

For your Diary

TALK

Wednesday 19th September 2012
7.00pm for 7.30pm
Speaker - T.B.A.
Severn Area Rescue Association
Venue - Morgan Room

MUSICAL EVENING

Bravo four Barbershop Quartet
and Lorna Pearson
Wednesday 17th October
New Hall Tredegar House
Commencing at 7.30pm
Tickets £8.50 each

SPELLBINDING PERFORMANCE TO BE ENJOYED BY ONE AND ALL

Living in the Light
Written and performed by David Collison
Tuesday 20th November
New Hall Tredegar House
Commencing £8.50 each
Limited number of tickets

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2012/2013

Maureen Butterworth, Ken Edwards,
Jacque George, Rhiannon Heaven,
Alan Henshall, Ruth Knight, Michele
Lewis, Gene Mills, Pam Netherway,
Annie Parker, Sue Powell and
Jon C. Williams

OFFICERS

Chairman - Mrs Anne Pegington OBE
Deputy Chairman - Mrs Monty Dart
Treasurer - Mr Hugh Clatworthy
Hon. Secretary - Mrs Judith Rice

Midsummer's Day 24th June

Today at Tredegar House it was the National Trust's House Warming party. The grounds were full of people enjoying the activities and entertainment which went on despite the very "unmidsummer" weather.

The Friends of Tredegar House had their stall set out with plenty of information displayed on boards about the house, and also the Morgan family. A number of the visitors came over to talk to the Friends and to ask about joining...

Some of the Friends also helped to man the refreshment tent next door. As the sun came out there were a number of special visitors to the tent including the local constabulary, The Director of the National Trust in Wales Justin Albert, and his Assistant Director of Operations, South Wales Adam Ellis Jones. So a pleasant and leisurely day was had by all.



Many thanks to - Jean, Jill, Sue, Pam, Ruth, Rhiannon, Anne, Ynys, Ken, Clive, Alan, Dave and Alan.

Did you know.....

Ken Edwards

An excerpt from Tredegar House and Park Annual Report 1990/1991 presented to the Council by The Friends of Tredegar House.

That 20,000 people paid to visit the house and gardens, giving an income of £82,000, whilst the income from the touring caravan site, car park and events totalled £33,000. Admission charges were £2.80 for adults, £1.70 concessions and £6 for a family ticket. Car parking was very popular: 50pence for a seasonal car window sticker.

A visitor survey concluded that most visitors were from Wales, were over 30 years of age, came by car, had visited before and stayed for about 3 hours, using most of the facilities.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL TRUST -

If any of the Friends are interested in volunteering for the Trust you will be made most welcome please contact - Claire Hovey, Volunteer Campaign Officer on 01633 815880 or email claire.hovey@nationaltrust.org.uk



Message from Chairman

Anne Pegington OBE

On the 19th April we held our 31st Annual General Meeting. More than 70 members attended; following our meeting we were addressed by Mr. Richard Higgs the Senior Project Manager for the National Trust and interim Property Manager for Tredegar House. He acknowledges the great support of the Friends over the last 30 years. Richard then asked Mrs Denise Foster to address the Friends and to explain and give some details of the National Trust's 5 - 10 year programme and the planning behind the "Visitor Experience". She explained that 70% of visitors to the National Trust properties never visit the same place twice.

Mrs Monty Dart our Deputy Chairman has stepped down as Editor of our Newsletter so this edition is being prepared by a small editorial team, we would welcome your comments as to what information you wish to be included in

future editions and last but not least your input as Friends. The new Executive will hold their meeting on the 9th July. We hope to provide a photograph of the team in our September edition. Hopefully by the time you receive this Newsletter summer will have arrived.

St. Joseph's High School

Michele Lewis

Over the years many girls have passed through those glorious Edney gates, although they were less than glorious in those days. For many of us it was just a school albeit in wonderful surroundings, but for others it was a home. The school was a boarding school for weekly and term time pupils and many of the girls came from abroad. They came because they wanted to "finish" their education by learning colloquial English. We had girls from France, Switzerland, Italy and Spain and many became firm friends.

The school still has a loyal following and many of the guests on the tours of the house ask about the school and delight in showing friends and family the rooms where they spent their formative years. Cupboards are eagerly perused and cries go up of "that's where I used to sit". Anne Parker remembers sitting under the portrait of the lady pouring water from a jug which is on the left hand side of the Gilt Room door as you look at it from inside the room itself. She remembers thinking how beautiful it was and wondering how the artist accomplished such a piece, only for her thought to be rudely interrupted by an irate "Anne pay attention and get on with your work"!

Ah! Sweet memories of history lessons by the memorial to Sir Briggs, Biology lessons in the Orangery, and Botany lessons by the lake. The sun nearly always shone except when the blizzards struck and we had to trudge up a long drive in deep snow. Life was such an adventure when we were young and Tredegar House was for many hundreds of girls an integral part of growing up.



Form 5a taken in 1964/65. Uniform saxe-blue blouses, navy and blue ties, very dark navy skirts and brown shoes and beige socks.

FRIENDS NEWS



Mary Courtney MBE

The Friends of Tredegar House would like to wish Mary Courtney a very happy 100th birthday; here are a few facts which Mary has shared with us:-

I was born 1st July 1912; I came up when the Titanic went down! My journey has been one of ups and downs and in between. Good times of which I have had many, they outweigh the bad and I have wonderful memories to share and reflect on. Becoming a member of Friends of Tredegar House, where I am now an Honorary member having joined 30 years ago when it was first established, has given me many years of happy and fulfilling times, I have played many parts in events at Tredegar House including a witch at Halloween, a drunken mother (not literally) and the spirit of Christmas Present in the production of Scrooge.

So 1st July 2012 sees me becoming 100 years young, with fabulous stories to tell and be very thankful for.

I have slowed down slightly, but am still interested and taking part in what I am able to, such as skittles, bingo and scrabble.

Thank you for all the memories and fondest wishes to everyone.

Maureen Butterworth

Maureen joined the Friends with her husband Ian 28 years ago, and were members of the Executive Committee from that time. Then sadly Ian died 9 years ago. Maureen has continued to support the Friends ever since. She has been the Catering Group co-ordinator for 20 years. Sadly she feels she must relinquish this role because of poor health. She has many fond memories: of this role and to mention just two or three: catering triumphs namely the Annual General Meeting, Harvest and Servants suppers that she provided with her dedicated colleagues of 6 ladies. This was of course before the Health and Hygiene legislation came into force.

Maureen will continue to serve on the Executive Committee and we wish to thank her for the superb work she has performed over the years and we wish her a full recovery in the not too distant future.

Maureen wishes to say how honoured she was to be made a life member of the Friends and sends her best wishes to you all.



Why I decided to become a Friend

Savanna Dumelow

Hello everyone! Savanna here, as I'm new to you all and this newsletter I thought I would take advantage of my first article to introduce myself and my reasons for becoming a Friend of Tredegar House. So my name is Savanna Dumelow, I'm currently 16 and studying my A Levels at Crosskeys College. I have always been drawn to history and from a young age visited many historical places with a special love of old estates and castles.

Back last year I was given information in Newport Library about becoming a Friend of Tredegar House and jumped at the chance of getting involved. By having past association with the house I felt I needed to get back up to date with the Morgan family history and investigate the new developments. I also saw becoming a friend as an opportunity to learn from a diverse range of people and explore and develop my skills, hence my involvement in the Newsletter. To me it's also amazing to be part of something that has been running for over 31 years, while getting to meet the people that have made that fact possible!

Photography is also a great passion of mine, however if someone had told me a year ago that I would be studying it at college and loving every moment of it, I would have laughed at them. However these days it's constantly on my mind and photography now plays a role in my work on this newsletter, due to me snapping a few of the shots in this issue. I'm sure everyone will agree that Tredegar House is a stunning place to visit, and recently I took full advantage of its grounds to stage a fashion shoot for my AS level exam. The weather didn't let me down ... it only started snowing! And with the added feature of the lake being frozen my pictures turned out brilliantly. My extremely brave model froze but did recover from her cold, with the added help of the chocolate reward I bought her from Thorntons.

As well as being a friend of the house, I am also a part of the hosting team linked with the National Trust, and I offer my services to them whenever I can, with the added experience of meeting new people. I hope that by getting involved as much as I can people will see that I'm a very dedicated person that will help as much as I can to benefit Tredegar House. By joining the friends and being the youngest member I hope to provide new ideas and become one of many reputable members that have passion and respect for preserving Tredegar House for the future.

So now you know something about me and some of what I do. I hope that this article has met with the standards of others from the wonderful team. All of them have worked with me and helped me even though I'm so new to everything. I'm looking forward to the future and exciting prospects it brings with it!



Why I decided to become a Friend

Our talk in April on History of Ancient Cwmbran, Bronze Age to Medieval period was well attended by all Friends and visitors. In May Catherine Philpott also gave us a very interesting talk on Newport Twinning agreement with Kutaisi, a city in the independent state of Georgia. This talk had originally been planned for May in 2010 but was cancelled due to illness.