



Talybont Matters

This newsletter can be found in full colour on <http://www.talybont.info/>



Issue 39

Autumn 2012

Please send in articles!

The newsletter will be published quarterly, at the end of January, April, July and October. All articles to be submitted by 20th of these months to appear in the next issue.

Be a journalist, send in articles, news, and what's on in Talybont.

Wherever possible your articles will be published in the next issue. However the editor reserves the right to edit articles or hold them back for subsequent issues should there be insufficient space in the current issue.

Advertise goods, services & activities

Free!

Over the Baas would like to thank ToU Energy for purchasing hats to sell for raising funds for ToU Recreation Group.

Caps & Beanie hats are for sale in Talybont stores, £3.50 & £4.50 as are a new stock of 'T'-shirts which include children's sizes and a new colour.

The raffle for 2 fantastic BMX bikes is being drawn on Bonfire Night, Mon 5th Nov. Tickets available on the night or are currently on sale in Talybont Stores. Big thanks to Julian Hopkins, Biped Cycles and Bikes and Hikes for generous donations of prizes.

Lisa Preece

Merger of Talybont's two newsletters

Over the last few months negotiations have been under way to merge the two Talybont newsletters into one: i.e. Talybont-on-Usk Newsletter and Talybont Matters. Both were paid for by Talybont-on-Usk Energy and distributed quarterly, one being inserted into the other for ease of distribution, so it made sense to combine both into just one newsletter. This is therefore the

first of the new format and we hope it will meet with your approval. Adele will be responsible for writing the central "The Energiser" articles on behalf of Talybont-on-Usk Energy, and Claire will continue as before for the remaining pages, so kindly continue to send your articles to Claire Gray, as with previous newsletters.

Combined editors: Claire Gray & Adele Nozedar

Why should visitors spend time in Talybont?

Visitors bring much needed revenue but the challenge is how to attract the right kinds of visitors... those who will respect our environment, spend time and money locally and then come back again. We want them to recommend Talybont as a worthwhile experience to others but how do we differentiate ourselves from anywhere else that these higher income folks could be visiting?

Our first step is to develop a realistic brand for Talybont. Not the pretty colours and flowery images kind but the kind of brand that makes it clear what Talybont is all about to visitors. The kind of brand that reinforces why they should come and at the same time enables our businesses and community groups to achieve their objectives.

In other words, a REAL brand to help REAL businesses and groups within Talybont deliver REAL financial and social benefits.

Please join us as we take the first steps in bringing our sustainable tourism plan to life and develop this real brand and visitor marketing plan for Talybont at Henderson Hall 10am -3pm on Wednesday 7th November, free lunch and great opportunity for networking.

The Talybont on Usk Tourism Group (ToUT) will be hosting a workshop facilitated by rural tourism experts Hidden Britain (www.hiddenbritainse.org.uk) and we want as many local businesses and community groups as possible to have their say in what that brand should be.

To register your interest in attending please contact Rachel Griffiths, Secretary of ToUT 01874 665797 info@tynewyddbandb.com

Nigel Forster (Chairman, ToUT)

The Great Poo Hunt!

Earlier this summer a local resident saw a Pine Marten, a very rare mammal, to the south of Talybont reservoir.

The sighting was reported to the Vincent Wildlife Trust (the same organisation that is running the local Lesser Horseshoe bat project in this area, and as featured on BBC Countryfile recently). The Vincent Wildlife Trust expert on Pine Martens co-ordinated a special search for these elusive animals on 6th August. The principal evidence sought was its 'poo', or 'scat' in the technical language of Pine Martens!

10 local volunteers including Friends of Talybont Reservoir spent the day in lovely weather walking the paths and clearings in forestry areas around the reservoir with the result that two

suspect poos were recovered.

These have now been sent for DNA analysis: the only reliable method of confirming the presence of the animal in the absence of a sighting. At the time of going to press, the lab results were still being awaited.

The Friends of the reservoir are now taking a winter break after some successful days in 2012 putting up nest boxes, litter picking and installing a new bird hide.

The AGM takes place in the Usk Inn on 30th October and anyone interested is very welcome to come along. Phone 676225 for more information.

Peter Seaman



TALYBONT ON USK
ENERGY YNNI
TALYBONT AR WYSG

Talybont-on-Usk Energy is delighted to fund Talybont Matters



HENDERSON HALL

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Bonfire Night

Mon 5 Nov 5.45pm for 6.30pm fireworks

ToUT Brand Wshop

Wed 7 Nov 10am-3pm

Star Gazing Event

Fri 9 Nov 7-10pm

Flicks in the Sticks

Tue 20 Nov, 7.30pm

Lantern Workshops

Thurs 22 & 29 Nov 6.30-9.30pm

Arctic Life with Jo Cox

- illustrated talk
Mon 10 Dec 7.30pm

REGULAR EVENTS

Playgroup

Mondays
10 - 12 am
Kirsty Carr

WI

2nd Wed each month
7pm - 10pm
President:
Kathryn James
01874 623496

Brownies

Thursdays
6.30pm - 7.45pm
Sue Thorne
01874 676293

Cricket Club

Wednesdays
5pm - 6pm
Geraint James
01874 676272

Junior Tennis Club

Wednesdays
6pm - 7.30pm
Margaret Cox
01874 676697
Sarah Osborne
01874 676633

Gardening Club

7.30pm 3rd Friday each month
Sept to June.
Chair: Neville Danby
01874 676630

Tea and Chat

1st Monday in the month 3-4.30pm.
Cherry Jones 676232
or Andy Robinson
01874 676584

Short Family Service

1st Sunday each month 11am for approx 25 mins.

Henderson Hall Key Contacts

Clare Wright (Chair) 676679 Phil Summers (Vice Chair) 676540 Donna Darbyshire (Treasurer) 676304
Sue Thomas (Secretary) 676254 Shirley Hemmings (Caretaker) 676456 Bookings: *Position Vacant*

Your Hall, Your Community

The Henderson Hall Committee have had to make the hard choice to reinstate a charge to organised community groups for using the hall from January 2013. This will however be heavily subsidised at a 50% rate of £5/hour for adult groups and a further subsidy for youth groups of £3.75/hour. The charge for all other users is still great value for money at £10/hour.

You can rest assured that the Hall Committee stays strongly committed to all community groups and our door is always open should anyone's circumstances change and they need further

assistance in using the halls facilities. We are also committed to continued free access for some of our treasured village activities such as the monthly tea and chat for the elderly, village children's Christmas party, Annual Village Show and the Live Nativity.

There are some very big challenges ahead with some major building repairs required on the roof but the Hall Committee are dedicated in their hard work and endeavours to keep the hall in safe and good working order so that our doors stay open and the community, now and in future generations, will have a centre within

which to meet and socialise.

We are always trying to hold events that you would like to attend and would enjoy. If you give us some ideas of events that you think would be fun, we will see if we can organise them! We are already looking at some fun activities for Christmas and Spring next year. One for your diary and something we have never done before is a Big Band Night on Saturday May 18th with music and dance workshops for anyone interested during the day before the main evening event. Keep an eye out for more information about all upcoming events.

Hall Bookings Secretary

On behalf of the Hall Committee I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thanks to Heather Stephens for her brilliant work over many years as our hall bookings secretary. We are really sad to lose Heather and she will be sorely missed. We now need someone to fill her boots!

Please let Clare or Phil know if you have some spare time and would like to get involved in taking phone and email enquiries and keeping an online and paper diary up to date. You don't need to be on the hall committee to do this job but we are always very happy to welcome new members. In the

meantime, if you have any booking enquiries, please contact the Chair or Vice Chair, who will keep things ticking over until (hopefully soon!) someone new is found to take over properly. *Clare Wright*

Star Gazing Event in Talybont

On **Friday 9th November from 7pm to 10pm**, we have a great opportunity to spend an evening with the stars. Hosted at The Star Inn and Talybont Village Hall, get lost in space using telescopes from the Usk Astronomical Society and listen to galaxy talk from experts from the University of Glamorgan. We'll even have a blow up planetarium and you can get your hands on some real meteorites! Tickets are £10 available from

Talybont Stores and The Star Inn and include baked potato supper and musical entertainment - but hurry, places are limited. There will also be a special FREE show and talk in the Planetarium at the village hall for children aged 5 to 11 yrs between 6pm and 7pm. To ensure a place, contact Anna at The Star Inn 01874 676635 or pop in to Talybont Stores & sign up for the children's event - All children must be accompanied by an adult.

To help us get the best out of viewing Talybont's starry sky, some of the village street lights will be switched off - just for that night. Please join us by turning off any outside lights so we can make the most of this special place we live in. For more information contact Anna 01874 676635 or darks skies@breconbeacons.org

Anna Bell

Season's Greetings from The Star Inn

Ian and Anna would like to thank all our customers for their support this year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pop along to our **Christmas Fair** on Sun 9th Dec between 12-4pm to pick up some local crafts and presents and enjoy a glass of mulled wine.

Christmas Eve - join us for carols, mulled wine and mince pies from 7pm.

New Years Eve - Live music and free buffet 1950's style.

Bookings being taken for our Christmas Party Menu - call 01874 676635.

Anna Bell

Flicks in the Sticks

Tue 20 Nov, 7.30pm
'The Way'
starring Martin Sheen

Two Lottery-funded MARQUEES FOR HIRE to local organisations for a reasonable charge. For more info contact Brenda Powell Tel: 01874 676639



ABOUT ToUE...

Beautiful TALYBONT on USK is the proud home of an exciting and inspiring not-for-profit community enterprise scheme.

A 36kw hydro electric turbine, housed in the original stone-built turbine house above the dam, enables us to generate electricity which is then sold to Good Energy. The income from this power is then invested in further energy-saving and community-enhancing schemes in Talybont and the surrounding villages including Aber, Pencelli and Scethrog.

If you would like to find out more, visit our website www.talybontenergy.co.uk

Or email us on

info@talybontenergy.co.uk

Or drop in to see us, and have a fine cup of coffee and a slice of Dave's cake, at the Talybont on Usk Café on the last Thursday of every month between 9am - 11am.

THE **ENERGISER**

NEWSLETTER OF the **TALYBONT ON USK ENERGY GROUP**
AUTUMN / WINTER 2012



WE NEED YOUR IDEAS!

After the turbine came the car club, and also the projection equipment that enables Henderson Hall to become a cinema once a month. Now we need new ideas. We did a straw poll at the Talybont Show; here, MP Roger Williams makes a suggestion of affordable housing to ToUE Director, Hilary Williams. The most popular suggestion was for allotments, which would be a great asset for our community for many reasons. And since people from surrounding villages are already on the waiting list for the new allotments in Brecon, we know that there is genuine demand. The big problem is finding suitable land. Maybe you have a stretch of land that you would like to lease out, or can think of someone that does?



ToUE recorded for posterity!

The Welsh Government are in the process of documenting significant community energy schemes, and ToUE are included. Recently, photographer Olivia Woodhouse visited the Turbine and managed to take lots of pics, including this one; luckily, no cracked lenses. A prize if you can name everyone in this picture! A clue; the car has a name too.....



Trip to C.A.T?...how about it?

Have you ever fancied a visit to the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth? There's nothing quite like a day trip in a charabanc, after all...If we can get a group of 12+ people (including children) together, we could make significant savings - both in energy and in cash - as well as having a grand day out. CAT is a real inspiration and an education; details can be found at www.cat.org.uk

ToUE ENERGY CHALLENGE

Here's advance notice of something we will be launching with the next issue of this newsletter. Households will be invited to try to cut down their energy consumption (N.B. not the cash paid, but the energy used) by comparing the previous year's energy bill on a month-by-month basis. Yes, there will be a prize for the winner... Dig out those old bills now and watch this space!

ToUE goes Facebook and Twitter...

Yes, some might think that social media is a scourge, but nevertheless for many of us it's a great way to keep in touch and is also a fast and efficient way to update info. Look for us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter at Talybont Energy.

Many thanks!
See you online.....



Get involved with a lantern-making project and celebration

Arts Alive Wales are running a celebration project during October and November to make lanterns marking the bicentenary of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.

It will culminate in a wonderful festive event at Theatr Brycheiniog and the Canal Basin on Saturday 1st December, 5pm 7pm.

We plan to have lanterns from every village and town along the canal, and to make over 60 lanterns.

The following workshops are taking place for different communities to learn lantern making skills:

Arts Alive, Crickhowell:

Sat 3 November (2pm to 8pm)

Tues 6 November (6pm to 9pm)

Tues 27 November (6pm to 9pm)

Theatr Brycheiniog, Brecon:

Tuesdays 13 and 20 November (6.30pm to 9.30pm)

Llangynidr Primary School:

Mon 12 November (3.30pm to 6.30pm)

Mon 19 November (6.30pm to 9.30pm)

Henderson Hall, Talybont-on-Usk:

Thursday 22 and 29 November (6.30pm to 9.30pm).

There will be a finishing off workshop at Theatr Brycheiniog on Friday 30 November 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

Contact Justine Wheatley at Arts Alive Wales on 01873 811579 to book your place or find out more - and please pass these details on to your contacts.

Justine Wheatley

Bonfire Night preparations

It's that time of year again and we have already begun to prepare for this year's bonfire and fireworks at Henderson Hall Field. Our village has had a tradition of marking this event over many years in various locations and these days it is also a significant fundraiser for the village hall.

As with the village show these events do not happen without the contribution not only of those of you who come and support it but also the people who help to make sure the event takes place.

JL Stephens have, as always, been stockpiling their off-cuts and broken pallets, which provide the bulk of our bonfire. They also help by hiring the turf cutter to prepare the site and with manpower on the night. This year the Navy have volunteered to

build the main structure of the bonfire and we are also grateful to the 'Over the Baa's' group, who will keep building and keeping an eye on it during half term week. The finishing touches will be completed on Sunday the 4th so if you would like to get involved either through bringing bonfire materials or helping to build the bonfire we'd be grateful if you could bring materials anytime between 27th October and the 3rd November or join us to complete the bonfire from 10.30 on the 4th November.

Of course the bonfire would not be complete without a guy so if you bring yours by 6.00pm on the night we will make sure he gets a good seat and there will be a free burger for the best Guy.

So let's keep our fingers crossed for another great night which will take place thanks to the gate attendants, the onion peelers, the burger and sausage buyers and barbecuers, the soup maker (Gary's tomato soup is back) the Creche minders, St Johns first aiders, the firework team, and of course - You!

**Come along to
Talybont's Annual
Bonfire Night
Monday 5th November
Doors open at 5.45
and fireworks at 6.30pm
We will be selling food, soup, drinks
and novelties.**

Talybont on Usk Tennis

We had a good summer. In spite of all the rain each Wednesday evening seemed to be bright and dry, so we were able to play on the outside courts.

A tournament was held on Saturday 18th August, seven children attended and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Tad and Esther finished on the same number of points, and even though it had started to rain by then they insisted on a "play off"

from which Tad emerged as the winner. It has been lovely to see the progress the children are making. Some who could not hit ball when they first came are now confidently playing shots.

Tennis is continuing in the Henderson Hall over the winter. Wednesday evening from 6 to 7pm.

We are still actively trying to find grants for help to get the courts resurfaced.

Margaret Cox

Talybont Show Fun - despite wet summer

August Bank Holiday saw community fun and spirit, with numerous high quality entries to a range of sports events, crafts and, of course, vegetable and floral competitions. There was also a children's fancy dress; the popular annual Tug-of-War was able to take place on the field; and



there was not a slug or greenfly in sight, despite the wettest summer for 100 years! Congratulations to one and all!

An Arctic Life with Jo Cox

**Monday 10th December,
7.30pm start, Henderson Hall.
All welcome.**

Jo Cox is a graduate engineer who decided on a more adventurous life on the high seas, made her first trip to the Antarctic in 2002 and fell under the spell of Shackleton. She has since spent 10 years with the British Antarctic Survey on research vessels in the Arctic and Antarctic and had a two year sabbatical as one of three Government Officers on south Georgia.

Jo loves the environment of the deep south and her illustrated talk will describe her life and the natural history of South Georgia and the Antarctic.

Donations to the Brecknock Wildlife Trust on the door.



Newsletter for Talybont-on-Usk,
Aber, Buckland, Llansantffraed,
Pencelli and Scethrog

Produced by: ERA²¹ Ltd.
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<http://www.talybont.info/>

Twizy Research Trial

Have you seen the Eco Travel Network
Twizys whizzing around and wondered
if such a vehicle might work for you as
a personal or business runabout?



We are running a research trial this winter using one of the Eco Travel Network Twizys. For a participation fee of £25, individuals can use a Twizy for 3 days to carry out their normal everyday journeys - work, shopping, school run.... Participants will have to complete a research survey and short interview.

The Twizy is ultra lightweight, open-sided

and carries 2 people. It has a range of 50 miles (if driven gently) and a top speed of 50mph. A full recharge takes about 3 hrs using an ordinary 13amp socket. The Twizy will do 6-8 miles on 1 kWh of electricity. If you interested in taking part in the trial, email: alison@prospectory.co.uk or 'phone Alison & Peter on 01874 665401. All participants must be aged 25 years or over.

Alison Kidd

Church News

NOW WE ARE SIX! (A.A.Milne)

You may have heard that our 3 Talybont Churches are to be merged with our neighbouring Llanfrynach Group of 3 Churches! So, 3 becomes 6!
Still with one priest though!!

It will mean shared worship, church councils, prayer & mission. Inevitably that will mean less services in Talybont, less visiting, more shared work in common & need for improved communication. Enjoy your last few months of independence as the new system kicks in after Christmas.

SPONSOR A SERVICE!

Due to the need for the Henderson Hall Committee to charge for the use of the Hall, we have a problem with holding services in the Hall.

Church rules & regulations forbid us from

Many thanks to the volunteers who distribute this newsletter

charging people to come to worship God (hence the term "freewill offerings"!)) so **for the Family Church to continue meeting in the Hall once a month, as they are determined to do, we need someone (or an organisation) to sponsor us for £60 a year! Any offers?!** Please contact Andy on pencommin@hotmail.com or 676584.

United services with the Chapels (e.g. for Mothers' Day) in the Hall can continue, so too the Christmas Eve "Living Nativity"!

REMEMBRANCE: Services for Remembrance Sunday on November 11th will be 9.45am at Llanfeugan Church followed by the two-minute silence at

Cross Oak at 11am. Please feel free to come to either or both!

CHRISTMAS: I hate talking, even thinking, of Christmas before Advent! But, for the sake of information-giving, these are the planned Talybont Christmas services:

Carol Service: Sun 23rd, 6pm in Llandetty Church

Living Nativity: Xmas Eve, 6pm (meet at Garage)

Midnight Mass: Xmas Eve, 11.30pm in Llanfeugan Church

Christmas Day at 10am in Llansantffraed Church

Hope to see you there!

Andy Robinson

TALYBONT-ON-USK & DISTRICT GARDENING ASSOCIATION

Meetings are usually held on the
3rd Friday of every month
from September to June
either in the Henderson Hall
commencing at 7.30 pm or visiting
gardens during the summer months

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME -
PLEASE JUST COME ALONG!

Friday 16th Nov - Floral Demonstration by Margaret Eckley, Brecon.

Tuesday 18th Dec, 12.00 noon - Annual Festive Christmas Luncheon at The Star, Talybont-on-Usk.

Other Dates for your Diary:

19th April 2013 Music, Poetry and Gardening

The Talybont Garden club has invited Kate Williams from Cardiff to present an evening of light, humorous poetry & music shows for gardeners.

Kate is a published, experienced performance poet, and has a collection specifically for gardeners, which has proved very popular. Her shows include songs with classical guitar, inter-audience chat, a personalised poem on request, and lots of fun. The Club feels that this event will have wider interest in the local area and has therefore opened up the meeting to all.

Put the date in your diary now, and please invite your friends along too!

Chairman: Mr Neville Danby 01874 676630
Secretary: Mrs Sandra Briskham 01874 676297

