

**Meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum to be held on Monday 17th
July at 10am in Tredegar Library**

Agenda

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Memorial meeting for Colin Morgan
4. First use of new PA system
5. Churches and Chapels book and Journal
6. Heritage Day
7. Thursday talks for the autumn
8. News from the Members
9. Date and time of next meeting

Meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum held on Monday 19th June 2023 at 10am in Tredegar Library

Present: Eifion Ll. Davies, Rodger Burchell, Barrie Page, Lyn Maloney, Martyn M. Jones, Carolyn Jones, Alyson Tippings, Janet C. Karn.

Apologies:- Jeff Darkins, Peter West, Philip Prosser.

Corrections to the minutes.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council applied for the money to repair the Mural in Abertillery. Not the Six Bells Community Council as previously reported. Following this correction, the minutes were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising

The Thursday talk was largely well received with positive feedback, although a blog site commented they would have liked to bring school children to the event but did not have enough notice. Our target audience is adult and the talk was booked with this in mind.

Alyson Tippings has managed to locate 2 branches of Walter Conway's family and has found that the relations do not know each other they will meet at the event to celebrate the plaque to Walter Conway being placed on his former home

A history of the Siloh Baptist Church has been produced to celebrate their 225th anniversary of its founding. Alyson provided copies of the commemorative booklet for those who wanted a copy and for the local studies library in Tredegar.

PA system

Rodger Burchell has done some research and contacted a local supplier recommended by those using PA systems in the area. The model recommended is amazingly cheap. Rodger and Mr & Mrs. Jones will be visiting the shop after the meeting to see the system and assess if it meets the needs of the forum, if so the system will be purchased immediately.

Heritage Day

Speaker Ceri Thompson has confirmed attendance, Gwyn Jenkins has also confirmed his attendance. The Forum will be in touch with Dave Llewellyn to discuss his talk on tip reclamation and if it will be too much of an overlap with Ceri Thompsons talk on the Aberfan disaster. The room has been booked and the caterer also booked. Rodger has a screen and projector that can be used for the event if necessary. Ebbw Vale Steelworks museum will be coming with a display and possibly a film to show over the lunch hour. It is suggested we ask the Friends of St Illtyds and The Aberystroth archaeology society to also bring displays for the day. It has been suggested that we advertise the event on either Event Brite or Ticket Source rather than just selling through our own website. Price for the tickets has been settled on at £15 which includes a buffet meal. Tea or coffee throughout the day will also be provided in the ticket price.

Thursday talks

Eifion Ll. Davies has a few names that could be useful for this. The history grounded talk went well. The next talk will be by Ceri Jones about a Colliery doctor and his working life this should tie in well with the 75th anniversary of the NHS. Martyn is looking for the next speaker. We do not have a talk in August so the next talk will be in September.

Journal and Churches and Chapels book

The rough layout for the book has been set and pictures for some of the chapels have been sourced, all the work on this project is progressing as well as can presently be expected. The journal is also close to being finished and it is hoped to be ready for our heritage day in October. It has also been agreed that we produce 50 more Beaufort walks since the event is to be held in Beaufort this year.

Forum trips

It is suggested that we contact Nantgarw pottery and see if they could offer us a talk and allow us to visit the factory. This would be our first all day trip if it is possible and is likely to be more expensive than the previous trips we have organised.

News from the members

Preparations for the NHS at 75 anniversary are ongoing, with progress on all the areas that were discussed and presented by Alyson in the last meeting. Gwent archives have also confirmed they will give a talk in Number 10 the circle.

The training for tour guides that is site specific for Blaenau Gwent has been arranged. There is a demand for all Wales history from guides as well as the site specific material.

'Colour from the mines' project is working with treatment plants to get commercial production of the paint up and running.

Next meeting Monday 17th July 2023 at 10am