



Upper Usk Valley Group

MINUTES FROM TUESDAY 5TH MAY 2015, USK AND RAILWAY

Present: Dave Howells, Christopher Spry, Kay Evans, Lee Evans, Catrin Parish Marks, Julia Blazer, Liz Bickerton, Punch Maughan, Sian Miller, Nathan Morley, David Ross, Rick Coldicott and Sharon Millar.

- 1. Thanks from Dave Howells for all the help received from within and outside the group for the Dark Skies Event.**
- 2. Summary of feedback – the on line emails with feedback were circulated to the group and discussed. Sharon will summarise points made for future reference and it will be put on Wordpress site asap.**

In general, comments were positive and the group were pleased that they had managed to achieve their aims which were to launch the Usk Reservoir as Trecastle's Dark Sky Discovery Site and promote the UUV as a Dark Skies area. Punch commented that the event put the UUV on the map and Sian Miller said it had been good to see the group working together and just getting on with it. Catrin said the group should be pleased that 112 people came to Trecastle that night.

£260 was raised through the raffle and in donations. Sharon is finalising the UUV Bank Account documentation. Special thanks to The Tanners for their kind donation.

Sian Miller wants 6 quotes for the next edition of Blaenwysg Braf – Sharon to send.

A request was put out for photos to go on website. Sharon to send to Punch but if anyone has others it would be appreciated.

Historic minutes will also be uploaded to the website

- 3. Emails – it was agreed that there will now be 2 email lists. One will be for those involved & who attend meetings etc and a wider list for general information.**

4. Spending/ Leaflets – Catrin has calculated that we have approximately £2,500 to spend before the end of June 2015. The reprint of the leaflets is a priority as well as the wayfarer's markers for walks listed on the leaflets.

For the reprint, Julia has asked one person from each village to do the relevant walk and write some blurb on it – brief with start points, end points and anything else obvious.

Crai – David Ross

Defynnog – Julia Blazer

Heol Senni – Christopher Spry

Trecastle – Sharon Millar

Sennybridge – Liz Bickerton

This info needs to be forwarded to Julia by 17th May 2015.

Kay Evans, owner of Cobblers Tea Rooms said that they are waiting for more leaflets. She suggested that a summary of the walks with starting points etc be given to those who store leaflets so that they are equipped with the necessary information. This might in some way be addressed in new leaflets but it is definitely worth doing in the future if not.

Group members were wondering what to do if walks are overgrown. Catrin suggested reporting it to Richard Bull, Rights Of Way Officer or Wyn Morgan NP Warden – both at NP. It has been noted that there is a fair bit of litter around at the moment. Catrin mentioned a group called 'Honddu Dippers' – litter pickers whose efforts are largely concentrated around Brecon. Basically it is up to us really to pick up litter but if there is a big issue, it may be worth reporting so a bin can be sourced.

Catrin again recommended that we use Liz Matthew's Challenge Badge Scheme which would prove useful for visitors and members of the community. Liz to be contacted re this to see if there is much left to do to get them off the ground in time for the Summer Holidays. There are extra volunteers at the moment who are happy to take these things on board.

Rick said he had given out beer mats to the pubs in the UUV.

4. Events – Agincourt

Dave reported that Trecastle was on the agenda for Wednesday's Agincourt 600 mtg in Abergavenny. The Friends of St David are putting on an Agincourt themed flower festival on the weekend of the 15th and 16th August 2015. At the same time, the official Agincourt exhibition will be at Llywel church for visitors to view.

Dave said that he was hoping to put on a showing of “Henry V” at the community hall with the necessary permissions etc. Catrin mentioned a scheme where you can get permission to have one public showing of a film for 95 GBP. This might be a possibility.

Trecastle Show, 3rd weekend in September – this will have an Agincourt touch:

a Making long bow competition

b. Agincourt games/dressing up/ buying in bowmen – details to be finalised

The local children will also be able to take part in the Brecon Agincourt pageant in June dressed up as archers.

The difficulties with actually booking any of this entertainment is that the Agincourt funding has still not been released so we do not know whether these events can be funded or not. Rick volunteered to find out about this – suggested we put in an application anyway so that if the funding does come our way, we will be in the mix.

Julia again suggested the UUV organise some jousting at The Sennybridge Show – again, funding dependent.

Kay Evans has asked whether there will be posters for the Agincourt event. Yes there will.

There is also a lot of information on the Agincourt 600 Wales website.

<http://agincourt600wales.com>

Usk Reservoir 60- commemoration service

It was suggested that to commemorate the flooding of the valley for the Usk Reservoir that a little service might be held in a local church eg Traiangelas. Dave Howells to contact Richard Poole from Welsh Water to ask whether it will be possible to replace the plaques at the reservoir and if Liz Bickerton can access the archive material relating to this. The idea is that we would have a display up in the church about this historic event. Punch Maughan suggested that we could approach Catrin Finch who wrote and sang a lovely song about the flooding of a valley near Aberystwyth. Punch to pursue.

AOB Julia mentioned that one of the Dutch men we met at the recent Rural Alliance conference had sent details of their very successful fundraising activities in Holland. She passed it around the group. Great ideas.

Punch Maughan volunteered to have a look at www.upperuskvalley.co.uk and reorder the content and maintain it going forward

Meeting closed 8.30pm.

Sharon to arrange date for next meeting.