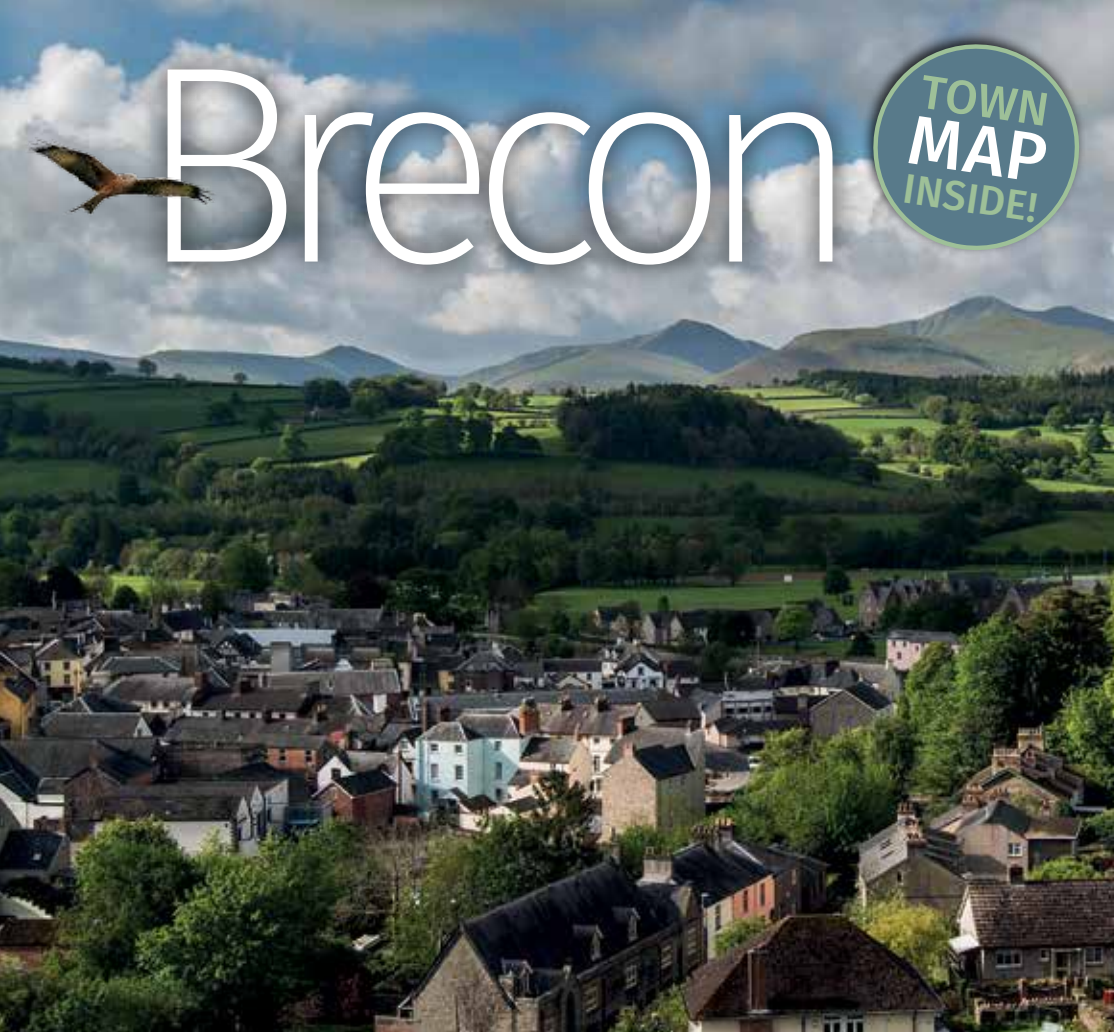


Brecon

TOWN MAP INSIDE!



On The Water

There are many opportunities to indulge in activities in and around Brecon. Canoeing or kayaking may be of interest. There is the Brecon & Monmouthshire Canal which starts at the Brecon Basin and flows on down towards Talybont-on-Usk through the Brynich Lock (at this point the paddler may wish to turn around and head back to Brecon having travelled 2.5 Miles). The canal's water is fed from the River Usk and is available for most of the year. For those who don't own a boat, canoes and day boats can be hired at the basin or take a 2.5 hour organised cruise in a narrow boat with refreshments and commentary whilst passing through beautiful countryside turning at the winding after inspecting the Brynich Aqueduct then returning to the basin.

For the paddler looking for moving water there are the Rivers Usk, Tarell and Honddu, which all flow through Brecon Town and down through the picturesque Usk Valley.

The river can be interesting and challenging and can be run between October and March or on other occasions as indicated by the local gauges. There are some access/egress points provided along the bank of the River Usk to assist the paddler both on the canal and the river. www.breconbeacons.org.uk

The paddler may consider contacting Brecon Canoe Club for local advice www.breconcanoecub.org.uk

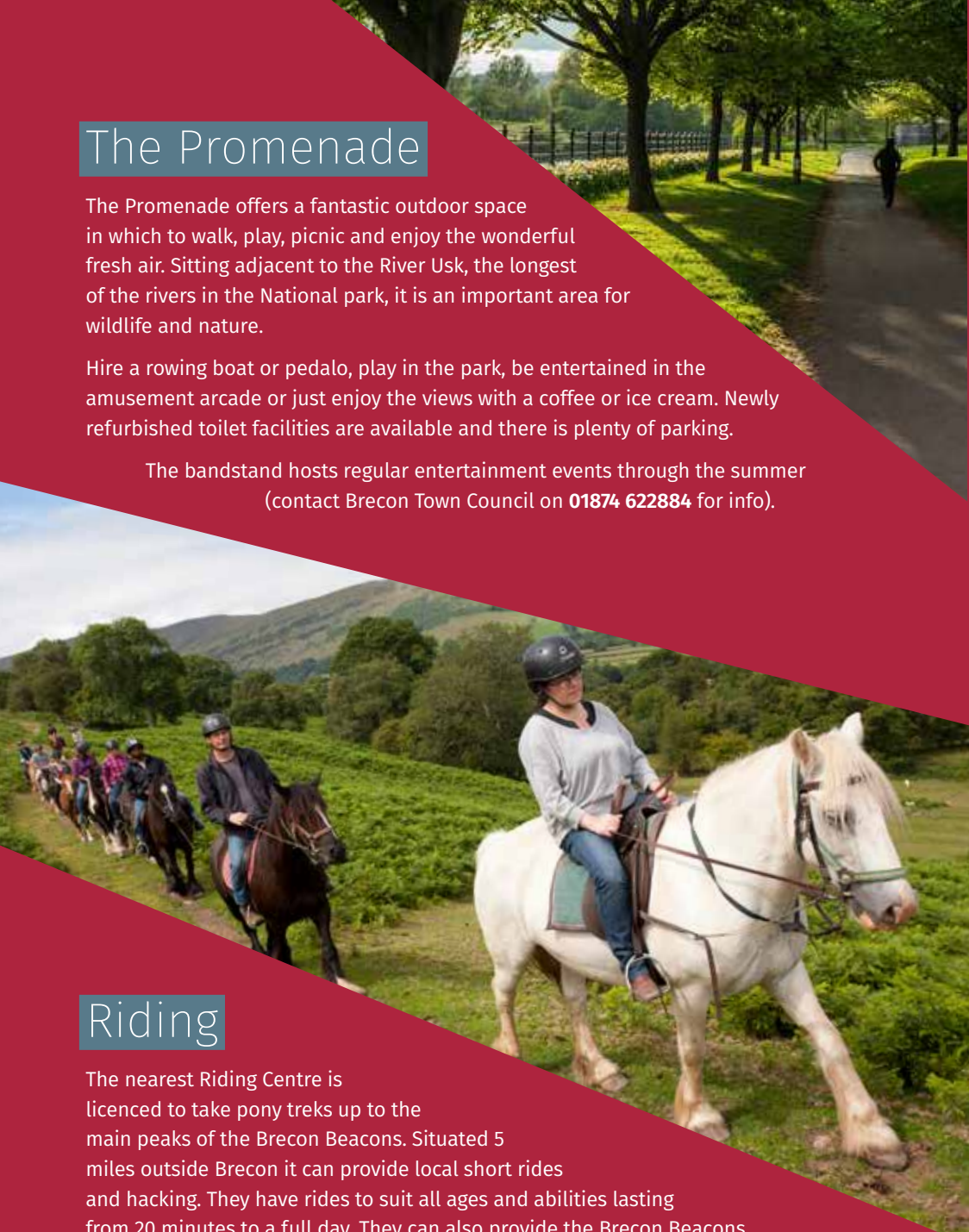
If fishing is the interest then the River Usk between the Promenade to Gwennies Lane will provide good fishing opportunities in the appropriate seasons in a tranquil setting. There are two fishing associations for this stretch of water, Brecon Angling Society and Breconshire Usk Fishery Association. Fishing permits are available from the Guildhall and various other outlets in the town. Don't forget a rod licence is also required. To fish on the Brecon & Monmouthshire Canal a further licence is required which can be obtained from Canal & River Trust. www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

The Promenade

The Promenade offers a fantastic outdoor space in which to walk, play, picnic and enjoy the wonderful fresh air. Sitting adjacent to the River Usk, the longest of the rivers in the National park, it is an important area for wildlife and nature.

Hire a rowing boat or pedalo, play in the park, be entertained in the amusement arcade or just enjoy the views with a coffee or ice cream. Newly refurbished toilet facilities are available and there is plenty of parking.

The bandstand hosts regular entertainment events through the summer (contact Brecon Town Council on **01874 622884** for info).



Riding

The nearest Riding Centre is licenced to take pony treks up to the main peaks of the Brecon Beacons. Situated 5 miles outside Brecon it can provide local short rides and hacking. They have rides to suit all ages and abilities lasting from 20 minutes to a full day. They can also provide the Brecon Beacons Explorer Ride and the local Welsh Pony Trail Ride along the lanes and the countryside where lovely sights and sounds can be experienced. www.cantref.com/ride

List of Local Advertisers

- Morgans - Vintage & Collectables**
8 The Struet, Brecon LD3 7LL
01874 625574
martha.morgans@rocketmail.com
- Beacons Crafts**
Bethel Square, Brecon LD3 7JP
01874 625706
cat-webb@hotmail.co.uk
- Bobbins**
6 The Bulwark, Brecon LD3 7LB
01874 622287
bobbins-brecon@hotmail.co.uk
- Brecon Books**
11 Lion Yard, Brecon LD3 7BA
01874 620086
andrewmortonbooks@keme.co.uk
- The Clarence Inn**
25 Watton, Brecon LD3 7ED
01874 622810
info@theclarenceinn.co.uk
- Cotswold Outdoor**
102 The Struet, Brecon LD3 7LT
01874 622551
brecon.shop@cotswoldoutdoor.com
- Owen Sports**
48 High Street, Brecon LD3 7AP
01874 622232
owensports@btconnect.com
- Ty Helyg Guest House**
39 Watton, Brecon LD3 7EG
01874 623321
info@tyhelygguesthouse.co.uk
- Young's of Brecon**
The Old Post Office, St Mary's St,
Brecon LD3 7AA
01874 623700
shop@youngswales
- Little Poppets**
98 The Struet, Brecon LD3 7LS
01874 610066
info@littlepoppetsclothing.co.uk
- Beacons Antiques**
2 The Bulwark, Brecon LD3 7LB
01874 623883
beaconsantiques@gmail.com
- The Retreat - Yoga**
(Robs No Worries Yoga)
Wellbeing Centre, St Mary St,
LD3 7AA Brecon
01874 625358
info@theretreatbrecon.co.uk
- The Retreat - Sports Wellbeing**
Massage (Sharons Body Work Clinic)
Wellbeing Centre, St Mary St,
Brecon, LD3 7AA
01874 625358
info@theretreatbrecon.co.uk
- The Retreat - Holistic & Massage Therapies**
Wellbeing Centre, St Mary St,
Brecon, LD3 7AA
01874 625358
info@theretreatbrecon.co.uk
- Likeys**
2 The Struet, Brecon LD3 7LH
01874 722900
sales@likeys.com
- The Hours**
15 Ship Street, Brecon LD3 9AD
01874 622800
thehours@btinternet.com
- Centre of Attention**
9 Lion Street, Brecon LD3 7HY
01874 623233
centreofattention@hotmail.co.uk
- The Grange Guesthouse**
22 The Watton, Brecon LD3 7ED
01874 624038
admin@thegrange-brecon.co.uk
- Nicholls Lifestyle Store**
19 High Street, Brecon LD3 7AL
01874 611557
nichollsonline@wmnicholls.co.uk
- Nicholls Country Store**
66 The Bulwark, Brecon LD3 7LB
01874 420350
nichollsonline@wmnicholls.co.uk
- fyibrecon.com**
www.fyibrecon.com
07926 196714
fyi.brecon@gmail.com
- Castle of Brecon Hotel**
www.breconcastle.co.uk
01874 624611
contact@breconcastle.co.uk
- Fire & Stove Shop Ltd.**
Old Surgery, St Mary's Street,
Brecon LD3 7AA
01874 622088
brecon@decoheat.co.uk
- The Proper Pizza Co.**
Old Tool Box, Lion Yard, Brecon
01874 620036
- Harleys Bars**
8 Bell Lane, Brecon LD3 9EE
01874 624232
www.harleysbars.co.uk
- Morgans Butcher**
103 The Struet, Brecon LD3 9EE
01874 623522
www.morgansbrecon.co.uk
- Beacons Laundry**
St Mary's Street, Brecon
07809 485829
- Theatr Brycheiniog**
Canal Wharf, Brecon LD3 7EW
01874 616222
info@brycheiniog.co.uk
- Brecon Pet & Garden**
53-54 High Street, Brecon LD3 7AP
01874 625913

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Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Freedom leisure
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The printing inks are made with non-hazardous vegetable oil from renewable sources.



So much to explore | Great food & drink | Adventure time!



A Brief History of Brecon

The market town of Brecon is steeped in history dating back as far as the Iron Age, embodied by the fort at Pen Y Crug (800BC to 75AD). Nearby, Y Gaer exhibits the remains of an 8-acre Roman fort, built to house a garrison of 500 cavalry, circa 80AD. The town has a strong Norman influence with the ruins of the castle, built within 25 years of the Norman conquest and the impressive cathedral which originated as a Norman church in the 11th century and also houses a 12th century Norman font. The name Brecon, is traced by scholars from the 5th century Brychan through latinised spelling such as Breconia to Anglo-French Brecon. The Gaelic name for the town 'Aberhonddu' is translated to mouth or confluence of the river Honddu.

Whilst the town of Brecon was granted its borough charter in 1276 by Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, Constable of England and Lord of Brecknock, it wasn't until 1411 that the Borough of Brecknock received a Royal Charter from King Henry IV granting it its status as an officially recognised town.

This paved the way for Brecon to become the centre of a thriving local wool industry, becoming one of the most important towns in Wales and was subsequently named as one of the four 'Local Capitals' for Wales in the Act of Union of 1536. Developments during Tudor, Elizabethan and subsequent periods can be seen in Buckingham House and Havard House (1556) in Glamorgan Street and at Newton House (1582). The Guildhall site (1624), originally a butter market, signified the movement of power away from the castle to the town and is home to the current Town Council chamber and theatre.

Brecon's strategic position was important in the turbulent years before the Civil War, and King Charles I visited the town in quest of support in 1645. The cobbled King's Steps in the Struet mark his route of escape to Gwernyfed.

The Military have a strong historic presence in Brecon with both the Barracks and Dering Lines Camp located in the town. Brecon is proud to be remembered as the home of the South Wales Borderers who fought so valiantly at the famous battle of Rorkes Drift during the 1879 Zulu War. They were granted the freedom of the town in 1947 and after their amalgamation into the Royal Regiment of Wales and then into The Royal Welsh this honour continues. The town is also honoured to have strong links with The Gurkha Wing (Mandalay) who have been part of the community in Brecon since 1980. Freedom of the town was granted to all ranks in 1985. The Small Arms School Corps also had the freedom of the town bestowed upon them in April of 2017. There is so much more to learn about our historic market town, for more information please visit www.brecontowncouncil.org.uk



Family Fun in Brecon



Brecon is a great family town and has plenty to keep children of all ages entertained. For younger children, the Play Barn at Brynich and Cantref Adventure Farm are a must. The Leisure Centre is also superb for all ages, whether it be swimming, squash, badminton and many more activities. You may simply want to choose from one of the free parks sited around the town or visit the skate-park to test any daredevil skills! The Coliseum Cinema and Theatr Brycheiniog are excellent places to unwind after all the excitement. Don't forget to treat yourselves to a fresh locally made ice cream and be sure to visit the Promenade for more family fun!

Eating out in Brecon

Brecon currently boasts many pubs, cafes, restaurants and hotels where there are a variety of flavours to suit all tastes. Try locally brewed ale, full of flavour and local character. When walking up our hills and mountains, why not take a bottle of locally sourced water. There are several independent butchers offering quality and provenance and plenty of home-made cakes to excite the taste buds. The evening offers some spicy options with a dash of Welsh dishes too.

Golf

Brecon Golf Club is situated on the west side of town with fine views of the Brecon Beacons. Established in 1902 and originally designed by James Braid with a yardage of 6122 and a par of 70. It is regarded by many as one of the finest 9 hole courses in Wales. The course can accommodate all levels of ability and it is predominantly flat and easy to walk. After a game enjoy the comforts and a warm welcome at the clubhouse which provide snacks, meals or just a drink. www.brecongolfclub.org.uk

Cradoc Golf Club is situated 2.7 miles north-west of Brecon. The club was founded in 1967 in the beautiful setting of the Brecon Beacons. It is an eighteen hole parkland course 6188 yards long off the back tees par 71 and is the permanent home for the prestigious Coors Welsh Tournament of Champions. It also has a 10 bay floodlit driving range, a chipping green and many other features to suit the enthusiastic golfer it is able to accommodate all levels of ability. It has a fine clubhouse, recently refurbished with excellent facilities. It has a comfortable lounge with a fine bar and a seventy seat restaurant offering an extensive menu. www.cradoc.co.uk

Cycling

Another activity to be considered could be cycling. There is a traffic free cycle route, running alongside the Brecon & Monmouthshire canal to Brynich Lock on a level surface, perfect for family rides. A useful guide for safe use of tow paths can be found at www.waterways.org.uk

For those who ride mountain bikes and are more adventuresome consider the 25 mile Gap circular mountain bike route. It leads out of Brecon into the hills passing through Llanfrynach, Talybont-on-Usk, Aber, Abercynafon through the Gap, then downhill experiencing stunning views on the way. Then head back to Brecon for a refreshing drink in one of the many pubs or cafes in the town. www.breconbeacons.org



Brecon

Brecon Town sits at the confluence of three rivers, River Usk, Honddu and Tarell, at the Heart of the Park in the Brecon Beacons National Park.

The town nestles in the foothills of the Beacons which boasts the majestic Pen-y-Fan, the highest mountain in Southern Britain at 886m above sea level.

Wander around the ancient cathedral, take in a show at the theatre; buy fresh local produce at Brecon Farmers Market, take a leisurely stroll or cycle along the canal, enjoy some retail therapy or simply enjoy the variety of historic buildings and take a break at one of our fine eateries.

The choice is yours!

Pen y Crug walk

A walk up to the Iron Age!

Walk through time and enjoy the spectacular views.

The walk is 3 miles/5.5km long and should take about 2 hours. There are six stiles to negotiate.

Climb the steps beside the tourist information centre, turn left along Heol Gousnou and at the traffic lights, turn right up The Struet. Cross Priory Bridge over the Afon Honddu and follow the B5420 road for 700m as it bends around Brecon Cathedral and continues towards the edge of the built up area.

After the last houses on the left, turn left into the road signed as Maes-y-Ffynnon, then turn immediately right and follow its gentle curves to a turning circle.

Turn right to follow the public footpath which is signed across the grassed area. Take time to inspect the covered well of Ffynnon Maen-du at the edge of the grassed area.

The path rises gradually through a succession of fields in a straight line towards the summit of Pen-y-Crug. Look out for the stile in each hedgerow as you climb the hill.

Eventually you meet a stile giving access onto the open common. Walk towards the summit of the hill noticing the series of hollows, some flooded, to both left and right. They can be easier to spot in winter when the bracken has died back and mark the area of the Pen-y-Crug brick and tile works.

Continue up the slopes of the hill and pass through the obvious gap in the earth ramparts which encircle the summit of the hill.

These banks and ditches are believed to have been thrown up by people of the Silures tribe during the Iron Age (750BC-AD43). It is likely that they would have originally have been topped off with a palisade of wooden stakes creating a formidable defence against would-be attackers. The ramparts enclose an area of 12.5 acres. Rock and earth excavated from each of the four concentric ditches was thrown down the slope to form a bank. This, the most spectacular of all hill-forts in the area would have been a major centre for the Silures, the tribe whose territory extended across all of south east Wales.

Walk to the trig point on the summit of the hill which stands at 331m/1088 ft above sea level.

Retrace your steps through the gap in the ramparts and turn sharp left below the outer bank. Head for a waymark post and clumps of gorse some 150m away where you will find a number of small shallow quarries.

Descend the slopes of Pen-y-Crug towards a hollow (and TV mast in the distance) out of which a path ascends a bracken covered bank to a gate at the edge of the common. Through the gate, follow the hedged track beyond, down the hill, eventually emerging onto the B4520.

Turn right and follow the road back into the centre of Brecon for a well-deserved coffee and cake.



Did you know?
Brecon Market Hall hosts arcade shops, general markets on Tuesdays and Fridays, Farmers Markets and Craft Markets on various weekends, as well as other events throughout the year. Always worth a visit!

Did you know?
You can explore Priory Groves - a mixed woodland alongside the Honddu river. Ideal dog walking territory!

Rivers, canal and cake walk



Have a half day to spare - fancy a walk?

An easy 2.5 miles taking about 2 hours, starting from Bethel Square. The walk will take you beside the River Usk and canal. You will pass the Guildhall, turn right and head down Ship Street (originally called Sheep street) descending onto the floodplain of the river Usk. Look out for a plaque showing the highest recorded flood in 1853. Looking to the right, the impressive buildings of Christ College founded by Henry VIII can be seen.

Turn left before the Usk Bridge and descend the steps on your left, watch out for signs of the old town wall, tower and gateway.

Walking alongside the River Usk keep your eyes peeled for the wartime pill boxes. Continue to follow the river to the treatment works.

Turn left walk up towards the gate then continue along the lane towards the Monmouth and Brecon Canal. The lane joins the canal, turn left towards Brecon. The canal is over 200 years old. Look out for the lime kilns which provided lime to improve the quality of the soil for agriculture.

At bridge 165 cross the canal, turn left along the Watton.

Passing the barracks on your right you will come across the Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh.

Don't miss out a visit to the museum, discover the bravery of the soldiers and Zulus at Rorkes Drift.

Turn right from the museum and pass some of the 24 lime trees - a tribute to the 24th Regiment - along the Watton.

Turn right at the Guildhall to get back to the start at Bethel Square.

Plenty of cafes await to refresh you with home-made cakes and steaming hot chocolate or on a sunny day, ice cream.

Poetry Trail

Brecon has a lively arts scene and is well known for the walks in and around the surrounding countryside but are you aware of the town's own poetry trail? The trail encourages you to explore the corners, streets, shops and rivers of the town and gives you a different view on the historical town's celebrated landmarks.

Ten Welsh poets were commissioned in 2012 to compose four-line verses (5 in English and 5 in Welsh) These poems have been reproduced on slate plaques and attached to buildings around the town as a permanent artistic installation for the enjoyment of the people of Brecon and visitors to the town.

The trail takes approximately an hour and starts at Theatr Brycheiniog where award-winning poet and playwright Menna Elyfn cleverly incorporates references to the myths of the Mabinogion.

- 1 Theatre Brycheiniog, Canal Wharf - Men Elyfn
- 2 Riverside Walk near Boar's Head - Owen Sheers
- 3 Promenade / Watergate - Grahame Davies
- 4 Bench in Market Street - Ceri Wyn Jones
- 5 Mount Street Junior School - Catherine Fisher
- 6 Brecon Visitor Information Centre - Chris Meredith
- 7 Brecon Bus Station - Paul Henry
- 8 Andrew Morton Books, Lion Yard - Clare E Potter
- 9 Ardent Gallery, High Street - Tony Curtis
- 10 The Hours Café & Bookshop, Ship Street - Gillian Clarke

Did you know?
Theatr Brycheiniog is a modern arts, theatre and community venue sitting alongside the basin of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.

Did you know?
There is an annual Gurkha Parade in the Town Centre. Contact Brecon Town Council 01874 622884 for details of this year's event.

Information

- Tourist Information
- Police station
- Fuel station
- Church / Cathedral
- Theatre/Cinema
- Bus station
- Hospital
- Leisure centre
- Museum
- Supermarket
- Toilets
- Doctor/surgery
- Post office
- Canal basin

USEFUL NUMBERS

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Brecon Tourist Information Centre | 01874 622485 | Abbey Vets | 01874 622464 |
| Brecon Medical Centre | 01874 622121 | Honddu Veterinary Practice | 01874 611811 |
| Brecon War Memorial Hospital | 01874 622443 | Brecon Town Council | 01874 622884 |
| Well Pharmacy Brecon | 01874 622789 | Powys County Council | 01597 826000 |
| Boots Pharmacy Brecon | 01874 622917 | | |