

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum.

Outline:

The organisation has the conventional structure of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and holds meetings most months, on the third Monday of each month at 10am in Tredegar Library. The membership consists of representatives from various heritage-orientated organisations around Blaenau Gwent County area. The Forum has a number of publications it has produced recording the history, development and people of the County area. There are monthly talks from individuals with specialist knowledge of a particular attribute or personality in the area's history and an annual Heritage Day. The Heritage Day is moved to different parts of the Council area, whilst the talks take place on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Bedwellty House, Tredegar. The talks are free to attend but the Heritage Day has a charge as there are appreciable overheads in the day.

Purpose:

The Forum is a place for discussion of issues relating to maintaining, recording and preserving the history of the Gwent area by way of people, places and events of note. Considerable support can be gained for projects and substantial expertise and local knowledge is available in the various members of the Forum.

Our benefits:

The Forum would be useful to individuals running projects involving local history and a need to establish a wider network from which to draw information to support projects. There is detailed knowledge of local walking routes available at the Forum often with good background knowledge of the history associated with areas a walking route may pass through. Those looking to gain information relating to individuals, buildings or events of historical significance to an area are likely to find an abundance of knowledge available at the forum. Connections to people involved in the Blue Plaque scheme can be made at Forum meetings.

Our offer:

We could aim to:

- involve them in projects in our area that could provide useful material for the newsletter they produce.
- help expand and maintain the records of the history of our Council area.

- help the Forum get better established within the Valleys regions of the area.

(Much of the presence seems to be based on the Heads of the Valleys region in spite of their efforts to be better known south of that area.)

- provide items of interest for the monthly talks to highlight some of the aspects of our area.

- raise awareness of the Forum's involvement in areas in our locality that could be of interest to the ALCC, or where the ALCC may wish to have an input.

Job Description for ALCC Community Councillor representatives at Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum (BGHF)

1. Familiarise themselves with the regular work of BGHF: their journal and other publications they publish; the monthly talks; the website; the October annual Heritage Day
2. Speak up for the 'heritage' of our area as opportunities arise
3. Take note and report back to the relevant committee on special items of interest to ALCC
4. Be prepared (especially if topics have a focus on the ALCC area) to suggest topics for the forum's monthly talks; the annual Heritage Day; and ideas for publications
5. Minute-taking of the meeting is not essential as the BGHF Secretary provides these to the Council Clerk.