

# HERITAGE NEWS

BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE SITE NEWSLETTER ISSUE 12 - Summer 2011

## Family Fun at World Heritage Weekend!

Blaenavon is gearing up for a weekend of fun and activities at its annual World Heritage Weekend on 25 and 26 June 2011. The festivities will be officially opened on World Heritage Day, Saturday 25 June, by the Town Crier at 11:30am in Market Square.

Throughout the day there will be a Victorian funfair including a carousel, street entertainers and live music but, as always, the highlight of the day will be the Heritage Costume Parade which starts at Broad Street car park at 1:30pm and proceeds through the town centre. With fantastic costumes, dancers, brass bands and samba drumming, the parade is a spectacle that is enjoyed by everyone, year after year. The theme of this year's parade is 'Blaenavon Education Past and Present'. It was chosen to mark the closure of Hillside Nursery, Hillside School and St Peter's School and to look forward to the future with the development of Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary. Take time to visit the craft stalls and shops in the town and enjoy a choice of refreshments before the festivities end at 5:00pm.

Following on from the festivities in the town centre, enjoy a day in the countryside on Sunday

26 June at the Garn Lakes Country Fayre, taking place between 10:30am and 5:00pm.

Activities this year include the annual dog show, kayaking on the lake, fishing, a bouldering wall, archery, arts and crafts. Younger children can enjoy story-telling, face-painting, trampolines and the bouncy castle. The ever popular craft marquee will be filled with various craft stalls selling jewelry, art, textiles, wood-turned items, cheese and chutneys. Refreshments will be available, including a hog roast, crepes and ice-cream.

Make sure your day includes a visit to the Blaenavon Steam Railway, who will be running trains throughout the day with a special offer of 2 for 1 on all tickets, and take a ride on the FREE vintage bus which will be operating all day long, shuttling visitors around the World Heritage Site. Entry to the Fayre is FREE to all visitors. Cars will be charged £2 to park.

For further information on World Heritage Weekend, telephone the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre on 01495 742333, visit [www.visitblaenavon.co.uk](http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk) or check out the leaflet inside.



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[visitblaenavon.co.uk](http://visitblaenavon.co.uk)

[www.fb.com/visitblaenavon](http://www.fb.com/visitblaenavon)

## **Looking Back on Winter 2010**

Stephanie Nummelin of Browning Books looks back at a successful winter in Blaenavon...

What celebrations we enjoyed last year! 'Winter Wonderland' cheered us through yet another difficult season and we celebrated with a visit from Santa, real reindeer, and the magical arrival of a skating rink. Visitor numbers soared over that lovely weekend and we all had a great time.

2010 was important, of course, as Blaenavon celebrated having ten years of World Heritage status. If anything, 2011 should be even more important as we take stock of what all this has meant, and move forward with certainty to ensure that our lovely town and surroundings continue to develop and grow in a way that can safely preserve our history while embracing changes which can enrich our future.

## **Routes and Roots**

From 14 May to 3 July the 'Routes and Roots Festival' is celebrating the heritage and communities of the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal with a series of fun events for all ages. The main aim is to highlight the 'green' travel routes and the historical roots of the canal and its important links with Blaenavon World Heritage Site. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Torfaen CBC, the festival is being organised by the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership, working with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Blaenavon World Heritage Site, British Waterways and Adventa.

The festival will focus on the shared heritage of the villages of Gilwern, Govilon and Llanfoist at the same time promoting recreation on those historic tramways and railways, which nowadays provide a network of footpaths and cycle tracks. Guided walks, cycle rides and opportunities to learn from experts about the area's wildlife and industrial heritage are all featured in the festival programme. There's everything from an outdoor art class and a short course on coracle-making to an evening walk in Clydach Gorge with actors in period costume relating tales of the area's history and folklore.

For more information please visit [www.visitblaenavon.co.uk](http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk)



*Activities on the canal*

## **Blaenavon Looks to the Future**

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership has recently drafted a Management Plan which will inform the direction of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape between 2011 and 2016. A period of public consultation took place in April and May. Thank you to everybody who attended the public meetings or contributed comments. Your opinions and ideas are important to us and will be considered and incorporated in the draft plan.

The plan will now be taken forward for approval by Torfaen Council. The Plan will then be considered for adoption by each of the partner organisations. Once agreed by all partners a Board Meeting, chaired by Cllr Bob Wellington Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council, will take place where senior representatives from across the Blaenavon WHS Partnership will sign it off.

Copies of the full plan and an executive summary can be viewed online at [www.visitblaenavon.co.uk](http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk)





## **First Minister Opens Shared Resource Centre**

In February, the First Minister Carwyn Jones officially opened a flagship public service shared resource centre in Blaenavon. The Shared Resource Service (SRS), based at Victoria House, is one of the most advanced public sector ICT projects in the UK, and is at the heart of Torfaen County Borough Council's Digital Valley vision which aims to make Torfaen communities the most connected in the UK.

The SRS has successfully merged three public services IT teams (Torfaen Council, Monmouthshire Council & Gwent Police) and has brought new jobs and a skilled workforce to support the economic regeneration of Blaenavon. The centre provides a unique public sector digital storage facility for Wales and is attracting interest from organisations from both the private and public sectors.

Cllr. Bob Wellington, Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council, said: "Where Blaenavon was once the heart of the Industrial Revolution, today marks a significant step on our journey towards a digital revolution for Torfaen. The Shared Resource Service is not only the shining light in our vision for developing a digital economy in Torfaen but is a superb example of how public services can unite, sharing resources and expertise to deliver better and more efficient services."



*Victoria House*

## **Blaenavon's Digital Hub Opens**

Another important part of the Digital Valley strategy is the Digital Hub in Church View. The new centre was launched in February by Jocelyn Davies AM, Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration and is a partnership between Melin Homes and Torfaen Council.

Facilities in the centre include a Microsoft Academy, a CISCO Academy, three Business incubation units with a total of eleven stations and a video conferencing suite and small meeting room – all of which are available to hire. The Microsoft Academy will offer qualifications, training and certification in all Microsoft Office applications for beginners and advanced users alike. The Academy is the only Microsoft examination centre this side of Cardiff and stand alone examinations or full training packages can be arranged.

From the beginning of May 2011, in conjunction with Communities First Blaenavon, there will be a drop in session on a Thursday morning from 10am until noon for beginners and those wishing for specific assistance with their computer software problems.

For more details on the courses on offer or to arrange an informal visit to the centre contact Jean Gaywood at the Digital Hub on 01495 742949.



*The official opening of Blaenavon's Digital Hub*



## **Blaenavon's Heritage Railway 'On Track'**

In 2010 Blaenavon's heritage railway opened its long awaited extension, bringing passenger trains back to Blaenavon for the first time since 1962. This not only gave the railway its best year ever but it also won the Heritage Railway Association's Small Groups Award for 2010. Building on this the railway is expanding further with a new branch line from their main station at Furnace Sidings to Big Pit. Due to open officially in September this will put the railway right on

the door step of the National Coal Museum and provide a direct link to the town, encouraging more visitors to travel by train and into Blaenavon.

Work is also going on at Furnace Sidings to build a brand new station building.

Replacing the current facilities it will house the ticket office, a small shop, tea room and toilets all under one roof. At Blaenavon replacement of the Varteg Road Bridge, by Torfaen CBC, will enable the railway to extend a further 1/3 of a mile down the valley until it meets the cycle track.

For information on the railway's events, please check out the back page, go online to [www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk](http://www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk) or call 01495 792263.



© Alistair Grieve

## **Rheilffordd Treftadaeth 'Ar y Trac'**

Yn 2010, agorodd rheilffordd dreftadaeth Blaenafon ei hestyniad hirddisgwylidig, gan ddod â threnau sy'n cludo pobl yn ôl i Flaenafon am y tro cyntaf ers 1962. Cafodd y rheilffordd nid yn unig ei blwyddyn gorau erioed ond fe enillodd Wobr Grwpiau Bach Cymdeithas Rheilffyrdd Treftadaeth 2010. Gan adeiladu ar y fath lwyddiant, mae'r rheilffordd yn ehangu ymhellach trwy greu llinell newydd o'i phrif orsaf i Bwll Mawr. Fe fydd yr estyniad newydd sydd

i agor yn swyddogol ym mis Medi yn cludo teithwyr i stepen drws Amgueddfa Lofaol Cymru ac yn creu cyswllt uniongyrchol i'r dref, felly'n annog mwy o ymwelwyr i deithio ar drên ac i mewn i Flaenafon.

Mae'r gwaith hefyd yn mynd ymlaen ar y lein aros i greu adeilad newydd ar gyfer yr orsaf. Fe fydd yr adeilad newydd a fydd yn cymryd lle'r cyfleusterau presennol yn cynnwys swyddfa docynnau, siop fach, ystafell de a thoiledau dan un to. Ym

Mlaenafon, bydd y dasg o ailosod Pont Heol y Farteg sydd yn cael ei gyflawni gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen gyda chymorth Rhaglen Blaenau'r Cymoedd, yn golygu y bydd modd ymestyn y rheilffordd 1/3 milltir ymhellach i lawr y cwm tan iddi gyrraedd y trac beicio. Gwirfoddolwyr sydd yn rhedeg y rheilffordd ac maent bob amser yn chwilio am help llaw ychwanegol. Am ragor o wybodaeth ffoniwch 01495 792263.



# Blaenavon's New School Progresses

Excellent progress has been made throughout 2011 on the construction of the new Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School and work remains on target for a March 2012 completion. All steelwork is nearing completion and floors are being laid. Roof works are underway. Internal drainage is being installed and external wall and window installation has started. The planning application for the CCTV and car park lighting was granted and works on the car park can now be completed.

The school council and governors have determined the new school colours - Royal Blue and Yellow - and chosen a school logo. The logo was an amalgam of two pupils' work and reflects the town's heritage. The school's first Head Teacher, Mrs. Deb Woodward, has been appointed. Mrs Woodward is currently the Head Teacher at Pontnewynydd Primary School and she has already written an introductory letter to parents. The project team very much look forward to working with Mrs Woodward between now and the school opening.



# Thank you John!

After serving the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape for many years, John Rodger MBE, the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Co-ordinator, has retired. From 1997 John Rodger led the World Heritage nomination bid at officer level on behalf of the Blaenavon Partnership and in November 2000, he accompanied the Leader of Torfaen Council, Cllr. Bob Wellington, and the then Chief Executive, Dr. Clive Grace, to Cairns, Australia, where it was announced that the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape had achieved prestigious World Heritage Site status.

In the decade since achieving World Heritage Status, much has been accomplished, and John has worked tirelessly to promote the interests of Blaenavon nationally and internationally. John has been succeeded as World Heritage Site Co-ordinator by Cath Thomas, Head of Regeneration at Torfaen County Borough Council. Paying tribute to her predecessor, Cath said "It's been wonderful working with John on what has been a very exciting and pioneering project. I couldn't have asked to work with anybody more passionate and enthusiastic. We had a lot of good times working together and have achieved many good things for Blaenavon!"

Cllr. Bob Wellington echoed this sentiment and said "receiving World Heritage Site Status in Cairns, Australia with John is an occasion that we both will never forget. Receiving this accolade on behalf of the people of Torfaen is an achievement I'm very proud of and I would like to personally thank John for all the passion, energy and dedication that he has shown to this project over the years".



*John Rodger MBE (L) pictured with Cllr. Bob Wellington & Dr. Clive Grace*





**Steven Rogers,  
Partnership Scheme  
Manager**

steven.rogers@torfaen.gov.uk

Steve has been with the  
Forgotten Landscapes

Partnership from the very beginning and led on the  
consultation during 2007 – 08. He has a master's degree in  
conservation and land management from Bangor University  
and has put it to good use helping plan and deliver the wide  
range of projects which will be delivered between 2011 and  
2013.



**Ceri Cadwallader,  
Education and  
Interpretation Officer**

ceri.cadwallader@torfaen.  
gov.uk

Formerly the education  
manager at Ty'r Morwydd  
field studies centre in

Abergavenny, Ceri is now leading the Forgotten Landscapes  
education programme designed to inform all ages of the  
globally important history of Blaenavon and the surrounding  
landscape. Ceri is also leading on events and trail guides.



**Tracey Marsh,  
Administration and  
Technical Support  
Officer**

tracey.marsh@torfaen.gov.uk

Tracey doesn't just manage  
the finances. Because of her

considerable experience in working with community groups  
she also leads on a number of community projects including  
the promotion of bee keeping and the development of a  
local producers' network.



# Meet the Forgotten

**The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership (FLP) team is  
we will be busy delivering projects intended to help  
an internationally recognised visitor destination. Our  
members such as the Welsh Assembly Government  
team sits within the Regeneration Service of Torfaen**

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR V

In March, Forgotten Landscapes staff and volunteers put on their  
wellies to plant 11,000 reeds as part of an ambitious project  
to create a reed bed at Garn Lakes Local Nature Reserve. The  
reens, ditches and scrapes were created by civil engineers  
Walter's Environmental and this is just one of the many projects  
being undertaken by the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership made  
possible by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund with support  
from other funders, including the Welsh Assembly Government.

Steven Rogers, the Forgotten Landscapes Scheme Manager said:  
'Reed beds are important for wildlife and there is very little of this  
valuable habitat in south east Wales.'



*The new reed bed*



Supported by

**The National Lottery®**  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

Cefnogwyd gan

**Y Loteri Genedl**  
trwy Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri



# Landscapes Team

is now fully assembled. For the next three years we will establish the Blaenavon World Heritage Site as our partnership is over 130 strong and includes the Blaenavon Town Women's Guild. The Blaenavon County Borough Council led by Cath Thomas.

## WILDLIFE AT GARN LAKES

A range of rare birds, insects and amphibians, including bittern, Cetti's warbler, dragonflies and newts, thrive in reed beds. So the addition of this new habitat will add greatly to the already important wildlife value of Garn Lakes. Once the reed bed is established a number of guided walks will allow visitors to appreciate this wonderful new feature.'

If you would like to know more please email Alvin Nicholas: [alvin.nicholas@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:alvin.nicholas@torfaen.gov.uk)



*A mature reed bed © Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)*

### **Rob Maddocks, Landscape Crime Officer**

[rob.maddocks@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:rob.maddocks@torfaen.gov.uk)

Many people have expressed serious concerns about crime in the landscape. Rob was seconded to the FLP team from Gwent Police and his efforts have already seen a significant reduction in landscape crime. Soon he will start engaging with community groups and schools to raise awareness about illegal activity on the commons. For more information call Rob on 07980738419.



### **Alvin Nicholas, Commons Officer**

[alvin.nicholas@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:alvin.nicholas@torfaen.gov.uk)

Alvin is working closely with the commoners to control invasive bracken, improve grazing and restore the highly valued stands of heather. It is hoped that this work will also benefit the red grouse. This once plentiful bird is near extinction and its recovery is dependent on healthy upland heath. Please contact Alvin for more information.



### **Sarah Lewis, Volunteer Recruitment & Training Officer**

[sarah.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk)

Sarah is busy setting up a Volunteer Ranger Service for the World Heritage Site and surrounding landscape. Sarah will ensure that all volunteers receive high quality skills training relevant to their interests so that they will be well equipped to look after our globally important landscape. Please contact Sarah for more information.



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## **Visit Blaenavon by the Beacons Bus**

Back by popular demand, the Beacons Bus will again be making a special journey to the World Heritage Site.

Beacons Bus is a network of specially commissioned buses, organised by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. Every Sunday and Bank Holiday from the end of May to the end of September, buses bring residents and visitors from 8 major towns and cities into Brecon. From here passengers have the chance to take a bus to a number of destinations in and around the National Park.

The Blaenavon service was introduced last year and takes passengers to all the major attractions in the World Heritage Site during the day before returning them to Brecon.

This year the journey to and from Blaenavon will take in Talybont, Llangynidr, Garnlydan, Brynmawr.

To find out more about the Blaenavon service and other destinations you can visit on the bus around the Brecon Beacons National Park, visit [www.travelbreconbeacons.info](http://www.travelbreconbeacons.info).



*Beacons Bus (image courtesy of BBNPA)*

## **Ymweld â Blaenafon ar Fws y Bannau**

Oherwydd y galw mawr amdano, fe fydd Bws y Bannau yn gwneud siwrnai arbennig i Safle Treftadaeth y Byd unwaith eto.

Rhwydwaith o fysiau wedi eu comisiynu'n arbennig yw Bws y Bannau a hynny dan ofal Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog. Bob dydd Sul a Gŵyl Banc o ddiwedd Mai tan ddiwedd Medi, daw bysiau â thrigolion ac ymwelwyr o 8 o'r prif drefi a dinasoedd i Aberhonddu. O'r fan hon, caiff teithwyr gyfle i deithio ar fws i nifer o gyrchfannau o fewn ac o gwmpas ardal y Parc Cenedlaethol.

Cyflwynwyd gwasanaeth Blaenafon y llynedd. Mae'n cludo teithwyr i'r prif atyniadau yn Safle Treftadaeth y Byd yn ystod y dydd cyn eu dychwelyd i Aberhonddu. Eleni, fe fydd y siwrnai i Flaenafon ac yn ôl yn mynd trwy Dalybont, Llangynidr, Garn Lydan a Brynmawr.

I gael hyd i fwy o wybodaeth am wasanaeth Blaenafon a'r cyrchfannau eraill y gallwch ymweld â hwy ar y bws o gwmpas Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog, ewch i [www.travelbreconbeacons.info](http://www.travelbreconbeacons.info).

## **Big Pit Car Parking**

We are pleased during these difficult times that entry to Big Pit will continue to be free. Since its introduction in 2001, thanks to the support of the Welsh Assembly Government, free entry at Big Pit has been a huge success with visitor figures exceeding all expectations. In order to help maintain free entry, Big Pit introduced a £2 charge for car parking on 1 April. The revenue generated will be invested in new facilities. An area near the car park has been set aside as free parking for local visitors wishing to walk in the area, both while the Museum is open and in the evenings.





## Interpretation Panels Installed



*Image courtesy of Mrs. Pat Morgan*

If you have wandered around Blaenavon recently you will have noticed a number of new interpretation panels. The cast-iron stands have been installed in the car parks at Broad Street, Market Street, Prince Street, Church Road and Big Pit. Each panel provides visitor information as well as details about the history of these areas.

Local residents, however, have pointed out an error on the Market Street panel. The gentleman pictured outside Ebenezer Chapel was incorrectly identified as Mr. Ted Moreton. The photograph in-fact shows Mr. Reg Morgan, who served as senior deacon of Ebenezer Chapel for many years until its closure in the 1980s. Ted Moreton attended the Avon Road Mission Chapel for over 65 years, where he was the organist. We unreservedly apologise for any offence which may have been caused to the families of these two gentlemen.

## Exciting Year at Big Pit

Big Pit has had another exciting year with a variety of events, exhibitions and activities to interest the whole family. 2011 started with our 'Love Food' weekend, which celebrated St Dwynwen's Day with the best of local producers and fun and activities for the whole family. This event was very successful and will be repeated in 2012. During May we hosted the first Big Pit Film Club. There are many films relating to the coal industry that never get broadcast on TV, we hope to show the films and host a discussion about the issues raised.

Over the summer we have our annual 'Music on the Patio' series, this year featuring bands and choirs from across Torfaen and beyond. This year we are happy to welcome the Blaenavon Ladies Choir to perform at one of the Sunday afternoon concerts, as well as Blaenavon Town Band. For families we are celebrating summer holidays from our childhood with Punch and Judy shows and seaside games, crafts and storytelling.

For details of these and other events, please see our website or look out for local publicity.

For information visit [www.museumwales.ac.uk](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk) or call 01495 790311.



*Music on the Patio at Big Pit (image courtesy of AC-NMWW)*



## **From Funeral to Festival**

Blaenavon's latest history book has been published! *From Funeral to Festival* tells the fascinating story of Blaenavon and its people in the years between the death of Queen Victoria in 1901 and the Festival of Britain in 1951. The work is the culmination of nearly three years hard work by a group of dedicated and enthusiastic local people and is enriched through personal anecdotes and sketches and watercolours by talented local artist Mary Challenger.

The project was carried out under the auspices of the WEA in Church View, Blaenavon, and the publication of the book was funded by the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Scheme. The book will be officially launched at a public event at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre on Friday 3 June 2011 at 6pm. Copies of the book cost £12 and can be purchased at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre or Browning Books.

The history group is looking to its next project – the history of Blaenavon from the demise of the Blaenavon Company in the 1950s through to the area's modern day reinvention as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The group would welcome new members. If you are interested, please contact the WEA on 01495 791128.



*St. Peter's Church as viewed from the WEA in Church View (watercolour © Mary Challenger)*

## **The Volunteer Rangers are back!**

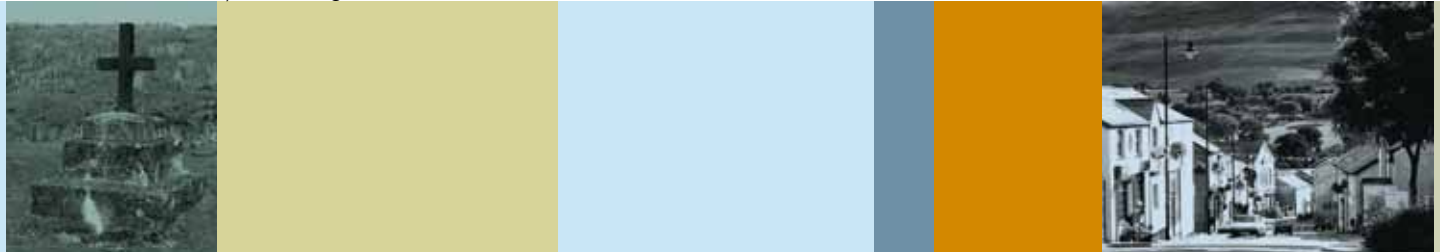
The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Volunteer Rangers are active again and are giving a valuable gift of time to the work of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership. The Rangers have been getting stuck into a range of activities to support the Partnership's varied projects being carried out thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a range of other partners.

Opportunities for the Volunteer Rangers include dry stone walling repairs, monitoring and maintaining archaeological sites and monitoring wildlife, as well as assisting with our guided walks, Junior Rangers club and education programme.

We are still looking for enthusiastic people to join the Rangers and there are a variety of training and development opportunities on offer for those interested. So if you love the outdoors and want to join the Volunteer Rangers to help protect the World Heritage Site and its important wildlife, or inspire others about it, then this is a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference. For more information go to [www.visitblaenavon.co.uk](http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk) or contact Sarah on 01495 742335 or email: [sarah.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk)



*Volunteers at work*





## Volunteers to the Rescue

Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA) and the Family Employment Initiative Project (BTCV) launched a brand new community training project on 3 March 2011. The project will rejuvenate St Peter's Churchyard. The site has been identified by the local residents as an area of interest to them and one they would like to maintain and use throughout the year.

The project will be developed by volunteers, mainly, but not exclusively, from the Blaenavon area, who will also be gaining qualifications whilst volunteering, for example, Agored Cymru units and City and Guilds NPTC (National Proficiency Tests Council) qualifications.

With guidance from Torfaen

County Borough Council's senior ecologist, the project will be considering the wildlife, conservation and ecology of the churchyard. There will be a designated area that will be left as a natural habitat and the whole area will be cleared in sections, allowing time for the wildlife to move onto the 'wild' area of the churchyard. The historical significance of the churchyard and the fascinating stories of the people buried within it will also be interpreted in conjunction with the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre.

If anybody would like to get involved or would like more information please contact Charis Easter, Volunteer Coordinator at TVA, on 01495 742469.



*St. Peter's Churchyard is currently very overgrown*

## Gwirfoddolwyr yn Achub y Dydd!

Lansiwyd prosiect hyfforddi cymunedol newydd sbon gan Gynghair Gwirfoddol Torfaen a'r Prosiect Menter Cyflogaeth Deuluol ar y 3ydd o Fawrth 2011, i adnewyddu Mynwent Eglwys San Pedr. Mae'r trigolion lleol wedi enwi'r safle fel ardal sydd o ddiddordeb iddynt, a hoffent ei chynnal a'i defnyddio drwy gydol y flwyddyn.

Bydd y prosiect yn cael ei ddatblygu gan wirfoddolwyr yn bennaf, ond nid yn unig o ardal Blaenafon, a fydd hefyd yn ennill cymwysterau tra eu bod wrthi'n gwirfoddoli, er enghraifft, unedau Agored Cymru a chymwysterau Cyngor Profion Medrusrwydd Cenedlaethol (NPTC) City and Guilds. Gydag arweiniad gan uwch ecolegydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen, bydd

y prosiect ystyried y bywyd gwyllt, cadwraeth ac ecoleg y fynwent. Fe fydd yna ardal ddynodedig yn cael ei gadael fel cynefin naturiol a bydd yr ardal gyfan yn cael ei chllirio fesul adran, er mwyn caniatáu amser i'r bywyd gwyllt symud i ardal 'wyllt' yn y fynwent. Bydd arwyddocâd hanesyddol y fynwent a hanesion difyr y bobl sydd wedi eu claddu yn cael ei ddehongli mewn cydweithrediad â Chanolfan Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon.

Os hoffai unrhyw un gymryd rhan, neu gael mwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Charis Easter, Cydlynnydd Gwirfoddolwyr, Cynghair Gwirfoddol Torfaen, ar 01495 742469.





## Coming Events

### **Celtic Café**

Every Wednesday,  
4:30pm-6pm  
Free music workshops for children  
Blaenavon World Heritage Centre Café  
01495 742333

### **Torfaen, Its Heritage and Beyond**

14 May - 26 June 2011  
Cwmbran Photographic Society members present their first exhibition of the area's heritage. Blaenavon World Heritage Centre  
01495 742333

### **Bonjour Butty!**

28 May - 4 June 2011  
Games, arts and crafts, and lots of other fun family activities to explore language links. Big Pit National Coal Museum, 11am - 4pm  
01495 790311

### **Mountain Tales**

29 May 2011  
A walk on the landscape (2 miles)  
Meet at Keeper's Pond Car Park. 10:30am - 12:30pm & 2pm - 4pm  
01495 742333

### **Teddy Bears' Picnic**

29/30 May 2011  
Blaenavon's Heritage Railway  
01495 792263

### **Launch of Gwent County History Vol. 4**

2 June 2011  
Browning Books hosts the launch of the latest volume of the Gwent County History. Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, 6:30pm  
Admission £2 & will include a glass of wine or soft drink  
01495 790089

### **'From Funeral to Festival' Book Launch**

3 June 2011  
Browning Books hosts the launch of the WEA Local History group's book. Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, 6pm-8pm  
01495 790089

### **Biodiversity Blitz Day**

3 June 2011  
Learn how to identify wildlife by working with naturalists. Booking essential  
Meet at Keeper's Pond, SO 3254 2107, 10am-3pm  
01495 742333

### **Birds of Hill and Moor**

5 June 2011  
A circular walk around Mynydd Garn-Clochdy to learn more about wild birds  
Meet at Blaenavon Community Woodland, Llanover Road, 10:30am-3pm  
01495 742333

### **Living Landscape Lecture**

7 June 2011  
The Welsh Orienteering Association present a free talk, Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, 7pm  
01495 742333

### **Church to Church**

11 June 2011  
A Guided Visit to the Places of Worship in Llanfoist and Govilon. Meet at Llanfoist Railway Track Car Park 10:30am-3pm, £2  
01873 830613

### **'Threads of the Valleys'**

From 21 June 2011  
A fresh new textile exhibition full of colour and texture. Browning Books, 33 Broad Street  
01495 790089

### **Blaenavon Ladies Choir Concert**

22 June 2011  
Blaenavon Senior's Hall, 7:15pm  
Admission £3.50 (includes refreshments)  
01495 791988

### **Heritage Tea Dance**

23 June 2011  
Blaenavon Senior's Hall, 2pm  
Admission £2.50 (includes refreshments)  
01495 790719

### **Blaenavon Industrial Gamelan**

25 June 2011  
Blaenavon Ironworks Demonstrations & performances 10am, 11am & noon.  
01495 357815

### **World Heritage Day**

25 June 2011

### **Garn Lakes County Fayre**

26 June 2011

### **Songs of Praise**

26 June 2011,  
St. Peter's Church, 6pm

### **Living Landscape Lecture**

5 July 2011  
The British Geological Survey present a free talk  
Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, 7pm  
01495 742333

### **Themed 1940s Activities**

9 July 2011  
Blaenavon Heritage Town (details tbc)  
01495 790926

### **1940s Weekend**

9 & 10 July 2011  
Blaenavon's Heritage Railway,  
01495 792263

### **1940s Vintage Dance**

9 July 2011  
Blaenavon World Heritage Day Committee presents a vintage 1940s dance and war time buffet, featuring music from Dave Barry Band at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets £10.00 available from Blaenavon World Heritage Centre on 01495 742333.

### **Environmental Photography & Art Workshops**

9/16/23/30 July & 6/13/20/27 August 2011  
Art and photography workshops  
Blaenavon World Heritage Centre (free but booking essential - a refundable £15 deposit needs to be paid in advance)  
01495 742333

### **Model Railway Show**

23 & 24 July 2011  
Blaenavon's Heritage Railway  
01495 792263

### **Living Landscape Lecture**

2 August 2011  
Alvin Nicholas, the FLP Commons Officer, presents a free lecture.  
Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, 7pm  
01495 742333

### **Ivor the Engine**

13 & 14 August 2011  
Blaenavon's Heritage Railway  
01495 792263

### **Transport Rally**

28 & 29 August 2011  
Blaenavon's Heritage Railway  
01495 792263

