

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

**Agenda**

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Website report
4. Treasurers report
5. Chairman's report
6. Heritage Day
7. Thursday Talks
8. Printing and publications
9. News from the Members

**Minutes of the meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum held on Monday  
15<sup>th</sup> December at 11am in Tredegar Library**

**Present:-**Chris Parfitt, Jeff Darkins, Carolyn Jones, Phillip Prosser, Martyn M. Jones, Lyn Maloney, Rodger Burchell, Peter Adamson, Janet C. Karn.

**Apologies:-**Simon Gregory, Rhiannon Phillips, Alyson Tippings.

After a query about the mention of the Abercarn Rugby club in connection with the Powderhall runners the minutes were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising.

It was noted that Derrek Brown a willing volunteer at the Thursday talks was in hospital.

Website Report.

Carolyn is finding that the administration of the website and shop is becoming a very big job and would like to ask for volunteers to help with some of the work involved in keeping the website and Facebook page up to date. Carolyn also had information sent to her about Memory sticks. Kevin Phillips now has all the DVDs we sell in a format that could be put onto a memory stick and is ready and willing to transpose them from one format to the other when we request it be done; despite him being very busy with the refurbishment of the Ballroom in Tredegar. Alyson Tippings has also sent information to us regarding memory sticks but we feel that a lower level of security will be enough for our needs.

Treasurers report.

Ebbw Vale Learning Action Centre has given the Forum a grant for printing and this will be used to offset the price of the Powell's reprint and the publication of the journal in January. Blaenau Gwent Council have also given the Forum a grant and this too will be used to cover printing costs for future publications.

Chairmans report.

It was noted that we only have representatives attending regularly from Abertillery and Llanhilleth community councils and although there are designated representatives from other councils they do not seem to attend our meetings. it was suggested that the Chairman again ask for representatives to attend since it is only this way that we learn what the councils are doing for history and heritage and indeed other events they are organising and participating in. We can sometimes offer to publicise events if we know what is going on and may be able to send representatives to such events.

Printing and publications

The journal is now in embryonic form, the Llanhilleth history is ready to go and the Pwll Du information is also almost ready. We have a few smaller pieces to insert and will have a journal ready to be sent to be printed in our new A5 Format. At a later date the Llanhilleth history will be sold as a stand-alone item with additional information that has been provided by the Llanhilleth history group and Lyn Maloney.

Thursday talks.

The first talk will be on Jan 8<sup>th</sup> and is entitled “20 places of interest” of world significance within 20 miles of Blaenau Gwent”. Martyn Jones has had no reply from Anastasia Thomas about the Welsh showman and film pioneer William Hagger talk but is still hoping that this may be one of the early talks of the year. The Llanover open day will be in March and Eleri Darkins will again be playing the triple harp at the event. it is possible this might be one of the Forum trips for the year.

Heritage Day 2026.

We have a tentative theme of places of interest and have provisional dates for the day. Martyn is checking to see if these have been booked. Martyn Jones would like suggestions for speakers for the Heritage Day.

Trips for 2026.

The suggested events are: -

Walk around Pwll Du, a lost industrial hamlet and its landscape.

The museum of Wales depositary in Taff's Well Nantgarw.

The Newport Transporter bridge.

Llanover Gardens.

News from the members.

The triple harp demonstration in Llanover was fantastic and well worth attending the next one.

Tredegar Museum has sold all the historic photograph calendars it had printed for 2026. Cwm is making slow progress on the setting up of a museum in the institute. The new society has already given help with historic maps of Cwm used to answer a query. The Centenary of the Cwm Colliery disaster will be in 2027. There will be a meeting at the start of January to discuss what sort of events can be held at the school and a local Choir will be involved in the remembrance events; a plaque with all the names of the victims of the disaster will be created and unveiled.

Llanhilleth has identified a place for the mural to go. The landlord of the mitre was a relation of the person who is to be honoured and it is hoped that living relatives can be found.