

Fforest Fawr Geopark South Wales, UK



Dr. Peter Brabham explains the geology of the Cribarth, Upper Swansea valley to Cardiff University Year 1 geology students in their October 2007 fieldtrip in the Fforest Fawr Geopark.

Fforest Fawr Geopark has had a very successful year. The Fforest Fawr Geopark Partnership continues to manage and develop the Geopark through a Management Group. The wide range of expertise available within the partnership is contributing significantly to the development of projects aimed at promoting education and geotourism within the geopark and to raising the geopark's profile. The development of a Fforest Fawr Geopark Action Plan for the next three years is aimed at strengthening the Geopark's standing within South Wales, the development of sustainable economic programmes which will benefit communities both within and around the boundary of the Geopark and the Geopark's participation within the EGN.

- **Waterfalls Centre (Pontneddfechan Geopark & Information Centre) Geopark Centre.** This was opened on 2nd April 2007. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) was awarded a grant of £100, 000 by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund for Wales to refurbish the centre. The BBNPA has commissioned Bright 3-D (website at <http://www.bright3d.com/>) to deliver this project. Most of the work will be completed by May 2008.

British Association for the Advancement of Science National Science and Engineering Week 9-18 March 2007. A partnership involving the Fforest Fawr Geopark, Spadel UK (Brecon Carreg Mineral Waters) and Cardiff University contributed to the National Science and Education Week. The partnership's contribution, which was delivered at Brecon Carreg Mineral Waters' Bottling Plant, involved practical demonstrations and presentations on the 'Occurrence and Extraction of Groundwater in the Geopark' to school children from Betws Primary School, Ammanford and the Llandovery Branch of the University of the 3rd Age on 15th April 2007.

- **Fforest Fawr Geopark Action Plan 2008 – 2011.** The Geopark's Management Group initiated the development of an Action Plan for Fforest Fawr Geopark in November 2007. The plan will be completed by April 2008 and presented for approval to the meeting of the Partnership Board on 7 May 2008. The comprehensive programme outlined in this Action Plan will strengthen the Fforest Fawr Geopark project. It involves the geopark's future contributions to education, geotourism and the local economy and also its participation in the EGN.
- **Fforest Fawr Geopark as an Educational Resource.** The Geopark has been adopted by the School of Earth, Ocean and Planetary Sciences, Cardiff University for fieldwork training in its Geology and Environmental Geosciences degree schemes. The School also uses the territory for graduate and post-graduate projects.

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