

European Geoparks Week 2008
Report

Name of Geopark: **Fforest Fawr Geopark...**
Dates of geoparks fortnight: **24th May – 8th June..**
Contact person: **Alan Bowring.....**
Special motto of geoparks week: **A rock festival with a difference**

1. Please give the following information:

- number of activities/events held in geoparks week 26.....
- number of press releases announcing geoparks week events 1.....
- number of printed copies for program flyer/brochure/posters 10,000.....
- total number of visitors/participants ~700.....

2. Describe the Geoparks Week 2008

Building on the success of European Geoparks Week in 2007 European Geoparks fortnight 2008 offered 16 days of walks and other events.

A walks programme was designed to cater for all levels of ability and fitness see below:

- AA** Access for all - level, usually surfaced paths with no stiles or obstacles, suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs = 1 walk
- EA** Easy - an easy pace suitable for novice walkers = 3 walks
- M** Moderate - a steady pace but some ascent involved = 5 walks
- EN** Energetic - some steep ascents, good for improving fitness = 3 walks
- ST** Strenuous - longer walks with several steep ascents requiring a good level of fitness = 5 walks

Designing and delivering the walks programme involved close co-operation between the Geopark and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, the Brecon Beacons Park Society, Swansea University and Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery; see below:

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority wardens, volunteers and officers were leaders on eight walks including *Brecon Town - Past & Present*, *Walking for Health - the Geology & History of Ystradowen*, *Beacons Heart Challenge*, *A Waterfalls Circuit*

and *The Carmarthen Fans*. Staff from the Dyfed Archaeology Trust contributed their expertise on the *Carreg Cennen Castle & The Black Mountain* walk.

The Brecon Beacons Park Society, a member of the Geopark's Management Group, provided leaders for three walks. *Cracked & Crumpled* an exploration of the Neath Disturbance – an ancient tear in the Earth's crust. *Fans, Tramways, Pavements & Holes* a 23km walk looking at how man and nature have influenced the landscape along part of the Beacons Way. *Glacial Cirque & Hanging Valley* a walk which explored the geology and plants of Craig Cerrig-gleisiad National Nature Reserve.

Staff from the Geography and Continuing Education departments from Swansea University (also part of our Management Group) designed and led walks on the *Geology of the Cribarth* and *The Nedd Fechan Valley* which is designated a Special Area of Conservation.

The Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery organized a walk entitled *At the Edge of Fforest Fawr Geopark*.

Geopark Day : 25th May

Provided day of adventurous activities, geology related activities, stone carving, catering and willow sculpture making for all the family. Contributors included representatives from the National Park Authority staff, the British Geological Survey, Cardiff University, 'Call of the Wild' and the stone carver, Oliver Annaly .

Beacons Bus 'B13 Brecon - Geopark Circular' Tours

This service, organized by the National Park Authority, provided four day tours during Geoparks Fortnight with specially trained guides to point out places of geological, cultural and natural history interest.

Beth yw'r Tywodfaen Coch? : What is the Old Red Sandstone?

Members of Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd joined Dr John H. Davies on a geological trip within Fforest Fawr Geopark. This event was conducted entirely in the medium of Welsh.

3. Photos:

