs 23 May - Sun 2 June The Telegraph Hay Festival

We know summer's on its way because the glitterati decamp to the world famous festival of literature and comedy which takes place right here in the National Park. Everyone from Brian May to Brian Cox have been here. *Check out this year's star line up at www.hayfestival.com*

Sat 24 - Mon 27 May: Crickhowell and Area Art Trail of Open Studios and Galleries

The Art Trail champions and celebrates local artists and their work and many open their doors for this inspirational and creative weekend. For more details [Visit Crickhowell](#)

Sat 25 May to Sun 9 Jun: Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival 2013

Enjoy 16 days of walks, talks and other events organised by the National Park Authority and its Geopark partners. You might want to put those dates in your diary now.

Details of the 2013 programme will be posted on the [Fforest Fawr Geopark website](#) as they become available.

Tue 28 May: 13:30 – 15:30 Family Nature Walk: Coity Tip

Explore Coity Tip (a nature area next to Big Pit) and discover the wildlife which has made this place its home. Complete the nature trail, hunt for mini-beasts and have a go at pond dipping on this family friendly activity (suitable for children aged 5 – 11, children must be accompanied by an adult). Meet Big Pit National Mining museum – outside main entrance. Classification: Easy. Cost: £2 per child (parents free).

Bring: Wellies, outdoor clothing and a drink. **Booking essential on: 01495 742333.** A [Forgotten Land-scapes](#) event.

Fri 31 May: 19:00 The CALCH project - Discover the Lime Industry of the Black Mountain

This evening talk will outline the project's progress to date and inform you of upcoming events and how you can become involved with the project. Admission FREE. Venue: The Black Mountain Centre, Cwmgarw Road, Brynaman, SA18 1BU. www.calch.org.uk/ This talk is part of the [Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival](#).



Continued.....

Fri 31 May – Sun 2 Jun: Plethiad: an Eastern European Music Festival

Three days of eastern European party music in the Brecon Beacons, centring around Brecon's Market Hall with headline names during the day on Saturday, June 1 culminating in a full on Balkan beat club night in the evening. More details to follow!

Sat 1 Jun: 10:30 - 14:30: The Lime Industry at Herbert's Quarry

A free guided walk of the remains of the Lime industry at Herbert's Quarry and the surrounding area. The walk will be led by staff from the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. Meeting at 10.30am in the scenic car park (grid ref SN73021925) off the A4069 mountain road from Brynaman to Llangadog. The walk will last for approximately 4 hours and walkers are advised to bring their own refreshments. The walk will be suitable for families but there will be some rough ground under foot in places. Walkers are advised to wear sturdy footwear and appropriate outdoor clothing. www.calch.org.uk/ This talk is part of the [Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival](#).

Sun 9 Jun: Open Farm Sunday

Details tbc. [Open Farm Sunday](#).

Sat 15 Jun 10:30 – 13:30 Llangattock Escarpment & Craig y Cilau

A Family friendly walk "where industry meets natural beauty". Perched high above the Usk Valley, Craig y Cilau's sweeping amphitheatre of cliffs and screes curls around the edge of Mynydd Llangatwg and forms a nature reserve famous for its variety of bird species and rare plants. This walk follows the high level tramway (with steep drops in places – not for the faint hearted) giving grandstand views across the valley to the Black Mountains, circling back along the footpaths below. Why not finish with a late lunch in Llangattock or Crickhowell. Suggested donation: £3 per adult. Length: 4 miles (7km). Grade: Moderate. Meet: Llangattock Hillside car park (SO 209154), south of Crickhowell. To book your place please call 01874 623366.

Sun 16 Jun 10:30 – 13:30 Crug Hywel ~ Table Mountain

A Family friendly walk (8+ years). This lovely 5 mile (8km) walk takes you to the Iron Age hill fort of Crug Hywel, which stands in a commanding position above the pretty town of Crickhowell. With lots of interest and stops along the way to soak up the stunning views, this is an excellent walk for those who would like to venture a little higher and return to Llangattock or Crickhowell in time for a well-earned lunch! Suggested donation £3 per adult. Grade: Energetic. Total ascent: 1150 feet (350m). To book your place please call 01874 623366. **Meet:** outside Crickhowell Resource and Information Centre, NP8 1BN (SO 219184). Nearest bus stop to meeting point: Crickhowell Square; Bus route: Beacons Bus B4. *Supporting Walkers are Welcome in Crickhowell.*

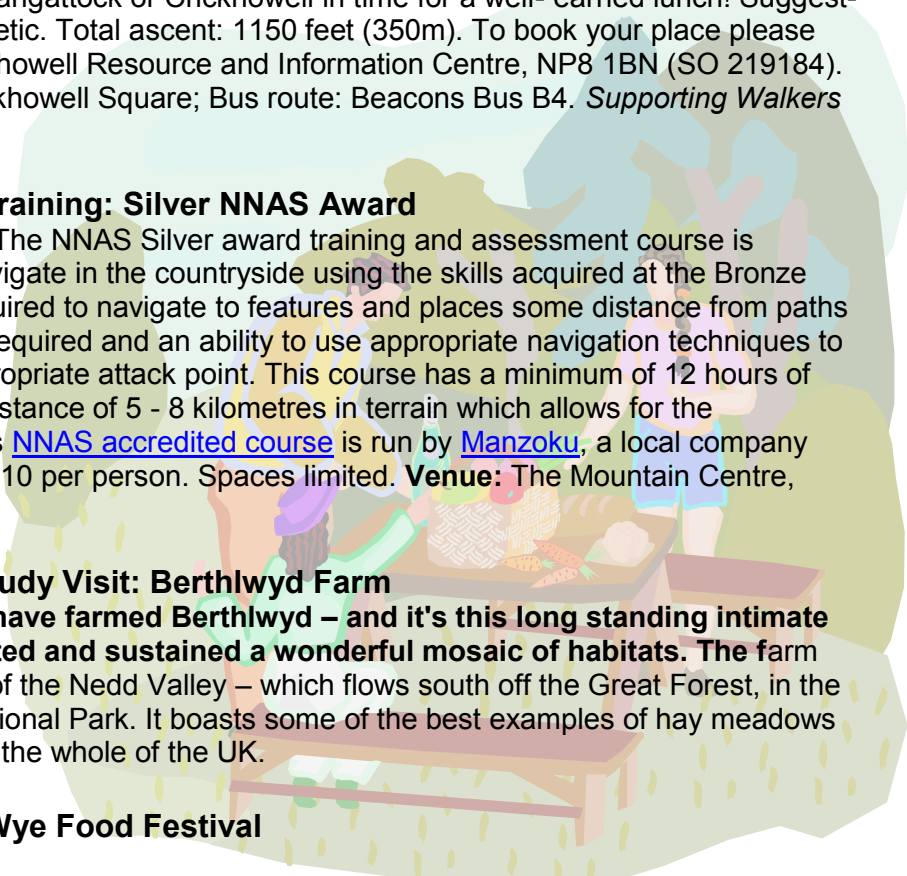
Sat 22 – Sun 23 Jun: Navigation Training: Silver NNAS Award

Booking essential on 01874 623366. The NNAS Silver award training and assessment course is designed to give people the skills to navigate in the countryside using the skills acquired at the Bronze level along with the additional skills required to navigate to features and places some distance from paths and tracks. Accurate compass work is required and an ability to use appropriate navigation techniques to go cross-country, e.g. choosing an appropriate attack point. This course has a minimum of 12 hours of training, including assessment over a distance of 5 - 8 kilometres in terrain which allows for the demonstration of appropriate skills. This [NNAS accredited course](#) is run by [Manzoku](#), a local company based in the Brecon Beacons. Price: £110 per person. Spaces limited. **Venue:** The Mountain Centre, Libanus, LD3 8ER (SN 977 262).

Sun 23 Jun 14:00 – 17:00 Field Study Visit: Berthlwyd Farm

Five generations of the same family have farmed Berthlwyd – and it's this long standing intimate relationship with the land that's created and sustained a wonderful mosaic of habitats. The farm nestles half way up the upper reaches of the Nedd Valley – which flows south off the Great Forest, in the central area of the Brecon Beacons National Park. It boasts some of the best examples of hay meadows that the National Trust has in its care in the whole of the UK.

Sat 29 Jun 10:00 – 17:00 Hay-on-Wye Food Festival



Diwrnod Gweithgareddau

29fed Mai 2013 10.00am - 4.30pm
Parc Gwledig Craig-y-nos

Cyfeiriadu

**Gweithgareddau yn y
Goedwig**

Gweithgareddau Geoparc

Chwarae Naturiol

Gweithgareddau Anturus

Geoguddio

Gweithgareddau Bywyd

Gwylt

Llawer i weld a gwneud...

**GWEITHGAREDDAU AM
DDIM**

www.geoparcyfforestfawr.org.uk

Rhan ô wyl Geoparc y Fforest Fawr wedi ei drefnu mewn partneriaeth a Chlwb Cyfeiriadu Bae Abertawe.

Tâl parcio fel arfer. Bws rhif.63

Am rhagor o wybodaeth: 01874 623366

Parc Gwledig Craig-y-nos, Pen-y-cae, Cwm Tawe
SA9 1GL email: vcuser@breconbeacons.org





Activity Day

29th May 2013 10.00am - 4.30pm
Craig-y-nos Country Park

Orienteering
Woodland Activities
Geopark Activities
Natural Play
Adventure Activities
Geocaching
Wildlife Activities

**Lots to see, do and
find out.....**

FREE ACTIVITIES



www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk

Part of the Fforest Fawr Geopark Festival and organised in partnership with Swansea Bay Orienteering Club.

Normal parking charges apply. Bus no.63

For more info: 01874 623366

Craig-y-nos Country Park, Pen-y-cae, Swansea Valley
SA9 1GL email: vcuser@breconbeacons.org

