

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 2017

By Pam Netherway

December 11th 2017 dawned an extremely cold, but very bright day, we gathered in The Servants Hall to prepare for the Annual Christmas Party arranged for the children of Tredegar Park Primary School. Some 30 girls and 24 boys all aged 6 or 7 from Year 2 were expected to attend.

With Gene organising, a wonderful party spread was prepared. As the delicious party food lay waiting, Mr Chips, our famous entertainer arrived with his marvellous Magic Show, the wonderful Christmas tree dazzled, and all was ready for the children and their teachers to arrive. Once all were seated and comfortable the fun could begin.

With disco lights sparkling, Mr Chips arranged musical statues and dancing, lots of fun gave way to tricks with Mr Chips, aided by a few youngsters who mystified the audience with wonderful magic. How the children cheered, shouting encouragement to their classmates and roaring for Father Christmas who was due to appear later, after all the good things had been eaten.

The excited children then sang Christmas carols, and joined in with Judith, Annie and the other "oldies" in an hilarious rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas. Now Auntie Jean was ready with a Christmas story from the Christmas Book. Then at last it was time to meet Father Christmas who presented every excited child with a Christmas gift.

Another delightful Christmas afternoon to be remembered for many years to come.



## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 2017

By Paddy Landers

us in some of our best loved traditional carols and Sue Shea treated us to some festive readings.

In the second half, Chris Purkiss helped us to imagine what a Victorian Christmas would have been like in a grand home like Tredegar House. She told us about the background of each Carol before singing it and explained some Christmas traditions. We then finished the evening with what has become our own tradition, Master of Ceremonies Chris Edmunds leading us in a very vigorous version of The Twelve Days of Christmas.

It was so nice to see such a large audience in the beautifully decorated New Hall and we were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Newport to our celebrations.

A big thank you must be said to those who organised such an enjoyable evening, to all those who entertained us so well and to those who provided a delicious buffet.



The Friends' annual Christmas celebration in Tredegar House was rather different this year. The celebration opened with some very spirited singing by the pupils of Tredegar Park Primary school. They entertained us with a programme of carols, some traditional, some modern and really succeeded in creating a Christmas atmosphere. The evening continued with some audience participation as Veronica accompanied



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs Judith Rice

Firstly, may I take this opportunity of wishing all Friends and their families a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Christmas at Tredegar House commenced on Saturday 29th November going right through to Sunday 17th December. The public were welcome to come in and enjoy the special atmosphere re-created at this time of year of a Victorian Christmas. The House was beautifully dressed with Christmas trees in most rooms on the ground floor and basement. Once again Mr Ebenezer Scrooge was situated in his counting house in the Brown Room. One comment from a visitor "he was magnificent, my son James, is autistic and sometimes struggles with confidence, so imagine my delight to see him chatting happily with Scrooge". The Parlour yet again was the focal point for sing alongs being lead by our Chris Edmunds who was on full form (with your Chairman as his assistant) a great time was had by one and all.

## TREDEGAR HOUSE LAUNDRY UPDATE

The work on this project should commence on 8th January. Initial works will include hacking existing render and plaster off, the outside of the building. Scaffolding will also be erected on the outside of the building and inside a start will be made on stripping out and removing internal render.

The new Laundry building and surrounding gardens will play a vital part in the success of the Woodland Routes to Wellbeing project in Duffryn brought together in partnership with the National Trust, Growing Space, Duffryn Community Link and Keep Wales Tidy.

It is coming to that time of the year when we will be re-electing the Executive Committee if any member would be interested in joining you would be made most welcome. (please see attached application form)

This year our talks cover a wide range of topics especially one being given by Rachel Howells on Wednesday 24th October in the Morgan Room commencing at 2pm. Subject "Painting & Portrait Conservation".

Finally, the new General Manager Rhiannon Gamble has invited the Friends to a new season coffee morning and tour of Tredegar House on February 27th commencing at 9.45am. As there are a limited number of places could I ask members to contact your Chairman direct either by phone or email. It will be on a first come first serve basis.

It is with regret I have to announce the death of one of our long standing Honorary members Mr Glyn Davies who was our auditor for many years. I am sure you would like me to send our sincere condolences to all his family.

## MESSAGE FROM ANNIE PARKER – Membership Secretary

Many thanks if you have already renewed your membership for 2018, your support is so valuable to Tredegar House.

Our membership numbers are still very healthy, however, to date; there are a number of 2017 members who have not yet renewed.

Should you wish to rejoin this year please contact me by email [annie.caerleon@gmail.com](mailto:annie.caerleon@gmail.com) or Tel. 01633 422693.

Fees remain the same: Single membership £12.00 Joint or Family Membership £18.00.

## COULD YOU WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Hello and thank you for being a Friend. We welcome contributions from all. What would you like to see in your Newsletter? Do you have any Morgan memorabilia or any other interesting stories you would like to share? All photographs can be scanned in your own home. Please contact the Newsletter Editorial Committee with any information you have.



## FOTH AUTUMN TRIP TO THE ROYAL MINT AND ST. FAGANS

By Rodney Webb



It was a overcast and drizzly day when the Friends of Tredegar House set off on their trip to the Royal Mint Experience and the Welsh Folk Museum at St Fagans, or, as its called now. St Fagans National History Museum.

On arrival at Llantrisant we were divided into two groups. After being searched (I was disappointed not to be bodysearched) we were shown a film about the history of coin making and the history of the Royal Mint at Llantrisant. We were then taken with our guide into the factory where we saw coins being struck. We were told that the Royal Mint makes coinage for many countries including Bahrain, The Falklands, Papua New Guinea, and Japan. as well as all the coins for the United Kingdom. Medals for our services and honours awards are minted here also. We were told that the first Royal Mint was in the Tower of London. Those who made the coins were called 'Moneyers' and along with their families lived within the walls of the Tower. Later, in 1810 the Royal Mint moved to Tower Hill. The present Royal Mint was opened by the Queen in December 1968. The Royal Mint has become home to some of the most advanced coining machinery in the world. About five billion coins are made at Llantrisant each year.

After we had seen the factory we were taken into the museum where we were left to explore at our own pace. I was surprised to discover that Sir Isaac Newton was one of the most famous figures in the history of the Royal Mint. He was appointed Warden in 1696, and three years later he became Master of the Royal Mint. For over thirty years he played a full and active part in running the Royal Mint. 'Standing on the Shoulders of Giants' are the words which run around the edge of the two pound coin. Sir Isaac Newton used these words to



a little disappointed that some of the buildings and exhibits were not completely open. I spoke to one of the guides who told me that a lack of funds was a problem. This must raise the question whether they should charge an entrance fee. I'm sure most visitors wouldn't mind paying a few pounds if it would go towards preserving our heritage.

In all it was a great day out. Regardless of the weather it was a very enjoyable and informative day.

I'd just like to finish with those famous words of King Harold at Hastings. "Watch where you point that arrow, you'll have someones eye out!"

describe the achievements of those who had gone before him. We ended our visit looking around the excellent shop and enjoying a stop in the cafe. I was expecting to be given a 'Goody Bag' by the Royal Mint. But, unfortunately this was not to be.

We arrived at St Fagans, and although the weather had improved slightly, it was still rather dull. Although I've been to St Fagans many times I haven't really explored the castle. So, I made straight for the castle and was a little disappointed that only the ground floor was open. The castle was built in 1580, and is in fact a Elizabethan Manor House and is one of the finest in Wales. It is grade 1 listed. Dr John Gibbon was the builder of the house, though he may never have lived here. I was able to take some photographs and I was really impressed with the fantastic carving on the wood panelling. Most of the furniture on display does not actually come from the castle, but from other properties in Wales, including Tredegar House. As I stepped out of the castle and into the Castle Gardens the sun came out which really showed off the lovely Autumn colours of the trees. The garden consists of some 18 acres and shows the formal and semi-formal garden as developed around the Manor of the gentry. Many of the features are original to the site. I did come across a Public Urinal, which I nearly used until I realised was an exhibit. It was originally from Llandrindod Wells and is about one hundred years old. What of an inconvenience. Some of the other buildings of note are Melin Bompren (Corn mill), the Post Office, Gwalia Stores from Bridgend, Oakdale Workmen's Institute, the Tannery and St Teilo's church. I was particularly interested in the Iron Age Roundhouses. Quite a way from the main site, but well worth the walk. These examples are based on a site in Anglesey, that was occupied by a relatively wealthy family, who grew crops and kept animals. Although I find St Fagans fascinating and very interesting I was

