



*Reg Charity Number 518513*

## *The Friends of Tredegar House*

*Are pleased to present a  
Musical evening performed by a  
Variety of Artists -*

*Nidus Children's Choir  
Lorna Pearson Humorous poet  
Alcan Singers  
Vocalists Christine Purkiss  
and  
Christopher Edmunds*

*On Wednesday 28th September 2011*

*At St. Joseph's RC High School, Newport*

*Programme £1.00 which includes entry into raffle*

# *The Friends of Tredegar House*

*Tredegar House was purchased by Newport Council in 1974, and The Friends came into existence in 1980. The House is one of the best 17th century mansions in Wales.*

*The Friends are very supportive.*

*They work hard to raise money, and awareness of Tredegar House through activities, including raffles and musical evenings. That money is essential for us to purchase original pieces from the Tredegar House collection. It has also paid for a lot of conservation work to make sure the paintings, furniture and objects in the House are looked after properly.*

*Over the years they have raised a staggering amount of money.*

*The Friends also provide volunteers for the Gardening and Sewing Groups who turn up weekly to help with projects, whether it is making curtains or costumes.*

*The Friends are also a huge help stewarding at Easter, Pirates Day, Halloween and especially at Christmas over a period of 6 days—some are even willing to get into costume too—*

*The Friends of Tredegar House are exactly that to us—Friends.*

*The story of Tredegar House and the Morgan family is a fascinating one. To find out more become a friend and help to support one of the finest properties in Wales.*

*Visit our web site [www.friends-of-tredegar-house.co.uk](http://www.friends-of-tredegar-house.co.uk)*

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*Our current fund raising project this year is the cleaning and conservation of a portrait of Blanche Morgan (oil on canvas c 1660s) she hangs on the first floor corridor at Tredegar House, where some 25,000 people view her each year.*

*The painting follows the fashionable portraits of the 1660s.*

# *The Artists*

## *Christine Purkiss ATCL*

*Born with a love of singing, Christine was a stalwart of the choir of St. Mark's Llanhilleth, an active member of the choir at Abertillery School, and at one time, the youngest member of Newport Choral Society.*

*However, it was not until she went to Staffordshire as a newly qualified teacher, that she began serious vocal training.*

*A fruitful career on the amateur stage led to a successful audition for the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company; with whom she toured extensively, until the demise of the company in 1983.*

*She was then instrumental in setting up G & S a la Carte, a touring concert group specialising in the music of Gilbert and Sullivan.*

*Christine was Head of Music at Nantyglo Comprehensive School, opting for early retirement in 2002.*

*She now sings Sunday services with the choir of St. Cadoc's Church Caeleon.*

## *Christopher Edmunds*

*Chris Edmunds began singing in public at a young age became a noted boy soprano, appearing regularly in concerts, Eisteddfods etc. until his teens. Just before his 21st birthday he landed the title role in a local ecumenical production of the original short version of "Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat".*

*He has continued to perform on the Amateur musical stage ever since, performing in over 80 shows over 38 years and has produced three musicals*

*In the last 4 years as well as participating in a number of*

*Newport Playgoers productions,*

*Chris is also an experienced Compere and Toastmaster.*

## *Lorna Pearson*

*Lives in Croesyceiliog, but originally lived for thirty odd years in Sebastopol her birthplace. She inherited her love of rhyme and words from her mother Edith, who from the time Lorna was very young, recited to her as she went about her chores.*

*As time passed Lorna amused friends (she hopes) by writing funny poems for special events like birthdays, weddings and anniversaries.*

*Her late husband Bob, encouraged her poetic efforts until he sadly passed away in 1996. It was not until 3 years ago after she won "Poet of Pontypool" that spurred on by her friend Maddie she entered the "performance" circuit.*

*She likes to describe her work as a "humorous slant on life, with a Welsh flavour".*

# *Alcan Singers*

## *Musical Director Mrs Sheelagh Young / Alcan Singers*

*Mrs Young spent her years prior to the Alcan Singers playing the piano to accompany a singing group called the Phoenix Singers.*

*Sheelagh's association with the Alcan Singers began in 1982 when she was asked to accompany the choir and guest solo artist.*

*A few years later, Sheelagh was asked to take over the baton and become the choir's musical director*

*when the then musical director retired. In 1997*

*with the retirement of the choir's accompanist and with the choir possibly folding, once more Sheelagh stepped in and volunteered to become the accompanist and still remains in both roles.*

## *The Alcan Singers*

*The Alcan Singers have been singing together since 1979, when a group of club members meet in the bar of the Alcan Club in Rogerstone on a Saturday evening for a sing along,*

*over time, this group soon grew into almost 35 members and gave their first concert at the Alcan club in September 1982.*

*Since those early days they have gone from strength to strength but like most choirs membership has dwindled to around 16.*

*These days the singers are very busy giving concerts 3 or 4 times a month, entertaining at residential homes, senior citizens clubs, nursing homes all around the Newport area and the lower Valleys.*

*Over the past few years singing at weddings has become a very popular thing for them to do.*

*They also support several charities with help in fund raising to which they give their time freely.*

# *Nidus Children's Choir*

## *Nidus Children's Choir / Conductor Christian Jenkins*

*Christian has been the choir conductor since he was 16. He leads the choir with confidence, and they hang on his every word. Christian is a talented young musician, who sings and plays the piano and violin to a very high standard. At 13, he was the youngest person in the UK to attain the diploma in singing from the Associated Board of the Royal School of music. He is currently studying at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff.*

## *Nidus Children's Choir*

*The choir was formed as a very small group of 8 young children 5 years ago and has steadily grown in numbers over the years since. It was only 3 years ago when the choir reached 26 members that regular weekly rehearsals began and in Jan 2011 the choir expanded to 40 children.*

*Gold medals have been won at local Eisteddfod, and were awarded a Silver VI Diploma representing Wales at the 2008 World Choir Games in Graz, Austria.*

*The busiest year to date was 2010 when not only was the choir selected to perform at the Music For Youth national festival but they gained 3rd position in the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, they also recorded with Bryn Terfel & the Welsh National Opera orchestra on his Christmas CD and were subsequently requested to perform on Bryn Terfel's Christmas Show which was shown on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day. A Christmas CD was recorded in March which will be released late October 2011.*

*The choir will also be singing in Eglise De la Madeleine in Paris and performing with "The Priory Singers" in John Rutter's "Mass of The Children" on November 19th in St. John the Baptist Church, Newport.*

# *Programme*

*Welcome by our Honorary Secretary  
Mrs Judith Rice*

*National Anthem*

## *Nidus Children's Choir*

*Singabahambayo Thina Trad. African Spiritual  
Vois Sur Ton Chemin Barratier / Coulais  
Little Help from my Friends Lennon / McCartney  
Water of Tyne Trad. English Folksong, Arr. Neaum  
I Will Sing with the Spirit Rutter*

## *Soloist / Christine Purkiss*

*O mio babbino caro - Gianni Schicchi Puccini  
Villa -  
The Merry Widow Lehar*

## *Poet Lorna Pearson*

## *The Alcan Singers*

*Some Enchanted Evening Roger Hammerstein  
Bright Eyes Mike Batt  
She C. Aznavour & H. Kretzmer  
Unchained Melody Alex North / William Stickles  
World in Union Hoist / Skarbek*

## *Interval*

*Wine / Soft drinks will be served in the Interval*

# *Programme*

## *Nidus Children's Choir*

*Run Light / Quinn / McClelland / Conolly / Archer*  
*Killing me softly Gimbel / Fox*  
*On the Blue Danube Strauss*  
*Hail Holy Queen Trad. Arr. Marc Shaiman*

## *Duet / Christine Purkiss & Christopher Edmunds*

*I hear singing - Irving Berlin*  
*Call me Madam Irving Berlin*  
*I remember it well - Irving Berlin*  
*Gigi - Lerner and Loewe*

## *Poet Lorna Pearson*

## *The Alcan Singers*

*Speed your journey - Nabucco / Giuseppe Verdi*  
*The Rose Amanda - McBroom / Tom Roed*  
*Moon River - Jonny Mercer / Henry Mancini*  
*What a wonderful World - George David Weiss / Bob Thiele*  
*Any dream will do Andrew - Lloyd Webber*

*Closing remarks Chairman / Mrs Anne Pegington OBE*

## *Welsh Anthem*

## *Forthcoming Events*

*Invitation to New Members  
Monday 17th October at 11.00am  
Morgan Room Tredegar House*

*Cheese & Wine Evening  
Wednesday 19th October  
New Hall Tredegar House*

*Christmas Fayre  
Saturday November 26th  
In Brew House Tredegar House*

*Christmas Evening  
Wednesday 14th December  
New Hall Tredegar House*

*For full details—please contact Judith Rice  
[honorary.secretary@friends-of-tredegar-house.co.uk](mailto:honorary.secretary@friends-of-tredegar-house.co.uk)*