HERITAGE NEWS
NEWYDDION TREFTADAETH

BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE SITE NEWSLETTER ISSUE 23 WINTER 2016
CYLCHLYTHYR SAFLE TREFTADAETH Y BYD BLAENAFON RHIFYN 23 GAEAF 2016

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Blaenavon's Christmas Cracker
Cracyr Nadolig Blaenafon

On Saturday December 10, Blaenavon Town Team brings a new Christmas event to Blaenavon, 'Blaenavon's Christmas Cracker'! There will be a range of family activities together with traditional Christmas happenings.

Based in Broad Street car park, the event starts at midday with music from the Blaenavon Concert Band followed by traditional Welsh dancing from the children of Dawnswyr Plant Blaenafon, Ysgol Brynonnen Choir, Cwmni Gwerin Pont- y- pwl and the Blaenavon Town Band. The Mari Lywd will also be appearing.

There will be a variety of stalls including crafter, bric a brac and food stalls with traditional games and competitions for all the family. There will be a range of hot food providers including hot chestnuts and mulled wine. There will be Go-Kart rides for the 5 – 10 year olds and petting donkeys. Father Christmas will also be making an appearance! Don't forget to enter the free Christmas hamper competition. An entry form is included with the Heritage News.

A special thanks to our sponsors for their generous support. These include Blaenavon Town Council, RWA, Troubleshooters, The Lion Hotel and Flowers by Stacey.

Ar ddydd Sadwrn, Rhagfyr 10, bydd Tîm Tref Blaenafon yn dod â digwyddiad newydd i Flaenafon, 'Cracyr Nadolig Blaenafon'! Bydd amrywiaeth o weithgareddau i'r teulu a digwyddiadau Nadoligaidd traddodiadol.

Bydd y digwyddiad, ym maes parcio Heol Lydan, yn dechrau am hanner dydd gyda cherddoriaeth gan Fand Blaenafon ac yna dawnsio traddodiadol Cymreig gan Ddawnswyr Plant Blaenafon, Côr Ysgol Brynonnen, Cwmni Gwerin Pont- y- pwl a Band Tref Blaenafon. Bydd y Fari Lwyd yno hefyd.

Bydd amrywiaeth o stondinau gan gynnwys crefftau, hen drugareddau a bwyd a gemau traddodiadol a chystadlaethau i'r teulu i gyd. Bydd amrywiaeth o ddarparwyr bwyd gan gynnwys cnau a gwin poeth. Bydd certiau i blant 5-10 oed ac asynnod. Bydd Siôn Corn yno hefyd! Peidiwch anghofio'n cystadleuaeth basged Nadolig am ddim. Mae ffurflen gyda'r daflen hon

Diolch arbennig i'n noddwyr am eu cefnogaeth hael. Ymhlith ein noddwyr mae Cyngor Tref Blaenafon, RWA, Troubleshooters, Gwesty'r Lion a Flowers by Stacey.

UNESCO

visitblaenavon.co.uk
www.fb.com/visitblaenavon

Bethlehem Chapel Update

Lunch Club

Our lunch club is doing really really well and most weeks we are up to between 25-30 people and always looking for more to come along and join us.

We have a traditional menu with everything from cheese and potato pie to a traditional roast dinner. We serve two courses plus coffee or tea. Everybody is welcome and warmly invited to join us on a Thursday lunch time from 12pm.

Our annual Christmas dinner and entertainment will be held on 15 December at 12 pm with entertainment provided afterwards by a Mr John Lloyd. Anybody who comes to lunch will tell you he is absolutely brilliant and will keep you entertained!

The cost for this is £4.50 you can donate more if you so wish.

Messy Christmas

This year as Churches Working Together we are holding a Messy Christmas event which is a fun way for families to come together. This will include lunch and lots of Christmas crafts and things to do for all the family. It will be held on Saturday 17 December 11am until 1pm at Busy Bees-Blaenavon.

Starting on 28 November we will need your help as our sheep managed to escape and we need you to help us find them all! Call in to Busy Bees or Bethlehem Chapel on or around 28th November and pick up a sheet of clues to hunt for them. You can then bring your completed sheets with their locations to the Messy Christmas event to claim your prize. Good luck hunting!

For more information on anything please phone Anthony in 07824430863 or email-ayresanthony@msn.com

Y Diweddaraf o Gapel Bethlehem

Clwb Cinio

Mae ein Clwb Cinio yn gwneud yn dda iawn a'r rhan fwyaf o wythnosau mae tua 25-30 o bobl yma ac rydym bob amser yn chwilio am fwy o bobl i ymuno â ni.

Mae gyda ni fwydlen draddodiadol gyda phob dim o bastai caws a thatws i ginio rhost traddodiadol. Rydym yn rhoi dau gwrs yn ogystal â choffi neu de. Mae croeso cynnes i bawb i ymuno â ni ar ddydd Iau o 12pm.

Bydd cinio Nadolig ac adloniant ar 15 Rhagfyr am 12 pm. Bydd yr adloniant gan Mr John Lloyd. Gall unrhyw un sydd yn dod i'r ciniawau ddweud wrthych ei fod yn wych!

£4.50 yw'r gost a gallwch gyfrannu mwy os ydych chi eisiau.

Nadolig Anniben

Eleni fel Eglwysi'n Gweithio Ynghyd rydym yn cynnal digwyddiad Nadolig Anniben sy'n ffordd hwyliog i deuluoedd ddod at ei gilydd. Bydd yn cynnwys cinio a chrefftau Nadolig a phethau i'r teulu i wneud. Bydd yn digwydd ar Ddydd Sadwrn 17 Rhagfyr o 11am tan 1pm yn Busy Bees-Blaenafon.

Yn dechrau ar 28 Tachwedd byddwn angen eich help gan fod ein defaid wedi dianc ac mae angen eich help chi arnom ni i gael hyd iddyn nhw. Galwch mewn i Busy Bees neu i Gapel Bethlehem o gwmpas 28 Tachwedd i gael taflen o gliwiau er mwyn chwilio amdanyn nhw. Gallwch wedyn ddod â'ch taflenni wedi'u cwblhau gyda'u lleoliadau i'r digwyddiad Nadolig Anniben er mwyn hawlio'ch gwobr. Pob lwc!

Am fwy o wybodaeth am unrhyw beth ffoniwch Anthony ar 07824430863 neu e-bostiwch-ayresanthony@msn.com

Blaenavon Volunteers Win Prestigious National Award

The volunteers of the Blaenavon Community Museum have been awarded the Marsh Volunteers for Museum Learning Awards for both Wales and the United Kingdom. The team was presented with the prestigious awards at the British Museum at a special event held on 26 September attended by representatives from museums across the country.

The awards are run in partnership between the Marsh Christian Trust and the British Museum and recognise best practice and the most innovative ways in which volunteers engage the public with collections. The national UK award is presented where a tangible difference to the public offer has been made in a museum and where a unique dimension to that offer has been introduced.

On presenting the national award to the volunteers, Brian Marsh OBE, Chairman of the Marsh Christian Trust, said:

'Your work in facilitating the relocation of the Blaenavon Community Museum, and your efforts to increase the profile of the museum in the tourism industry, was considered by the judging panel as exceptional.'

In acknowledgement of their achievements, the volunteers were awarded a cheque for £2,500 and were treated to free tickets to the British Museum's incredible 'Sunken Cities' exhibition.

Gwirfoddolwyr Blaenafon yn ennill Gwobr Genedlaethol Fawr

Mae gwirfoddolwyr Amgueddfa Gymunedol Blaenafon wedi ennill gwobr Marsh i Wirfoddolwyr ar gyfer Dysgu mewn Amgueddfa ar gyfer Cymru a'r Deyrnas Unedig. Derbyniodd y tîm eu gwobrau yn yr Amgueddfa Brydeinig mewn digwyddiad arbennig ar 26 Medi yng nghwmni cynrychiolwyr o amgueddfeydd ar draws y wlad.

Mae'r Gwobrau yn rhai ar y cyd rhwng Ymddiriedolaeth Gristnogol Marsh a'r Amgueddfa Brydeinig ac yn cydnabod yr arferion gorau a'r ffyrdd mwyaf arloesol y mae gwirfoddolwyr yn eu defnyddio i ddod â'r cyhoedd i gysylltiad â'u casgliadau. Mae gwobr y DU yn cael ei chyflwyno ble mae gwahaniaeth pendant wedi ei wneud i'r hyn sy'n cael ei gynnig i'r cyhoedd a ble mae dimensiwn arbennig wedi ei gyflwyno i'r hyn sy'n cael ei gynnig.

Wrth gyflwyno'r wobr i'r gwirfoddolwyr dywedodd, Brian Marsh OBE, Cadeirydd Ymddiriedolaeth Gristnogol Marsh:

"Roedd y panel yn teimlo fod eich gwaith wrth hyrwyddo ail-leoli Amgueddfa Gymunedol Blaenafon a'ch ymdrechion i gynyddu proffil yr amgueddfa yn y diwydiant twristiaeth yn neilltuol o dda."

I gydnabod eu llwyddiant cafodd y gwirfoddolwyr siec am £2,500 a thocynnau am ddim i weld arddangosfa anhygoel yr Amgueddfa Brydeinig, 'Sunken Cities'.

Blaenavon Workmen's Hall – venue for hire

The Workmen's Hall is an excellent venue for meetings, conferences, small exhibitions, wedding receptions, social events and group activities. The upstairs auditorium can host 350 people seated theatre style or 150 banquet style and the large stage and related light and sound equipment provides a unique recourse for the town to view theatre, dance, comedy, music and awards/presentation events. The downstairs space offers an 80 seat Cinema, vintage snooker table and group meeting space. The Hall is also home to the Blaenavon Community Museum. For information about bookings contact the Secretary on 01495 792661 or email blaenavonworkmanshall@gmail.com

Cinema OPEN!

Blaenavon Workmen's Hall cinema has reopened following almost £100k of investment from the Arts Council of Wales, Blaenavon Workmen's Hall Committee, Welsh Government Town Centre Partnerships Funding and Torfaen Council. The cinema closed back in 2013 due to its lack of digital capability but is now up and running and showing a packed line up of the latest films. Since opening in July with Steven Spielberg's BFG, the cinema, which is staffed and run by volunteers, has been working on its programme of films to ensure there is something for everyone to enjoy. To see what's on visit www.blaenavonlife.com or check out the Blaenavon Workmen's Hall Cinema Facebook page.

Call for Volunteers…

We are always looking to grow our Volunteer workforce and are currently in need of Front of House ticket sellers/ushers, shop support and projection operators. If you are able to donate some of your time to meet and greet our audiences, show people to their seats, sell tickets and merchandise or help operate the projector then we'd like to hear from you. Email blaenavonwmhallvicechair@gmail.com

Neuadd y Gweithwyr Blaenafon – Llogi lle

Mae Neuadd y Gweithwyr yn lleoliad ardderchog ar gyfer cyfarfodydd, cynadleddau, arddangosfeydd bach, brecwastau priodas, digwyddiadau cymdeithasol a gweithgareddau grŵp. Mae'r awditoriwm lan llofft yn gallu dal 350 o bobl fel theatr neu 150 mewn gwledd ac mae'r llwyfan mawr a chyfarpar golau a sain yn rhoi cyfle unigryw i'r dref i weld theatr, dawns, comedi, cerddoriaeth a digwyddiadau gwobrwyo/cyflwyno. Lawr llawr mae'r lle yn cynnig sinema 80 sedd, bwrdd snwcer a gofod i grwpiau gyfarfod. Mae'r Neuadd hefyd yn gartref i Amgueddfa Gymunedol Blaenafon. Am wybodaeth ynglŷn â bwcio cysylltwch â'r Ysgrifennydd ar 01495 792661 neu e-bostiwch blaenavonworkmanshall@gmail.com

Sinema AR AGOR!

Mae Sinema Neuadd y Gweithwyr Blaenafon wedi ail-agor ar ôl bron i £100,000 o fuddsoddiad gan Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, Pwyllgor Neuadd y Gweithwyr, Blaenafon, Ariannu Partneriaethau Canol Tref Llywodraeth Cymru a Chyngor Torfaen. Caeodd y sinema yn 2013 oherwydd diffyg gallu digidol ond mae nawr ar draed eto ac yn dangos y ffilmiau diweddaraf. Ers agor yng Ngorffennaf gyda BFG Steven Spielberg, mae'r sinema, sy'n cael ei rhedeg gan wirfoddolwyr, wedi bod yn gweithio ar raglen o ffilmiau er mwyn sicrhau rhywbeth i bawb. I weld beth sydd ymlaen ewch i www.blaenavonlife.com neu ewch i dudalen Facebook Sinema Neuadd y Gweithwyr Blaenafon.

Galw am wirfoddolwyr…

Rydym yn edrych at dyfu'r gweithlu gwirfoddol ac mae angen pobl i werthu tocynnau ym mlaen y tŷ, tywyswyr, cymorth yn y siop a thaflunwyr. Os oes gyda chi amser i groesawu pobl, hebrwng pobl i'w seddi, gwerthu tocynnau a nwyddau neu helpu gyda'r taflunydd yna fe hoffem glywed gennych. E-bostiwch blaenavonwmhallvicechair@gmail.com

Blaenavon World Heritage Site Represents UK at the European Association of World Heritage

In October this year Blaenavon World Heritage Site was given the privilege of representing the UK at the European World Heritage Association at their 2nd annual meeting in Segovia, Spain. The World Heritage Youth Ambassadors is a project, funded by Heritage Lottery, that is designed to empower young people aged 13-25 to have a voice and participate in the management of their World Heritage Site.

After achieving national success and recognition for this project, Blaenavon was asked to be the UK's representative for World Heritage Sites to present best practise on youth engagement.

The meeting brought together over 50 World Heritage Sites from across Europe to share best practice regarding World Heritage and local communities, participation processes, social bonds and innovation.

Ashleigh Taylor, Heritage Officer and Daniel Oliver, Youth Ambassador Project Officer attended the prestigious conference and presented to the association "How to involve and allow youth participation in the management of World Heritage". Feedback from other World Heritage Sites said that Blaenavon was inspiring and leading the way!

Segovia Spain

Safle Treftadaeth y Byd, Blaenafon yn cynrychioli'r DU yng Nghymdeithas Ewropeaidd Treftadaeth Y Byd

Yn Hydref eleni cafodd Safle Treftadaeth y Byd, Blaenafon y fraint o gynrychioli'r DU yng Nghymdeithas Ewropeaidd Treftadaeth y Byd yn ei hail gyfarfod blynyddol yn Segovia, Sbaen. Mae Llysgenhadon Ifanc Treftadaeth y Byd yn brosiect, wedi ei ariannu gan Gronfa Treftadaeth y Loteri, sy'n anelu at alluogi pobl ifanc o oed 13-25 i gael llais ac i gymryd rhan yn rheoli eu Safle Treftadaeth y Byd.

Ar ôl llwyddiant cenedlaethol a chydnabyddiaeth am y prosiect hwn, gofynnwyd i Flaenafon i gynrychioli'r DU ar gyfer safleoedd Treftadaeth y Byd er mwyn rhannu gwybodaeth ar arferion gorau ar ymgysylltu â phobl ifanc.

Daeth dros 50 o Safleoedd Treftadaeth y Byd o ar draws Ewrop i rhannu gwybodaeth ar arferion gorau ar Dreftadaeth y Byd a chymunedau lleol, prosesau cyfranogi, rhwymau cymdeithasol ac arloesi.

Aeth Ashleigh Taylor, Swyddog Treftadaeth a Daniel Oliver, Swyddog Prosiect Llysgenhadon Ifanc i'r gynhadledd fawreddog a chyflwyno i'r gymdeithas "Sut i gynnwys a chaniatáu cyfranogaeth ieuenctid o Dreftadaeth y Byd". Dywedodd adborth gan gynrychiolwyr safleoedd eraill bod Blaenafon yn ysbrydoledig ac yn arwain y ffordd!

Community Unites to Save Historic Mansion

Members of the Blaenavon community have formed a new group to consider the future of one of the World Heritage Site's most important buildings. The former Beeches Nursing Home, also known as Blaenavon House or Ty Mawr, has been a cause for concern since the building closed as a residential home a decade ago. The privately owned, grade-II listed building has suffered vandalism, fire damage and neglect in recent years. It is in a very dangerous condition and presents a major conservation challenge.

The new group, working closely with Torfaen County Borough Council, aims to form a Building Preservation Trust which will seek to identify a new, sustainable use for the building and to attract grant funding for its restoration. It is not going to be an easy task and there are no guarantees that the group will succeed. Indeed, many challenges lie ahead but the community is not prepared to give up on this historic and much-loved building.

In the coming months, the group aims to formalise its structure and work with relevant heritage and conservation organisations to develop an action plan for the project. Community involvement and support will be essential. If you are interested in joining the group, or supporting its work, please email the group's secretary on blaenavonpreservation@outlook.com

Blaenavon House: A Potted History

Blaenavon House, known informally as the 'Great House' or 'Ty Mawr', has had many functions throughout its history. The 'comfortable and elegant' mansion was built in about 1799 by the ironmaster Samuel Hopkins, who lived there until his death in 1815. The house then became the residence of Thomas Hill II and his children before it was sold, along with the Blaenavon Ironworks, to the new Blaenavon Iron and Coal Company in 1836.

The building was extended by 1839 and was used as a hunting lodge. Dignitaries from far afield would stay there every August whilst enjoying the popular grouse hunts on the Blaenavon landscape. Blaenavon House continued to be used as a private dwelling by various general managers and directors of the new company, including the Kennard family.

In the 1920s, the Blaenavon Company sold the mansion to the Blaenavon Medical Aid Society, who converted the building into a hospital in 1927. Managed by the workers, and financed through their subscriptions, the medical scheme was among those which helped inspire the National Health Service. The building ceased to be a hospital in 1980 and eventually became a nursing home.

House c1900. Photograph courtesy of Alan Parry

Cymuned yn Uno i Achub Plasty Hanesyddol

The Beeches

Mae aelodau o gymuned Blaenafon wedi ffurfio grŵp newydd i ystyried dyfodol un o adeiladau pwysicaf Safle Treftadaeth y Byd. Mae'r cyn- gartref Nyrsio y Beeches, a elwir hefyd yn 'Blaenavon House' neu 'Tŷ Mawr', wedi bod yn destun pryder ers i'r adeilad gau fel cartref preswyl ddegawd yn ôl. Mae'r adeilad rhestredig gradd II sy'n eiddo preifat wedi bod yn destun fandaliaeth, difrod tân ac esgeulustod yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae mewn cyflwr peryglus iawn ac yn her fawr yn nhermau cadwraeth.

Mae'r grŵp newydd, sy'n cydweithio'n agos gyda Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen, yn anelu i ffurfio Ymddiriedolaeth Cadwraeth, i geisio canfod defnydd newydd, cynaliadwy ar gyfer yr adeilad ac i ddenu arian grant i'w adfer. Nid yw'n mynd i fod yn dasg hawdd ac nid oes sicrwydd y bydd y grŵp yn llwyddo. Yn wir, mae llawer o heriau o'u blaenau ond nid yw'r gymuned yn barod i roi'r ffidil yn y to o ran yr adeilad hanesyddol a hoffus hwn.

Yn y misoedd i ddod, mae'r grŵp yn anelu i ffurfioli ei strwythur a gweithio gyda sefydliadau treftadaeth a chadwraeth berthnasol i ddatblygu cynllun gweithredu ar gyfer y prosiect. Bydd cyfranogiad a chefnogaeth y gymuned yn hanfodol. Os oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn ymuno â'r grŵp, neu gefnogi ei waith, e-bostiwch ysgrifennydd y grŵp ar blaenavonpreservation@outlook.com

Blaenavon House: Crynodeb o'i Hanes

Mae Blaenafon House, a elwir yn anffurfiol yn 'Great House' neu 'Tŷ Mawr', wedi cael llawer o swyddogaethau drwy gydol ei hanes. Adeiladwyd y plasty 'cyfforddus a choeth' tua 1799 gan y meistr haearn Samuel Hopkins, fu'n byw yno hyd ei farwolaeth yn 1815. Yna daeth yn gartref i Thomas Hill II a'i blant cyn iddo gael ei werthu, ynghyd â Gwaith Haearn Blaenafon , i gwmni newydd Blaenavon Iron and Coal Company ym 1836.

Cafodd yr adeilad ei ymestyn erbyn 1839 a'i ddefnyddio fel llety hela. Byddai urddolion o bell yn aros yno bob mis Awst wrth fwynhau'r helfeydd rugiar poblogaidd ar dirwedd Blaenafon. Parhaodd Blaenavon House i gael ei ddefnyddio fel annedd breifat gan wahanol reolwyr a chyfarwyddwyr cyffredinol y cwmni newydd, gan gynnwys teulu Kennard.

Yn y 1920au, gwerthodd Blaenavon Company y plasty i Gymdeithas Cymorth Feddygol Blaenafon, a aeth ati i drosi'r adeilad yn ysbyty ym 1927. Dan reolaeth y gweithwyr, a'i ariannu drwy eu tanysgrifiadau, roedd y cynllun meddygol ymhlith y rhai a gynorthwyodd i ysbrydoli'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol. Daeth gyfnod yr adeilad i ben fel ysbyty ym 1980 ac yn y diwedd daeth yn gartref nyrsio.

Christmas Craft Day

Come and join us for our Christmas Craft Day at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre on Saturday 3rd December from 11am until 4pm. Make your own festive ceramic tile or a unique piece of pottery at the Potter's wheel – an ideal Christmas gift for family and friends. There is a small charge of £1 for each craft activity. Festive entertainment will be provided by Blaenavon Concert Band and there will be Storytime Sessions in the Library throughout the day at 11.30am, 12.30pm and 1.30pm. Whilst at the Heritage Centre, enjoy the festive menu in the Heritage Café. For further information contact the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre on Tel: 01495 742333 or visit www.visitblaenavon.co.uk

Diwrnod Crefftau Nadolig

Dewch i ymuno â ni ar gyfer Diwrnod Crefftau Nadolig yng Nghanolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon ar ddydd Sadwrn 3ydd Rhagfyr o 11am tan 4pm. Gwnewch deilsen seramig Nadoligaidd neu ddarn o grochenwaith unigryw wrth olwyn y crochenydd - anrheg Nadolig delfrydol i deulu neu ffrindiau. Mae tâl bacha r gyfer pob gweithgaredd crefftau. Bydd adloniant gan Fand Cyngerdd Blaenafon ac amser stori yn y llyfrgell yn ystod y dydd am 11.30am, 12.30pm a 1.30pm. Tra eich bod yma, cymrwch olwg ar y fwydlen dymhorol yn y Caffi Treftadaeth. AM fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Chanolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon ar ffôn: 01495 742333 neu ewch i www.visitblaenavon.co.uk

Activities and events

Aged 13-25? Do you have what it takes to represent your local World Heritage Site to the UK? Take on the challenge and give a youth voice to UK World Heritage. Blaenavon World Heritage Youth Ambassadors are recruiting now!

- Gain qualifications and skills
- Have fun, build skills, and gain confidence
- Free activities

For full details visit www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/youthambassadors

Our next enrolment weekend:
- February 11 – 12 2017, 10am – 3pm each day.

Meet at 10am each day @ Blaenavon World Heritage Centre Carpark.

Llysgenhadon Ifanc Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon

Yn 13-25 oed? A oes gennych chi'r gallu i gynrychioli'r eich Safle Treftadaeth y Byd lleol i'r DU? Wynebwch yr her a rhowch lais yr ifanc i Dreftadaeth y Byd yn y DU. Mae Llysgenhadon Ifanc Treftadaeth y Byd, Blaenafon wrthi'n recriwtio nawr!

- Ennill cymwysterau a sgiliau
- Cael hwyl, meithrin sgiliau a magu hyder
- Gweithgareddau am ddim

Am fanylion llawn ewch i www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/youthambassadors

Ein penwythnos cofrestru nesaf:
- Chwefror 11 – 12 2017, 10am – 3pm pob dydd.

Dewch am 10am pob dydd ym maes parcio Canolfan Treftadaeth y Byd, Blaenafon

Events and news at Big Pit National Coal Museum

Sunday 11 December Big Pit Babies Christmas Event
A chance for younger visitors to meet Mother Christmas and find out what's been happening in the Christmas household. Has Rudolph been a good reindeer this year? Has Father Christmas finished painting the sleigh? Come along and find out more.

Sessions are at 11.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-2.30pm and MUST be booked in advanced. Limited spaces, so pre-booking is essential on: (029) 2057 3650. £5 charge to include a gift. Suitable for 0-5 ages. Supported by players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

Sunday 18 December 12pm-4pm, Father Christmas at the Pit with Blaenavon Town Band
Be amazed as Father Christmas arrives at Pit Top at 10.30am, travelling 300ft UP from underground on his way to Lapland. Once he's arrived (and found his elves!), there'll be an opportunity to visit him in his cottage, until 4pm, and tell him what's on your Christmas list. Music will also be provided by Blaenavon Town Band.

£5 charge to include a gift. Suitable for all children. No booking necessary. Supported by players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

Throughout December and January
Blow away the Christmas cobwebs to experience some very different tours at Big Pit throughout January. Whilst the world famous underground tour is closed for essential maintenance, the Miner Guides at Big Pit will be on hand to offer a variety of guided surface tours plus Len our Blacksmith will be in residence every Monday, Wednesday, Friday during December and January.

Big Pit has also been working with Members of Torfaen SURPs (Service Users) group - a group made up of people living with dementia and their carers. The group took part in an initial pilot in the development of Dementia Friendly underground tours at Big Pit. It is hoped that these tours will be offered as part of the regular programme at Big Pit, during the shoulder months of the year.

Newyddion a digwyddiadau yn Big Pit

Dydd Sul 11 Rhagfyr Digwyddiad Babis Big Pit
Cyfle i ymwelwyr iau gwrdd â Siân Corn a chlywed am waith caled y teulu yn paratoi ar gyfer y 'diwrnod mawr'. Ydy Rwdolff wedi bihafio eleni? Ydy Siôn Corn wedi gorffen paentio'r sled? Galwch draw.

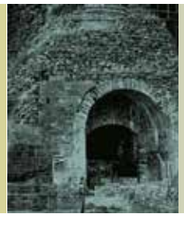
Sesiynau: 11.30am-12.30pm a 1.30pm-2.30pm a RHAID BWCIO YMLAEN LLAW. Nifer cyfyngedig o lefydd, ffoniwch (029) 2057 3650 i gadw lle. Codir tal o £5 i gynnwys anrheg. Addas i blant 0-5 oed. Diolch i gefnogaeth hael chwaraewyr People's Postcode Lottery.

Sul 18 Rhagfyr 12pm-4pm, Siôn Corn yn Big Pit gyda Band Tref Blaenafon
Rhyfeddwch wrth i Siôn Corn gyrraedd pen y pwll am 10.30am, gan godi 300tr o grombil y ddaear ar ei ffordd i Begwn y Gogledd. Ar ôl cyrraedd (a chanfod ei goblynnod bach!), bydd cyfle i'w gyfarfod a dweud wrtho beth sydd ar eich rhestr Nadolig, tan 4pm. Bydd Band Tref Blaenafon hefyd yn chwarae carolau.

Codir tal o £5, yn cynnwys anrheg. Addas i bob plentyn. Nid oes angen cadw lle. Diolch i gefnogaeth hael chwaraewyr People's Postcode Lottery.

Drwy gydol mis Rhagfyr a mis Ionawr
Bydd teithiau gwahanol yn digwydd yn Big Pit trwy gydol mis Ionawr. Er bod y daith danddaearol fyd-enwog ar gau ar gyfer gwaith cynnal a chadw hanfodol, bydd ein tywyswyr wrth law i gynnig amrywiaeth o deithiau tywys arwyneb arbennig ynghyd â Len ein Gof Preswyl.

Mae Big Pit hefyd wedi bod yn gweithio gydag aelodau grŵp SURPs Torfaen - grŵp sy'n cynnwys pobl sy'n byw gyda dementia a'u gofalwyr. Cymerodd y grŵp ran mewn peilot i ddatblygu teithiau dan ddaearol i bobl syyd yn byw gyda dementia. Y gobaith yw bydd y teithiau arbennig hyn yn cael eu cynnig fel rhan o'r rhaglen reolaidd yn Big Pit yn ystod y misoedd tawel

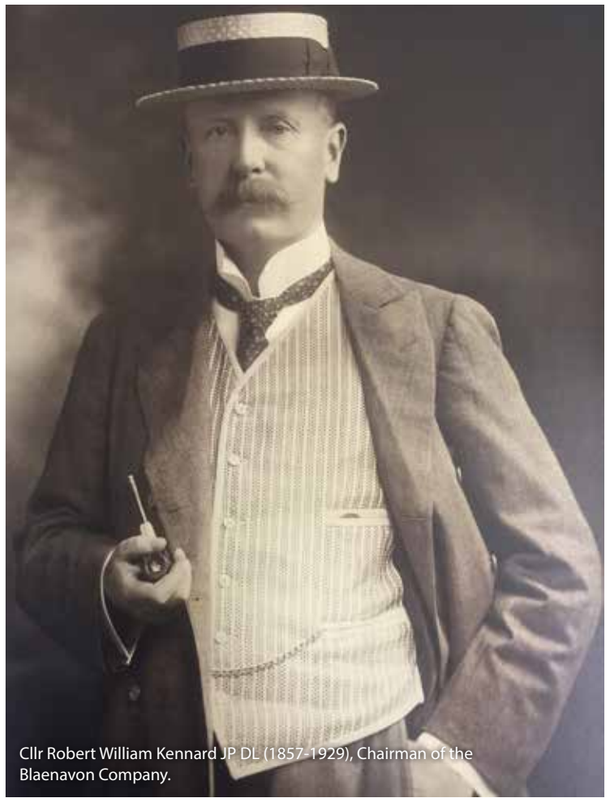


Rediscovered Portraits Provide Glimpse into Blaenavon's Past

Fourteen portraits have recently been rediscovered in the cellar of the Blaenavon Workmen's Hall, depicting local people who played a prominent role in the community during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Most of the portraits were donated to the hall before 1918. It is believed they were moved into the cellar for safekeeping during renovation work decades ago and forgotten about until they were found by long-serving volunteer Mike Parry earlier this year.

The images depict local dignitaries from the early 1900s, including local politicians, magistrates, and trustees of the Workmen's Institute. The repair, redisplay and interpretation of the portraits have been funded by the Blaenavon Community Museum and now visitors can glimpse at these long forgotten faces from Blaenavon's past.


Cllr Robert William Kennard JP DL (1857-1929), Chairman of the Blaenavon Company.

Dr Nathan Matthews of the Blaenavon Community Museum said: "these beautifully produced photographs provide an important reminder of the individuals involved in the social and political life of Blaenavon during the early 20th century. They offer evidence of the social enterprise of the workers and the strength of Liberalism and political radicalism in the area before the First World War. It is great to see these portraits on display at the hall, where they belong."

Ailddarganfod Darluniau yn rhoi Cipolwg ar Orffennol Blaenafon

Cafodd pedwar ar ddeg o ddarluniau, sy'n dangos pobl leol a fu'n rhan ganolog yn y gymuned ar ddiwedd y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg a dechrau'r ugeinfed ganrif, eu darganfod yn ddiweddar yn seler Neuadd y Gweithwyr, Blaenafon.

Cafodd y rhan fwyaf eu rhoi i'r Neuadd cyn 1918. Y gred yw eu bod wedi cael eu gosod yn y seler er mwyn eu cadw'n ddiogel yn ystod gwaith adnewyddu blynyddoedd yn ôl ac i bawb anghofio amdanyn nhw tan iddyn nhw gael eu darganfod gan wirfoddolwr, Mike Parry, yn gynharach eleni.

Mae'r darluniau yn dangos gwŷr pwysig o ddechrau'r ugeinfed ganrif, gan gynnwys gwleidyddion lleol, ynadon, ac ymddiriedolwyr Sefydliad y Gweithwyr. Mae gwaith o atgyweirio, ail-ddangos a dehongli'r darluniau wedi ei ariannu gan Amgueddfa Gymunedol Blaenafon a gall ymwelwyr nawr weld y wynebau yma o orffennol Blaenafon.

Dywedodd Dr Nathan Matthews o Amgueddfa Gymunedol Blaenafon: "mae'r lluniau hyfryd yma yn ein hatgoffa am yr unigolion a oedd ynghlwm wrth fywyd cymdeithasol a gwleidyddol Blaenafon ar ddechrau'r 20fed Ganrif. Maen nhw'n dyst i fentergarwch cymdeithasol y gweithwyr a nerth Rhyddfrydiaeth a radicaliaeth gwleidyddol yn yr ardal cyn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf. Mae'[n wych gweld y darluniau yma yn cael eu harddangos yn y Neuadd, lle mae eu cartref."

Velothon Wales 2017

Wales's biggest cycling sportive will return to the region for the annual Velothon Wales on Sunday 9th July 2017. We will be welcoming up to 16,000 cyclists and the best pro-riders in the world to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site when they take on the challenge of the Tumble and compete for the 'King and Queen of the Mountain' title.

Why not take on the challenge yourself and see if you are worthy of this title. Visit our website www.visitblaenavon.co.uk for details on how you can upload your time to the Tumble Leaderboard, as well as share your photos on Twitter and Facebook using #thetumble.

Velothon Cymru 2017

Bydd cystadleuaeth seiclo fwyaf Cymru yn dychwelyd i'r ardal ar gyfer y Velothon Cymru Blynyddol ar ddydd Sul 9 Gorffennaf 2017. Byddwn yn croesawu hyd at 16,000 o seiclwyr a'r beicwyr proffesiynol gorau yn y byd i Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon ble byddant yn wynebu her y 'Tumble' ac yn cystadlu ar gyfer coron 'Brenin a Brenhines y Mynydd'

Pam na wynebwch chi'r her i weld a ydych chi'n deilwng o'r teitl hwn? Ewch i'n gwefan www.visitblaenavon.co.uk am fanylion ar sut i lanlwytho eich amser i Fwrdd Arweinwyr y 'Tumble', yn ogystal â rhannu'ch lluniau ar Twitter a Facebook gan ddefnyddio #thetumble.

Coming Events / Digwyddiadau sydd i ddod

Blessing of the Crib & Town Carol Service
7pm Monday 28 November
Bethlehem Court.

Christmas Craft Day
11am–4pm 3 December
Blaenavon World Heritage Centre. Festive craft £1 for each activity. Festive Entertainment with Blaenavon Concert Band. Tel 01495 742333. www.visitblaenavon.co.uk

Santa Specials
3/4/10/11/17/18 December & Wednesday 21 December
Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway. Adults & Children £10 each. Tel 01495 707480 or 01495 707448. www.pontypool–and-blaenavon.co.uk

Big Pit Babies Event
11:30am-12:30pm / 1:30pm-2:30pm 11 December
Must be booked in advance. Big Pit. Tel 02920 573650.

Santa at Blaenavon Ironworks
11am–4pm 10/11/17/18 December
Blaenavon Ironworks. £3 per child to enter grotto. Includes gift. Tel 01495 792615.

Blaenavon Christmas Cracker
12pm–5pm 10 December
Broad Street Car Park. Tel 07542 187137.

Christingle Service
5pm Sunday 11 December
St Paul's Church.

Father Christmas at Big Pit with Blaenavon Town Band
12pm – 4pm 18th December
Big Pit. Tel 02920 573650.

Nine lessons & Carols with Blaenavon Town Band
6pm 18 December
St Peters Church.

Crib Service
6pm 24 December
St Peters Church.

Midnight Mass
10:45pm 24 December
St Paul's Church.

Christmas Day Service
10am 25 December
St Peters Church.

Bendithio'r Preseb a Gwasanaeth Carolau yn y Dref
7pm Dydd Llun 28 Tachwedd
Bethlehem Court.

Diwrnod Crefftau Nadolig
11am–4pm 3 Rhagfyr
Canolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon. Crefftau Nadoligaidd £1 y gweithgaredd. Adloniant Nadoligaidd gyda Band Cyngerdd Blaenafon. Ffôn 01495 742333. www.visitblaenavon.co.uk

Teithiau Arbennig i weld Siôn Corn
3/4/10/11/17/18 Rhagfyr a Dydd Mercher 21 Rhagfyr
Rheilffordd Pont-y-pŵl a Blaenafon. Oedolion a Phlant £10 yr un. Ffôn 01495 707480 neu 01495 707448. www.pontypool–and-blaenavon.co.uk

Digwyddiad Babis Big Pit
11:30am-12:30pm / 1:30pm-2:30pm 11 Rhagfyr
Rhaid Bwcio ymlaen llaw. Big Pit. Ffon 02920 573650.

Siôn Corn a Gwaith Haearn Blaenafon
11am–4pm 10/11/17/18 Rhagfyr
Gwaith Haearn Blaenafon. £3 y plentyn i gael mynediad i'r ogof. Cynnwys anrheg. Ffôn 01495 792615.

Cracer Nadolig Blaenafon
12pm–5pm 10 Rhagfyr
Maes Parcio Heol Lydan.

Gwasanaeth Cristingl
5pm Dydd Sul 11 Rhagfyr
Eglwys Sant Paul.

Sion Corn yn Big Pit gyda Band Tref Blaenafon
12pm–4pm 18 Rhagfyr
Big Pit. Ffon 02920 57365.

Naw Darlleniad a Charolau gyda Band Tref Blaenafon
6pm 18 Rhagfyr
Eglwys San Pedr.

Gwasanaeth Preseb
6pm 24 Rhagfyr
Eglwys San Pedr.

Offeren Ganol Nos
10:45pm 24 Rhagfyr
Eglwys Sant Paul.

Gwasanaeth Dydd Nadolig
10am 25 Rhagfyr
Eglwys San Pedr.

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