



Dear Member,

There are a number of events to which you are warmly invited. Do please support us at these:

- 1. Presentation of Architecture Award** (the Louis Hurley Award). 2.30pm on Wednesday 14th September at Wye Valley Canoes, The Chapel, Glasbury (next to the Riverside Café). Parking is limited, please park over the bridge by the toilets and then take the short walk back to the Chapel. There will be an opportunity for members to view the amazing conversion to the interior of this building – you will be very pleasantly surprised! This year we have also chosen a ‘highly commended’ entry, and this will be to Penyrheol Chapel and representatives of this chapel will also be present to receive their certificate. To book your place at this event phone 01874 676225
- 2. Annual General Meeting** - we welcome all members to the AGM and to discuss what we are doing and how you might participate? After the Awards presentation, we shall be moving next door to the Riverside Café for a cup of tea and cake (each to pay) to be followed by the **Annual General Meeting** to elect officers of the branch, adopt the accounts and any urgent business. Our long serving treasurer, John French has decided to retire. John has supported CPRW for many years and helped us through the amalgamation of the Brecknock and Radnor branches. He now lives in Somerset and quite rightly feels that distance and time served is a good prompt for retirement. I pay tribute to his support and accuracy of accounts. If there are any nominations please advise the honorary secretary on 01544 260839.
- 3. “Ponds, Rivers and Poultry” An open meeting to discuss the impact of intensive poultry production in Powys on our freshwater ecosystems.** Saturday 29th October 10.00 am to 3.30pm at Llanigon Village Hall (near Hay on Wye). Speakers include: Steve Ormerod *Professor of Ecology at Cardiff University, Chair of RSPB Council and leading expert in freshwater ecosystems*, Natural Resources Wales, Julian Jones *Director, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust*, Kate Adams *Head of Land Use, Wye and Usk Foundation*. The morning will include presentations and discussion of evidence and after lunch a discussion on how the public can help will take place. Cost includes refreshments and buffet lunch. £5.00 per person for CPRW members and £7.50 for non-members (pay at the door). This event will be of interest to people beyond CPRW and we welcome them all. If you know of fishermen, naturalists, poultry farmers please spread the word. Directions on next page. For further information and to book your place at this very important event phone 01874 676225
- 4. ‘Rewilding’ – a presentation and discussion with Rob Yorke.** Talgarth Town Hall (in the centre of Talgarth) on Friday 4th November at 7.30pm
Humans have had an impact on our landscape in Britain for thousands of years. For a long time, people, for better or worse, have been part of the ecology of our landscape. This raises questions today about how conservation is practised on our multi-land use island while striving to supply affordable food to our burgeoning population.
Rob Yorke, a rural chartered surveyor and commentator living in the Black Mountains, will present us with some ideas for a ‘conversation’ about our use of the countryside. All welcome including farmers, land managers, wildlife wardens, rambles, foresters, anglers and all CPRW members. No booking required. £1.00 at the door please to cover costs.

Branch activities and plans. The Brecon & Radnor branch continues to be highly active:

- a. We have submitted detailed responses to the Powys County Council proposed **Local Development Plan**, and we are pleased to report that many of our well-researched comments (prepared in conjunction with our close colleagues in the Montgomery branch) have influenced a revised version of the Plan which will be examined by a planning Inspector in 2017.
- b. We are actively engaged in the issue of intensive agriculture and in particular **chicken sheds** and their impact on river water quality and biodiversity. We recognise that poultry units are a significant means of farm diversification but the intensity and number of developments particularly in the east Radnorshire area of our branch is of real concern, a view which is shared by other environmental organisations.
- c. The **Brecon Beacons National Park Authority**, facing draconian cuts imposed on it by the Welsh Government, has been considering returning rights of way management back to constituent Authorities, including Powys. The prospect of Powys CC managing RoWs in the Park and the loss of the NPA's invaluable local expertise rang alarm bells. We hope that we have persuaded the Authority to think again before making these changes.
- d. The competency in a number of areas of **Powys County Council planning services** has continued to cause us considerable concern. Earlier this year we met with the portfolio holder for planning and regeneration, County Councillor Avril York and Gwilym Davies of Development Management, and we are following this up with a meeting with Kirsty Williams AM this summer, as it is clear from a number of cases that matters are not improving. Again, this is an area where we have cooperated with Montgomery CPRW to present an 'all Powys' case.
- e. **Communicating information.** We are building up some knowledge and data arising from our branch work, especially in relation to planning. We have been especially fortunate in getting many days of expert help with IT mapping and data processing from Chris Bruce. We are actively exploring ways that we can share this with the wider membership and beyond and we are most grateful for Chris's advice on this. There will be more news about this at the 'Ponds, Rivers and Poultry' event on 29th October (see item 3 above)
- f. Finally, the branch was the lead organiser of a CPRW stand at this year's **Royal Welsh Spring Festival**. We are most grateful indeed to the volunteer assistance that we received from Montgomery, Monmouthshire, and the Newport & Valleys branches. We organised a picture competition to 'draw a Welsh mountain' for children which was most successful (prizes donated by Cantref Adventure Farm of Brecon) but we will never again use pastels for the colouring. If you were at the show and saw children with blue or green hands and faces – that was our responsibility!

Yours sincerely



Peter Seaman. Chairman

Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales Registered charity number 239899

We need new members of CPRW to help protect our countryside – a strong and vigorous membership gives us more clout.
Phone 01938 552525
(Direct debit now available)

