

Waterfall Country

Winter 2022



Merry
Christmas

Waterfall
Country Communities

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Cwrdd â'r sêr
Meet the Stars

"Profiad arallfydol"
"An out of this world experience"

Neuadd y Pentref
Ystradfellte Village Hall

NOS FERCHER 23 TACHWEDD
WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER

5.00pm – 8.30pm

Planetariwm Dan Do - Indoor Planetarium
Telesgopau - Telescopes
Bwyd a Diod - Food and beverages
Cwis i Blant - Childrens Quiz

FANC CENEDLAETHOL
BAYNALL BRACENIDDS
BRECON BEACONS
NATIONAL PARK

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Looking for somewhere to dine over Christmas



The New Inn : Ystradfellte
Tel: 01639 721014

Sgwd Gwladys Lodge : Pontneathvaughan Road, Glynneath
Tel: 01639 721519

The Red Lion Inn : Church Road, Penderyn, Aberdare
Tel: 01685 811914

Angel Inn : Pontneathvaughan Road Pontneddfechan
Tel: 01639 722013

Old White Horse Inn: 12 High Street Pont Nedd Fechan, Neath
Tel: 01639 721219

Ty Newydd Country Hotel: Penderyn Rd, Hirwaun
Tel: 01685 813433

The Prices Arms: 38 Station Rd, Coelbren
Tel: 01639 374790

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Halloween at Cwm Porth



Cwm Porth held its first Halloween event on Sunday the 30th of October. The event was organised by Ian Fewings with the help of staff and the meet and greet staff (MAGS). The event was a great success despite the weather being a bit grim.

There were fun and games for the children, one of which included them finding all the creatures on the waterfall trail. If they found them all they won a bag of sweets and a hotdog. There was face painting by the very talented good Witch Kerry and Geraint the Grim Reaper was on duty to guide visitors down the spooky trail.

Central Brecon Beacons Mountain Rescue also attended the event to promote the excellent work they do and just in case people got too scared.

Ian and the staff are planning more events at Cwm Porth next year so local communities can enjoy and get involved.

Well done to all, great team effort.

Central Beacons Mountain Rescue

Central Beacons Mountain Rescue Team is a voluntary organisation which operates in the Brecon Beacons National Park incorporating the highest point in southern Britain, Pen y Fan, as well as Waterfall Country, Cardiff, Caerphilly and Newport. They have been supporting the communities of Mid and South Wales since 1963.

The Team trains regularly and is made up of unpaid volunteers, who give up their time to help those that need us.

You can donate to this vital service if you wish by visiting their website.

www.cbmrt.org.uk



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Filming in Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark

The Geopark is set within the Brecon Beacons National Park in south Wales. It comprises the western half of the National Park, stretching from Llandovery north to the edge of Merthyr Tydfil south, from Llandeilo west to Brecon east.



A film company was recently commissioned by UNESCO to create a short video about Waterfall Country, how important this area is geologically and the impact that high visitor numbers has on the environment and communities.

'Thank you so much for agreeing to take part in and helping to organise the last couple of days. In every interview your passion for both the land and the people who live there came across really vividly, and I think this care that you all showed will translate really well into the story about preserving the area for the future.'

Charles Kennedy

Communications and Information Management Officer, UNESCO

www.unesco.org View the film here: <https://youtu.be/Gz5mt9YUau4>



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Community Nature Recovery Grants

The Brecon Beacons Local Nature Partnership are looking for those who live and work within the National Park to help us realise the objectives of the Nature Recovery Action Plan for the Brecon Beacons.

The Local Nature Partnership says "We know that much of the focus is on the large landscape scale nature projects in the park, but here at the Local Nature Partnership, we understand there is an equally pressing need to ensure that all areas within our National Park are healthy and that they contribute to the ecosystems/connectivity across the area.

If you have a project idea that is about helping nature recover, we would love to hear about it and we may be able to provide the funding (between £50 to £500) for you to take it forward. We will need to know how it is helping nature recover or people within your community connect to nature, and ideally you will have volunteers.

If you want to discuss in more detail please send enquiry to NatureRecovery@beacons-npa.gov.uk and we'll give you a call to discuss.

Sustainable Development Fund



Criw Craggy, Friends of Craig-y-nos Country Park have a new polytunnel for their community garden. The garden, in the grounds of the Country Park, has been established over the last few years and aims to provide a space for individuals and groups to come and learn to grow vegetables, fruit and flowers.

Criw Craggy has been awarded a grant of £4,760 from the Brecon Beacons National Park's Sustainable Development Fund. The fund supports projects that help improve the quality of life in communities – protecting and enhancing the local environment, helping people to live healthy and fulfilled lives now and in the future.



Contact Barbara or Ben
sdf@beacons-npa.gov.uk

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Throughout the spring, summer and autumn of 2022, the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority joined up with Neath Port Talbot Children's Services to run a project called Beaches to Beacons. It involved a series of days out across the National Park. The project concluded across two days over the half term break. On the first day they group went rock climbing and gorge walking near Dinas Rock (a big thank you to Pontneddfechan Village Hall whose facilities warmed them up afterwards!)

On the last day they planted trees and enjoyed hot chocolate and marshmallows over a fire at Craig-y-nos Country Park. All participants gained a John Muir Award as a result of their discovering, exploring, conserving and sharing of wild places. The need to get this group of young people out into the National Park is incredibly important, particularly after the last 2 years. Benefits to mental and physical health are huge, as is personal growth and confidence. The feedback from the group was overwhelmingly positive and hopefully this joint working will continue for many years to come.



COMMUNITY AT ITS BEST

The cost of living crisis is affecting many people in their communities and here is a great example of a sustainable initiative at Penderyn Community Centre.

Community Food Waste initiative.



Our volunteers collect donated food from local supermarkets in collaboration with FareShare.org.uk

We open every Thursday at 10-12.30pm and distribute the donated food for FREE to our community.

www.penderyncommunity.org.uk



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PEAT RESTORATION AND OFF ROADING

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is calling for an end to illegal vehicle off-roading amid concern that it is undoing much of the Park's valuable work in the fight against climate change.

The call coincides with a nationwide police campaign, as four forces come together to tackle illegal off-roading in an operation known as Taurus Cymru.

The Brecon Beacons is home to great swathes of peat bogs, which are vital for fighting climate change. These peatlands capture three times more carbon than trees, but they are under threat from illegal off-roading as vehicle tyres easily damage the surface of peat bogs. When peat is damaged and exposed, it begins to release carbon back into the air.

The National Park Authority will spend over a million pounds in the next three years on peat restoration works, "We spend thousands of hours trying to restore eroded peatlands every year. Not only is peat one of the UK's best weapons in the fight against climate change, but it is also a vital habitat for wildlife. It is devastating when we come across damage caused by illegal off-roading." said Sam Ridge, Peatland Officer for the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

For more information about peatland restoration: beacons-npa.gov.uk/environment/peatlands-and-uplands/

To keep up with regular updates from Operation Taurus Cymru please visit twitter.com/CymruTaurus.



YSTRADFELLTE YOUNG FARMERS CLUB



YSTRADFELLTE YFC CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN IS COMING TO TOWN!!!

As Christmas is fast approaching, we have taken into consideration that there is some much-needed FESTIVE SPIRIT, JOY and CHEER to be had here.

SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday 11th December 2022

We are planning a tractor run to take place which passes through the following villages:

Penderyn, Penywaun, Hirwaun, Rhigos
Glynneath, Ystradfellte

Times and the route are to be confirmed.

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GLOBAL CENTRE OF RAIL EXCELLENCE DEVELOPMENTS

Cllr Stephen Hunt has welcomed progress on the £250m Global Centre of Rail Excellence (GCRE) during a visit to the site by Welsh Government Economy Minister Vaughan Gething. Situated on the former Nant Helen opencast site and Onllwyn Washery in Neath Port Talbot and stretching into neighbouring Powys, the 550-hectare facility will include two test loops, one being a 6.9km electrified high speed rolling stock track with a maximum speed of 177km/h and the other a 4km 65km/h test track.

Members of the planning committees at Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Powys County Council gave the Welsh and UK Government funded project the go-ahead last year.

Councillor Hunt said: 'This is a transformational project for this area and I am delighted at the progress which has already been made with senior officials appointed, a fleet of test trains acquired and groundwork under way. It will put this part of Wales on the map as the go-to country for UK and international train manufacturers, network operators, the wider industry and academics to research, test and develop the latest technologies in green transport for the global rail industry. It will also create jobs and is likely to be a catalyst for further new opportunities, bringing more quality jobs and investment to our communities.'

Other facilities will include a dual-platform test environment, rolling stock storage and maintenance facilities, operations and control offices, staff accommodation, shunting staff facilities and connections to the nearby main line. Education, training, visitor and conference facilities are all envisaged in the wider site.

The Global Centre of Rail Excellence is inviting prospective supply chain partners and suppliers to attend a 'meet the buyer' event on Wednesday 2 November 2022 in Cardiff.

This is an opportunity to find out more about contracts expected to be worth in the region of £250 million. Details of the event have been published on the Welsh Government's procurement portal

www.sell2wales.gov.wales

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Dear Waterfall Communities,

Having now been in my role as Community Development Officer in Waterfall Country for four months, I would just like to say a big thank you to the people, community councils, village groups, businesses and BBNPA partners that I have met so far for all their support which is greatly appreciated. It is a privilege to work in such a beautiful location with great people.

There are challenges as we all know, however with a collaborative approach and sharing of ideas we can strive to overcome these to achieve community benefits socially, economically and environmentally.

Do you have any ideas? it would be great to discuss any community initiatives, so please get in touch by emailing me on simon.rees@beacons-npa.gov.uk

From myself and the Waterfalls Team, have a wonderful, safe and enjoyable Christmas with your families

Best wishes,
Simon

