

FRIENDS OF TREDEGAR HOUSE ARTICLE FROM LINDA

I'm now 4 months into the job and getting to know the people, place, processes and projects within the Quinquennial Report and 10 year Master Plan - a lot to take in in a short space of time but all very exciting. I am now beginning to fully appreciate the huge amount of work undertaken to get us to this stage, including by the Friends who continue to support us. Most recently, in funding the conservation of one of our portraits but also in recent years, acquiring many objects 'lost' to the House. Throughout September and October next year, we will be celebrating your support in acquiring these objects in a special exhibition *Treasures of Tredegar* located in the Best Chamber and also in the newly refurbished Exhibition Room on the first floor.

Having worked my way through a forest of paperwork, my current highlight is our detailed Conservation Management Plan –a well-researched body of work relating to the history house, gardens, park and other structures. This research will guide our conservation, restoration and interpretation of the property in for the future and is a very informative read running into 5 illustrated volumes. A copy of the entire plan will be on show in the Best Chamber for next season.

We are doing exceedingly well as a Property, exceeding our visitor and membership recruitment targets, well before the end of the financial year. Our Halloween special event was a tremendous success and in just 9 days we achieved our total visitor numbers for the month of June, with 6147 visitors participating in the fun. We also recruited 224 new National Trust members, 1777 biscuits were decorated and 1174 pumpkins carved – quite an achievement!

You don't need me to tell you what a wonderful Place Tredegar House is, with its wealth of history, stories, treasures and quirkiness. I will leave you with this story - I recently discovered that the tatty red shed in the garden next to Gardener's Cottage, was once home to *Somerset*, Evan's boxing kangaroo and that the gardener who lived there begrudgingly had additional duties as kangaroo keeper– does anyone know more?



Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and looking forward to an exciting year ahead for both the Friends and Tredegar House