

**Meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum to be  
held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 10.30am in Tredegar  
Library**

**Agenda**

- Minutes of the last meeting
- Matters arising
- Chairmans report
- Website report
- Treasurers report
- Heritage Day
- Chartist Convention
- Printing and publications
- Christmas meal
- News from the members
- Date and time of next meeting

**Minutes of the meeting of the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum held on Monday  
20<sup>th</sup> July at 10-30 in Tredegar library**

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

Apologies:-Bec Howarth.

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

Matters arising.

The question was asked why were the naughty stones so called. It was suggested that people who misbehaved in chapel were sent as a punishment up the mountain to carve a bible verse on one of the stones. This is the origin of the name naughty stones in Brynmawr and it is suggested the same might be true for the Tredegar area.

August meeting.

The officers will meet with Lyn Maloney and the staff of Llanhilleth institute in August to review the arrangements for the Heritage Day check out the area for other organisations to put up displays and generally have a rundown of the I.T facilities. Anyone else who wishes to visit would be welcome but there will be no formal meeting of the Forum in August. The officers will meet in Llanhilleth institute at 10-30 on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August

Chairman's report.

The chairman has written to all the community councils outlining the work the Forum undertakes and encouraging them to send representatives to our meetings. As yet there has been no response, Abertillery and Tredegar town councils already send representatives to our meetings. The Chairman also went to Chris Parfitt's talk held in Cwm library last Thursday . The talk was interesting and informative on the origins of the street names of Cwm, however there were a few teething problems with the IT and the focus of the projector.

Website report.

The majority of the work done on the website in the last month has been to promote the trip to Pwll Du and the Heritage Day. The website is averaging 14.5 visitors a day. The tickets for the Heritage Day have gone live so we are now able to book. This has been advertised on facebook. The purchase of USB drives has been looked at. The major question is do we want to have logos on the USB drives since this makes the purchases considerably more expensive. It is suggested we put business cards in the envelopes with the sold USB drives and that we could look at creating our own labels and sticking them on to the USB Drives. At this point Alyson Tippings offered to arrange for printing of the said labels once we have sourced the right sticky labels.

Treasurers report.

At the present time we have approximately £1500 in our account. We have recently paid Vista print for mugs with the Forum logo on to be sold at our events and in the Ebbw Vale Steel works museum. The logo has been improved with a clearer larger font

for the Forum name. However, the mugs have cost slightly more so they will need to go on sale for £7-50. At this point it was suggested that we also look at purchasing pens to sell. Business cards have been ordered with 150 costing £22. The production of trifold leaflets with information about the Forum was suggested but it was decided to leave this initiative for another time since we have so many other things on the go at the moment. It was also suggested that we might look at creating bookmarks with the information on but this too was postponed to another time. Simon Gregory has looked at the possibility of creating e pub books, and while using Amazon would be too expensive it is possible to produce e pubs but inserting pictures tables etc can require extra work while the production of text only is fairly straight forward

#### Thursday talks.

The last talk by Ben Price was well received and was quite thought provoking. The PA system worked really well and there were 40+ people in the audience which given the heat on the day was an indication of how popular the talks are. 6 Tickets for the Heritage Day were sold at the talk. The next talk will be in September when Martin Harris talks on the life of Joseph Harris a brother of Howell Harris and important figure in his own right. There was also an appeal from Martyn Jones if anyone had any ideas on speakers for the 2027 talk programme please let him know.

#### Visit to Pwll Du.

Rodger Burchell and Martyn Jones visited Ann Jones who has given her permission for us to walk over her private land to look at the village of Pwll Du. Ann Jones was really interested in the information that has been gathered on the village. This was followed by a visit to the Whistle Inn to sample the food and confirm arrangements for our visit. Llanelly Hill Hall has been booked to allow us to view some information on the village before the visit and in case of inclement weather. At this talk by Rodger Burchell drone footage of a flyover of the ruins will be shown. There is plenty of parking on the hill outside the hall we will meet at 10-15 for a 10-30 start and then proceed to the village at about 11-30 or perhaps a little later while those present take tea or coffee before leaving for Pwll du. We will arrive at the Whistle inn at approx. 1pm we will have to preorder the meal because of the size of the party. After lunch a limited number tour of Govilon wharf and a short trip on a canal narrow boat has been arranged.

#### Heritage Day.

This is all in hand. There are lots of grants out there that can be applied for to help fund the day and Alyson Tippings has already contributed to the day through a grant for the Heritage day and Thursday talks.

#### Printing and publications.

We are hoping to sell more of the current journal at the Pwll Du event. The final article written by Eifion Lloyd Davies will be in the next journal and we have enlisted the help of Norman Excell who lives in the Llanelly Hill area to assist with this. A small filler article from the Tredegar Museum Society was also given to the editor for use in a future journal. All contributions from our members are gratefully received.

News from the members.

The Cwm Archive and Museum society gave a talk in Cwm library on the history of street names of Cwm and this was well attended. The quest for a grant to provide a permanent home for a museum is on going.

Llanhilleth institute will be taking part in the open doors event in September and will put on the history of Llanhilleth colliery exhibition for the event. The 2027 Wales In Bloom ceremony will take place in Llanhilleth institute.

Ebbw Vale Steel works museum will be opening for the open doors event on a Saturday to be arranged with the archives in September.

## Site meeting held at Llanhilleth Workman's Hall on Monday 17th August 2026

Present:- Martyn M. Jones, Chirs Parfitt, Bec Howarth, Lyn Maloney, Simon Gregory, Rodger Burchell, Janet C. Karn

Purpose of the get together to have a look at the facilities for the Heritage Day and discuss our requirements with the Centre staff.

The following points were discussed:

IT the IT is good there with strong wifi available to those attending with displays. There is a large screen for the presentations and integrated digital projector available for use. It is suggested that we bring our own PA system. A lecture will be provided on the day to hold the notes of the speakers

So far we will have the following displays

Gwent Archive

Ebbw Vale Steel works Museum

Chris Parfitt with Cwm Heritage and his own garden ornaments

Llanhilleth Heritage

Leanne with a range of Tredegar merchandise

Seating

Suggested we use round tables for the seating but not filling all the way around. This will allow people to see the screen without twisting but will allow somewhere to put the buffet lunch to eat in comfort.

Oblong tables will be provided around the perimeter of the room for the displays and there will be sockets available for those who require power for their displays

While not immediately obvious there is disabled access with a lift at the back of the building the way to this will be highlighted on the day

There is plenty of parking on a Saturday with the whole school carpark available as well as the park and ride car back for the railway station

The buffet lunch will be brought up at about 12 and laid out at the back of the room. Tea and Coffee will be served on arrival and at points during the day. The buffet lunch comes with tea coffee and water. The possibility of supplying soft drinks was discussed and will be checked later depending on the additional cost.

The room will be available to set up in from 9 and the event will start at 10am. Additional signage will be provided by the forum to the hall and to the disabled access. Rodger Burchell will provide a map to be put on the website highlighting where the parking is available.

At this point the site meeting had concluded but an additional problem for the day was discussed. Mr Eyre Morgan is now unable to attend and we have to find a speaker at short notice. Various options were discussed and Martyn M Jones started e mailing and phoning possible substitutes Will Davies from CADW replied that he is available and will be able to give a talk on medieval castles highlighting and contextualising the role of Castell Talorium