

**Meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup>  
June at 10am in Tredegar Library**

**Agenda**

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Introduction of Representative of Brynmawr Town Council
4. PA system
5. Heritage day in October
6. Thursday Talks
7. Journal and Churches and Chapels book
8. Next Forum trip
9. News from the members
10. Date and time of next meeting

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 20223 at 10am in Tredegar Library**

**Present:-** Rodger Burchell, Barrie Page, Martyn M. Jones, Carolyn Jones, Jeff Darkins, Peter Adamson, Alyson Tippings, Lyn Maloney, Janet C. Karn

**Apologies:-** Eifion Ll. Davies, Lucy Harding, R. John Davies

The minutes of the last meeting were read and the following corrections made Martyn with a Y not Martin with an i. Spelling of Reclamation was incorrect. For clarification, there are several 1-minute film created by children on the subject of the NHS which Cymru Creations have released.

After these corrections, the minutes were accepted as a true record.

### **Matters arising.**

The momentum for the NHS events in Tredegar is gathering pace.

The last Thursday talk given by the Heritage Forum was well received with 30 people attending the talk about the Crumlin Viaduct. Many people were surprised that the talk was a free one. There were lots of new people at the talk, and it would appear that publicity via Facebook is being well shared and encouraging this trend.

### **Heritage Day.**

Our first speaker has confirmed his attendance. Ceri Thompson will be giving a talk on the Aberfan Disaster.

We have also invited Gwyn Jenkins to give a talk on his Aerial photographs of the industrialized pits and quarries of the area. We are awaiting a reply from Steve Keyes but hopefully, he will be able to give us a talk on railways and industrialisation. The hall has been booked and already paid for. It will accommodate 70 so we can sell at least 50 tickets for the event. We must allow for the speakers and the people to bring displays. It is possible that we could have people from the archive giving a talk or a film show during the lunch time courtesy of the Ebbw Vale Steel Works Museum.

### **Journal and Churches and Chapels book.**

The contents of the journal currently stand at 45 pages, the plan is to add in some of the smaller articles that have been given to us and as soon as the page count reaches over 50 we will try and get it printed. Hopefully this will be in time to sell at our Heritage Day in October. We of course need more contributions so if anyone has anything that they think could be used please send it to the editor.

The Churches and Chapels books is progressing there are about 115 proposed pages the format being a picture of the chapel and basic information on one page and some chapel history and anecdotes on the other. At the moment half the pages are blank. It was pointed out that Siloh is celebrating a 225 year anniversary this year and there might be some information on the chapel available then. It might be worth our while to visit and

see. Alyson Tippings has volunteered to write to all her contacts in the various Tredegar Churches so see if they have any material they are willing to make available for the book.

### **News from the members.**

Alyson has been given some artefacts connected with Bethel Chapel. The preparation for the NHS events is going well. Alyson will send the logo for the NHS to Janet to be added to all the publicity for our next Thursday talk which is about a colliery doctor. There will be a banner parade for the Bevan day on 2nds July this year. Cymru Creations will be premiering the short films. The festival will take place on the last week of June and first week of July tying in with eh NHS at 75 celebrations. Cymru Creations will also be showing Bevan's Tredegar and the film made about the area during covid highlighting the work done by local volunteers. There will be a lecture given by Gwent Archives in conjunction with the coalfield regeneration team. The lecture is likely to be on the medical records that the archive holds. There will be a 5K run and Aneurin Leisure is going to do a series of events around health and wellbeing. There will also be a classic car show in Tredegar on 1<sup>st</sup> July. A school art exhibition in Bedwellty House and a school day event highlighting the role of the medical aid society in the start of the NHS. A blue plaque will also be put up to Walter Conway.

The traffic to the Blaenau Gwent Forum website has gone up by 30%and we have 700 followers on our facebook page.

The next Thursday talk of the Forum will be by Elin Jones entitled 'History Grounded' this is the talk that was postponed in February.

Vanished Wales has done a section of Gilbern cars the only sports car designed and built in Wales.

The Food bank in Rhymney has developed but is still short of donations.

The trees have been planted in the Rhymney chapel graveyard and they will be arranging a strawberry tea in June at Penuel.

May is wellbeing month and Alyson will be promoting all the town trails and Ironmasters trials.

The community council in Abertillery have applied for funds to repair the Six Bells mural from the Welsh Government.

Abertillery Museum has applied for a grant to purchase materials for use in its archive storage.

Next meeting of the Heritage Forum Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June