



Talybont Matters

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



Issue 38

Summer 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!

Stop Press

Traffic congestion in Talybont, particularly on weekends, can seriously interrupt the free flow of traffic through the village. This is often made worse by vehicles parking illegally on double yellow lines. If this is observed please phone the police on 101 and they will then hopefully take the required action.

Talybont-on-Usk
Community Council

ETN launches low energy Twizy vehicles

On July 17th, the rain gods granted an afternoon's respite for the launch of the Eco Travel Network (ETN) at Henderson Hall. The ETN is a not-for-profit company set up to acquire, insure, maintain and promote a fleet of low energy micro-vehicles for use by National Park visitors. Helped by a grant from the Brecon Beacons National Park Sustainable Development Fund, ETN has purchased 5 Renault Twizys that are now based at accommodation businesses in the park to hire out to their guests and other members of the public. Over 20 local businesses in the park - including the Star Inn and the Post



Office in Talybont - have also agreed to recharge visiting Twizys and extend their range.

Representatives from the Park, from Renault UK (who are also sponsoring the scheme) and interested touring businesses gathered at Henderson Hall to see and in most cases test drive a Twizy. The sun shone all afternoon, which was doubly beneficial as it meant that the Hall's PV panels could keep the Twizys topped up with electricity. Driving a Twizy along the back roads of our beautiful area is an exhilarating experience, creating no atmospheric or noise pollution. The ETN hopes to demonstrate that we can dramatically reduce our travel carbon footprint and still have fun doing it. Local business Brecon Beacons Holiday Cottages is hosting one of the Twizys, for use by visitors staying in self-catering cottages in the area (more on Page 5).



Claire Gray, Editor of Talybont Matters, on a test drive!

Alison Kidd and Peter Williams of Pencelli, who are founding directors of the ETN, also have a Twizy of their own that is being used for ETN promotion and for vehicle testing. This will be used later in the year to explore the use of Twizys as commuter vehicles for residents. More on this in the next issue.

Peter Williams

Community Woodland Group for Talybont

Our landscape is filled with woodlands that play a valuable role is absorbing carbon, storing water and providing space valuable for both wildlife for people. Unfortunately, many of our native woodlands no longer benefit from the cycles of management that shaped them over the last few hundred years. Unmanaged woodlands are often too dark for woodland flowers to grow and tree growth is crowded and poor, resulting in wind-blown trees and a lack of space for the next generation of trees to germinate.

The Green Valleys has helped 5 communities in our area form and operate community woodland management groups to undertake work on local woodlands. This has proven to be a great way to improve the local environment, meet new people, learn new skills, stay active and generate a sus-

tainable local supply of woodfuel to help combat carbon emissions and rising fuel costs.

Several people within the Talybont area have approached The Green Valleys for help in setting up and operating a group, so we have arranged for an open community meeting, where all are welcome. The Green Valleys provides help in setting up a group, finding start-up grants, determining what management would benefit the woodland and full training to deliver high quality and safe management works.

The first meeting will be in the Henderson Hall on Tuesday 7th August at 7pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

Gareth Ellis – The Green Valleys CIC
gareth.ellis@thegreenvalleys.org



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



HENDERSON HALL

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Community Woodland Group Meeting
Tue 7 Aug, 7.00 pm

Talybont Junior Tennis Tournament
Sat 18 August

Talybont Show
Sat 25 August

Flicks in the Sticks
Tue 21 Aug, 7.30pm
Tue 25 Sept, 7.30pm
Tue 23 Oct, 7.30pm

REGULAR EVENTS

Playgroup

Mondays
10 - 12 am
Pam Burdon
01874 676605

WI

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

Brownies

Thursdays
6.30pm - 7.45pm
Sue Thorne
01874 676293

Talybont 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 Oct to June.
Chairperson:
Brenda Powell
01874 676639

Short Family Service

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

Henderson Hall Key Contacts

Cherry Jones (Chairperson) 676232
Brenda Powell (Treasurer) 676639
Sue Thomas (Secretary) 676254

For Hall bookings, contact Heather Stephens (Hall Bookings Secretary)
Tel: 676242; Email: heather.leejem@orange.net

Adele replaces Ali on ToUE Team

Sadly, Ali Crawshaw has moved away from the area and so, after three splendid years, is no longer working for Talybont Energy. She is replaced by Adele Nozedar, who is delighted to have stepped into Ali's erstwhile shoes but also realises that she has a hard act to follow!

Do come and say hello to Adele and other members of the Talybont on Usk Energy team on 25 August at the Talybont Show. We want your suggestions for initiatives that we might be able to help with, that would benefit our community.

Adele Nozedar

Church News

Many thanks to all who supported the packed Queen's Jubilee service in the Hall in June! It was a very popular & fun occasion, when the weather ruined a lot else! Also the fine support for Aber Chapel's 250th. Anniversary Summer Praise service in July for chapels & churches combined. Thanks too to Jeremy, the Deanery Curate, & all who attended the "No Dads Allowed" morning in the Hall (& especially the bacon butty support team!). Pity more didn't come to the Family Service in Llanfeugan Church next day on Fathers' Day

Second chance! You all have a second chance to come to a special Family Service in

Llanfeugan on Sunday 30th Sept at 11am for Back2Church Sunday!! It'll be a short, informal non-eucharistic service for all. C U there?!

Now that we've had summer (!!!) it's time again to think of **Harvest**, to be celebrated at **Llandetty at 11am on Sunday 9th Sept**, with Harvest lunch (all you can eat for £6!!! - tickets from Church wardens or at the door) in the Hall afterwards from 12 o'clock+.

There is an **Open Churches Day** on the weekend of **15-16th Sept**. All 3 churches are going to be open to the public that week-

end & we hope to make church records of weddings, funerals & baptisms available in the Hall (under armed guard!) for people to research their family history. Over to you!

Staff & pupils from **Ysgol Penmaes Special School** in Brecon are going to **Romania in October** with the Star of Hope Foundation. **They urgently require children's books, pens etc., baby clothes & toys, nappies & bathroom toiletries.** If you can help, these can go directly to Ysgol Penmaes School or I'm sure via Sue Large, Penny Morgan or Margaret Robinson.

Andy Robinson

Talybont Flicks & Comfy Chairs

Henderson Hall is proud to announce that we have some lovely new comfortable padded chairs from a Lottery Grant awarded this last year. So, if your excuse for not coming along to a film night was a numb bum, you now have no need to worry and can even leave the cushions at home!

We have some great films coming up and hope you can come along. Please spread the word as we could do with a few more people coming along - locals and visitors alike will be warmly welcomed. If

you are an accommodation provider, please let any visitors to the area know that they are very welcome and it is a good big screen experience as well as being fun. All films are at Henderson Hall and start at 7.30pm.

On **Tuesday 21st August** we will be getting in to an Olympic theme by showing '**Cool Running**', cert PG which is a hilarious true story about a Jamaica's first bobsled team starring the very funny John Candy.

Tuesday 25th Sept will be '**My Week with Marilyn**', cert 15 then on **October 23rd** we will be showing the highly acclaimed '**Senna**', certificate 12A which documents the life of Ayrton Senna. You don't have to like motor racing to see this film but come on you guys, this is a film for you so let's see some of you come along!

Obviously, don't forget a tippie of your choice and nibbles.

Clare Wright

Start preparing! - Olympic theme to Talybont Show, 25 August

The Talybont and area show will take place on Saturday 25th August. We are going to stick 2 fingers at the rain gods and lay on the best event for years. There will be something for everyone, from children's sports to crafts to 'bird song' and traditional flower and vegetable exhibitions. We want to make this year's event a morale booster after this terrible summer.

For children there will be competitions for canal photos, wild grasses in a jar, and an 'Olympic collage' among many other events.

Talybont Tennis

We have been very lucky so far this summer, with each Wednesday evening being dry enough for tennis to take place on the outside courts. Attendance has been very good with up to a dozen children. The children enjoy the sessions and we are grateful to our coach Robin Skinner who

The Olympic theme will be repeated on the sports field with 'chariots of fire (or rain) events' and in the craft section with an Olympic medal and torch. So, Mums and Dads, get those little hands and bright brains working during the summer holidays.

Sloe gin will be one of the domestic class entries for adults: lucky judge for this one! Photography adult section includes a village celebration scene and a local water scene. For gardeners it has certainly been a challenging summer but everyone has suffered, so please do enter your ever-so-slightly

slug-eaten lettuce and your black-spotted roses.

All entries must be staged by 10.30am (NB new time) and the show will start at 2pm. Please come and support this traditional country event. Programmes will be available from the shop and local contacts. Also new this year will be separate forms for each competitor (extra forms will be available from the shop) and the drop-off point for entries will be the Malt House, which is opposite the White Hart Inn in Talybont village.

Peter Seaman

makes the sessions fun. Judging from the improvement we can see in the children's abilities they are also learning as well. The fund raising for the courts to be resurfaced is going slowly but steadily, we have passed our first £1000.

We are hoping to run a Junior Tennis Tournament on Saturday 18th August, at Talybont playing fields between 10am and 2pm. All children are welcome. If you would like more information contact either Sarah on 676633 or Margaret 676697.

Margaret Cox

'Old' bird hide moved: Llangorse Lake to Talybont Reservoir

At the end of June we moved a bird hide from Llangorse lake to Talybont reservoir. The Park Authority had kindly given us the hide when a smart new replacement one (which you must visit – even if only for the views from Llangasty across the lake) was installed. The 'old' hide had to be uplifted and then precariously transported up to the reservoir—precarious and delicate work lifting the hide down a slope and through trees. The volunteers relied mainly on the great work of JL Stephens of Talybont-on-Usk whose team of men, provided at 'cost' by Bryan Stephens, did a fantastic job. The hide was quite challenging to move and install.

Many thanks indeed to the staff of JL Stephens and the volunteers who helped. Funding for the work was kindly donated by the Park Authority Conservation &



Job done!

Community Grant Fund and the Powys Environment Partnership. **If you would like to find out more about helping the 'Friends' then please contact the honorary secretary, Peter Seaman on 01874 676225.**

Peter Seaman



'Over the Baas' product range extends

Talybont Community Recreation Group 'Over the Baas' are continuing their fund-raising to improve the playing fields in Talybont on Usk. The first batch of 'T'-shirts flew off the shelves and with the generous support of Talybont on Usk Energy group we have been able to purchase more 'T'-shirts, including children's sizes and hats, caps and



beanies, which will be on sale in Talybont stores very soon.

We have also been extremely lucky as local man, Julian Hopkins - BMX bike enthusiast - donated a super 'mongoose' bike and Biped cycles of Brecon donated a 'Ruption' BMX bike to raffle. Other prizes include bike accessories from 'Bikes and Hikes' of Brecon. Raffle tickets are available at £5 a book or £1 each.

We would like to thank everyone for their support so far especially the local people and businesses that have donated funds for this worthy cause.

We are currently organising a family sponsored bike ride in September, more details will be posted around the village at a later date or see us at Talybont show. Contact us at overthebaas@hotmail.co.uk Or visit our Facebook page 'over the baas'.

Lisa Preece



Litter Pick for the Queen

“So let’s tidy up in readiness for the Jubilee”, I thought!!!

I entered a competition with the Daily Mail and won one of their special Jubilee Spring Cleaning equipment packs – “Now all I needed was the volunteers”, I thought!!!

So, 2 days before the Jubilee celebrations, 15 residents met at the shop and were issued with litter pickers, gloves, special rubbish bags and hoops, we also had yellow ‘T’-shirts and baseball caps (the children loved these!!). The group even included 4 very keen children – Ester, Jessica, & John Burdon and Victoria James.

The village was divided up into sections and off we went in groups of twos and threes, the children wanted to stay together – so they worked really hard clearing up the playing field. The weather was dry and within a few hours we had achieved our aim, with all the rubbish bags being taken to the Recycling Bins in the Hall Car Park, where they were promptly picked up by Powys County Council just as we finished!!

Many thanks to the volunteers who distribute this newsletter

Some of the volunteers suggested that this be a regular activity – say every 6 weeks – what do you think???

I have all the necessary equipment so if anyone feels they would like to help our local environment please contact me with your name and I will let you know when the next “litter pick” date will be. We particularly want some volunteers for Penpentre.

Sandra Briskham, Tel 676297, or email Sandra.briskham@btinternet.com

Sandra Briskham

Jubilee Celebrations

Jubilee **Sunday**’s service of thanksgiving taken by Andy Robinson was very well attended, but the picnics scheduled for the field were rained off. Several families however remained in the hall and had a most enjoyable Teddy Bears’ Picnic, orchestrated by Cherry Jones. Malcolm Morrow’s television set up sadly was not used.

Monday was much better weather-wise and the children’s sports and games were greatly enjoyed. The biggest attraction was the inflatable boxing ring and bouncy castle very generously provided by Owen and Sue. The clues for the treasure hunt had many scratching their heads and only one couple got everything right. At 9.00pm around 40 gathered in the hall car park to be transported very kindly by Geraint and Christine James to the A40 lay by for a walk to the Allt. The National Park Authority prevented a beacon being lit but this was briefly resolved when, to everyone’s amazement, a gorse bush miraculously burst into flames!

Tuesday’s event was the Bryn walk organised by Sarah Osborne - a group of 8 stalwarts took part and enjoyed this new route. A visit to Coity Mawr gardens by kind invitation of Joyce Forward and a final drink at the Star completed the day and the Jubilee programme.

Many people assisted to make this such an enjoyable occasion but special thanks go to Sue and Owen Cartwright for providing the funds to buy the Jubilee Mugs, to Marianne Stephens for designing and printing the posters and The Star, White Hart and Royal Oak for selling mugs. Rob and Regan with the two Heathers at Talybont Stores have done a really splendid job of distributing the free mugs to the youngsters and selling the bulk of the adult mugs.

John Jones



Egypt comes to Skethrog

The Friendship Force of South Wales, which I have previously mentioned in Talybont Matters, hosted a party of 17 members of the Friendship Force of Cairo between 6 and 13 June.

Members of the Friendship Force of South Wales are principally based in the Newport area with some members in Cardiff and 2 in the Brecon area. At the previous inward exchange the visitors had said they would have liked to have seen more of the hills and valleys of Wales so for this exchange a

visit to Brecon on Saturday 9 June was fixed and I offered to help with the arrangements for this visit.

The Cairo visitors had lunch at the Mountain Centre, and had guided tours of Christ College and the Guildhall. Afterwards I entertained some of the party to tea on the patio of Y Feudy, Scethrog where conversation flowed, the visitors enjoying the warmth of our June sun. I met the visitors again at the exchange farewell dinner at Langstone, Newport

on the following Tuesday, the ladies looking splendid in their national costume. The visitors gave me little gifts to thank me for my contribution to the exchange.

The pyramids and the Nile valley have never drawn me to Egypt but the warmth and charm of the Cairo party have encouraged me to see more of Egypt, its people and way of life.

Gerard Purnell

'YHA' Community Day - 15 Sept

On the 15th of September it is 'YHA Day' when all the youth hostels open their doors to the community and there is lots of fun and frivolity while hopefully building links and spreading the word about all the lovely things we do.

So up here we are doing a 'community' event. I am inviting lots of local groups as well as interested local producers to an open day. They are welcome to have a table or display and use it to raise awareness and funds for their projects. On the day we hope to see lots of local people

dropping in to find out more as well as the tourists and day visitors to the area.

There would be no cost for community groups and a nominal fee for others – we have a very limited number of tables so if you can provide your own that would be great. If you would like to raise funds/run an activity then could you please let me know so that I can avoid 5 face painting tables! If you would like to discuss options just give me a call. As we are a licenced premises please do not sell alcohol. If you

know of any local producer or yourself run a commercial venture and would like to be involved please just email me and we can discuss a nominal fee.

The plan will be to start it about 10am-ish and run until about 4pm – there will be some spaces available in the marquee which we will have here so if you have lots to set up or want to drop off let me know, this will also help with any adverse weather!

Toni (Danywenallt YHA)

Help needed for local Scouts!

The 1st Llangynidr Scout Group is looking for adult help as a matter of urgency. The Group has three sections for boys and girls from the surrounding area, which all meet on Friday evenings in Llangynidr Village Hall for a variety of exciting and fun activities - as well as occasional weekend activities and camps. The Beaver Colony caters for 5³/₄ to 8 year-olds; the Cub Pack caters for 8 to 10¹/₂ year-olds; and the Scout Troop caters for 10¹/₂ to 14 year-olds.

Although there are lots of young people interested in taking part in Scouting activities, the Group has struggled to find enough adult help in the last few years - and the leadership teams in each section are down to the bare minimum and struggling to provide the adventurous, balanced programme of Scouting activities that they would really like to. If they don't get more

help, they may be forced to close before the autumn term. This would be a real shame, as there is clearly a demand from young people in the area for the sort of activities that Scouting provides. So if you know anyone who might like to help with running meetings on Friday evenings, to offer one-off activities (we have badges that cover most things!) or to help the current leaders with things like programme planning - please show them this article and ask them if they'd be willing to lend a hand. They don't need to have any previous Scouting experience but do need to be willing to work with other volunteers and with enthusiastic young people!

The Group is also in urgent need of volunteers to help with administration and management. We need to find a Group Scout Leader (who is the overall manager of the Group) and/or a Group Chair (who over-

sees the behind-the-scenes support) before September - and ideally a Secretary and other committee members to provide behind-the-scenes support like fundraising and occasional events. Without these important supporting roles the Group cannot legally exist, so again may be forced to close. So if you know anyone who has management experience, or perhaps past Scouting experience, and might be interested in taking on a management role in the Group - or someone who would be willing to lend a hand with fundraising or general committee support - please ask them to get in touch!

To find out more about what's involved, or to offer help, please contact Steve Rayner, Brecon & Glanusk District Commissioner:
steve.rayner@brecknockscouts.org.uk
Tel: 01874 623399

Anna Bell

If you are keen to be green locally, or are on your holiday in the Brecon Beacons, you can now **RENT OUR RENAULT TWIZY** (called Tomos), which is powered entirely by 'local' electricity generated from abundant Welsh sun, rain and wind. Tomos carries 2 people, has a top speed of 50mph and a range of around 50 miles depending on driving speed and terrain.

TOMAS THE TWIZY will be waiting to provide zero carbon transportation around the Brecon Beacons at a cost of £45 per day.

Call us on 01874 676446 to find out more: <http://www.renault.com/en/vehicules/renault/pages/twizy.aspx>

Tomos is kept at **Brecon Beacons Holiday Cottages, Brynogyre, Talybont-on-Usk** and guests can phone to book, then pick up and drive round the BBNP - it's a lot of fun, and there are about 20 charging points where you can charge up whilst having a coffee at the Felinfach Griffin perhaps, or lunch at the Swan in Hay, or afternoon tea at Talybont Shop. Only £45 a day for a lot of fun!

Caroline Danby (Brecon Beacons Holiday Cottages)

True Taste of Wales Award for Coity Bach sausages

Coity Bach, just over one year ago, made the decision to sell their produce direct to the consumer giving a fresh product direct from the farm with very few food miles.

We now sell at about 5 local Farmers Markets, several Bed & Breakfasts and Talybont Stores stocks a variety of our products to sell as well as having our products on their Café menu.

Our FAGGOTS are made from a secret family recipe that has been traced back over 200 years.

This year for the first time we entered our SWEET CHILLI SAUSAGES into the True Taste of Wales Award – and last week we were notified that we were

winners and the award would be presented in October this year!

If you would like to try, buy or would like a list of products please email produce@coitybach.co.uk or buy from Talybont Store.

Ceri (Coity Bach)



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

Produced by: **ERA²¹ Ltd.**
Editor: Claire Gray

**Please send articles & contact
details to:**

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Bwlch
LD3 7JJ
Email: era21@era21.co.uk



<http://www.talybont.info/>

'YHA Day' for the community Sept 15th - around 10am - 4pm

Fun, frolics, fund-raising and linking up at

Danywenallt YHA Open Day

Groups and local producers invited to have a display or table to raise awareness and funds for their projects.

No cost for community groups

A nominal fee for others

If interested, please get in contact

(preferably by email): danywenallt@yha.org.uk

Toni (Danywenallt YHA)

⚡ Davies electrical

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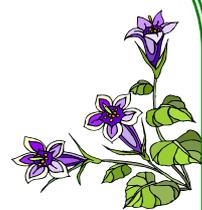
WITH NO OBLIGATION

TALYBONT-ON-USK & DISTRICT GARDENING ASSOCIATION

Meetings are usually held on the
3rd Friday of every month
during the year

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!



Saturday 25th August - ANNUAL VILLAGE SHOW & SPORTS—
HENDERSON HALL PLAYING FIELD

Friday 21st Sept - Annual Show Reports and Discussion.
All interested residents are asked to contribute "feedback" to this important event and to plan for next year's event.

Friday 19th Oct - "Easy Plants for Difficult Places" - illustrated talk by Richard Cain of Penlan Perennials, Boncath. He will also be bringing a selection of plants for sale.

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

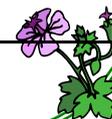
Other Dates for your Diary:

10th - 11th Aug 125th Shrewsbury Flower Show

6th - 9th Sept RHS Wisley (Surrey) Garden Show

29th - 30th Sept Malvern Autumn Show.

Chairman: Miss Brenda Powell 01874 676639
Secretary: Mrs. Sandra Briskham 01874 676297



Some depressing June weather facts

- ◆ June 2012 was the wettest June since I started recording local weather data
- ◆ June 2012 was the wettest month since November 2009
- ◆ 5.9 inches was recorded in June, more than twice the average for that month
- ◆ I recorded rain on 24 days out of 30

However, at least I can drown the slugs in my veg patch with my hosepipe!

Peter Seaman, Scethrog

Café offers Pensioners lunches, and more

From 2 July we have been offering pensioners a special 2-course lunch menu at the Canalside Café.

We are also doing a rewards cards for people: each time they purchase a drink they receive a star and once they have collected six they get a free drink. If they collect twelve stars that get a free piece of cake. In addition the Café now sells gift vouchers as well.

We are also extending our pet range at the store - you can now order large sacks of peanuts, wild bird food and dog and cat food.

Regan Jones, Talybont Stores

**Canalside Café at
Talybont Stores
01874 676663**

2 Course Special Pensioners Lunch

MAIN

Roast Ham, Parsley Sauce, Chips and Garden Peas

~

Breaded Wholetail Scampi, Chips and Garden Peas

~

Local Faggots with Mash and Onion Gravy

DESSERT

Warm Chocolate Fudge Cake

~

Sticky Toffee Pudding

~

Both served with Double Cream

**Served Monday - Friday 11.30am till 2.30pm
£6.95 per person**