



Welcome to the November edition of the Forgotten Landscapes e-newsletter! Keep up-to-date with the latest project news plus information on events and activities with this monthly bulletin.

MOSS THEFT ON THE COMMONS

On the 18th October Steve the Scheme Manager, and several volunteers, encountered people stealing moss from the common land. Moss is popular because it is used by florists to make hanging baskets and wreaths. But it is a crime to gather it on privately owned land. All wild plants are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and cannot be collected without the landowner's consent. Moss is a particularly important plant because it holds water and helps reduce the flood risk downstream during periods of heavy rain. It also absorbs carbon dioxide from the air so reducing pollution. So commercial harvesting can have a significant effect on our environment. If you see anyone gathering moss or other wild plants from the commons please inform the police by calling 101.

FLP COMMONS UPDATE

Last week saw the first issue of our commons update newsletter. It covers all aspects of FLP commons management including: bracken management; the availability of our specialist machinery ring to local commoners; the installation of road signs warning drivers of the likelihood of encountering sheep, ponies and cattle on the commons roads; heather burning plans; fire breaks and the publication of a new advisory leaflet 'Common Sense' for visitors on commons do's and don'ts. If you want to know more and would like to receive this update electronically please email Alvin Nicholas the FLP commons officer - alvin.nicholas@torfaen.gov.uk

WHAT'S ON?

Geology of the World Heritage Site – from Mine to Mountain

Sun 18th November
9.45am – 3pm

6km / 3.5 miles / energetic
Meet: Big Pit

An underground geology tour of Big Pit, followed by a walk on the Bloreng where the above ground landscape is explained. (Booking essential)

Mon & Brec Canal 20th Anniversary Electric Boats and Canoes

Sat 4th November
10am – 1pm

Try your hand on the water at Brecon Theatre Basin LD3 7FD
Booking required – 07966 461819
www.breconbeacons.org/splash

Towpath Walk and Canal Talk



Mon 19th November
11am start

Venue: starting at Elim Church in Brecon with a light lunch at Tiffin n Tiffin at the Theatre Basin.
Booking required contact Brecknock Society Tel: 01874 711484

For full information please visit the [events section](#) of our website or call 01495 742333

WALL TO WALL!

Dry stone walls are the traditional stock proof boundaries for the common land and are an important heritage feature in their own right. But their care and repair remains a battle as there are many miles of them across the common land. So, we are delighted that four of our volunteer rangers have passed their level 1 in dry stone walling, while two more passed level 2. A big well done to them because as trainer Martin Rathbone says, "they don't give it to you just for turning up". In other words, it's tough, and involves a full week of walling 9am - 4pm with the test on the Friday, not to mention the weather conditions which were atrocious. New taster days will be running soon. For those game enough to give it a go get in touch:

sarah.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk



FLP WALKING FESTIVAL

Ten trails have been developed over the last year to allow visitors to access the World Heritage Site's important points of interest. To test the quality of the trails the volunteer rangers organised a walking festival earlier this month and attendance was good. This event will allow us to get feedback on the trails prior to a formal launch next April. Over the winter we will be preparing the trail leaflets and each trail will have its own unique heritage theme: industrial archaeology, managing the commons, geology, wildlife and folklore – for those of you who like a scare! The trail guides will enable visitors to discover the 'treasures' of the landscape. They will also include games to make the trails fun for families with young children. Look out for details of the spring 2013 launch event in later editions of this news-letter and in the local press.



www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/forgottenlandscapes

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