

Tredegar Town Clock 150th Birthday and NHS 60th Anniversary

2008 was a momentous year for Tredegar with two of its Greatest achievements celebrating important dates - **150th Birthday of our Town Clock** and **60th Anniversary of the NHS**.

Of course these important achievements, which Tredegar people are so proud of, needed the recognition they deserved and by working with local groups and Unison Tredegar Town Council hoped to give them worthy accolade.

A diary of free events to celebrate both achievements was compiled and before we go into further details we feel this is the appropriate time to give all those who worked hard to set up these events or offered sponsorship to receive a resounding **BIG THANK YOU** from Tredegar Town Council:-

Caparo Tubes; UNISON; Laing O'Rourke; Tredegar Communities 1st Central & West; Catapult; Christians Together; Tredegar Comprehensive School and School Choir; Tredegar Town Band; Tredegar Corps of Drum; Tredegar (Mons) & District Canine Society; All Tredegar Primary Schools; Tredegar Camera Club; Patrick Jones; The Red Choir; Tredegar Fire Fighters; Tredegar Business Forum; Bethan Cartwright, Town Centre Manager; Tredegar Amateur Boxing Club; and all local organisations who participated in the Park Bazaar. Please accept our apologies if we have missed anyone off our list.

Town Clock, the BIG 150 Celebrations

June was the month of celebrating the 150th Birthday of our wonderful Town Clock and it was kick started on 14th by the Tredegar Camera Club exhibition in Castle Street. It must be said that these amateur photographers are world class with some amazing photographs of our Town on display for all to see free of charge. The foot fall over the two weeks was a constant stream and praise was duly given by all.

20th June was the official unveiling of the Town Clock Mosaic produced by Tredegar Comprehensive pupils. This mosaic has been sited in the walkway between Commercial Street and the car park at the rear of Commercial Street. The final piece was added to the mosaic at the unveiling by the then Town Mayor, Cllr John Morgan and the ceremony was closed with musical entertainment from Tredegar Comprehensive Choir. Also during the day a craft fair was held in the town.

21st June was Birthday Party day and even though the weather was miserable we still had the bunting up through town ready to celebrate. It all started with a parade, led by Tredegar Corps of Drums and Tredegar Town Band, from St. Georges Church to the Clock to sing Happy Birthday and carry out the Ceremonial Door Unlocking with Balloon Race release. From here it was off to Bedwellty Park for further entertainment from Tredegar Town Band; Welsh Dancing display by Bryn Bach Primary; and in Bedwellty house itself was a display of Town Clock memorabilia plus Artwork from the local Primary Schools. Activities continued through the Park with a Dog Show by Tredegar (Mon.) & District Canine Society and a re-enactment of the Bazaar - thanks to local associations who setup stalls to promote their associations.

22nd June was set for an afternoon of resounding singing in the Circle thanks to Christians Together who organised "Songs of Praise". The Service was joyous as the sound of Tredegar Town Band and the glorious singing filled the air.

The weather finally got the better of the celebrations and it became necessary to delay the final event until 21st September which turned out to be a gloriously sunny day. This event was a walking carnival organised by Catapult. It started at St. George's Church, led by the Carnival Queen and Princesses, and finished at Bedwellty Park which was donned with colourful bunting. The day was aimed to be a family fun day with bouncy castles; displays by Caperia Martial Arts & Tredegar Amateur Boxing Club; Kidz'R'Us performance; musical

entertainment by DJ Tony; Fire Brigade; once again displays in Bedwellty House and stalls around the outside. Plenty of food and drinks were available on the day thanks to local associations such as Tredegar Youth Café and Tredegar Round Table.

NHS 60th Anniversary 1948 - 2008

July was the month of celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the NHS and it all began on 4th with Bedwellty House being the focal point for the events that day, what a busy day! This was the starting point for the Vintage Bus Tours of the Aneurin Bevan Trail; commentary was by voluntary local tourism guide John Morgan and bus supplied by Re-Liance Bus Preservation Group. The House itself was home for the day to BBC Radio Wales who broadcast two live shows - the Richard Evans Show (live NHS debate) and the Roy Noble Show. The evening saw a change in venue and it was off to Tredegar Comprehensive School Hall for a "Question Time Seminar - The NHS Past, Present and Future". This was a lively debate between the panel members which consisted of Wayne David MP, Dai Davies MP, Dr Dai Lloyd AM, John Lister, Jayne Medlicott MBE, Paul Smith, Julian Hart, Edward Coyle and Marilyn Pitman - a diversity of people whose experiences and qualifications covered the full spectrum of medicine and NHS services.

5th July was the official unveiling of a new stone at Aneurin Bevan Stones, Sirhowy. The stone, with plaque, was positioned by the parking area so as not to distract from the existing monument. The unveiling was carried out by Edwina Hart MBE AM Minister for Health who spoke of the wonderful service given by the NHS over the years. This was followed by a message from Michael Foot - read by Megan Fox; poetry by Patrick Jones and musical entertainment from Tredegar Comprehensive School Choir and Tredegar Town Band. We were delighted and honoured to be joined by Aneura Thomas for the event, this lovely lady was the first baby to be born under the NHS. Unfortunately as the weather turned it became necessary to move the celebrations to Tredegar Leisure Centre where the entertainment continued thanks to The Red Choir and a local rock group.

Tredegar General Hospital was another focal point for the celebrations and during 1st - 11th July Communities 1st held an exhibition "Diseases in Tredegar Past & Present" plus workshops on "Medicines through the Ages".

All these free events would not have taken place without the help and support of not just local associations but also Tredegar residents who braved the elements to show their support - THANK YOU ALL.