



Wales SOUTHERN

# Locally Themed Talks and Dinner Venues Guide

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## **Southern Wales Themed Talks and Dinner Venue Guide**

### How to use this guide

The information contained in this themed guide for Southern Wales covers all types of talks on Arts and Crafts – Wye Valley History – the Morgan Family – 17<sup>th</sup> Century Living – Countryside Management – Conservation - Heritage – Roman Society – Gardens - Welsh Food and Drink – Antique Quilting – King Arthur – Architecture – Cricket in Wales – Alexander Cordell and suggests a selection of dinner venues where these talks can take place.

The talks and dinner venues on offer are a sample of what is on offer in this region of Wales and should be utilised to give you an idea of the depth of subjects available for your clients and groups while staying in Southern Wales

For further suggestions on dining locations read the Refreshment and Meal Stops guide.

**All the businesses listed are willing to work with the travel trade** and should be contacted on an individual basis if you would like further information or to make a booking.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this publication, Southern Wales Tourism can accept no liability whatsoever for any errors, inaccuracies or omissions, or for any matter in any way connected with or arising out of the publication of the information. Please check all facilities before making your booking.

Southern Wales Tourism is supported by the local authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Cardiff, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen and Vale of Glamorgan and Capital Region Tourism.



## Locally Themed Talks and Dinner Venues in Southern Wales

### **Abbey Mill Tintern**

**Contact:** Shelley Rastall

**T. +44 ( 0) 1291 689228**

**E:** info@abbeymill.com

**W. www.abbeymill.com**

**P. NP16 6SE**

**Talks and Dinner Venue:** Can cater for groups and coaches and offer a range of packages to suit different requirements all with local/welsh food in mind where possible. Menus and packages available on request

Licensed Coffee House and Restaurant, home cooked cakes and Welsh specialities including Abbey Mill's famous 'Mill Wheel' teacake. Renowned for their fine salads and traditional dishes.

Relax and enjoy the view from the conservatory Coffee House overlooking the trout pond. Large Cider Barn Restaurant and an unique old beamed function room for private parties. Meals available all day.

Local interest talks on the area, the river, history of the area including Tintern Abbey

### **Tredegar House, Newport**

**Contact:** Anne Tame

**T. +44 ( 0) 1633 815880**

**E. tredegar.house@newport.gov.uk**

**W. www.newport.gov.uk**

**P. NP10 8YW**

Tredegar House is one of the architectural wonders of Wales and one of the most significant late seventeenth century houses in the whole of the British Isles.

For over five hundred years it was the home to one of the greatest Welsh families, the Morgan's, later Lords Tredegar. All the rooms have been restored and reflect the rise and fall of the Morgan family. Meet Sir Henry Morgan the notorious pirate, Godfry the second Lord Tredegar who survived the Charge of the Light Brigade, his horse is buried in the gardens and Viscount Evan who kept a menagerie of animals including a boxing kangaroo.

**Talks and Dinner Venue:** Special group offers, spooky, garden, butler and housekeeper, antique and quilt tours all available. Menus available for lunch and dinner

**Craft Workshops** – musical instruments, stained glass, leather work, pottery and textiles.

**Gardens** – discover walled gardens and the beautiful orangery

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## **The Hill, Abergavenny**

**Contact:** Allison Werner

**T. +44 (0) 1495 333777**

**E. hill@coleggwent.ac.uk**

**W. www.thehillabergavenny.co.uk**

**P. NP7 7RP**

**Talks and Dinner Venue** If brushing up on your languages is something you've been keen to do, or if you've always wanted to explore the great outdoors, then look no further than The Hill Education & Conference Centre in Abergavenny. Here at The Hill, there are plenty of courses and talks for you to choose from. It's full of opportunities for everyone to gain new skills, update existing ones or learn something new.

You'll find lots of information about the various options from History to Health and from Languages to Local Heritage. Excellent facilities with experienced and qualified staff leading the talks / courses. For the artists amongst you, you can enjoy the challenge of watercolours, explore making your own embroidery cards and look forward to spring with flowers. If health and well being is more your thing, then why not try out aromatherapy or making sense of nutrition, or if you're a budding musician, then singing or guitar for beginners could interest you. Courses and talks are available on both a residential and non residential basis and set in peaceful gardens, studying at The Hill offers you the ideal chance to relax with new or old friends. We also provide top class dining facilities and 48 comfortable en suite bedrooms that can accommodate up to 65 people.

## **Fonmon Castle, Fonmon, Vale of Glamorgan**

**Contact:** Sophie Katzi,

**T. +44 (0) 1446 710206**

**E. sophie@fonmoncastle.fsnet.co.uk**

**P. CF62 3ZN**

**Talks and Dinner Venue:** Combines the tradition of a castle and the ambience of a family home. Welsh ingredients and Welsh recipes used in the Lunch and dinner menus that are available for groups. Any entertainment can be arranged including Sir Brooke Boothby the owner of Fonmon Castle  
Coach parking available.

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## **Parc Bryn Bach, Tredegar, Blaenau Gwent**

**Contact:** Jon Kirvell

**T.** +44 (0) 1495 711816

**E.** [parcbrynbach@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:parcbrynbach@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

**P.** NP22 3AY

**Talks:** History and Heritage talks, information on a wide range of outdoor activities and conservation issues.

## **The Bell Inn, Caerleon**

**Contact:** Tony and Ceri Willicombe.

**T.** +44 (0) 01633 420613.

**W.** [www.thebellatcaerleon.co.uk](http://www.thebellatcaerleon.co.uk)

**E.** [the-bell-inn@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:the-bell-inn@hotmail.co.uk)

**P.** NP18 1QQ

**Dinner Venue:** Offers Welsh and Breton-influenced dishes, sample menus are on the website, they also have regular entertainment such as poets and pints, Welsh music etc, (see website)

## **Friends of the Transporter Bridge**

**Contact:** Anne Gatehouse

**T.** +44 (0) 1633 781612

**E.** [secretary@fontb.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fontb.org.uk)

**W.** [www.fontb.org.uk](http://www.fontb.org.uk)

**P.** NP20 5LA

Designed by Ferdinand Arnodin, opened in 1906. Completely restored, a gondola carries vehicles and pedestrians across the river without obstructing shipping. Visitor Centre.

**Talks:** On the history of the transporter bridge, its restoration and what the future holds for this iconic bridge

## **Caerleon – Roman Legionary Museum**

**Contact:** Dai Price

**T.** +44 (0) 1633 423134

**E.** [roman@nmgw.ac.uk](mailto:roman@nmgw.ac.uk)

**W.** [www.nmgw.ac.uk](http://www.nmgw.ac.uk)

**P.** NP18 1AE

**Talks:** Roman medicine, Roman Food and Gardens, the gods of the Romans and Celts and Museum Conservation .

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## **Dyffryn Gardens**

**Contact:** Gerry Donovan

**T. +44 ( 0) 29 2059 3328**

**W. [www.valeofglamorgan.co.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.co.uk)**

**P. CF5 6SU**

Set in the heart of the picturesque Vale of Glamorgan, Dyffryn Gardens is set in 55 acres of glorious countryside there are 30 distinctively themed areas and an exceptional arboretum which contains many rare trees. A programme of events run throughout the summer months. Restaurant facilities available.

### **Talks and Dinner Venue:**

An interesting story regarding how the gardens were re-established.

## **Heritage Officer – Blaenau Gwent**

**Contact:** Alyson Tippings

**T. +44 ( 0) 1495 355937**

**E. [alyson.tippings@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:alyson.tippings@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)**

### **Talks:**

Various talks on the history and heritage of Tredegar and Ebbw Vale.

## **Greenmeadow Community Farm and Llanyfron Mill**

**Contact:** Kate Holly

**T. +44 ( 0) 1633 862202**

**E. [Kate.Holly@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.Holly@torfaen.gov.uk)**

**W. [www.visittorfaen.co.uk](http://www.visittorfaen.co.uk)**

**P. NP44 5AJ**

**Talks:** Can be arranged on a variety of subjects including dry stone walling, countryside management, local foods and drinks, history of the area, the farmhouse and Llanyfron Mill.

## **Llancaiach Fawr Manor**

**Contact:** Diane Walker

**T. +44 ( 0) 1443 412248**

**Web: [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/visiting](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/visiting)**

**P. CF46 6ER**

**Talks:** Talks and demonstrations on rural and traditional skills, mediumship, antique quilting, military matters of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, archaeology, rare and unusual plants, ghost tours, introduction to paranormal research and ghost watch, tree dressing and wassailing.

## **King Arthur Fairy Tale or Real?**

**Contact:** John Wake

**T. +44 ( 0)7989 033227**

**E. [john@wales-tours.com](mailto:john@wales-tours.com)**

**W. [www.wales-tours.com](http://www.wales-tours.com)**

**Talks:** King Arthur / Merlin and the Dark Ages.

A Detective Investigates. (A day or two in South Wales)

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## **Cardiff Bay Tours**

**Contact:** Carol Townsend

**T.** +44 ( 0) 2920 707882

**E.** [cardiffbaytours@hotmail.com](mailto:cardiffbaytours@hotmail.com)

**W.** [www.cardiffbaytours.com](http://www.cardiffbaytours.com) [www.cardiffbayroadtrain.com](http://www.cardiffbayroadtrain.com)

**Talks:** Can be arranged for groups aboard the boat or road train in Cardiff Bay. Subjects covered would be Cardiff/Cardiff Bay including heritage, arts, architecture, regeneration, Barrage. etc. (Past, present and future).

## **Flat Holm Island**

**Contact:** Natalie Taylor

**T.** +44 ( 0) 29 20 353 917

**E.** [NaTaylor@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:NaTaylor@cardiff.gov.uk)

**W.** [www.flatholmisland.com](http://www.flatholmisland.com)

### **Talks:**

On the History and Wildlife of Flat Holm Island, providing an insight into the wealth of history including aspects of the early Danish invaders, St Cadoc, Farming, Smuggling, Victorian Fortifications, World War II Fortifications, Cholera hospital, Marconi, Lighthouse and Fog Horn, etc and how the island is now managed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, historic site and visitor attraction.

Open March to October for day and overnight visitors and can provide guided tours of the island. Available All Year

## **Glamorgan Cricket**

**Contact:** Dr. Andrew Hignell

**T.** +44 ( 0) 02920 419383

**E.** [higgers@glamorgancricket.co.uk](mailto:higgers@glamorgancricket.co.uk)

**W.** [www.glamorgancricket.co.uk](http://www.glamorgancricket.co.uk)

**P.** CF11 9XR

**Talks:** Programme of tours around the SWALEC Stadium in Cardiff (which will host the 1<sup>st</sup> Ashes Test in 2009 between England and Australia) also provide talks on a range of topics including the history of cricket in Wales, the history of Glamorgan CCC, and sporting facilities in Cardiff.

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## Alexandra Cordell Country

### Contacts:

**Ivor Beynon**, ABERTILLERY

**T:** 01495 320020 M: 07787 731 209 E: [ivorguide@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ivorguide@yahoo.co.uk)

**David Hughes** (qualified German language guide) BANBURY

**T:** 01295 780 506 M: 07770 414763 E: [ddavhug@aol.com](mailto:ddavhug@aol.com)

**John Morgan** TREDEGAR

**T:** 01495 726 682 M: 07939 241 486 E: [morganknight@btconnect.com](mailto:morganknight@btconnect.com)

**Tony Thomas** (qualified German language guide) MERTHYR TYDFIL

**T:** 01443 690 457 M: 07968 615 437 E: [tonybach2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonybach2@yahoo.co.uk)

**W.** [www.wotga.com/CordellCountry.php](http://www.wotga.com/CordellCountry.php)

### Talks:

Let a tour guide introduce you to the landscapes and places which so inspired Alexander Cordell.

The Cordell Country Official Guides are all members of Wales Official Tourist Guides Association. In addition to their Tourist Guiding qualifications, they have also taken a course and examination specifically relating to the writings of Alexander Cordell and the area in which his Welsh novels were based. They are your ideal partners for bringing the sites and his writing to life.

**Or Contact:** Bogda Smreczak

**T.** +44 (0) 1633 648081

**E.** [Bogda.Smreczak@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:Bogda.Smreczak@torfaen.gov.uk)

**Talks:** A local historian provides a guided coach tour, guided walk or talks about the World Heritage Site with a scientific, social history or archaeology themes.