



# Talybont Matters

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Issue 47

Autumn 2014

## 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 issue of Talybont Matters will be sent to the National Library of Wales for archiving as part of the Library's national collection.

## TM on the look-out for a new Editor!

Talybont Matters is nearing its 50th edition. That represents just over 12 years under a single Editor!

I got involved in doing the editing work as a result of a petition that went out from the Talybont Community Council, who were willing to fund a newsletter but felt it should be more of a mouthpiece for the community than a Community Council newsletter. They called for volunteers from the community to take it on, for which they were prepared to pay £80 per edition, plus printing costs, and I put my name forward. This coincided with us adopting a pair of orphaned wild mallard ducklings, named Monteverdi and Botticelli, and with Talybont's proximity to various waterways, hence the logo for the newsletter came to be!

From its first edition in March 2003, the newsletter has gone from strength to strength, thanks mainly to the variety and quality of input provided by numerous members of the community. My role has solely been to edit what has been sent to me, and very rarely have I battled to fill the space. On the contrary, the number of pages has increased from 4 to 8, the number of pictures I have space to include gets less and less, and the content gets more and more

interesting and varied. I have tried to include every article that has been sent to me, although a few have had to be shortened, split into "serial" articles, or their publication postponed until there is more space to give them their due credit.

The newsletter hit a small hitch a few years ago when financial cut-backs threatened its future, but thanks to popular demand, Talybont-on-Usk Energy came to the rescue and has funded the newsletter and my costs (which, with the expansion of the newsletter, went up to £100 per issue) to the current time. I have thoroughly enjoyed my Editorial role, but now feel that it is time to hand over the baton to someone who will bring it fresh life and vigour, and have given notice that, after reaching the milestone of Issue 50 in July 2015, I will be resigning as Editor.

**I will be very willing to provide a hand-over to anyone who wishes to take over as Editor, so please contact me if you are interested - either by phone on 01874 731080, or by email on [claire@acerltd.com](mailto:claire@acerltd.com) and I will talk you through what is involved.**

Claire Gray, Editor

## Colin Huntley Powys 2014 Volunteer of the year



On 11 Sept 2014, Mr Colin Huntley, the Naval volunteer who has worked at the Royal Navy Outdoor leadership centre (OLTC) in Talybont for the past 18 years was acknowledged and rewarded for his services to the Royal Navy and OLTC by being voted the 'Powys 2014 Volunteer of the year'.

Mr Colin Huntley was presented the award by the High Sheriff of Powys at the Metropole Hotel Llan-drindod. Colin served in the Royal Navy for 6 years as a chef. In 1996 he became involved with the Outdoor Leadership Training Centre (OLTC) for the Royal Navy in Talybont on Usk, where he volunteers

his time and service as a general handy man. 17 years later, Colin is an essential cog in the wheel at the Centre. Colin undertakes an enormous range of tasks whilst assisting in the general upkeep of the building and surrounding areas, as well educating those who are willing to listen on the local history. Colin actively recycles unused items and materials at the centre, making sure very little goes to waste. He also offers guidance and shares his knowledge on field craft, cooking outdoors and general awareness in a challenging environment to the trainees. Above all, he has always been on hand to welcome and encourage participation in all of the activities they undertake.

Colin was nominated by WO1 Paul Willetts of the Outdoor Training Centre, who said:

*"Held in high esteem by all instructors, visitors and students that attend the Centre, as well as in the local community, he can be relied upon for his can do attitude towards all tasks and his infectious enthusiasm is a shining example of the Royal Navy Core values"*.

Paul Willetts

In sending in this article, Paul Willetts stated, "I am keen to give this great accolade as much publicity as possible as Mr Colin Huntley is so important to the everyday running of OLTC Talybont."

TALYBONT ON USK  
**ENERGY** YNNI  
TALYBONT AR WYSG

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



**HENDERSON  
HALL**

**FORTHCOMING  
EVENTS**

**TALYBONT  
FLICKS**

Wed 26 Nov - 7.30pm  
(film to be arranged)

**BONFIRE NIGHT**

Wed 5 Nov  
Fire lighting 6.15pm  
Firework display 7pm

**CHRISTMAS  
BINGO**

Thursday 18 Dec  
Doors open 7pm for a  
7.30pm start.

**REGULAR  
EVENTS**

**Short Family  
Service** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
each month 11am for  
approx 25 mins.

**Playgroup**

Mondays  
10 - 12 am  
Kirsty Carr

**Tea and Chat**

1st Monday in the  
month 3-4.30pm.  
Cherry Jones 676232

**Zumba Dance Class**

every Tuesday 8-9pm  
Heather Vaughan  
Talybont Stores

**Talybont Flicks**

1st Wed each month  
7.30pm  
Clare Wright 676679

**WI**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wed each month  
7pm - 10pm  
Anne Jeans  
01874 626637

**Gardening Club**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed each month  
7.30pm Sept to June.  
Chair: Gareth Davies  
01874 676200

**Junior Tennis Club**

Weds 5.45pm - 6.45pm  
Margaret Cox  
01874 676697  
Sarah Osborne  
01874 676633

**Cricket Club**

Geraint James  
01874 676272

## Henderson Hall Contacts

Steve Taylor (Chair) 676208 Clare Wright (Vice Chair) 676679 Donna Darbyshire (Treasurer) 676304  
Shirley Hemmings (Caretaker) 676456 Sue Thorne (Bookings Secretary) 676293

## Bonfire and Fireworks

There will be a bonfire and firework display at Henderson Hall on Bonfire Night: Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup>. Gates will open at 6.15 with the lighting of the bonfire.

There will be a BBQ, soup and hot drinks available and some fun flashing novelties for the children. The fireworks display will commence at 7pm. No sparklers thank you.

The price has been held yet again so really good value at £3 adult, £2 child and a family ticket for 2 adults and 2 children at £8.

There will be crèche facilities but this is available on the basis that you supervise your own children please.

A huge thank you to JL Stephens, The Navy Training Centre and everyone else who helps to make this such a great community event. From turf cutting, providing wood for the bonfire (please feel free to bring any old bits of wood along the week before), providing trailers, BBQ's, making the guy and manpower on the night. We couldn't do it without you!

Clare Wright



### WANTED

## Bonfire materials: Guys Bonfire builders Help on the Night

With bonfire night looming there are plenty of opportunities to help make it go with a bang. This year we especially need contributions for the bonfire preferably in the form of clean wood and garden waste. If you can bring bonfire materials to the site between Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November this would help us to make sure the bonfire is completed in time for 5<sup>th</sup> November.

If you can spare an hour to help us build the bonfire we'll be there on Saturday and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 10.00. For anyone on half term or who can help at another time give us a call and we will let you know what needs doing.

Why not make a Guy at half term and after you've got some pennies for it (google it or ask your parents!) bring it along and we'll guarantee a seat on top of the bonfire - a free Burger for anyone who brings a Guy!

Every year the firework team are getting older, so if you are fit and fancy helping with the firework display, it would be great to hear from you.

To get involved in any way or for more information contact Stuart on 676316.

Stuart Isles

## Litter Picking Enthusiasts!

Our latest Litter Pick took place on Tuesday evening 12<sup>th</sup> August rather than the customary Saturday morning - I thought it would give an opportunity for other residents to participate who may not be available on a Saturday morning. The numbers were slightly down but that could also have been due to various factors - possibly families being away on holiday. However we were 10

"enthusiasts"!!! Some of my "pickers" even requested to "borrow" some "pickers uppers" so that they could use them when out walking in the area or by keeping them in their cars in readiness - now how keen is that!!! Thanks to all my volunteers for their invaluable help in trying to keep our delightful village clean and tidy; if there are any groups who would like to borrow

the kit please let me know and you can then choose your own date to go "out and about". The next Litter Pick date is 15th November - see details in the box above. All volunteers are welcome, the more the merrier but it would be nice to see some children taking part as they are our next generation of "litter pickers".

Sandra Briskham, Organiser

## Talybont WI

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month -

7-10pm at Henderson Hall

**Newcomers Welcome!**

Secretary Anne Jeans: 676637

### Programme:

Nov 12 - AGM

Dec 11 - Christmas meal (tbc)

*Exciting new programme to follow in the New Year!*

**January 14th**

**Talybont WI hosts an**

**evening with**

**Lynne Albutt,**

an inspirational gardener,

TV presenter

& barefoot runner.

**Members extend**

**a welcome to ALL**

**7.30pm HENDERSON HALL**

## Talybont Flicks

Since the first Wed of November is Bonfire Night the next film will be on Wed 26th November (title yet to be confirmed.) There will be no film in December or January but the Flicks will be back on the first Wed of February. Clare Wright

### TALYBONT VILLAGE

### LITTER PICK

Next Litter

Pick

**SAT 15th  
NOVEMBER  
2014**



Meet outside Talybont Shop at 10 am.

All equipment will be supplied - all we need is **YOU** for a couple of hours!

For further information contact:

Sandra Briskham 676297

# Talybont Show Report

My thanks to all those who helped to make our Annual Show on August Bank Holiday Saturday so enjoyable. Without the help of so many people it would be impossible to stage an event which for years has been an integral part of our Community activities. Once again the Henderson Hall was full of colourful floral exhibits, quality vegetables and fruit. In addition the excellent cookery exhibits, art, handicraft and photography combined to make the Show a truly memorable event. Special mention must be made of the energy and enthusiasm of the children whose entries this year were displayed to great effect in the field marquees.

An indication of the popularity of the Show was evident in the number of people who attended, both residents and visitors. A great deal of time is spent, both inside and outside the Hall, in setting up and later dismantling the Show and the Show Committee is indebted to those of you who gave up your time to help in any way.

*Gareth Davies, Show Chairman*

Once again this year the children and young people of Talybont-on-Usk and the surrounding area as well as many visiting grandchildren of local residents entered into the spirit of a traditional village show. They submitted 156 entries into their specific classes. In 2013 the committee decided to invest in a marquee to display their show entries as they considered the children and young people deserved a dedicated space to display their entries. This proved to be a good idea, however there was one significant problem; it simply wasn't big enough to display their entries appropriately. So, for the 2014 show an extension was purchased doubling the space and we were able to do the children and young people's entries justice. When the marquee was open after the judging it was good to see local people and visitors from far

## Star Gazing Event

Don't miss out on another brilliant Star Gazing Event to be held on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November at Henderson Hall starting at 7pm and finishing at 10pm**. There will be a fun Planetarium show so you will see some stars whatever the weather, an outside starry night talk and on hand experts from Glamorgan University and the Usk Astronomical Society to help you find out more about our night sky and give you the chance to use a telescope.

**Tickets for the evening are £8 adults, £6 children under 16 and can be purchased in Talybont Stores or from behind the bar at The Star Inn. Numbers are limited so do get your tickets in advance to avoid any disappointment.** Food will be available to buy on the night. Please do come prepared for being outdoors

and wide strolling round the marquee admiring the range and diversity of the younger competitors at the show.

The imagination, skill and ingenuity of the young people were recognised by everyone. Family and friends were proud of 'their' young people's achievements and it was a joy to see the young competitors' delighted smiles and their interest in the other entries. Well done to all the children and young people who took part! We all hope that you will take part again next year.

*Pat Wilkie*

On-field activities at this year's show were blessed with another beautiful day, much to the delight of all who attended. We had a wonderful turnout for the children's fancy dress and the judges faced the difficult and daunting task of deciding the winners! Very well done to everyone who entered, it was a fantastic array of costumes and a big thank you to all those parents and grandparents who helped perfecting those outfits!

Thank you once again to Chris Jones for facilitating some fast paced sports for all ages and adjudicating another fiercely defended tug of War competition!

As always we had a great selection of stalls and activities to choose from with many visitors commenting on how delighted they were to see the more traditional stalls like the coconut shy, hook a duck and skittles. One of the main attractions was the model steam railway which was provided by Newport Model Engineering Society. Thanks to everyone who helped on this and we are delighted to hear you will be back with us again next year!

Other attractions included face painting, bouncy castle and stalls including the Tennis Club, Gardening Association, Ystrad Wood Store and the Brecon Molo Partnership Charity.

*Ceri Bevan*

for some of the night and bring a torch.

NOTE: Streetlamps through the village will be turned off for this night in order to truly experience the beauty of our dark sky status. It will be dark so, if going out after dark don't forget your torch. Proceeds will be used to support community projects in Talybont.

## NIGHT SKY PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

In support of the Star Gazing Event, a specialised Night Sky Photography workshop will be run on the same evening by Nigel Forster, our local expert photographer.

Tickets for this are being sold separately to those for the star gazing event. For more information on cost and reserving a place please contact:

[nigel@creativephotographywales.com](mailto:nigel@creativephotographywales.com)

*Clare Wright*

# Local producers praised

Roger Williams MP recently had a Brecon & Radnorshire day in Westminster: He said, "I was proud to see producers from across Brecon & Radnorshire come to Parliament and show everyone what we have to offer here in Mid Wales.

*I want to pay tribute to the people of our two counties. We have hard working communities and small and medium enterprises are the backbone of our local economy which I am proud to represent. From local sausages, of course local lamb, Welsh Cakes, Apple Juice and Beer, and lots of other great produce. We really did demonstrate that Brecon & Radnorshire is the "Bread Basket" of Wales.*

*Small producers have a lot to shout about and I wanted to do my bit to shout with them. It is these people that take the brave step to run their own businesses which make our communities so attractive to the thousands of tourists that visit us every year. "*

He stated that he is launching a petition calling upon the Government to reduce VAT on accommodation and tourist attractions, aiming to bring more people to our area, boosting our high-streets and give these hardworking business more people to sell to.

*Roger Williams MP*

Congratulations to Gerry Blake of Talybont, who was nominated to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party this summer for the work she has done with the 'Beavers' over the last ten years.

*Sarah Osbourne*

## Christmas Bingo

Henderson Hall

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Lots of Christmas themed prizes.

Doors will open at 7pm

for a 7.30pm start

## Nadolig Cymreig

**Siop Siarad**, which meets each Friday morning in the White Hart to air the Welsh language, is having a special Christmas edition on December 19<sup>th</sup> this year. This will be a repeat of what happened last Christmas, a programme of Welsh carols, poetry and prose with other suitable contributions, mulled wine and Welsh cakes. So this is an open invitation to everyone to come and savour the event from all directions.

The Siop Siarad sessions start at 10:30 on Friday mornings and as with the Christmas event Welsh speakers, learners and listeners are warmly welcomed.

Hwyl am y tro,

*Les Williams*





# *The ENERGISER*

*THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
TALYBONT on USK ENERGY GROUP  
OCTOBER 2014 — JANUARY 2015*

## **Talybont Energy Open Day**

Our Open day proved great fun with around 40 people enjoying apple pressing with [The Green Valleys](#) team, finding out about low energy tips for the home and the community woodland project, seeing some cool new gadgets, [trying a Twizy](#) and electric van. We ran two trips up to visit the Talybont turbine including one group who were interested in doing a hydro scheme in their own community.

**If Amy would like to get in touch, we have a prize to give her!**



## **Sponsorship for Renewable Energy and Sustainability Courses**

**Are you interested in improving your knowledge or skills in renewable energy, energy efficiency or sustainability?**

Talybont Energy is offering varying levels of sponsorship for local people or businesses who would like to attend courses to improve their knowledge and skills in any of the following areas:

- ◆ Energy efficiency
- ◆ Renewable energy systems - PV, solar water heating, hydro, biomass, etc.
- ◆ Sustainable building techniques and eco refurbishment.

You can find information on the kind of short or longer courses we are able to sponsor at the [Centre for Alternative Technology](http://www.cat.org.uk): <http://www.cat.org.uk>.

We are also open to considering sponsorship for other courses in Wales.

**If you would like to discuss your situation, interests and possibilities with us, please get in touch via [info@talybont.co.uk](mailto:info@talybont.co.uk) and one of our Directors will contact you.**

## Younger voices and ideas on energy welcome

Talybont Energy were delighted that our youngest Director, Andrew Roderick, won a place at Nottingham University to read Economics but he has left us sadly bereft of a younger voice on our Board. We miss him & will welcome his return in the holidays.

We are keen to include another young person at our meetings or as a full Director if they are over 17 years. Do get in touch via [info@talybont.co.uk](mailto:info@talybont.co.uk) if you might be interested in joining us. We are always open to new ideas and opinions and our Board meetings are mostly fun and include crisps!

## Where are you losing heat from your house?

Talybont Energy has purchased a handheld thermal leak detector which can help you identify where in your house you might be losing a lot of heat. The detector is being kept by Regan at Talybont Stores and anyone is welcome to borrow it for a few days to try out in their homes when the weather gets cold.

Contact [info@talybont.co.uk](mailto:info@talybont.co.uk) or speak to Regan in the shop.

We are also on the lookout for someone who might be happy to be trained on how to use a full thermal imaging camera and be able to take it into people's homes and talk them through the results and what they mean.

## Have you installed a renewable energy system in your house or business?

We would like to try to measure the amount of renewable energy which our Talybont community is now generating from renewable sources (solar PV, hydro, solar water heating, air source, biomass boilers etc) and how that compares with the amount of energy we all consume.

If you have a renewable system installed and would be happy to share some energy data with us, please do get in touch. We'd be really pleased to hear from you.

# Thank you for your help and support ...

Recently I held a Macmillan Coffee Morning and Tea Afternoon and thanks to the wonderful response of friends and neighbours I have been able to send £391.02 to Macmillan Cancer Support. This will be topped up by an additional £27.75 through Gift Aid making a grand total of £418.77.

I certainly didn't expect to be able to send such a sum to Macmillan; I was touched by the whole hearted response to the work of Macmillan by so many people. The lives of so many of us have been touched by cancer, the work of Macmillan to support people affected by cancer is respected and the charity is regarded with real affection by the majority of the community.

So far this year the Macmillan Coffee Mornings has raised £13,844.60 and Talybont-on-Usk has played its part in this. Last year the grand total was £20 million this enabled them to fund 380 Macmillan nurses and support 50,000 people affected by cancer.

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported the Macmillan fundraising event and to those who were unable to attend but gave a donation to the charity.

Together we have been able to help to make a difference. For the Macmillan event I used some of the tiered vintage style plates created for the Talybont Open Gardens in the summer.

If you are planning to hold a fund raising event for charity and would like to borrow the plates, free of charge, please contact me. The plates are also available to hire for weddings, anniversaries or other celebrations.

Pat Wilkie



## Encouraging birds into your garden!



Great Spotted Woodpeckers love peanuts too – ND

With the autumn and winter approaching and the breeding season over, bird numbers will have increased with not only adults looking for food but this year's young as well.

And with the following two seasons potentially being wet and cold then birds will become reliant to an extent on garden food particularly as wild food becomes scarce.

This is where feeding our garden birds really comes into being but do remember that once you start feeding them to continue throughout the autumn and winter, and if you are going away ensure that someone tops up the feeders and water on your behalf otherwise the birds will have to quickly find an alternative food source, and that could mean the difference between life and death for some.

Ensure the bird table is strong and up to the mark for the tough weather ahead and also ensure feeders



Nuthatch feeding – N D

are cleaned on a regular basis. Also from time to time alternate the position of the bird table for a week or so and clean up around where it previously stood. Always make sure the bird bath is cleaned and topped up with water. Even in the winter birds still need to drink & bathe.

It is always a welcome sight to see birds in the garden and particularly watching them at the feeding station. The regular visitors will always be present such as Blue Tit, Great Tit and Coal Tit and perhaps a small flock of Long Tailed Tits too. House Sparrows, Starlings, Goldfinches, Chaffinches and Bullfinches have all learned to exploit getting food from the feeders as has the Robin in recent years. Dunnocks are never far away usually preferring to feed on the ground sometimes with a Song Thrush or Blackbird.

But regular feeding can attract some other visitors too. Great Spotted Woodpeckers relish the peanuts and will dominate the peanut feeder giving some excellent views. Suet or similar pushed into cracks in the bark or in a makeshift log with holes will attract a Treecreeper and Nuthatch – although the Nuthatch can also be a regular sight on the peanut feeders.

Who knows, some people get lucky with some special visitors to their gardens, such as winter visiting Redwings and Fieldfares which



Starlings absolutely love the fat balls – ND

particularly love berries such as Hawthorn, Rowan, Cotoneaster and Berberis but will also sample wind fallen fruit left on the ground (once this goes mushy remove to discourage vermin). Occasionally one speciality visits gardens for some lucky people – the beautiful Waxwing. Now that would be fantastic.

Enjoy watching the antics of your garden birds this autumn and winter and place out a good selection. Peanuts and black sunflower seeds are a favourite with a variety of birds, but grain and fat balls are equally important and all of the above will pretty much take care of all the visitors to the garden. To finish just a few things to note, never provide desiccated coconut as this swells in the birds tummies (buy the half ones found in most shops), bacon grinds make them thirsty, rice is a no-no and bread has one of the lowest energy values for birds and will attract rats if left too long. Sweep up fallen seed and grain daily but leave some for the ground feeders too.

Neville Davies

[www.ecologycymru.co.uk](http://www.ecologycymru.co.uk)

# Llansantffraed Church restoration report

The wood block floor which has been in position since the current church was built in 1885 had a combination of wet and dry rot in the Nave and the Buckland Chapel and there were in fact areas of the church which were inaccessible due to the problem so renewal of the floor was urgently required. A Heritage Lottery Grant was applied for in September 2013 and a week before Christmas the Church Council heard that their bid had been successful – what a wonderful Christmas present! Local contractors J L Stephens Ltd were chosen and they commenced work at the beginning of May 2014; all of the rotten flooring had to be removed from the site and destroyed together with any contaminated soil before a special membrane and limecrete layer were laid – this had to dry out naturally and luckily we had some dry weather in June! Recycled tiles were obtained which had to be completely cleaned off before they were laid in their final position. The new floor looks really fantastic & most visitors comment that “the tiles look as if they have always been there”!!

Work has also been completed on restoring the grave of Henry Vaughan and improving access to it at the top of the churchyard. The Brecknock Society has led this restoration project, which has been supported by a grant from the Brecon Beacons Trust and a successful public appeal. For further details and photographs, see the Henry Vaughan Project page on the Brecknock Society's website ([www.brecknocksociety.co.uk](http://www.brecknocksociety.co.uk)). To help visitors, signage about the grave, similar to the Henry Vaughan Trail, is to be installed in the churchyard and more information on the local Henry Vaughan heritage is being placed on the national park website.

As a step to broadening interest in Llansantffraed Church, a specific Vaughan Corner / Children's Corner is being planned. This will celebrate the Henry Vaughan heritage at Llansantffraed. Information, literature, pictures and leaflets - about his life and works & the Llansantffraed locality in which

## '99'

So 99 runners started and finished this year's Ras Tor-y-Foel Race. At least two more people were going to compete and thus break the century marker, the organiser, gifted a late Christmas present, *aka* the common cold, from his wife and a certain milkman, Gron Davies, with similar excuses!

The day saw a wonderful pause in the recent monsoon season and the appearance of a strange bright object in the sky, an organiser's delight. The course is 7.4km (4.6 miles) with an ascent of 350m (1150ft) and blessed with sunshine the previous best winning time was broken by the winner Chris Jones - 34.08. The previous record was that of Ben Moon of 34.29 who this time finished in



Three very weary looking workmen at the end of a tiring but wonderful project. Thanks to one and all ..... and of course not forgetting the 4 legged “foreman” in the front!!!

he lived - will be displayed & on sale for visitors to view and buy. This will cover human and spiritual aspects and the local Usk Valley environment - all of which influenced Henry Vaughan's poetry and medical work. The “Vaughan Corner” will also include information about his brother Thomas - the incumbent at the church from 1640 to 1660.

A packed Celebratory Service was held in September when the choir from the Priory Church, Abergavenny sang Evensong; there were also special guests who played appropriate music and read poetry to mark the restoration of the church floor and the Henry Vaughan grave. We hope that further events, organised with partners like the Brecknock Society, will broaden the use of the church.

Now that the floor work, and the refurbishment of Henry Vaughan's grave have been completed and with only the signage and Vaughan Corner to complete we hope to increase the number of rota volunteers available to offer assistance and guidance to visitors and ultimately to open the church for longer periods of time for visitors to enjoy.”!!

*Sandra Briskahm (Warden); Mervyn Bramley (Brecknock Society and Museum Friends)*

second place with a time of 34.55.

There were at least two outstanding performances by local people, Rhian Probert and Owen Cartwright. Rhian was the third lady home in a time of 42.29 which was an improvement of some 3.24 on her time last year, Owen carved a huge slice off his time last year, over 5 minutes faster with a finishing time of 45.33.

The first lady to finish was Katie Beecher with a time of 40.50 although the ladies record was not bettered this year. That is a time of 39.38 by Emma Hitchins in the inaugural 2012 race. So will the race be one by a local next year, watch this space!

The constant theme from competitors was

# Talybont Woodland Group

Talybont Woodland Group has been operating for a year now! So, what exactly does the group do?

We are very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to work right in the centre of the village, due to the generosity of Charles Weston of Gilestone Farm. We are also lucky to have the expert guidance of Gareth Ellis of The Green Valleys. Slowly but surely, we are thinning out dead wood and spindly trees to make sure that light can reach the ground; we have put up bird boxes and bat boxes, and we've also cleared a significant amount of debris. It's great to spend a few hours once a month (usually on a Sunday) with friends and neighbours, but it's even better when the harvest of logs is gathered, a tangible result of the work put in!



If you'd like to come along, the next dates are November 9th, December 7th, and January 4th. Come and join us - we start at 10am and finish when we've had enough! If you'd like to know more contact Adele at [anozedar@googlemail.com](mailto:anozedar@googlemail.com)

Adele Nozedar

Sponsoring green skill training for the construction trades.

Go to [http://talybontenergy.co.uk/?page\\_id=3048](http://talybontenergy.co.uk/?page_id=3048) or email [info@talybontenergy.co.uk](mailto:info@talybontenergy.co.uk)

how well the race was marshalled so a million thanks to, Mike Bugler, Geraint James, John Battersby, Gareth Davies, Stuart Iles, Kay and Martin Lucas, Andrew Jenkins, Seamus Hamill-Keays and Richard Preece for their considerable efforts.

Finally, thanks to Hilary, John and Margo Sweeting for the number crunching, John Chidlow for the provision of numbers to crunch, Christine James for some wonderful photographs and Alison and Jo for the feast at Danywenallt.

Next years race will be on Saturday January 10th, come and run, help or just watch. The full results and photographs can be found on [www.wfra.org.uk](http://www.wfra.org.uk)

Les Williams  
[lrweryri@hotmail.com](mailto:lrweryri@hotmail.com)

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

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[http://www.talybont.org/  
newsletter.html](http://www.talybont.org/newsletter.html)

## TALYBONT-ON-USK & DISTRICT GARDENING ASSOCIATION

We are a very informal group with regular  
speakers & garden trips out during summer months.  
Indoor meetings are held in the Henderson Hall,  
always ending up with tea, coffee and biscuits!!

7.30 pm at the Hall

**NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME - JUST COME ALONG!**

Annual membership is only **£5 per annum.**

**Wednesday 19th November:** Wildlife expert Neville Davies, Ystrad Mynach  
will show a selection of slides and speak on "Gardening for Wildlife"

**December:** Annual Festive Christmas Luncheon  
(date and venue to be agreed nearer the time)

**Wednesday 21st January:** AGM followed by Members night

For any further information please contact either the  
Chairman: Mr Gareth Davies 01874 676200 or the  
Secretary: Mrs Sandra Briskham 01874 676297

**An Autumn Choir Concert**  
will be given  
**by The Talgarth Male Choir**  
with local soloists  
Glasnant Morgan, Lowri Probert & Julia Watkins  
**FRIDAY 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014**  
in Llansantffraed Church, Talybont-on-Usk  
commencing at 7.30 pm  
TICKETS £7 (to include light refreshments)  
available in advance from Sandra (676297),  
Brenda (676639) or the Village shop.  
On the night, tickets for sale at the door.

## News from the Beacons Benefice

Let me introduce myself as your new church  
contributor: I am Liz Bramley, a new Lay  
Reader in the Church in Wales, and an old  
returned resident of Llanhamlach, where I  
have lived off and on since 1960.

### Service as normal

We are running all our regular church ser-  
vices and activities, thanks to our ministry  
team and supporters. Our team is growing  
as we begin to work with the parishes  
around Llangorse Lake: Andy's replacement  
will be Team Leader of this wider Ministry  
Area. On the ground, things will not look  
very different, but we have already felt the  
benefit of a shared magazine, and more  
musicians to play for Sunday services.

### Three events are coming up:

**A Concert** by Talgarth Male Choir and  
soloists in Llansantffraed Church on Friday  
31<sup>st</sup> October at 7.30pm, followed by light  
refreshments. Tickets are available at the  
Village Shop, Sandra 676297, Brenda 676639  
or any other church members.

**A Parish Carol Service** at Llanfeugan  
Church on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6.00pm.  
Our special choir will begin rehearsals soon.

**Living Nativity** on Christmas Eve (when  
else?) Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, leaving  
from the Cattle Market Carpark in Station  
Road at 5pm to walk with Mary and Joseph  
through the village and greet the new baby in  
the barn at Talybont Farm.

### The 200 Club Draw

Winners of the October Draw  
were:

£50 Catherine Smith  
£35 Pat Wilkie  
£25 Mrs D Curtis  
£15 Audrey Holliman  
£10 Anne-Marie Rees Evans

Thank you to all members for your  
continuous support, and also to all  
the new members who joined for  
the first time this year.

New members are very welcome

**Llangynidr**  
**Farmers' & Producers'**  
**Market Dates**  
Nov 30  
Christmas Market Dec 14

### More details

You will find details of all our church  
services on the Community Council website  
[www.talybont.org](http://www.talybont.org)

### Interregnum arrangements

Until a new vicar is appointed, for local  
enquiries, please contact the Churchwarden.  
In the absence of our Area Dean, overall  
responsibility falls to the Archdeacon,  
Ven Alan Jevons, 01874 658298 [archdeacon.brecon@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:archdeacon.brecon@churchinwales.org.uk)

Liz Bramley