

# LEGINDARY

## The legends behind the Valleys That Changed the World!

**Here in South Wales, we are very proud of our industrial heritage. During the Industrial Revolution, this little corner of the world went global!** A landscape of roughly 25 miles long and 70 miles wide played host to: the biggest iron and copper works in the world; the first true train journey; the largest lump of coal; and technological advances that shaped the modern world. Our list of industrial facts and firsts is endless and even includes a few 6 foot long spanners!

But the real power behind our industrial story was the people. From canny incomers who took a risk on setting up industries in a virgin land and on a scale never seen before... to brilliant minds whose inventions helped shape our modern world... to social reformers who sometimes made the ultimate sacrifice in their struggle to make life better for ordinary working people.

These are our legends, or as we like to think of them, **leginds** and their **Legindary** places for you to discover.

Why not take a few snaps and selfies along the way and create your own **legindary** memories of **The Valleys that Changed the World!**

Plot your route using our interactive map - <http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/VisitBlaenavon/Explore-the-valleys-that-changed-the-world/Interactive-Map.aspx>

## Blaenavon - a Legindary World Heritage Site

Only here for a short time? You can tick off a number of 'Legends' at the World Heritage site:

Have your photo taken by the silhouette of **legindary** inventor and scientist Sidney Gilchrist Thomas at Blaenavon Ironworks;

Take a snap of yourself with local **legind** John Worton at Blaenavon's Community Museum in the Workmen's Hall;

Sit and take a selfie in the Victorian class room in the World Heritage Centre - formerly the school built by philanthropic **legind** Sarah Hopkins.

This is just a sample of our many **leginds**. We hope their stories have inspired you to explore our amazing industrial heritage story. For more ideas, visit our web pages: <http://visitblaenavon.co.uk/TVTCTW> and follow us on Facebook (@TVTCTW) and Twitter (@tvctw).



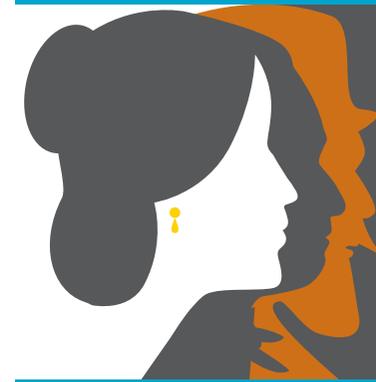
Please note, all details correct at time of going to press. 'The Valleys that changed the World' is a partnership of over 70 sites and organisations working together to promote and interpret the story of our industrial past. 'The Valleys that changed the World' is also part of the European Route of Industrial Heritage. We are supported by the following public sector bodies:



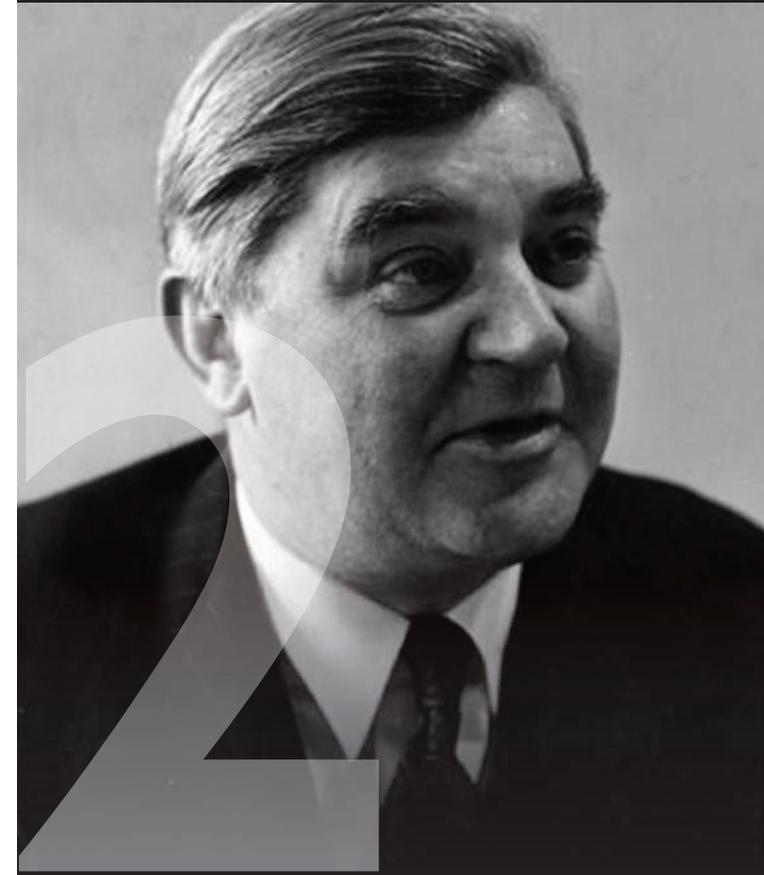
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Y chwedlau sy'n sail i'r Cymoedd a Newidiodd y Byd  
The legends behind the Valleys That Changed the World



Trail 2:  
**Leginds** who  
made life better



# Trail 2: Legends who made life better

These are just a few of our Leg**in**dary leaders of Industry. Why not find some more and post them on our Facebook (@TVTCTW) and twitter (@tvctw) feeds?

## Dic Penderyn



In 1831 the workers of Merthyr Tydfil were in revolt. Conditions and pay were so bad that they felt they had no other option. Known as the Merthyr Rising, they marched on their masters at the Castle Hotel Merthyr Tydfil. The soldiers stationed there opened fire on the crowd and 16 were killed. A soldier was stabbed. Dic Penderyn was accused, tried, found guilty of the crime and executed. Yet he always maintained his innocence. He has been remembered as Wales' first working class martyr.

Find out more about Dic Penderyn and take a photo by 'his' cell in Cyfarthfa Castle:  
[www.cyfarthfa.com/attractions/museum-art-gallery](http://www.cyfarthfa.com/attractions/museum-art-gallery)

## Aneurin Bevan



Despite starting life as a collier, Bevan, self-educated, rose to prominence in British Politics. He had a strong social conscience, and was responsible for many political policies that benefited ordinary men and women. He is best remembered as the architect of the National Health Service, established in 1948, which became the envy of the world.

Visit Bedwellty House, and sit in the council chamber where Bevan cut his political teeth:  
[www.bedwelltyhouseandpark.co.uk](http://www.bedwelltyhouseandpark.co.uk)  
From there, pick up the Aneurin Bevan Trail:  
[www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/fileadmin/documents/Resident/Things\\_to\\_See\\_and\\_Do/Nye\\_trail\\_eng.pdf](http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/fileadmin/documents/Resident/Things_to_See_and_Do/Nye_trail_eng.pdf)

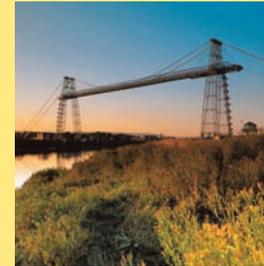
## Sarah Hopkins



Sarah was the sister of Blaenavon ironmaster, Samuel Hopkins. She used her position to make life better for the children of the town, by building a school for them. St. Peter's School was built in 1816 and was one of the earliest purpose-built schools in Wales to be provided by an industrial employer for the benefit of the children of the workers. Today, the school has been restored and is home to Blaenavon World Heritage Centre.

Visit the centre and snap a selfie sat in the recreated Victorian class room:  
[www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/VisitBlaenavon/ThingsToDo/BlaenavonWorldHeritageCentre.aspx](http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/VisitBlaenavon/ThingsToDo/BlaenavonWorldHeritageCentre.aspx)

## Thomas 'Toya' Lewis



Thomas was the 12 year old hero of the Newport Docks Disaster of 1909. During construction of the new South Lock, 46 workers were trapped when the supports collapsed. Thomas was small enough to crawl into the space and worked for two hours in an attempt to free one of those trapped who was released the next day. In gratitude, the public raised enough money to send him on an engineering scholarship. He was also awarded the Albert Medal for Lifesaving by King Edward VII.

For a photo with a difference, visit Newport's amazing Transporter Bridge with its bird's eye view of Newport and its historic docks: [www.fontb.org.uk](http://www.fontb.org.uk)

## John Frost



You could be forgiven for thinking that Newport born Frost was part of the establishment – he was a magistrate and former mayor of the town. Yet, his sympathies lay with the Chartists – a group of people across Britain who wanted political reform including votes for all men over 21, secret ballots and paid MPs. The government wouldn't listen to these demands, so in November 1839, Frost led a march on Newport. Between 3,000 and 5,000 workers came down from the Valleys and congregated at The Westgate Hotel. Trouble followed and over 20 working men were killed. Frost and other leaders were arrested and tried for Treason in the Shire Hall in Monmouth. Originally sentenced to death, sense prevailed and he was instead transported to Tasmania.

Sit in the courtroom where Frost and the other ring leaders were tried:  
[www.shirehallmonmouth.org.uk](http://www.shirehallmonmouth.org.uk)  
Or visit one of the many sites in Newport associated with the events of 1839:  
[www.newport.gov.uk/documents/LeisureandTourism/Chartists-leaflet-2016-ENG-for-WEB.pdf](http://www.newport.gov.uk/documents/LeisureandTourism/Chartists-leaflet-2016-ENG-for-WEB.pdf)

