

HERITAGE NEWS

BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE SITE NEWSLETTER ISSUE 14 - Summer 2012

NEW LOOK WORLD HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The new look Blaenavon World Heritage Festival is taking place over the weekend of Saturday 30 June and Sunday 1 July 2012. This two day event will celebrate the cultural and rural heritage of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site. Festivities are located in Blaenavon Heritage Town on Saturday and at Garn Lakes on Sunday.

Visit Blaenavon Heritage Town on Saturday 30 June from 11.30 – 4pm for a fun filled day of entertainment. Taking place at various locations including Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, Market Square, Blaenavon Workmen's Hall, St Peters Church, Horeb and Park Street Chapels. A 'Sunday School Anniversary Walk' of local children remembering our cultural past starts at 1pm from the top of Broad Street/King Street and will make their way down through the town to Park Street Chapel.

Watch art and craft demonstrations at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall and have a go at various traditional crafts. Visit a wedding dress and wedding photographic exhibition displaying dresses from the past at St Peters Church and

celebrate the 150th anniversary of Horeb Chapel where you can enjoy a fantastic Flower Festival. Plus enjoy musical and family entertainment at Market Square and Blaenavon World Heritage Centre.

On Sunday 1 July, enjoy a day in the heritage landscape at Garn Lakes. The day will celebrate the rural heritage of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site. Enjoy displays of traditional crafts including dry-stone walling and willow weaving. Take part in a variety of bush craft activities; have a go at casting your line with the local fishing club; or take a kayaking trip on the lake.

The now well established, dog show will start at midday. Organised by the Lowland Search Dogs, there will be rosettes and prizes for all winners, with a treat for every dog who enters.

For further information on the World Heritage Festival, telephone the Blaenavon Tourist Information Centre on (01495) 742333 or www.visitblaenavon.co.uk



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World Heritage Festival 2012

Councillor Neil Lewis MBE, Chair of Blaenavon World Heritage Day Committee explains the new look World Heritage Day...

This year we are revamping our Heritage Day activities due to reduced budgets. Unfortunately the grant aid from various funding bodies that have supported us over the past few years has now come to an end. We are however, very grateful to Torfaen County Borough Council and Blaenavon Town Council for their continued support and commitment.

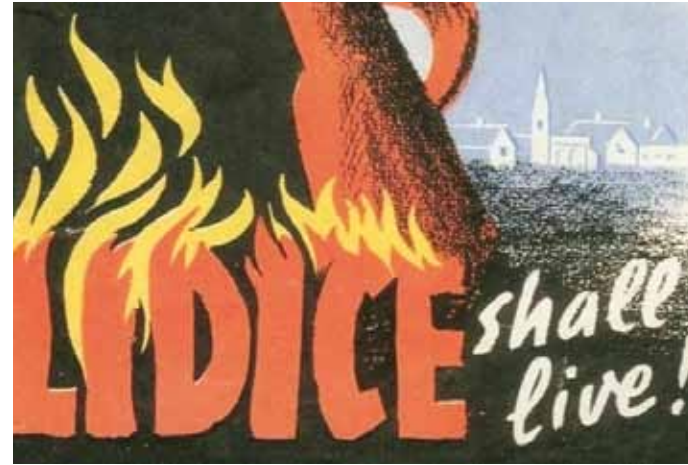
The event on Saturday 30 June 2012 will take place around the various Chapels/Churches and significant buildings, this will include St Peter's Church, Horeb Chapel, Park Street Methodist, Blaenavon Workmen's Hall and the World Heritage Centre. There will also be some small scale activities in the Town Centre in Market Square.

The parade will take place on a smaller scale in the form of a 'Sunday School Anniversary Walk' to remember our past. Next year we hope to be back with our normal festivities and we will keep you posted during the next 12 months.

I would like to thank you for all your hard work and support over the past 12 years; I hope you will continue to support our event under this new format this year. The event will be a wonderful celebration of our local culture and heritage as well as celebrating Blaenavon's World Heritage Site Status which we are all proud of.



Lidice Shall Live!



In June 1942, Lidice, a village in Czechoslovakia ceased to exist. Hitler had given the order for the village to be razed to the ground as revenge for the assassination of a leading Nazi. In 1943, the filmmaker Humphrey Jennings was invited by the government to make a film in memory of the villagers who perished.

Jennings set 'The Silent Village' in Cwmgiedd, a mining village in the Swansea valley similar to Lidice, with villagers re-enacting the terrible events of 1942. We see the men of Cwmgiedd being lined up in front of the chapel wall to be shot, and women and children transported away to concentration camps.

The film leaves a lasting impression on the viewer, which was the aim of Jennings, who worked in the film unit within the Ministry of Information. At the time, the South Wales Miners' Federation supported the production of the film, and a scene shows union lodge officials holding a meeting.

Big Pit is showing 'The Silent Village' in July, followed by a discussion about the film and filmmaker. Humphrey Jennings has been described as 'the only real poet that British cinema has produced'.

The Silent Village, Big Pit National Coal Museum
Wednesday 11 July 1.30pm. £1.50 entry includes refreshments.

World Heritage Day Committee 12 years old

The Blaenavon World Heritage Day Committee was established 12 years ago to help promote the World Heritage Site of Blaenavon. Its chair for those 12 years Councillor Neil Lewis MBE has been supported

by a dedicated Committee from the various organisations of the town. Councillor Neil Lewis MBE said "We are proud of what we have achieved in these 12 years, especially our World Heritage Day celebrations. I would like to thank the people of Blaenavon and in particular those who have taken

part and supported celebrations each year. I would also like to thank the Blaenavon Project Team at Torfaen Council; Cath Thomas, Rebecca Hartley, Kate Fitzgerald and former World Heritage Site Co-ordinator John Rodger MBE for their hard work and support over the years. We are very proud of our World Heritage Site Status and we look forward to the World Heritage Committee working for many years to help promote our heritage status".

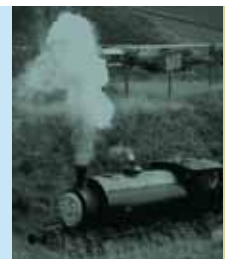


Pwyllgor Diwrnod Treftadaeth y Byd yn dathlu 12 mlynedd

Sefydlwyd Pwyllgor Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon 12 mlynedd yn ôl i helpu i hyrwyddo Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon. Cafodd y cadeirydd yn ystod y 12 mlynedd hynny, y Cynghorydd Neil Lewis MBE, gefnogaeth Pwyllgor ymrwymedig iawn o blith

amrywiol sefydliadau yn y dref. Meddai'r Cynghorydd Neil Lewis MBE "Rydym yn ymfalchïo yn yr hyn a gyflawnwyd yn ystod y 12 mlynedd, yn enwedig dathliadau Diwrnod Treftadaeth y Byd. Hoffwn ddiolch i bobl Blaenafon, yn enwedig i'r rheiny a gymerodd

rhan a chefnogi'r dathliadau bob blwyddyn. Hoffwn hefyd ddiolch i Dim Prosiect Blaenafon yng Nghyngor Torfaen; Cath Thomas, Rebecca Hartley, Kate Fitzgerald a John Rodger MBE, cyn Gydlynnydd Safle Treftadaeth y Byd am eu gwaith caled a'u cefnogaeth dros y blynyddoedd. Rydym yn ymfalchïo yn ein Statws Safle Treftadaeth y Byd ac edrychwn ymlaen at waith diflino'r Pwyllgor Treftadaeth y Byd am flynyddoedd lawer wrth iddynt barhau i hyrwyddo'n statws treftadaeth".



Exploring Elemental Archwilio Elfennol

Strange things are happening at Blaenavon Ironworks at the end of June when Head for Arts transforms the site into an interactive multimedia experience celebrating Blaenavon's metalworking heritage.

Elemental is one of only eight "Cauldrons and Furnaces" projects taking place in heritage sites across Wales during summer 2012 as the result of a partnership between Cadw and Arts Council Wales. It forms part of the Power of the Flame, funded by Legacy Trust UK, to create a lasting impact from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games through funding ideas and local talent to inspire creativity across the UK.

This unusual guided performance has involved over 300 young participants from the area – creating music, words, dance, drama and some amazing visual and sound installations. Alongside a children's choir, brass band and Celtic group, Elemental features some extraordinary instruments including weird and wonderful "heavy metal" percussion, a pyrophone played by fire-power and FEED - a new digital music app specially created for this project.

Free performances are on 29th and 30th June (6.30pm). Information on how to access tickets is available on Head for Arts' website (www.head4arts.org.uk) or via the Ironworks (01495 792615). Tickets must be booked in advance, but if you can't get them, you can still explore their interactive exhibitions and get a flavor of Elemental during opening hours throughout the weekend.



Mae pethau rhyfedd yn digwydd yng Ngwaith Haearn Blaenafon ar ddiwedd mis Mehefin pan fydd 'Head for Arts' yn trawsnewid y safle i greu profiad amlgyfrwng rhyngweithiol i ddathlu treftadaeth gweithio metel Blaenafon.

Mae Elfennol yn un o wyth prosiect "Crochan a Ffwrnais" a gynhelir mewn safleoedd treftadaeth ledled Cymru yn ystod haf 2012 o ganlyniad partneriaeth rhwng Cadw a Chyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Mae'n ffurfio rhan o Rym y Fflam a ariennir gan yr Ymddiriedolaeth Etifeddiadaeth y DU, i greu effaith barhaol o Gemau Olympaidd a Pharalympaidd Llundain 2012 trwy syniadau cyllido a doniau lleol i ysbrydoli creadigrwydd ledled y DU.

Mae'r perfformiad tywysedig hwn wedi cynnwys dros 300 o bobl ifanc yr ardal – i greu cerddoriaeth, geiriau, dawnys, drama a rhai gosodiadau gweledol a cherddorol trawiadol dros ben. Ochr yn ochr â chôr plant, band pres a grŵp Celtaidd, mae Elfennol yn cynnwys rhai offerynnau rhyfeddol, yn eu plith, band taro "metel trwm", pyro-ffôn sy'n cael ei chwarae drwy bŵer tân, a FEED - app cerddoriaeth ddigidol newydd wedi ei greu'n arbennig ar gyfer y prosiect hwn.

Mae perfformiadau am ddim ar y 29 a'r 30 o Fehefin (6.30pm). Mae gwybodaeth ynghylch tocynnau ar gael ar wefan Head for Arts' (www.head4arts.org.uk) neu drwy'r Gwaith Haearn (01495 792615). Rhaid archebu tocynnau o flaen llaw, ond os na fedrwcwch chi eu cael, fe allwch bori'r arddangosfeydd rhyngweithiol a chael blas o Elfennol yn ystod yr oriau agor drwy'r penwythnos.

Iron Bridge Safeguarded

Torfaen Council is undertaking work to remove and safeguard the historically important Aaron Brute's bridge which is located behind the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre.

The bridge will be stored at the Blaenavon Ironworks over the summer where it will be surveyed and conservation work undertaken. The abutment walls will be re-built and the bridge replaced in late summer when it is anticipated that the public will be able to walk over the bridge once more. The bridge is considered to be one of the earliest examples of this type of bridge still surviving in South Wales. It was closed to the public in 2003 due to concerns about potential risk from collapse due to the river undercutting the walls.

Dr Amelia Pannett from Archaeology Wales Ltd has undertaken detailed research before work commenced and has found some very interesting artefacts during the works, including several early cast iron sleepers. She said 'the project has been very interesting and has helped us improve our understanding of the purpose and date of the bridge. This is a very early example of a cast iron bridge in South Wales and its great that it has been saved for future generations to enjoy'

Funding has been secured from Cadw and from the Valleys Regional Park Convergence programme.

Diogelu'r Bont Haearn

Mae Cyngor Torfaen yn ymgymryd â gwaith i symud a diogelu pont hanesyddol bwysig Aaron Brute sydd wedi ei lleoli y tu ôl i Ganolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon.

Bydd y bont yn cael ei storio yng Ngwaith Haearn Blaenafon dros yr haf lle gwneir arolwg ohoni a

gweithio arni i'w gwarchod. Bydd y waliau ategu yn cael eu hailadeiladu a'r bont yn cael ei rhoi yn ôl i'w lle ar ddiwedd yr haf pan ragwelir y bydd y cyhoedd yn medru cerdded drosti unwaith yn rhagor. Ystyrir y bont yn un o enghreifftiau cynharaf o'i bath sydd yn parhau i fodoli yn Ne Cymru. Caewyd y bont i aelodau'r cyhoedd yn 2003 oherwydd y pryderon ynghylch y peryg iddi syrthio am fod yr afon wedi treiddio drwy'r waliau.

Mae Dr Amelia Pannett o Archaeoleg Cymry Cyf. wedi cynnal ymchwil fanwl cyn i'r gwaith gychwyn a chafodd hyd i rai arteffactau diddorol iawn yn ystod y gwaith, yn cynnwys nifer o drawstiau haearn bwrw cynnar. Meddai 'bu'r prosiect yn ddiddorol iawn ac fe helpodd i ni wella'n dealltwriaeth o bwrpas a dyddiad y bont. Dyma enghraifft gynnar iawn o bont haearn bwrw yn Ne Cymru ac mae'n wych ei bod wedi cael ei hachub er mwyn iddi gael ei mwynhau gan genedlaethau i ddod'

Sicrhawyd y cyllid gan Cadw a rhaglen gydgyfeirio Parc Rhanbarthol y Cymoedd.



Volunteer Rangers clock 3000 hours!

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Volunteer Rangers are growing steadily, thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other partners. Four teams now support the work of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership (FLP). The practical conservation team have worked tirelessly to help install signage for 10 heritage trails and assisted with controlled burning for heather moorland management. The dry stone walling team now has qualified volunteers carrying out regular wall repairs and new recruits are preparing for assessment later this year. An active team is now monitoring wildlife regularly and others are running activities for the Junior Rangers Club, such as fossil hunts and bird box making. To date the gift of time from the Volunteer Rangers totals a staggering 3365 hours!

New roles are developing and FLP is now looking for friendly volunteers to welcome visitors at various locations over the summer. A workshop for anyone interested will be held on Friday 22nd June 10am - 12.30pm at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre. For information about all volunteering opportunities go to www.visitblaenavon.co.uk, call 01495 742333 or email: sarah.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk



Ready for action! Volunteer Rangers taking part in controlled heather burning, March 2012.

A 'Buzy' year for Beekeepers Project!

It's been a busy 12 months for the Beekeeping Project. With the help of Forgotten Landscapes and its Heritage Lottery funding the Gwent Beekeepers Association (GBKA) have been able to successfully train 10 people and purchase new equipment for each the new beekeepers.

In addition to the training of new beekeepers, GBKA along with FLP are working in collaboration with 3rd year media students from the University of Wales Newport to produce an information DVD. The DVD is intended to give people an insight into these fascinating insects and importantly highlight the importance of bees to our environment. The DVD will be used to accompany GBKA at events, talks and presentations.

Happy Birthday Junior Rangers!

Junior Rangers have just celebrated their first year, where they undertook a huge range of conservation and environmental activities including pond dipping, fossil hunting, bug hunts, orienteering and much more. Recently they were invited by a local badger group to join them on a badger watch, where they were lucky enough to see three badgers! If you have a child who is interested in becoming a junior ranger and is between the ages 7-11 please call Tracey on 01495 742945.

New Heritage Trails for Autumn 2012



The engine brake wheel – this is an example of a unique mechanism used to slowdown the heavily laden drams on the many tramroad inclines.

Over the last 12 months Forgotten Landscapes, working with Torfaen Council and the Brecon Beacons National Park, has upgraded 64 km of footpath to create 10 new heritage trails. Each is named to reflect an aspect of the area's globally important heritage. 'Forging History' tells the story of the long lost forge at Garn Ddyrys which used to employ over 300 people; 'Spoil to Spectacular' explains why industrial spoil is important as a historic landscape feature and how nature is slowly recolonizing these previously bare and hostile features; 'Heather and Heritage' explains how the common land was traditionally managed and what is needed to bring it back into good condition for farming and wildlife such as the red grouse: "Human Endeavours" looks at the industrial archaeology and includes treasures such as Pwll Du tunnel, the Engine Brake Wheel and Hill's Pit chimney to name a few.

Each trail has been designed to be as family friendly as possible and takes no more than 1.5 hours to complete – unless you stop for a picnic or a drink at a wayside pub...!

Later this year we will be holding events to promote these new trails. If you, or your group, would like to help us test them beforehand please contact the Forgotten Landscapes Volunteer Coordinator on 01495 742333 or email sarah.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk

Heritage Courses for all at Blaenavon World Heritage Centre

Get out and about and discover the remarkable heritage and environment of Blaenavon World Heritage Site with FREE community courses.

Working in partnership with University of Wales Newport, the Forgotten Landscapes Project (FLP) has been able to bring a range of adult education courses to Blaenavon. Courses have been running for nearly a year and have covered a range of topics on the theme of heritage – from Archaeology to Environmental studies. Some learners have gone on to gain university credits, and others have come along purely for fun.

The next courses begin in September on the topics of 'Heritage Storytelling', 'Reading Archaeology in the Landscape' and 'The Chartists'. For more information or to register your interest please contact FLP Education Officer Ceri Cadwallader – ceri.cadwallader@torfaen.gov.uk or 01495 742944.

Commonsense

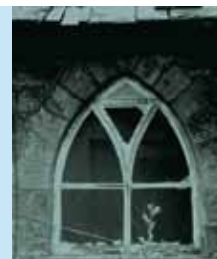
The Forgotten Landscapes Project team have been working with local commoners to create a seven kilometre network of wildfire firebreaks within the Bloreng Site of Special Scientific Interest. The firebreaks were cut to reduce the risk of devastating wildfires that in recent years have damaged local moorlands.

As well as helping to prevent wildfires, heather firebreaks will benefit iconic moorland birds like Red Grouse, since they prefer to feed on younger heather but need older heather close by for nesting and shelter. The firebreaks will also provide basking areas for common lizards and adders.

The project has also initiated a program of controlled burning to keep areas of heather moorland young and vigorous. Burning is a traditional management method that removes much of the old dead grasses and woody plants. The ash created returns nutrients to the soil. This encourages a fresh new growth of vegetation which the livestock can then graze. Controlled burning also benefits Red Grouse and other wildlife and further reduces the risk of wildfires.

Burning is undertaken by skilled people under strictly controlled conditions between 1 October and 31 March and the Fire Service is always informed. Uncontrolled fires place a huge strain on emergency services and often burn fiercely, destroying plant and animal life.

You can find out more about enjoying and caring for our common land by picking up a free copy of Commonsense from the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre.



Railway News!

Blaenavon's Heritage Railway has made a steady start to the 2012 season despite the bad weather! Overall passenger figures are up with a 12% increase over 2011 already, the Easter opening weekend was one of the best ever!

New for 2012 is the branch line to Big Pit, allowing the railway to directly serve the museum for the first time and this has proved very popular with many passengers combining a visit to the railway with a trip to the museum.

On high season days and gala's, trains serve both Big Pit and Blaenavon linking the two for the first time. The Big Pit station is also convenient for the new Rhymney Brewery where visitors can watch the trains go by.

For the summer the railways big event will be the 1940s weekend on July 7/8 linking with Blaenavon to bring the sights and sounds of the 1940s back to life. The August Bank holiday transport rally is always popular with plenty of vintage vehicles whilst the September 14-16 steam gala will see a big steam engine, 4247, return to the valleys for the first time since it was based at Newport in the 1960s. And for October don't forget the railway's popular Ghost trains, steam and screams in the night.

Having had a good start to 2012 the railway is hoping to have its best year ever, so why not pop along, have a ride, try the new line to Big Pit and enjoy the fun.

For more details telephone 01495 792263 or visit our website on www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk



Dance the Night Away!

Blaenavon World Heritage Day Committee is delighted to return with the second 1940's Vintage Dance to be held at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall

on Saturday 7 July 2012 at 7:30pm. The dance will see the welcome return of the fantastic "toe tapping" Dave Barry Big Band. The dance complements the 1940's Wartime Weekend taking place at Pontypool and

Blaenavon Railway over the weekend of 7/8 July. The 1940's dance was a sell out success last year so get those dancing shoes out and join in the fun!

Tickets are £15 each and include a war time buffet. Tickets are available from Blaenavon World Heritage Centre - telephone 01495 742333, Blaenavon Workmen's Hall 01495 792661 (Evenings) and Foy Williams Estate Agents 01495 790779 (Monday to Friday).



Dawnsio Drwy'r Nos!

Mae Pwyllgor Diwrnod Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon wrth eu bodd i ddychwelyd am yr eildro gyda Dawns 1940au i'w chynnal yn

Neuadd y Gweithwyr Blaenafon, dydd Sadwrn 7 Gorffennaf 2012 am 7:30yh. Bydd y ddawns yn gyfle i groesawu'r band mawr rhagorol Dave Barry's Big Band. Mae'r ddawns yn ategu

at Benwythnos Coffau Rhyfel y 1940au sydd i'w gynnal ar Reilffordd Pont-y-pŵl a Blaenafon yn ystod penwythnos 7/8 Gorffennaf. Roedd y ddawns yn llwyddiant aruthrol y llynedd, felly sgleiniwch eich 'sgidiau dawnsio ac ymunwch yn yr hwyl!

Mae'r tocynnau yn £15 yr un i gynnwys bwffe 'adeg rhyfel'. Mae'r tocynnau ar gael o Ganolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon - rhif ffôn 01495 742333, Neuadd y Gweithwyr Blaenafon 01495 792661 (Nos) a Foy Williams, Gwerthwyr Tai 01495 790779 (Dydd Llun i Ddydd Gwener).

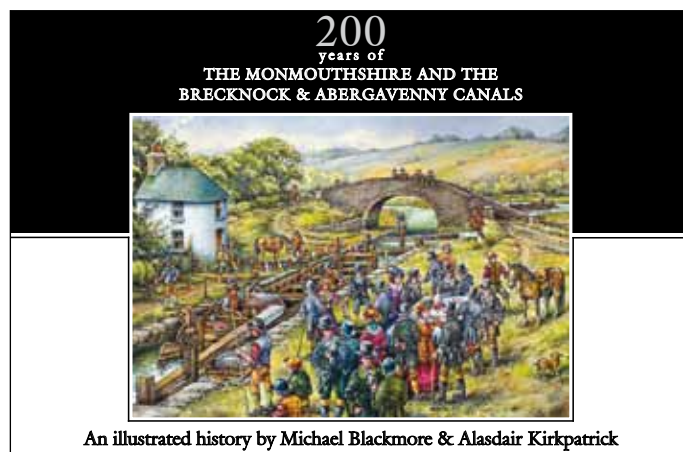


200 Years of Canal History!

The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal (as it is now known) is 200 years old. As part of the anniversary celebrations Michael Blackmore and Alasdair Kirkpatrick of Beacon Park Boats, have produced an illustrated book charting the canal's history. Michael's detailed interpretations lead the reader through two centuries of development, from the inception of the two original canals to the plans for regeneration in the 21st century.

Michael's drawings - commissioned for this book- reconstruct scenes depicting the scale of the engineering projects involved in construction: the wharfs linking tramroads to the canals and to the sea at Newport, the lock flight at Llangynidr at the end of a remarkable 22 mile lock free stretch and the aqueduct over the river Usk on the approach to Brecon. The book charts the decline of the two canals as faster methods of transportation developed with steam locomotives and their regeneration through tourism in the 21st century. The significance of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal in the industrial heritage of the area is evident throughout the book and recognised in its links with the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and its route through the Brecon Beacons National Park.

The book can be purchased from local Tourist Information Centres, local bookshops and from Puddler's Café moored opposite Llanfoist Wharf, home to the publishers www.beaconparkboats.com



A Tasty 'Canalmans' Lunch!



Canalside businesses and local producers have been working in partnership to produce the 'Canalmans' lunch, in celebration of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal's 200th anniversary.

A playful take on the traditional Ploughman's, the local produce from local suppliers were developed especially for this bicentennial year. Blaenavon Cheddar Company contributed the Canalmans Cheese, a tasty cheddar with horseradish and parsley, which has been delivered to pubs and restaurants along the length of the canal by horse drawn carrier, as it would have been two centuries ago.

As an excellent accompaniment, Brecon Brewing produced a new ale, 'Beacons to the Sea', a 4.1%, zesty, golden ale, that was recently featured on both BBC's Countryfile and BBC Radio 4's Open Country. Easts of Brecon and Usk River each produced chutneys, which are available from local suppliers.

Buster Grant, of Brecon Brewing, said, "The canal network used to be the major transport corridor for coal and iron, but there is also evidence to suggest local food produce was exported in the same way. In my mind, re-enacting that journey is perfect. The Canalman's Lunch, a series of local produce being served in many of the canalside pubs, is perfect while enjoying the canal."

Winners Announced in World Heritage film competition

Five local teenagers have won the chance to represent Blaenavon at a World Heritage Site Youth Summit in London this summer.

In total 42 pupils from Abersychan School were involved in the competition; working in groups to produce films on the topic "Our World Heritage Site and What It Means to Us".

Competition for the five available places was strong, and a lot of hard work was put into the productions. This is clear from the high quality of the films produced!

Ceri Cadwallader, Education Officer for the Forgotten Landscapes Project said 'I am delighted with the effort which has been put into this competition and hope that the students involved have learnt more about their local heritage along the way.'

Every year UNESCO invites UK World Heritage Sites to send 5 teenagers to its Youth Summit. This year it will take place at the Greenwich Maritime World Heritage Site in London. The winners will get a chance to meet other young people from around the country and to work with them to produce a film which will be on show in Greenwich during this summer's Olympics.



Saltaire World Heritage Weekend



Saltaire World Heritage Site near Bradford is internationally recognised because it is a model industrial settlement, established by Titus Salt in 1856. Here he constructed a huge new mill which gave local people work. Today the Mill is a huge tourist attraction and houses among other things an exhibition of David Hockney's work. The World famous Yorkshire artist.

Saltaire is definitely worth a visit and benefits from having its own railway station. The village comprises a range of carefully planned houses, shops, restaurants and a church of very individual design alongside a canal and a beautifully restored park.

Saltaire now has an annual World Heritage Weekend, a bit like we have at Blaenavon. This year as part of the programme John Rodger MBE was invited to give an illustrated lecture about the Industrial Landscape. He took the opportunity to take the drawings developed at the art workshops at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre earlier this year which were exhibited in the College Hall where he was speaking. The artwork was organised by Susie Bright of the Blaenavon Art and Artists Association.

This was a fantastic example of UK World Heritage Sites working together, sharing experience and trying to help to promote each other. Several people said they would visit Blaenavon in the future!



Coming Events

Celtic Café

Every Wednesday 4:30pm – 6pm
Free music workshops for children at
Blaenavon World Heritage Centre
01495 742333.

Bracken Bashing

23 June 2012
Volunteers needed to beat back the
bracken which is invading our hillsides.
Help to look after the World Heritage
Site and keep fit in the process with this
practical conservation day. Contact
Blaenavon World Heritage Centre
01495 742333. (booking essential).

World Heritage Festival

30 June and 1 July 2012

Elemental, Cauldrons and Furnaces Cultural Olympiad

29 June & 30 July 2012

10am – 5pm

Head for Arts and Cadw provide a
taste of Elemental – a multi-sensory
celebration of a unique industrial
landscape and the elements. Alongside
the Elemental performances, the
weekend will offer a range of
opportunities for visitors, including
interactive sound installations and a
chance to try out some of the amazing
instruments – oriental, industrial, digital
and even one powered by fire. For
workshop and demonstration times visit
www.headforarts.org.uk or call 01495
792615.

Horeb Chapel Flower Festival

28 June – 1 July 2012

Horeb Chapel - official opening 7pm
Thursday 28 June. Ticket only £5,
viewing of flowers and buffet. 01495
790704.

Songs of Praise

1 July 2012

Horeb Chapel. Contact Pauline
Whitcombe 01495 790704.

Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway

7 & 8 July 2012

1940s Wartime Weekend. Contact
01495 792263.

World War II in Blaenavon

7 & 8 July 2012

Tin Hats and gas masks come to
Blaenavon this July, as the Ironworks
prepares for war. Defended by the
South Wales Borders and the Home
Guard, Stack Square, swings to the
music of 40s and enjoys the rations
of the time. With the enemy at the
doorstep, come and experience the
pleasures and the perils of the 1940s,
11am – 4pm, Free Admission, no
booking required. Contact 01495
792615.

1940s Vintage Dance

7 July 2012 7:30pm

Blaenavon World Heritage Day
Committee presents a vintage 1940s
dance and war time buffet, featuring
music from Dave Barry Big Band at
Blaenavon Workmen's Hall, 7:30pm,
tickets £15 available from the
Blaenavon World Heritage Centre
01495 742333.

Music on the Patio

Big Pit is hosting its programme of open
air concerts on a Sunday afternoon
again this year. The annual series runs
from 8 July until 5 August. All concerts
are at 2:30pm on Sunday and are
completely free:

Sunday 8 July 2012

Blaenavon Town Band

Sunday 15 July 2012

Ebbw Vale Brass

Sunday 22 July 2012

Brecon Town Concert Band

Sunday 29 July 2012

Pontypool Brass

Sunday 5 August

Young Persons with Dementia Choir

The Silent Village

11 July 2012

Big Pit is showing 'The Silent Village' in
July, followed by a discussion about the
film and filmmaker. Humphrey Jennings
has been described as 'the only really
poet that British cinema has produced.'
£1:50 entry includes refreshments,
01495 790311.

Wonderful Wetlands

14 July 2012

Discover the wetlands habitats of the
World Heritage Site and find out about
some of the wildlife which has made
its home here. Contact 01495 742333.
(booking essential).

Family Nature Detectives

1 August 2012 10:30am

Big Pit National Coal Museum

Explore Coity Tip and discover the
wildlife which has made this place its
home. Complete the nature trail, hunt
for minibeasts and have a go at pond
dipping on this family friendly activity.
Bring willies, outdoor clothing and a
drink. Suitable for children aged 5 - 11
years/Pre booking essential 01495
74233.

Miners' fortnight – Sea, sand and coaldust

30 July – 10 August, 11am – 4pm

Big Pit National Coal Museum

Relive memories of sunny days out to
the seaside with family activities for
children of all ages, including Punch &
Judy, storytelling and craft activities.
Charge for some activities.

Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway

11 & 12 August 2012

Family Fun Weekend. 01495 792263.

Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway

26 & 27 August 2012

10 Annual Transport Rally. 01495
792263.

Learndirect

Monday & Tuesday

Learn a new computer skill or update
your qualifications. You can also
improve your reading, writing and
number skills. WEA, learning Action
Centre, Blaenavon NP4 9NA.

