

## FOR YOUR DIARY

### Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 24th April 2013  
Commencing at 7.00pm  
In the Morgan Room at  
Tredegar House.

### DAY TRIP

Our Summer day trip this year is to  
Lacock Country House with monastic  
roots, once home to William Henry  
Fox Talbot, famous for his contributions  
to the invention of photography.  
on Thursday 27th June 2013.

## TALKS

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Speaker – Michele Lewis  
Subject – Past Pupils who attended  
St. Joseph's Convent High School,  
Tredegar House.

Commencing at 2.30pm in the  
Morgan Room at Tredegar House.

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Speaker – Ralph Diaper  
Subject – European Travel with  
Musical Memories.

Commencing at 2.30pm in the  
Morgan Room at Tredegar House.

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Speaker – Paul Busby  
Subject – Hush, Hush, the peculiar  
career of Lord Tredegar and it will focus  
on Evan's adventures in the  
second world war!!

Commencing at 7.30pm in the  
Morgan Room at Tredegar House.

## An extract from Friends of Tredegar House 1990/91 annual report.

1990/91 was a very successful year for purchases, a number of highly important objects being acquired for the collection.

### The Morgan Medal Collection.

In July a collection of 23 medals associated with members of the Morgan family, together with a silhouette of Godfrey, Viscount Tredegar and ivory coach pass belonging to Sir Charles Morgan (1760-1846), and other memorabilia, were acquired at public auction at Christies, London for £4,840. The Museums and Galleries Commission contributed £2,420 towards the cost.

These medals were awarded to three members of the family: Godfrey, Viscount Tredegar: his brother Hon. Frederick Charles Morgan; and Courtenay, Viscount Tredegar. They range in date from 1855 to 1926 and commemorate the family's involvement in the Crimean War, the Boer War and the First World War. The medals are now on display in the Side Hall

### Late seventeenth century Flemish Cabinet on Stand

In September a magnificent late seventeenth century Flemish cabinet of Ebony with ivory inlays and tortoiseshell and walnut veneers, and containing twenty drawers and a central cupboard, was acquired from the London dealer, Jacob Stodel, for £22,000, (the original price was £26,000)

Through out the year a numbers of objects were acquired to enhance the furnishings of the "Below Stairs" area of The House. These included Two 19th century Elm Salting Troughs, 19th century Brass Ladle, Edwardian Coat Hook Rack, pair of 19th century Candle Sticks and a Stags Head and Fox Mask.

Together with other items the total cost was £1,209 funded by the Friends of Tredegar House, who have over the years financed the refurbishing of the entire 'Below Stairs' area.



## Message from Chairman

### Anne Pegington OBE

A belated Happy New Year to you all.

The National Trust has now been managing Tredegar House for 8 months. Over 40 Friends have become volunteers. In my Royal College of Nursing Journal I received a National Trust membership application form, offering 3 months free membership with over 300 houses to visit: it is good value. I also read that the National Trust is now developing an inclement weather policy that is to have more in-house facilities. This article was in The Telegraph a few weeks ago.

Overall The National Trust has reported visitor numbers were down on previous years, so obviously a rainy day policy is a very positive move. It is quite clear rain does deter visitors.



The Friends of Tredegar House is now 32 years old and many changes have been introduced by The National Trust. The Friends accept change is an important part of any organisation, it is therefore important that communication skills are maintained.



Simon Jenkins, Chairman at The National Trust Annual General, commenced his speech saying it had been a difficult year with tough trading conditions but membership had been retained at 4 million and almost 20 million visits. He also paid tribute to all the volunteers, frontline of our aim to bring Houses to life. We need to be true to our mission to protect the countryside and to help people understand that it is at greater peril than most buildings.

When I became your Chairman I vowed to complete 2 years in post. I will by April have completed two and half years, I therefore propose to stand down at the Annual General Meeting. It has been a privilege to be your Chairman and I thank you all for your support.

Finally I wish The National Trust and The Friends of Tredegar House well in their continual endeavours to preserve the House and Gardens of Tredegar House for future generations.



## St Joseph's Convent High School, Tredegar House

**Michele Lewis**

On Friday November the 16th 2012, a cold wet blustery day, the serene surroundings of Llantarnam Abbey echoed to the sounds of "Old Girls" of St. Joseph's Convent High School Tredegar House. The invitation was extended to all girls from the 1951-1966 eras. This Old Girls Reunion, the first for nearly 10 years, was the culmination of months of hard work by the organisers, Michele Lewis, Paddy Landers and Veronica Walsh, who had spent the previous 6 months contacting old girls from around the globe and arranging the afternoon at the Abbey.

At first it was likely that there would only be about 15 in attendance but this number soon crept up to 75. Girls joined us from Germany, Ireland and all over the country. The squeals of delight as friends met friends unseen for many years were heard all over Tŷ-Croeso. For many who could not attend previous reunions it was the first time they had met since leaving school. Very quickly the groups mingled; looked at photos, exchanged addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses.

Later as we split into two groups we were able to show a film of the school taken in the early 60's by members of St. Mary's Camera Club. This was a delightful reminder of the way we used to be.



At the reunion we were regaled with some lovely stories about the school. Giannina Bogianni (nee Mascherpa) was the first headgirl in the school at the House. She told us the tale of Princess Olga's pinny. Every year at Christmas time the school used to have a sale of work and the sisters always had a stall. On their first sale at the house they sold some very pretty pink aprons. Giannina bought one which she still has; the sisters told her that it was from the silk bed hangings of Princess Olga's bed!! The Nuns had been sold the house and the remaining contents so the bed hangings were theirs and they used the silk to bring in some revenue

The Sisters welcomed us with open arms as many of them not only taught at the school but were old girls themselves!

A happy day was enjoyed by all and for many of the old girls the Mass, dedicated to the deceased staff and pupils of the school, in the Abbey's lovely chapel, was a fitting end to a memorable day.

## The British Association of Friends of Museums Report – January 2013

**Jill Bell**

There are nearly thirty affiliated Organisations in Wales who are members of British Association of Friends of Museums. British Association of Friends of Museums aims to help and support Friends of Museums through a network of Magazines, a dedicated local Representative who can be contacted in order to support individual Groups. British Association of Friends of Museums holds an Annual Conference and all Friends of British Association of Friends of Museums are invited. In 2013 the Conference is being held in Aberdeen, in 2014 it is being held in Swansea and hosted jointly by RISW, Friends of Glynn Vivian and the Egypt Centre, this will be an opportunity for all those who do not want to travel outside Wales to attend, the Conference will link up with the Dylan Thomas Centenary Year and a number of events are planned to cover this. Details of all events are available in your quarterly Magazine as are the names and addresses of all Affiliated Groups, Officers, Chairman and Secretaries.

British Association of Friends of Museums has been instrumental in assisting Heritage Sites, Museums and Stately Homes over the past year by supporting their cause when being put under financial pressure from Local Authorities. While they do not have a Legal Department they do have considerable expertise and have Representatives on all Heritage Boards; when approached they will do their best to answer your query.

British Association of Friends of Museums is only funded by your subscriptions and all Representatives work voluntarily, as you may or not know you are covered by insurance provided by British Association of Friends of Museums while you are on duty as a Steward.

I hope I have been able to fill you in on some of the things British Association of Friends of Museums does, but if I have not, please do not hesitate to contact me or British Association of Friends of Museums at their Head Office.

### Social Events

**Judith Rice**

In November the Friends were enthralled to a performance by Alison Neil on the life of Hildegard of Bingen another evening thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Our Christmas Evening was well attended with superb entertainment by members of the Friends.

Unfortunately our January talk on the 7th was poorly attended. All members missed a very interesting talk presented by Roger James an ex-employer of Rolls-Royce on the founders of the Rolls-Royce Company. We have re-booked Roger for later in the year "a talk not to be missed". Outsiders will be made most welcome. Date for your diaries 18th September 2013.