

## For your Diary

### 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 Alison Neil  
Directed by David Collison  
Tuesday 20th November  
New Hall Tredegar House  
Commencing at 7.30pm  
Tickets £8.50 each  
Limited number of tickets.

### CHRISTMAS EVENING AND SILENT AUCTION

Wednesday 12th December  
New Hall Tredegar House  
Commencing at 7.30pm  
Tickets £8.50  
Please book early  
Limited No. of tickets.

### TALKS

#### Wednesday 9th January 2013

Speaker – James Gaynor  
Subject – Lives of Charles and Henry Royce  
(the co-founders of the Rolls-Royce Company)  
Commencing at 2.30pm in the  
Morgan Room at Tredegar House.

#### Wednesday 13th February 2013

Speaker – Michele Lewis  
Subject – Past Pupils who attended  
St. Joseph's School at Tredegar House  
Commencing at 2.30pm in the  
Morgan Room at Tredegar House.



Picture of the Executive Committee celebrating the 100th birthday of Mary Courtney

To the Committee and The Friends of Tredegar House I would like to thank you for making my

100th birthday celebrations even more memorable! by inviting me to your July Committee Meeting. Supplying champagne and nibbles then presenting me with a basket of flower arrangement (well done Sue Powell; they were beautiful).

I have had many happy years as an active member of The Friends of Tredegar House since the council purchased it.

I hope the National Trust will use the Friends and their expertise to continue to help to keep Tredegar House Newport's Jewel in the crown.

Best wishes and thank you.  
Mary Courtney MBE

### Secret Gem! - The impression of a visitor to Tredegar House

Tredegar House is situated just on the outskirts of Newport City. It was managed by the local authority very well for many years but has, this year, been taken on a 50 year lease by the National Trust and getting the investment it deserves. It is a beautiful house, with fabulous gardens and park land. Dating back to the 17th Century, the rooms reflect the changing years of the Morgan family occupancy. It has survived being used as a school for 20 twenty years and still has original wood-panelled rooms, a dining room with an amazing oak floor and carvings, Victorian kitchens and the 1930's bedroom suite. Tredegar House is not very well known, but it will be such a wonderful surprise for a visitor. Many rooms have a "hands on" element which means you really experience the history, you do not just observe it. A word of advice to parents - you may wish to leave the New Parlour to last - it is packed with lots of games and dress-up clothes for the children, who often get so involved they do not wish to go and see the rest of the house! There is wheelchair access to the ground floor of the house.

## Message from Chairman

### Anne Pegington OBE

It is now almost six months that the National Trust has been managing Tredegar House. Many of the Friends have become volunteers. I have had two meetings with the Property Manager. Many areas of concern between us have been resolved. For 32 years the Friends have acted as sole stewards to the House. Our Constitution clearly identified our role; the object of the Friends is the education of the public by promotion, support, assistance and improvement of the house through activities of a group of Friends.



Raising funds remains one of our key tasks in order to assist in the enhancement of Tredegar House. Projects are identified by the Property Manager; two projects are currently under consideration; one is the Sir Briggs monument which is desperately in need of repair and conservation, and the other are the panels in the Gilt Room. We are currently waiting costing of both projects. We will keep you informed.

I am still anxious to ensure that The Friends of Tredegar House are clearly identified, and I hope that the Property Manager will find a corner for us either in the House or outbuildings where we can have a small office.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our forthcoming events. Once again thank you for your continued support.

### Did you know -

In 1990 The Friends of Tredegar House and Park celebrated a decade of voluntary support. This independent charitable Trust was founded in November 1980 to spread public interest in the historical, architectural and environmental importance Tredegar House...and to raise funds to assist with the purchase and restoration of the appropriate objects for display.

## The Tredegar Sampler: An Embroidery by Susan Smith

In 1983 Susan Smith was commissioned to design and make The Tredegar Sampler by the then Keeper of Tredegar House, David Freeman. The sampler was purchased through a 50% grant from the Welsh Arts Council and 50% from The Friends of Tredegar House. It was intended for, and originally hung in the Morning Room which has been recently refurnished as an early 19th century interior.

The embroidery depicts the North West façade of the House which is contained within a border of oak leaves and acorns representing an oak avenue, the only one remaining of several which once radiated from the house. The stag's head, griffin, lion and thistles all feature on the Morgan family coat of arms.

The design was first charted on to graph paper and then worked using a technique known as "counted thread" in which the fabric is not marked at all prior to stitching; instead the graph is used as a guide to stitch placement which is done entirely by hand. It is a meticulous, painstaking process, especially on such a fine scale and the piece took about six months to complete.

The sampler is worked on even weave linen with a 29-1" thread count, mostly using only one or two strands of stranded cotton over one thread crossing. This means that in areas such as the walls of the house, which are stitched solidly, there are about 900 stitches to the square inch. Stitches include, Tent, Cross, Satin, Rice and French knots.

Following its completion in 1984, the sampler was featured in House & Garden magazine, where it was spotted by a descendent of the Morgan family who contacted Susan Smith to ask if she would do a similar sampler for the family. The resulting "Blacker-Morgan Sampler" used the same central feature of Tredegar House but other motifs and the text differed, as did the oak border which was more elaborate, in keeping with the 17th rather than the 19th century.

Susan Smith lives in Caerleon and, though she rarely makes samplers nowadays, her work remains informed by period fashion and textiles. She is a member of both the textile group Map and The Makers Guide in Wales. Examples of her work can always be seen in the Guild's own gallery, Craft in the Bay in Cardiff.

## Day Trip in June by Judith Rice

The Friends visited Stourhead, near Warminster, a National Trust property, on Friday 29th June. What a day we had! On leaving Newport the heavens opened but on arriving at Stourhead the sun came out and stayed that way all day. The restaurant was excellent, as was the Spread Eagle Inn. The house was a pleasure to go around, with all rooms opened on ground floor, and with plenty to see and admire. The only problem was, I got lost in the enormous gardens, but eventually found my way out! Hopefully we can go somewhere else of interest next year!! Watch this space.

Apologies to all who attended our intended talk on the 19th September, reference SARA. I am still awaiting an explanation why the speaker did not arrive: I will keep you posted.

## Groom at Tredegar House by Monty Dart

Visitors Betty and Peter Powell from Swansea enjoyed their visit to Tredegar House in July. Archivist for The Friends of Tredegar House, Monty Dart was thrilled to receive this photograph. Peter Powell writes: "This is my grandfather Albert Edward Powell, born 1886 in Fishpond, Chermouth, Dorset. He was a groom at Tredegar House (here you see him in front of the Edney Gates with Tredegar House in the background). He met his future wife Cecilia Elizabeth Wheeler, born in Magor, Newport in 1885, when she was a maid at Tredegar House and they married in 1908. In the 1911 Census Albert is registered as a groom but by then he was living in Blewitt Street, Baneswell, Newport and may have been working as a drayman for Phillips Brewery".



The Friends of Tredegar House have a small database of servants and estate workers - can you help to add to it with photographs and any memories that have been passed down in your family? Please do not send any original photos or documents - we can arrange to have them copied.

## Happy Memories

By Margaret Thomson Morgan

During the many hours of enjoyment spent watching the Olympic Games and seeing the athletes competing in such splendid conditions, my mind drifted to one of my early competitive events at Tredegar House when it was a school.

I wonder what they would have made of a track just three hundred and thirty yards (yes 330) in a sort of circumference with many dips and jumps, plus a few cow pats! Add to this an eccentric P.E. teacher with obviously no experience of being a "starter". "Take your marks, get set - bang! All followed in rapid succession leaving those of us who liked to do things "the correct way" still on the start line when others less experienced were ten yards ahead!

Hey ho - happy days. Never mind that we were far from the glamour of present day female athletics, (navy knickers with pockets and baggy aertex shirts were our uniform), we had lots of fun **AND** not everyone gets to compete in the grounds of a stately home!