



Talybont Matters

Find this newsletter in full colour on <http://www.talybont.org/newsletter.html>



Community Orchard – All Trees Present and Correct!

Through rain and shine (and a bit of snow) an intrepid team of local volunteers have now planted the last of 80+ trees on four orchard sites across the village.

These are mostly local heritage varieties of cider apples, eating apples and pears, cookers and perry pears – many with fantastic names too, from Pig Aderyn and Tinyrwydd to Cummy Norman.

Gilestone Orchard is the largest site with 40 mixed trees whilst the Canal Wharf has just 7 trees – all eating apples. The last planting took place on 13th January when we put 5 trees (cookers, eaters and a pear) within an espalier frame adjacent to the village playground.

On Saturday 10th February we have our final training session – Pruning and Managing an Orchard – meet at the Hall at 10am. All are welcome – no prior knowledge required.



Please come along to the **launch event** at 10am on Saturday 10th March - you'll need wellies as we'll be walking the shiny new *Orchard Trail*.

Simon Baldwin tel. 665405 email hil5776@hotmail.co.uk

Michael Wright tel. 676679 email onlyonewrighty@btinternet.com



Bethlehem comes to Talybont-on-Usk



On Christmas Eve, over 200 people followed Mary and Joseph and their donkey on their traditional half-mile walk through Talybont-on-Usk looking for accommodation. The 'Living Nativity', organised by the Beacons Benefice, has now become a popular Christmas event with local actors and musicians, including donkey Peter owned by Gene Taylor from Llangynidr.

The torchlight procession sang carols as they followed Mary and Joseph (Connie and Neil Cox), expertly supported by a Dyfed-Powys Police escort. They stopped at a house in Station Road and outside the White Hart Inn, where Joseph asked if any accommodation was available. Finally at the Star Inn, Landlord Matthew suggested they try Talybont Farm, where the Jenkins had got a large barn ready complete with manger and musicians, and set out with hay bales to seat the accompanying crowd!

When the crowd was seated, the angel Gabriel brought the baby to the Holy Family - this year the Eardleys from the White Hart. Glasnant Morgan as master of ceremonies announced further carols, and the children in the crowd joined the three shepherds in coming to look at the baby Jesus. Revd Liz Bramley gave a short talk on the meaning of Christmas.

Revd Kelvin Richards, Priest-in-Charge of the Beacons Benefice, thanked the many people who had helped in different ways in staging this meaningful event and said that the Living Nativity has now become a unique part of Christmas in Talybont.

Mervyn Bramley

(Photos by Christine James)



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Many thanks to the volunteers and Talybont Stores who help in the distribution of this newsletter. Also to the individuals, groups and societies who have contributed articles for this edition.



Welsh For All

If you are looking for books to support you and your children for Welsh medium education or second language Welsh I recommend you have a look at 'Welsh for Parents' by Lisa Jones and her 'Welsh for Parents' hand book which are all available on Amazon. Lisa Jones is a local author who lives in Llanddew she learnt Welsh herself when her children started in Ysgol y Bannau and now teaches Welsh through Aberystwyth University. Lessons are available with her locally too.

Local Opportunity to see, hear and use Welsh.

Did you know that the Urdd National Eisteddfod offers more than just stage competitions? There are also hundreds of compositions and Creative Competitions too! From composing to creating an app, science to sewing!

All entries for the Composition and Creative competitions are judged on a national level. Most composition work is for individuals. The completed work should reach the Urdd Office at Gwersyll Glan-Ilyn by 1 March 2018.

For a list of competitions or for further information contact eisteddfod@urdd.org

The Urdd National Eisteddfod is one of Europe's largest youth touring festivals that attracts around 90,000 visitors each year across six days. It is held annually during Whitsun week at the end of May in a different location in Wales. This year it is visiting us here in Brecon and Radnor and will be located on the Royal Welsh Showground. There are lots of competitions and activities make sure you are part of it!

Rhian Young

Uncle Sam in Talybont on Usk

Recently I visited Talybont on Usk, as I have done for some years now, to visit my Great Uncle's Grave in the Chapel Grave yard. I have written the following, just to make readers of *Talybont Matters* aware of who my Uncle Samuel Williams was and wondered if people in the village knew his story and hopefully, I will learn something new about him! The graveyard is near the old chapel that is now a house called Fairview house.

Uncle Sam married the daughter of a farmer Lelilia from Llandetty. Uncle Samuel owned the village shop, (there are two houses before the modern shop development which one on the left was the old shop). I understand he also owned the house next door which is called y Gerwin.

Uncle Sam was my great grand-mother's brother. My great grand-mother's husband Robert Daniel lived opposite the shop in Canal Cottages which have been replaced by the bungalows. His grave is near Uncle Sam's as well as Mary who was Uncle Sam's sister who died five years after my grandfather was born.

Quoting from the book *The Talybont Saga* by David Tipper, Uncle Sam owned a farm 'Dan-y-wenallt-uchaf' which is used as an YHA and holiday cottage today. In December 1893 it states that Samuel Williams 'a Farmer and Provision Merchant' of Talybont, purchased the farm. Then it was tenanted by William and Ann Jenkins with their five children and a girl servant. At Talybont, Mrs Lelilia Williams and niece Gwenllian made up the trio known as 'Williams the Shop'. When Uncle Sam was 81 years he sold the farm for £1075. My grandfather William Edwin Daniel was the only son of Robert Daniel and his wife (Uncle Sam's sister) Mary and 5 daughters, who died when my grandfather was 5. He was sent with his sister to Tylorstown in the Rhondda where his Aunt had a house. He became a miner at the age of 14. My mother was born in 1918 a year after Uncle Sam died. She spent all her summer holiday's in Talybont on Usk having travelled there by the railway with her mother and then on her own from the age of 9. Her family knew she would be fed well with her father's family in Canal Cottages.

My mum died in December 2013 and always wondered why Uncle Sam had left money to all her Aunts and not to her Dad, even leaving money to his housekeeper along with funds to keep the graveyard tidy. I feel very sad that I managed to track down his will after she died. Uncle Sam was a very wealthy man for those times. So if you wondered about the impressive grave in the Chapel graveyard then now you know who he was.



I have enjoyed sharing my story and if anyone has and further information or photographs of canal cottages or the old shop then I would love to hear from you.

Sian Cumner Jones

sianjo@btinternet.com

The Talybont Saga, David Tipper, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, 1993



MEET THE NEIGHBOURS!

Grwp Cymunedol

Pontsticill

Community Group

Established in the summer of 2015, a group of likeminded individuals came together to tackle issues facing our community. With changes in council policy our village and surrounding area started to suffer with neglect. Littering became an ever increasing problem and fly tipping incidents sadly became a weekly occurrence.



With initial help from our local Keep Wales Tidy Project Officer we soon implemented regular litter picking events. Seeking funding to expand our work, we were soon constituted as a formal community group. We are indebted to the National Park Sustainable Development Fund (and the staff) that allowed us to purchase our own tools and equipment ensuring the group became sustainable.

Since those early days we have continued to expand our remit and have been successful in a number of large grants. We are now responsible for a weekly Parent and Toddler playgroup, run our village toilets which we have leased from Merthyr Tydfil CBC, cleared and manage a disused burial ground and organise a variety of fundraising events throughout the year.

We continue to hold a monthly volunteer day and on average we get 25 volunteers. As well as our ongoing litter picking commitments we also undertake hedge laying, drystone walling, bulb planting and general practical improvement works to the village and surrounding area. Whatever issues or projects we undertake the environment and social inclusion are underlying commitments at the core of our group's ethos.



2018 aims to be another busy year for the group. We are in the process of submitting a Big Lottery People and Places grant to improve our Village Park, aim to create a website and logo and look into renewable energy options to become self-funding.

Since forming there has been a noticeable change in the cohesion of the village and this was demonstrated at our Christmas coffee and craft fayre where over 100 people attended.

It would be great to build a relationship with the community in Talybont and learn from each other's experiences. If you would like to contact us please email Mark Ward secretary@pontsticill.cymru, find us on Facebook: Pontsticill Community Group or follow us on Twitter @PontsticillCG.

Talybont WI Bridge Group

A group of members got together five years ago under the guidance of Ann Jeans to learn how to play bridge and we now meet on a Wednesday afternoon to enjoy a few hands. Some members have also joined other clubs and are happy to impart their knowledge, so slowly and surely the standard is improving.

In fact we are so successful that the group has recently reached 12 and three tables are needed which we do not possess. Should anyone have a redundant card table that needs a good home we would be very grateful and will put it to good use.

If you could help please phone Anne Jeans 676637 or Cherry Jones 610607



Talybont WI

Talybont WI started the year with an entertained talk from John Webb about the life of a family business, Webbs of Crickhowell.

This is to be followed by;

February 14th: Paper weaving with Ola
March 14th: Forgotten Gadgets, speaker Mr. Don Balkwill

April 11th: Retracing Grandfather's footsteps through China, speaker Liz Baronof

New Members or visitors welcome.

Sue Thorne

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



VILLAGE REGULAR EVENTS

HENDERSON HALL

Short Family Church Service

2nd Sunday each month 11am for approx 30 mins.

Playgroup

Mondays 10 - 12 am

Alice James 07971728010

Tea and Chat

1st Monday in the month
3-4.30pm.

Zumba

Every Tuesday 7:45pm
Gill Abram 665505

Talybont Flicks

1st Wed each month 7.30pm
Clare Wright 676679

WI

2nd Wed each month 7pm - 10pm
Penny Morgan 665283

Gardening Club

3rd Fri each month 7.30pm Oct to
April. Peter Seaman 676225

Food Assembly pick up

Thursday 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Ceri Elms

Junior Tennis Club

Weds 5.30pm - 7.00pm
Sarah Osborne 676633

Cricket Club

Geraint James 07980 160187

WHITE HART

Siop Siarad

Practice your Welsh
Every Friday 10.30am—12.00
Les Williams 676568

Henderson Hall Contacts

Clare Wright (Chair) 676679

Verity Ryan (Secretary /
admin) 676334

Kirsten and Russell Jones
(Treasurer) 676509

Julia Watkins (Bookings
Secretary) 676085

If you have some time to offer the community and enjoy working with people, the Village Hall is looking to recruit more members to their small and friendly management group. The role of Chair and Treasurer will be coming up for grabs in May too. Anyone interested or wanting more info, please contact Clare Wright on 676679 clarewright.osm@btinternet.com

CHURCH NEWS

MINISTRY AREA STUDY COURSE : Our lively 5-session study course for the Spring term is called "All Things are Possible". It has a biblical and global focus, with input from other continents, and the sessions are based on Prosperity, People, Planet, Peace and Partnership - the 5 Ps of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It comes from the Anglican mission agency USPG. This term we are looking at 'Church & Kingdom' All sessions are on Thursday evenings, 7.00pm, fortnightly:- 25th January, 8th February, 22nd February, 8th March, 22nd March. Please contact one of the clergy for further details - All welcome

ASH WEDNESDAY : This marks the beginning of the season of Lent, and is on Wednesday 14th February – there is a communion service at 10am in Llanfihangel Tallylyn Church and another one at 7.00pm in Llansantffraed Church.

MOTHERING SUNDAY : This is on 11th March – services are 10am Holy Communion at Llanfrynach and 10-30am Family Service at the Henderson Hall.

MAUNDY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY : To mark these important days there is a Communion Service at 7pm at Llanfeugan Church on Maundy Thursday 29th March, and a Devotional Service on Good Friday 30th March, 10am at Llanfrynach.

EASTER DAY : Easter Sunday is on 1st April this year. Services in Beacons that day will be:- 10am Holy Communion at Llandetty 10am Holy Communion at Cantref.

HENRY VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SERVICE : The annual Henry Vaughan Memorial Service will take place at 3pm on Sunday 22nd April at Llansantffraed Church - all welcome.

CONCERT AT LLANSANTFFRAED : Advance notice - There will be a concert 7-30pm Saturday 19th May at Llansantffraed Church, featuring the world famous Early Music Soprano Emma Kirkby. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

You can find full details of all our Church Services on notices in the village, in the churches, on the Community Council website: www.talybont.org and on the new Beacons Benefice website: [www.http://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/s475/](http://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/s475/)

Kelvin Richards

HENDERSON HALL NEWS

Here we are in 2018 and a very Happy New Year to everyone. It was a really exciting 2017 with so much happening. Of course, the Big Lottery 'Totally Talybont' project was a huge part of the year and has made your village hall a more user-friendly space both inside and out. The opening events for the new Playground and then the Bike Hub and hall were great fun and it was great to have so many of you join in.

Despite the building works, which you all patiently put up with, we still managed to host lots of activities in the hall during 2017. It was used for overnight stays by Scouts, Brownies, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and University clubs. We hosted loads of local children's birthday parties, anniversaries and some fun adult parties too! Our own fundraising at Bonfire Night (huge thanks to everyone who helped and supported) and the five large external events during the year and lovely new events like the Vintage Fair help keep our subsidised rates for local groups ie; Playgroup, WI, Gardening Club, Cricket Club, Family Church service, tea and chat, Village Show and more. We have new things coming along this year such as the new Folk Dance class and look out for indoor short mat bowls which will be starting soon. Want another class or can run something? Then do get in touch! We are also hoping to bring you some exciting theatre productions through the Night Out Scheme and we are hopeful of one coming our way in April so do keep your eyes peeled for more info. These are professional theatre productions which the Arts Council of Wales helps bring in to rural communities.

On a slightly less upbeat note, the small grant provision coming from Powys CC for village halls and for supporting public toilet provision have finished. This is a critical time for us in the village and your continued support in using the hall will ensure it can continue to be a friendly space for everyone to meet and socialise in years to come. Thank you, and here's to a great 2018!

Clare Wright (Chair)



Talybont Stores, Canalside Cafe and Post Office

01874 676663

www.talybontstores.co.uk

We would like to thank all our customers for their patience over the last few weeks with the work that has been going on in the Shop and Café. Hopefully will all be sorted soon?

If you have a special wine you love or something that we do not stock in the shop. Please let us know and we will try our best to get it in for you.

Shop

Stock a wide range of products from fresh local meat, bread, milk, eggs, fruit and veg. Coal, logs and kindling. Newspapers, pet products, wines, spirits, local beers and ciders. Frozen meals prepared in the café.

Lottery, Health Lottery, Top Ups, cash point (now with a lower charge of £1.25), greeting cards and stationary. Card payments accepted.

Regan's Crafts - Made in Talybont

madeintalybont@gmail.com

Local handmade gifts, crafts, keyrings and cards. Personalised greeting cards, vinyl mugs, vinyl and etched wine glasses and more available. Custom orders welcome.

Café

Homemade food and cakes, sit in or take away. Packed lunches available on request.



Post Office

Click and collect, health lottery, foreign currency, passport checking service, free cash withdrawals etc.



Opening times

Shop: Mon to Sat 7am until 7pm. Saturday 8am until 7pm. Sunday 8am until 6pm

Café: Mon to Sun 9am until 4pm (Winter)

Mon to Sun 9am until 6pm (Summer)

Post Office: Mon to Sat 9am until 1.30pm



ABER AND BENAIAH CHAPELS

A warm welcome awaits any visitors and residents to Aber and Benaiah Chapels for the Sunday Services which begin at 10.30 am. We have some new Ministers to take our services this year and it is always interesting hearing another point of view.

For more information phone Glasnant Morgan 676354 or Craig Burdon 676090

Dates for Spring 2018

| Aber | | Benaiah | |
|--|--------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| February 4th | Mr Ray Lewis | February 18th | Mrs Liz Matthews |
| March 4th | Mr Paul Rowe | March 18 th | Mrs Penny Robinson |
| April 1 st 11am start Easter Day | Mrs Liz Tadd | April 15 th | Mrs Gill Todd |
| May 6th | Mr Paul Rowe | May 20th | Ms Cilla Withers |



Community Council News

The Talybont on Usk Community Council continue to work, representing the interests and concerns of residents. Issues with the Drawbridge go back a full year now, residents suffered with the road closure, lack of a temporary footbridge. Then have continued, along with visitors, to experience difficulties with heavy duty barriers, obscured views for motorists and a dangerous crossing arrangement for towpath users. The Community Council are continuing to exert pressure on the Canal and River Trust to rectify the current situation, and undertake the promised work that has, to date, been reneged upon. Our County Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick, is lobbying the Chief Executive of Canal and River Trust to hopefully conclude matters ahead of the 2018 tourist season. Hopefully we'll have tangible progress in the near future.

It is with some regret that I have accepted the resignation of Ian Bell as a Community Councillor. Our thanks go to Ian for his service in recent years. This of course now presents a vacancy for a new Community Councillor. Should anyone feel they have the skills, time and desire to represent the community by becoming a councillor they should contact The Clerk, Mrs Katy Tutt and express their interest. All contact details can be found on the website or via village notice boards.

Last month, 'Talybont-On-Usk Community Page' was set up on Facebook. This is an online group run by residents of Talybont On Usk with the aims of promoting local events and businesses, and keeping residents up to date with goings on in the village. In order for this to be successful we need as many people following the page as possible so please join the group if you can.

Alternatively, if you have something you would like go contribute to the page but do not have access to Facebook, please contact either Jonathan Eardley (jonardley@hotmail.co.uk) or Regan Jones (at the shop or 01874676663) and something will be put online on your behalf.

Craig Burdon

Chair, Talybont on Usk Community Council

Siop Siarad

We continue to meet weekly at the White Hart and in December we finished off last year by holding a celebration of Christmas in Welsh at the Sardis Chapel Llangynidr which was very well supported despite the snowy weather.

Over the early part of the New Year we attended the revival of two traditional customs in the local area, the first being The Plygain, which is an ancient carol singing service originally held between 3am - 6am but now arranged at more favourable times. The carols are sung by individuals or groups in close harmony and unaccompanied. This year it was held at Saron Chapel Aberpedwar Cwmwysg. The singing was very special, and it was a wonderful event.

The second was the Mari Lwyd in which a horses skull with moveable jaw and green reflective glass eyes and mounted on a pole covered with a white sheet and decorated with ribbons to cover the bearer beneath is led by an ostler and accompanied by revellers to local hostelrys where a competition of rhymes takes place between those within and the Mari Lwyd which is eventually let in for some fun and wet and dry refreshment. This tradition was held at Brecon and Abergavenny, and it is hoped that it will go from strength to strength in the future.

In the near future we will be working with Menter Iaith to encourage the use of Welsh in the Community by arranging two local walks 1. The Henry Vaughan. 2 Hidden Histories of Talybont . In May we will be supporting the National Urdd Eisteddfod at Builth Wells. 2018 is looking busy already.

Anyone with queries can contact

Maureen Probert 676204 Les Williams 676568

TALYBONT-ON-USK & DISTRICT GARDENING ASSOCIATION

Talybont Garden Club - now recruiting!

Please do join us. **Indoor meetings are held in Henderson Hall, 7:30 pm starts, always ending up with tea, coffee and biscuits!!** You will be promised a warm welcome whatever your gardening ability. **Annual membership is only £5 per year.**

For any further information please contact either the
Chairman:

Mr Peter Seaman 01874
676225 or the

Secretary: Mrs Sandra
Briskham 01874 676297

Friday 16th Feb

Gareth Davies- Herbaceous plants and borders.

Friday 16th March

Peter Seaman- Garden travels to the North, South and West.

Tuesday 3rd April

Three way quiz - Talybont, Bwlch, Llangynidr (at Bwlch village hall)

Tea and Chat



This social group for the over 60's meets on the first Monday of the month at 3pm in the Henderson Hall.

We started 2018 on New Years Day and enjoyed a cup of tea and a selection of cakes as well as celebrating a member's birthday.

Everyone is welcome and there is no charge, thanks to the hostesses, Talybont Energy and the Hall Committee.

Cherry Jones



