

FOR YOUR DIARY TALKS 2015

WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

Speaker - Bryher Mason

Subject - Tredegar; Dark Days and Golden Ages
Bryher Mason, Conservation Plan Consultant reveals the many layers of the Tredegar story.

This illustrated talk shows how Tredegar House changed over the centuries and how what we see today was deeply affected by the changing fortunes of the Morgan family.

Morgan Room at Tredegar House
Commencing at 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH

Speaker - Timothy Ryan

Subject - History of the Severn Ferries 1931-1966 when the Severn Bridge was opened.

This illustrated talks is shown on a cine film (copied to dvd) of the ferries, the old cars, the bridge being built etc.etc.

Morgan Room at Tredegar House
Commencing at 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL

Speaker - Monty Dart

Subject - "The Case that Changed the Law" true story of a foster child from Newport.

"Some years ago a young man from Newport, Tom O'Neill was studying to be a social worker.

As part of his research he looked up historic cases of cruelty towards children. One case he came across was about two young brothers who had been fostered out by Newport Council.

" (come to this talk and find out more)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 30TH APRIL 2015

Commencing at 7.00pm in the Morgan Room at Tredegar House Speaker - T.B.C.

THE TREDEGAR ESTATE FIRST WORLD WAR - STEFFAN ELLIS - 2014

Back at Tredegar Park, things had been rather quiet. Too quiet for some people. With hardly any of the family ever in residence, the five housemaids found their duties less than demanding, and for Lily Ann Clark it was boring. She gave her notice and went to work in the local Post Office instead. She still visited Tredegar Park and went to see a cricket match there where she met a young officer on leave, Lieutenant Harris and they were eventually married. This wartime meeting turned Lily Ann's world on its head.

If inside the House things were quiet, outside was getting busier. There were food shortages. Thousands queued for food in Newport, some people were on the verge of rioting and food production had to increase. The Womens Land Army was part of the answer. At Home Farm, a number of women were being trained in general farm work and milking. They were paid three shillings a day for 9 hours with lectures in the evening. Lord Tredegar was willing to let them go to farms in the area requiring their services.

By now Lord Tredegar's time with the Royal Naval Division had come to an end. There were cadet training weekends at Tredegar Park, and inspections of naval recruitment activities, but basically his war was over by 1918. Evan was in North Africa and had been promoted to full Lieutenant.

Gwyneth had entered the war briefly too. The creation of the Wrens attracted her as a modern woman and she signed up to be an Admiralty driver on the 16th of September 1918. She went on sick leave on the 28th and was discharged as medically unfit on the 6th of November.

Five days later the War was over.

Slowly, those who had survived began to return to the Tredegar Estate. Jack Evans returned from his POW hell, Oliver Seyama made it through nearly five years of service and worked at Tredegar until 1973. William Ford, gentleman's gardener at Belle Vue was welcomed back by Mr Foster Steadman and was given a ten pound cheque.

Many probably hoped that with the War over, the Estate could get back to things the way they had been. However, things at the Tredegar Estate would never be the same again.

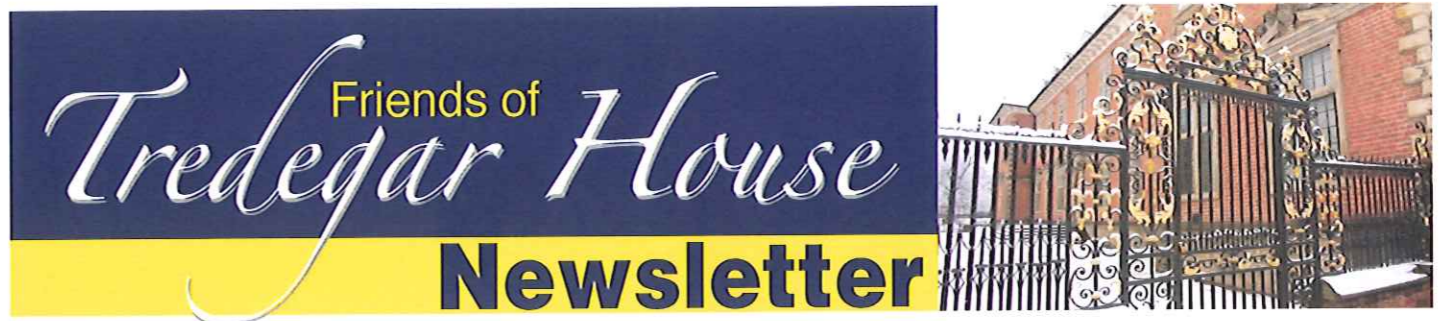
WELCOME TO THE FIRST NEWSLETTER OF 2015

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

Once again this year Tredegar House was opened for four weekends commencing 29th November up to 21st December for the public to enjoy the special atmosphere re-created at this time of the year. The theme this year was "Christmas Carol" with scrooge located in his counting house in the Brown Room. Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future roamed throughout the House causing quite a stir!!

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.

With sadness I have to announce the death of Ms Judy Pardoe who passed away earlier this year leaving a legacy of £2,000 for the Friends of Tredegar House. Also Mrs Jacque George who passed away on 30th November one of our long serving members.



GALA EVENING - Paddy Landers

The annual Gala Evening held in September, was a great success, despite disappointing numbers attending. The choir, New Harmony Singers delighted us with a varied and entertaining programme which ranged from Queen to Leonard Bernstein. Their final song was a rendition of the Bach-Gounod "Ave Maria" by the women, while the men sang the Bachelors' "I Believe". A most impressive and tuneful feat.



We were also entertained by the newly formed Duffryn Primary School Taiko drummers who displayed great enthusiasm and rhythm. There was no doubt that these young people were having fun and displayed considerable skill and discipline.

Lorna Pearson was as always, very funny and quickly reduced her audience to gales of laughter. She showed a wonderful sense of the absurd and an ability to find humour in the strangest of situations. Chris Edmunds acted as compere and was most impressive in the role.

We would like to thank all those who took part and those who attended, helping to make it such an enjoyable social event. A big thank you also to St. Joseph's High School for hosting the concert.

BATTLE OF BALACLAVA DINNER - Jean Watkins



On Saturday 25th October 2014 the Friends held a dinner, in the Morgan Room of Tredegar House, in honour of the Anniversary of the Battle of Balaclava. It was a great night with over fifty people attending. Special guests were invited which included the Mayor and Mayoress of Newport (Cllr Mathew Evans & Mrs Tina Evans) also Dr. Norman Mills and Cllr Trevor Watkins of Tredegar Park Ward.

Dr Norman Mills opened the evening by reading verses from Gwilym's Garden written by "Gwilym Maesaleg" and we called it "The Balaclava Dinner."

The meal provided by the National Trust was excellent and enjoyed by everyone. Congratulations must go to the catering staff for the good service they provided, and meals being served hot and efficiently.

After dinner Dr N. Mills read a wonderful piece from Rudyard Kipling called the "Last of the Light Brigade", The Mayor of Newport proposed a toast to the Light Brigade and Cllr Trevor Watkins responded. Mr John Henshall proposed a toast to the Friends of Tredegar House and Dr. Mills responded.

Cllr Cliff Suller thanked the Friends for the hard work that was put into the evening's celebration.

A raffle took place at the end of a lovely evening and selected raffle tickets were hidden under the tables for the flower arrangements on their table. Also a special raffle was held for a bottle of whiskey and some very elegant photographs of the Battle of Balaclava provided by Sue Powell. This part of the evening was enjoyed by all guests. A thank you was given to Mrs J. Rice and her team who worked very hard to make this evening special, also thanks must go to Friends of Tredegar House and their guests for the support of this memorable occasion.

Our Amazing Mary

Cynthia Mary Courtney 01/07/1912 – 13/11/2014



Mary was born on 1st July 1912, at Old Castle Farm St Dogmaels Cardigan, to Bert & Tilly Michael; she had two brothers Parry and Alec. The family moved to Newport when Mary was two years old, to York Place and she was a pupil at St. Woolos School and worshipped at St Woolos Cathedral. Mary became a nurse and worked at St. Woolos, Royal Gwent & Pontypool Hospitals. She met her husband at a dance and they married in 1936. They had four children, Pat, followed by Ruth in 1938, Mike in 1942 and Jeff in 1945.

Sadly Leslie died of cancer on 16th December 1959 and Mary needed to return to work to support the family. She worked in Private Homes and then did night duty at Belle Vue Nursing home. This change made it possible for Mary to go back to doing the charity work she so enjoyed including; auctioning at jumble sales for Scouts & Guides, helping at the RSPCA Clinic and the Oxfam shop (until she was 90) She was also an instigator of Newport Mind Group. She helped with Meals on Wheels for the WRVS, volunteered in the Royal Gwent Information Kiosk and the cafeteria at the Magistrate's Court. She worked with Autistic children, the NSPCC, Church of England Children's Home, British Red Cross and in 2013 aged 101 she was still selling poppies at Aneurin Bevan Court.

In June 1996 Mary's work for charities was recognised by being awarded the M.B.E. by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. At the time Mary was living in Maesglas Avenue and attended St. Thomas Church where she officially opened the Jubilee Room. She was a Councillor for Shaftsbury Ward; one of the founder members of The Friends of Tredegar House and a member of Newport Friendship Group.

In 2008 Mary moved to Aneurin Bevan Court where she quickly became involved in all the activities including acting as Mother Christmas until 2013. On the occasion of her 101st Birthday and as the oldest honorary member of the Friends of Tredegar House Mary was asked to present the Mayor of Newport Councillor Cliff Seller with a cigar cutter which was originally given to Viscount Godfrey Morgan of Tredegar house when he opened Newport Transporter Bridge on September 13th 1906

All her life Mary loved being among people and would encourage guests to join in with the entertainment. She loved dressing up for fancy dress events including Red Nose Day, Halloween and Christmas at Tredegar House and the famous Easter Bonnet Parade at Aneurin Bevin Court. Thankfully the family have many photographs capturing these times.

Mary put her longevity down to 3 spoons of sugar in tea or coffee, a tot of whiskey and Sanatogen Tonic Wine together with keeping smiling. She was a role model for her 6 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren and her numerous friends in her various roles volunteering for charity. She has passed her strength, courage and determination on to them all, a truly amazing example to the many people she met.

Goodnight, God Bless Mum, Grandma, Great-Grandma, Auntie and friend to us all



REUNITED -

August 15th 2013 a day I will always remember the beginning of my contact with Elizabeth Rasmussen from the U.S.A. Through a series of emails Elizabeth informed me that her brother had visited Tredegar House and seen a photograph of my grandfather John Evans (The Chauffeur on the wall). We were able to make contact through Annie Parker on the Friends site. Elizabeth's grandmother was John's sister Lucy who married William Lyons and had five children including Hayden –Elizabeth's father.

I mentioned to Elizabeth about Monty's forthcoming talk on June 11th on the Servants of Tredegar House. Elizabeth and Paul were able to coincide their visit to Newport with the date of the talk. I was able to travel up from Dorset and her brother came from Bristol and we were able to meet for the first time. We all enjoyed the wonderful talk given by Monty which she illustrated with some of my pictures.

The next day we visited the actual house where my grandfather had lived and were invited in by the lease holders The National Trust. That afternoon we topped our visit with a tour of Tredegar House. What a wonderful two days.

The full text of this article will appear online at the "Friends" website

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY - Pam Netherway

On a bright winter's day we met in The Servants' hall to prepare the 2014 Christmas Party for 60 children from year 2 of Duffryn Infants School. A glittering Christmas tree stood waiting to greet our guests, whilst Gene and her helpers prepared the tables and party food. Mr Chips and his magical equipment arrived prior to the children and their teachers and so began the afternoons festivities.

Amid much laughter and noise, plate spinning, magic tricks and jokes the excited audience were enthralled until it was time to eat the plentiful goodies set out on the tables. When everyone had eaten their fill and indeed the table had been emptied of party food, it was time for a Christmas story given by Aunty Jean around the Christmas tree in the Parlour. Afterwards it was time to visit Father Christmas and the wonderful presents he had for each child.

As the children left the House for their buses it was agreed that a glorious afternoon was had by all.



MISS JUDITH LILIAN PARDOE -

Miss Pardoe was born on 11th November 1939 in Pontymister where she was to live for the whole of her life.

Her first job was at Magor St. Mellons when Judy was sixteen years old and she continued to work in local government at the RDC until her retirement. Judy contracted polio at an early age which affected her left hand but despite this she was a remarkably talented crafter raising thousand of pounds for the St. David's Foundation through her beautiful cards and other items.

Judy had been a Friend of Tredegar House for many years, enjoying the talks and seasonal events that are held there. It was one of her favourite places to visit which is why she was keen to bequeath a sum of money to the Friends. Judy died in January 2014 after a short illness and has been sorely missed by everyone who knew her.