

FOR YOUR DIARY

MID DAY TRIP - ALL TICKETS SOLD

A visit to Dyffryn Gardens and House St. Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan. One of the National Trust latest additions in Wales, these Grade 1 gardens cover 55 acres and feature a stunning collection of intimate garden rooms, formal lawns and an extensive arboretum. on Wednesday 17th July 2013.

TALKS

WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2013

Speaker - Clive Hard
Subject - Life and times of a Physiotherapist (in the RAF and taking care of Newport Rugby Team etc).
Commencing at 7.30pm in the Morgan Room at Tredegar House.

WEDNESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Speaker - Roger James
Subject - Lives of Charles and Henry Royce (founders of the Rolls-Royce Company)
Commencing at 7.30pm in the Morgan Room at Tredegar House.

WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2013

Speakers - Paul Busby & Goff Morgan
Subject - "House of Curses": The Dark Side of Tredegar House
Commencing at 7.30pm in the Morgan Room at Tredegar House.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2013/14

Chairman - Alan Henshall
Deputy Chairman - Judith Rice
Treasurer - Hugh Clatworthy
Hon. Secretary - Judith Rice

COMMITTEE

Ken & Ynys Edwards, Malcolm & Jennifer Grey, Clive Hard, Ruth Knight, Michele Lewis, Gene Mills, Pam Netherway, Anne Pegington, Sue Powell, Wilma Shandall & Julie Wilson

PIRATES DAY



On Monday, 30th May, Captain Morgan and his buccaneers opened the gates of Tredegar House for a Pirates Fun Day. The place was buzzing with lots of activities, including a pirates trail around the House, a children's fancy dress competition and several games for aspiring pirates.

The Friends' part in the day was to supervise a board game. A squared board had numbers inscribed from 1 – 120 and youngsters were invited to buy a sticker for 20p, identify the sticker with name and telephone number and place the sticker over the number of their choosing. When all the numbers had been allocated, the board and booty were returned to Trust staff. Prizes were awarded to the youngsters who had chosen the pre-selected winning numbers.

It was a lot of fun for the Friends who manned our stall and the activity afforded us a great recruitment opportunity for The Trust and The Friends.

Many thanks to Ruth, Pam, Ken, Alan and Dave for their efforts on the day.

HENRY MORGAN PIRATE & GOVERNOR OF JAMAICA



One of the most asked questions at Tredegar House prior to the National Trust was about Henry Morgan. For those wanting to know more about Henry Morgan the Pirate – latterly the Governor of Jamaica - he was a relative of the Morgan Family of *Tredegar Castle*. His portrait can be seen in the Brown Room.

Welsh genealogists of repute concur, however, in stating that he was the eldest son of Robert Morgan of Llanrhymney, a small estate in Glamorganshire, near *Tredegar Castle*, where he was born in 1635. The year of his birth is ascertained with tolerable certainty as an affidavit made by him in Jamaica on the 21st November, 1671, definitely states his age as thirty-six.



The family of Tredegar was recognized as the head of the clan, of which the Morgans of Llanrhymney were a cadet branch.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN MR. ALAN HENSHALL

Ladies and gentlemen, I feel very humbled and honoured to have been elected as your Chairman, and will endeavour, together with the Officers and Executive Members, to give a service that meets the requirements of our members, and to raise funds to continue to help to refurbish Tredegar House in any way we can. To that end the Deputy-Chairman and I have already met with Joanna Cartwright, Property Manager, and Derw Thomas, Acting House Manager, to discuss our future activities and collaboration. I was delighted to feel the atmosphere of cooperation they offered us, and I am determined that the Friends will work with them in a spirit of respect and mutual support.

Friends, I would like to re-engage former members who have not renewed their membership in recent times. If you know of any issues that need to be addressed please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Committee. I would also welcome any ideas Friends have for attracting younger members so that the future of the Friends can be assured.

I congratulate Monty Dart, one of the Friends, on preparing and setting up an exhibition on the Convent school occupation at Tredegar House during the 50's and 60's.

Finally, my appreciation of the two items that David Rice has constructed to hold the 'Comments' cards for the Trust's visitors to Tredegar House. These will be a real asset to the comments' process and I intend to mark David's gesture by having his name and that of the National Trust, together with the date, engraved on a plate so that the gift is never forgotten.

With your help and support I look forward with pleasure to a productive and successful year of renewed service to the House and the people of Newport.

Finally, the National Trust have informed us that they have an electric bus which will be made available for our evening events from the main car park to either the House or Morgan Room. Please advise myself or Judith a week prior to any events if you wish to use this facility.



Comment boxes being presented to the National Trust by our Chairman

SIR BRIGGS MONUMENT

In the April Newsletter comment was made that the Friends' committee had agreed to fund the cost of repairing the Sir Briggs Monument. It was hoped for the work to be carried out with the Monument being returned to the Cedar Garden later this year.

Fund raising for this work to be completed is continuing well. We are most grateful for the assistance of all the members who have supported our talks, raffles and other events.

LETTERS FROM THE CRIMEA 1854/5

Newport Reference Library holds some wonderful archives – but particularly special to Morgan researchers are the letters Godfrey Morgan and his brother Freddie wrote from the Crimea. They were transcribed from the original in 1950.

The first letter, written on 5th May 1854, by Godfrey, is in diary form in that it is written over a series of days. Addressed to 'My Dearest Mother' he writes from Cape St. Vincent, off Portugal. He speaks fondly of his sisters Roz (Rosamund) and Fanny. His ship has just crossed the Bay of Biscay and he gives a heart-wrenching account of the horses on board. They had suffered terribly from a great gale that had the ship tossing and riding the storm. One of Godfrey's horses has just died, 'Poor little Atheist died at 1 o'clock, I am waiting for the ropes to hoist him overboard' but he says he has three others with him.

Having caught a turtle, the officers enjoyed turtle steak for breakfast 'rather fishy meat and the cook spoiled the soup for dinner'. However, a porpoise was caught the following day and its meat was pronounced 'capital'. 'If it not for the horses on board I would delight in the rough weather for I am become quite a sailor. Eating is the principal amusement, as I am always hungry. Breakfast is half past eight, lunch at twelve, dinner at three, tea at six and grog at eight. Bed at ten.'

For the amusement of his Mother – Godfrey then goes on to paint a wicked pen-picture of two of his fellow passengers, the ship's doctor and his wife. 'I thought when I first saw her that I might have amused myself with her but on closer inspection she's awfully sallow and dirty looking though her features are rather good, but being, I think, past thirty and no children has made her uninteresting. Her husband is a wizen, sallow, dried up little Irishman, with knock knees and a dreadful brogue. It is painful to talk to him but he amuses us by getting him to argue and he gets very angry if you chaff him. I fortunately brought lots of books with me, nobody else brought any so I supply them. The cooking on board is of the worst description, it is so dirty, but I shall probably have worse before I come back so I don't mind it. It was a devil of a rough night last night, at least so they say for I slept through it. We made 200 miles in 24 hours which is very good for this tub of a boat. We are now anxiously looking for Malta. It is a rather wet day or we could have seen it before this. We are all of course very anxious to hear the news, as we are three weeks behind the world. I hope I shall land all the horses I have now at Gallipoli or wherever they intend to land us, for if every ship loses its proportion [of horses] as ours has done, we shall be but a skeleton squadron.'

Godfrey then goes on to describe a fight between two crew members 'they have been pummelling one another and one is now showing the other his knife....' He finishes his letter on 14th May where he has disembarked at Malta. 'I have been ashore to report myself to Military Secretary. We are off again immediately that we have filled the Tanks, and are to go three miles above Constantinople on the Scutari side. ...I have just had time to buy a few oranges and have a look at the place. I went into one magnificent church. A French steamer passed close to us this morning with Troops, the cheering was enthusiastic.

Love to Fanny, Ellen and all the little ones, Ever Dearest Mother, your fondly attached Son, Goff.

A snapshot in time

MAUD WILLIAMS – HOUSEKEEPER – TREDEGAR HOUSE

Born Fanny Maud Williams, June 1879, in Buckhorn Weston, North Dorset, daughter of George Williams and Mary Mitchell.

Maud was the youngest of 5 children, her father was an agricultural labourer. In 1901 she was working as a servant at 39 Portman Square, London for the Hon. Humphrey Sturt MP (Lord Alington) from Moor Critchell near Wimborne Dorset and Lady Feodora Sturt. They had three children Diana aged 16, Napier G aged 4 and Lois J. Sturt aged 7 months.

In 1911 she had become housemaid still working at Portman Square for the Sturt Family. Lois at this time was aged 10: in 1928 Lois married Evan Morgan.

In 1920, approximately, Maud became housekeeper at Tredegar House. When she left Tredegar she moved back to Buckhorn Weston, North Dorset. In later years she moved to Barnet, North London to be near her niece.

She passed away the 18th July 1966 aged 87 and is buried along with her parents at Buckhorn Weston.



This Photo Shows Chauffeur John Evans' Mother and from the left seated at the table

Is your Gran or Grampa in this photo? If so please let us know

SOCIAL EVENTS – JUDITH RICE

In April the Friends were given an interesting talk by Paul Busby on Evan Morgan's adventures in the Second World War. What a packed house we had! It was lovely to see a lot of Hosts from the National Trust at Tredegar House.

Mr Bob Trett was our speaker for May and spoke about Historical Caerleon. Those of you who were unable to attend, missed a really interesting talk!!

Ruth Knight, our Talks Co-ordinator, arranged another talk which took place in June. The speaker was Derek McKie. His title was "My holiday at Weston-Super-Mare during the Blitz" His information was quite amazing as no-one realised what had actually happened during the War at Weston-Super-Mare. It gave rise to a very interesting question and answer session and many Friends reminisced about their own and family members' memories of the Second World War.

Please check on the back page of our Newsletter to see what talks we have arranged for the rest of the year i.e. July, September, October and November.

HOST AT TREDEGAR HOUSE

The National Trust at Tredegar House have a Volunteer Recruitment Week from 13th to 19th July. Why not come along and have a taster and see what goes on. Friends please contact me for further information on 01633 - 894108.

FRIENDS COME & JOIN THE PARTY!!

Enjoy the light summer evenings as the house and gardens open until 9pm (last admission 8pm). Join us on the last Friday of the month for a day of 1930's music, costume, dance and cocktails.

Join the party - 26th July, 30th August and 27th September. Normal admission prices apply. National Trust members free. Contact – 01633 815880 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house.