

**Meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum to be held on
Monday 20th October 2025 at 10am in Tredegar Library**

Agenda

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Website report
4. Treasurers report
5. Review of the Heritage Day and the future
6. Thursday Talks
7. Christmas Lunch
8. Printing and publications
9. News from the members
10. Dates for your diary. 2026 meeting dates.

Minutes of the meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum held on Monday
15th September 2025 at 10am in Tredegar Library

Present:- Martyn M. Jones, Rhiannon Phillips, Simon Gregory, Rodger Burchell, Lyn Maloney, Chris Parfitt, Jeff Darkins, Carolyn Jones, Phillip Prosser, Keith James, Janet C. Karn.

Apologies:- Peter Adamson. Alyson Tippings.

The meeting started with a minute's silence for our member Rob Richards who died suddenly this month.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and after the spelling of the Gilbern car was corrected they were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising.

It was noted that the poster for the Heritage Day did not mention displays that were to be put on for the event.

Website report.

The second survey is now live on the website. There have been 449 visitors to the site and the main thrust of the website has been promotion of the Heritage Day and the trip to Treberfydd House. The website has also featured some 3 party promotions including Chartism posters. The next thing to be done on the website will be to highlight the displays that are going to be put on for the Heritage Day, these will include the Ebbw Vale Works Museum, Gwent Archives, The Community Archives and a display of the 'Art of Michael Blackmore' with his grandson in attendance. We might also have a display on the Gilbern car provided by our Chairman and of course the pop-up shop will be there. Russell Todd from the sporting heritage pod cast has been in touch via the website to explain that he is doing something with various communities asking them to sum up the community in 50 items and wants to know if members of the forum would like to get involved with information on their own communities. Carolyn will send the e mail around to those who are interested.

Treasurers report.

At the moment we have £2,600 in the bank account this is made up of donations and grants as well as money from the raffle and from various speakers refusing to take their fee. at the moment the raffle can make up to £50 per talk.

Printing and publications.

Powell's history of Tredegar has now gone to the printers and we are waiting for feedback from the printer. The Llanhilleth history, Rodger has one drawing left to do to put into the history and Lyn Maloney has supplied us with lots of information that can be used when we reprint the history as a standalone piece and use it separate from the journal. The money from sale of the standalone history will go to the Forum and Lyn Maloney's heritage group for helping to provide photographs and additional information for the history.

Heritage Day.

The most significant update for this is that a couple of the speakers have yet to provide information for the blurb on the programme we ask for a CV that can be used. We need to plug the event to try and get at least 40 tickets sold. This is what would be needed if we are to break even although we have the funds to cover a smaller turnout. We will ask Les James if he would like to put on a display for the event.

Thursday talks.

Les James was unable to attend the talk on Thursday as he was taken ill and was in hospital he is now making a good recovery. Janet Karn gave a replacement talk. The next talk will be by Richard Lewis on Tintern Abbey and recent conservation work on the buildings and structure.

Visit to Treberfydd House.

We now have 13 people signed up for the talk and they are all interested in having lunch in the Old Forge after the visit.

Christmas meal.

It was decided that we approach the Tredegar Arms as usual to book for this. It has been reported that the food is still good there now it has been taken over by new management. It is local and close to our meeting place. We will book the meal for 15th December to follow our normal committee meeting.

News from the members.

There have been a couple of staffing changes in Gwent Archives, with a new Community Engagement Assistant employed and the archive will be recruiting a Senior Archivist soon. The archive has retained its accreditation status and is very proud of this achievement. This is reviewed every 3 to 4 years. The archive has been given a scoping grant to report on the Ebbw Vale Steelworks archive material it holds and has also applied for a national manuscript grant to help to conserve this material. There is also a full programme of events 20th October a talk on mental health records and on Tuesday 4th November a talk on the Chartist records held there. The annual Christmas talk will take place in December. The Archive has also been involved with sorting information for various teachers to use with the local schools.

The steelworks museum is quiet at the moment; it is selling lots of Mugs for the Heritage Forum and had a visit from the 'Blaina Men's Shed' group. Digitisation is on hold at the moment to allow for catching up on the material already scanned. A representative of Ancestry will be visiting the archive soon to look at digitising some of the employment records. The latest newsletter is about ready for printing and the archive is looking to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the closure of the steelworks and also the anniversary of the Marine Colliery disaster of 1927.

Cwm community archive would like to organise a plaque to Victor Spinetti who was born in Cwm and has got support from Mike Young of Super Ted fame who was also born in Cwm. It is hoped he will donate some money towards the £800 for obtaining and fixing a

plaque. The archive will also be putting on another photo display in the library. A lot of photographs have been donated to the archive by Rodger Burchell and it is hoped that an event in the library will help to identify the people in them. It is also hoped in the future that a Cwm Museum can be set up in a room in the institute and conversations about this are taking place.

The Chapel in Rhymney (Penuel) will be holding a Macmillan coffee morning with harp music on the same day as our Treberfydd trip. Eleri Darkins is also involved in an event in Llanover soon, details will be forthcoming later.

The Tredegar Museum and archive have produced a calendar for 2026 and this is now on sale in the museum. Phillip Prosser donated a copy to the Forum for our next raffle. The rumour that the Museum is moving out of the library is not true.

There will be a dinner to celebrate the Moose centenary at the Celtic Manor. A history of the Moose Lodge is being produced and Mr James has volunteered to give a talk on the subject once his research has been finished.

2027 is the anniversary of the Marine Colliery disaster and Ebbw Vale Steel works Museum and the community in Cwm are keen to commemorate this.

It is suggested that the money for Rob Richards ticket for our Heritage Day be donated the Hospice of the Valleys and this may be done at his funeral on 24th September.

Dates of Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum meetings 2025/26

Monday October 20th 2025

Monday November 17th 2025

Monday December 15th 2025

Monday 19th January 2026

Monday 16th February 2026

Monday 16th March 2026

Monday 20th April 2026

Monday 18th May 2026

Monday 15th June 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

Monday 17th August 2026

Monday 21st September 2026

Monday 19th October 2026

Monday 16th November 2026

Monday 21st December 2026