



Llwybr Arfordir Cymru
Wales Coast Path

Wales Coast Path Update Official Opening Special

April 2012

Saturday 5th May 2012 will see the official opening of the Wales Coast Path (WCP). This will see Wales become unique in being the only country in the world with a continuous coastal path, stretching some 870 miles from the outskirts of Chester in the North to Chepstow in the South. Combined with Offa's Dyke National Trail, walkers really will be able to 'discover the shape of a nation' – over 1000 miles of it!

Official Opening ~ Saturday 5th May

Plans are well underway for the 3 launch events at:

Roald Dahl Plass, Cardiff Bay
The Promenade, Aberystwyth
Flint Castle, Flint

Each event will run from 11:00 until 16:00, featuring a variety of entertainment and a unique 'showcase of the coast'. The Event Organisers, Quadrant Media and Communications, have been liaising with those who work, live and play on the coast to create special events at each venue. There will be catering on site in Cardiff and Flint, while in Aberystwyth those attending will be able to sample the many cafes and restaurants of the town. John Griffiths AM, the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development will officially declare the Path open at the Cardiff event, where he will be joined by Frances Donovan. Derek Brockway and Sian Lloyd will be helping to celebrate the launch of the Path in Aberystwyth and Flint respectively. Further details will be posted on our website www.walescoastpath.gov.uk shortly and will also appear in the local press and on local radio stations so keep your eyes and ears peeled. And hope for a lovely spring day!

Big Welsh Coastal Walk ~ Bank Holiday Weekend, 5th to 7th May

The Ramblers are organising the 'Big Welsh Coastal Walk,' aiming to get as much of the Wales Coast Path as possible walked over the Bank Holiday weekend. Everyone is invited to participate with long walks, short walks, linear walks and circular walks on offer. There will even be walks up Snowdon to view the coast and a walk from the summit to the coast.

A walking app was launched the end of January 2012 to encourage people to train for 5th May. This is available FREE via the itunes store, and is called 'Big Welsh Walking Challenge'.

At present over 100 walks have been planned covering over 650 miles. If you would like more information of where the walks will be or to sign up for one, go to: www.ramblers.org.uk/wales.

Wales Coast 'Bird Race' ~ Saturday 5th May

[Visit Wales](http://www.visitwales.com) is partnering with wildlife organisations to hold the first ever collective 'birdrace' along the entire coast of Wales. The goal is to record as many different bird species as possible between dawn and dusk on Saturday 5th May. Anyone can get involved by logging their sightings in whatever digital way is convenient: blogs, Facebook, Twitter or email. Visit Wales will aggregate the sightings, track the total number of species recorded and highlight all the stories of the day as they unfold.

The simple rules:

1. any bird on the [official Welsh list of recorded species](#) is eligible
2. birds must be seen within half a mile either side of the route of the Wales Coast Path – or as far out to sea as you can manage with a scope. The exact Wales Coast Path route is on www.walescoastpath.gov.uk
3. to find out more, follow @WCPbirds on Twitter visit <https://twitter.com/#!/WCPBirds>, which will be updated with more details about the day as they are confirmed.

Wales Coast Path Clean Up ~ Weekend 27-29 April

In preparation for the Opening, Keep Wales Tidy has organised a weekend-long event to clean as much of the path as possible of any unwanted litter and to showcase the fantastic Welsh coastline – the search is on for willing volunteers to come and help.

The 'Wales Coast Path Clean Up' takes place on the weekend of 27 - 29 April 2012 and Keep Wales Tidy along with local community groups will be organising events along the whole length of the path. If you would like to take part in an organised clean up or if you would like to arrange your own event on your favourite part of the coast path please visit www.keepwalestidy.org for more information or email coastpathcleanup@keepwalestidy.org



The Challenge of the MV Carrier Shipwreck

On Tuesday evening 3rd April, the MV Carrier was shipwrecked in a gale at Llandullas, near Colwyn Bay in North Wales. What could have been a serious disaster was handled brilliantly by all the agencies; the crew were saved and environmental issues were all successfully resolved. The 10 week project to remove the wreck presented a last minute challenge for Conwy County Council's Wales Coast Path team to put a diversion in place. Happily they have risen to the task and the continuous 870 mile route will work its way around the site.

The Rest of the Wales Coast Path News...

The GeoVation Challenge

The £125,000 Ordnance Survey GeoVation Challenge began in Mid-March. The challenge asks 'How can we connect communities and visitors along the Wales Coast Path? It aims to better connect communities, businesses and visitors through the application of geography, mapping, innovation and expertise. Creative thinkers, developers and entrepreneurs everywhere to are invited to submit their ideas for new ventures, products and applications which will ultimately improve the experience for people visiting any area along the 870 mile coastal path. Very substantial £125,000 funding is available to implement the best ideas. Full details are available at www.geovation.org.uk. The Challenge is run by the Ordnance Survey, in partnership with Ramblers Cymru, the Welsh Governments Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science Team and the Government Technology Strategy Board (TSB).

Social Media

Our social media campaign continues and our follower numbers are strengthening all the time. The sites aim to showcase the best of what is happening along the Wales Coast Path so if you have some news to share and feel our sites can help, please contact Anna Mullarkey on annam@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)

Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wales-Coast-Path/140486052706861?ref=tn_tnmn)

Twitter (<https://twitter.com/#!/WalesCoastPath>)

Google +
(<https://plus.google.com/s/wales%20coast%20path#116119572182656463563/posts>)



Publicity

The Wales Coast Path continues to maintain a high profile, with recent articles in the Independent and National Geographic, which chose the Wales Coast Path as one of their top destinations world wide to visit this spring. The latest edition of the Ramblers Walking Magazine also has a Wales Coast Path focus, and with a circulation of 120,000 across Britain this will ensure the walking community is aware of our achievements and the launch on 5th May. There have also been articles in the latest edition of the Caravanning Club magazine and The Wildlife Trust's Spring Newsletter.

We recently hosted a film crew from Canada AM, their equivalent of BBC Breakfast, who will run an article on the Path in the run up to the Olympics. Visit Wales have estimated that this piece of publicity alone is worth the equivalent of £200,000 of advertising.

Quadrant Media and Communications is continuing with a proactive press campaign to ensure word about the WCP and the upcoming opening spreads, and hardly a day goes by without an article appearing somewhere in the Welsh and/or British press. Quadrant is available to deal with all press enquiries and Rhiannon Jenkins can be contacted at:

rhiannon.jenkins@quadrant.co, or 02920 694888

Website

The new Wales Coast Path website is well underway and will be launched later this month in time for the opening. The website will be found at www.walescoastpath.gov.uk and you can use this address now to access the existing resources on the CCW website including the press pack and pdf maps of the entire route.

Guide Books

We have recently entered into partnership with Northern Eye Books to produce a series of guidebooks on the Wales Coast Path. Northern Eye Books will be working in partnership with Mara Books who already produce the excellent Anglesey Coast Path guidebook, which will form part of the family of books. An additional 5 books will be produced over the next 18 months to cover the remaining parts of the coast currently without guides. These will cover:

Chester - Bangor
Bangor - Porthmadog
Porthmadog - Borth
Amroth - Swansea
Swansea - Chepstow



However, we won't be replacing the existing guidebooks for Pembrokeshire Coast National Trail nor the Ceredigion Coast Path at this time.

Whilst we await these new publications a series of 9 leaflets will be produced to provide a glimpse of what the WCP has to offer around the country. These will be available through coastal Tourist Information Centres shortly.

Dragon Run 1027

Arry Beresford-Webb is continuing her amazing challenge to run around the entire perimeter of Wales, taking in the WCP and the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail, in just 42 days. Three weeks in she has now reached North Wales and is well over half way. Despite a few niggling injuries, Arry is going strong and remains determined to complete her quest. She is doing the challenge to raise £25,000 for Velindre Cancer Centre in Cardiff, and Gozo CCU Foundation, which cared for both of Arry's parent's prior to their passing away. Arry has been blogging about her experiences, and her hilarious updates can be found at <http://dragonrun1027.tumblr.com/>. Full details of her challenge can be found at <http://dragonrun1027.wordpress.com/> or to sponsor her visit www.justgiving.com/dragonrun1027. Arry will finish her challenge in Cardiff Bay on 5th May as part of the official opening events.

Walk Wales 1027

And just as Arry finishes her epic adventure, Dave Quarrell will be heading out on his. Following in Arry's footsteps, Dave will be setting out to walk the same route. Arry will be formally handing over the baton to Dave in Cardiff Bay on 5th May and hopefully passing on some sage advice on what he can expect over the following 3 months. Dave is undertaking his walk in memory of his father Gerry Quarrell, who used to work at Welsh Government. Gerry was instrumental in setting up the Coastal Access Improvement Programme and shared Jane Davidson's vision for the Wales Coast Path. Sadly Gerry died in May last year after suffering from stomach cancer, and Dave's fitting tribute aims to raise £20,000 for Cancer Research Wales. You can find out more about Dave's challenge at <http://www.walkwales1027.com/>. Dave will be updating his blog whilst he is walking around the country and you can find out how his preparations are going at <http://walkwales1027.com/wp/>. To sponsor Dave please go to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/walkwales1027>.

The Wales Coast Path has been developed by the Welsh Government in partnership with the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), sixteen local authorities and two National Parks. In addition to funding from the Welsh Government and the coastal local authorities of approximately £2 million per year, the European Regional Development Fund has allocated nearly £4 million over four years in support of the project.

