



Merry Christmas and welcome to the first edition of the Forgotten Landscapes e-newsletter! Keep up-to-date with the latest project news plus information on events and activities within this monthly bulletin.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

We are now over a year into the project and a lot has been achieved already. Work completed in 2011 includes:

Excavation/restoration work on archaeological features in the landscape including Pwll Du Tunnel and Hill's Pit Chimney.

Management of the heather moorland through grazing and bracken control. Ecological survey work on a range of species. Development of a new reed bed habit.

Recruitment and training of volunteer rangers in a range of countryside skills (currently 45 people have got involved).

Installation of a new hydro-electric system which now powers Blaenavon World Heritage Centre.

Delivery of outdoor visits to over 500 primary school children. Plus new courses for secondary schools, colleges, and adult learners through our lifelong learning courses.

We also ran a very popular programme of guided walks. Plans are now underway for next year - more details in the next e-newsletter.

Our dedicated Landscape Crime Officer (seconded to the project from Gwent Police) has worked to take action against landscape crime, including illegal off roading, fly-tipping and arson.

The project continues until September 2013 and there is still plenty to do.

For more information please visit our website www.visitblaenavon.co.uk or contact us at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre on 01495 742333.

WHAT ARE THE 'FORGOTTEN LANDSCAPES'?

For anyone who has been out of touch with the project for a while the 'Forgotten Landscapes' may need some explanation. The name describes the globally significant landscape around Blaenavon.

To fully appreciate Blaenavon's story you need to travel back in time some 200 years, when Blaenavon was one of the most important iron producers in the world. If you were able to explore the landscape back then you would have seen that it was rapidly being transformed by human industrial activity – people were scarring it by mining, carving it up with their tramroads, canals & railways and burying it under tips! However, as the iron industry went slowly into decline so this industrial landscape became neglected and largely forgotten. Over time plants started to grow on the barren spoil heaps and gradually other wildlife began to return.

Today this fascinating landscape is rich in history and wildlife, and plays a vital role in our understanding of the heritage of the area.

The area is now the focus of the Forgotten Landscapes Project. This ambitious scheme aims to manage the natural habitat and wildlife of the area, and conserve the historic features that form the distinct character of the local landscape.



A YEAR IN NEWS ...

The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership has been making the news in 2011. Here are just a few of the stories from the last year.

- [Child 'warriors' bring Iron Age to life on new school visits in Blaenavon World Heritage Site](#)
- [New courses at Blaenavon World Heritage Centre](#)
- [Have a go at Dry Stone Walling](#)
- [Countryside criminals are targeted by Forgotten Landscapes Seconded Police Officer](#)
- [New History of Blaenavon Published](#)
- [Routes and Roots canal festival begins](#)
- [Discover tales from the past on this mountain story walk](#)

www.visitblaenavon.co.uk



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