

## Talgarth is awarded full WAW status ... wow!

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Talgarth is the first town in the Brecon Beacons National Park to be awarded full membership status of the Walkers are Welcome Towns Network, making it the ideal destination for a walking holiday (<http://www.visitwales.co.uk>).

Talgarth was one of six towns to be accredited with full membership status of the Walkers are Welcome (WAW) network which raises the profile of towns and villages that have something special to offer locals and visitors alike. Talgarth has been supported through this process by the Brecon Beacons (<http://www.visitwales.co.uk/server.php?show=nav.10307>) National Park Authority as part of its Walking with Offa's project.

The official launch of Talgarth's 'Gateway to the Black Mountains' Walkers are Welcome Group will be held during the town's annual festival on 25th and 26th August in The Granary Room of the newly restored Melin Talgarth Mill. The group will be handing out 'Walkers are Welcome' stickers and the 'Walks around Talgarth' booklet – which was funded by the National Park Authority's Collabor8 Interreg IVB project. The event will also showcase and trial one of the new electric cars which is fast becoming a popular mode of transport in the Brecon Beacons National Park (<http://www.visitwales.co.uk/regions-of-wales/national-parks-in-wales/>) and is supporting the work of the National Park's Eco Travel Network. These cars enable people to travel within the National Park in a fun and environmentally friendly way, and are a very useful service for people travelling to the area by public transport. The car available at the launch will also enable less physically able people to enjoy parts of some of the designated walks in the booklet.

Chair of Talgarth's WAW bid, Nicola Willis, said 'We are delighted to be the first town in the National Park to achieve this prestigious status and look forward to working towards creating a Walking Festival for locals and visitors in the near future. We see this as another key step in the regeneration of Talgarth.'

Richard Tyler, Sustainable Tourism Manager for Brecon Beacons National Park Authority said: "This is wonderful news for Talgarth and is another very successful string to their bow in becoming one of the most popular and proactive destinations in the National Park. This area has so much to offer and we have been very proud to support them in achieving this."