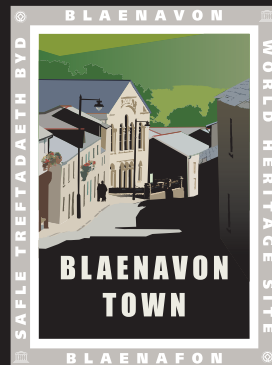


TOWNSCAPE TREFLUN

No.1
December 2019
Rhif.1
Rhagfyr 2019

The Blaenavon Conservation Area magazine
edited by Blaenavon Civic Society
Cylchgrawn Ardal Gadwraeth Blaenafon wedi'i
olygu gan Gymdeithas Ddinesig Blaenafon



World Heritage on Your Doorstep Treftadaeth Byd ar Eich Stepen Drws

When Blaenavon became a World Heritage Site in 2000, it joined famous sites such as the Taj Mahal and the Pyramids of Giza on the list of the world's elite heritage sites.

Blaenavon is of outstanding universal value as its industrial landscape provides evidence of the leading role south Wales played in the Industrial Revolution. The town, with its historic buildings and terraced housing, reflects the distinctive culture of the south Wales valleys in the 19th century. This means that the houses in which many of us live contribute to Blaenavon's global value.

We all have a responsibility to maintain this important heritage for the benefit of future generations. However, it can be a challenge keeping historic properties fit for our 21st century needs. Blaenavon is a living community, not a museum, but it is possible to improve properties whilst making sure that the historic character of the building and the wider townscape is maintained or enhanced.

The volunteers of the Blaenavon Civic Society, working with the Blaenavon Townscape Heritage Programme, aim to support local property owners to appreciate and maintain Blaenavon's built heritage. In this new magazine, we will bring you practical guidance and suggestions on how to look after your heritage building, along with news, social history and creative content.

Pan ddaeth Blaenafon yn Safle Treftadaeth y Byd yn 2000, ymunodd â safleoedd enwog fel y Taj Mahal a Phyrmidiau Giza ar rhestr o safleoedd treftadaeth elitaid y byd.

Mae Blaenafon o werth cyffredinol eithriadol gan fod ei thirwedd ddiwydiannol yn dystiolaeth o'r rôl flaenllaw a chwaraeodd de Cymru yn y Chwyldro Diwydiannol. Mae'r dref, gyda'i hadeiladau hanesyddol a'i thai teras, yn adlewyrchu diwylliant unigryw cymoedd de Cymru yn y 19eg ganrif. Mae hyn yn golygu bod y tai y mae llawer ohonom yn byw ynnddynt yn cyfrannu at werth Blaenafon yn fyd-eang.

Mae gan bob un ohonom gyfrifoldeb i gynnal y dreftadaeth bwysig hon er budd cenedlaethau'r dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, gall fod yn her cadw eiddo hanesyddol yn addas ar gyfer ein hanghenion yn yr 21ain ganrif. Cymuned fyw yw Blaenafon, nid amgueddfa, ond mae'n bosibl gwella eiddo tra ein bod yn sicrhau bod cymeriad hanesyddol yr adeilad a'r treflun ehangach yn cael ei gynnal neu ei wella.

Nod gwirfoddolwyr Cymdeithas Ddinesig Blaenafon, wrth weithio gyda Rhaglen Treftadaeth Treflun Blaenafon, yw cynorthwyo perchnogion eiddo lleol i werthfawrogi a chynnal treftadaeth adeiledig Blaenafon. Yn y cylchgrawn newydd hwn, byddwn yn dod ag arweiniad ymarferol ac awgrymiadau i chi ar sut i ofalu am eich hen adeilad, ynghyd â newyddion, hanes cymdeithasol a chynnwys creadigol.



UNESCO World Heritage Sites/Safleoedd Treftadaeth y Byd UNESCO



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What is a Conservation Area?

Conservation Areas are areas of *special architectural and historic interest worthy of preservation or enhancement*. They were introduced under the Civic Amenities Act 1967. In Wales and England, the current law concerning Conservation Areas is the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The Act gives local planning authorities the power to designate Conservation Areas.

Conservation Areas are subject to special planning controls in order to protect their unique character. It means that certain works and development on properties within Conservation Areas require planning consent from the local planning authority. This could include the use of various types of cladding, the addition of dormer windows or satellite dishes. Listed buildings may have more stringent requirements.

Within the Blaenavon World Heritage Site there are two Conservation Areas. These are the Cwmavon Conservation Area and the Blaenavon Town Centre Conservation Area. The latter was designated in 1984 but was extended in 2011 and 2017. If you require advice on whether you need planning permission to carry out work on your property, please contact Torfaen County Borough Council's Conservation Team on 01633 648288.

The Blaenavon and Cwmavon Conservation Area Management Plans and design guides can be found online at: www.visitblaenavon.co.uk

Beth yw Ardal Gadwraeth?

Mae Ardaloedd Cadwraeth yn feysydd o ddi-ddordeb pensaernïol a hanesyddol arbennig sy'n werth eu cadw neu eu gwella. Fe'u cyflwynwyd o dan Ddeddf Mwynderau Dinesig 1967. Yng Nghymru a Lloegr, y gyfraith ar hyn o bryd o ran Ardaloedd Cadwraeth yw Deddf Cynllunio (Adeiladau Rhestredig ac Ardaloedd Cadwraeth) 1990. Mae'r Ddeddf yn rhoi pŵer i awdurdodau cynllunio lleol ddynodi Ardaloedd Cadwraeth.

Mae Ardaloedd Cadwraeth yn destun rheolaethau cynllunio arbennig er mwyn amddiffyn eu cymeriad unigryw. Mae'n golygu bod angen caniatâd cynllunio gan yr awdurdod cynllunio lleol ar gyfer ambell i ddatblygiad neu waith ar eiddo sydd wedi eu lleoli mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth. Gall hyn gynnwys defnyddio gwahanol fathau o gladin, ychwanegu ffenestri dormer neu ddysgl loeren. Mae'n bosib y bydd gan adeiladau rhestredig ofynion llymach.

O fewn Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon mae dwy Ardal Gadwraeth, sef Ardal Gadwraeth Cwmafon ac Ardal Gadwraeth Canol Tref Blaenafon. Dynodwyd yr olaf ym 1984 ond cafodd ei ymestyn yn 2011 a 2017. Os oes angen cyngor arnoch i weld a oes angen caniatâd cynllunio arnoch i wneud gwaith ar eich eiddo, cysylltwch â Thîm Cadwraeth Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen ar 01633 648288.

Gellir gweld Cynlluniau Rheoli a chanllawiau dylunio Ardal Cadwraeth Blaenafon a Cwmafon ar-lein ar: www.visitblaenavon.co.uk



Why Maintain Your Property?

Maintaining your property can seem daunting and expensive! We may feel we simply don't have the time or money to carry out basic maintenance. However, there are many good reasons why it makes sense to keep your property in good condition.

By inspecting your property regularly, carrying out repairs in a timely manner and using appropriate building materials and methods, you can save money in the long

run. Adhering to a programme of routine maintenance can prove cost-effective, as a well-maintained property is more likely to retain its full value. A relatively small problem can grow if left unattended and prove far more expensive to rectify when its repair becomes urgent. Living in a well-maintained home can also improve your health, safety and wellbeing. Who wants the worry of living in a house beset by damp, rot, mould and leaks?

In a protected area such as a World Heritage Site or a Conservation Area, it is also important to recognise that individual properties contribute to the character and identity of an area. Historically sensitive renovation, using appropriate materials and methods, not only maintains the building but helps preserve the character of the town for future generations.



Pam Cynnal a Chadw Eich Eiddo?

Gall cynnal a chadw eich eiddo ymddangos yn frawychus ac yn ddrud! Efallai y byddwn yn teimlo nad oes gennym yr amser na'r arian i wneud gwaith cynnal a chadw sylfaenol. Fodd bynnag, mae yna lawer o resymau da pam ei bod yn gwneud synnwyr i gadw eich eiddo mewn cyflwr da.

Trwy archwilio'ch eiddo yn rheolaidd, gwneud atgyweiriadau mewn modd amserol a defnyddio deunyddiau a dulliau adeiladu priodol, gallwch arbed arian yn y tymor hir. Gall

cadw at raglen o waith cynnal a chadw arferol fod yn gost-effeithiol, gan fod eiddo sy'n cael ei gynnal a'i gadw'n dda yn fwy tebygol o gadw ei werth llawn. Gall problem gymharol fach dyfu os caiff ei gadael, a phrofi i fod yn fwy costus o lawer i'w chywiro pan ddaw yn fater brys. Gall byw mewn cartref sydd wedi'i gynnal a'i gadw'n dda hefyd wella'ch iechyd, eich diogelwch a'ch lles. Pwy fyddai am y gofod o fyw mewn tŷ sydd â lleithder, pydredd, llwydni, a gollyngiadau dŵr?

Mewn ardal warchoddedig fel Safle Treftadaeth y Byd neu Ardal Gadwraeth, mae'n bwysig cydnabod hefyd bod eiddo unigol yn cyfrannu at gymeriad a hunaniaeth ardal. Yn ôl traddodiad, mae adnewyddu sensitif, gan ddefnyddio deunyddiau a dulliau priodol, nid yn unig yn cynnal yr adeilad ond hefyd yn helpu i warchod cymeriad y dref ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol.





Preparing your Property for Winter

Blaenavon in wintertime can be a pretty inclement place! Snow, heavy rain, gales and frost can wreak havoc with old buildings, so it is important to be prepared for the challenges of the winter months.

As the autumn leaves fall, they can settle in guttering, troughing, downspouts and drains. These should be checked and cleared regularly. If there are any blockages, water may accumulate and cause damage. Your boiler should be in good working order and any exposed water tanks or pipes should be frost protected. This is especially important if the building is being left unoccupied for more than a few days.

Houses and buildings in the Blaenavon Conservation Area typically have slate roofs. These should be inspected regularly for damage, particularly after heavy snow or strong winds. Using a pair of binoculars may help you see whether any slates have slipped. We would suggest you also check your external walls and stonework for cracks and damage. If issues are identified, it is wise to contact a builder as soon as possible. You may also consult your household insurance policy to see what events you are covered for.

More advice on how to prepare your property for winter can be found on the Historic England website - <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/your-home/looking-after-your-home/maintenance/maintenance-checklist/>.

Paratoi eich Eiddo ar gyfer y Gaeaf

Gall Blaenafon fod yn lle eithaf garw yn ystod y gaeaf! Gall eira, glaw trwm, gwyntoedd a rhew wneud llanast i hen adeiladau, felly mae'n bwysig paratoi ar gyfer heriau misoedd y gaeaf.

Wrth i ddail yr hydref gwympto, gallant lenwi cwteri, cafnau, peipiau glaw a draeniau. Dylai'r rhain gael eu harchwilio a'u clirio'n rheolaidd. Os oes unrhyw rwystrau, gall dŵr gronni ac achosi difrod. Dylai eich boeler fod mewn cyflwr da a dylai unrhyw danciau neu bibellau dŵr agored gael eu gwarchod rhag rhew. Mae hyn yn arbennig o bwysig os yw'r adeilad yn cael ei adael yn wag am fwy nag ychydig ddyddiau.

Yn nodweddiadol mae gan dai ac adeiladau yn Ardal Gadwraeth Blaenafon doeau llechi. Dylai'r rhain gael eu harchwilio'n rheolaidd am ddifrod, yn enwedig ar ôl eira trwm neu wyntoedd cryfion. Gallai defnyddio ysbïenddrych eich helpu i weld a yw unrhyw lechi wedi llithro. Byddem yn awgrymu eich bod hefyd yn archwilio'ch waliau allanol a'ch gwaith cerrig i weld a oes craciau neu ddifrod. Os ddownch chi o hyd i broblem, mae'n ddoeth cysylltu ag adeiladwr cyn gynted â phosibl. Efallai y byddwch hefyd am ddarllen eich polisi yswiriant cartref i weld pa ddigwyddiadau y mae'n eich diogelu rhagddynt.

Mae mwy o gyngor ar sut i baratoi eich eiddo ar gyfer y gaeaf ar gael ar wefan Historic England-<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/your-home/looking-after-your-home/maintenance/maintenance-checklist/>.



Choosing Your Builder

You should be vigilant when deciding who to engage to do building work on your heritage property.

'Bodge' jobs, unsuitable repairs or poor-quality workmanship can prove costly in the long term. They can also damage the building and its historic character. When choosing a builder, it is wise to approach a registered company that has relevant accreditations or is a member of a recognised trade association such as the Federation of Master Builders (www.fmb.org.uk). Details of conservation builders, conservation professionals and specialists can also be found in *The Building Conservation Directory*. This is freely available in a digital format at www.buildingconservation.com.

Dewis Eich Adeiladwr

Dylech fod yn wylidwrus wrth benderfynu ar bwy y dylech gysylltu ag ef i wneud gwaith adeiladu ar eich eiddo hanesyddol.

Gall gwaith 'anniben', atgyweiriadau anaddas neu grefftwaith o ansawdd gwael fod yn gostus yn y tymor hir. Gallant hefyd niweidio'r adeilad a'i gymeriad hanesyddol. Wrth ddewis adeiladwr, mae'n ddoeth mynd at gwmni cofrestredig sydd ag achrediadau perthnasol neu sy'n aelod o gymdeithas fasnach gydnabyddedig fel Ffederasiwn y Meistr Adeiladwyr (www.fmb.org.uk). Gellir hefyd gweld manylion adeiladwyr, gweithwyr proffesiynol ac arbenigwyr yn y maes cadwraeth yn y *Cyfeiriadur Cadwraeth Adeiladau*. Mae hwn ar gael am ddim mewn fformat digidol ar www.buildingconservation.com.



What's Your Building's Story?

To understand your heritage building, you first need to know its story. When was it built and why? How has it changed over time? There are several ways to do this. Look at your building and its features. What do these tell you? How was it constructed? How does your building compare to the neighbouring properties? Are there any noticeable differences?

Old maps, photographs, newspapers, census returns, electoral rolls, trade directories and other records can shed light on the history of a street or building and the people who lived in it. Luckily, there are plenty of sources available locally. Why not pay a visit to Blaenavon Community Museum or Gwent Archives (www.gwentarchives.gov.uk) and see what you can discover?

There are plenty of online resources too. Coflein (www.coflein.gov.uk), for example, the online database for the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW), contains information compiled by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) on thousands of Welsh buildings, including many in Blaenavon.

If you know your building's story, its significance, and how it fits into the local townscape, you may be in a better position when carrying out maintenance work.

Beth yw Hanes Eich Adeilad?

Er mwyn deall eich adeilad hanesyddol, yn gyntaf mae angen i chi wybod ei hanes. Pryd cafodd ei adeiladu a pham? Sut mae wedi newid dros amser? Mae yna sawl ffordd o wneud hyn. Edrychwch ar eich adeilad a'i nodweddion. Beth mae'r rhain yn ei ddweud wrthyhych chi? Sut cafodd ei adeiladu? Sut mae'ch adeilad yn cymharu â'r eiddo cyfagos? A oes unrhyw wahaniaethau amlwg?

Gall hen fapiau, ffotograffau, papurau newydd, ffurflenni cyfrifiad, cofrestrau etholiadol, cyfeirlyfrau masnach a chofnodion eraill daflu goleuni ar hanes stryd neu adeilad a'r bobl a oedd yn byw ynddo/i. Yn ffodus, mae yna ddigon o ffynonellau ar gael yn lleol. Beth am alw heibio Amgueddfa Gymunedol Blaenafon neu Archifau Gwent (www.gwentarchives.gov.uk) i weld beth y gallwch chi ei ddarganfod?

Mae yna hefyd ddigon o adnoddau ar-lein ar Coflein (www.coflein.gov.uk), er enghraifft, mae'r gronfa ddata ar-lein ar gyfer Cofnod Henebion Cenedlaethol Cymru (NMRW), yn cynnwys gwybodaeth a gasglwyd gan y Comisiwn Brenhinol ar Henebion Hynafol a Hanesyddol Cymru (RCAHMW) ar filoedd o adeiladau yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys llawer ym Mlaenafon.

Os ydych chi'n gwybod hanes eich adeilad, ei arwyddocâd, a sut mae'n cyd-fynd â'r treflun lleol, efallai y byddwch mewn gwell sefyllfa i fynd ati i wneud gwaith cynnal a chadw.



King Street, Blaenavon, c.1908/King Street, Blaenafon, tua1908



Historic Letters Reveal 70 Broad Street's World War One History

A history of a building is not just about its bricks and mortar - its social history can be fascinating too. Take 70 Broad Street, for example. Today, it forms part of the Hwb Youth Club but a hundred years ago, it was the home of Henry Morgan Davies and his daughter Mildred.

Mr Davies was a chemist, druggist and dentist, originally from Cardigan, who lived and worked in Blaenavon for many years. He was also distinguished in public life, serving as the first Chairman of Blaenavon Urban District Council, the President of the Blaenavon Chamber of Trade, a deacon of Broad Street Baptist Chapel, a trustee of the Blaenavon Workmen's Institute and a local

magistrate.

Blaenavon Community Museum recently acquired a large collection of letters and postcards sent to the Davies family from relatives serving in the First World War. The letters provide a fascinating insight into the lives of those who lived at 70 Broad Street and how the family supported the troops on the front by sending food and parcels. The museum volunteers are now hard at work transcribing these letters. The letters complement the museum's wider collections on the First World War and local businesses. Visit the Blaenavon Community Museum in the Workmen's Hall to find out more.



Henry Morgan Davies



Mildred Clara Davies

(Courtesy of/Trwy garedigrwydd Pat Morgan)

Llythyrau Hanesyddol yn Datgelu Hanes Rhif 70 Broad Street yn ystod y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf

Nid yw hanes adeilad yn ymwneud â'i frics a'i forter yn unig - gall ei hanes cymdeithasol hefyd fod yn hynod ddiddorol. Cymerwch 70 Broad Street, er enghraifft. Heddiw, mae'n rhan o Glwb Ieuenctid Yr Hwb ond gan mlynedd yn ôl, roedd yn gartref i Henry Morgan Davies a'i ferch Mildred.

Roedd Mr Davies yn fferylllydd, cyflenwr cyffuriau meddygol a deintydd. Yn wreiddiol o Aberteifi, bu'n byw ac yn gweithio ym Mllaenafon am flynyddoedd lawer. Roedd hefyd yn nodedig mewn bywyd cyhoeddus, ac yntai'n gwasanaethu fel Cadeirydd cyntaf Cyngor Dosbarth Trefol Blaenafon, yn Llywydd Siambr Fasnach Blaenafon, yn ddiakon yng Nghapel Bedyddwyr Broad Street, yn ymddiriedolwr Sefydliad

Gweithwyr Blaenafon ac yn ynad lleol.

Yn ddiweddar, daeth casgliad mawr o lythyrau a chardiau post a anfonwyd at deulu Davies gan berthnasau a oedd yn gwasanaethu yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, i feddiant Amgueddfa Gymunedol Blaenafon. Mae'r llythyrau'n rhoi darlun hynod ddiddorol o fywydau'r rhai a oedd yn byw yn 70 Broad Street, a sut arferai'r teulu gefnogi'r milwyr ar y ffrynt trwy anfon bwyd a pharseli. Mae gwirfoddolwyr yr amgueddfa bellach yn gweithio'n ddyfal i drawsgrifio'r llythyrau hyn. Mae'r llythyrau'n ategu at gasgliadau ehangach yr amgueddfa ar y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf a busnesau lleol. Ewch i Amgueddfa Gymunedol Blaenafon yn Neuadd y Gweithwyr i ddarganfod mwy.



Bittersweet – A Blaenavon Christmas by Lisa Kate Powell

Up-and-coming Welsh writer Lisa Powell tells a Victorian Christmas tale inspired by the Blaenavon townscape.

It had rained for two damp and miserable weeks, but the 23rd of December dawned bright and clear in Blaenavon. The early morning mist had risen off the mountains, leaving the sky blue and the air biting cold.

Sarah made the journey from her family's small cottage into town alone. Only two days until Christmas and there was shopping to be done.

Broad Street thrived with people, despite the brisk December wind. She was simply relieved to be free of the house, where wet clothes were constantly drying and the air was damp, heavy and made her cough.

Sarah was weary too of the baby's high-pitched screams, and of the way her younger brother and sister, aged six and seven, fought like feral cats, while her mother rocked the baby by the fire, too tired to stop them.

Now, Sarah weaved through groups of shoppers, many of whom stopped here and there to greet one another and blocked her way. But she paid them no mind - she was pleased to be busy, to be distracted.

Distantly she heard a Christmas carol being sung, mingled with the shouts of shoppers. She didn't know the name of the song, but found herself humming the tune as she wandered along. A group of young boys barged past her, laughing, as they chased a ball down the street. Wreaths were hung on every door, transforming the street.

Her shopping list was slightly unusual. No goose this year, but beef instead with vegetables which could be stewed over the fire. She needed thread, too, so that she could patch up her old coat - again.

The butcher's made her stomach growl with hunger - the spread laid out in the shop window was like nothing she had seen before, so rich in choice and smelling of

sweet spices.

If only father had sent some money, she thought, as she bought a small cut of beef. He would soon. He would write, just like he promised.

The confectioner's was not on her list, but, once the necessities had been dealt with, her feet seemed to find their own way there. A little money remained in her purse - enough at least to make her brother and sister smile.

A rush of sugary sweetness greeted her as she walked inside. "My brother likes the peppermint ones," she told Mr Evans, the shopkeeper, pointing to the ones she wanted. Her eyes swept across the rainbow of coloured jars that were stacked behind the counter.

"Does he? And what about you, miss?"

"Oh no, nothing for me, thank you. I'm thirteen. I'm too old now for sweet things."

He laughed and shook his head. "Thirteen! Old! That makes me quite ancient."

Sarah blushed. She didn't mean that

Mr Evans was old - though his bushy moustache was quite grey - but now she felt embarrassed.

"And you are never too old for sweets," he continued. "Do pass on my best wishes to your mother. Is she keeping well?"

Yes, although she isn't sleeping much because the baby hardly stops crying. You see, my father left a couple of months ago, just before the baby was born, in search of work and he hasn't written yet, nor sent any money.

But Sarah didn't say any of that. She hated the way people looked at her when she did, their smiles a mixture of sadness and concern.

Instead, she smiled and watched as Mr Evans poured out a few more sweets than she had paid for and wished him a pleasant Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Sarah walked back down Broad Street, slower this time, savouring the cold air and careful not to slip in her over-worn boots.

It always amazed and saddened her how quickly the daylight faded in the winter months. Already the sky had darkened and the rooftops of the shops that flanked the street looked stark and black.

She felt a strange contentment, though this was not the Christmas she had wanted or expected. It was a feeling she had not realised she missed until now. The carollers continued to sing, even as the light was fading and lights from the shop-fronts gave the street a warm glow.

In her patched-up coat pockets, sat the comforting weight of a small bag of sweets. A bag that was fuller than she had hoped. Christmas was a time for miracles after all, even if they were only little ones.

How nice it would be to see her siblings smile again, she thought, if only for a day.



Photo by Niall Harman (modeling from Peas)



Bittersweet – A Blaenavon Christmas gan Lisa Kate Powell

Dyma Lisa Powell, awdur newydd o Gymru, yn adrodd stori Nadoligaidd o gyfnod Victoria, a gafodd ei hysbrydoli gan dreflun Blaenafon ...

Roedd hi wedi bwrw glaw am bythefnos llaith a diflas, ond fe wawriodd y 23ain o Ragfyr yn braf ac yn glir ym Mlaenafon. Roedd y niwl ben bore wedi codi oddi ar y mynyddoedd, gan adael yr awyr yn las a'r awyr yn enbyd o oer.

Teithiodd Sarah o fwthyn bach ei theulu i'r dref ar ei phen ei hun. Dau ddiwrnod yn unig tan 'Dolig ac roedd angen siopa.

Roedd Broad Street dan ei sang â phobl, er gwaethaf gwynt llym mis Rhagfyr. Rhyddhad llwyr oedd bod allan o'r tŷ, lle'r oedd dillad gwlyb yn sychu'n gyson a'r aer yn llaith, yn drwm ac yn gwneud iddi beswch.

Roedd Sarah wedi blino hefyd ar holl sgrechiadau uchel y babi, ac o'r ffordd roedd ei brawd a'i chwaer iau, chwech a saith oed, yn ymladd fel cathod gwyllt, tra bod ei mam yn siglo'r babi yn y crud ger y tân, yn rhy flinedig i'w hatal.

Nawr, gweodd Sarah trwy grwpiau o siopwyr, wrth iddynt aros am ennyd yma ac acw i gyfarch ei gilydd a rhwystro ei ffordd. Ond ni wnaethant ei rhwystro'n hir - roedd hi'n falch o fod yn brysur, rhywbeth i dynnu ei sylw.

Yn y pellter clywodd garol Nadolig yn cael ei chanu, yn gymysg â bloeddio'r siopwyr. Doedd hi ddim yn gwybod enw'r gân, ond cafodd ei hun yn hymian y dôn wrth iddi grwydro ymlaen. Gwthiodd grŵp o fechgyn ifanc heibio iddi, gan chwerthin, wrth iddynt fynd ar ôl pêl i lawr y stryd. Roedd torchau yn hongian ar bob drws, gan drawsnewid y stryd.

Braidd yn anarferol oedd ei rhestr siopa. Dim gŵydd eleni, ond cig eidion yn lle gyda llysiau y gellid eu stiwiw dros y tân. Roedd hi angen edau hefyd, er mwyn iddi allu clytio'i hen got - eto.

Daeth sŵn o'i stumog wrth iddi fynd heibio'r cigydd a hithau'n llwgu - Ni welodd y fath wledd erioed â ffenestr y siop, mor gyfoethog o ran dewis ac arogl sbeisys melys. O na fyddai ei thad wedi anfon rhywfaint

o arian, meddylodd, wrth iddi brynu darn bach o gig eidion. Byddai'n siŵr o wneud yn fuan. Byddai'n ysgrifennu, yn union fel yr addawodd.

Nid oedd y siop losin ar ei rhestr, ond, ar ôl delio â'r holl bethau angenrheidiol, ymddengys bod ei thraed yn dod o hyd i'w ffordd eu hunain yno. Roedd ganddi ychydig o arian yn ei phwrs - digon o leiaf i wneud i'w brawd a'i chwaer wenu.

Fe wnaeth chwa o felyster siwgrog ei chyfarch wrth iddi gerdded i mewn. "Mae fy mrawd yn hoff o'r rhai mintys," meddai wrth Mr Evans, y siopwr, gan bwyntio at y rhai roedd hi eisiau. Ysgubodd ei llygaid ar draws yr enfys o jariau lliwgar a oedd yn sefyll mewn pentwr y tu ôl i'r cownter.

"Ydy e? A beth amdanoch chi, Miss?"

"O na, dim byd i mi, diolch. Rwy'n dair ar ddeg. Rwy'n rhy hen nawr i bethau melys.

"Chwarddodd ac ysgwyd ei ben. "Tair ar ddeg! Hen! Mae hynny'n fy ngwneud i'n hen iawn."

Gwridodd Sarah. Doedd hi ddim yn golygu bod Mr Evans yn hen - er bod ei fwstas

trwchus yn eithaf llwyd - ond nawr roedd cywilydd arni.

Aeth ymlaen, "A dydych chi byth yn rhy hen i losin," "A wnewch chi roi fy nymuniadau gorau i'ch mam. Ydy hi'n cadw'n iach?"

Ydy, er nad yw hi'n cysgu llawer oherwydd go brin fod y babi yn stopio crio. Chi'n gweld, gadawodd fy nhad ychydig fisoedd yn ôl, ychydig cyn i'r babi gael ei eni, i chwilio am waith ac nid yw wedi ysgrifennu eto, nac anfon unrhyw arian.

Ond ni ddywedodd Sarah ddim o hynny. Roedd hi'n casáu'r ffordd roedd pobl yn edrych arni pan fyddai'n dweud hynny, eu gwên yn gymysgedd o dristwch a phryder. Yn lle hynny, gwenodd a gwyliodd wrth i Mr Evans dywallt ychydig mwy o losin nag yr oedd hithau wedi talu amdanynt a dymunodd Nadolig dymunol a Blwyddyn Newydd lewyrchus iddo.

Cerddodd Sarah yn ôl i lawr Broad Street, yn arafach y tro hwn, gan arogl i'r awyr oer a chymryd gofal i beidio â llithro yn ei hen esgidiau carpiog.

Syfrdanwyd hi a'i thristau pa mor gyflym yr oedd golau dydd yn pylu yn ystod misoedd y gaeaf. Erbyn hyn roedd yr awyr wedi tywyllu ac roedd toeau'r siopau bob ochr i'r stryd yn edrych yn llwm ac yn ddu.

Teimlodd chwa o fodlonrwydd rhyfedd, er nad hwn oedd y Nadolig roedd hi wedi'i eisiau na'i ddisgwyl. Roedd yn deimlad nad oedd hi wedi sylweddoli iddi fethu tan nawr. Parhaodd y carolwyr i ganu, hyd yn oed wrth i'r golau bylu a goleuadau'r siopau rhoi naws gynnes i'r stryd.

Ym mhoced ei chot glytiog, eistedda'r bag bach o losin yn glyd a chysurus. Bag a oedd yn llawnach nag yr oedd hi wedi'i obeithio. Roedd y Nadolig yn amser i wyrthiau wedi'r cyfan, waeth pa mor fach oeddent.

Mor braf fyddai gweld ei brawd a'i chwaer yn gwenu eto, meddylodd, pe bai ond am ddiwrnod yn unig.



Photo by Nubia Alvarez (unabim) from Pexels





Stories of Blaenavon's Past

Blaenavon has a rich social history and heritage. People with a connection to the town have incredible untold stories about our much-loved community.

We want to hear your stories about local buildings, people and events. We are particularly interested in listening to people who are isolated or those who don't get the chance to connect with others. Maybe you live in residential accommodation or can't leave your home for some reason.

The Blaenavon Civic Society is working with Ffrind i Mi, a new initiative that Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and its partners are developing to try and make sure that anyone who feels lonely or isolated is supported to reconnect with their communities. Ffrind i Mi will recruit and train several local young people to act as social researchers or journalists. The young people will collect your stories and with your help, publish them as digital or print media.

We hope that this project will not only help to generate a sense of pride in our town but also support those who have become disconnected from the community to reconnect with it.

If you are interested in taking part in the project as a contributor or researcher, please contact Jim Wright, Treasurer, Blaenavon Civic Society, on ajwrightx1@gmail.com for more information.

Straeon am Orffennol Blaenafon

Mae gan Flaenafon gyfoeth o hanes cymdeithasol a threftadaeth, ac mae gan y rheini sydd â chysylltiad â'r dref straeon anhygoel sydd heb eu hadrodd am ein cymuned boblogaidd.

Rydym am glywed eich straeon am adeiladau, pobl a digwyddiadau lleol. Mae gennym ddiddordeb arbennig i wrando ar bobl sydd wedi'u hynysu neu'r rhai nad ydyn nhw'n cael cyfle i gysylltu ag eraill. Efallai eich bod yn byw mewn llety preswyl neu na allwch adael eich cartref am ba bynnag rheswm.

Mae Cymdeithas Ddinesig Blaenafon yn gweithio gyda Ffrind i Mi, menter newydd y mae Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan a'i bartneriaid yn ei datblygu i geisio sicrhau bod unrhyw un sy'n teimlo'n unig neu'n ynysig yn cael cymorth i ailgysylltu â'u cymunedau. Bydd Ffrind i Mi yn recriwtio ac yn hyfforddi sawl person ifanc lleol i weithredu fel ymchwilwyr cymdeithasol neu newyddiadurwyr. Bydd y bobl ifanc yn casglu'ch straeon a gyda'ch help chi, yn eu cyhoeddi fel cyfryngau digidol neu mewn print. Gobeithiwn y bydd y prosiect hwn nid yn unig yn helpu i greu ymdeimlad o falchder yn ein tref ond y bydd hefyd yn darparu cymorth i'r rhai sydd wedi'u datgysylltu o'r gymuned i ailgysylltu â hi unwaith eto.

Os oes gennych ddiddordeb, a hoffech gymryd rhan yn y prosiect fel cyfrannwr neu ymchwilydd, cysylltwch â Jim Wright, Trysorydd, Cymdeithas Ddinesig Blaenafon, ar ajwrightx1@gmail.com i gael mwy o wybodaeth.



Plans to Improve Castle Hotel

Plans have been submitted to upgrade Blaenavon's Castle Hotel. The three-storey hotel, which was built in the mid-19th century, stands prominently in Broad Street and the current proposals seek to significantly enhance the streetscape and contribute towards the heritage-led regeneration of the town.

Under the plans, it is proposed to convert the upper floors of the hotel into an eight-bedroom hotel, whilst also making improvements to the kitchens and toilets. A first-floor balcony is proposed, as well as historically sympathetic replacements for the modern roof and windows on the rear of the building. Two chimney stacks will also be reinstated.

The scheme, if approved for funding, would allow for commercial improvements to the hotel, contribute to the economic development of Blaenavon, reduce anti-social behaviour and improve the historic character of Broad Street.

The Blaenavon Townscape Heritage Programme is developing several projects with eligible property owners for delivery up to December 2021.

Did You Know?

- The Castle Hotel was a meeting place for a Lodge of Oddfellows in the 19th century
- 100 members of the Blaenavon Chamber of Trade crammed into the Castle for a banquet in 1914
- In the 19th century coroner's inquests were held in the Castle on the bodies of workers killed in industrial accidents
- The hotel was a meeting place for Trade Unionists in the 19th and 20th centuries
- In 1899, the landlord was accused by the police of being drunk on the premises. He proved his innocence by walking backwards and forwards in a straight line, repeating the phrase 'truly rural', carrying a full pint of beer without spilling a drop!

Cynlluniau i Wella Gwesty'r Castle Hotel

Mae cynlluniau wedi'u cyflwyno i uwchraddio Gwesty'r Castle Hotel ym Mlaenafon. Saif y gwesty tri llawr, a adeiladwyd yng nghanol y 19eg ganrif, mewn lle amlwg yn Broad Street ac mae'r cynigion cyfredol yn mynd ati i geisio gwella'r strydlyn yn sylweddol a chyfrannu at adfywio'r dref dan arweiniad treftadaeth.

O dan y cynlluniau, y bwriad yw trosi lloriau uchaf y gwesty yn westy wyth ystafell wely, tra hefyd yn gwella'r ceginau a'r toiledau. Bwriedir creu balconi ar y llawr cyntaf, yn ogystal ag amnewidiadau fydd yn gweddu'n hanesyddol i'r to a'r ffenestri modern ar gefn yr adeilad. Bydd dau gorn simdde hefyd yn cael eu hadfer.

Byddai'r cynllun, pe bai'n cael ei gymeradwyo i dderbyn cyllid, yn caniatáu gwelliannau masnachol i'r gwesty, yn cyfrannu at ddatblygiad economaidd Blaenafon, yn lleihau ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol ac yn gwella cymeriad hanesyddol Broad Street.

Mae Rhaglen Treftadaeth Treflun Blaenafon yn datblygu sawl prosiect gyda pherchnogion eiddo cymwys i'w cyflwyno hyd at fis Rhagfyr 2021.

Wyddoch Chi?

- Roedd y Castle Hotel yn fan cyfarfod ar gyfer Cyfrinfa'r Odyddion yn y 19eg ganrif
- Fe wnaeth 100 o aelodau Siambr Fasnach Blaenafon wasgu i mewn i'r Castell i wleda ym 1914
- Yn y 19eg ganrif cynhaliwyd cwest y crwner yn y Castell ar gyrff gweithwyr a laddwyd mewn damweiniau diwydiannol
- Arferai'r gwesty fod yn fan cyfarfod i'r Undebwyr yn y 19eg a'r 20fed ganrif
- Yn 1899, cyhuddwyd y landlord gan yr heddlu o fod yn feddw yn yr adeilad. Profodd ei ddiniweidrwydd trwy gerdded yn ôl ac ymlaen mewn llinell syth, yn ailadrodd yr ymadrodd 'truly rural', gan gario peint llawn o gwrw heb ollwng diferyn!



The Castle Hotel in Broad Street (courtesy of Pat Morgan)/Y Castle Hotel yn Broad Street (Trwy garedigrwydd Pat Morgan)



Restored Bethlehem Chapel Reopens

One of Blaenavon's oldest and most venerable chapels has been renovated thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund through the Blaenavon Townscape Heritage Programme (THP).

Bethlehem Congregationalist Chapel, which was built in a classical architectural style in 1840, has benefited from a range of improvements including a new slate roof, cast iron rainwater goods, timber windows, timber doors and lime rendering.

The renovation was approached sensitively, using traditional construction methods and appropriate materials. The chapel now enjoys improved accessibility and benefits from a drop down screen and projector. In addition to its religious use, the building can accommodate a range of activities. A successful rededication service was held on Sunday 15 September to celebrate the reopening of the chapel.

Councillor Alan S. Jones, Chairman of Blaenavon Civic Society and Blaenavon World Heritage Champion, said: "I am delighted to see all of the hard work and determination shown by Bethlehem Chapel has finally come to fruition. For ten long years, Bethlehem Chapel, supported by Torfaen County Borough Council and Blaenavon Town

Council have sought to secure funding to regenerate the chapel."

The Blaenavon THP is being delivered through funding contributions from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Torfaen County Borough Council, Blaenavon Town Council and Cadw. This project also received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

Did You Know?

- The original Bethlehem Chapel opened in 1820 near Avon Road and the current chapel was built in 1840, shortly before the growth of Broad Street.
- Bethlehem was the last of Blaenavon's chapels to abandon the Welsh language. English speaking members of the chapel formed Lion Street English Congregational Chapel in 1867.
- A damaging split occurred in 1888 when the pastor expelled about 40 members of the congregation. When some of these members ignored their expulsion, the police were called to remove the 'intruders'!



The rededication service at Bethlehem Chapel/Y gwasanaeth ailgysegru yng Nghapel Bethlehem



Ailagor Capel Bethlehem Ar Ei Newydd Wedd

Mae un o gapeli hynaf a mwyaf hybarch Blaenafon wedi cael ei adnewyddu diolch i arian gan Gronfa Treftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol trwy Raglen Treftadaeth Treflun Blaenafon (THP).

Mae Capel Annibynwyr Bethlehem, a adeiladwyd mewn arddull bensaernïol glasurrol ym 1840, wedi elwa o ystod o welliannau gan gynnwys to llechi newydd, nwyddau dŵr glaw wedi eu creu o haearn bwrw, ffenestri pren, drysau pren a rendro calch.

Aethpwyd ati i adnewyddu'r capel mewn modd sensitif, gan ddefnyddio dulliau adeiladu traddodiadol a deunyddiau priodol. Mae yna bellach gwell mynediad i'r capel ac mae'n elwa o gwymplen a thaflunydd. Yn ogystal â'r defnydd y gwneir o honno'n grefyddol, gall yr adeilad ddarparu ar gyfer ystod o weithgareddau. Cynhaliwyd gwasanaeth ailgysegru llwyddiannus ddydd Sul 15 Medi i ddathlu achlysur ailagor y capel.

Meddai'r Cynghorydd Alan Jones, Cadeirydd Cymdeithas Ddinesig Blaenafon a Hyrwyddwr Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon: "Rwyf wrth fy modd i weld bod yr holl waith caled a natur benderfynol Capel Bethlehem wedi dwyn ffrwyth o'r diwedd. Am ddeng mlynedd hir, mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen a Chyngor Tref Blaenafon wedi ceisio sicrhau cyllid i adnewyddu'r capel."

Mae RhTT Blaenafon yn cael ei chyflawni diolch i gyfraniadau ariannol gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen, Cyngor Tref Blaenafon a Cadw. Mae'r prosiect hwn hefyd wedi derbyn cyllid drwy Raglen Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru - Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020, a gaiff ei hariannu gan y Gronfa Amaethyddol Ewropeaidd ar gyfer Datblygu Gwledig a Llywodraeth Cymru.

Wyddoch Chi?

- Agorodd y Capel Bethlehem gwreiddiol ym 1820 ger Avon Road ac adeiladwyd y capel presennol ym 1840, ychydig cyn twf Broad Street.
- Bethlehem oedd yr olaf o gapeli Blaenafon i gefnu ar y Gymraeg. Ffurfiodd yr aelodau Saesneg eu hiaith Gapel Annibynnol Saesneg Lion Street ym 1867.
- Digwyddodd hollt niweidiol ym 1888 pan aeth y gweinidog ati i ddiarddel tua 40 aelod o'r gynulleidfa. Pan anwybyddodd rhai o'r aelodau hyn eu diarddeliad, galwyd ar yr heddlu i gael gwared ar 'tresmaswyr'!



Bethlehem Chapel/Capel Bethlehem



Park Street School Demolished

Visitors returning to Blaenavon are likely to notice a big change in the townscape. Park Street School, one of the largest and most imposing buildings in Blaenavon, was demolished in summer 2019, following seven years of dereliction.

The large brick building, notable for its roof-top playground, was constructed by Monmouthshire County Council in 1937 to a modern design by county architect Colin Lancelot Jones FRIBA (1893-1959). It was a familiar site, visible from many parts of the town and served as the town's secondary school from 1937 to 1980 and as St. Peter's CV Primary School from 1982 to 2012.

Following the announcement that the school was to be demolished, Blaenavon Civic Society resolved to make a permanent record of the site. With the permission of Torfaen County Borough Council, Yoan Jones carried out a photographic survey of the site and local historian Dr Nathan Matthews has researched and written a detailed history of the Park Street site from the building of the original British School in 1871 through to the closure of St. Peter's School in 2012. The history and photographs have been deposited at the Blaenavon Community Museum in the Workmen's Hall.

Dymchwel Ysgol Park Street

Bydd ymwelwyr sy'n dychwelyd i Flaenafon yn debygol o sylwi ar newid mawr yn y drefwedd. Cafodd Ysgol Park Street, un o'r adeiladau mwyaf a mwyaf mawreddog ym Mlaenafon, ei dymchwel yn haf 2019, yn dilyn saith mlynedd o ddiffieithdra.

Codwyd yr adeilad mawr o frics, sy'n nodedig am ei faes chwarae ar ben y to, gan Gyngor Sir Mynwy ym 1937 a hynny yn ôl dyluniad modern gan y pensaer sirol Colin Lancelot Jones FRIBA (1893-1959). Roedd yn safle cyfarwydd, i'w weld o sawl rhan o'r dref a bu'n ysgol uwchradd y dref rhwng 1937 a 1980 ac yn ddiweddarach yn Ysgol Gynradd St. Peter's rhwng 1982 a 2012.

Yn dilyn y cyhoeddiad y byddai'r ysgol yn cael ei dymchwel, penderfynodd Cymdeithas Ddinesig Blaenafon wneud cofnod parhaol o'r safle. Gyda chaniatâd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen, cynhaliodd Yoan Jones arolwg ffotograffig o'r safle ac mae'r hanesydd lleol Dr Nathan Matthews wedi ymchwilio ac ysgrifennu hanes manwl safle Park Street o gyfnod adeiladu'r Ysgol Brydeinig wreiddiol ym 1871 hyd at gyfnod cau Ysgol St Peter's yn 2012. Mae'r hanes a'r ffotograffau wedi'u rhoi yng ngofal Amgueddfa Gymunedol Blaenafon yn Neuadd y Gweithwyr.



The demolition of Park Street School © Yoan Jones/Dymchwel Ysgol Park Street © Yoan Jones





Parts of the Blaenavon Conservation Area/Rhannau o Ardal Cadwraeth Blaenavon

Conservation Events in 2020

If you are interested in maintaining your heritage building or just want to find out more about the local townscape, please come along to our FREE conservation sessions.

Starting in Spring 2020, specialists from the Tywi Centre will be holding a series of building conservation workshops in Blaenavon. The sessions will provide a guide to essential building maintenance, practical skills, environmental efficiency in old buildings and understanding character and historic significance.

These activities are being delivered in partnership with the Blaenavon Townscape Heritage Programme.

Dates and venues are to be confirmed but, to register your interest, please contact us on blaenavoncivicsociety@outlook.com. Places are limited.

Digwyddiadau Cadwraeth yn 2020

Os oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn cynnal a chadw eich adeilad hanesyddol neu am wybod mwy am y treflun lleol, dewch i'n sesiynau cadwraeth RHAD AC AM DDIM.

Yn cychwyn yng Ngwanwyn 2020, bydd arbenigwyr o Ganolfan Tywi yn cynnal cyfres o weithdai cadwraeth adeiladau ym Mlaenavon. Bydd y sesiynau'n darparu arweiniad ar gynnal a chadw hanfodol ar adeiladau, sgiliau ymarferol, effeithlonrwydd amgylcheddol mewn adeiladau hanesyddol a deall cymeriad ac arwyddocâd hanesyddol.

Mae'r gweithgareddau hyn yn cael eu darparu mewn partneriaeth â Rhaglen Treftadaeth Treflun Blaenavon.

Mae dyddiadau a lleoliadau i'w cadarnhau ond, i gofrestru'ch diddordeb, cysylltwch â ni ar blaenavoncivicsociety@outlook.com. Mae lleoedd yn gyfyngedig.





Join Blaenavon Civic Society Ymuno â Chymdeithas Ddinesig Blaenafon

If you are a property owner, a resident of Blaenavon or simply have an interest in this historic town, why not join Blaenavon Civic Society?

Blaenavon Civic Society is a new community group which has been set up by local residents to:

- increase interest, understanding and pride in

the historical buildings of Blaenavon;

- assist in the protection of the buildings and historic character of Blaenavon; and
- promote high standards of planning, design and architecture in Blaenavon.

We welcome anyone interested in the area's heritage. Contact us for more information.

Os ydych yn berchen ar eiddo, yn byw ym Mlaenafon neu efallai mai diddordeb sydd gennych yn y dref hanesyddol hon, yna beth am ymuno â Chymdeithas Ddinesig Blaenafon?

Mae Cymdeithas Ddinesig Blaenafon yn grŵp cymunedol newydd sydd wedi'i sefydlu gan drigolion lleol i:

- gynyddu diddordeb, dealltwriaeth a balchder yn adeiladau

hanesyddol Blaenafon;

- cynorthwyo i warchod adeiladau a chymeriad hanesyddol Blaenafon; a
- hyrwyddo safonau uchel o gynllunio, dylunio a phensaerniaeth ym Mlaenafon.

Rydym yn croesawu unrhyw un sydd â diddordeb yn nhreftadaeth yr ardal. Cysylltwch â ni am fwy o wybodaeth.

Blaenavon Civic Society Officers 2019-2020

Chairman – Cllr Alan S. Jones
Secretary – Dr Nathan Matthews
Treasurer – Mr Jim Wright

Contact Us

www.blaenavoncivicsociety.com
blaenavoncivicsociety@outlook.com

Swyddogion Cymdeithas Ddinesig Blaenafon 2019-2020

Cadeirydd – Y Cyng. Alan S. Jones
Ysgrifennydd – Dr Nathan Matthews
Trysorydd – Mr Jim Wright

Cysylltu â Ni

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