

HERITAGE NEWS

BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE SITE NEWSLETTER ISSUE 10 - Summer 2010



10 Year Celebrations Here We Come!

2010 marks the tenth anniversary of Blaenavon gaining World Heritage Site status. That makes this year's World Heritage Day (26 June) the tenth and preparations are well underway to make sure that the town celebrates this milestone in style! As ever, the day promises to be full of events and activities for all the family to enjoy!

The festivities will be officially opened by the Town Crier at 11:30am in Market Square and an exciting day of live music and street entertainment will follow. As always, the highlight of the day will be the Heritage Costume Parade which starts at Broad Street car park at 1:30pm and proceeds through the town centre. With fantastic costumes, dancers, brass bands and samba drumming, the parade is a spectacle that is enjoyed by everyone, year after year. Don't be afraid, come and join in the parade, everyone is welcome! Once again, our favourite artists return to work with the local schools and the community to create the amazing costumes that never fail to dazzle the crowd. Check out the leaflet inside for details.

Throughout the day, children can enjoy the Victorian funfair including a carousel, street entertainers and live music. Take time to visit the craft stalls and shops in the town and enjoy a choice of refreshments before the festivities end at 5:00pm.

Chair of Blaenavon World Heritage Committee Mr. Neil Lewis MBE said "We are looking forward to another special day. We had an excellent turn out last year and we would love to see more people take part in this year's Heritage Parade especially as it is the tenth anniversary of Blaenavon's World Heritage Site status. I'd like to thank all those who have taken part in previous years and look forward to welcoming more people in the future."

For more information check out the leaflet inside, visit www.visitblaenavon.co.uk or telephone 01495 742333.

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Garn Lakes Country Fayre

Following on from the festivities of World Heritage Day, enjoy a day in the countryside on Sunday 27 June at the Garn Lakes Country Fayre. Taking place between 10:30am and 5:00pm, activities include kayaking on the lake, fishing, a climbing wall, archery, orienteering and cycling. Younger children can enjoy storytelling, face painting, trampolines and a bouncy castle.

The ever popular craft marquee will be filled with various craft stalls selling jewellery, art, textiles, wood-turned items, cheese and chutneys. The biodiversity area will include stalls from the RSPB, Gwent Badger Group and Gwent Beekeepers, as well as the opportunity to participate in traditional woodland crafts. Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

The now well-established dog show will start at midday, with fun classes for dogs of all shapes and sizes.

Sponsored by Trophy Pet Foods Welsh Valleys, there will be rosettes and prizes for all winners, with a treat for every dog who enters. Entry to each class is only £1.

Make sure to visit the Blaenavon Steam Railway, who will be running trains throughout the day, with a special offer of 2 for 1 on all tickets. And take a ride on the FREE vintage bus which will be operating all day. It will circulate visitors around the World Heritage Site, with stops at the Steam Railway, Blaenavon Ironworks, Big Pit, the World Heritage Centre and the town centre. Entry to the Fayre is FREE to all visitors. Cars will be charged £2 to park.

For further information on World Heritage Weekend, telephone the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre on 01495 742333, or visit www.visitblaenavon.co.uk



Weathering the Storm Dygymod â'r Storm

Stephanie Nummelin of Browning Books reflects on how Blaenavon's community coped with the worst winter for 30 years.

"We are hardy souls in this neck of the woods. We certainly needed to be over the last couple of seasons. The wet summer of 2009 saw us running for shelter so many times that we all celebrated with relief when World Heritage Day dawned bright and clear. But then November arrived! This past winter we had a great deal of snow every month until early March. As usual, a community as strong and caring as ours grabbed their wellies and just got on with it. We, at Brownings, had many days when we simply couldn't get from Brecon to Blaenavon. When we did arrive it was to discover that water from melting snow had poured down the stairs. Luckily no books were damaged so we found a mop and like so many others carried on!"

"We know that the coming summer is going to be the best ever for Blaenavon. We celebrate the tenth year since we were awarded World Heritage Status! We also celebrate a community that is as strong and resilient as it ever was."

Stephanie Nummelin o Browning Books yn myfyrio ar allu cymuned Blaenafon i ymdopi â'r gaeaf gwaethaf ers 30mlynedd.

"Rydym yn bobl gydnerth yma yn y rhan hon o'r wlad. Ac yn sicr, roedd angen i ni fod dros y tymhorau diwethaf. Fe redom am gysgod gymaint o weithiau yn ystod haf gwlyb 2009 mai gollwng ochenaid o ryddhad wnaethom pan wawriodd Diwrnod Treftadaeth y Byd yn ddiwrnod braf a chllir. Ond yna fe gyrhaeddodd mis Tachwedd! Y gaeaf diwethaf, cawsom lawer iawn o eira bob mis tan ddechrau mis Mawrth, ac yn ddi-ffael, fe wnaeth cymuned sydd mor gadarn a gofalgar â'n cymuned ni, gydio yn eu sgidiau glaw a bwrw ati. Roedd yna nifer o ddyddiau pan nad oedd hi'n bosib i ni, yma yn Brownings, deithio o Aberhonddu i Flaenafon. Wedi i ni gyrraedd ymhen hir a hwyr darganfuom fod dŵr wedi llifo i lawr y grisiau wrth i'r eira doddi. Yn ffodus iawn ni ddifrodwyd y llyfrau, felly daethom o hyd i fop, a bwrw ati fel pawb arall!"

"Rydym yn gwybod mai'r haf hwn fydd y gorau eto ym Mlaenafon. Eleni rydym yn dathlu degawd ers i ni dderbyn Statws Treftadaeth y Byd! Rydym hefyd yn dathlu cymuned sydd cyn gryfed a gwydn ag erioed."

Blaenavon's community braves the harsh weather



Full Steam Ahead!

After many years of being just out of town at the Garn Lakes, Blaenavon's Heritage Railway has finally arrived and is now running trains from the High Level Station on Varteg Road. 2010 is going to be a very busy year for the railway with a lot of family events as well as something for the enthusiast. The little engines come out to play on 19/20 June whilst on 17/18 July the big diesels are in town. In August Ivor the Engine will be paying a visit, whilst the big steam gala on 18/19 September features 'City of Truro', the first ever steam locomotive to achieve 100 mph.

For something a little different there is a 1940s weekend and beer festival on 10/11 July and fancy dress is encouraged. If you really want to dress up outlandishly then get on board the spooky ghost train on the 30/31 October! On the 4/5 September the railway is holding a Charities Weekend and anybody wishing to raise funds and awareness is free to come along. With 2010 promising to be the biggest year in the railway's history, why not go along and be part of it?

For more information telephone 01495 792263 or visit www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk



'City of Truro' (image courtesy of Alistair Grieve)

Ar Garlam Ymlaen!

Wedi blynyddoedd lawer o fod ar gyrion y dref ger Llynnoedd y Garn, mae Rheilffordd Treftadaeth Blaenafon wedi cyrraedd o'r diwedd, ac erbyn hyn mae yna drenau yn rhedeg o'r Orsaf Lefel Uchel ar Heol Farteg. Mae 2010 yn addo i fod yn flwyddyn brysur iawn i'r rheilffordd, gyda llawer o ddiwyddiadau i deuluoedd yn ogystal â rhywbeth arbennig i'r brwdfrydig. Daw'r injans bychain allan i chwarae ar y 19eg a'r 20fed o Fehefin tra bod y disels mawrion yn cyrraedd y dref ar y 17eg

a'r 18fed o Orffennaf. Ym mis Awst bydd lfor yr Injan yn galw heibio, a bydd y gala stêm ar y 18fed a'r 19eg o Fedi yn cynnwys 'City of Truro', y locomotif stêm cyntaf erioed i gyrraedd 100 milltir yr awr.

Ar y 10fed a'r 11eg o Orffennaf mae yna ryw beth bach gwahanol; penwythnos 1940 a gŵyl gwrw - anogir gwisg ffansi.

Os hoffech chi wisgo i fyny o ddifri beth am neidio ar fwrdd y trên sgrech ar y 30ain a'r 31ain o Hydref! Mae'r rheilffordd yn cynnal Penwythnos Elusennau ar y 4ydd a'r 5ed o Fedi ac estynnir croeso i unrhyw un sydd am godi arian ac ymwybyddiaeth. Gyda 2010 yn addo i fod yn flwyddyn fwy nac erioed yn hanes y rheilffordd, beth am ymuno, a bod yn rhan ohoni?

Am ragor o wybodaeth ffoniwch 01495 792263 neu ewch i www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk

A Season of Events at Big Pit Making Music Together

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity and Big Pit is taking part in this initiative to raise awareness of the local landscape. The museum is hosting a series of events throughout the summer, in partnership with Forgotten Landscapes, to show families how accessible activities such as pond dipping and fossil hunting can be. Other events, including bat walks and landscape detective events, are taking place through July and August, where you can discover how nature has reclaimed the Coity Tips, located alongside the main Big Pit site.

During the summer we are also hosting our 'Music on the Patio' series, which has been very successful in previous years. Throughout July, a number of local bands and choirs will be giving free open-air concerts on the patio outside the Pithead Baths, for both visitors and local people to enjoy. The line up this year includes Blaenavon Town Band, Risca Salvation Army Band, CJ Singers, Llwydcoed Brass Band and Blaenavon Concert Band. What better way to spend a sunny Sunday afternoon than sitting outside enjoying tea and cake and listening to good music?

For further details about these events, please visit www.museumwales.ac.uk



The Coity Tip



Part of the Gamelan (image courtesy of 'Heads for Arts')

The industrial heritage of the Heads of the Valleys is providing the inspiration for an exciting music project being developed in Blaenavon. 'Head for Arts' is working with local musician Chrys Blanchard to create a community "Gamelan" - a collection of instruments based on the ensembles of gongs, metallophones and metal bowls that are part of Indonesian culture.

The Blaenavon Gamelan is being fabricated from recycled metal sourced from the area - including "bells" crafted from gas cylinders, old pipes, bits of railway line and discarded tools. The objects are cut to size, tuned, decorated and transformed into instruments. The initiative plays a central role in the development of a three-year "Cauldrons and Furnaces" Legacy Trust project based on the Ironworks site as part of the Cultural Olympiad.

A 'come and try' session took place at the World Heritage Centre in April to enlist volunteers for the performance group, 'BLING!' The group will make its debut in the grounds of the World Heritage Centre (11:30am & 2:30pm) on World Heritage Day (26 June). The instrument will later feature in a community play on the Ebbw Vale Works site on the eve of the National Eisteddfod.

For more information, email info@head4arts.org.uk or telephone: 01495 357815/6.



Forgotten No More!

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and parts of the surrounding area have received an investment of £2.47 million to further enhance and conserve the area's precious natural and cultural heritage. The funding was awarded to the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Scheme which aims to improve public awareness of the important local landscape and to continue the social and economic regeneration of the region.

Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council, Councillor Bob Wellington said 'The project will ensure that visitors and local people will be able to access, understand and enjoy this remarkable area. As a key eastern gateway, Forgotten Landscapes will also act as a stepping stone into the Valleys Regional Park and will help reconnect local people with their rich and globally important heritage.'



Damage to Dyne Steel incline - an important part of the Iron Mountain Trail - will be repaired by FLP

The project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and other partners including the Welsh Assembly Government, will deliver a range of regeneration and conservation projects including:

- The conservation and restoration of historical features such as the Pwll Du Tunnel which was used to transport coal, limestone and pig iron between Blaenavon Ironworks and Garn Ddryys Forge.
- Conservation of the important upland habitats and wildlife including the restoration of heather moor land and the recovery of the declining red grouse population.
- Management of bracken on the mountainside to improve grazing and to promote the return of Welsh mountain ponies.



Micro hydro scheme will be installed at the Dragon's Teeth on the Afon Lwyd

- Improved access to the landscape and its features.
- Educational projects and improved facilities such as providing countryside skills training for local people.
- A micro-hydro project above Forgeside Community Wood which will generate enough electricity to power around 35 homes and prevent the emission of 70 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The money earned from electricity sales will be used to resource the ongoing conservation of the heritage landscape.

The Forgotten Landscapes team will be based at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre for the duration of the three year project. Steven Rogers, the Forgotten Landscapes Manager, said 'This funding will ensure the continued development of the World Heritage Site and help it to become an internationally recognised heritage attraction.'

For more information about this exciting project visit www.forgottenlandscapes.org.uk or contact Steven Rogers, telephone 01633 648582, email steven.rogers@torfaen.gov.uk

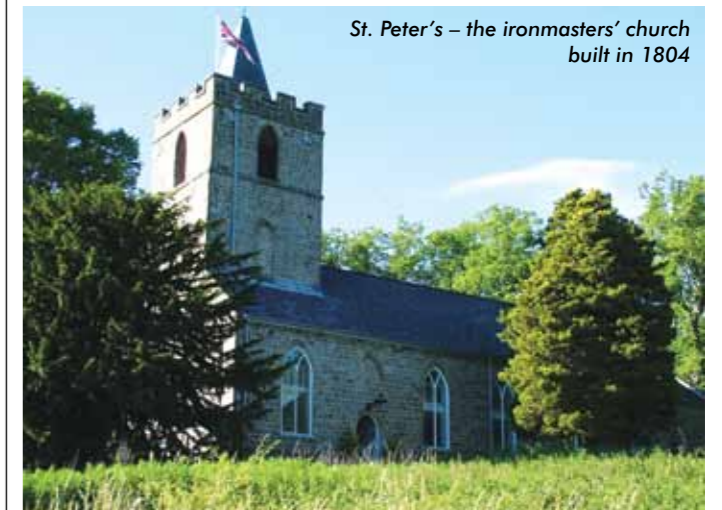
Supported by **The National Lottery** through the Heritage Lottery Fund. Cefnogwyd gan **Y Loteri Genedlaethol** trwy Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri

Bishop Visits Blaenavon

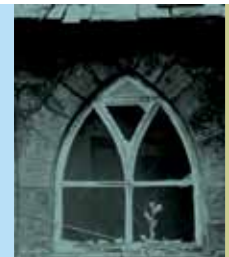
In April the Diocese of Monmouth and the Blaenavon World Heritage Committee organised a 'family fun day' to Blaenavon. Well over a hundred people, young and old, enjoyed the event, which helped raise funds to repair the roof of St. Woolos Cathedral in Newport. The group, which included the Bishop of Monmouth, visited St. Peter's Church where they had the chance to learn about its fascinating history and interesting features.

The visitors then walked the short distance to the World Heritage Centre, where they were greeted by representatives from Torfaen County Borough Council, Blaenavon Town Council and the Blaenavon World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Site Co-ordinator, John Rodger MBE, gave a talk on the subject of World Heritage and the Blaenavon experience. He also highlighted a link between Blaenavon and St. Woolos Cathedral, noting that the Blaenavon Ironmaster, Benjamin Pratt, who died in 1794, had a memorial plaque in the Cathedral.

During the afternoon a buffet lunch was provided at the Workmen's Hall and a musical performance was given by talented local harpist, Gabriella Jones. An address was also given by the former Secretary of State for Wales, the Rt. Hon. Paul Murphy MP. Chair of the Blaenavon World Heritage Committee Mr. Neil Lewis MBE said "This was an excellent day. Everyone was thrilled and very impressed with Blaenavon and what it has to offer. Although we couldn't take our guests everywhere, most said that they would definitely return again soon".



St. Peter's - the ironmasters' church built in 1804



Honour Bestowed Upon Son of Blaenavon

Chairman of the Blaenavon World Heritage Committee and Blaenavon Town Councillor, Neil Lewis, was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the New Year Honours List for services to Industrial Heritage and the community of Blaenavon.

A well-known face in Blaenavon, Cllr Lewis has tirelessly devoted decades of his life to public service. As a former Torfaen County Councillor, Neil Lewis played a prominent role in the renewal of the area through holding the post of Executive Member for Regeneration. For many years he has helped promote the area's heritage, serving as Chairman of

the Blaenavon World Heritage Committee since its creation in 2001 and serving nationally as the Chairman of the Local Authority World Heritage Forum (LAWHF) between 2007 and 2008.

On receiving the prestigious award, Cllr Lewis said "I am very proud to receive this award on behalf of the people of Blaenavon. I would like to thank Blaenavon Town Council and Officers of the Blaenavon Project Team at Torfaen Council without whom this would not have been possible. Everyone has played a part in helping to promote Blaenavon's World Heritage Site status of which I am extremely proud."



Cllr Neil Lewis receiving his MBE

Anrhydedd Mawr i Un o Feibion Blaenafon

Dyfarwyd yr MBE i Neil Lewis, Cyngorydd Tref Blaenafon a Chadeirydd Pwyllgor Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon yn Rhestr Anrhydeddau'r Flwyddyn Newydd am wasanaethau i Dreftadaeth Ddiwydiannol a chymuned Blaenafon.

Mae'r Cyngorydd Lewis, sydd yn wyneb cyfarwydd iawn ym Mlaenafon, wedi ymroi degawdau o'i fywyd i weithio'n ddiflino i wasanaeth cyhoeddus. Fel cyn-gyngorydd Sir Torfaen, fe chwaraeodd Neil Lewis rhan flaenllaw ym mhroses adnewyddu'r ardal drwy ymgymryd â swydd Aelod Gweithredol dros Adfywio. Am flynyddoedd lawer fe hyrwyddodd treftadaeth yr ardal, gan wasanaethu fel

Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon ers ei sefydlu yn 2001 ac yn genedlaethol fel Cadeirydd Fforwm Treftadaeth y Byd yr Awdurdod Lleol rhwng 2007 a 2008.

Wrth dderbyn yr anrhydedd mawreddog, meddai'r Cyng. Lewis "Mae'n bleser i dderbyn y fath anrhydedd ar ran pobl Blaenafon. Hoffwn ddiolch i Gyngor Tref Blaenafon a Swyddogion Tim Prosiect Blaenafon yng Nghyngor Torfaen gan na fyddai hyn yn bosibl hebddynt. Mae pawb wedi chwarae rhan hanfodol i hyrwyddo statws Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon yr wyf innau yn hynod falch ohono".

Street Songs and the Journey

The Welsh National Opera is delighted to be taking part in this year's World Heritage Day, where a day long programme of free events will culminate in an epic concert performance.

Share the magic of music with your family at the Street Songs Festival, taking place at the World Heritage Centre and the Workmen's Hall between 10am and 5pm. Events on offer include percussion, puppetry and writing workshops, as well as short film screenings and choral concerts.

Then, at 7:30pm, join us at the Workmen's Hall for 'The Journey', a dramatic concert experience that will take you on a journey ending at the best of all places - home. Set in the Valleys, this is a moving story of life and love told on an epic scale with music and words performed by a specially formed community choir. Book now by calling Blaenavon World Heritage Centre on 01495 742333 - tickets cost £2.50 and include a glass of wine or soft drink.

The Journey and Street Songs Festival is the climax of Welsh National Opera's 'Street Songs' project which has been realised in communities throughout the South Wales Valleys over the past three years.

Supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation.



New School for our Children



An artist's impression of the completed campus

The school and leisure elements of the Blaenavon Community Campus received the green light from Torfaen County Borough Council's planning committee on 20 April 2010, when the project's detailed planning application was unanimously approved. The go-ahead was given for a brand new 450-place primary school, a 130-place nursery, dedicated 'Flying Start' areas and new leisure facilities. The campus will include a two-court badminton hall, a fitness suite, a dance studio and an outdoor Multi Use Games Area with associated changing rooms.

Construction work will start in early July with an anticipated build time of over one year. The new school and leisure facilities will be opened as soon as possible and certainly within the 2011/2012 academic year. In advance of the main school build, certain 'enabling' works are being undertaken such as highway improvements and footpath diversions in the Ton Mawr Road and Middle Coed Cae area.

Being delivered by Torfaen County Borough Council and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board, it is expected that the £15 million campus will provide a wide range of community services for the residents of Blaenavon and the surrounding North Torfaen and Heads of the Valleys area.

For further information, please visit the project website www.torfaen.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/BlaenavonCommCampus or telephone 01495 742613.



On The Move!

After many years of adult and community learning courses at Blaenavon Community Education Centre in Park Street the Torfaen Adult and Community Learning Centre has now relocated. During the Easter break, staff said a fond farewell to the centre which has hosted so many activities over the years and moved the very short distance to Church View near the Co-op.

Church View is already well established as an adult education centre and Torfaen ACL will be providing a variety of learning opportunities there in partnership with the WEA and Torfaen Voluntary Alliance.

Do come and join us and enjoy the excellent facilities at this centre. We look forward to welcoming you.



The former Community Education Centre in Park Street

Cartref Newydd i'r Ganolfan Addysg!



Wedi cynnal cyrsiau addysg oedolion yn y gymuned am lawer o flynyddoedd yng Nghanolfan Addysg Oedolion a Chymunedol Blaenafon yn Stryd y Parc, mae Canolfan Addysg Oedolion a Chymunedol Torfaen erbyn hyn wedi symud. Yn ystod gwyliau'r Pasg, fe ffarweliodd staff â'r ganolfan sydd wedi cynnal cymaint o weithgareddau dros y blynyddoedd, a symud tafliad carreg i ffwrdd i Church View ger y Co-op.

Mae Church View eisoes yn ganolfan addysg oedolion sefydledig a bydd Addysg Oedolion a Chymunedol Torfaen yn darparu amrywiol gyfleoedd dysgu yno mewn partneriaeth â Chymdeithas Addysg y Gweithwyr a Chynghrair Gwirfoddol Torfaen.

Dewch i ymuno a ni a mwynhau cyfleusterau rhagorol y ganolfan hon. Edrychwn ymlaen at eich croesawu.

Characters from Bygone Days Visit the Centre

The Blaenavon World Heritage Centre welcomed over 27,000 visitors during its second year of operation, a considerable rise from the 17,500 visitors of 2008/09. The impressive visitor numbers were substantially bolstered by a huge increase in school visits during the past year. Councillor John Cunningham, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, said he was delighted with the news. "The visitor figures show that the World Heritage Centre is the ideal starting point for visitors," he said. "We are very proud of our industrial past and I'm delighted to hear that the numerous attractions in the Blaenavon area are proving to be very popular. It really is a one stop shop for anyone who wants to learn more about Blaenavon's fascinating history".

Based in the former St. Peter's School, the World Heritage Centre has clearly assumed the mantle of its educational predecessor and is rapidly becoming the focal point for learning about the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape. Throughout February and March over 6,000 schoolchildren were entertained by Blaenavon characters from bygone ages, admirably played by actors from Welsh drama group 'Chance Encounters'.

The Centre also has an ever-growing digital archive and research facilities for students, local historians and genealogists. These services complement the Centre's excellent multimedia exhibitions, conference facilities, tourist information provision, shop and cafe. The centre has something for everyone!

To find out more, please contact 01495 742333 or email blaenavon.tic@torfaen.gov.uk



Percy Gilchrist, played by actor Tony Thomas, entertains a school

Walter Waygood Exhibition



Ray 'Skint' Jones and Bill 'Duke' Jones drinking at the Cambrian Inn © Walter Waygood.

Throughout the summer, documentary photographer, Walter Waygood, is displaying an exhibition of his work at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre. Walter started his photography career in Blaenavon in the late 1970s where he was inspired by the area's dramatic industrial landscape. Working throughout the South Wales Valleys between the 1970s and the 1990s, Walter became fascinated by the social, economic, political and physical transformations taking place. During this period he poignantly captured the changing character of the Valleys and industrial society through a series of heart-warming photographs.

Many of the photographs in the exhibition show the now 'lost' features of Blaenavon's landscape and community, including the 'Black Ranks' at Garn-yr-erw, demolished in the early 1980s. In what is guaranteed to be a thought-provoking exhibition, the World Heritage Centre would appreciate your reminiscences of Blaenavon and Garn-yr-erw during this fascinating period.

The exhibition is running from 29 May to 31 August. The centre is open Tues-Sun, 9am-5pm. (The gallery may be in use for special events so please phone ahead to avoid disappointment).

For more information telephone: 01495 742333 or email blaenavon.tic@torfaen.gov.uk



Lower Garn Terrace in 1978 © Walter Waygood



Coming Events

'First Exit, Second Left, Skyward'

May 2010–7 August 2010
10am–5pm. Art exhibition by the Blaenavon Art and Artist Association. Browning Books (33 Broad St.). Tel: 01495 790089.

Walter Waygood Photographic Exhibition

29 May–31 August 2010. Photographs of Blaenavon & South Wales between the 1970s and 1990s. Blaenavon World Heritage Centre. Tel: 01495 742333.

British Wildlife Photography Awards Road Show

8 June–3 July 2010. Blaenavon World Heritage Centre. Tel: 01495 742333.

Blaenavon Male Voice Choir-Centenary Concert

19 June 2010. As part of BMVC's centenary celebrations, enjoy an open air concert of massed male voice choirs with special guest artist, Rhydian Roberts, followed by a spectacular pyrotechnic display.

Taffy the Tank Engine and Friends

19–20 June 2010. Blaenavon's Heritage Railway. Tel: 01495 792263.

Blaenavon Ladies Choir Concert at the Senior's Hall, Park Street

23 June 2010. Admission £2.50 (includes refreshments), 7:15pm, tickets available from the Secretary on Tel: 01495 791988.

Victorian Tea Dance at Blaenavon Senior's Hall, Park Street

24 June 2010. Admission £2.50 (includes refreshments), 2pm–4pm, prizes for the best dressed lady and gentleman, further details from the Secretary Tel: 01495 790719.

World Heritage Day

26 June 2010.

Street Songs Festival

26 June 2010 10am–5pm. Blaenavon World Heritage Centre & Workmen's Hall. Tel: 01495 742333.

Blaenavon Gamelan 'BLING'

26 June 2010. Blaenavon World Heritage Centre. The debut of the Blaenavon Gamelan, 11:30am–2:30pm. Tel: 01495 742333.

The Journey

26 June 2010 7:30pm. Blaenavon Workmen's Hall. WNO Concert. Tel: 01495 742333–tickets £2.50.

Form Summer Showcase

26 June–21 August 2010. Exhibition of the work of Ceramicist Paul Young. Form Contemporary Craft (35 Broad St.). Tel: 01495 790926.

Blaenavon Steam Railway

26–27 June 2010. Garn-yr-Erw, Blaenavon. Throughout the Heritage Weekend, the railway will be offering Two-for-One tickets on all train rides.

Garn Lakes Country Fayre

27 June 2010.

'Songs of Praise'

27 June 2010 6pm. St. Peter's Church. Tel: 01495 790704.

Model Railway Show

3–4 July 2010. Blaenavon's Heritage Railway. Tel: 01495 792263.

Music on the Patio

4–11–18–25 July & 1 August 2010 2:30pm. Enjoy a feast of local music on Sunday afternoons throughout July. Come along and listen to local bands and choirs performing in a series of free open-air concerts. Big Pit National Coal Museum. Tel: 01495 790311.

1940s Weekend and Beer Festival

10–11 July 2010. Blaenavon's Heritage Railway. Tel: 01495 792263.

The Forge and Railway Heritage Trail

10 July 2010 10:30am–12:30pm. 1.9 mile family-friendly circular stroll along the picturesque old railway line visits the sites of an ancient forge, later known as Wildon Iron Works. Meet at Forge car park, Govilon (SO 265133). Tel: 01874 623366.

Diesel Gala

17–18 July 2010. Blaenavon's Heritage Railway. Tel: 01495 792263.

Family Activities: Miners' Fortnight

26–30 July 2010. Miners' Galas and family holidays to Porthcawl and Barry were highlights of the summer for coalfield communities. Bring along your memories of these events and help us tell the stories of high days and holidays when coal was king. Big Pit National Coal Museum. Tel: 01495 790311.

Biodiversity Landscape Detectives

10–12 August 2010. Look at the landscape around Big Pit and Coity Tip and find clues which tell us about the natural and man-made environment around us, including pond dipping and landscape walks. Pre-booking required. Big Pit National Coal Museum. Tel: 01495 790311.

'Under the Greenwood Tree'

From 14 August 2010. An innovative photographic exhibition. Browning Books (33 Broad St.). Tel: 01495 790089.

Ivor the Engine

14–15 August 2010. Blaenavon's Heritage Railway. Tel: 01495 792263.

Transport Rally and 1960s Weekend

29–30 August 2010. Blaenavon's Heritage Railway. Tel: 01495 792263.

'Rags to Riches'

September 2010. An exhibition of rag rugs by Torfaen Textile Artists demonstrating the use of recycled materials through a traditional Welsh craft. Blaenavon World Heritage Centre. Tel: 01495 742333.

Charities Weekend

4–5 September 2010. Blaenavon's Heritage Railway. Tel: 01495 792263.

Form Autumn Showcase

4 September–31 October 2010. Exhibition of the work of Potter Adam Buick and Photographer Chris Tancock. Form Contemporary Craft (35 Broad St.). Tel: 01495 790926.

'A Chapel a Church and a Canal'

11 September 2010 10:30am–12:30pm. Join the Rev. Peter Baines in this leisurely family-friendly stroll along the beautiful Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Enjoy a guided tour of Llanwenarth Baptist Chapel and Christ Church, the first church built in Govilon. Meet at British Waterways car park, Govilon Wharf (SO 272137). Tel: 01874 623366.

Peter Luther Book Signing

18 September 2010 11am–1pm. Peter Luther will be at Browning Books between 11am and 1pm signing copies of his amazing new book 'Precious Cargo'. Browning Books (33 Broad St.). Tel: 01495 790089.

Tunnelling and Mine Warfare – Durand Group Investigation of WW1 Sites

18 September 2010 2:30pm. Mick Hibberd will be giving a short outline of the formation of the British Tunnelling Companies and a description of the main areas of activity in France & Belgium during WW1 followed by an explanation of the creation of the Durand Group and descriptions of major projects and their results. Big Pit National Coal Museum. Tel: 01495 790311.

PAGB Inter Federation Print Exhibition

October 2010. Exhibition of the 'Best of British Photography 2010' as judged by the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain. Blaenavon World Heritage Centre. Tel: 01495 742333 or visit: www.thewpfc.co.uk

