



For your Diary

TALK

Wednesday 23rd March 2011
at 7.30pm
Coed Craig Ruperra
Conservation Trust
Speaker: Sue Price
Morgan Room

SPRING FAYRE

Saturday 26th March 2011
11.00am - 4.00pm
Morgan Room

TALK

Wednesday 20th April 2011
at 7.30pm
Geology and Antiques
Speaker: Dr. Naylor Firth
Morgan Room

TREDEGAR HOUSE

Wednesday 20th April 2011
opens its doors
for public tours

TALK

Wednesday 18th May 2011
at 7.30pm
Speaker: Paul Busby
Morgan Room

EASTER MONDAY

Monday 25th April 2011
at 10.30am - 4.00pm
Stewards required

PIRATES DAY

Monday 30th May 2011
at 10.30am - 4.00pm
Stewards required

GALA EVENING

Wednesday 28th September 2011
at 7.00pm
Artists - TBC
St. Josephs High School

From the Newspapers of Yesteryear

May 5th 1861. The Rt Hon Disraeli and Mrs Disraeli passed through Newport where they have been on a visit to Lord and Lady Tredegar.

Godfrey Morgan was full of wise words and the Western Mail published a book in **1912** called 'The Wit and Wisdom of Lord Tredegar'. A link to the digital version of this book can be found on the Friends of Tredegar House webpage.

At a School Prize Day at Rhiwderin on **April 24th 1891** he said to the assembled children 'There is one great thing that will carry you comfortably through life, and that is a nice and gentle manner. I see you all have nice, gentle manners, and what I ask you to do is carry them outside the school, and retain them when you are on the roads or in the fields, or in your own homes. I ask the boys to cultivate the same language outside as inside the school, and the girls the same manners'.

On June 29th 1933 the headline on the front page of the South Wales Argus was 'Burglars'Haul from Tredegar House'. It says 'a number of gold and silver articles as well as some of Lord Tredegar's Medals were stolen.' The thieves entered via The Smoking Room by breaking a window. Other items taken :- 16 pairs of gold rimmed spectacles, 2 pairs of horn rimmed spectacles, a gold cigarette case, a small gold watch with diamonds and a large gold watch. It seems that the burglars also had a drink - three used glasses were discovered.

A Message from Anne Pegington OBE

Chair of The Friends of Tredegar House

A belated Happy New Year to Friends of Tredegar House their families and friends. I feel very privileged to have been elected as your Chairman and I will endeavour together with the Officers and Executive members to provide a service that meets the needs of our members and to raise funds to continue to help to refurbish Tredegar House.

In the present economic climate all charities are finding it difficult to raise funds, therefore the task this year will be more difficult.

Since my election in Nov.2010 I have been overwhelmed by the support I have been given. I am also amazed at the commitment of our members in assisting with the stewarding and providing help at all our functions and I wish to express my grateful thanks to you all.

We have a fountain of knowledge amongst our membership. If you feel you can help in any way do not hesitate to contact us.

I look forward to meeting you all in due course.

The Tredegar Park Mile

What was the Park Mile? It was one mile of tram road conceived and built by Charles Gould Morgan. It was completed in 1805 and became part of the first railroad into Newport. Its importance and significance in the development of Newport was immense. In fact it was the first rail link from anywhere in South Wales, to the coast. The tolls collected from this mile were tax free and great extra wealth was generated to add to that already held by the Morgan Estate. This unusual tax free status



was undoubtedly the work of Charles Morgan. He was a very intelligent man with great foresight. He had much influence in the development of Monmouthshire's coal and iron mines. It was not surprising therefore that he also had an interest in transport. He promoted the development of Mon and Brecon Canal and the Sirhowy Tramroad. The last section, to the River Usk was completed by the Monmouthshire Railway and Canal Company. The Golden Mile, as it had become known was taken over by the Great Western Railway in 1923. I believe that visitors to Tredegar House do not hear much, if any, of this aspect of history. During the recent development of the Ebbw Vale to Cardiff rail link, on the historic pillars marking 'The Park Mile' was bulldozed by the construction company and lies in ruins near the Gaer. Two pillars remain intact, one opposite the fallen pillar, the other at the Pye Corner railway bridge, Bassaleg.

For the past three years or so I have been working to obtain recovery and reconstruction of the fallen pillar. I have the support of the Railway Heritage Committee who appreciate the importance of the pillars to our Railway history. Over the last two years I have also been working with Cadw in an attempt to obtain listed status for the standing pillars. I am fairly confident that this may be forthcoming in the not too distant future.

However, I am not too confident that the damaged pillar will ever be replaced on its original site but recovery is a possibility. I have suggested that Tredegar House is the one and only logical site for re-location. It would add an extra dimension for visitors to the garden.

Ian Brewer

Mr Brewer is keeping a close eye on the situation and will let us know of any developments

Congratulations to Mrs Kelvin Lane

Congratulations to Jo – the cook at Tredegar House. She became Mrs Lane on 17th December 2010. Naturally she chose Tredegar House for her wedding. 'I would like it to snow on my wedding day' said Jo. Well she wasn't disappointed! In the photo - Jo with Chris Purkiss one of the TH Tour Guides..



Christmas Raffle

The Christmas raffle continues to be a major annual fund-raising event.



Judith Rice & Rhiannon Heaven & Anne Pegington

Judith & her team of very willing helpers, Margaret Bowen, Val Cheeseman, Mary Courtney, Rhiannon Heaven, Doreen James, Pam Jones, Ruth Knight, Pam and Ted Netherway, Anne Pegington, Sue Shea and Anne Williams -

began selling the first tickets at the Halloween Night & tickets were sold in the Gilt Room for the two weekends prior to Christmas and the two evenings of 16th & 17th December. So much writing & folding was done by so many. Thank you to all the members who donated raffle prizes & for support by buying & selling tickets too.

Do you know someone who didn't get their membership form or Newsletter? If so, please contact Annie Parker our new Membership Secretary on 01633 422693. Due to circumstances beyond our control the old database of the Friends of Tredegar House suffered a mishap. Accordingly, we had to create a new database therefore our mailing list may be incomplete.

Stewarding at Christmas

Anne Tame, Manager of Tredegar House & Emily Price, Curator were especially pleased this year with the increased number of volunteers for stewarding by our members.

A special thank you was given to those who battled through the snow & ice to help out.

Visitors to the House at this time travelled from far & wide to view its splendour. The severe weather on the Friday evening proved too difficult for some, but their tickets were honoured for the Saturday or Sunday, which proved to be very busy days. It was also a good opportunity to recruit new members by the efforts of the all the volunteers of Friends of Tredegar House.

Visitors chatted to many of the stewards. Over the period we had numerous enquiries regarding becoming a member & indeed some joined on the day including our very first Family Membership. Ruth Knight seen here in the photo above selling raffle tickets & talking about what the Friends do for Tredegar House.



If you have not stewarded before, please consider doing so, it is very rewarding. Come along at Easter or on Pirate's Day, you will be made very welcome.

Message from the Editorial Team Monty, Annie & Judith.

Hello and thank you for being a Friend. We welcome contributions from you all. What would you like to see in this newsletter? Do you have any Morgan memorabilia or stories? Photographs can be scanned in your own home. This is YOUR newsletter - send us something interesting and we can include it in the next issue.