

HERITAGE NEWS

BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE SITE NEWSLETTER ISSUE 13 - Winter 2011

Blaenavon Set for Winter Wonderland Spectacular

Blaenavon Heritage Town is gearing up for the annual Blaenavon Winter Wonderland on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th December, a real treat for all the family. With a magical outdoor ice rink and covered Christmas Market selling quality gifts, you can enjoy mulled wine and Christmas carols while you explore this special Heritage Town.

Santa will be making a return with his real reindeer on both days. Children can also visit him in his grotto with plenty of photo opportunities for children who want long lasting memories of this special moment. With children's craft workshops and a cookery demonstration, find something for all the family.

This year we also welcome the addition of a lantern parade, performances from Blaenavon Town Band and the Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School choir and brass band.

The Winter Wonderland will showcase this special Heritage Town featuring some unique independent shops. Start your Christmas shopping in Blaenavon!



© Free Press

This community event is a collaboration between the Blaenavon Town Traders Association, Torfaen County Borough Council, the Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership, Communities First and many other stakeholders in the town.

For more information about the Winter Wonderland or Blaenavon Heritage Town please visit www.visitblaenavon.co.uk or phone 01495 742333.



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Historic Bridge to be Saved

Torfaen Council has announced its intention to undertake work to conserve and secure the historically significant Aaron Brute's bridge. The cast iron bridge dates from the early 19th century and is considered to be one of the earliest examples of its type still in existence. It represents an important survival of the industrial infrastructure of the period. The bridge was closed to the public in 2003 due to concerns about potential risk from collapse.

Funding for the restoration has been secured from Cadw and, in principle, from the Valleys Regional Park convergence programme. Capita Symonds has been appointed to design the most appropriate method of undertaking the delicate operation of removing the bridge from its abutment walls. Following its removal the bridge will be surveyed and conservation work undertaken to restore it, the abutment walls will be rebuilt and the bridge replaced in situ. It is anticipated that the public will be able to walk over the bridge once it is reinstalled and that it will become an important attraction for visitors to Blaenavon.

Cllr Bob Wellington, Leader of Torfaen Council, said: "I'm very pleased to see this work carried out to safeguard the future of this historically important landmark. We will work with our partners to ensure the restoration work is carried out with great care to ensure we are left with a safe structure that the community can be proud of."

Achub Pont Hanesyddol



The Iron Bridge © Chris Morris

Mae Cyngor Torfaen wedi datgan ei fwriad i ymgymryd â gwaith i warchod a diogelu pont ag iddi arwyddocâd hanesyddol, sef pont Aaron Brute. Mae'r bont haearn bwrw hon yn dyddio o'r 19eg gynnar ac ystyrir ei bod yn un o'r enghreifftiau cynharaf o'i

bath sy'n dal mewn bodolaeth. Mae'n cynrychioli goroesiad pwysig isadeiledd diwydiannol y cyfnod. Cafodd y bont ei chau i'r cyhoedd yn 2003 yn sgil pryderon y gallai gwmpo.

Sicrhawyd arian ar gyfer y gwaith adfer gan Cadw ac, mewn egwyddor, gan raglen gydgyfeiriant Parc Rhanbarthol y Cymoedd. Penodwyd Capita Symonds i ddylunio'r ffordd fwyaf priodol o ymgymryd â'r gwaith anodd o symud y bont o'i phentanau. Ar ôl ei symud, bydd y bont yn cael ei harolygu, ac ymgymerir â gwaith cadwraeth i'w hadfer, bydd y pentanau'n cael eu hailadeiladu a'r bont yn cael ei hailosod. Rhagwelir y bydd y cyhoedd yn cael cerdded dros y bont unwaith y bydd yn ôl yn ei lle, ac y daw'n atyniad pwysig i'r rhai sy'n ymweld â Blaenafon.

Dywedodd Arweinydd Cyngor Torfaen, y Cyngorydd Bob Wellington: "Rwy'n falch iawn o weld y gwaith hwn yn cael ei wneud i ddiogelu dyfodol y tirnod hanesyddol bwysig hwn. Byddwn yn gweithio gyda'n partneriaid i sicrhau bod y gwaith atgyweirio'n cael ei wneud yn ofalus i greu strwythur diogel y gall y gymuned ymfalchio ynddo."

Jedward Visit Blaenavon

Visitors to Blaenavon on 4 October were surprised and delighted to meet X-Factor stars Jedward, who were on site at the Ironworks, Big Pit and the Heritage Railway filming 'Jedward's Tour of Britain', a new programme being produced by Endemol for CBBC. It is expected that the programme will be broadcast before Christmas.

The programme has been made partly due to the efforts of the former Blaenavon World Heritage Site Co-ordinator John Rodger MBE and others in the Local Authorities World Heritage Forum (LAWHF) to raise the profile of the UK World Heritage Sites and to make their stories accessible to wider and more diverse audiences.

Jedward's tour features five of the UK's World Heritage Sites, namely the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape, the Jurassic Coast, the Tower of London, Hadrian's Wall and Edinburgh. The twins, Edward and John Grimes, clearly had lots of fun filming at Blaenavon and meeting people on site, they took a real interest in the importance of the area's industrial past which helped to change the world.



Jedward at Big Pit

Looking Back at a Wet Welsh Summer!



A scene from this year's World Heritage Day

Stephanie and Andrew Nummelin of Browning Books reflect on the summer of 2011.

When Andrew recalls childhood visits to Blaenavon during school holidays there are three abiding memories. Picking whimberries on the Bloreng, gathering armfuls of heather to take back to London and rain! This year was no different. The whimberries were wonderful, the heather glorious and the weather dreadful. Somehow however, Blaenavon worked its magic again and the sun shone on both World Heritage Day and the Garn Lakes Country Fayre and we enjoyed an added bonus as the sound of steam trains pounding up and down the old 'top line' transported us back many years.

Brownings is reminded almost daily of days gone by as visitors and loyal customers continue to seek out books filled with memories and faded photographs of old streets and old faces.

In October we celebrated the publication of a new book about Blaenavon, Whimberries on the Coity by Elvina Brock. More memories in the making we're sure.



Railway Branch Line to Big Pit Opens

Blaenavon's Heritage Railway has enjoyed a very good summer. It has seen much infrastructure work undertaken including the completion of the Varteg Road Bridge, the new station building at Furnace Sidings and the completion of the branch line to Big Pit, which was officially opened on 16 September by BBC Wales presenter Roy Noble and the Mayors of Torfaen and Blaenavon.

The opening of the branch proved an immediate success with over 800 passengers travelling during the weekend's opening event. The railway had brought three steam engines that once worked in south Wales back for the weekend. These engines provided an attraction not only to local people but to many enthusiasts who came from across the country to visit the railway, many for the first time. With the branch to Big Pit now open a direct link has now been established with Blaenavon town via the railway and it is hoped that all will now benefit.

The railway is now getting ready for the Santa Steam Specials which run every weekend in December from Furnace Sidings. With presents for the children, sherry for the grown ups, mince pies for all and a chance to meet Santa, these always prove popular. To make sure you don't miss out call 01495 792263 or email santa@pbrly.co.uk

© Alistair Grieve



Agor Lein Gangen y Rheilffordd i Bwll Mawr

Cafodd Rheilffordd Dreftadaeth Blaenafon haf arbennig o dda. Ymgwymerwyd â llawer o waith ar yr isadeiledd, gan gynnwys cwblhau Pont Heol y Farteg, adeilad yr orsaf newydd yng Nghilffyrdd y Ffwrnais, a chwblhau'r lein gangen i Bwll Mawr a gafodd ei hagog yn swyddogol ar 16 Medi gan gyflwynydd BBC Cymru, Roy Noble, ynghyd â Meiri Torfaen a Blaenafon.

Roedd y gangen newydd yn llwyddiant ar unwaith, â thro 800 o bobl yn teithio arni yn ystod penwythnos yr agoriad. Fe ddaeth y rheilffordd â thair injan stêm a oedd yn arfer gweithio yn ne Cymru'n ôl am y penwythnos. Denodd y rhain bobl leol yn ogystal â nifer o selogion a oedd wedi teithio ar draws y wlad i ymweld â'r rheilffordd, nifer ohonynt am y tro cyntaf. Nawr bod y gangen i Bwll Mawr yn agored, mae yna gyswllt uniongyrchol i dref Blaenafon ar y rheilffordd, a'r gobaiith yw y daw â buddion i bawb.

Mae'r rheilffordd nawr yn paratoi ar gyfer ymweliad Siôn Corn, digwyddiad fydd yn cael ei gynnal bob penwythnos ym mis Rhagfyr o Gilffyrdd y Ffwrnais. Mae'r digwyddiad hwn wastad yn boblogaidd, ag anrhegion i'r plant, sieri i'r oedolion, mins-peis i bawb yn ogystal â chyfle i gwrdd â Siôn Corn. I sicrhau nad ydych chi'n methu'r cyfle, ffoniwch 01495 792263 neu e-bostiwch santa@pbrly.co.uk

Festive Events at Big Pit



© NMW

Big Pit is rounding off another exciting year with a packed winter programme. Throughout the festive season and into 2012 we will be hosting a series of events which will bring an added reason to support your local National Museum. During December we have films, for both adults and children, trails, and a special one-day Christmas event, 'Customs, Crafts and Carols', on Saturday 10 December.

Films being screened include: 'A Child's Christmas in Wales', 'Muppets Christmas Carol' and 'Miracle on 34th Street'. All screenings are completely free. Throughout the Christmas holidays, younger visitors can follow trails and find out more about Big Pit, while collecting clues to win seasonal treats. At our 'Customs, Crafts and Carols' event, you can listen to traditional Christmas tales, make your own snow globe to take home and sing along to your favourite Christmas Carols. A highlight of the day will be carols round the Christmas tree.

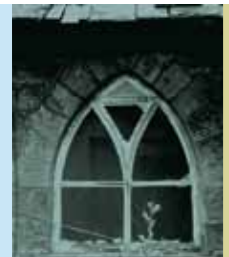
In the New Year, Big Pit will be hosting the second 'Love Food' weekend, with a whole range of delicious treats on offer to sample and buy, the perfect way to treat your loved one for Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen or St Valentine's Day. For more information on all events and activities at Big Pit, call us on 01495 790311 or visit www.museumwales.ac.uk/bigpit.

Digwyddiadau ym Mhwll Mawr dros yr Ŵyl

Mae Pwll Mawr yn dod â blwyddyn gyffrous arall i derfyn â rhaglen orlawn dros y gaeaf. Trwy gydol yr Ŵyl a dechrau 2012, byddwn yn cynnal cyfres o ddigwyddiadau fydd yn rheswm arall i gefnogi eich Amgueddfa Genedlaethol leol. Yn ystod mis Rhagfyr, bydd gennym ffilmiau, i oedolion a phlant, llwybrau, a digwyddiad undydd arbennig y Nadolig, 'Arferion, Crefftiau a Charolau', a gynhelir ddydd Sadwrn 10 Rhagfyr.

Bydd y ffilmiau sy'n cael eu dangos yn cynnwys: 'A Child's Christmas in Wales', 'Muppets Christmas Carol' a 'Miracle on 34th Street'. Mae'r rhain yn rhad ac am ddim. Dros wyliau'r Nadolig, fe all ymwelwyr iau ddilyn llwybrau a darganfod mwy am Bwll Mawr, a chasglu cliwiau i ennill pleserau tymhorol. Yn ystod ein digwyddiad 'Arferion, Crefftiau a Charolau', gallwch wrando ar hanesion traddodiadol y Nadolig, cyn gwneud eich glôb eira eich hun i fynd adref gyda chi, a chanu eich hoff Garolau Nadolig. Uchafbwynt y diwrnod fydd carolau o amgylch y goeden Nadolig.

Yn y Flwyddyn Newydd, bydd Pwll Mawr yn cynnal yr ail benwythnos 'Caru Bwyd', ag ystod o ddanteithion blasus ar gael i'w blasu a'u prynu, y ffordd berffaith o ddifetha eich anwylyd ar Ddydd Santes Dwynwen neu Ddydd Gŵyl Sain Ffolant. Am fwy o wybodaeth am yr holl ddigwyddiadau a gweithgareddau ym Mhwll Mawr, ffoniwch 01495 790311 neu ewch i www.museumwales.ac.uk/bigpit.



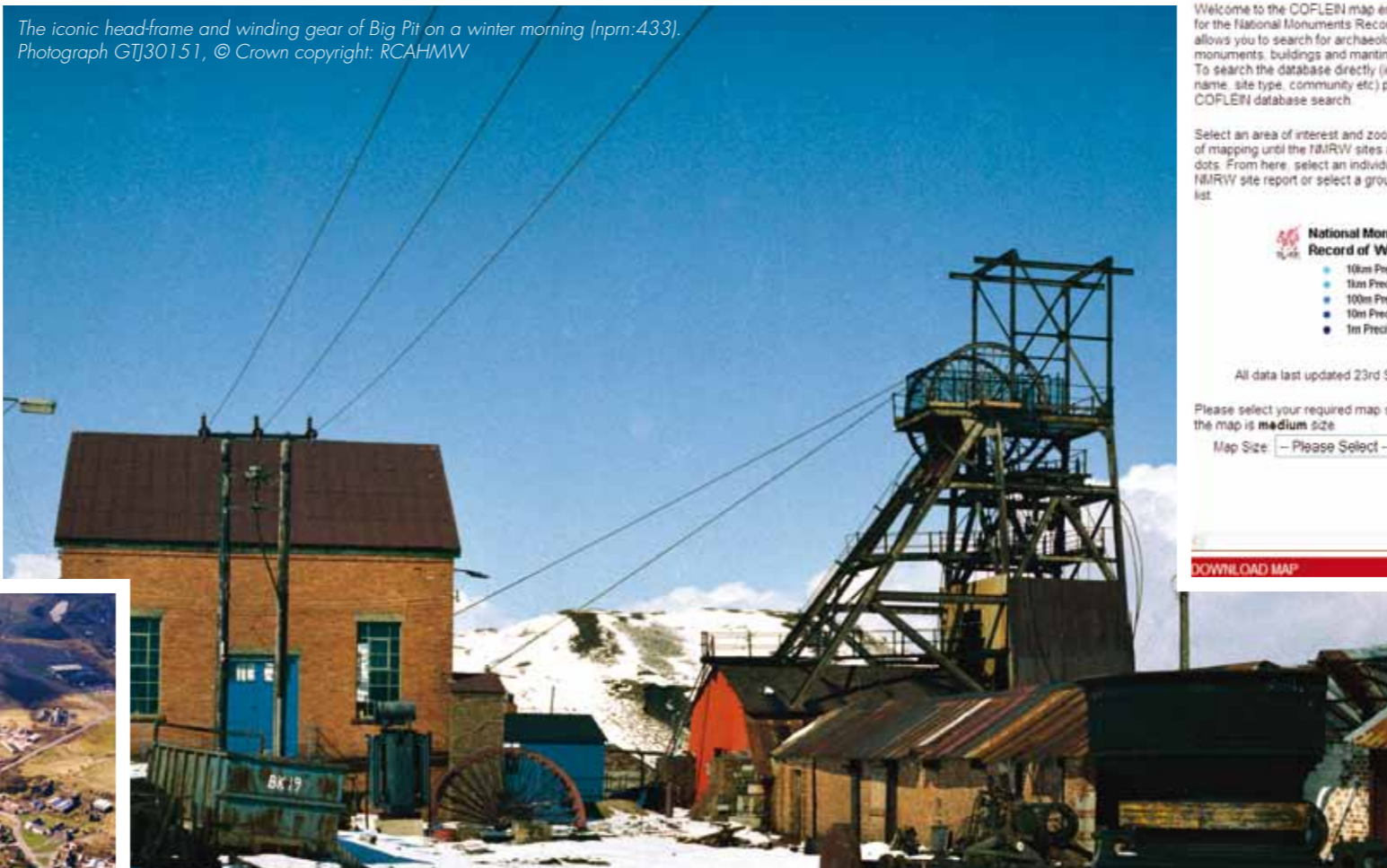
Exploring Blaenavon's Digital Past

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) was among the partners instrumental in achieving the World Heritage Status for Blaenavon in 2000. Work undertaken by the Commission at this time included measured surveys, aerial photography, upland studies and the computerised geographical mapping of the entire industrial landscape of Blaenavon. This resulted in the creation of an extensive range of records now freely available to all through the Royal Commission's online database, Coflein.

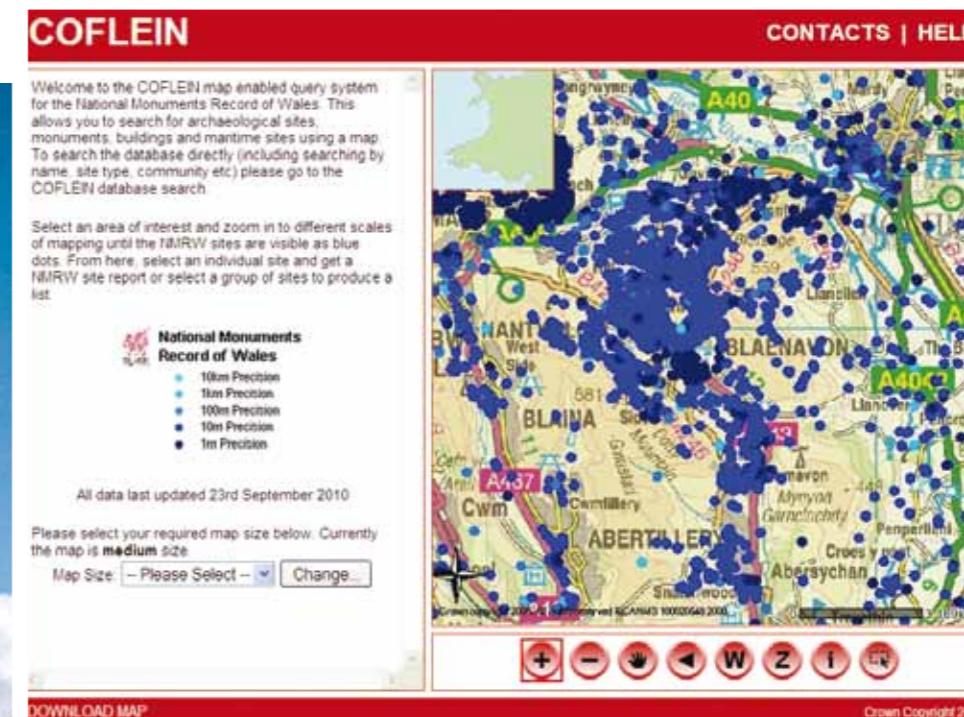
Coflein, the online database for the National Monuments Record of Wales, is a vital tool for anyone interested in the heritage of Wales. Freely available to all at www.coflein.gov.uk, it provides details of over 85,000 archaeological sites, monuments, buildings and maritime sites in Wales, together with an index to drawings, manuscripts and photographs. Over 60,000 items from the collections are available online and may be downloaded for further research or study. Coflein has nearly 2,000 site records relating to the World Heritage site of Blaenavon.

There are two ways to search for information through Coflein: by using the mapping facility or by a text search. The mapping facility is useful when the location of a site is

The iconic head-frame and winding gear of Big Pit on a winter morning (nprn:433). Photograph GTJ30151, © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Aerial view of Blaenavon Town taken in 1999 (nprn:33165). Photograph DI2009_0231, © Crown copyright: RCAHMW



Screenshot of Coflein mapping facility locating the 2000 site records at Blaenavon

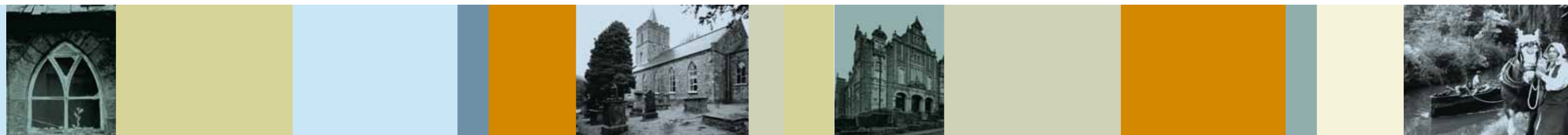
known already or when a particular geographical area is of interest (like Blaenavon) as it allows the user to pan around a map of Wales, zooming in and out through various map scales. The text search is better for finding named monuments and for retrieving sites by name, category, defined areas such as community, or even an Ordnance Survey five kilometre grid square. There is a keyword facility which searches for all occurrences of specified words throughout the database. You can also tick a box to restrict your records to sites with online images.

Extensive collections of record items exist for many of Blaenavon's most significant monuments and buildings, including the Ironworks, Big Pit, Stack Square workers' housing, Horeb Baptist Chapel, St Peter's Church, the Workmen's Hall and Institute, and the Pwll Du landscape.

An important aspect of the Coflein system is its ongoing development programme to respond to user needs. Planned improvements to the mapping facility in the next few months will allow greater searching ability and the production of distribution maps. Only screen-resolution versions of images are directly available via Coflein, but high quality versions, either in digital format or hard copy, can be ordered by e-mail (nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk), post or telephone. A copyright fee may be charged if the image is to be used for publication. All enquiries are welcomed.



Searching sequence of site records highlighting Big Pit

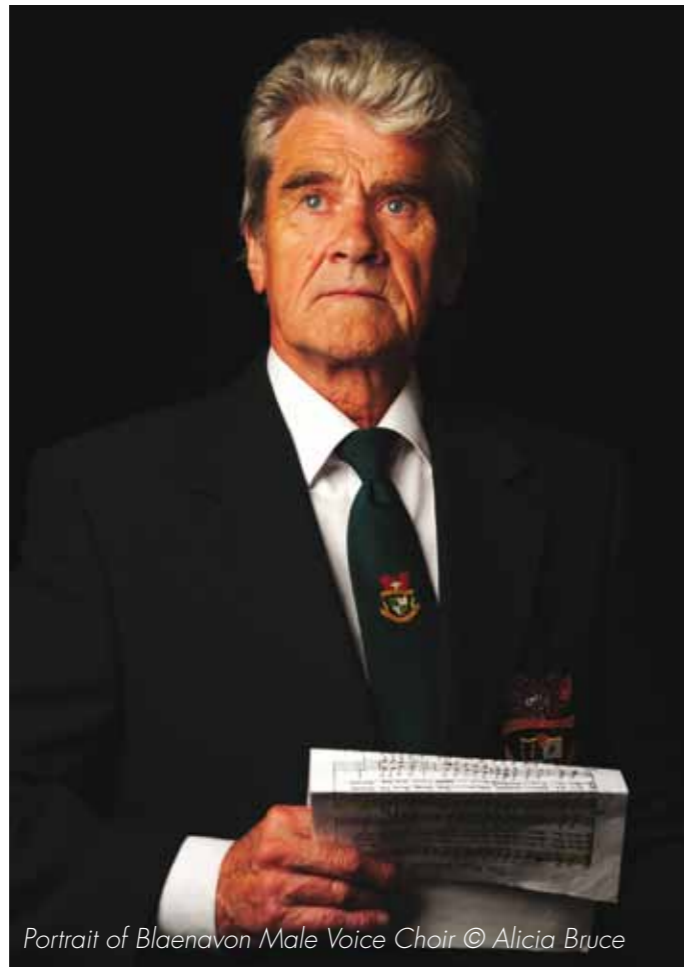


Blaenavon Welcomes Resident Photographer

During the summer the Blaenavon World Heritage Site was the focus of a thought-provoking photography project. Alicia Bruce, an internationally acclaimed Scottish photographer, was commissioned by Ffotogallery to produce work to reflect the socio-economic issues facing Blaenavon and south Wales today.

Alicia based herself in the Blaenavon area throughout the project and worked with people from all walks of life, including local residents, town centre traders and community groups. Several locations in and around the Blaenavon landscape were used to provide backdrops to a series of photographs that depict modern day life in the area. The photographs reference famous paintings such as 'Welsh Landscape with Two Women Knitting' by William Dyce (1806-1864) held in the National Museum Wales collection.

Alicia also ran a series of well-attended classes as part of the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre's programme of Art and Environmental Photography Workshops. The sessions explored the past and present of Blaenavon town and helped local people to develop their photography skills. The residency was enjoyed by Alicia and the local collaborators and it is hoped that the work will be exhibited widely in 2012/13. Further information can be found at www.aliciabruce.tumblr.com or www.aliciabruce.co.uk



Portrait of Blaenavon Male Voice Choir © Alicia Bruce

Croeso Cynnes i Ffotograffydd Preswyl ym Mlaenafon

Yn ystod yr haf, roedd Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon yn destun prosiect ffotograffiaeth i ysgogi'r meddwl. Comisiynwyd Alicia Bruce, ffotograffydd o'r Alban sy'n cael clod yn rhyngwladol, gan Ffotogallery i gynhyrchu gwaith i adlewyrchu'r materion economaidd-gymdeithasol sy'n wynebu Blaenafon a de Cymru heddiw.

Bu Alicia'n trigo yn ardal Blaenafon trwy gydol cyfnod y prosiect, a bu'n gweithio â phobl o bob lliw a llun, gan gynnwys trigolion lleol, masnachwyr canol y dref a grwpiau cymunedol. Defnyddiwyd sawl lleoliad o fewn, a gerllaw, tirwedd Blaenafon fel cefnlen i gyfres o ffotograffau sy'n darlunio bywyd y byd sydd ohoni yn yr ardal. Mae'r ffotograffau'n cyfeirnodu lluniau enwog, megis 'Welsh Landscape with Two Women Knitting' gan William Dyce (1806-1864) sy'n cael ei gadw yng nghasgliad Amgueddfa Cymru.

Cynhaliodd Alicia gyfres o ddsbarthiadau poblogaidd fel rhan o raglen o Weithdai Celf a Ffotograffiaeth Amgylcheddol Canolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon. Roedd y sesiynau'n archwilio tref Blaenafon ddoe a heddiw ac yn helpu pobl leol i ddatblygu'u sgiliau ffotograffiaeth. Mwynhaodd Alicia a'r cydweithredwyr lleol y profiad a'r gobaith yw y bydd y gwaith yn cael ei arddangos yn helaeth yn 2012/13. Ceir rhagor o wybodaeth yn www.aliciabruce.tumblr.com neu www.aliciabruce.co.uk

Students Learn about the Blaenavon Brand

Pupils from one of the UK's flagship academy schools have been using the Blaenavon World Heritage Site as a case-study to help bring their Business and ICT studies to life.

Year 12 & 13 students from Bristol Metropolitan Academy have been analysing the distinctive Blaenavon World Heritage Site branding as part of their ICT studies. The students are required to design a 'house-style' for an imaginary business as one of their assignments. By studying examples of *Heritage News*, leaflets, flyers and posters, they have been able to identify consistent elements as well as seeing examples of good practice. Research has also been conducted into how the branding is reflected in the World Heritage Site website and signage throughout the area. With these examples in mind, the students have produced document templates that are of professional quality.

Business students in Years 9, 10 & 11 recently visited Big Pit and the World Heritage Centre to learn about how the economy of the area has changed over the last century and understand the effects of these changes on the local community. Using Big Pit as a business case-study, they looked at how it used to operate and how it functions today, and the reasons behind its change from colliery to heritage attraction.



Pupils looking at WHS promotional material

Myfyrwyr Bryste'n Dysgu am Frand Blaenafon

Mae disgyblion o un o ysgolion academi blaenllaw'r Deyrnas Unedig wedi bod yn defnyddio Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon fel astudiaeth achos i helpu dod â'u hastudiaethau Busnes a TGCh yn fyw.

Mae myfyrwyr Blwyddyn 12 a 13 o Academi Fetropolitanaid Bryste wedi bod yn dadansoddi brand nodedig Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon fel rhan o'u hastudiaethau TGCh. Disgwylir i'r myfyrwyr ddylunio 'arddull cwmni' ar gyfer busnes dychmygol fel un o'u tasgau. Trwy astudio enghreifftiau o gylchlythyrau, taflenni, pamffledi a phosteri Safle Treftadaeth y Byd, bu'n bosibl iddynt bennu elfennau cyson yn ogystal â gweld enghreifftiau o arfer da. Aethpwyd ati hefyd i archwilio sut yr adlewyrchir y brand ar y wefan ac ar arwyddion Safle Treftadaeth y Byd ar hyd a lled yr ardal. Gyda golwg ar yr enghreifftiau hyn, mae'r myfyrwyr wedi llunio templedi dogfennau o safon broffesiynol.

Yn ddiweddar, ymwelodd myfyrwyr busnes Blwyddyn 9, 10 ac 11 â Phwll Mawr a Chanolfan Treftadaeth y Byd i ddysgu sut y mae economi'r ardal wedi newid dros y ganrif ddiwethaf, a chael cyfle i ddeall effeithiau'r newidiadau hyn ar y gymuned leol. Gan ddefnyddio Pwll Mawr fel astudiaeth achos busnes, gwelant sut yr arferai gael ei redeg a sut y mae'n cael ei redeg heddiw, a'r rhesymau dros ei newid o lofa i atyniad treftadaeth.



Volunteer Rangers going from strength to strength

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Volunteer Rangers are taking on even more tasks to support the work of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership, thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a range of other partners.

The group mostly carries out conservation tasks, such as vegetation clearance and footpath maintenance. However, some new volunteers have also helped with the Junior Rangers club and others are monitoring wildlife to keep track of the effects of FLP moorland management. Six volunteers have also undergone the Dry Stone Walling Association's Craftsman Certification Scheme Level One assessment. They will be repairing walls, which are important heritage features, as well as stopping farmers' livestock from getting out.

The Volunteer Rangers have provided a fantastic total of 1134 hours since November 2010. There are still spaces for enthusiastic people to join in and FLP will be looking for volunteer guided walks leaders soon. For more information about all volunteering opportunities go to www.visitblaenavon.co.uk or contact Sarah Lewis on 01495 742335 or email: sarah.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk



The WHS volunteers at work

Commons Update



Bracken rolling in the landscape

Commons Officer Alvin Nicholas recently took delivery of an 'alpine' tractor, completing the Forgotten Landscapes Project machinery ring. Project machinery will be used by local commoners and project staff to manage and improve local commons. The tractor's wide wheels and a low centre of gravity make it safe to use on steep slopes like those found on the hills around Blaenavon. The alpine tractor will be mainly used to control bracken and to cut heather on difficult sites both this year and in the years to come.

Welsh Black cattle are set to return to the hills above Blaenavon in early 2012. The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership and PONT Cymru (the Welsh arm of the Grazing Advice Partnership) are working with local commoners to bring traditional breeds of cattle back onto local common land. 'Conservation grazing' helps to create a more diverse, wildlife-rich landscape by suppressing bracken and coarse grassland. In addition, it can deliver real economic benefits to local communities.

The project has successfully completed its second year of bracken management as part of a major effort to assist local commoners, improve the quality of important upland habitats and maintain trails. This year local commoners tackled around 200 hectares of bracken using the project's bracken rollers and spraying equipment.

Artist's Memories of Blaenavon

Following the positive response to his Blaenavon Heritage Feature – Goff's Trail, renowned Welsh professional artist Goff Danter will be exhibiting a range of his printed works at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre from 5 November to 22 December 2011. Goff is a much acclaimed and sought after artist and is now regarded by many as one of the most successful artists of his generation. His work is in great demand.

This feature is the first of a series based upon the background and origins of Goff's paintings, which include nostalgic Welsh art, fairground art and industrial art. The exhibition will include prints of the coal, iron and steel industries and include a selection from the forthcoming feature on canals.

The feature explores the history of the area, with particular reference to the time in Goff's childhood when he lived at the Whistle Inn at Garn-yr-Erw. It contains rare personal photographs and images of paintings derived from Goff's recollections and memories of those times. This exhibition provides an opportunity to view an expansive range of Goff's prints, in particular his industrial and nostalgic Welsh art.

'Memories of childhood have no order and no end'. Dylan Thomas



Artist Goff Danter

A Fresh! Beginning



Fresh! The Heritage Tea Rooms

The café at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre is under new management. Fresh! The Heritage Tea Rooms, part of Cottage Catering, opened in June 2011. David Walden, owner of Cottage Catering, said 'we hope to provide visitors to Blaenavon with the opportunity to experience the traditional tastes of Welsh food; we hope to form partnerships with local companies and to form relationships with the community and would welcome local organisations into the centre. Our aim has always been to cater for people with both quality and value in mind. I always believe in delivering a first class service to our customers and will try our very best to meet their needs.'

A varied menu is offered, including tasty traditional home-cooked meals, snacks, sandwiches and afternoon teas. Cottage Catering can also provide a buffet service for meetings and training events when required by people using the centre and other venues in the area.

The café is open 9:30-16:30 (Apr-Sep) and 9:30-15:30 (Oct-Mar), closed Christmas to New Year. For more information please visit www.visitblaenavon.co.uk, email Blaenavon.tic@torfaen.gov.uk or phone 01495 742339.



Coming Events

Phil Caradice Book Signing at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre

22 November 2011

Phil will be presenting his book 'Snapshots of Welsh History – Without the Boring Bits'. Tickets £2.00 includes a glass of wine and discount on the book. 6.15pm.

The Blessing of the Crib

28 November 2011

Carol Service, readings, prayers and Christmas light switch on. Market Square, 7pm.

Friends of the Green Group – Christmas Event

2 December 2011

Come along and join in singing Christmas carols around the tree. Enjoy hot drinks and mince pies on the Green! Charles Street, Blaenavon Tel: 01495 792335, 6.30pm.

Boxing Tournament

2 December 2011

The Ken Jones Memorial Group are hosting a Boxing Tournament at the Blaenavon Workmen's Hall, with the proceeds going to the fund. Tickets £10, 7.30pm, for more information contact 01495 790477 or 01495 792335.

Winter Wonderland

3/4 December 2011

Blaenavon Heritage Town – see flyer for details.

Blaenavon Leg Club Christmas Fair

3 December 2011

Come along and support your local leg club at this annual Christmas Fayre. Constitutional Club, 10am – 3pm.

Santa Steam Specials

3/4, 10/11, 17/18 December 2011

Travel by steam to see Santa's Grotto, where there will be presents for children and sherry and mince pies for adults. Blaenavon Heritage Railway, 11am – 3pm. Special fares apply – book ahead to avoid disappointment Tel: 01495 792263.

Customs, Craft and Carols

10 December 2011

Celebrate the festive season with story-telling, seasonal music and Christmas crafts. Big Pit, free admission, 11am – 4pm, (small charge applies for craft activities). Tel: 01495 790311 or visit www.museumwales.ac.uk

Christmas Ornament Workshop

10 December 2011

Becky Adams will be running a drop in workshop session in Chocs Away, Broad Street, Blaenavon, make that unique Christmas ornament! 11am – 4pm.

Blorenge Wednesday

14 December 2011

Seasonal film screening: A Child's Christmas in Wales. Big Pit, free admission, 1.30pm. Tel: 01495 790311 or visit www.museumwales.ac.uk

Nine lessons and Carols

18 December 2011

St. Peter's Church, 6pm.

Family Crib Service

24 December 2011

St. Peter's Church, 6pm.

Candlelight Service

24 December 2011

Horeb Baptist Chapel, 6pm.

Midnight Mass

24 December 2011

St. Paul's Church, 10.45pm.

Christmas Eucharist with Carols

25 December 2011

St. Peter's Church, 10am.

Family Worship and Communion

25 December 2011

Horeb Baptist Chapel, 10am.

Seasonal Family Film Screening 27 – 30 December 2011

27 – 30 December 2011

Screenings of a range of classic festive family films. Big Pit, free admission, 1.30pm daily. Tel: 01495 790311 or visit www.museumwales.ac.uk

