BBNPA School Update
Spring 2007



Welcome to the first 2007 Edition of BBNPA School Update Newsletter!

Christmas card competition winners!

Thank you and well done to all pupils who entered the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Christmas card competition. We enjoyed looking through your excellent entries and displaying them at the Mountain Centre. Special congratulations to the winners:



Isabella Mount, aged 7 from Llanbedr Church in Wales Primary School was declared overall winner of the competition after submitting a bright and cheery composition for the Authority's Christmas card, which was sent all over the world.

The other four age category winners, all from Brecon Beacons National Park, were:

4-6 Category: Tomos Morris from Llanbedr Church in Wales Primary School
7-9 Category: Charlie Turner from Crickhowell Primary School
10-12 Category: Jessica Davies from Ysgol Gynradd Ffairfach
13-16 Category: Vanessa Gore from Gwernyfed High School

ECO CENTRE STATUS for YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre & Craig-y-nos Country Park

We are proud and happy to announce that our residential centre near Talybont-on-Usk and our Visitor Centre at Craig-y-nos have both qualified as Eco-centres! It's the equivalent of having an Eco-School 'Green Flag'!



Congratulations to **new** **Green Flag** holders: Ysgol Penmaes in Brecon, Ysgol Abercrave, Llanbedr Church in Wales School and Ysgol Penrhos!

Craig-y- nos Country Park hosted its first ever **Victorian Christmas Spectacular**! Pupils from local area were given the opportunity to visit the country park and castle and learn about Victorian life and made Christmas decoration using natural materials collected in the Park. Look out for a repeat of this event next Christmas!

Competition to Enter!

Enter the Keep Wales Tidy '**Eco school of the year'** competition - open to Green Flag schools only!

Find out more: www.keepwalestidy.org>news Closing date: 16th February 2007
Award ceremony at the Millennium stadium 22nd March 2007

There is a top prize of £1000 and a trophy for each category winner and two second prizes of £350 for each category.

4 school entry categories:

- Nursery
- Primary
- Special
- Secondary.

There are also 2 special category awards: **Litter and Waste reduction and School grounds improvement with a winning prize of £500 and a trophy for each award winners.**
Simply send a short description of your eco school activities (up to 500 words and add up to 3 pictures) or send a 90 second video clip to:- sian.greenway@keepwalestidy.org
Please include the name of your eco school co-ordinator. Good luck!

Activity to do :-

Make a cake for your Garden Birds:



Melt or soften some lard or dripping and then mix in seed, chopped nuts, dried fruit, cake and biscuit crumbs, cooked potato or rice. Whilst it is still soft you can:

1. **Tie a hanging string onto a fir cone and then mould your mixture around it.**
2. **Slap it onto the bark of a tree**
3. **Push it into a mould such as a yoghurt pot with hanging string**
4. **Pour it into an empty food can. Once the fat cools and sets, release the cake by carefully dunking the can in hot water.**

School Fence Weaving Competition Results!



First Place – Radnor Valley Primary School

The school gardening club designed and wove this extraordinary fence. Not only is it 'eye-catching', it fits in superbly with the natural surroundings.

Schools across Powys were invited to enter a competition this autumn, with the aim of encouraging students to create environmental art through the re-use of scrap materials. Several schools took part and brightened up their fences with colourful, bold designs. The fence weaving projects varied greatly; from who participated, different materials used, through to the final designs achieved. While some schools held a fence-weaving day for the whole school, others are decorating on an ongoing basis.

Winning schools can select from a range of items such as benches, tables and games (all made from recycled plastic) for their school grounds. Prizes provided by PCC Recycling Education:

1st: Radnor Valley – Old Radnor **2nd:** Penrhos – Ystradgynlais **3rd:** Ysgol Dolafon – Llanwrtyd Wells
4th: Knighton – Knighton **5th:** Cefnllys – Llandrindod

For further Information Contact:

Claire Davies, Recycling Education Officer:- Tel: 01874 612235 Mob: 07769 893788

The Brecon Beacons National Park is celebrating its 50th birthday! It has been a designated National Park since 1957. To celebrate the education team is hosting a FREE Education week at each of our National Park centres for schools in and on the periphery of the National Park!

Craig y nos Country Park March 12th- 15th
Mountain Centre, Libanus June 18th- 22nd
YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre, Talybont-on-Usk November 19th- 23rd

Look out for further information on our website or speak to your education officer on how to participate!

We are celebrating our birthday with activity sessions for schools focusing on the environment. Themes are:

- **Habitats e.g. woodlands, rivers, mountains**
- **Ecosystems**
- **Local wildlife and plants**
- **Sustainable development**

These sessions will relate to the National Park and the curriculum and will last about 1 hour. They can be adapted to suit Y2- Y6 and can take place inside in the hall or in the school grounds.
Please contact Linda Harley Education Admin Assistant on 01874 620463 for details/to make a booking.

Brecon Beacons Wildlife WATCH Club receives top award from David Bellamy

Brecon Beacons Wildlife WATCH club is celebrating after receiving a much-coveted Blake Shield award from David Bellamy at a ceremony held at Northhampton University. The popular club was one of only three clubs in the UK to receive "The Otter Award" for 5 - 8 year olds.

Two WATCH club members, Sion Bush and Aaron Lake, attended the awards ceremony with their parents and Ageliki Politis, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority's Warden at Craig-y-nos Country Park. She said: "It was a very exciting experience to be at the ceremony - especially to meet David Bellamy and be held up alongside only two other clubs in Britain. It was such an honour to receive the certificate and prizes and we would like to thank all the WATCH club children for their continued support and attendance".

Brecon Beacons Wildlife WATCH club is a partnership between Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and Brecknock Wildlife Trust. It was set up for local children who live near to both the National Park Visitor Centre and Craig-y-nos Country Park.

The club welcomes all animal lovers, nature sleuths and budding young environmentalists, who want to understand local wildlife, appreciate ecological principles and experience a host of activities including mini-beast safaris, building emergency shelters or creating new homes for wildlife.

For more information about 2007 events for the WATCH club, please contact Natalie Fisher at the National Park Visitor Centre on 01874 623366, Ageliki Politis at Craig-y-nos Country Park on 01639 730395 or Alexa Farley at Brecknock Wildlife Trust on 01874 610551

Wildlife Watch and National Park children's events for 2007

- January 27th- WATCH- Map and compass, Craig-y-nos Country Park, 2.00-4.00
- February 10th- WATCH- Winter workout, Mountain Centre, 2.00-4.00
- February 24th- WATCH- Art Attack, Craig-y-nos Country Park, 2.00-4.00
- March 10th- WATCH- It's a hoot! Mountain Centre, 2.00-4.00
- March 24th- WATCH- Survival day Craig-y-nos Country Park, 2.00-4.00
- April 6th-9th – Mountain Centre, There is no Watch this weekend as it's Easter
- April 21st- WATCH- Get our wildlife garden ready for Spring…Craig-y-nos Country Park, 2.00-4.00
- May 5th- WATCH- Springwatch Spectacular 1, Mountain Centre, 2.00-4.00
- May 19th- WATCH- Springwatch Spectacular 2, Craig-y-nos Country Park, 2.00-4.00

BRECON BEACONS PARK SOCIETY LITTER PROJECT COMPETITION 2006!

The Beacons Park Society provided very generous prizes. Llangors school scooped the top prize their outstanding project! Below are some great ideas from the schools who entered the Litter Project.



Right: Llangors school winners

- Invent a rap/song/poem and perform in assembly
- Write a play/puppet show and perform to the rest of the school/younger pupils. Complete with costumes!
- Make up cards for others to play e.g Top trumps, Happy families, board games etc – all with an environmental theme
- Make a class story book about litter for younger children. Use photographs and captions to send your message across.
- Complete surveys about what litter is found and where. Then act upon the information and wage war on the litter bugs. Is there tuck-shop litter at school? Outside your local shop?
- Have a poster campaign against dropping litter in your local shops and services to show how much you care about your local community.
- Design t-shirts to campaign against litter.
- Investigate how wildlife is affected by litter.
- Suggest practical solutions to specific problems in your local area

Some More Bright Ideas

- Decorate bins to look attractive to encourage people to use them!
- Conduct a time capsule experiment to see how long it takes litter to decompose i.e bury a variety of litter at the beginning of the year and dig it up periodically to observe changes.
- Think about the consequences of increased litter and how it will affect the whole world.
- Present your survey results in a variety of ways:-
  Tables, charts and graphs
- Encourage eco lunches for picknickers! Don't wrap food with throw-away sandwich bags – use sandwich boxes. Don't buy pre-wrapped food – make your own lunches at home.
- Use your litter on a cross-curricular topic – make a photo story book and write a simple story yn Gymraeg. Aberaeron school made a wonderful book called "Ianto ar y traeth" about the affects of litter on the wildlife and people of Aberaeron.
- Plan a high profile litter pick and let the local press and community know your efforts!
- Run a recycling logo competition for your school.
- Use recycled materials for:
  - Art and craft
  - Role play
  - Mosaic
  - Make an art attack
  - Collage
  - Make recycled paper
  - Create a musical area for playtime use
- Have a 'green day' to create awareness of the importance of keeping our environment clean! Wear green clothes, eat green food

Use these ideas to make your school and community litter aware!

With special thanks to the following schools Llangors, Llangynidr, Sennybridge, Ysgol Gymraeg Rhyd y Grug and Aberaeron School for their fantastic ideas!