

## For your Diary

### TALK

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

### PIRATES DAY

Monday 30th May 2011  
10.30am - 4.00pm  
Stewards Required  
(complete form in the insert)

### DAY TRIP

Saturday 25th June 2011  
Hampton Court  
Tickets £15 pp  
Coach Departs 9.30am  
(see insert for details)

### TALK

Wed. 21st September 2011  
7.00pm for 7.30pm  
Speakers: Mr & Mrs Thomas  
The Welsh Air  
Ambulance Service

### GALA EVENING

Wed. 28th September 2011  
at 7.00pm  
Artists: see insert for details  
St. Joseph's RC High School  
Tickets £8 pp

### A LIVELY & AFFECTIONATE PLAY *The Just-William Lady*

Written & Performed by  
Alison Neil  
Thurs 27th November 2011  
at 7.30pm  
in The New Hall  
(see insert for full details)  
Tickets £8 pp

## Easter Stewarding

Welcome to those that stewarded for the first time at Easter - everyone enjoyed themselves and found it much easier than they had anticipated. Don't forget, if you are a member of The Friends you can apply to join the stewards for special events. You don't have to have a degree in 'The Lives of the Morgan Family of Tredegar House' - Emily Price the Curator has ensured that each room contains a folder of facts for reference. Come and join us on 'Pirates Day' - see the pull out section enclosed.

## Obituary

On behalf of The Friends, Anne Pegington and Judith Rice attended the cremation of Helen Margret Hughes Howells - best remembered as Maggie Howells, on March 16th 2011. She passed away peacefully as a result of a brain tumor. She enjoyed her stewarding duties as a Friend and will be sadly missed by all of her friends and colleagues.

## Tredegar House Cracking Up!!

This was the breaking news in the South Wales Argus Sept 4th 1980. In fact it was an RAF Vulcan bomber that caused the damage during the military spectacular on 2nd August that year. 'In the flypast at rehearsal the bomber flew much higher than on the day' said County Councillor Ron Jones, then Chair of the Leisure Services Committee.

As it made a low pass over the roof of Tredegar House, the vibration set up by the noise cracked a number of ceilings. Apparently a photographer on the roof seriously thought that the House would collapse because of the noise and vibration.

The damage was on the ceilings of the north-west corner of the House, which was an area undergoing restoration. Councillor Jones further stated 'The ceiling in the Pink Room has a large crack in it, there are minor cracks in the ceiling of the Brown Room and in the Gilt Room the ceiling has flaked. We cannot put a price on the damage because we do not know, but if any of those ceilings collapsed the cost of replacing any one of them could be astronomical.

Measurement rods were put into the Gilt Room ceiling and the Council was looking at their insurance policies!

A claim for damages was put in to the Military Defence - emergency repairs were estimated at £5,000 though this would not be the end of the matter, especially as the Gilt Room had just undergone a £12,000 refurbishment.

# FRIENDS OF *Tredegar House* Newsletter



www.friends-of-tredegar-house.co.uk

## A Message from Anne Pegington OBE

Chair of The Friends of Tredegar House



It is hard to believe that this is my second message to the "Friends" how time flies. Just a few weeks ago Mr Cyril Highman one of our founder members handed me a 1983 Newsletter and at that time Cyril was also an Executive Member. The Chairman's message of the day who was a Mr A. Coxson could not be more appropriate than if it was written today. It spoke of the sterling work undertaken by the "Friends" and it is at this point I wish to thank everyone for the hard work undertaken at the "Spring Fayre" by Executive members and friends. We had some very important visitors namely Mrs Rosemary Butler our Assembly Member who was also a founder member and The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Newport Councillor Bill Langsford and the Mayoress of Newport Mrs Sue Langsford.

## Bird Boxes and Feeders



The "Spring Fayre" had some very unique merchandise including beautiful wooden bird boxes made by some of our colleagues. The sewing ladies certainly excelled with their original products. Please take note of all the forthcoming events in the supplement enclosed. I look forward to meeting you all throughout the summer months hoping the weather will meet our expectations.



Anne Pegington and Rosemary Butler AM at the Fayre

Officers and Executive Members welcome comments from you all, if you feel we can improve our service please do not hesitate to tell us.

## The Tredegar Park Mile

A message from Mr. Ian Brewer who wrote about the 'Tredegar Park Mile' Post on the front page of the last newsletter, 'I am pleased to report that the bits and pieces of the one post are now in storage in the large barn. In addition I have today received confirmation that the two remaining line side pillars have been granted Grade Two listed status by Cadw,' An excellent result Mr Brewer thanks to your research and dedication these unique artefacts have been conserved.

## The Sewing Group

look out for a feature on their work in the next Newsletter

A note from Hugh Clatworthy - Treasurer of Friends of Tredegar House.

The Committee have agreed to recommending that we alter our year end to the 31st December each year so that we show a complete year's activities without any deposits for future functions or coach trips being held over from the previous financial year.



## Wedding Fever

The Royal Wedding was certainly the talk of April 2011 - there were free tours of Tredegar House on the day of the wedding for those who could provide evidence that they were either a 'Will' or a 'Kate' and a display of wedding dresses from the archives of the Newport Museum, visitors being treated to a glass of bubbly and some cake in the Orangery at the end of their tour. Tredegar House has also been the venue for some high quality weddings. As you enter the House, on a table on the right in The Entrance Hall there is a wedding photograph. The bride was The Hon. Eleanor Mary Deveraux, daughter of the 16th Viscount (Robert Deveraux) and Viscountess Hereford (Mary Anna Morgan, daughter of Charles Morgan Robinson Morgan), niece of Godfrey Morgan. The bridegroom was Mr Albert Addams-Williams of Llangibby Castle Estates and Penpark., described as a 'representative of one of the oldest and most honoured of Monmouthshire families'.



The Edney Gates were opened for the first time in 33 years to allow the bridal carriage in. Hundreds of people flocked to the village of Bassaleg to see the happy couple marry in St Basil's Church. There were 3,000 applications for seats in the church which holds a max of 300. The route to St Basils from Tredegar House was filled with banners in purple and gold - the colours of the Morgan family. Arches with 'Long life and happiness' and 'Good Luck to Both of You' were strung over the roads. The cake was made by Tredegar House cook and was decorated in orange blossom, bells, horseshoes and other ornaments. Mr Bone the Tredegar House gardener decorated the pathway from the park to the church 'in a most sumptuous manner'. The Cardiff

Road gates were adorned with an arrangement of Venetian masts. Eight bridesmaids in beautiful dresses and bonnets attended the bride. The picture above shows the bridal gown, the bridesmaid's dresses and the 'going away outfit' worn by Eleanor.

From the Hereford Times. 21st August 1906

## DENDROCHRONOLOGY?

Tredegar House is recognised as one of the finest examples of a complete 17th century mansion in Wales. However, despite this no one knows who designed it or exactly when it was built. However the great news is that a Team from the Royal Commission which specialising in dendrochronology - tree ring dating, has recently visited the House and taken samples from the roofs and beams from the pre 17th century Tudor building as well as the later additions. The samples are at the Oxford tree-ring dating laboratory and the results if the findings should be available in the summer. Watch this space.



## Your Stories

Please tell us your stories of Tredegar House so we can put them in the newsletter - send c/o The Editor, FOTH Newsletter, Tredegar House, Newport, Gwent NP10 8YW or [www.friends-of-tredegar-house.co.uk](http://www.friends-of-tredegar-house.co.uk)

## WORLD WAR 2: A First For Tredegar House

Mr. Cyril Highman writes: In the early hours of 13th September 1940, pilot Oberleutnant Harry Wappler and his crew of three were returning south in their Heinkel aircraft to their home base near Paris after a successful bombing mission to Ellesmere Port and had reached a point somewhere in the night skies above Tredegar Park when disaster struck. Not through contact with an RAF nightfighter or shell fragments from anti-aircraft gunfire but through a new and unexpected danger. This time their entanglement with Newport's recently installed balloon barrage. Severe damage to the right-hand wing sent the Heinkel into an uncontrollable spin drive forcing the airmen into immediate ejection parachute drill. But only the pilot succeeded in escaping and managed to parachute down safely near the British Legion headquarters in Queen's Street off Cardiff Road. The remaining crew of three injured airmen, however, found themselves trapped and unable to escape as the Heinkel continued its fatal downward path towards the urban streets of Newport. It crashed onto 32 Stow Park Avenue, a house occupied by businessman Harold Phillips, his wife Marjorie and their two children, Malcolm, age 17, and his sister Myrtle, age 14. Both the children who were installed on the ground floor died in the ensuing fire but the parents managed to escape from their first floor bedroom using a rope of knotted sheets. Both the youngsters were buried in the Jewish section of St Woolos Cemetery. The three airmen also died in the crash.

There were many bombing raids on Newport in late 1940 but this particular incident was noteworthy in that it was the first recorded occasion in Britain when an enemy plane was brought down by the balloon barrage system of defence, and in this case by a unit of the Balloon Barrage Squadron which had just installed the equipment in the home park alongside the Oak Avenue in the grounds of Tredegar House.

My personal interest in all this survives because Malcolm and I became friends during our primary school days at Clytha School in the 1930s and my being able to enjoy in those halcyon years the privilege of visiting No. 32 and sharing our mutual pleasure in working with his magnificent train set! We could never have believed then what a cruel fate lay in store for him, his sister and his family just a few years later.