

# *News* UPDATE

**WRITTEN BY**  
**MEMBERS**  
**FOR**  
**MEMBERS**

The November meeting saw the society back in its own venue and the assistant secretary running around assisting, good job Christmas Parties come but once a year.

Members will be pleased to know that the society has attained a paid up Membership of 77 and although a very wet night there were 45 members present when Claire Dovey gave her talk on Merthyr Heritage Trust. It was interesting to learn what an advantage the trust has already been to the area, the number of buildings, walks and structures that have been preserved, and the hopes they have for the future. Blaenau Gwent, under the guidance of Miss Ruth Curtis Heritage/Tourism Officer, are now in the process of forming their own trust calling themselves Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum, our society has been invited to nominate two members to attend the meetings, date Edwin and Christine have attended twice, they will in due course, inform the society of any "happenings". We are told the aims of the forum are "To encourage the development and understandings of Blaenau Gwent's Heritage for the benefit of local residents, visitors and future generations", maybe at this point it would be a good time, being New Year etc. to remind members, with a quote from our own constitution, of the aims and objects of our own society they are, "to foster interest in all aspects of the historical development of the district, and in particular to encourage interest in historical developments in the wider world nationally and internationally by organising lectures, discussions and visits, both cultural and social", the constitution can, if desired, be seen by arrangement with the secretary.

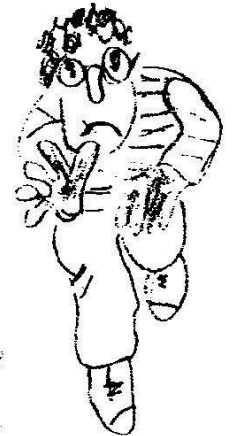


December meeting with David Rimmer turned out to be one that we will all be wanting to hear more about, he whetted our appetites by giving us sight of some of the Brynmawr records held at County Hall Records Office Cwmbran, amongst those were Wesleyan Chapel Baptismal Record, St Mary's National School Admission Register, Admission Register Board School February 2nd 1874 when 84 children were admitted and the head mistress was Miss Ruth Morgan, he did not unfortunately, bring the Admission Register which listed the names and addresses of evacuees who came to Brynmawr during the 1939-45 war, it seems we will have to visit him again.

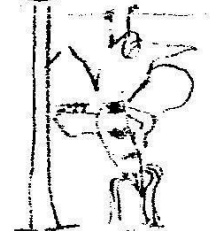
Some events seem sadder when they take place nearer Christmas, and Christmas 1995 was no exception, a good friend to our society and indeed someone who took great interest in Brynmawr's Heritage passed away suddenly on December 7th. Mr Alun Davies Assistant Keeper at St Fagan's Museum of Welsh Life collapsed and died one month after retiring, one of the last tasks he involved himself in was the exhibition of Brynmawr furniture held both at St Fagan's and Blaen-y-Cwm County Primary School Brynmawr. Many of us who attended the exhibition at St Fagan's will remember Alun as a gentleman who met and welcomed us when we arrived.

## Affectionately Remembered

Looking back over a very successful year, one event more than all the others must stand in our memories. In May a V.E. Day Exhibition of memorabilia was held for one week at the Market Hall, sadly our chairman for 1994-95, and organiser of the exhibition, Mr Derek Parr passed away just two weeks later, May 18th, it was a great shock and a sad loss to all his friends in the society. Mr Parr it will be remembered was one of the founder members of the society.



BUZZ  
STOP



welsh cake making also part of the V.E. celebrations went like a bomb- or almost- the ferocious wind was a  
 dlem, but as they say "it's an ill wind that blows nobody *any*"  
 d" or " where there's a will there's a way" and as usual  
 society members " turned up trumps" and mixed, rolled,  
 cooked and served and " pulled together" - or something like that.  
 roved to be a lot of fun and left many of you working out when we could do it again and what the profits might be.



Christmas party is always one date that brings us all together (and Christine's quiz of course). *the message* → *EVERY* This year we say  
 it was the best yet" we said it in the days when we held our party at Cyfarthfa Castle, and we are still saying it, one  
 at improvement this year, it didn't rain! We would be neglecting our duty if we failed to thank the people who made  
 evening the pleasure it was - our officers, committee, kitchen staff, pianist, the people who worked the afternoon,  
 again in the evening, and last but no means least all the friends who turned up in the evening, without them all efforts  
 uld have been a waste of time.

*plenty of room!*

**OW Looking Forward**

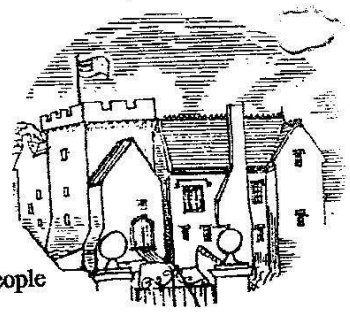
the first thing we do in the beginning of the new Year is to wish each other a happy new year, possibly our magazine is  
 somewhat late in doing this - due to our publishing date - but the wishes are no less sincere.

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL**

"The Tram Wheel" on the front of the magazine was designed by Eifion some years ago when we called  
 ourselves "North East Blaenau Gwent Historical Society", he has now adapted it so that we can use it once again.

every year the charges for our school hall go up and once again we are informed of an increase for 1996, however we  
 are lucky in 1995, the Borough of Blaenau Gwent awarded us £50 grant and the Town Council did likewise, this does  
 not mean we can be complacent so from January our Treasurer will be holding a small monthly raffle which will enable  
 the society to have these little extras - like paying lectures' expenses or fees. Although you have your membership cards to  
 refer to, some explanation of our programme might be an advantage:-

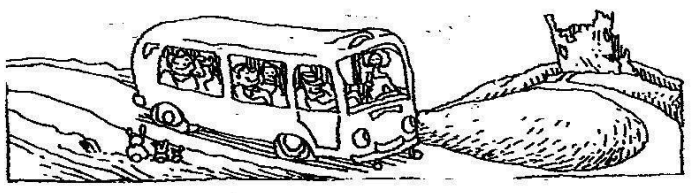
- January 17th (tonight) Vice Chairman's evening - this is left entirely to the Vice Chairman who compiles the evening's lectures from  
 amongst our own members - each member giving approximately 10-20 minutes talk about an interest or piece of  
 research he or she has undertaken - volunteers are always appreciated.
- February 25th - No explanation necessary
- March 20th - "Researching your Family History" - Monica Collins - this was written up last month.
- March 27th - Specially arranged, candlelight evening tour of PENHOW CASTLE one of Wales'  
 oldest lived in castles.



Entry Fee - £3.60 p.p transport extra.  
 Mulled wine at the Castle - £1.00 to be booked - not obligatory.  
 Bar Snack, nearby hostelry - average price £4.50 to be booked - not - obligatory.  
 Total cost per person will of course depend upon personal choice and the number of people  
 travelling. Contact Secretary A.S.A.P. please - sounds interesting.

**SUMMER DAY TRIPS**

- June 15th Gloucester Docks
- July 13th Shrewsbury
- August 18th Black & White trail, Sunday pic-nic.



Our Secretary has literature available and will be pleased to let you have copies.

Once again, please support your society and remember you are invited to contribute to your news in " NEWS  
 UPDATE".