



Talybont Matters

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Issue 43

Autumn 2013

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!

Many thanks to the volunteers who distribute this newsletter

Editor's Note

In compliance with the provisions of the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2013, this and all past issues of Talybont Matters will be sent to the National Library of Wales for archiving as part of the Library's national collection.

Sarah retires from the Community Council

After thirty six years of service to our community Sarah Osborne has decided to leave the Community Council to give more time to being an active grandmother and devote more time to running her Cui Welsh Mountain Pony stud. She is a world class expert for this breed and in 2011 was flown out to Australia to judge in the Queensland Welsh Mountain Pony and Cob show.

Sarah was the clerk to Llanfeugan Parish Council from 1977 until our three parishes were amalgamated to become Talybont-on-Usk Community Council in March 1986. In the 1988 elections she became a councillor and was very

successful in all the following contested elections, topping the poll twice. She is a true local having been brought up in Talybont and for a while living outside Brecon.

Educated at the Convent she followed her first love, horses, and went as a groom to Denmark for a year soon after leaving school. On her return she qualified as a secretary and worked at Brecknock Borough Council. Becoming a mother to Lettie and Alice she took a part time post a secretary at Danywenallt Study Centre. Sarah will remain a leading light in the Tennis Club and will no doubt keep the Community Councillors on their toes regarding local issues.

John Jones, Chair: Talybont Community Council

Vacancy on the Community Council

Following the retirement of Sarah Osborne from the Talybont-on-Usk Community Council there is a vacancy for a Councillor. Anyone applying must be an adult on the electoral roll of the Talybont-on-Usk Community and be nominated by ten people also on the said roll.

Written applications should have the full names and addresses of the candidate and the ten supporters and be sent to: Sandra Matthews, Electoral Services, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG.

It's raining Cash! - Community Fund set up

Every time you curse the rain, think again. Money may make the world go round, but whenever it rains in Talybont our hydro plant turns the world just that little bit faster.

Thanks to this, Talybont Energy have now established a Community Fund to be administered by the Community Council.

John Jones, accepting the donation, had this to say: 'As chairman of the Community Council I would like to convey the thanks of all the councillors for the welcome & generous offer of a Community Fund for our Talybont community. All are agreed that the Community Council would be delighted to be the adminis-

trators & awarders of grants to local projects' And Mike Bugler, Chair of Talybont Energy, responded thus; 'Talybont Energy is delighted that the Community Council will take some responsibility for distributing some of the gains from the Turbine at the reservoir. Hopefully this will add a new dimension to investment in the Community at a time of belt-tightening in other areas!'

Applications in writing to the Chairman John Jones, Glanclwydach, Aber, Talybont-on-Usk. LD3 7YS can be made between 1st Nov 2013 and 28th Feb 2014.

Adele Nozedar & John Jones

Lights Out on 29 Nov for Dark Skies event

In order to enhance the Dark Skies experience in the village on Friday 29th November, the street lights will be turned off from The Star Inn as far as Henderson Hall, to include the lamp outside the hall in Penpentre and the couple of lamps on the road up past the play-

ing fields to the canal bridge. Due to the event being on a Friday, the street lights can't be turned back on until Monday 2nd December. Please make sure you go safely and take a torch out with you. Let's hope for dark but clear and starry weekend nights! *Clare Wright*

TALYBONT ON USK
ENERGY YNNI
TALYBONT AR WYSG

Talybont-on-Usk Energy is



WHAT'S ON IN WINTER AT THE STAR INN.....

- ❖ WE ARE NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MENU AVAILABLE THROUGH DECEMBER
- ❖ PIE NIGHT IS EVERY TUESDAY
- ❖ QUIZ NIGHT EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 9PM (excluding school holidays)
- ❖ NEXT FISH NIGHT IS FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER – BOOKING ESSENTIAL
- ❖ VILLAGE STAR GAZING EVENING – PROCEEDS TO THE TALYBONT CHILDRENS RECREATION GROUP – FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
- ❖ CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR, SUN 8TH DEC 12-4PM

Call Anna or Ian on 01874 676635 or email anna@starintalybont.co.uk

WE ALSO HAVE A NEW WOOD BURNER IN THE DINING ROOM TO KEEP YOU COSY WHILE YOU EAT AND DRINK

LPG Costs

In these days of ever increasing energy costs I am pleased to share with you a contact that has assisted us in reducing the price of LPG from 44.5p per litre to 38p per litre. Admittedly we use quite a lot but the contact below was extremely helpful in the process of identifying what we could do and exercising the new competitiveness in this market. You may not know but it is easy to switch suppliers irrespective of your tank arrangements and this can be achieved inside 2 months and possibly more quickly. This contact is Steve Richardson MD of Fuel and LPG Services Ltd.

Tel **01905 642810**

Email: Steve@fuelandlpgservices.co.uk <http://www.fuelandlpgservices.co.uk/>

Mike Bugler, The Malt House, Talybont-on-Usk.

Champion Litter-picking Brownies!

Previous Litter Picks have taken place on a Saturday morning, however the youngsters of the village are usually not able to join us then due to their own family weekend commitments. It was therefore decided to hold a Litter Pick specifically with the Brownies on their meeting night.

So on Thursday 16th September we all met at the Hall – 6 adults, 2 teenage helpers, Rachel the Young Leader, and 16 Brownies – one arrived late after the photograph had been taken. It was a lovely dry evening – just right for litter picking!!!! Ironically it was also the week chosen as “Keep Wales Tidy Week”.

We split up into groups and chose our areas – the playing field, the park play area, around the recycling area, behind and in front of the OAP bungalows, Pen-pentre, the canal tow path in both directions, the main road through the village and Station Road. The Brownies loved using the “litter pickers” but unfortunately there were not enough to go round so they shared amongst their groups; they really were so thorough and enthusiastic – not leaving any piece of litter on view – however small and inaccessible it was!

But one thing which disappointed us was the large amount of dog poo bags thrown into the hedges and long grass

along the canal towpath – in both directions. Dog walkers are obviously consciously picking up their dog mess but not disposing of it in one of the dedicated dog bins. I have reported this to the Community Council who in turn have contacted the Canal Trust pointing out the lack of dog bins in the vicinity of the village, requesting more and also asking them to be made more visible.

The Brownies enjoyed their Litter Picking evening so much that they want to do it again so will be repeating the activity in April. They ended their evening with mugs of chocolate sitting in a circle and telling the other groups of their “finds”!! Thank you Brownies very much for helping to keep the village clean and tidy – you are a great group!

Sandra Briskham

Doggy Doings

There are currently two dog poo bins, one near the drawbridge and the other behind the Travellers Rest. The Community Council have established that Powys County Council will be responsible for emptying the dog bins and labelling them in the future and with good signing hopefully matters will improve.

On behalf of residents and visitors the council would like to thank Sandra and her litter picking stalwarts for their excellent efforts: Thank you!

This is an opportune time to remind owners that dogs are banned from all parts of the Henderson Hall field and children's playground.

John Jones 





THE *ENERGISER*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
TALYBONT on USK ENERGY GROUP
OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2013

HEULWEN - TALYBONT COMMUNITY VAN POWERED BY THE SUN!



We've now had Heulwen for 5 months. The van is called "sunshine" because most of the time it charges directly from the solar PV panels on Henderson Hall. Heulwen has done 2600 miles since May, consuming about 1,000 kWh of electricity.

In the same period, Henderson Hall PV panels have generated about 2500 kWh of electricity – so 2.5 times the amount that Heulwen has consumed! Talybont Energy pays Henderson Hall for this electricity.

Anyone is welcome to join the Talybont community car scheme and have access to either Heulwen or Mr Chips (our Skoda Octavia which runs on recycled vegetable oil). However, we aren't currently set up for one-off hires. You do need to pre-register with the scheme in order to have access to the booking system and car keys and be included on our email invoice list. We hope to be able to provide more flexible hiring at some point through one of the village businesses.

WANT TO DRIVE HEULWEN? SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS.

Heulwen is a Renault Kangoo Maxi Crew van and, as you can see in the photo, is really useful if you have a load of stuff to transport! Alternatively, it can carry 5 passengers. With a fast charger (as installed at Henderson hall), the van charges at 16mph but it also carries a converter cable to charge on an ordinary 13 amp socket, albeit more slowly. So far, everyone really likes driving the van – it's easy to drive, quiet, roomy and performs much like a normal vehicle. Its range has been around 80 miles over the summer but we expect that to drop to 70 miles over the winter. The van often visits Merthyr, Abergavenny, Newport and Llandovery and has even ventured as far as Bristol. We are slowly building up a map of public charge points for charging up Heulwen when venturing further afield (e.g. Cardiff, Swansea and Bristol). However, we are discovering that the UK electric charging network is somewhat patchy and experimental in nature and we are some of the few pioneers using it. It will improve.





HEULWEN'S PICUTRE-POSTCARD GOOD LOOKS!

When it came to choosing livery for Heulwen, the placement of the black panels on the vehicle proved to be a bit of a headache. Also, an all-over image-wrap, we thought, wasn't the right choice either. So we decided to celebrate the picture-postcard beauty of the area by inviting people to send in their favourite photographs. Dr Annie Griffiths, who is often to be found stomping around the Beacons, is one of the people who sent us images. Here, Anne is just about to set off on the 20-mile Beacons Challenge. The other pictures on Heulwen were supplied by several people including Peter Casaru, who lives in Talybont, and landscape photographer Nick Jenkins, a regular visitor to the area.

DRIVING MISS SUNSHINE....

If you would like to try driving Heulwen or learn more about joining the Community car share scheme, there will be a demo session in Henderson Hall car park on 10th November 2pm-3pm. Bring your driving license - all are welcome.



CHRIST COLLEGE/ToUE TURBINE COLLABORATION

Guy Hope, Head of Science at Christ College, Brecon, visited the Turbine recently and was so inspired by what he saw that he is now working on an educational package for Year 3 pupils at the school. Guy told us that whole project at Talybont ticked a lot of boxes for him, given that renewable energies are now a key feature of the curriculum...and the fact that it is so close, geographically, is a real gift! If you would like to bring a party to visit the Turbine as part of an educational programme, just contact Adele on 07581 226524.

SAVE THE DATE.....*a little while ago ToUE held a swap/ freecycle day at Henderson Hall. It proved so popular we're doing it again on Sunday 9th Feb 2014. PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY!*

ABOUT TALYBONT ON USK ENERGY.... Beautiful TALYBONT ON USK is the proud home of an inspiring and exciting not-for-profit community enterprise scheme. A 36kw hydro electric turbine, housed in the original stone-built turbine house above the dam on the Talybont Reservoir, 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. To find out more, visit our website www.talybontenergy.co.uk Or email us on info@talybontenergy.co.uk Or 'like' our FB page www.facebook.com/talybontenergy..... Or follow us on twitter @talybontenergy

The Common Crossbill

The Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* is one of my favourite members of the finch family. They can be found in the forestry above the Henry Vaughan walk in the Talybont area, where they seem to favour the cones of European Larch and Norway Spruce – two species I purposely look for when trying to track them down feeding. When seen feeding in groups they make a lovely sight. They are widespread throughout most of Europe particularly where there is a good mix of coniferous forest. On Mallorca they are known as 'Trencapinyons' which means 'pine nut cracker'.



The bill of the Crossbill is unique in the bird kingdom and is adapted for extracting the seeds from the cones of

conifers. Its choice of food also means that it has no other competition. Of course eating cone seeds means they get thirsty and any pool or water source can attract them to come down and drink. In years when the conifer crop is

low – particularly in Eastern Europe, they irrupt in large groups in search of new feeding places, hence why we see numbers increase in some winters. Not all return back however, some stay on to breed here. In fact I first started noticing them from 1990 onwards in the forests nearby where small groups were breeding. At times in past winters I have seen feeding groups of well over fifty birds.

When feeding and flying they have a continual 'chip chip' call which is what usually first alerts one to their presence. Their song consists of trilling notes followed by a Greenfinch type call. They are 17cm in length with a wingspan of 27-30cm. They weigh between 34 and 38g. The nest is a small platform of twigs built near the trunk of a tree. There are usually four eggs off white in colour with bold spots.

The adult male is unmistakable with its mainly bright brick red plumage (except for the dark wings). The adult female is a nice green colour again except for the dark wings. If flocks are located, check through them for juvenile birds which have a brown heavily streaked plumage and sometimes have faint wing bars but these are much less conspicuous than on the juveniles of the Two Barred Crossbill.

Ras Tor-y-Foel

Saturday 11th January 2014 will see the third running of the Tor-y-Foel race. On the two previous occasions the race has involved a distance of 7.4km/4.6miles with an ascent of some 370m/1150ft. There has been extensive recent felling of trees alongside a section of the Bryn Oer tramroad with closure of the tramroad between GR108203 and GR107188. I understand that this section, part of the final stages of the race, should be reopened by the end of December. If this doesn't happen then there will still be a race but the course will be decided when the picture becomes clearer.

A number of local people have helped considerably with the organisation and marshalling of the race over the last two years, many thanks to them. If anyone is interested in running or helping with the race this year, whatever the course, then you can contact me via:

lrweryri@hotmail.com
01874 676568
07754 840966

The race is based at Danywenallt YHA with the finish on the dam itself. This year we had an entry of 99 runners, hopefully we will make it a century in 2014!

Les Williams

Neville Davies is a natural history expert and guided walks leader. Visit www.ecologycymru.co.uk

Natural history expert offers to deliver presentations

Wildlife expert and guided walks leader Nev Davies is available to give power point presentations here in Talybont on his travels as a natural history expert throughout Europe. There are also talks available on gardening for wildlife, birds, bird watching in Mallorca, Spain and Lesbos. He also has a new and excellent show on plants and fungi with all his own photos.

Also available if you want to test your knowledge on natural history with a difference is a wildlife quiz via power point, with large images on a variety of flora and fauna, ideal for a pub team or groups. There is a prize available to the best team or individual.

For more information please email Neville on avevigilar@hotmail.co.uk

Neville Davies

Canalathon 2014

Planning has begun in preparation for the 2014 Canalathon – a multi-activity challenge taking place along the length of the canal – from Pontymoile to Brecon.

The 33 mile distance will be traversed by means of canoe, bike and foot, ending at Theatr Brycheiniog. Along the route there will be 'fringe' events and activities organised to cheer on the teams and engage their families and supporters. A big finale finish will take place in and around the Theatre to celebrate the finish and welcome participants.

We need your input and ideas.

A meeting will be held in the Theatr Bar **Monday 18th November 6.30 – 8.00pm** to explore ideas for the Finale and Fringe Events.

We would appreciate all contributions to the melting pot of ideas. Light refreshments will be provided.

Let's work together to bring the Canal alive and fill the day with MAGIC!

For further information contact Keith Lee Chair of Canalathon, Bikes & Hikes, 01874 610071



Open letter to the residents along the Brecon-Monmouth Canal

The final sponsored walk along the Brecon-Mon Canal tow-path organised by 'In The Pink' breast cancer charity was held in May this year. It was, as always, a huge success. There were over 1,000 walkers from South Wales and a great many visitors from all over the UK.

The charity provides the only research into breast cancer in Wales and has been searching for a cure and developing treatments for the people of this area since 2004. During this time over **£1 million** has been raised from the canal walk.

'The Velindre Cancer Centre and Academic Breast Research Team (lead - Professor Peter Barrett-Lee) and the Welsh School of Pharmacy (leads Dr J Gee and Dr S Hiscox) have been working in partnership for several years. Uniting both clinicians and academics has led to the group receiving international recognition and strengthened our ability to translate laboratory research-based observations into a clinical setting. This work has been made possible by the funding received from 'In the Pink'. Professor Peter Barrett-Lee, Consultant Clinical Oncologist Medical Director

Lead VCC. Velindre Hospital.

It is impossible to undertake events of this size without the co operation and support of everyone involved, the participants, the volunteers and the businesses and residents of the local communities. That support and co operation has lessened in recent years.

2014 will not see an 'In the Pink' walk but we are incredibly grateful to the communities that this paper serves for all the help, tolerance and love shown to us in past walks.

Elizabeth Sullivan, MBE

Friends of Talybont Reservoir



With generous grant support from the Brecon Beacons Trust and the Park Authority, the Friends have been able to commission 3 projects this year. In early August, we launched 2 special rafts onto the reservoir. These are now moored at the southern end and will provide floating nesting platforms for Great Crested Grebes. These birds like to nest in secure patches of reeds but the fall and then rise of water levels has proved fatal to the eggs and nestlings. We hope the rafts will be happy homes for these beautiful birds next spring. The photograph shows one of the rafts and we are most grateful to Welsh Water, Aquatic Engineering Ltd and the volunteers who all helped on a glorious summer day.

Our second project is being delivered by Steph of Brecknock Wildlife Trust. Steph, who happens to be a resident of the Talybont area has been carrying out

special surveys of plants, invertebrates, and the river confluence at the southern end. She has been most ably assisted by a number of volunteers and we are most grateful to Steph for her enthusiasm and expertise. The species records will be submitted to various agencies including the Local Biodiversity Records Service in Brecon.

Our third big project is the restoration of a footpath between the little car park on the western side to the newer bird hide that we installed last year. This is being delivered by a local contractor and work should start later this year: something that has been delayed because of timber harvesting operations.

We will be completing the year's work with one final litter pick and then our AGM. We are very informal with minimal bureaucracy but maximum fun. Do think of joining by phoning 01874 676225.

Peter Seaman

The Secret Language of Dogs Communicating With Your Pet

Have you ever wished your dog could talk to you? Well, he can, just not with words! Research shows that dogs have their own way of communicating with their owners, and with other dogs.



Join Theresa Toomey, dog behaviourist and trainer, for an evening all about dogs, with plenty of opportunity to ask questions, and learn some amazing facts about your canine friend.

**Wednesday 20th November,
7.00 - 8.30 pm
Brecon Scouts Hall -
Admission £5**

For further information please contact:

Theresa Toomey BSc (Hons) PGCE (FE) PG Dip CABG, MSc

Email theresa@animals-matter.co.uk

Tel 01874 636785

Visit the website

www.dogbehaviouristwales.co.uk



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

Produced by: ERA²¹ Ltd.
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[http://www.talybont.org/
newsletter.html](http://www.talybont.org/newsletter.html)



Aber Chapel Christmas Service

The Christmas service will be
held at Aber Chapel on Sunday
22nd December at 10.30am.

It will be a traditional yet informal
service with carols, readings, music,
poetry and always some surprise
items from the children.

Mince pies will be served, the Tor-
toise stove will be lit, so put the date
in your diary and come and start the
celebration of Christmas week with
friends and neighbours in a Welsh
Chapel on the hillside.

Electric bike for sale:

Kalkhoff Agattu 7 speed,
with 250W Panasonic motor and 26v, 10Ah
Lithium Mn battery.

5 years old. Current model at
www.50cycles.com/electric-bikes

**£500. Contact Jon or Sarah,
676459 or jony@esdm.co.uk**

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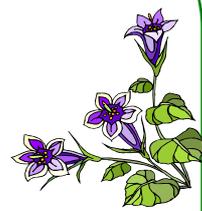
Contact Huw Morgan
on
01874 676564

TALYBONT-ON-USK & DISTRICT GARDENING ASSOCIATION

We are always looking for new
members to join us.

We are a very informal group with reg-
ular speakers and garden trips out dur-
ing the summer months,
indoor meetings always ending up with
tea, coffee and biscuits!!

Annual membership is only £5 per annum.



Friday 15th November: Talk and Slides by Gilly Pollock from Mitchel Troy,
Monmouth - "History of the British Plant Nursery Guide incorporating
the Chelsea Centenary Flower Show"
Competition: "An arrangement in a Tea Cup".

December: Annual Festive Christmas Luncheon at the Star Inn - date to be
finalised. Pat Wilkie is the organiser.

Friday 17th January: Annual General Meeting and Members' Night.
Competition: "A Winter Arrangement"

For any further information please contact either the
Chairman: Mr Neville Danby 01874 676630 or the
Secretary: Mrs Sandra Briskham 01874 676297



Church News

KEEPING FIT!

The "Walk to Worship" to the top
of Pen y Fan took place on Sat. 31st
Aug!!! Congrats to all who made it!
Over 200 + were there! Collection
of £600+ for Mountain Rescue.

REMEMBRANCE:

This year is @ 9.45am in Llandetty
Church on Sunday 10th November,
then @ Cross Oak War Memorial
for the reading of the names of the
fallen & the 2 minutes silence @
11am. Come to either or both!!

SPONSORSHIP!

We are extremely grateful to Owen
& Sue @ the White Hart for sup-

porting the monthly Family Church
services @ the Henderson Hall.

**Would anyone be willing to spon-
sor the Family Church for 2014?!**
(Cost £60 for the year!)

CHRISTMAS!!!

Bigger parish (6 churches to cater
for!!) so less services!

Sunday 22nd. Carols @ 6pm @ Llan-
santffraed Church.

Christmas Eve: 5pm Living Nativity
walk through Talybont.

Midnight Mass 11.30pm @ Llanfeugan
Church.

Christmas Day: 10am Family Com-
munion @ Llandetty Church.

Andy Robinson

No Room at The Inn...

The Talybont Living Nativity will be taking place once again on 24th Decem-
ber but with one important difference this year. John and Lydia Jenkins, at
Talybont Farm, have kindly agreed that we can gather in one of their barns for
the stable scene.

People who would like to take part in this village celebration of Christmas
should gather at Talybont Market ready to set off at 5.00pm to seek a place
for Mary, Joseph and the donkey to rest for the night.

As before children are invited to come as angels or shepherds; adults may like
to come dressed appropriately as people living in Israel 2000 years ago. How-
ever, it will be wise to have foot wear suitable for visiting a working farm.

Extra light is always helpful when taking part in the Living Nativity but please
remember that it is essential that everyone taking part should only bring and
use a battery torch.

Pat Wilkie

