

HERITAGE NEWS

BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE SITE NEWSLETTER ISSUE 11 - Winter 2010

What a Party!

On 12 September 2010 Blaenavon celebrated a decade of World Heritage Site status in style with a spectacular open-air event at Blaenavon Ironworks. Set in the historic heart of the industrial landscape, a sell out crowd of 800 people enjoyed 'Party in the Past', an evening of outstanding musical entertainment that culminated in a tremendous firework display which could be enjoyed from all corners of the town.

The concert was hosted by the musical director of 'Only Men Aloud', Tim Rhys-Evans. It featured performances from 'The Three Welsh Tenors', Sophie Evans (the runner up on the BBC's reality show 'Over the Rainbow'), 'Only Boys Aloud', the Blaenavon Gamelan and local favourites, Blaenavon Male Voice Choir and Blaenavon Town Band. Local schoolchildren participated and performances were given by popular drama group, 'Chance Encounters'.

It has been a successful anniversary year for Blaenavon. 'Party in the Past' followed the most popular World Heritage Day ever. Held in June, the event saw nearly 10,000 people flock to the heritage town in the glorious weather to enjoy a day of entertainment, celebrating Blaenavon's rich industrial heritage. Highlights of the day included the annual heritage costume parade and marvellous performances by the Welsh National Opera.

Chairman of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership, Cllr. Bob Wellington, said that the celebrations were "a great opportunity for the community and friends of Blaenavon to celebrate everything that has been achieved over the past ten years while we are already developing exciting and ambitious plans to ensure that the town's future is a bright one."

Since World Heritage Status was awarded to the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape in November 2000, the area has seen more than £35 million of investment. For more information on how this historic landscape is being protected and promoted, please see the centre pages.



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visitblaenavon.co.uk

Record Breaking Year for Heritage Railway

Following the opening of its Blaenavon extension at the end of May and having already surpassed the 2009 passenger figures, Blaenavon's Heritage Railway is having its best year ever. The extension was officially opened on 17 September by Pop mogul and rail enthusiast, Pete Waterman, along with the Mayors of Torfaen and Blaenavon. The event also saw the railway celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Great Western Railway with the steam locomotive 'City of Truro' in attendance. Over 1,000 people turned out to enjoy the fun.

The volunteers are still busy working on the new station building at Blaenavon High Level, plus constructing the new branch line from Furnace Sidings to Big Pit. The latter is due to open early in 2011 and will put the railway right on the doorstep of Big Pit. The railway is always on the lookout for new volunteers. If you are interested please phone 01495 792263.

Santa Claus visits the railway on 28 November and each weekend in December as the Santa Steam Specials get underway.

The popular steam hauled specials offer a treat for all the family, each child will get a present and there's sherry and mince pies for the parents. Discount is available on advance bookings for the earlier trains; call 01495 792263 for more details.



©Alistair Grieve

Blwyddyn Lwyddiannus lawn i'r Rheilffordd Dreftadaeth

Yn dilyn agoriad ei hestyniad ym Mlaenafon ar ddiwedd mis Mai ac wedi rhagori eisoes ar ffigurau teithwyr 2009, mae Rheilffordd Dreftadaeth Blaenafon yn wynebu ei blwyddyn gorau erioed. Agorwyd yr estyniad yn swyddogol ar 17 Medi gan y mogul pop Pete Waterman sy'n ymddiddori'n fawr ym myd trenau, ynghyd â Meiri Torfaen a Blaenafon. Cafwyd hefyd gyfle i ddathlu pen blwydd Rheilffordd y Great Western yn 175 oed, gyda dyfodiad y locomotif ager 'City of Truro'. Daeth dros 1,000 o bobl i fwynhau'r achlysur.

Mae'r gwirfoddolwyr dal i fod wrthi'n gweithio'n ddyfal ar adeilad yr orsaf newydd ar Lefel Uchel Blaenafon, yn ogystal ag adeiladu'r lein gangen newydd o Gilffyrdd y Ffwrnais i Bwll Mawr. Bwriedir agor yr olaf ar ddechrau 2011 felly'n gosod y rheilffordd ar stepen drws Pwll Mawr. Mae yna wastad galw am wirfoddolwyr ar y rheilffordd. Os oes gennych ddi-ddordeb ffoniwch 01495 792263.

Mae Siôn Corn yn ymweld â'r rheilffordd ar 28 Tachwedd a phob penwythnos ym mis Rhagfyr wrth i ddigwyddiadau

arbennig y Nadolig gychwyn. Mae'r trenau ager arbennig yn wledd i'r teulu oll; bydd anrheg i bob plentyn a mins peis a sherry i'r rhieni. Bydd disgownt i'r rheiny sy'n bwcio ymlaen llaw ar gyfer y trenau cynharaf; ffoniwch 01495 792263 am ragor o fanylion.



Get Your Skates On!

Blaenavon Heritage Town is gearing up for the Blaenavon Winter Wonderland weekend on 4th & 5th December, a real festive treat for all the family. Santa will be making a return with his real reindeer on both days. Children can visit him in his grotto with plenty of photo opportunities for children who want long lasting memories of this special moment. There will also be a covered Christmas Market in Market Square with a fantastic outdoor ice rink, ensuring that there will be something for everyone, young and old.



Chairman of the Blaenavon Town Traders Association, Tom Wood, said "so much planning has gone into this year's Christmas Weekend and what makes it more special is how the community has got behind it. This has been a real team effort with support from Torfaen Council, Communities First, Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership and many other stakeholders and volunteers in the town...the Winter Wonderland will be showcasing this special Heritage Town, featuring some fantastic independent shops that you simply can't find anywhere else. We welcome everyone to visit and see it for themselves."

For more information about the Winter Wonderland and other events please visit www.blaenavonchristmas.com or phone 01495 790926.

Torfaen Voluntary Alliance

The Torfaen Voluntary Alliance office at Church View, Ivor Street is now open Monday to Friday, 10am – 4pm. If anybody would like any advice on TVA's services or is interested in volunteering please call in and see Kyle or Charis or ring us on 01495 766231.

Busiest Summer Ever at Big Pit!

Big Pit has had another record-breaking summer, with the first two weeks in August being the busiest the site has ever had. We also had a range of exciting family activities, which gave visitors of all ages an insight into miners' family holidays to such places as Barry and Porthcawl. Younger visitors enjoyed Punch and Judy shows, dressed up as Bathing Belles and Beaus, played giant games and got to make their own passports to take home. We also had a very successful week at the Eisteddfod in Ebbw Vale, with the launch of the latest edition of *GLO* and a new resource for Adult Welsh Learners.

Looking forward to the winter, we have the usual flurry of excitement at the arrival of Mother Christmas in December, and in January we will be hosting our first 'Love Food' weekend, which looks to bring the best of local produce and gourmet expertise to Big Pit and celebrate the romance of Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen (the patron saint of Welsh lovers). So, what better way to combat the winter cold than to cwtch up with somebody you love and enjoy good food at Big Pit?

For further details, please contact Big Pit on 01495 790311 or visit www.museumwales.ac.uk



Mother Christmas at Big Pit



Work Begins on Heritage Primary School



Sod-cutting ceremony at Middle Coed Cae ©TCBC

Construction work has started on Blaenavon's £13 million community campus. On 5th July, the Welsh Assembly Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Carl Sargeant, cut the first sod in a ceremony at the site. The 450-place school, which will replace St. Peter's CV Primary, Hillside Primary and Hillside Nursery, has been named 'Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School', following a competition by local schoolchildren. The name is a combination of names suggested by Hillside Primary pupils, Gethin Jones and Steffan Thomas. Steffan proposed 'Ysgol Blaenavon Heritage Campus' while Gethin suggested 'Hopkins Heritage School' in tribute to Sarah and Samuel Hopkins, early proponents of education in Blaenavon.

The Leader of Torfaen Council, Cllr Bob Wellington, said: "I am absolutely delighted the main construction work on this state-of-the-art facility is beginning. Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School will be at the cutting edge of education - one of the best of its kind in Wales... While the current nursery and primary schools are good schools, the buildings are no longer fit for purpose and do not meet modern teaching and learning needs. Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School will transform this and provide first-class facilities to Blaenavon youngsters for generations to come."

The campus will have a strong community focus. It will be physically linked to community leisure facilities, including a two-court sports hall, dance studio, fitness suite and external multi-use games area. Construction work on Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School is scheduled for completion in 2012.

Seniors' Garden Makeover!

Blaenavon's senior citizens have met in their own hall in Park Street since it was opened in 1957. The hall's garden, however, had become overgrown, neglected and unused. All this changed during the summer as the garden was chosen as a deserving project for transformation. ITV's *This Morning* programme was searching for a garden to be designed by Diarmuid Gavin and his team of "Garden Angels" and the secretary of Blaenavon Seniors, Barbara Lewis, sent an e-mail giving reasons why the seniors' garden should be chosen. On 17 June, Diarmuid and representatives from *This Morning* visited with the unexpected news that the

Blaenavon garden had been chosen out of hundreds of applications from all over the country!

The "Garden Angels" took three days to transform the derelict garden and amid sunshine and great excitement the new garden was shown to everyone at a "Grand Reveal" after a Victorian Tea Dance held in the Hall on 24 June. Diarmuid Gavin delighted everybody by announcing that "Blaenavon was the friendliest and sunniest place that he had ever worked in"! Thanks were given to the Garden Angels, Blaenavon Town Band played in celebration, and all the members were overjoyed with their very special and beautiful new garden which was finished just before World Heritage Day 2010.



before



after

Seniors' Garden before and after (photos courtesy of Barbara Lewis)



Discovering the Hidden Landscapes of Forgeside

Works to construct a new walk through Forgeside woods have now been completed. The £106k project, which has been funded through the Heads of the Valleys programme, now links the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre to Big Pit and Forgeside via the woods and cycle track. It included the installation of a new 13m span pedestrian bridge, a path through alder scrub and way marking. The link is part of a new 2.5km 'Forgotten Landscapes' route called 'The Hidden Landscapes of Forgeside' which will start at the World Heritage Centre and will take in the historic and

biodiversity features found in and around Forgeside. These include the former workings of Aaron Brute's Level and Engine Pit, mine water treatment reed beds, the biodiversity of Forgeside woods, the history and settlement of Forgeside and its community, and views back to Blaenavon and St Peter's churchyard. A well attended guided walk took place in mid September and a programme of future walks for 2011 will be developed.

For more information contact the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre: 01495 742333.

Darganfod Tirweddau Cudd Ger-yr-efail

Mae'r gwaith o adeiladu llwybr cerdded newydd trwy goedwig Ger-yr-efail bellach wedi ei gwblhau. Mae'r goedwig a'r trac beicio yn cysylltu Canolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon, Pwll Mawr a Ger-yr-efail o ganlyniad y prosiect £106 mil o ariannwyd trwy raglen Blaenau'r Cymoedd. Roedd y gwaith yn cynnwys gosod pont newydd i gerddwyr yn rhychwantu 13m, llwybr trwy'r prysg gwern ac arwyddion. Mae'r cyswllt sy'n rhan o lwybr 2.5km newydd sy'n cael ei alw'n Tirweddau Cudd Ger-yr-efail, yn rhan o lwybr 'Tirweddau Anghofiedig' a fydd yn cychwyn yng Nghanolfan Treftadaeth y Byd

ac yn cynnwys nodweddion hanesyddol a bioamrywiaeth sydd yn bodoli yng Nger-yr-efail neu gerllaw. Maent yn cynnwys cyn safle Lefel a Phwll Injan Aaron Brute, gwelyau cors i drin dŵr y pwll, bioamrywiaeth coedwig Ger-yr-efail, hanes ac anheddiad Ger-yr-efail a'i chymuned, a golygfeydd yn ôl i Flaenafon a mynwent eglwys San Pedr. Cynhaliwyd taith dywysedig boblogaidd yng nghanol mis Medi a bydd rhaglen o deithiau cerdded yn cael ei datblygu ar gyfer 2011.

Am ragor o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Chanolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon: 01495 742333.



Forgeside Community Wood



Reflecting on a Decade of World Heritage Status

On 30 November 2000, it was announced in Cairns, Australia, that Blaenavon had attained UNESCO World Heritage Site status in recognition of its globally important industrial landscape. This prestigious award put Blaenavon on a par with more famous sites including Stonehenge and the Taj Mahal. Since World Heritage Site status has been awarded great efforts have been made to protect, promote and interpret the many features of the area for the benefit of future generations.

Key achievements have included the continuing restoration of monuments, including Blaenavon Ironworks, and the development of Blaenavon into a popular destination for cultural tourism. Visitor figures have doubled over the past decade and the town can now boast five major tourist attractions which welcome visitors from all over the world.

Highlights have included Big Pit winning the prestigious Gulbenkian Prize in 2005 and Blaenavon Ironworks playing host to the hugely successful BBC series *Coal House* in 2007-08. An exciting events programme has also had wide appeal to both locals and tourists alike.

The previously run-down town centre has benefited from a heritage-led regeneration programme and the town has attracted and retained many new businesses. A number of the town's splendid public buildings have been restored and serve important community roles. The successes of the past ten years are set to continue. The hugely important landscape, surrounding Blaenavon town, is to see some major improvements by 2013, thanks to the Forgotten Landscapes Scheme...



Blaenavon's dramatic and historically significant industrial landscape, image ©Chris Morris



Forgotten Landscapes: Work has begun!



Keeper's Pond, the most popular feature within the landscape

Since the previous edition of *Heritage News* the Forgotten Landscapes Scheme has really taken off. As you may have heard this landscape scale scheme has ambitious plans to conserve and promote the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and its surroundings.

Although the scheme only began work in June much has already been achieved:

- The south portal of the Pwll Du tunnel has now been unearthed and re-built. Early next year improved access will be put in place allowing locals and visitors to see this feature for the first time in many years.
- The Engine Brake Wheel, a rare example of tramroad winding gear, has been restored so that all the surviving parts can be seen.
- Keeper's Pond, the most popular destination in the World Heritage Site, required repairs to the dam wall and to a hidden culvert which was collapsing. This has been completed successfully.
- At Coity Tip a pond dipping platform has been built which will allow school children to use the area for environmental activities. Also, students from the Welsh School of Architecture have designed a new trail to the summit using the character of the landscape to influence their plans.

- The Forgotten Landscapes team is working with local commoners to manage bracken on the mountains. Bracken is a massive problem so work will be ongoing. Reducing the extent of bracken will be good for the commoners in terms of larger grazing areas. It will also allow the recovery of the heather moor-land and reverse the decline in red grouse numbers.
- During the earlier part of this year, ecological surveys, conducted to find out just what wildlife is 'out there', have led to the discovery of Great Crested Newts, a host of rare butterfly and dragonfly species, Long-eared Owls, Grasshopper Warblers and evidence of Otters.

All of the projects being delivered over the next three years grew out of community consultation. As work progresses we will be asking for your opinions again. There will also be opportunities to get involved with events, educational programmes and volunteering. For more information on the projects please visit our website www.forgottenlandscapes.org.uk or contact Tracey Marsh on 01495 742945 or email steven.rogers@torfaen.gov.uk



Restoration to the southern portal of the Pwll Du Tunnel



Bracken rolling on the landscape



Heritage Town News

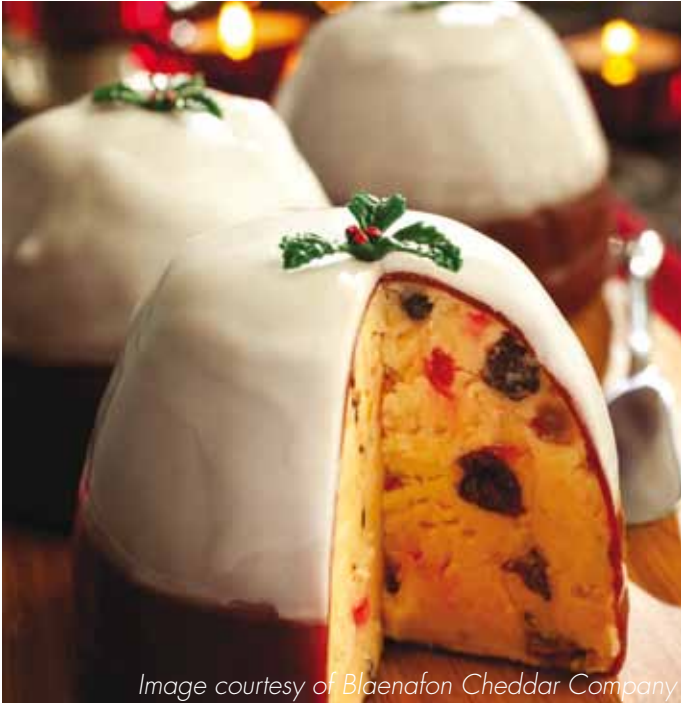


Image courtesy of Blaenafon Cheddar Company

The Blaenafon Cheddar Company has been working hard to raise the profile of Blaenafon both in the UK and abroad. In 2010, the Company represented Blaenafon Heritage Town at events in Norfolk and London as well as at the National Eisteddfod in Ebbw Vale and the Welsh Weekend at Disney Land, Paris. The award-winning business is now preparing for Christmas. Their Christmas Pudding Cheddar will be available from November and Christmas cheese orders can now be taken. A full range of local products including ales, ciders, spirits, wine & whisky are available; gift packs & hampers can be made to suit individual needs. Telephone 01495 793123 for further details.

Meanwhile, Browning Books has a great book signing on Saturday 27th November between 12.00 and 2.00pm. Owen Money will be visiting the book shop with copies of his autobiography 'Money Talks'. As ever, Owen will be happy to chat to visitors and discuss his book and life in entertainment. This is an open free event and no booking is necessary. For more information please contact Browning Books 01495 790089 or email info@browningbooks.co.uk.

Enjoy the Great Outdoors!

The Living Landscape Lectures began in early October this year. The first Tuesday evening of each month sees the Blaenafon World Heritage Centre play host to a wide variety of exciting visual presentations. A related activity then takes place at a later date within the month, at various local places, to encourage us to enjoy the great outdoors! Helping to raise awareness

and provide lectures are organisations such as the RSPB, Blaenafon Mountain Tours and the Welsh Orienteering Association to name a few. Spaces are limited so we recommend you book. Call the Blaenafon World Heritage Centre on 01495 742333 or email Blaenafon.tic@torfaen.gov.uk for more information.



Winter Landscape ©Adrian Reilly

Mwynhewch yr Awyr Agored Gwych!

Cychwynnodd y Darlithoedd 'Tirwedd Fyw' ar ddechrau mis Hydref eleni. Mae Canolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon yn cynnal amrywiaeth eang o gyflwyniadau gweledol cyffrous bob nos Fawrth cyntaf o'r mis. Yna cynhelir gweithgaredd cysylltiedig ar ddyddiad diweddarach yn y mis, a hynny mewn gwahanol leoedd i'n hannog i fwynhau'r awyr

agored gwych! Mae'r RSPB, Teithiau Mynydd Blaenafon a Chymdeithas Cyfeiriannu Cymru ymhlith y rheiny sy'n helpu i godi ymwybyddiaeth a chynnal darlithoedd. Mae lleoedd yn gyfyngedig felly awgrymw'n eich bod yn bwcio lle. Ffoniwch Ganolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon ar 01495 742333 neu anfonwch e-bost i Blaenafon.tic@torfaen.gov.uk am ragor o wybodaeth.



‘From Funeral to Festival’

The Blaenavon WEA Local History Group will publish its book *‘From Funeral to Festival’: Blaenavon 1901-1951* early in the New Year. The publication is the culmination of almost two years’ hard work by a group of about twenty dedicated local people who, under the auspices of the Blaenavon WEA in Church View, have researched and written the history of Blaenavon in the years between the death of Queen Victoria and the Festival of Britain.

The book combines the diverse life stories and memories of group members with archive sources and is enriched by heart-warming illustrations by talented local artist Mary Challenger. It tells the poignant, fascinating

and sometimes humorous tales of everyday life in Blaenavon during the early twentieth century, looking at industrial relations, the Great Depression, education, religion, wartime, living conditions, popular entertainment and recreation. It is not a book written by professional historians; more importantly it is a work produced solely by local people who love their heritage and their home town of Blaenavon.

The publication of *From Funeral to Festival* has been funded by the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership. The book is expected to be on sale in local bookshops by the spring. For more information about WEA Courses in Blaenavon please phone 01495 791128.



*‘An American Hold-up in the Cambrian Inn 1939’
©Mary Challenger*

A Day Out in the National Park



Image courtesy of BBNPA

A series of ideas for great days out in the Brecon Beacons National Park has been produced by the BBNPA and the Countryside Council for Wales in the project ‘Crossing Park Boundaries’. Featuring a range of sites and activities across the National Park such as ‘Exploring a Coal Mine at Big Pit’, there is something for everyone. The ten colourful information sheets tell you everything you need to know about getting there, visitor facilities and nearby attractions. They are all available online at www.breconbeacons.org or through the BBNP Sustainable Communities Officer (Tel: 01874 620471)

Also promoting the strong link between the National Park and the World Heritage Site has been the ‘Beacons Bus’, a network of specially commissioned buses bringing visitors into the National Park from surrounding towns. It runs on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays throughout the summer. This year saw the introduction of a new route – the B15, which allowed visitors to explore the Blaenavon World Heritage Site. Leaving Brecon at 11:15am, the bus made its way through Crickhowell, Gilwern and Brynmawr to Blaenavon. The bus then shuttled people around Blaenavon’s main attractions throughout the day, before returning to Brecon at 4pm. Positive feedback was received from the many people who used this new service.



Cast Iron Pit Ponies



If you have wandered down North Street recently, you will have noticed the team of cast-iron pit ponies standing elegantly in the grounds of the ironworks. The site is the temporary home of five sculptures that were created by internationally renowned animal sculptor, Sally Matthews, following a public art commission funded by the Heads of the Valleys Programme.

Sally chose pit ponies as they were "at the heart of Blaenavon's coal and iron industries and they are still in the hearts of many people there." The ponies were cast in recycled iron at the Hargreaves Foundry, Halifax, and weigh two tonnes each; they are four feet tall and six feet long. One of the ponies made a special appearance at the National Eisteddfod in Ebbw Vale during the summer. It is anticipated that the sculptures will become a tourist destination, complementing the town's existing attractions and contributing to the development of tourism in the Blaenavon area.

The ponies will find a permanent home in Blaenavon later this year at an undecided location. Leader of Torfaen Council, Cllr. Bob Wellington, said: "the pit ponies are a wonderful symbol of Blaenavon's industrial past and the bright future ahead of it. They will add further character to the terrific amount of attractions within Torfaen and I can't wait to see them in their final chosen location."

'Best of British' at World Heritage Centre

Throughout 2010, the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre hosted a variety of events and exhibitions including displays by local photographer Walter Waygood and the Torfaen Textiles Artists. The most recent presentation was the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain's Inter-Federation Print Exhibition. Displayed at the centre throughout October, the 150 photographs, taken by members of camera clubs from all over the country, represented the best of British Photography 2010. The prestigious exhibition was well-received by both the local community and visitors from further afield.

Following on from successful workshops last winter, the centre is holding free storytelling workshops for schools throughout November. Children will be able to engage with characters from Blaenavon's industrial past and learn more about the area's important heritage. And, on Saturday 19th March, the World Heritage Centre is hosting a Family History Fair in conjunction with the Gwent Record Office and local family history societies. So why not come along and discover your roots?

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



Launch of the PAGB Print Exhibition October 2010





'A large crowd of Blaenavon people await the proclamation of King Edward VIII in Lion Street (1936), photo courtesy of Pat Morgan

Rescuing Blaenavon's 'People's History'

The Blaenavon World Heritage Centre is trying to 'rescue' the people's history of Blaenavon and the surrounding area but we need your help! Throughout its history our town has had many colourful characters with fascinating stories to tell but with the passing of time this unique history is being lost forever. We would like to record your memories for the benefit of future generations. No matter who you are, whatever your age and even if you think you've got nothing interesting to say, your stories are important to us.

If you would like to share your memories and would be happy for them to be published on our website or in our interpretive/educational material, please send us an email – blaenavon.tic@torfaen.gov.uk or pop in the World Heritage Centre for a chat. We would love to hear from you! A number of people have already contributed and their stories can be read at www.visitblaenavon.co.uk

Achub 'Hanes Bobl' Blaenafon

Mae Canolfan Treftadaeth y Byd yn ceisio 'achub' hanes bobl Blaenafon a'r ardal amgylchynol ond mae arnom angen eich help! Trwy gydol hanes, bu nifer o gymeriadau lliwgar yn adrodd hanesion difyr yn ein tref, ond gyda threigl amser mae'r hanes unigryw hwn yn debygol o ddiiflannu am byth. Hoffem gofnodi'ch atgofion er lles cenedlaethau i ddod. Felly pwy bynnag ydych chi a beth bynnag yw eich oedran, a hyd yn oed os nad oes gennych rywbeth diddorol i'w ddweud, mae eich storïau yn bwysig i ni.

Os hoffech chi rannu eich atgofion ac yn hapus i adael i ni eu cyhoeddi ar ein gwefan neu yn ein deunydd deongliadol/addysgol, anfonwch e-bost atom - blaenavon.tic@torfaen.gov.uk neu beth am alw heibio Canolfan Treftadaeth y Byd am sgwrs. Carem glywed oddi wrthyich! Mae nifer o bobl eisoes wedi cyfrannu, a gellir darllen eu hanesion trwy glicio ar www.visitblaenavon.co.uk



Coming Events

Welsh Start

– Stories, Songs and Rhymes

Every Monday (Term Time)
Suitable for 0-3 year olds and their parents/carers.

Blaenavon Library, 2:15pm-3pm
Tel: 01495 791637

Under 5's Story & Craft Session

Every Tuesday
Suitable for babies, toddlers & pre-schoolers.

Blaenavon Library, 2:15pm-3pm
Tel: 01495 791637

Farewell Wales!

16 November 2010 – 9 January 2011
Historical exhibition about Welsh migration overseas

Blaenavon World Heritage Centre,
9am-4pm, Tue-Sun
Tel: 01495 742333

Healing Mass

27 November 2010
St. Paul's Church, 6pm

Owen Money Book Signing

27 November 2010, 12-2pm
Browning Books (33 Broad St)
Tel: 01495 790089

The Dave Barry Big Band

27 November 2010
Dance to celebrate 10 years of World Heritage Status.

Tickets £12
Blaenavon Workmen's Hall, 7:30pm
Tel: 01495 742333

A Journey into Advent

28 November 2010
Service with words from John Henry Newman.
St Paul's Church, 6pm

Santa Steam Specials

28 Nov & 4/5/11/12/18/19 Dec 2010
Blaenavon Heritage Railway,
10:30am-3:30pm
special fares apply - book ahead to avoid disappointment
Tel: 01495 792263

The Blessing of the Crib

29 November 2010
Market Square, 7pm.

Late Night Shopping

29 November 2010
Late Night shopping until 6pm every shopping night until Christmas
Come and buy your Christmas presents at Blaenavon Heritage Town.

Debra Griffiths Book Signing

4 December 2010
Debra Griffiths from BBC's Coal House will be signing copies of her book, Life in the Coal House: The Griffiths Family.
Browning Books (33 Broad St)
Tel: 01495 790089

Blaenavon Winter Wonderland

4 & 5 December 2010 10am - 4pm
Festive craft market, with street carols and music. Start your Christmas Shopping in Blaenavon. Reindeer, Sleigh and Santa's Grotto at Bethlehem Court & Outdoor Ice Rink at Market Square, £2 children and £3 adults. www.blaenavonchristmas.com or phone 01495 790926.

Living Nativity Play

5 December 2010
Wrap up, bring your lanterns and good voice and join us for a walk around Blaenavon town following the story of the birth of Jesus. Collection in aid of the Welsh Air Ambulance service.
Library Car Park at Lion Street, 4pm

Living Landscape Lectures

"Cheese, Wine & Local Produce" by Blaenafon Cheddar Company
7 December 2010
Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, 7pm
Tel: 01495 742333

At Home with Mother Christmas

11/12 & 18/19 December 2010,
11am-4pm
Big Pit National Coal Museum,
£1 per child
Tel: 01495 790311

"Friends of the Green"

– Christmas Event
17 December 2010
Festive music, hot drinks and mince pies on Charles Street Green!
Tel: 01495 792335, 6.30pm

Nine Lessons and Carols

19 December 2010
Featuring school choirs, Blaenavon Town Band and the Blaenavon Ladies' Choir.
St. Peter's Church, 6pm

Comedian Chris Corcoran

21 December 2010
An evening of comedy with Welsh comedian and television-radio presenter Chris Corcoran.
Tickets £10, over 16 only,
Blaenavon Workmen's Hall,
7:30pm
Tel: 01495 742333

Family Crib Service

24 December 2010
St. Peter's Church, 6pm

Horeb Chapel Candlelight Service

24 December 2010
Horeb Baptist Chapel, 6pm

The Midnight Mass

24 December 2010
St. Paul's Church, 10:45pm

Christmas Eucharist with Carols

25 December 2010
St. Peter's Church, 10am

Horeb Chapel Christmas Service and Communion

25 December 2010
Horeb Baptist Chapel, 10am

Blaenavon Local History Society

'Merthyr Tydfil Artists in the 19th Century'

13 January 2011
Blaenavon Workmen's Hall, 7pm,
£2 for non members
Tel: 01495 792661

Love Food Weekend

29/30 January 2011
Big Pit National Coal Museum
Tel: 01495 790311

