

HERITAGE NEWS

BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE SITE NEWSLETTER ISSUE 5 - SUMMER 2007

Dancing in the Street!

It's the day we've all been waiting for and one not to be missed! Preparations are well underway for what promises to be the most spectacular Blaenavon World Heritage Day ever!

Topping the bill on Saturday 30th June will be T.V. entertainer Mike Doyle whose show will have everyone roaring with laughter as he performs live comedy and music to get your toes tapping! But that's not all! Get down and boogie with Motown tribute band "Motown Gold" who will have everyone dancing in the street with live performances of all your favourite Motown classics! The Victorian Fun Fair returns with even more rides and stalls. Why not try your luck at the Coconut Shy, Feed the Frog, the Bunco Booth, Helter Skelter, Tea Cups and much much more. Guaranteed fun for all the family!



Comedian Mike Doyle

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang will also be driving into town this year. Watch the original star of the classic film lead the heritage costume parade through the town. The parade, which is the highlight of the day, will start at 1.30pm from the top of Broad Street / King Street.

Much loved SWICA artists Ben and Jude return to Blaenavon along with a team of fellow carnival makers to create costumes inspired by Blaenavon and the animals of the past. Why not join Ben and Jude in creating the amazing costumes that never fail to dazzle the crowds. Check out the leaflet inside for details of the workshops.

Chair of the Blaenavon World Heritage Day Committee, Councillor Neil Lewis said "the day is set to be the best ever. This is always an exciting fun packed day. We would like to invite everyone to come along and take part in the parade and enjoy what promises to be a fantastic family day".

For more information on World Heritage Day 2007, check out the leaflet inside, visit www.world-heritage-blaenavon.org.uk or telephone 01633 648812.



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Chitty Chitty Bang Bang



Heritage Celebrated in Carnival Arts Residency!

In preparation for this year's Heritage costume parade on World Heritage Day, South Wales Intercultural Community Arts (SWICA) are returning for a Carnival Arts Residency. Having fully recovered from the success of the first Blaenavon Lantern and Fire Finale in December, artists Ben and Jude return to lead a team of carnival makers, movers and musicians for an arts residency which promises to be better than ever!

Ben and Jude said "In 2007 we will look more closely at the relationship between Blaenavon and animals. The costume ideas will range from beasts of burden, such as pit ponies and pack horses, to animals found in Welsh traditions and mythology – for example, the horse-skulled Mari Lwyd or 'Grey Mare'."

Local school children will be working alongside four artists to design, create and make colourful textiles which will then be transformed into large flags, banners, kites, huge windsocks and fabric sculptures. The artwork will be interpreted using ancient Celtic patterns and designs

Alongside the work with school children, SWICA is inviting everybody from Blaenavon and the surrounding area to come to the free workshops and have some fun, making willow sculptures, costumes and props for the Heritage Parade. Even if you only have a small amount of time to spare, pop in and get involved in the sticking, gluing, printing, painting, designing, sewing, decorating and drumming! All welcome, no previous experience necessary all materials provided!



The spectacular World Heritage Day Parade costumes

Family Fun At Garn Lakes Country Fayre



Visitors to this year's Garn Lakes Country Fayre will have plenty to keep them entertained all day long. The annual Fayre will take place on Sunday 1st July 2007, 10:30am-5:00pm, with a wide variety of activities, exhibitions and entertainment for all the family to enjoy.

Why not try your hand at fishing, canoeing on the lake, kite-flying or scale the heights of the climbing wall! There will be opportunities to go for guided mountain bike rides or walks. Enjoy the falconry display, as well as "flyball" demonstrations from the Griffithstown Dog Club. Bring your dog along and see how well he jumps to retrieve the ball!

As well as this, there will be a craft marquee with stalls including wood turners, pampering products, fossils, jewellery and art. A bio-diversity area will include the Gwent Bee Keepers and the RSPB. Refreshments available will include a hog roast, buffalo ice-cream, crepes and burgers. New for this year is a Food Marquee full of local food producers and suppliers. Come and sample chocolates, cheese, honey or take part in some Healthy Eating activities. Younger ones can enjoy story-telling, face-painting and the bouncy castles. Visit the Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway, who will be running trains rides throughout the day.

Entry is free to all visitors. Cars will be charged £2 to park. Why not take advantage of a free Vintage Bus which will pick up visitors from various points around the World Heritage Site, including Blaenavon town centre. For further information, or if you would like to exhibit at the Fayre, please contact Katie Gates, Tel: 01633 648329.

Artwork for Llanfoist

Two interpretative cast-iron relief panels have been installed at the entrance to the Llanfoist Crossing car park and Llanfoist Community Centre. The panels celebrate the historic transport systems that ran along the north side of the World Heritage Site, in particular the Llanvihangel Tramroad and the Merthyr, Tredegar and Abergavenny Railway, now the route of the Heads of the Valleys Cycleway.

They were designed by South Wales artist Anne Gibbs and cast at a specialist foundry in Narberth. Anne consulted with village residents in the development of the designs and local people also helped to prepare the wood and clay 'patterns' used as formers for the castings.

The car park is at the eastern end of the mostly off-road section of the recently upgraded cycleway to Brynmawr, part of Route 46 on the National Cycle Network. It provides a good starting point for walkers heading up to the picturesque Llanfoist Wharf on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal to join the Iron Mountain Trail for the steep but rewarding climb over the Blorenge, or for the gentle loop route via the canal towpath that joins the cycleway at Govilon.

Llanfoist is within easy walking and cycling distance from both the bus and rail stations in Abergavenny, via Routes 42 and 46 of the National Cycle Network through Castle Meadows. Visit the Sustrans website www.sustrans.org.uk for further details.



Artwork at Llanfoist

Step into the Past!



Govilon Heritage Group and visitors on a recent walk

November saw the launch of the Govilon Heritage Group's Heritage Trails. This year the Group are providing guided walks around the Trails in partnership with Brecon Beacons National Park and the Blaenavon World Heritage Site (BWHS).

The first walk in April, led by Heritage Group member Rob Vaughan and BWHS Warden Alvin Nicholas, took visitors along the canal to Govilon Aqueduct and down the route of Bailey's Tramroad to Govilon Wharf. Local artist Michael Blackmore was a special guest having depicted both Aqueduct and Tramroad in unique historical reconstruction drawings commissioned by the group.

On July 21st, the Group will take visitors along the old railway line to the site of the ancient forge that gave Govilon its name. A third walk "A Chapel, a Church and a Canal" is planned for September 15th. This will include a guided tour of Llanwenarth Baptist Chapel, the oldest in Wales.

Historians and those tracing their family tree may be interested to learn that the Group's website has an extensive history section - including local Census Records from 1841, 1871, 1881 and 1891 and numerous local business directories from that era, plus all the monumental and gravestone inscriptions for both Church and Chapel.

Visit www.govilon.com for details.



AM Visit to Oakfield B&B



Lynne Neagle meets Mr. Paul Scourfield (left) and members of the Torfaen Tourism Association at Oakfield B&B, Blaenavon

As part of Tourism Awareness Week, A.M. Lynne Neagle recently visited Oakfield B&B to meet members of the Torfaen Tourist Association to discuss issues regarding tourism in the area.

Oakfield B&B has just completed its first year of trading. Owners Paul and Heidi Scourfield set up the business to provide quality accommodation to the increasing numbers of visitors coming to Blaenavon. Lynne Neagle said "having quality accommodation like that available at Oakfield bed and breakfast is hugely important. Torfaen as a tourism product has fantastic potential and it is encouraging to see that people in the association are getting involved."

Association member Mr Scourfield said "if we are to make this town succeed as a tourist destination we need to provide visitors with somewhere to stay in Blaenavon and not send them into neighbouring boroughs for their accommodation, hopefully what we have created at Oakfield B&B will go some way towards this".

Oakfield B&B is Visit Wales accredited with a 4 star grading and has two twin rooms and one double room two en-suite and one with its own private bathroom. To book accommodation telephone 01495 792829 or visit www.oakfieldbnb.com

Read All About It!

A welcome new addition to Blaenavon town centre is now in place. The Future Blaenavon community information board will be available for groups within the town to advertise events and meetings, fetes and festivals. The design reflects the use of materials throughout the town and will hopefully appeal to local people and visitors alike. Thanks must go from Future Blaenavon to the Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership which funded the project. If you wish to place an item of interest on the board please visit the TVA offices at Church View or telephone Gareth Davies on 01495 790849.



Darllenwch y cyfan yma!

Mae ychwanegiad newydd i ganol tref Blaenafon erbyn hyn yn ei le. Mi fydd bwrdd gwybodaeth cymunedol 'Blaenafon y Dyfodol' ar gael i alluogi grwpiau o fewn y dref i hysbysebu digwyddiadau a chyfarfodydd, ffeiriau a gwyliau. Mae'r dyluniad yn adlewyrchu'r defnyddiau sydd i'w gweld drwy'r dref, a gobeithir y bydd yn apelio at bobl leol ac ymwelwyr. Rhaid i Grŵp 'Blaenafon y Dyfodol' estyn diolch i Bartneriaeth Adfywio Blaenafon a wnaeth noddi'r prosiect. Os hoffech osod eitem o ddiddordeb ar y bwrdd, ewch i swyddfeydd Cynghrair Gwirfoddol Torfaen (TVA), Golwg yr Eglwys neu ffoniwch Gareth Davies ar 01495 790849.

Head Start For Blaenavon

Blaenavon has benefited from further funding from the Heads of the Valleys – a Welsh Assembly Government initiative aimed at tackling social, economic and physical regeneration of the Heads of the Valleys area. Blaenavon Workmen's Hall has received state of the art new theatre equipment and a brand new children's play area has been installed at Blaenavon Park.

The town centre has also benefited from a CCTV system which has been installed along Broad Street and Church Road. Thanks also to the Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership who made a contribution towards the installation of the system and its on-going running costs. Executive Member for Regeneration, Councillor Neil Lewis said, "I am pleased to see that these projects have been implemented and believe that the Heads of the Valleys Initiative will deliver continued regeneration for the town and wider area".



New play area at Blaenavon Park

The Only Way Is Up!

Blaenavon town centre is set to benefit from significant traffic improvements with the introduction of a one-way traffic system through the middle section of Broad Street. The system, which will direct traffic north bound between the junction of Market Street with Broad Street up to the junction of Lion Street with Broad Street, is aimed at significantly improving pedestrian and vehicular safety and access through the town centre.

The junction of Ivor Street with Broad Street will also be improved with traffic calming measures in the form of chicanes introduced along the one-way system. Widespread public consultation has taken place and comments have been taken into account in finalising the system. Implementation of the system will commence later in the year.



View towards George Street



View from Burford Street junction



Landmark TV series comes to Blaenavon



Stack Square, Blaenavon Ironworks, where the families will live

One of the most ambitious reality TV challenges to date is going to be made in Blaenavon and broadcast on BBC1 Wales this autumn.

The ground breaking series "Coalhouse" will transport three families 80 years back in time to see how they survive living in the south Wales coalfields of 1927. The families will live for 3 weeks in the cottages at Stack Square in Blaenavon Ironworks.

The South Wales coalfield once exported 30% of the world's coal and employed an enormous 270,000 men at its peak. That's an incredible 1 in 4 men of working age were employed in the coal industry. The series is set just a year after the national strike and when there were mass pit closures and redundancies and men went on mass hunger strikes. The series aims to depict the hardships as well as the camaraderie, culture and glory of the 1920's coal industry. It's not only an entertaining social experiment but also an exciting way to communicate the history of Wales to the wider public.

The families will leave the 21st century for 3 weeks and live in a 1920s world. All traces of creature comforts will be removed from the house: there will be no TV, PC, washing machine or microwave oven. The children will have to live without their I-pods and mobile phones and will be unable to talk to their friends for the



Communal outside toilets

duration. They will also have to live without the benefit of central heating and hot running water. Dad will have to bath in front of an open fire or outside in the back yard! If they want to relieve themselves in the middle of the night they will have to brave the cold to get to the outside toilet!

Father and older son will brave life down the pit each day enduring the intense physical demands of shoveling coal and hacking at the coal face. It was a time when there was little mechanization and most of the coal was cut by hand. Men worked up to 12 hours a day in cramped and



Back to basics!



Inside one of the cottages

live and work for up to 14 hours a day! Mam and her daughters will be at the heart of the family life. Without their work family life will grind to a halt.

But it's not all work, work, work. The families will go to chapel, play sport, dance the Charleston at an old style dance evening, and even do a spot of gardening on a Sunday afternoon! These activities and events will take place throughout Blaenavon with the help and participation of the local community.

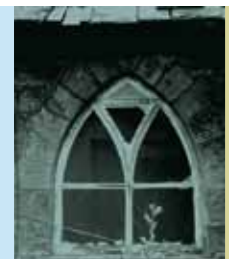
They can get political too; the men can campaign for better working conditions, while the women can campaign for new pit head baths. Independent production company Indus Films who are making the series for BBC Wales, have already started the appeal for families to take part. They've received hundreds of interested and interesting parties. They hope to announce the final three families by July.

If you want to know more about the Coalhouse Project. The BBC/Indus Films are holding a public meeting at the Workmen's Hall in Blaenavon from 6pm to 9.30pm on Thursday 21st of June 2007.

squalid conditions and often had to walk home for several miles after finishing a shift.

The families will also eat 1927 style food. The amount and quality of which will be dependent upon how much coal the men can cut and the money they therefore earn.

Younger children will taste the rigidity and strictness of a 1920's schooling while Mam will have to learn to



Ironbridge World Heritage Festival 2007

The Ironbridge World Heritage Festival will take place on 22nd and 23rd September. Following last years successful event, at which Blaenavon was well represented, an exciting programme is being planned for 2007! A Festival Market will be held in Dale End Park, Ironbridge will host a major art and craft exhibition and many competitions, displays and exhibitions will keep the whole family entertained!

The Festival is a celebration of World Heritage and a warm welcome is extended to visitors from Blaenavon World Heritage Site. Why not make a weekend of it and spend a night or two in the beautiful Ironbridge Gorge. Information about where to stay and what to do can be found on www.visitironbridge.co.uk and www.ironbridge.org.uk

Gŵyl Treftadaeth y Byd Ironbridge 2007

Cynhelir Gŵyl Treftadaeth y Byd Ironbridge ar yr 22ain a'r 23ain o Fedi. Yn dilyn llwyddiant aruthrol y digwyddiad llynedd, lle cafwyd cynrychiolaeth dda gan Flaenafon, mae rhaglen gyffrous ar y gweill ar gyfer 2007! Cynhelir Marchnad Gŵyl ym Mharc Dale End a bydd Ironbridge yn cynnal arddangosfa celf a chrefft o'r radd uchaf, yn ogystal â nifer o gystadlaethau ac arddangosfeydd i ddiddori'r teulu cyfan!

Mae'r Wyl yn ddathliad o Dreftadaeth y Byd, ac estynnir croeso cynnes i ymwelwyr gan Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon. Beth am wneud penwythnos ohoni a threulio noson neu ddwy yn hyfrydwch Ceunant Ironbridge. Ceir wybodaeth ynglŷn â lleoedd i aros a phethau i'w gwneud ar www.visitironbridge.co.uk a www.ironbridge.org.uk

Blaenavon Property Improvement Grant

The Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership has launched the Blaenavon Property Improvement Grant, which provides funding for external improvements which enhance the appearance of the facades of commercial and community buildings within Blaenavon town centre. The grant is offered at a rate of up to 80% of eligible costs for commercial buildings up to a maximum of £1000. Community buildings will be offered up to 100% of eligible costs up to a maximum of £1000. As funds are limited, the grant will be offered on a first come first served basis. Anyone interested in applying for a grant is asked to contact Rebecca Hartley on (01633) 648293 for an application form and a copy of the terms and conditions.

Grant Gwella Eiddo Blaenafon

Mae Partneriaeth Adfywio Blaenafon wedi lansio'r Grant Gwella Eiddo Blaenafon, sy'n darparu nawdd ar gyfer gwelliannau allanol sy'n gwella golwg ffasadau adeiladau masnachol a chymunedol yn nhref Blaenafon. Cynigir grant ar gyfradd o hyd at 80% o'r costau cymwys ar gyfer adeiladau masnachol hyd at uchafswm o £1000. Cynigir hyd at 100% o gostau cymwys hyd at uchafswm o £1000 i adeiladau cymunedol. Gan fod cyllid yn gyfyng, cynigir y grant ar sail y cyntaf i'r felin. Gofynnir i unrhyw un sydd â diddordeb i gysylltu â Rebecca Hartley ar (01633) 648293 am ffurflen gais a chopi o'r telerau ac amodau.



The World Heritage Day parade at Ironbridge

From Tip to Treasure

Big Pit has been working closely with Torfaen Council on a project to improve and interpret the former colliery spoil heap which is situated between the Museum and the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway. The Coity Tip is the waste tip of the Coity Pit, which was a former ironstone mine dating from around 1840 and later incorporated into the Big Pit Colliery. The tip is one of many notable landscape features in the World Heritage Site, and the adjacent pond and surrounding habitats are major ecological assets.

In addition to three information panels, a trail leaflet around the tip has

been produced. As well as spectacular views of the World Heritage Site, walkers can also learn about the plants and animals they can see.

Many improvements have been made to the road and entry points, including access-restricting measures to discourage use by motorbikes and off-road vehicles. This is a problem which threatens the stability and biodiversity of the Coity Tip, and which needs to be addressed if this wildlife-rich area is to be conserved for future generations. The project was financed by the Welsh Assembly Government.



Coity Tips

National Final Beckons

Congratulations to Blaenavon Concert Band who have reached the National Brass Band Final (Fourth Section) to be held in Harrogate on 29th and 30th September. Mr Des Waite of the Band said "we are very proud to have reached this stage in the competition and are very excited about the final". The Band, who will be performing on Sunday 30th, has been very busy raising the funds needed to attend this prestigious competition. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Band can send it direct to Mr Des Waite at 15 Capel Newydd, Blaenavon or by telephoning 01495 791214. Good luck to you all!



Road Corridors Improved

Over the winter, works to the road corridors into Blaenavon have significantly improved the approach to the town thanks to funding from the Heads of the Valleys programme. Following detailed consultation with local residents and members, the entrance to Garn-yr- Erw along Garn Road has been transformed with new timber fencing, walling and signage dramatically enhancing the entrance to the village. The boundary sign at Whistle Road has been improved and at Llanover Road a new parking area has been created, signs and seats installed and stone walls erected following consultation with the Blorenghe Commoners Association.



Improvements to the road approaches on the B4248 at Blaenavon

Gwella Coridorau Ffyrdd

Dros y gaeaf, mae gwaith a gynhaliwyd i goridorau ffyrdd sy'n arwain at Flaenafon wedi gwella'r ardal yn sylweddol, diolch i nawdd a gafwyd gan raglen Blaenau'r Cymoedd. Yn dilyn ymgynghoriad manwl gyda thrigolion ac aelodau lleol, gwellwyd y fynedfa i Garn -yr- Erw ar hyd Heol y Garn drwy osod ffensys pren, waliau ac arwyddion newydd sydd wedi gwella'r pentref yn aruthrol. Yn dilyn ymgynghoriad gyda Chymdeithas Tir Comin Blorenghe, gwellwyd yr arwydd terfyn ger Whistle Road, ac yn Heol Llanofar mae yna faes parcio, arwyddion a seddau newydd yn ogystal â waliau cerrig.



Making a Splash!

Thanks to funding received from the Heads of the Valleys Programme, Garn Lakes has been significantly upgraded.

The cycleway, footpaths and car park have all been resurfaced to improve access with the perimeter of the lake now easily accessible for wheelchair users. Entrances have also been upgraded with new stone walls and measures to prevent off road vehicles accessing the site. All excavated materials have been re-used on the site to avoid landfill.

Conditions have also been created to encourage rare Lapwing birds to nest at the lower end of the site and it is hoped that they will nest here for the first time in many years!



Entrances to Garn Lakes

Creu Sblash!

Diolch i nawdd a dderbyniwyd gan Rhaglen Blaenau'r Cymoedd, cynhaliwyd gwelliannau sylweddol i Lynnoedd y Garn. Rhoddwyd wyneb newydd i'r llwybrau beicio, troedffyrdd a'r maes parcio er mwyn gwella mynediad, ac erbyn hyn fe all pobl sydd mewn cadeiriau olwyn fynd o gwmpas y llyn yn hawdd. Gwellwyd y mynedfeydd hefyd, gyda waliau cerrig a mesurau i atal cerbydau a ddefnyddir oddi ar yr heol rhag mynd i mewn i'r safle. Ail ddefnyddiwyd yr holl ddeunyddiau a gloddiwyd ar y safle er mwyn osgoi tirlenwi.

Crëwyd hefyd, amodau i annog cornchwiglod sydd erbyn hyn yn brin, i nythu ar ochr isaf y safle, a'r gobaith yw y byddant yn nythu yno am y tro cyntaf ers blynnyddoedd!



All Poles?

*'All of us, Czechs, Poles, Slavs,
all scattered because of the war'.
Milan Copic*

Ceri Thompson, Curator at Big Pit tells us about his research into Polish and other Eastern European workers in Welsh mines...

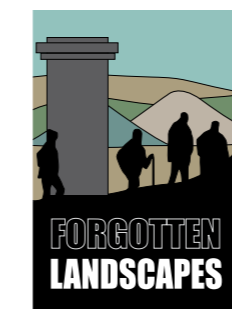
Over the past few months Big Pit has been collecting stories and photographs from mineworkers who came to work in the Welsh coal industry following the Second World War. It is hoped that the result of this research will be published in the third edition of 'GLO', Big Pit's annual booklet.

This idea for the booklet came from my own personal experience of working alongside fellow workmen at Cwm Colliery who had very strong east European accents and equally strong work ethics. I was fascinated by their stories about Monte Cassino or the partisan war in the former Yugoslavia and I marvelled at both their



English/Polish colliery notice

Forgotten Landscapes



Heritage Lottery Fund Wales has provided £50,000 to fund the development of a project which could bring significant long term benefits for the management,

preservation and presentation of the historic industrial landscape.

The "Forgotten Landscapes" project, which originated from a small number of interested organisations led by Gwent Wildlife Trust and Torfaen Council, will cover over 40 square kilometres and, through a strong local partnership approach, will bring tremendous benefits for local people, farmers, the business community and visitors.



strength and gentleness. Since becoming curator at Big Pit this is the first opportunity I have had to pay tribute to these men who were collectively known as 'Poles' whether they were actually Yugoslavians, Ukrainians, Italians, Germans, Latvians or Hungarians.

During the research I was surprised at the strength of feeling against their employment during the 1940s and 50s especially knowing of the reputation that they later earned as excellent workmen. I am glad to have known them and I hope that this publication will help to keep their memory alive in the history of the Welsh coalfields.

If you would like to take part in this project please contact Ceri Thompson at Big Pit: National Coal Museum on 01495 790 311.



Arno Wolf at Merthyr Vale colliery

The project will help conserve and restore the built features that create the historic character of the landscape and natural landscape features. Access into the wider landscape will be improved and high quality information on the area's important cultural heritage and wildlife made available to visitors. The project encourages people to become involved in their heritage landscape, to learn more about it, contribute to ideas about its future and to enjoy it!

If you have an interest in the landscape around Blaenavon and would like to be involved in the project contact Steven Rogers on 01633 648809 or email steven.rogers@torfaen.gov.uk

This project is also supported by the Welsh Assembly Government, the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency Wales.



Coming Events

Birds of Blorenge Mountain

Sunday 10th June 10am – 3:30pm

9km / 5.5 miles / Moderate

Learn all about the birds found in this heather moorland. Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet at Foxhunters car park (SO 264 108). For further details phone 01633 648045.

Minescapes of the World Heritage Site

Thursday 21st June 10am – 3pm

8km / 5 miles / Moderate

Keeper and Mine Manager Peter Walker will be giving a walk and talk about the geology and industrial archaeology of the Blaenavon area. Meet at the main entrance of Big Pit National Coal Museum (SO 238 087). Booking essential, telephone 01633 648045.

Songs of Praise

Sunday 24th June, 6pm at Horeb Chapel,

Come and celebrate 200 years of Baptists in Blaenavon.

Mountain Archaeology

Sunday 24th June, 10am – 4:30pm

8km / 5 miles / Moderate

Join archaeologist Frank Olding for a short talk and presentation followed by an excursion into the hills to learn how to identify and interpret archaeology. Meet at Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, Church Road, Blaenavon. Booking essential, telephone 01633 648045

Blaenavon World Heritage Day

Saturday 30th June, 12pm – 5pm

Blaenavon Town Centre

For further details phone 01633 648812

Garn Lakes Country Fayre

Sunday 1st July, 10:30am – 5pm

Entry free / Parking £2

A full day of fun for all the family. Craft marquee, wood turners, falconry and dog displays, bouncy castle, refreshments and much more! New for 2007 – Food Marquee – cookery demonstrations, local food producers and healthy eating.

For further details phone 01633 648066.

The Forge & Railway Heritage Trail, Govilon

Saturday 21st July 10am – 11:30am

2.5km / 1.5 miles / ,Easy

This walk takes you along the picturesque old railway line to view the site of an ancient forge. Meet at the Forge car park on the Tyla Road, Govilon (SO 263 134). Booking essential, telephone 01633 648045.

Fossil Hunt

Thursday 26th July 10am – 2:30pm

5km / 3 miles / Moderate

Try to find and identify some of the 300 million year old fossils scattered throughout the Blaenavon landscape! Meet at the Ironworks car park, Blaenavon (SO 248 091). Booking essential, telephone 01633 648045.

Music on the Patio at Big Pit

22, 29 July 5, 12, 19 & 26 August - 2pm

A different Welsh choir, brass band or new up-and-coming talent showcased each Sunday afternoon. Free.

Live Interpretation – Maggie Morgan, Miner’s Wife

Big Pit, 6, 8, 10 & 11 August

11.30am, 12.30pm, 2pm & 3pm

Maggie invites you into her home to hear tales of her working life underground as a child. Free

Energy – our past, your future workshop – Big Pit

13, 15 & 17 August, 11am – 4pm

Look at the importance of coal and other fossil fuels in powering the world, and explore some more sustainable sources of energy. Also, make a pledge to do your bit to help the environment. Free.

Nature Walk – From Nothing to Nature – Big Pit

20, 22 & 24 August, 11am – 4pm

How nature has reclaimed the former colliery spoil heap at Big Pit. Free.

Junior Ranger Activity Day

Monday 27th August Starts 10:30am

Children (accompanied by an adult) are invited to come along and take part in regular Junior Ranger activities.

Meet at Keepers Pond car park (SO 254 107). Booking essential, telephone 01633 648045.

Discovery Week – Big Pit

29th October – 2nd November, 11am – 4pm

Come and explore the new learning space at Big Pit, and have a go at some of the hands – on activities. Free.

Spanish Civil War Exhibition at Big Pit

1 – 30 November, 9.30am – 5pm

An exhibition looking at the role of the Welsh miner soldiers during the Spanish Civil War. Free.

Mother Christmas -Big Pit

1, 2, 8, 9, 15 & 16 December, 11.30am,

12.30pm, 2pm & 3pm

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

