LEGINDARY
The legends behind the Valleys That Changed the World!

Here in South Wales, we are very proud of our industrial heritage. During the Industrial Revolution, this little corner of the world went global!. A landscape of roughly 25 miles long and 70 miles wide played host to: the biggest iron and copper works in the world; the first true train journey; the largest lump of coal; and technological advances that shaped the modern world. Our list of industrial facts and firsts is endless and even includes a few 6 foot long spanners!

But the real power behind our industrial story was the people. From canny incomers who took a risk on setting up industries in a virgin land and on a scale never seen before… to brilliant minds whose inventions helped shape our modern world… to social reformers who sometimes made the ultimate sacrifice in their struggle to make life better for ordinary working people.

These are our legends, or as we like to think of them, leginds and their Legindary places for you to discover.

Why not take a few snaps and selfies along the way and create your own legindary memories of **The Valleys that Changed the World!**

Plot your route using our interactive map - http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/VisitBlaenavon/Explore-the-valleys-that-changed-the-world/Interactive-Map.aspx

Blaenavon - a Legindary World Heritage Site

Only here for a short time? You can tick off a number of 'Legends' at the World Heritage site:

Have your photo taken by the silhouette of legindary inventor and scientist Sidney Gilchrist Thomas at Blaenavon Ironworks;

Take a snap of yourself with local legind John Worton at Blaenavons' Community Museum in the Workmen's Hall;

Sit and take a selfie in the Victorian class room in the World Heritage Centre – formerly the school built by philanthropic legind Sarah Hopkins.

This is just a sample of our many leginds. We hope their stories have inspired you to explore our amazing industrial heritage story. For more ideas, visit our web pages: http://visitblaenavon.co.uk/TVTCTW and follow us on Facebook (@TVTCTW) and Twitter (@tvtctw).

Please note, all details correct at time of going to press.
'The Valleys that changed the World' is a partnership of over 70 sites and organisations working together to promote and interpret the story of our industrial past. 'The Valleys that changed the World' is also part of the European Route of Industrial Heritage. We are supported by the following public sector bodies:
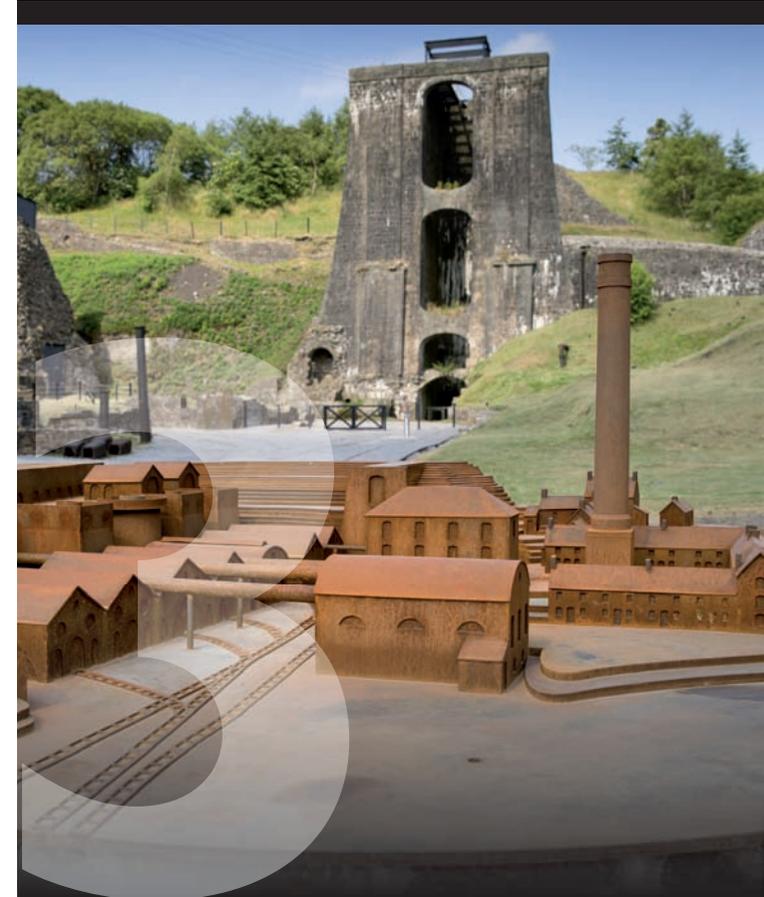
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LEGINDS
Y chwedlau sy'n sail i'r Cymoedd a Newidiodd y Byd
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Trail 3:
Leginds - Leaders of Technology

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Sidney Gilchrist Thomas

A global hero of industry, this young man worked tirelessly with his cousin Percy Gilchrist to find the answer to a chemical puzzle. How could they use iron ore with a high phosphorous content in making steel? Their experiments at Blaenavon Ironworks paid off and in 1878 they publicly announced that they had solved the problem. Their work led to a boom in steel making that echoed around the world.

Visit the Ironworks to find out more about his experiments – whilst you are there, have a photo with his steel silhouette:
www.cadw.gov.wales/daysout/blaenavonironworks

Richard Trevithick

This Cornish engineer revolutionised steam power. In February 1804 he made history! His steam engine pulled a load along rails, on a journey of just over 9 miles from Penydarren in Merthyr Tydfil to the canal basin in Aberdare. The first true train journey in the world.

Have your photo with replicas of that train – there's one outside Cyfarthfa Castle in Merthyr Tydfil, or see the full size, working replica at the Waterfront Museum in Swansea: www.museum.wales/swansea Alternatively snap away as you walk the route of this historic journey: www.trevithicktrail.co.uk

Thomas Kymer

Born in Haverfordwest in 1722, Kymer became an industrialist. He began mining for coal in the Gwendraeth Valley, but he needed to get the coal to market. In 1766 he opened the first canal in Wales linking Carway with the port of Kidwelly. At 3 miles long, this was the first canal of any length in Wales.

Walk along the Wales Coast Path to experience Kymer's canal for yourself – there's some great wildlife there too – just begging for a photo:
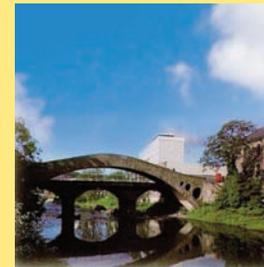www.walescoastpath.gov.uk/explore-by-area/carmarthenshire

Thomas Dadford Jnr

Dadford was one of the early canal pioneers. He engineered the Monmouthshire, Brecknock and Abergavenny and Neath Canals. His expertise revolutionised the science of civil engineering and played a major part in the industrial development of Wales.

See his remarkable work at Fourteen Locks Canal Centre in Rogerstone, near Newport:
www.fourteenlocks.mbact.org.uk

William Edwards

A Methodist minister from Eglwysilan near Caerphilly, Edwards was also an accomplished mason, and architect. His reputation as a bridge builder was established when, at his third attempt he completed his masterpiece in Pontypridd. Travellers of the age were soon comparing to Venice's famous Rialto Bridge!

The beautiful bridge is just as photogenic today. While you are there, pop in to Pontypridd Museum, located in the old chapel next to the Bridge:
www.pontypriddmuseum.cymru