

**Meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum to be held at 10am in  
Tredegar Library on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August**

**Agenda**

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Website Report
4. Treasurers Report
5. Heritage Day
6. Thursday Talks
7. Visit To Treberfedd House
8. Printing and publications
9. News from the members

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum held on Monday 21st July 2025 at 10am in Tredegar Library**

**Present:-** Janet C. Karn, Rodger Burchell, Simon Gregory, Rhiannon Phillips, Martyn M. Jones, Carolyn Jones, Alyson Tippings, Peter Adamson, Chris Parfitt.

**Apologies:-** Robert Richards, Jeff Darkins, Phillip Prosser.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and after Alyson Tippings explained the information she had sent was not an update but information on the Bevan Festival activities. The minutes were accepted.

Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

Website report.

At the moment the website is putting up information on the Heritage Day. People are already buying tickets for this event with 16 tickets sold on the website and another 5 sold in person. Someone asked about a discount for children and this has been discussed and decided that Children will only have to pay for the buffets.

The pages of the Clydach Gorge have been updated based upon the information provided by Rodger Burchell.

The site has had 451 visitors this month.

Treasurers report.

The raffle held at every Thursday talk is now raising a healthy amount of money, with people putting in donations as well as buying the tickets. The public liability insurance has been paid and it is now suggested that we look at making a risk assessment document for each event. It may be possible to create a template that just needs updating each time we hold a talk. There is money for the Powells reprint and information for this is being collected at the moment.

Thursday talks.

We have looked at ways to enhance these talks. Bedwellty House staff have promised to make sure that the big screen is available in the carriage house and if we are in the assembly rooms that a way of making the screen high enough for the people in the back of the room to see it. We have also asked to be told what's on at the house and grounds so that we can be ready if there are weddings or baby showers booked for the same day. Alyson Tippings told us that until half term in Sept/Oct there will be a third school class in Bedwellty house since the new school will not be ready in time for the start of the September term. We have also asked that at least 50 chairs be put out for the talks with a further 10 available to access quickly if we need them. We also need more tables now so that we can run the pop-up shop, the raffle and the signing in table with enough room for our visitors to be able to access them easily. Members of the forum are now arriving at 1 to help set up and this is working really well. The Talk given by Roger

Morgan went really well and we are thinking of asking him to give another talk next year. His talk last week was to tie in with the Bevan festival. Our next talk will be by Les James who has changed the title of his talk to Oliver Jones and his recreation of Zephaniah Williams. He will be launching a new print magazine at our talk that is to publicise the Newport Rising and Chartist festival.

Summer trip.

The trip to Treberfedd House and Gardens is now being advertised for 25<sup>th</sup> September. The trip will cost £13 and the tickets will be on sale via the website soon. We will suggest that it is followed by a meal at the Old Ford inn and will be taking names of those who wish to have lunch.

Heritage Day.

Arrangements for this are going smoothly. We will look at doing a risk assessment for the day. We have been in touch with the family of Michael Blackmore about putting on a display of his prints at the Heritage Day. We will need to check if the venue has exhibition boards that can be used on the day.

Printing and Publications.

Martyn Jones will look to purchase ISBN numbers for the reprint of Powell's history of Tredegar. Apart from this and the foreword to be written by the Tredegar Town Mayor the book is ready to be sent to the printer. Hopefully he will be able to give us a mock-up of the cover design to look at before printing. The Journal now has several pieces ready to go in but they all have to be edited. The Llanhilleth history is coming along nicely with the retyping done and some of the replacement photographs sourced. Rodger Burchell has begun redrawing the archaeological illustrations for the text. The Llanelly hill account was transcribed by Eifion and should be ready to use fairly shortly although a few illustrations are needed to accompany it.

News from the members.

Alyson Tippings reported that

- i. Town Trails – EV Launched, no successful response from Abertillery school so will launch with a different group. [Blaenau Gwent CBC](#)
- ii. Several new murals in Tredegar to celebrate Home of the NHS - [Blaenau Gwent CBC](#). Murals at stations are next phase.
- iii. Bevan Festival
  1. Banner March and Bevan Day – Unite and Tredegar Town Council were successful helped by the beautiful weather.
  2. New Murals – BGCBC – in walkway between bank Lane and Commercial Street and on Coach and Horses, Charles Street.
  3. School Carousel – BGCBC & Partners (Museum, Heritage Centre, Bedwellty House, Health Centre) with Tredegar Comprehensive School – 192 pupils.
  4. Talk – Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum – over 50 in attendance.
  5. Debate - 8 pupils and joint winners awarded.

6. No involvement from Gwent Archives, Cymru Creations, or Education.

- iv. Learning Action Centres- - some groups have concerns that under 18's are not allowed to get involved.
- v. Steve Jones celebrations – Statue in front of Ebbw Vale Sports Centre and Mural in Town Centre.
- vi. Alfie – Volunteer at EVW museum won prize in photographic competitions for railways.
- vii. Top House renamed to original name - Quarrymen's Arms
- viii. New book on Roy Francis by Tony Collins – Brynmawr Historical Society lecture was well attended.
- ix. Posy ring found at Llanhilleth is subject to coroner's court for decision. Abertillery initially showed no interest in the artefact but I have persuaded them that it they should.
- x. VJ Day events across Blaenau Gwent mainly with the laying of wreaths at 11:00 on the day. In Tredegar there is a service at the Burma Shrine at 11, Bell ringing at 6, Parade and wreath laying at the cenotaph at 7 and Beacon lighting at the \memorial Stones at sun set.
- xi. Battle of Britain 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary day at Bedwellty Park in September.

VJ day Celebrations will be held in Tredegar at the Burma Hill Memorial in Bedwellty House.

The Blaenau Gwent Planning Department has now passed the plans for the demolition of the Pithead baths in Llanhilleth to be replaced with a green space. There will be signage to commemorate the baths and the place it held in the community in the past Cwm community archive is now up and running again.

Some of the questions have been answered and they are now able to add more material to the archive. Christ Parfitt is going to go to Cwm Library and relaunch the archive. He has visited St Pauls Church that is now closed and taken lots of photographs and will be visiting the Parish Hall to do the same before it closes and is sold. A lecture in the Church was donated by Jane Jones of the Boot inn and it is hoped to find a way of retaining this in the area. Chris has already looked at the history of the Bailey Arms and the Waterloo inn and is writing a piece about the street names of Cwm.

The works museum in Ebbw Vale has had 2 visits by local schools of 8-10 year olds. Simon Gregory has written to local head teachers to see if they would like to arrange for school visits in the future. The planned visits have gone well and will help with tie-ins to local history for the schools. A visit by the U3A went well. The museum also plans to produce supplement to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closure of the works , this will also coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cwm Colliery disaster at the Marine pit.

Gwent Archive is working with schools and arranging a family fun day and exhibition in Caerleon to show case the work that was done with the school. A Caerphilly school from Aberbargoed has visited to look at the history of the area and this ties in with the school's humanities over view plan.