

HERITAGE NEWS

BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE SITE NEWSLETTER ISSUE 6 - Winter 2007



Relight the Fires!

Meet the Ironmasters of old and witness the birth of industry at a spectacular lantern parade and fire finale at Blaenavon Ironworks, home to the BBC "Coalhouse" production.

On Thursday 6th December, the streets of Blaenavon will be ignited by a parade of magnificent lanterns, music and light led by a giant smoke belching "King Dragon". The parade, which will start at 6:00pm from Market Street car park, will proceed up Broad Street and enter the Ironworks where a spectacular fire finale will tell the story of how Blaenavon grew from a rural wilderness to a bustling centre of industry.



Scene from last years event

Listen as the sounds of ironworking echo through the Ironworks and watch as Iron Dragons, fire sculptures and amazing outdoor projections bring to life the ghosts of the past. High energy pyrotechnics will cascade a river of fire from the Balance Tower and the furnaces will once more smoulder with the glow of molten iron.

Remember to wrap up warm and enjoy what promises to be a truly amazing winter extravaganza! For further details check out the leaflet inside or visit www.world-heritage-blaenavon.org.uk

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Flaming Dragon from last years event



Lantern Making Fun for Everyone!!

Following the success of last year's Blaenavon Lantern Project, South Wales Intercultural Community Arts (SWICA) return to invite one and all for a series of FREE lantern-making workshops leading to the second Blaenavon Lantern Parade and Fire Finale at the Ironworks. Check out "Blaenavon Lanterns" on You Tube for five minute film of last year's spectacular Fire Finale and Lantern Parade.

How to Get Involved? Simple as ABC...

(a) Participate SWICA's team of artists led by Ben Davis and Jude Wood will be in the new Heritage Centre on Church Road for six FREE one-day workshops.

All workshops run from 10.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th November
Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th November
Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd December

Remember it's simple to design and make a willow-and-paper lantern: no experience necessary, all materials provided - and plenty of friendly expert advice on hand.

(b) Parade On Thursday 6th December 2007 Blaenavon will be transformed into a 'River of Light': come and enjoy the sight of hundreds of dragon-themed lanterns in this winter lantern carnival procession, complete with marching bands. Lantern Parade starts at 6.00pm from Market Street car park.

(c) 'Pyrotechnic' Fire Finale Thrill to the transformation of the Ironworks using Giant Fire Sculptures, spectacular projections, special effects - and more! This year's Fire Finale is called "Ironmaster and the Dragons of Industry" and its climax will be a frenzy of best-ever fireworks to ignite the winter sky above Blaenavon.



Hwyl i Bawb Wrth Greu Llusernau!!

Yn dilyn llwyddiant Prosiect Llusernau Blaenafon y llynedd, mae Celfyddydau Cymunedol Rhyngddiwyllyannol De Cymru (SWICA) yn dychwelyd i wahodd pawb i gyfres o weithdai llusernau AM DDIM a fydd yn arwain at ail Orymdaith Llusernau Blaenafon a'r Finale Tân yn y Gwaith Haearn. Chwiliwch am "Blaenavon Lanterns" ar You Tube i weld pum munud o ffilm a grëwyd o'r Finale Tân a'r Orymdaith Llusernau trawiadol a gynhaliwyd y llynedd.

Am wybod sut i gymryd rhan? Mae'n syml...

(a) Cymryd Rhan Bydd tîm o artistiaid SWICA dan arweiniad Ben Davis a Jude Wood yn y Ganolfan Dreftadaeth newydd ar Heol yr Eglwys ar gyfer chwe gweithdy undydd sy'n RHAD AC AM DDIM.

Cynhelir pob gweithdy o 10.00am - 5.00pm
Dydd Sadwrn 17 a Dydd Sul 18 Tachwedd
Dydd Sadwrn 24 a Dydd Sul 25 Tachwedd
Dydd Sadwrn 1 a Dydd Sul 2 Rhagfyr

Cofiwch ei bod hi'n hawdd cynllunio a chreu llusern o bapur a helyg: does dim angen profiad, darperir yr holl ddeunyddiau - a bydd digon o gyngor cyfeillgar ac arbenigol wrth law hefyd.

(b) Gorymdaith Dydd Iau 6 Rhagfyr 2007 caiff Blaenafon ei throï'n 'Afon o Liw': dewch i fwynhau'r olygfa - cannoedd o lusernau yn ymwneud â'r thema dreigiau, adeg gorymdaith carnifal llusernau ar noson o aeaf, ynghyd â bandiau martsio. Mae'r Orymdaith Llusernau yn dechrau am 6.00pm o faes parcio Stryd y Farchnad.

(c) Finale Tân 'Pyrotechneg' Cewch eich gwefreiddio gan drawsffurfiad y Gwaith Haearn gan Ddelweddau Tân Enfawr, tafluniadau ysblennydd, effeithiau arbennig - a mwy! Mae'r Finale Tân eleni yn dwyn yr enw "Y Meistr Haearn a Dreigiau Diwydiant". Ei uchafbwynt, bydd toreth o dân gwyllt - y gorau erioed i oleuo'r awyr uwchben Blaenafon.

Getting the blues makes the town feel good

Blaenavon Blues Weekend organiser Peter Cottridge reports on this year's event.

The third Blaenavon Blues Weekend took place in Blaenavon from 5th - 7th October. The event was organised by Valleyblues with support from Torfaen County Borough Council.

The main concert featured major British swing blues band 'The Cadillac Kings' at the Workmen's Hall on Saturday night. Their infectious rhythms soon got people dancing, coupled with their humorous songs and brilliant musicianship, they provided a great night of entertainment.

Simon Prager, stalwart of the London blues scene, performed an eclectic set of acoustic blues and jazz at the Queen Victoria Inn and was accompanied by Tim Crahart on slide guitar. Tim also entertained blues fans and railway buffs on the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway's blues train the previous day and included as many train and railroad songs as he could muster from his extensive repertoire.

Elsewhere, the Debbie Lear Band from Pontypool played to a packed and appreciative crowd at the Arundel, supported by Call Me Albert from Govilon. The Kendall James Band played

a storming set at the Lion Hotel. Mike Markey and Nick Jones returned for their second year and kept the audience enthralled at the Rolling Mill on Sunday afternoon.

Each year the programme has got stronger

and stronger and the crowds bigger; the weekend has become an annual fixture in Blaenavon's festival calendar.

If you or your venue would like to be involved in next year's event give Valleyblues a ring on 01495 792946.



Councillor Neil Lewis elected Chairman of the Local Authorities World Heritage Forum (LAWHF)

At their quarterly meeting held in the precincts of Salisbury Cathedral, Councillor Neil Lewis was elected as Chairman of the Local Authorities World Heritage Forum (LAWHF).

The Forum discusses management issues of concern to all the UK's World Heritage Sites. There are now 24 sites in the UK ranging for example, from the Tower of London, Canterbury Cathedral to Hadrian's Wall and Cornwall's Industrial Landscape. LAWHF also seeks to improve government funding and support for UK World Heritage Sites.

The meeting was addressed by the Local Member of Parliament, Robert Key who is very concerned on the lack of protection being given to Stonehenge one of the UK's World Famous sites and tourist attractions.

Following the meeting the members visited Stonehenge to view the problems first hand.



A touch of Eastern Promise!

As the long dark nights approach and most of us think of spending a cosy evening in the warmth of our homes watching television, why not consider broadening your horizons and enjoying one of the exciting evening classes running at Blaenavon.

This was the very scenario facing one of our neighbours tempted by promises of sultry eastern evenings and incense filled tavernas, or more realistically as we know it, 'Belly Dancing' classes in Blaenavon!

Now you may think that characteristics such as curving patterns, undulations, thrusts, lifts, locks and drops as well as shaking and quaking body movements would be more at home at the rugby club, but you would be mistaken....the mystical art of belly dancing is very much alive and kicking in our Heritage town.

So if your evenings have indeed lost their excitement, and Corrie and Eastenders are not for you, head along to Blaenavon Community Education Centre in Park Street or The Open Learning Centre in Commercial Street and find a host of courses to entertain you, and you too may find that our own 'Eastern Paradise' is not so far away after all!!

For the full range of courses or if you have any course requests, contact Blaenavon CEC on 01495 792013 or email blaenavon.commed@torfaen.gov.uk

Ychydig o Naws y Dwyrain Pell!

Wrth i'r nosweithiau hir tywyll agosáu a'r mwyafrif ohonom yn meddwl treulio noson gysurus yng nghynhesrwydd ein cartrefi yn gwyllo'r teledu, beth am ystyried ehangu eich gorwelion a mwynhau un o'r dosbarthiadau nos diddorol a gynhelir ym Mlaenafon.

Dyma oedd y sefyllfa a wynebai un o'n cymdogaion a demtiwyd gan addewidion nosweithiau hudol y dwyrain pell a 'thafernas' wedi eu llenwi ag aroglarth..... neu'n fwy realistig dosbarthiadau 'Bola ddawnsio' ym Mlaenafon!

Nawr, rydych siŵr o feddwl y byddech yn fwy tebygol o ddod o hyd i symudiadau corff sydd â nodweddion fel patrymau crymu, ymdoniadau, ymwithio, codi, cloi a chwympo yn ogystal ag ysgwyd, mewn clwb rygbi, ond na wir! Mae'r ddawn gyfriniol y mae bola ddawnsio yn ei gynnig yn fyw ac iach yn ein tref.

Felly, os oes diffyg cyffro i'ch nosweithiau ac rydych wedi hen flino ar Corrie ac Eastenders, beth am fynd yn eich blaen i Ganolfan Addysg Gymunedol Blaenafon yn Stryd y Parc neu'r Ganolfan Ddysgu Agored, Stryd Commercial ble gewch hyd i lu o gyrsgiau i'ch difyrru, a phwy a wŷr, efallai y darganfyddwch nad yw'ch 'Naws o'r Dwyrain Pell' mor bell i ffwrdd wedi'r cyfan!!

Am amrediad lawn o'r cyrsiau, neu os oes gennych unrhyw geisiadau, cysylltwch â Chanolfan Addysg Gymunedol Blaenafon ar 01495 792013 neu e-bostiwch blaenavon.commed@torfaen.gov.uk



Belly Dancing at Blaenavon

Summer Success for Heritage Trail

Frances Baines, Chairman of the Govilon Heritage Group, reports on the progress of the Group.

We have had a most successful summer, with our first set of three guided walks being listed in the Brecon Beacons National Park Guided Walks and Events diary.

Each walk, around a different section of our Govilon Heritage Trail, was well attended and proved most enjoyable. We look forward to making these walks annual events, and we thank our volunteer guides, Rob Vaughan, Basil Evans and Peter Baines (local residents and members of Govilon Heritage) and our walk leaders, wardens Alvin Nicholas and Clive Williams.

Now we are looking forward to the winter and some indoor pursuits. We are starting a series of Heritage Talks featuring local history. Our first talk will be held on Friday, 23rd November, at 7.30pm in the Baptist Chapel Hall, Govilon. It will be a multimedia presentation by local author and historian Chris Barber, entitled "Portraits of the Past". Don't miss this! All welcome - entrance will be £2.50 which will include light refreshments afterwards.

Forgotten Landscapes



Photograph courtesy of Brian Griffiths Freelance Photography

The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership is marching on towards developing projects that will conserve the historic character of the landscape around Blaenavon, its culture, important industrial

archaeology and wildlife.

The community questionnaire, circulated with the last issue, produced over 200 responses!

This information along with views gathered at workshops and consultations with community groups is helping plan the projects. Over 500 people have been consulted, and the process will continue over the winter months.

Haf Hollol Lwyddiannus i'r Llwybr Treftadaeth

Dyma adroddiad gan Frances Baines, Cadeirydd Grŵp Treftadaeth Gofilon, ynglŷn â chynnydd y Grŵp.

Cawsom haf llwyddiannus dros ben, gyda'n cyfres gyntaf o dair taith gerdded tywys yn cael ei rhestru yn nyddiadur teithiau Cerdded Tywys a Digwyddiadau Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog.

Mynychwyd pob taith gerdded o gwmpas gwahanol adran o Lwybr Treftadaeth Gofilon gan nifer o bobl a chafwyd amser plesurus dros ben. Edrychwn ymlaen at gynnig y digwyddiadau hyn yn flynyddol, gan ddiolch i'n tywyswyr gwirfoddol, Rob Vaughan, Basil Evans a Peter Baines (trigolion lleol ac aelodau o Drefnadaeth Gofilon) a'n harweinwyr, wardeniaid Alvin Nicholas a Clive Williams.

Nawr rydym yn edrych ymlaen at y gaeaf a rhai gweithgareddau dan do. Rydym yn dechrau cyfres o Sgyrsiau Treftadaeth sy'n cynnwys hanes lleol. Cynhelir ein sgwrs gyntaf ddydd Gwener, 23 Tachwedd, am 7.30pm yn Neuadd Capel y Bedyddwyr, Gofilon. Cyflwyniad amlgyfrwng gan yr awdur a'r hanesydd lleol Chris Barber ydyw, sy'n dwyn yr enw "Portreadau o'r Gorffennol". Peidiwch â'i gollu! Croeso cynnes i bawb - bydd tâl mynediad o £2.50 yn cynnwys lluniaueth ysgafn ar ddiwedd y noson.

Project ideas include: repair of some of the area's forgotten historic treasures; protecting endangered wildlife including red grouse; new walks and information to open up different areas of the landscape; tree planting schemes to help reconnect woodland and improving the condition of the heather moorland.

This will require community participation and many groups are keen to give their support and receive training in survey skills, dry stone wall building, the repair of ancient buildings and training as a tour guide. Some training will

be accredited and will lead to new jobs

But there is still much to do. Over the winter months the Partnership will select the best projects. By October 2008 we will know if we have been successful and whether the project will receive further Heritage Lottery Support.

If you would like more information or have any project ideas please contact Steven Rogers
Forgotten Landscapes Project Planning Officer
steven.rogers@torfaen.gov.uk
Telephone 01633 648582.



Look 'Up' Your Town and Support your Local Traders!

You'll certainly have noticed a lot of changes taking place in your town over recent months. A number of regeneration projects are being implemented including a one-way traffic system along the middle section of Broad Street.

Why a One-Way System?

Over the years, traffic problems in the town centre have multiplied and it became clear that if the regeneration of the town was to be successful, something had to be done to improve pedestrian safety and vehicular access to shops and services in the town centre.

Following two studies, carried out by consultants Capita Symmonds and an extensive public consultation exercise, a one-way traffic system travelling up Broad Street was recommended to the Council.



View looking up Broad Street



View towards Moriah Chapel, Broad Street

So what are the benefits?

- Less conflict between vehicles and pedestrians creating a friendlier and safer pedestrian environment encouraging greater use of the town centre, shops and services.
- Reduced vehicle congestion, creating a more accessible town centre.
- Reduced traffic speeds - traffic naturally flows slower up hill and the use of build outs and staggered ranks of parking introduces traffic calming without undue inconvenience or discomfort.
- Greater scope for the provision of customer parking and goods vehicles along Broad Street thereby supporting local traders.
- Improved streetscape environment through better design and the use of high quality materials creating a town that's attractive to use, visit and do business in.

Inevitably, delivering these improvements to the town causes significant disruption, however every effort is being made to keep this to a minimum. The work is being carried out to a high standard by local building contractor Galboola and is due for completion in mid-November 2007.

SO BEAR WITH US AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TRADERS!

Remember that your town traders are open for business as usual and extend a warm welcome to you all! Considerable investment in the town has been made by Torfaen Council, its partners and most of all the Blaenavon Traders themselves. Make this investment work and ensure the survival of your regenerated heritage town!

So, whether you are looking for that special Christmas gift - be it a book, jewellery or a painting, or if you simply need to stock up on quality fruit, vegetables, meat or cheese, your town has it all right on your very own door step! So why not take another look at your town and find out what its local traders have to offer you as a local resident?

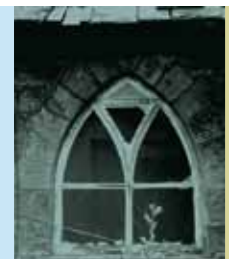
YOUR TOWN - QUALITY GOODS AND SERVICES OFFERED WITH A PERSONAL TOUCH.



32 - 39 Broad Street before renovation work



32 - 39 Broad Street after renovation



Volunteer Rangers Soldier On!

Whilst exploring the hills around Blaenavon this winter you may occasionally come across someone wearing a Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site logo, with the words 'Volunteer Ranger' written underneath. If you find yourself face to face with such a person and have a question, they should be able to help. Volunteer Rangers now have a comprehensive training and development file to guide their work in the landscape, covering a range of topics including industrial archaeology, wildlife conservation, safety in the hills and a list of useful contacts.

Even though we suffered a miserably wet summer, Blaenavon's Volunteer Rangers showed admirable enthusiasm, getting involved with litter picks, dry stone walling, walks and events. Some recent events included a 'Mountain Archaeology' talk and walk led by World Heritage Site Warden Alvin Nicholas and Blaenau Gwent Heritage Officer Frank 'the archaeologist' Olding. Frank also teamed up with Volunteer Ranger Sue James to lead a new Welsh language folklore walk through the Clydach Gorge. Other notable events included a World Heritage Site 'Junior Ranger Activity Day' in partnership with the Brecon Beacons National Park and attended by Big Pit Education Officer Sharon Ford, and the ever-popular 'Beginners Guide to Map and Compass Course.'

The World Heritage Site Volunteer Rangers meet at 7pm on the first Friday of every month and would welcome new recruits. Telephone Alvin Nicholas on 01495 742334 / 07980 682749 for more details.



Ceidwaid Gwirfoddol yn Brwydro Ymlaen!

Tra'n archwilio'r brynau o gwmpas Blaenafon y yn ystod y gaeaf efallai y dewch chi ar draws rhywun yn gwisgo logo Tirwedd Ddiwydiannol Blaenafon, Safle Treftadaeth y Byd, gyda'r geiriau 'Volunteer Ranger' wedi ysgrifennu oddi tano. Os oes gennych gwestiwn pan ddewch chi ar draws y fath berson, fe ddylai'r person hwnnw fod yn gallu eich helpu. Mae gan Ceidwaid Gwirfoddol erbyn hyn, ffeil hyfforddi a datblygu cynhwysfawr sy'n ymwneud ag amrywiaeth o destunau gan gynnwys archaeoleg ddiwydiannol, gwarchod natur, diogelwch ar y brynau a rhestr o gysylltiadau defnyddiol wrth iddynt weithio yn y dirwedd.

Er y cawsom aeaf gwlyb a diflas dros ben, fe ddangosodd byddin wirfoddol Blaenafon frwdfrydedd rhagorol, gan frwr ati i godi sbwriel, adeiladu waliau cerrig sychion, a chymryd rhan mewn teithiau cerdded a digwyddiadau. Ymhlith y digwyddiadau diweddaraf cafwyd sgwrs ar 'Archaeoleg Mynydd' dan arweiniad Alvin Nicholas, Warden Safle Treftadaeth y Byd a Frank 'yr archeolegw'r' Olding, Swyddog Treftadaeth Blaenau Gwent. Fe wnaeth Frank hefyd ymuno â Sue James, Ceidwad Gwirfoddol i arwain taith gerdded newydd yn ymwneud â llen gwerin Gymreig, drwy Geunant Clydach. Ymhlith y digwyddiadau nodedig eraill cafwyd Diwrnod Gweithgareddau Safle Treftadaeth y Byd ar gyfer 'Ceidwaid Iau' mewn partneriaeth â Pharc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog a fynychwyd gan Sharon Ford Swyddog Addysg Big Pit, yn ogystal â'r cwrs poblogaidd 'Canllaw Map a Chwmpawd i Ddechreuwr.'

Mae Ceidwaid Gwirfoddol Safle Treftadaeth y Byd yn cwrdd am 7pm, dydd Gwener cyntaf pob mis. Cysylltwch ag Alvin Nicholas ar 01495 742334 / 07980 682749 am fwy o fanylion.

Remembering our Chartist Ancestors

The 4th November this year marked the 168th anniversary of the Newport Chartist Uprising of 1839. The Uprising, which led to the death of over 20 marchers and for 3 member's conviction of treason and deportation to Australia, sought to get the vote for ordinary men throughout the UK.

To mark this anniversary a number of events took place over the weekend of 3rd and 4th November.

HERIAN - Heritage in Action (www.herian.org) are also currently exploring opportunities to commemorate and explain the Chartism Story across the South East Wales area. A group of people called the Chartist Gang are currently working on a number of individual and collective projects which will be used to tell the Chartism Story. If you are interested in getting involved, the next Chartist Gang meeting will take place on 14th November at 6pm at the Salem Chapel, Blaina.

Belgrade hears about Blaenavon

John Rodger, the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Officer, was recently invited to attend a conference in Belgrade on the future of industrial heritage in Serbia. He presented the British experience of regeneration and heritage with particular reference to Blaenavon and South Wales.

To date Serbia has paid little attention to its industrial heritage and experts are now looking for ways that the industrial past can contribute to the future of Serbia where the people are hoping for a brighter future after the Balkan wars.

The conference was attended by the Government Minister for Culture, Belgrade Planning Officers, Professors from Belgrade University and other persons with interest in industrial heritage and development throughout Serbia.



Choir receives warm Spanish welcome!

It has been another exceptional year for Blaenavon Male Voice Choir. Not only have they performed in numerous concerts at home here in Wales, but they have also toured and taken part in concerts in Europe.

Earlier this year the choir visited Fuengirola in Spain and while there they performed in three concerts in Nerja, Fuengirola and Andalusi.

On the 10th November they have been invited to perform at a concert in St. Mary's Church, Usk on behalf of the Mayor of Usk. On the 2nd December they will host their own annual concert at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall.



Ivor the Engine visits Blaenavon

John Down reports on another successful event at Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway.

It's difficult to see how Ivor the Engine fits in with the rather worthy image of 'heritage'. Ivor was a literary figure created in the late nineteen fifties by creators Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin. In the seventies he first appeared on Children's Television.

And so it was that the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway became the mythical Merioneth and Llantisilly Rail Traction Company Limited, over the weekend 11th and 12th August, as the one and only real and newly-built Ivor made his first visit to the spiritual country of his fairy tale namesake, pulling trains loaded with happy children and their mums and dads. Jones the Steam was there doing the driving, along with Dai Station and Mrs Porty who was busy reading stories to the children. Idris the Dragon came with Ivor - and Bluebell the Donkey - but where was she? Alice the Elephant was there, hidden inside the box van, but she was heard to trumpet regularly - and making passengers jump - from within.

If bringing over 1000 people over the weekend into historic Blaenavon is what Ivor does, then Ivor really does have a great deal to do with heritage!



Ivor poses having just arrived at the Whistle Inn. Photograph courtesy of Alistair Grieve



Your Town, Your Voice



Gareth Davies, Chair of 'Future Blaenavon', provides a report on progress of Future Blaenavon.

'Future Blaenavon' are seeking members to join an effective community group which has enjoyed a successful 2007 and is looking forward to an even more exciting 2008. In the previous year they launched the community garden opposite Prince Street post office, held St David's Day and World Heritage Day events and have, in partnership with the Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership, installed a brand new community notice board in Market Square.

We have been among the lead partners in applying for Communities First status for Blaenavon 2 an area which stretches from the Abergavenny Road to Giles Road. This exciting project will enable local people to lead in projects that matter to them in their own community.

We have also gained funding from the Heads of the Valleys Scheme to allow volunteers from the town to produce a professional quality DVD documenting the changes to our town.



Another busy year for Big Pit

So far it has been another excellent year for Big Pit. But the year is far from over and there is still more to come!! In November at Big Pit, the new Learning Space will open. This new facility will enable people of all ages to increase their knowledge of the Welsh coal industry.

Earlier this year, Edwin Greening's collection of items connected to his service in the International Brigade during the Spanish Civil War was donated to Big Pit. To celebrate this, the Spanish Civil War re-enactment group, La Columna will be performing at Big Pit on 3rd, 4th, 17th and 18th November.

In the last edition of Heritage News Ceri Thompson, Curator at Big Pit told us about some fascinating research he was carrying out into Eastern European workers who worked in the Welsh coal industry. The project proved to be very successful and the results of the research will be published as "All Poles?" early in 2008. Next year "Colliery Horses" will also be published, giving an intriguing insight into the working lives (and deaths) of these four legged mineworkers.

Join us at Big Pit on Sunday 6th December at 5pm for 'Carols round the Christmas Tree'. It's the perfect way to begin the festive season!! Mulled wine and mince pies will also be available.

Big Pit recently became a recognised 'anchor point' on the European route of industrial heritage (ERIH) - a network of the best industrial heritage sites in Europe. www.erih.net

For more information on what's on at Big Pit, please visit www.museumwales.ac.uk or telephone 01495 790311.



Big Pit, Blaenavon



Blwyddyn brysur arall i Big Pit

Hyd yn hyn cafwyd flwyddyn lwyddiannus arall yn Big Pit. Ond mae'r flwyddyn ymhell o fod ar ben ac mae yna fwy i ddod!! Bydd y Gwagle Dysgu newydd yn agor yn Big Pit ym mis Tachwedd. Bydd y cyfleuster newydd hwn yn galluogi pobl o bob oedran i gynyddu'u gwybodaeth o ddiwydiant glo Cymru.

Nöl ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn, derbyniodd Big Pit gasgliad o eitemau Edwin Greening sy'n gysylltiedig â'i wasanaeth yn y Frigād Genedlaethol yn ystod Rhyfel Cartref Sbaen. I ddathlu'r achlysur, bydd y grŵp La Columna yn ailberfformio Rhyfel Cartref Sbaen yn Big Pit ar y 3ydd, 4ydd, 17eg a'r 18fed o Dachwedd.

Yn y rhifyn diwethaf o Heritage News, dywedodd Ceri Thompson, Curadur Big Pit wrthym ei fod yn cynnal ymchwil diddorol sy'n ymwneud â gweithwyr Dwyrain Ewrop a fu'n gweithio yn y diwydiant glo Cymreig. Bu'r prosiect yn llwyddiannus iawn a bydd canlyniadau'r ymchwil yn cael eu cyhoeddi fel "All Poles?" ar ddechrau 2008. Bydd "Colliery Horses" sy'n cynnig mewnwelediad diddorol i fywyd gwaith (a marwolaethau) y gweithwyr bach bedair coes, hefyd yn cael ei gyhoeddi'r flwyddyn nesaf.

Ymunwch â ni yn Big Pit am 5pm, dydd Sul 6ed o Ragfyr am 'Garolau o amgylch y Goeden Nadolig'. Dyma'r ffordd berffaith i ddechrau'r dathlu!! Bydd yna win cynnes a mins peis hefyd ar gael.

Am wybodaeth bellach ynglŷn â'r hyn sydd ar y gweill yn Big Pit, beth am ymweld â www.museumwales.ac.uk neu ffonio 01495 790311.

Coming Events

Goytre Wharf, Cwm Wood and Canal Circular Walk
Tuesday 6 November, 10am - 12pm
7.5km / 4 Miles/ Easy

Meet at Goytre Wharf Canal Centre car park (ST 311064). A gentle walk through a wooded valley. (Please note there is a £1 car parking fee). Booking essential, telephone 01495 772109.

In and Around Cwmavon Circular Walk
Thursday 15 November, 10am - 12.30pm
6.5km / 4 Miles / Moderate

Meet at Forge Row car park, Cwmavon (ST 271064). A walk above and around Cwmavon taking in a wealth of history and lovely views. Booking essential, telephone 01495 774526.

Blaenavon Lantern Parade Workshops
17 & 18 November, 10am - 5pm
Blaenavon World Heritage Centre

The workshops are free of charge and all materials and artists support provided. Further details from SWICA on telephone 02920 382094.

Heritage Talk
Friday 23 November, 7.30pm
Baptist Chapel Hall, Govilon

Featuring a multimedia presentation by local author and historian Chris Barber entitled "Portraits of the Past". All Welcome - Entry £2.50. Light Refreshments provided.

Blaenavon Lantern Parade Workshops
24 & 25 November, 10am - 5pm
Blaenavon World Heritage Centre

The workshops are free of charge and all materials and artists support provided. Further details from SWICA on telephone 02920 382094.

Twining Association Dance
Saturday 24 November
Blaenavon Workmen's Hall

For further details telephone 01495 792661.

Blessing of the Crib Service
Monday 26 November
Blaenavon Town Centre, 7pm.

Blaenavon Lantern Parade Workshops
1 & 2 December, 10am - 5pm
Blaenavon World Heritage Centre

The workshops are free of charge and all materials and artists support provided. Further details from SWICA on telephone 02920 382094.

Steam Santa Specials
1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 & 23 December
Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway

Visit Santa and his friends in their grotto! Presents for children, mince pie and sherry for adults. Experience the sight, sound and smell of our steam engine. Advance booking is essential. For more details or to book please telephone 01495 792263.

Mother Christmas

1-2, 8-9 & 15-16 December, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 2pm, 3pm
Big Pit

Visit Mother Christmas in her cottage as she helps Santa get ready for Christmas Eve, then make a seasonal gift to take home. £1 per child.

Blaenavon Male Voice Choir Annual Concert
Sunday 2 December
Blaenavon Workmen's Hall

For further details please telephone 01495 792661.

Blaenavon Lantern Parade and Fire Finale
Thursday 6 December, 6pm - 7.30pm

Come and join us and see the spirit of Blaenavon Ironworks be re-awakened by giant fire sculptures and fireworks finale. For details telephone 01633 648812.

Carol Service
Sunday 9 December, 6pm
St. Peters Church

Carol Service led by Blaenavon Ladies Choir.

Pantomime featuring Stan Stennet
5-8 December
Blaenavon Workmen's Hall

For further details please telephone 01495 792661.

Carols round the Christmas Tree
Sunday 16 December, 5pm
Big Pit

Bring the family along to enjoy the best of Christmas Carols round the Christmas tree. All welcome - free mulled wine and mince pies will be available.

Candlelight Service
Monday 24 December, 6pm
Horeb Baptist Church

For further details please telephone 01495 790704.

Family Service
Tuesday 25 December, 10am
Horeb Baptist Church

All welcome. For further details please telephone 01495 790704.

New Year Specials
29 & 30 December
Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway

Roll up and take pleasure in a train journey at the end of 2007, a good way to relax after the busy festive season. For details telephone 01495 792263.

