



# Brecon Beacons Trust

Registered Charity No. 1127737 Company Limited by guarantee No. 06588537

[www.breconbeaconstrust.org](http://www.breconbeaconstrust.org)

Newsletter : September 2013

## Environment and Heritage



The Brecon Beacons Trust is a charitable company established to help people, communities and voluntary organisations achieve positive environmental conservation and enhancement within the Brecon Beacons National Park. The Trust was established with initial funding from the National Grid whose support is gratefully acknowledged. To date the Trust has awarded £550,000 to communities and groups in the Park to meet these objectives.

Llanwenarth Baptist Church, Govilon  
Sum Awarded: £1,620



The church has been pursuing a Living Churchyard approach to its grounds since 2010. This has resulted in the older part of the graveyard being managed as a spring meadow with pleasing results, particularly in the number of primroses present. The Trust's award will enable an additional 0.3ha to be fenced, allowing it to be managed as a hay meadow, further enhancing biodiversity and creating a community green space within the village.

## Grants for Groups

£

**INVITATION:** Is your community group seeking funding for an environmental or heritage project? **You are invited to apply to the Trust today!** In the first instance you should contact the Trust's Secretary, Alan Underwood, to discuss your project through an informal chat. If necessary a site visit to your project can be arranged.

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## The Long Forest: Keep Wales Tidy

Sum Awarded: £60,000 over two years

Above: Peter Ogden, Chairman of the BBT and Rachel Palmer, KWT's Project Officer for South Powys discuss the merits of hedgelaying tools while viewing a hedge layed in the local style by community trainees on the Long Forest project at Glan-y-Nant Farm, Cwmdru. Peter commented, "Good hedgerows help maintain and diversify native tree stock and provide habitat for declining species and pollinating insects. Reversing the decline in hedgerows also keeps our built up areas well connected to the countryside." Trustees also visited another Long Forest project site at Maendu Well (right)



## Trustees visit funded projects

Each year the BBT Trustees devote a day of site visits to projects funded by the BBT. This enables them to see at first hand the work carried out with the support of the Trust and to gain a real insight into the achievements of groups. It also helps to gain an appreciation of difficulties groups face, and the determination they need, to bring a project to successful completion. This year's itinerary included Keep Wales Tidy's "The Long Forest" a hedgerow management project. (Left and below)

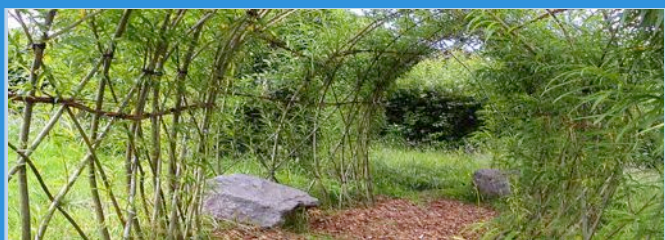
## Thank You Waitrose!

The Trust is very pleased to have received a donation from Waitrose for £11,363. A cheque presentation ceremony took place at the Waitrose store in Abergavenny on June 27<sup>th</sup> when the Waitrose partners were very welcoming and organised a friendly and informal event. This sum represents one third of the funds collected by Waitrose through the Welsh Government's scheme requiring retailers to charge shoppers a minimum of 5p per plastic bag used. The trustees of the Brecon Beacons Trust are grateful to Waitrose for their recognition of the Trust's work and the achievements of the many local groups and communities that the Trust supports.



**Arts Alive, “The Woollen Line”:** £27,020. The Woollen Line is a unique project drawing people and material together to repair an area of damaged upland. Using low-grade wool and pony transport it explores low energy solutions to healing the peat scar on Pen Trumau, on the ridge between Talgarth and Crickhowell, which was caused by fire in 1976 and has remained unhealed. Here, over the subsequent 36 years peat has been lost over a 7 hectare area to a depth one metre. To arrest this process woollen lines made of felted wool are laid across the bare peat, temporarily stabilising it and allowing young plants to establish from seed. Conceived and led by local artist Pip Woolf the project has received national attention and Pip received the Campaign for National Parks, Protector Award in recognition of her work. The work on the hill has been complemented by a variety of work in and with local communities including a number of exhibitions.

Do you know local volunteers who are working hard to enhance or preserve the natural environment and heritage of their community? Then contact the Trust today! These are the types of project the Brecon Beacons Trust exists to support.



- Friends of Llanspyddid:** £4,520. Their BBT award allowed the group to engage the whole community in designing and installing a multi-functional green open space in the village. This consisted of a playground, utilizing modern and natural equipment, an ecological area with mini wild meadow, covered seating, vegetable planters, a small fruit orchard and the willow tunnel shown above.

Further information about the Trust and its work can be found on our web site at: [www.breconbeaconstrust.org](http://www.breconbeaconstrust.org)

- Friends of Talybont Reservoir:** £13,395. The Friends were formed in 2011 to support the environment, biodiversity and public enjoyment of Talybont Reservoir and to assist in the establishment and support of the Local Nature Reserve. The award will allow the group to improve access with a new footpath and improve habitat for Great Crested grebes through the provision of nesting rafts. Biological survey work will help to inform future management and provide opportunities to train volunteers in biological recording.
- Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT), “Our Beacons For Bats”:** £59,245 (over five years). Now entering its final phase of support from the Trust this project has built on the conservation work carried out by the VWT in the upper Usk Valley over many years. Our Beacons for Bats has taken the conservation of bats beyond the roost and into the wider landscape and local communities. The project has worked to develop a network of landowner and community ‘bat custodians’ living within the Usk Valley, an important landscape for lesser horseshoe bats. The project achieved national recognition appearing on Radio Four’s, The Living World and BBC One’s, Countryfile.
- Lluest Horse and Pony Trust (LHPT) :** £20,671. The LHPT are an equine rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing centre based at their 40 acre farm south of Llangadog. Their grant has enabled them to introduce appropriate habitat management practices at the farm with a view to enhancing the biodiversity of the sites woodland and meadows while also increasing the range of opportunities for volunteers. Their long term vision sees the farm becoming an exceptional sustainable tourist attraction in the National Park.
- Brecon Beacons Park Society, “Dark Skies”:** £16,100. The Brecon Beacons Dark Sky project is a joint endeavour between the Brecon Beacons Park Society and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. The objective of the project is to combat the growing encroachment of light pollution into the Brecon Beacons National Park and the surrounding area, mitigate the adverse effects of this pollution, and raise awareness and understanding of this special quality of the National Park. Following a Dark Sky Survey of the National Park and extensive consultations a nomination to secure International Dark Skies Reserve status was ratified for the night sky above the Park in February. It has become Wales' first and only the fifth destination in the world to be granted the status of an international dark sky reserve.

