

**Meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum to be held on Monday
18th May in Tredegar Library immediately after the AGM**

Agenda

- Minutes of the last meeting
- Matters arising
- Updates from Treasurer
- Updates from the Chairman
- Updates from the Web Administrator
- Merchandising
- Trips and social events
- Heritage Day
- Printing and publications
- News from the members

Minutes of the meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum on Monday 20th April 2026 at 10am in Tredegar Library

Present:-Peter Adamson, Ralph Henderson, Lyn Maloney, Rodger Burchell, Simon Gregory, Bec Howarth, Carolyn Jones, Phillip Prosser, Martyn Morgan Jones, Chris Parfitt, Alyson Tippings, Keith James, Jeff Darkins, Janet C. Karn

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising.

Mr Henderson tendered his apologies for the last meeting and the Secretary reported that Alyson Tippings updates for the news part of the minutes had not arrived. Alyson has now sent these and they are:-

1. New Destination Management Plan being developed.
2. Museums Accreditation – Brynmawr not continuing, Abertillery OK until 2029, no reply from Blaina, Links made for Tredegar. EV is supported by GA
3. Funding – Looking good for 2026-7 with Local Growth Fund.
4. Sir David Brunt – Plaque ordered, Mural agreed painting to start this week.
5. Michael Foot Plaque fully refurbished and will go back up soon.
6. Looking next at the mural and plaque for Moose/James Davies (where is Fifth Row)
7. Steve Jones mural preparation work started.
8. New plaque at Nye Bevan Memorial Stones highlighting the site and Bevans oratory.
9. 16 new trail leaflets – looking for volunteers to walk them. One is Sirhowy Hill Woodlands which has a History Points Trail.
10. Blaenavon WHS looking for walk leaders – notes written.
11. Request for images of Tafarnuabach 40 years ago.
12. St Davids Day event with 2 story tellers and 3 living History enactors – Walter Conway, Lord Tredegar and one other.

Another matter discussed was the storage of the PA and other equipment in Bedwellty House. However, it was decided since the equipment needs to be charged up for events it was better that it remained in the keeping of a Forum Member and taken to the event on the day

Website report.

The focus for the last month has been on advertising. The advert for the Heritage Day is now up and the summer trip to Kentchurch manor. A date for the Pwll Du walk was also agreed upon at the meeting so that this too can be advertised. The journal is now advertised on line; Carolyn is hoping to make it possible for people to decide if they wish to buy a physical or a digital copy of the journal. Carolyn has also now put all the links to information that is of interest to our American visitors in one place to afford easy access.

Chairman's report.

Alyson Tippings took receipt of the Powell's History of Tredegar for local schools after the last meeting; she is now awaiting other local Welsh history books to be delivered

before sending them out to the schools. The Chairman has contacted all the local community councils about sending representatives to the meetings but to date there has been no response.

Treasurers report

Over the past few months there has been quite a lot of expenditure with the reprint of Powell's History of Tredegar and the printing of the latest journal. The price of postage of a physical journal must be investigated since it was reported that by paying the postage on line it might be a cheaper way to send out the material. So far, the sales of material from the Website has not been added into the accounts but this is likely to be done in the near future ready for the AGM next month.

Heritage Day.

We have 2 speakers confirmed. It is suggested that we have a talk on Bedwellty House as a place of interest in the area. Bec Howarth has volunteered to look into collecting material for someone from the archive to give such a talk. It was suggested that it would be good if this talk could look at the building's history before its purchase by Samuel Homfrey. It was also decided that the final talk should be on the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and Martyn Jones will now pursue contacting a speaker about this. The price for the day has been set at £20, although it was pointed out that the Monmouthshire Antiquarian Heritage Day is only going to be £15 it was felt that with 4 speakers and 2 films as well as lunch £20 was reasonable especially as we have to pay for a venue while the Monmouthshire Antiquarian day is held in the Museum and will not incur a venue charge.

Thursday talks.

Roger James talk was well received and there was an excellent turn out on the day with both the pop-up shop and the raffle making considerable sums of money. The new PA system after a few teething troubles worked really well. The next talk will be by Les James and Rodger as well as doing most of the organising will be collecting him and his wife and later take them back to the bus station in Blackwood.

The trip to Kentchurch Manor has 10 people signed up so far. There should be time for everyone to go around the gardens as well as visiting the house. The administrators at the manor want cash on the day rather than booking in advance.

Merchandising.

The mugs have sold really well and it was discussed did we want to sell other things as well. It was decided that we would just stick to the mugs at present but possibly look at a different style of mug for our logo to be added to in future.

Printing and publications.

The latest journal is now out and for sale at £7-50. We have some material for the next journal. It was reported that the ships log that has been given to us includes information from HMS Victory Rodger has been in touch with Portsmouth to see if they would like the log to be deposited there.

News from the members.

Gwent archive is in the middle of a social media campaign. The talk on the women of Usk Jail went down really well and has now been turned into a blog that can be read by those unable to attend the event. The archive is working with Newport libraries to set up a geo-caching app, with information on local individuals of note. There have been a few school visits to the archive and an archive representative attended the history of chapels in Merthyr event.

Abertillery community council is holding a bilingual day in Six Bells park.

The Moose lodge in Tredegar is preparing to celebrate its centenary and will host visitors from America to visit the No1 Moose Lodge in Britain in July.

The Llanhilleth David Brunt mural is now completed and the search is on for family of David Brunt to attend the official launch /event.

Ebbw Vale steel works museum had 25 people visit on the last Saturday it was open and will hopefully have a similar number if the open day on 9th goes ahead but it will also definitely be open in June.

Cwm archive group has had its funding bid rejected by Heritage Lottery funding and is asking for headed note paper letters of support in order to reapply.

Alyson Tippings reported that the Destination management plan has been completed.