

## FOR YOUR DIARY TALKS

Wednesday 10th September 2014

Speaker - Marion Davies

Subject - Life in the Seventeenth Century

Commencing at 7.30pm in the  
Morgan Room at Tredegar House

Wednesday 8th October 2014

Speaker - Paul Busby

Subject - Wait and see!!!

Talk in Morgan Room at Tredegar House

Commencing at 7.30pm

## ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday 24th September

Musical Evening at

St. Joseph's RC High School, Newport

Commencing at 7.30pm

Artists - see insert for details

Tickets £8.50 pp

## BALACLAVA SUPPER

Saturday 25th October

Commencing at 7.00pm in the  
Morgan Room at Tredegar House

See insert for further information

Tickets £18.00 pp

## HALF DAY TRIP IN SEPTEMBER

Cancelled due to lack of interest

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2014/2015

Ken & Ynys Edwards, Clive Hard,  
Ruth Knight, Paddy Landers, Michele Lewis,  
Gene Mills, Pam Netherway, Sue Powell,  
Wilma Shandall and Julie Wilson

## OFFICERS

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

## EASTER BONNET PARADE, EASTER SATURDAY 2014 –

Michele Lewis

Easter Saturday didn't live up to its Spring Promise, that day it was cold and very windy but at least the sun shone through. I had been asked to judge part of the Easter Bonnet competition which was run by the National Trust, over the three day Easter weekend.

When I arrived in the Servants' Hall the children were gathered along the table with various National Trust and Friends Volunteers. They all seemed very busy and engrossed in what they were doing. But no one seemed to be making hats! One of the volunteers was helping some children put together the paper hats that had been donated by Cadbury and then one of the helpers had a brilliant and simple idea for a bonnet. As the children came into the room I pounced, telling them all that they could win a prize if they entered the competition. Soon about a dozen were beavering away at their own hats, taking my own chicken decorated hat as an example.

They worked very hard and at 1.30pm I called them to stand in line and in a very short space of time these bright children had produced some really great examples. There were hats with feathers and hats with stickers, hats that were crayoned and coloured in, hats covered in drawings, and it was truly difficult to choose. But one bright spark Chloe had produced a hat that was magnificent in its feathers and colours. She had made it with help from the volunteers and a willing mum in less than an hour.

I thanked the children for their colourful offerings, gave them all a chocolate bunny and let the winner choose a small soft toy. As I left the Hall I told them all to enter for the next competition and try to win another bunny! They all enjoyed it very much and as I left still wearing my Bonnet, I told every child about it and encouraged them to make a hat. One of the mothers stopped me on the way out to tell me how much her three children enjoyed it and said they would definitely enter again. It was a lovely afternoon and the children's smiles brightened my day.

## PIRATES DAY – Rosemary Jackson

We could not have asked for better weather on the May Bank Holiday for the annual Pirates Day and it was lovely to see so many people sitting out and enjoying the gardens in the sunshine with the children and some adults entering into the spirit of the day dressed as pirates. The Friends had an excellent position just within the walls in the Cedar Garden. We had two games – one was "find the treasure" the other one was a new venture – boules, which proved a very popular family game we made £30.40 from these two activities. A lot of interest was shown in our display about the history of the House, the Morgans, the work of the Friends and we were successful in recruiting two new members.



Here we are in the Cedar Garden at Tredegar House to commemorate the refurbishment of the gravestone to Newport's very own Warhorse, Sir Briggs.

The inscription on the stone reads:

In Memory of Sir Briggs

Favourite charger. He carried his master the Hon. Godfrey Morgan, Captain 17th Lancers boldly and well at the Battle of Alma, in the first line of the Light Cavalry Charge at Balaclava and the battle of Inkerman, 1854. He died at Tredegar Park February 6th 1874. Aged 28 years.

Sir Briggs was bought in 1851, in the same year he won the hunt Steeple Chase at Cowbridge. When the Crimea war broke out, many horses were shipped from Britain.

Sir Briggs, along with another 4 horses began his journey from Portsmouth in 1854 on board the sailing ship "Edmundsbury". Captain Godfrey Morgan brought 4 horses abroad. All the animals suffered very badly from seasickness on the journey. In a letter written off Cape Vincent on 3rd May 1854, Godfrey – a true horseman writes....

"We were lucky in getting across the greater part of the bay of Biscay but just as we were leaving it we encountered a heavy gale. My first real gale at sea, a truly awful sight, with 40 horses on board kicking and plunging, and dashing themselves to pieces. I spent till midnight down in the hold with them, trying to arrange them and quiet them."

Many died on the journey and were thrown overboard, including one of Godfrey's favourite chargers. A depleted number of horses arrived fit for battle. The exact numbers taking part in the charge is controversial, and put between 661 and 673. After the charge only 195 came back. Sir Briggs received a sabre cut to the forehead.

Godfrey Morgan became sick and returned to Constantinople. Sir Briggs remained in the Crimea with Godfrey's brother Frederick Morgan, who wrote to his mother from the Front -

"Tell my father I intend to keep Sir Briggs unless Godfrey writes to have him sent home, as I want a good horse on the Staff."

In 1855 Sir Briggs returned to Tredegar House, where he lived a well-deserved quiet life for the rest of his days. When he died, Godfrey had this memorial erected to his brave horse and steadfast companion.

As 2014 marks the 160th anniversary of the battle of Balaclava during which Godfrey rode Sir Briggs in the Charge of the Light Brigade, The Friends of Tredegar House decided to pay for the restoration of this monument in the cedar garden. The Friends of Tredegar House were assisted by a very generous donation from Tovey Bros, the Newport funeral Directors, who recently celebrated their one hundred and fiftieth anniversary.



**MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN  
MR ALAN HENSHALL**

It is hard to believe that this is my second year as Chairman of the Friends time does fly.

Co-operation between the Friends and the National Trust continues to grow stronger and many more of the Friends now Host at Tredegar House and thoroughly enjoy the experience of meeting the public and spreading the word of the history of the Friends.

One initiative that was unable to be taken forward as we would have liked last year was the possibility of a link with the students of the Department of History in the University of Wales, Newport but, this is an ongoing project.

It is possible that some of you are away and will not have heard of the two large events happening towards the end of 2014. A Musical evening will be performed by the New Harmony Singers and supporting artists in September. End of October a Balaclava dinner to celebrate the 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Balaclava. Your support for both functions is essential to make sure they actually happen.

Many thanks to those members who helped out at Tredegar House on the weekend of 25th and 26th May (Pirates Day) to promote the Friends. Finally, I would like personally to thank Judith for all the support and help she has given me during the last 12 months.

**EXTRACT FROM OUR ARCHIVES - NEWSLETTER JULY 1991**

**FLOODLIGHTING -**

As the result of an offer by The Friends we meet installation costs, Leisure Services and the staff at Tredegar House has found it possible to satisfy a long felt wish to floodlight the 17cc north-west façade of the House. Some 80 people from the Civic Centre, various local organisations The Friends committee responded to the invitation by the curator to attend the official switch-on by the Chairman (Mr I.S. Burge) at a ceremony held on 26th March. The event was the subject of a report appearing the following evening in the South Wales Argus which featured an excellent photograph of the illuminated elevations, now clearly visible at night from the nearby M4 motorway.

We have applied to South Wales Electricity for a sponsorship award towards the total cost which came to £1,900.00.

**NEWSLETTER JULY 1992**

In September CFCF TV of Montreal were filming in the gardens of the House for the "Travel, travel Show", Canada's equivalent to our "Wish you were Here"

**THE TREDEGAR ESTATE AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR -  
Steffan Ellis – 2014**

The beginning of the Twentieth Century saw little change for the Tredegar Estate. Godfrey Morgan had been Lord Tredegar since 1874, and under him Tredegar saw a long period of stability and wealth.

In 1913 all this changed. Godfrey Morgan died at the age of 81. He had no children and his brother, Frederick, who would have succeeded him, had died four years previously. Godfrey's nephew, Courtenay Charles Evan Morgan, would now inherit everything.

Courtenay had married Lady Katharine, daughter of the 9th Earl of Southesk in 1890. They had two children; Evan Frederic and Gwyneth Ericka. It was not a happy marriage and by the time Courtenay succeeded his Uncle Godfrey, Katharine had made it obvious that the family seat would not be a home to her. Courtenay's inheritance was not straight forward. Following his father's death, he had a large death duty bill. By 1913 the law had changed again and the duty to pay on the Estate left by Godfrey was enormous. However, it seemed to have little effect on Courtenay's extravagance.

Courtenay moved to the family seat at Tredegar Park and decided to make some changes. More servants were needed it seems.

William Sayzeland first worked for Courtenay in London and became his Valet. When Courtenay moved into Tredegar House, so did William. Oliver Seyama arrived at Tredegar House in 1913 as Second Journeyman at the age of 17. Lily Ann Clark was a local girl, her father was a groom at the Coedkernew Stud Farm, but died when she was young. The old Viscount had allowed the family to continue living as tenants at their cottage for a peppercorn rent. In 1913 she began work at Tredegar House as the Fifth Housemaid. Jack Evans' father, George, was a groom at the Stud Farm and Jack began working with his father. He soon after became a chauffeur to Courtenay and was working at Tredegar House in 1913.

Although Godfrey had spent most of his time at Tredegar House, Courtenay and his family regarded it more as the Country seat from which to retire from 'town'. They weren't present when the old wing was damaged by fire. In 1914 the old town house at 39, Portman Square was put on the market and a lease was taken out on a property at 45 Grosvenor Square. Another house at Bryanston would later find a more practical use than just keeping the unhappy couple apart. Courtenay took to messing about in boats when he bought himself a large ocean going steam yacht called the Liberty.

The Liberty certainly provided the new Lord Tredegar with much welcome distraction. When the new lock for the Alexandra Docks was opened in July, the ceremony was conducted on the Liberty by Prince Arthur of Connaught. Even Courtenay's son Evan was on board for it. Just a few weeks later the Liberty would be handed over to the Admiralty.

**TO BE CONTINUED....**