

FOR YOUR DIARY TALKS

WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH 2014

Speaker - Steve Morgan (Head Gardener)
Subject - Looking after the Grounds and Gardens of Tredegar House.
Commencing at 7.30pm in the Morgan Room at Tredegar House.

WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL 2014

Speaker - Steffan Ellis
Subject - Morgans and their Servants, Staff and Estate tenants during the 1914 - 18 conflict Commencing at 7.30pm in the Morgan Room at Tredegar House.

DAY TRIP NOT TO BE MISSED

Thursday 19th June 2014

Visiting St. Mary's Church, Fairford.
There has been a Church on this site for 1,000 years dating from about 1497.
The Church is chiefly known for its medieval stained glass windows, the only complete set of late medieval glass in a parish church in the country.

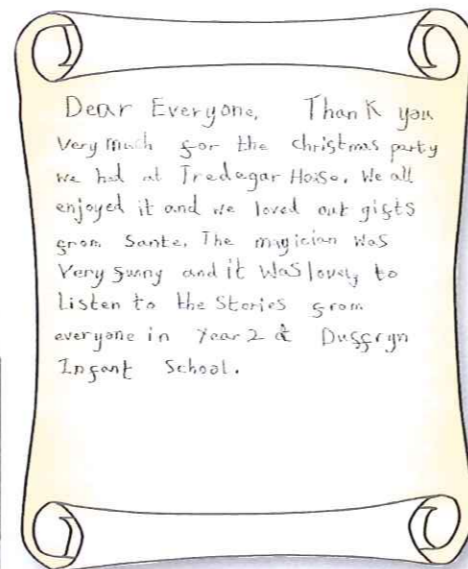
ALSO

Visiting "The Old School" Langford built in 1845. In 1972 it was bought by Hardy Armies as a weekend retreat and considerably enlarged. Hardy was dressmaker to HM the Queen for over 50 years and a fashion designer of international influence.
Trip includes afternoon tea.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 10th April 2014
Commencing at 7.00pm in the Morgan Room at Tredegar House.
Two course dinner will be served in the Brew House.
Entrance by ticket only £10.00 each.

THE LETTER FROM THE CHILDREN



Dear Everyone, Thank you very much for the Christmas party we had at Tredegar House. We all enjoyed it and we loved our gifts from Santa. The magician was very funny and it was lovely to listen to the stories from everyone in Year 2 & Dussiegn Infant School.

**LORD TREDEGAR AND
HIS SON THE HON.
EVAN MORGAN**
(the well-known poet)

This year Britain will recognise the 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1. Many of the servants and estate workers from Tredegar House signed up for the war. Evan Morgan joined the Welsh Guards in 1915, but his indifferent health ensured that he was never sent to The Front. Many heirs to the great families were killed in the War. Several of Evan and Gwyneth's cousins died in battle. One, such, Raymond Rodakowski was everything that Evan was not, a fighting soldier in the Irish Guards. Evan wrote a moving poem after his cousin died. He continued to put a 'Remembrance Notice' in The Times for many years to come. The photograph above was in The Daily Mail and headed 'Peer and Poet Son'. The caption was 'Lord Tredegar and his son the Hon. Evan Morgan (the well-known poet) who has been placed on half pay on account of his ill health.'

'VALE' to R. R.

And so, you too, my last and oldest friend,
Have sped to regions that we cannot see;
Who in the battle's forefront found your end
And faced it with a soldier's chivalry,
And so you too have fled and passed away
Yet we shall meet again some happier day.
And you have paid the heaviest price of all,
And you have given more than many gave,
This life alone did your young senses call
Who nothing sought when you had found the grave:
One life you said there was, one life alone;
And that you gave, scarce counting it your own.
You told me often there could be no God,
No life eternal, nought beyond the shroud,
And no uprising from the burial sod,
No Paradise behind the fleeting cloud;
Now have you solved that mystery and know
Whence we have come and whither we must go.



WELCOME TO THE FIRST NEWSLETTER OF 2014

A Happy New Year to all Friends and their families from our Chairman Mr Alan Henshall.

CHRISTMAS AT TREDEGAR HOUSE

The doors of Tredegar House were opened for four weekends commencing 30th November up to 22nd December when the public were welcome to come in and enjoy the special atmosphere re-created at this time of the year by the hard work of all staff, hosts and The Friends of Tredegar House and what a great time everyone had.

The refurbishment of Sir Briggs monument in the cedar garden is complete with the necessary cover in place.

Our Trips coordinator Pam Netherway is planning two trips this year. One full day and the other a half day so please check your Newsletters for further information.

Unfortunately we have had to increase our entrance fee to all Talks due to increased overheads - members £2.00 and non members £3.00.

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 either myself or any other committee member.

Finally, Friends if you have any suggestions, or ideas, or even better still if any of you are interested in helping out with any functions we would love to hear from you.

DAME ROSEMARY BUTLER -

Rosemary was elected as Newport West's first Assembly Member in May 1999 and has been re-elected in each subsequent Assembly election.

In the First Assembly she was appointed as the Minister for pre-16 Education and Children, and chaired the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee, and served as the Deputy Presiding Officer of the National Assembly for Wales before being elected to the position of Presiding Officer of the National Assembly by a unanimous vote of Assembly Members in May 2011.

Dame Rosemary is closely involved with, and a member and president of various committees and organisations and was a founder member of The Friends of Tredegar House



DOREEN CURTIS-SOME MEMOIRS OF TREDEGAR HOUSE CIRCA 1925 – 60.

Many of my earliest memories are of Tredegar House, its parks and lake. From sitting with my grandmother watching the boat on the lake, to the annual Christmas Day Party held in the Servants' Hall of the house, all are memorable events. On Christmas Day the long table would be laden with goodies and loads of crackers and afterwards the adults would dance to music provided by a Cardiff Musician.



My father was a Blacksmith and so I knew most of the staff. I used to visit regularly the housekeeper in her warm comfortable room. One day when I was picking primroses I met the Cook Mrs. Doorer. She invited me to have tea with her and sometimes she or one of the other servants would take me to the Empire Theatre or the Cinema. The Head Gardener had a nice house in the grounds where there were several greenhouses. I used to visit the aviary built by one of the last of the Morgan's which was near the Red Pond.

To the side of the house was a large lake with swans and ducks swimming on its waters. Near to the house was a large stable block and riding school which had the skeleton of a whale on the wall. By the Red Pond, which used to freeze over in winter ready for ice skating, there were wallabies and flamingos.

Just by the lake there was a wooden summerhouse and close to that was the sunken garden with a white gazebo. In the grounds of the house, where the car park is now, was a beautiful cricket pitch with a score board to one side. On the right were two tennis courts and on the opposite side a bowling green, all with seats for spectators. Behind the cricket ground was a rugby pitch. In the pavilion in the yard at the back of the house there was a billiard room. So in winter or summer the staff were never short of sporting activities.

Tredegar had its own kennels and fox hound pack and I used to enjoy going to the Meets held often at the Duffryn Hotel. The Deer Park was at the top end of the common park which bordered Bassaleg.

The Morgan family attended Bassaleg Church for Sunday Worship. To the left of the altar was the family vault. Once the ancestors were removed and re interred in the cemetery this was turned into a small private chapel, which had lovely pews and the most beautiful wall carvings. Evan Morgan was Roman Catholic and attended the R.C. Church on Ebbw Bridge. He was buried at Buckfast Abbey.

There was always such a lot to see on my walks to school through the ruts made by the sheep and along the drive to Bassaleg which was used by the family to go to church in their carriage. I wandered past the busy railway line and the golf course and even saw horses from the Royal Artillery Barracks carrying out training exercises. On a nice Sunday afternoon we would walk to Cleppa Park through the avenue of chestnut trees, by the fishpond down to Bassaleg. Such happy memories of a rural childhood in Tredegar House.

"The full text of this article can be found on our website"

SOCIAL EVENTS

2013 ended with three excellent social events in Tredegar House.

In October we were treated to "The Life and Times of Ivor Novello" which was written and performed by Christine Purkiss. The audience was entertained by interesting and often humorous snippets about the composer's life and could hum along with the many familiar songs written by him including "We'll Gather Lilacs" and "Keep the home fires burning". This was a performance that would have been most enjoyable anywhere, but was so much more special because it was taking place in Tredegar House, where Ivor Novello himself would have played those songs .

In November, the Young Playgoers, based at the Dolman Theatre, gave us a preview of their entry for a Drama competition later this year. It was delightful to see so many talented and committed young people and we were all quickly caught up in their enthusiasm and sense of fun. We wish them success in the competition.

As usual, we celebrated Christmas with carols and readings by Sue Shea in the New Hall. The house, decorated for the Victorian Christmas events looked festive and beautiful and the audience was in good voice as we worked our way through the familiar and much loved carols. Veronica Walsh provided accompaniment on the grand piano and also entertained us with a reading about turkey leftovers! Chris Edmunds was a very jolly MC and created chaos with his version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas". Additional musical contributions were provided by Lesley Reynolds, mezzo soprano, Tony Reynolds, tenor and Danielle Grubb, mezzo soprano, all members of one very talented family.

At the end of each of these events we were provided with a drink and nibbles in the Side Hall where we had chance to meet up with old friends and catch up on the news of the House. Please check this newsletter for information about events in the early part of this year. Do come along and join us.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday December 10th we held the Annual Childrens' Christmas Party. The excitement of the day intensified as 50 children from Duffryn Primary School marched into the beautifully decorated Servants' Hall where Mr Chips was waiting to entertain them. Lots of fun was had with noisy audience participation including plate spinning and magic tricks galore.

Then it was time for the sit down Christmas feast. Lots of delicious finger nibbles to appeal to young appetites, all having been planned and put together by Gene, assisted by her helpers of the day. Feasting over, Father Christmas presented each child with a gift, then it was out into a clear winter afternoon to enjoy their balloons, presents and happy memories of a wonderful day but, before leaving they went back into the Servants' Hall all sat on the floor and sang Christmas carols.



Children's Party