



Talybont Matters

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Issue 45

Spring 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.

My Work in Parliament and the Constituency

I thought I would give you a quick update of my activities in Parliament, and in Brecon and Radnorshire, over these last few weeks.

During Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday 2nd April I asked the Prime Minister if the Government will investigate how they can benefit off-grid customers, who often live in fuel poverty. Many people in rural areas, including some areas of Brecon and Radnorshire, do not benefit from mains gas and instead rely on more expensive fuels. Earlier this year I secured a debate on Cold Homes and Fuel Poverty in the House of Commons to highlight this issue.

Connecting villages to the mains gas will make a massive difference in helping to combat fuel poverty. I was disappointed by the Prime Minister's response, as I have been pushing for the Government to replicate the relief given to consumers on mains electricity and gas bills for off-grid customers. I have already been investigating the possibility of group buying for liquid petroleum gas and heating oil, as suggested by the Prime Minister, but I will now meet with suppliers across the constituency in an attempt to encourage them to cooperate with groups to lower the cost of fuel.

We have also had some training this month which I found extremely informative. Along with Kirsty Williams AM and constituency staff, we took an important step in helping to end the stigma surrounding dementia by becoming a Dementia Friend. Dementia Friends is about giving people an understanding of dementia and the small things they can do that can make a difference to people living with the condition. From helping someone find the right bus to spreading the word about dementia, it can help make our local community a better place to live.

And finally, this Easter Sunday I supported people with lung disease by abseiling down Dinas Rock for the British Lung Foundation Wales. The event marks the eighth annual 'Breathe Easy' abseil, and the fourth time that I have taken on the challenge in an effort to support people with breathing problems in Wales. Money raised by the group has been used to buy equipment to help local lung patients and purchase other important medical equipment. Money also goes to support the work of the British Lung Foundation and helps to fund medical research into lung disease.

Roger Williams MP

The 2014 Schedule for the Annual Talybont-on-Usk Show will be available from Talybont Stores and Canalside Café from 6th May.

There are three groups of Classes:

- ♣ **LOCAL SECTION:** confined to all members of Talybont Gardening Association & others living within a four mile radius
- ♣ **OPEN SECTION:** open to anyone irrespective of membership of the Talybont Gardening Association or where they live
- ♣ **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE:** open to anyone 16 years or younger irrespective of where they live; each class in this section is age specific.

So, whether you enjoy gardening, handicrafts, cooking, photography, art or have computer skills do go along to our local Shop and Post Office to pick up a copy of the 2014 Schedule and see what you would like to 'have a go' at. The Show will be held on the afternoon of Bank Holiday Saturday, 23rd August in the Henderson Hall and Playing Fields there should be lots to see and do. Looking forward to seeing you there and your exhibits!

Pat Wilkie (Show Schedule Secretary)

Henry Vaughan, Poet - Public Appeal

The Brecknock Society has won a grant from the Brecon Beacons Trust towards the cost of its £10,000 project to restore, and improve the access to, the grave of Henry Vaughan at the top of Llansantffraed Churchyard. A Public Appeal for the final £2,500 was launched on 27 April 2014 - see the Henry Vaughan project page at www.brecknocksociety.co.uk for details. The Society hopes Talybont residents will support this appeal to preserve our Henry Vaughan heritage.

Work to restore the grave is expected to start in May, with the new path and signage installed as soon as the funding target is reached.

Sandra Briskham



TALYBONT ON USK
ENERGY YNNI
TALYBONT AR WYSG

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



HENDERSON HALL

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Hall AGM
Wed 28 May 7.30pm

TALYBONT FLICKS

Wed 7 May - 7.30pm
'Burn After Reading'

REGULAR EVENTS

Playgroup

Mondays
10 - 12 am
Kirsty Carr
01874 676514

WI

2nd Wed each month
7pm - 10pm
Anne Jeans
01874 626637

Brownies

Thursdays
6.30pm - 7.45pm
Sue Thorne
01874 676293

Cricket Club

May resume in summer
Contact Geraint James
01874 676272

Junior Tennis Club

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

Gardening Club

7.30pm 3rd Friday each month
Sept to June.
Chair: Gareth Davies
01874 676200

Tea and Chat

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

Short Family Service

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

Zumba Dance Class

8-9pm every Tuesday
Heather Vaughan
Talybont Stores.

Henderson Hall Contacts

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

The Hall AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday May 28th and is an open meeting to which you are invited. This will be followed by a members-only committee meeting. We are always looking for keen and community spirited helpers to get involved giving as much or as little time as they are able to. If you are interested to know more then please contact Clare by email clarewright.osm@btinternet.com or call on 676679.

Treasurer Needed

Our current treasurer will be leaving in May due to other commitments but has a very efficient system all ready and set up for someone to take over easily. Have you got a couple of hours you could spare each week? If you could consider this or know of someone who might, please let Clare or any of the other committee members know.

More green energy for the Hall!

GREEN ENERGY and lots of lovely heat: a huge thanks to Talybont Energy in helping to keep you all warm in the hall. Thanks to their support, we now have an air source heat pump system installed which, on its first use, had all our Bingo players stripping off as the night went on! With the extra row of PV panels also installed, this will help us use less gas and cut down our heating bills which have been very high. There are still things to do but this is a big step in the right direction towards becoming a green and sustainable hall that we can be proud of.

Clare Wright

Talybont Flicks

A reminder that Talybont Flicks are now on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

Next film is the 7th May and will be 'Burn After Reading'

- a comedy thriller by the Coen Brothers and starring George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Jon Malcovich. Anyone welcome so please do come along.

Toilet News!

This seems to be an on going saga in the village but the good news is that the old public toilets have been given some sort of reprieve for a while. How long no one knows. The bad news is that this means the grant to run a public toilet won't be available to help cover running and cleaning costs. However, there is still a need for toilets at the other end of the village, especially if we want to encourage visitors to park off the road in the hall car park when possible. So, the new public toilet at the back of the hall will be ready early May and we can see how it goes.

Apart from the water and electric costs, the other big issue will be cleaning. The community run toilets at Llanfrynach, have a group of volunteers on a cleaning rota meaning they only do it once every few weeks. The hall committee don't have the youth (sorry guys) or the man power to do this on our own! This will be a service for the whole community so please consider whether you could bear to offer an hour every few weeks to help and let Clare or any other hall member know.

We hope that, if the facility is kept really clean and nice to use, it will be respected and left as found. But, gloves and equipment will be provided!

Clare Wright

First ever M&B CANALATHON - Sept 14th

Teams of four are challenged to complete a 33 mile route along the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal by canoe, bike and foot on Sunday 14th September 2014.

Canoe for 5 miles starting from Pontymoile basin, followed by 17 miles on bike from Goytre Wharf, finishing with an 11 mile walk or run from Llangynidr, completing the challenge at Brecon Canal Basin.

Entry fee is £30 per team member or £120 per team. Two open canoes per team will be supplied as part of your entry fee. Places are limited so early entry is advised. **To enter visit www.mbact.org.uk**

For more information call 07792 926055 or email matt@canalathon.com

Talybont WI

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month -

7-10pm at Henderson Hall

Newcomers Welcome!

Secretary Anne Jeans: 676637

Programme:

14 May: 'Talybont to Molo' - speaker *Hilary Williams*

11 June: Outing tbc

9 July: 'The life of a bee' - speaker *Dr. Jill Todd*

Zumba Dance Class

8-9pm every Tuesday

at Henderson Hall,

Talybont on Usk

£4.00 per session

All ages welcome - please arrive at 7.50 to sign in.

Proceeds to be donated to children's play equipment and tennis courts at Talybont Playing Fields.

The 200 Club Draw

Winners of the April Draw were:

£50 Pat Wilkie

£35 Trish Walker

£25 Jane Morgan

£15 David Hutton

£10 Glyn Thomas

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
Contact Brenda on 676639

Your Brownies Need You!

Talybont on Usk Brownies is a thriving unit with 19 girls currently on the books. However after much sole searching Sue and Judith have decided that they have done their stint and some new blood and new ideas would be of benefit. This year the Brownie movement is 100 years old, and Gwyneth Powell remembers attending the Talybont Pack in approximately the 1930s. Is there anyone who will follow in Sue's shoes and start the next century for the movement? All you need is an interest in Guiding and would like to get involved in village life. There must be something in it as Sue has walked over to the village hall most Thursdays for 29 years! Val Jones from Llanhamlach and Iris Merson were leaders from 1968. Then Sandra Briskham took over in approx 1974.

Pat Eckley and Jean O'Reagan (now Jean Laurence) took over in the mid 80's. When during this time a young Sue came to live in Talybont on Usk she was keen to get to know people and with an interest in Guiding Sue went over to the village hall and offered her services. At that time Brenda Powell and Betty Jackson ran Guides and Rangers, and Pat Eckley and Jean O'Reagan, (now Jean Laurence) ran the Brownies. Sue joined the team helping Brenda and Betty.

The years went by and sadly Betty lost her life to cancer, the Rangers dropped off and Pat and Jean wanted to give up. Brenda and Sue joined the Guides and Brownies together and ran it as one for a few years. Not perhaps the best idea at the time and the

older girls diminished but the Brownie group grew stronger. A decision was made to just have a Brownie group, this Sue continued to run, and after Brenda gave up Judith Evans came along some 17 years ago.

WILL YOU rise to the challenge and see what kept Sue in the unit for 29 and Judith for 17 years? There is another helper prepared to stay and Sue will help to ease YOUR passage into the unit. Anyone who is up for the experience should phone Sue 01874 676293 or do as she did and come over any Thursday in school term time between 6.30 and 7.45pm and offer your help. YOU won't regret it.

Sue Thorne

BRECON PLANT FAIR SATURDAY 17TH MAY

10.30am - 2.30pm

TREBERFYDD HOUSE

LLANGASTY, NR BRECON, LD3 7PX

By kind invitation of Mr and Mrs David Raikes

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Visit the recently revitalised plant nursery in The Walled Garden

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AT BWLCH AND LLANHAMLACH
Guide dogs only please**

Tribute to Bryan Stephens

Bryan Stephens sadly passed away on the 9th March 2014 aged 76 years. He was born and lived his life in Talybont-on-Usk.

Bryan, after leaving school, joined J L Stephens & Sons, the family construction company and took great pride in his work and was proud of the way his buildings helped the community of Talybont. He actively took part in all aspects of community life, playing football and cricket from a young age.

Bryan was a Committee Member for the Henderson Hall and a Community Councillor and Church Warden of Llanddety Church for over 30 years. He will be greatly missed by his family and all the community.

Karen



Invitations for memorial bench donations

Henderson Hall field is a wonderful open space in the middle of the village, and also a focal point for leisure activities. One thing it lacks though, is benches to sit on.

There is now an offer to anyone who would like to donate a memorial bench, which would be a reminder of lost loved ones and also provide a place for relaxation, contemplation, and comradeship.

Please address all enquiries to Heather Vaughan at Talybont Stores.

TALYBONT VILLAGE LITTER PICK



Next Litter Pick

SATURDAY 10th MAY 2014

Please meet at Talybont Shop at 10am

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

Contact: Sandra Briskham 676297

Our first Litter Pick for 2014 was on Saturday 8th February.

All that week the weather had been consistently wet and windy but once again we were quite lucky - we had one very brief shower while we were "picking" and one long one at the very end when most of us were on our way back home anyway!! 9 hardy adults turned out as well as Elsie in her pushchair - yes Lettie and Rob have started training her young and I do hope she keeps it up!! We discovered some damaged Powys County Council road signs which we stacked ready for them to take away - I somehow don't think they will be able to reuse them!! Other "finds" included an old petrol can, and the usual beer cans and bottles, plastic flower pots, and the usual crisp packets and sweet papers. It was pleasing to note that there was not so many dog poo bags along

the canal towpath this time but that could be because there aren't so many visitors around, and I also notice that the special Dog Bins are now more visibly obvious which should help to ease the problem. I spent quite a lot of my time cleaning around the Recycling Bins in the Hall Car park - a plea to residents - will you please ensure that all the recycling goes right into the bins and not dropped on the ground nearby, this is particularly important around the bottle bank where there was an awful lot of broken glass and this is near to where the children play on their bikes. Thanks to all my volunteers for their invaluable help in trying to keep our delightful village clean and tidy; The next Litter Pick date is Saturday 10th May, meet at 10 o'clock by the Village Shop - all volunteers are welcome, the more the merrier!!

Sandra Briskham





The ENERGISER

*THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
TALYBONT on USK ENERGY GROUP
FEBRUARY — APRIL 2014*

ABOUT ToUE...

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

A 36kw hydro electric turbine, housed in the original stone-built turbine house above the dam that you can see 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.

If you would like to find out more, visit our website

www.talybontenergy.co.uk

....Or email us on

info@talybontenergy.co.uk

....Or 'like' our page on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/
talybontenergy](http://www.facebook.com/talybontenergy)

New Green Heating System for Henderson Hall

Henderson Hall has a new environmentally friendly heating system, paid for by the Talybont Energy turbine. It uses an air-to-air heat pump to heat the building through 4 hot air vents in the main hall ceiling and an additional unit in the committee room. The heat pump is electric but produces 3 to 5 kilowatts of heat for every kilowatt of electricity it uses, by extracting heat from the outside air. The system can heat the hall more quickly than the current system, which suits a building that isn't occupied all the time. The heat pump itself is housed in the existing boiler room, but takes in air from the outside before returning it (quite a bit colder!) to the outside through louvres.

Think of a heat pump as just a large refrigerator operating in reverse, producing hot air from cold air by a process of alternately compressing and condensing a liquid refrigerant with a very low boiling point. An added benefit is that, on a hot summer day, the system can operate in reverse to cool the air instead. And if the sun is shining, much of the electricity to heat (or cool) the hall will be "free" courtesy of the PV panels on the roof, whose capacity has been doubled to 8kW.

The hall will retain its current gas boiler as a backup and provide hot water.

Welcome Mrs Jones!

Our new admin person is none other than the lovely Regan Jones, who runs the Talybont Village Stores and Cafe with her husband Rob. The Stores is an enterprise which many would agree is right at the heart of our community and the addition of Regan to the team is something that all the Directors are incredibly happy about. Regan had wanted to do something to 'give back' to Talybont so her appointment is the perfect for everyone. Next time you're in the Stores, either enjoying a fab feed or picking up the papers, say hi and congratulations to Regan!

Schools Fund

One of the aims of ToUE is to promote education about sustainable and renewable energy. With this in mind, we have opened a dialogue with the high schools in the area - Brecon High, Crickhowell, Gwynerfed, and Christ College. Cerys Probert, who lives in the village and works as a careers adviser, been invaluable in lining up contacts within the schools. Thanks Cerys!

Watch this space for further interesting developments...

Heulwen-the-sunshine van

Heulwen, our Talybont community electric van has done over 6000 miles since her arrival last May. During daylight hours, Heulwen can charge almost exclusively from the solar power generated by Henderson Hall's double row of solar PV panels.

Community members are now regularly using the van for trips to Brecon, Abergavenny, Llandovery, Hay, Newport and (most recently) Bristol. We have all become fans of the comfortable, silent ride and masses of space for carrying awkward loads. Even when converted into a 5 seater people carrier, there is still plenty of room in the back for loads. One couple recently put their two bikes in the back and headed up North for a day's ride.

Now the weather is warmer, Heulwen can manage 70-80 miles on one charge and we have also joined 3 public charging network schemes which offer charge points on the M4, in city car parks and at selected supermarket stores. There is a map of these in the van.



With a £25 annual fee for joining the scheme, Talybont Energy then charges £2.50/hour and 5p/mile to use Heulwen and you can book her online.

And don't forget that we also have Mr Chips, our Skoda Octavia who runs on recycled waste oil. Mr Chips costs £18/day and 18p/mile. Our rates are currently subsidised by Talybont Energy to encourage us to try using these zero carbon options for our journeys.

Do get in touch if you would like a demo drive of the vehicles or would simply like to know more. The scheme is open to anyone in the Talybont area.

Email: info@talybontenergy.co.uk or call Hilary and Les 01874 676568

Derwen y groes (Cross Oak in the Parish of Llanfigan)

Annette Brooks, of Lower Cross Oak, has written a short history of Cross Oak - it is too long to include in one issue alone so will appear in a series of 2-3 articles in the future issues. This is the first, to whet your appetite! Editor



In 1300BC there was a Bronze Age settlement in **Derwen y Groes (Cross Oak)** - the historical hill fort was discovered in July 2006.

The cottages you see on the map were built about 1700 onwards. The large pink cluster of cottages on the Cross Rd was a coaching

inn, brewery, and stables for horses. In the 1800's the Hall family ran the inn; at that time the stage coach would have called there with the mail and passengers.



in use in the 1970's - I am not sure when it was taken down. The last child to be Christened there was Ann-Marie Proud in 1972, daughter of Mr & Mrs Melvin Proud, my Father (Tom Bevan was her Godfather).

Just up the road, not shown on this photo, is the Old Forge which Thomas Maddy ran for over 60 years.

By 1814 the Brinore Tram Road was laid between Derwen y groes to Talybont through to Trefil, it is not known if the section between Derwen y Groes and Talybont was ever completed: further research is required.

By 1830's the road was improved from Crickhowell via Llangynidr to Derwen y groes.

And about this time **Gethinog Farmhouse** was built. The Powell Family lived at Gethinog. There was also a small brick church just to the right of the cross road and this was still

Margaret & Melvin Proud had three children: Alicia, Mark & Annmarie - they live at Gethinog Cottages. Mel worked as a farm work man for the Powell's at Gethinog Farm.

Annette Brooks

Next issue: find out more about who lived at Cross Oak, and how the area was developed over the years....



Gethinog Farmhouse

Pen-blwydd Hapus - Siop Siarad

Siop Siarad celebrated its first birthday some two months ago now. It is a forum for those who want to use the Welsh language, enjoy its riches and be part of its future in a bilingual Wales.

Siop Siarad datlu ei ben -blwydd cyntaf ryw ddau fis yn ol awr. Mae'n fforwm ar gyfer y rhai sydd am ddefnyddio iaith Gymraeg, yn mwynhau ei gyfoeth a bod yn rhan o'i dyfodol mewn Cymru ddwyieithog.

Over the last year we've had a number of interesting visitors and also interesting visits! Two significant local authors have come to read and discuss their contributions to the Welsh language. Christopher Meredith read his recently published Welsh poems included in his book Air Histories and Malcolm Llywelyn, from Llanfrynach, came and discussed his series of books on Welsh place names in and around this area.

Two notable visits this year, one to the National Library in Aberystwyth and one much more locally to Pwll-y - Hwyaidd farm here in Talybont. At the end of February we had the chance in Aberystwyth to see and be given the background to the most important Welsh manuscripts brought together under one roof, The Black Book of Carmarthen, The Book of Taliesin, The Book of Aneurin and the Red Book of Hergest. The Library normally does free guided tours on Monday morning and a Wednesday afternoon but

thanks to the persuasive powers of the inestimable Maureen Probert we were give a special introduction to the Library on our Friday visit, clearly Talybont Matters!

For the local visit to Pwll-y-Hwyaidd farm we have to thank Linda and Glasnant Morgan who allowed us to see and hear, in Welsh, how busy and demanding the lambing season can be! So many thanks to them both for the commentary and the tea and Welsh cakes.

Rydym ni'n cyfarfod ar fore Gwener yn y Hydd Gwyn am 10.30 ac mae'n anffurfiol, casglu hamddenol o siaradwyr Cymraeg, gan ddysgwyr i'r rhai sydd a mwy rhuglder. Mae croeso i bawb sydd a diddoreb yn yr iaith, felly dewch i ychwanegu syniadau at ein pot toddi!

We meet on Friday mornings in the White Hart at 10.30 and it is an informal, relaxed gathering of Welsh speakers, a spectrum of learners through to those with more fluency. Everyone with an interest in the language is welcome, come and add ideas to our melting pot!

Finally many thanks to Sue and Owen and the staff at the White Hart for their wonderful hospitality.

Yn olaf, diolch yn fawr iawn i Sue and Owen a'r staff yn yr Hydd Gwyn am eu lletygarwch gwych.

Les Williams (lweryri@hotmail.com)

The Allt Publishing Company are pleased to announce the publication of another novel by local author William Keays.

Springtime in Talygarn is a somewhat naughty adult novel set in a small Mid-Wales village. The entertaining story is set against a background of tensions between natives, incomers, the police and the Planning Authority. The book is available on Amazon Kindle at £1.84. A paperback edition will shortly be placed in Brecon Library.

The Allt Publishing Company

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Talybont Woodland Group to host community events

The Talybont Woodland Group have been given a significant boost to both their coffers and their morale after the Talybont Community Council kindly awarded us a grant to buy equipment and safety gear. As well as this we've had a wonderful donation of tools and equipment by those nice people at Keep Wales Tidy.

Over the coming months we'll be hosting a series of community events, too, including bushcraft, bonfires and picnics! Keep an eye on *Talybont Matters* and posters in the Stores, etc, for details.

In the meantime here are the next set of dates. All ages and abilities welcome - call Adele on 07581 226524 for details of where

to meet. And if you don't fancy getting your hands dirty that's fine too. Just come and enjoy the birds!

All the dates are Sundays and sessions start at 10am:

- 27th April
- 18th May
- 8th June.

Adele Nozedar

Friends of Talybont Reservoir

There have been a number of events to report. Firstly the Friends are very pleased to have been awarded £900 via the Community Council from Talybont Energy for the provision of a website. The site will explain about the Local Nature Reserve and give information to help people enjoy the site.

The Friends have also been in discussion with the Brecknock Wildlife Trust and others about the possibility of a native crayfish introduction scheme to a feeder stream to the reservoir. Finally the Friends held a successful litter pick in April which resulted in 5 full bags, consisting largely of glass beer bottles, beer cans and barbecue litter.

We do wish people enjoying the lovely scenery would also take their litter home.

We have welcomed new members over the winter and if you would like to join our email news list with no commitments, please contact Peter on 01874 676225.

Peter Seaman

Chris Barber's 'Journey down the River Usk' series

I don't know how many of you read the Abergavenny Chronicle, but there they are currently publishing a very interesting monthly series of about 20 articles, written by Chris Barber, called 'Journey down the River Usk'. These describe a journey, by car and on foot, down the river Usk from source to mouth, describing places of special interest and relating some of the fascinating history and legends of this remarkable river valley. One of particular interest to Talybont was published on 3 April, focusing on the stretch of the river between Llansantffraed and Llandetty. He talks about the Roman Road, and possible signal station at the top of Allt yr Esgair,

and the Paragon Tower built by Squire Gwynn Holford for the keepers of Buckland Estate - at one time there were 3 of these living in the Tower: strangely named Mr Eagle, Mr Martin and Mr Kite!

He also gives a potted history of Buckland Hall, its historic links with the Battle of Waterloo, relics of which can still be seen in the layout of its gardens, and the untimely death, whilst mounted out riding his favourite bay mare, Prim, of Lord Buckland of Bwlch. Chris goes on to give insights into the fascinating history and features of Llandetty Church and the Llandetty Stone. The church was mistakenly dedicated to St Tetra and given a stained glass east window during restoration works in 1912. My favourite

story from this article goes as follows: "During the Commonwealth this church was used as a farm building by Puritan Colonel Jenkin Jones of Llandetty Hall, who took the title of the incumbent. One day he was supervising the milking of his ewes in it, when news arrived of the landing of Charles II. He mounted his horse, fired his pistol at the church door, shouting 'Ah, thou old whore of Babylon, thou'll have it all thy own way now.' He then rode off, never to be seen in the parish again, but the bullet hole is still visible." (quote from Chris Barber article) Look out for the May article, which will focus on the stretch between Llandetty and Glanusk from the summit of Allt yr Esgair.

Claire Gray

Talybont Tourism Leaflet & Map



Plea for content contributions for local history book

There are moves afoot to publish a short history book about Talybont, with contributions from local residents both in the form of historical text from those "in the know", and personal memoirs or photographs from those who have seen things change over the years. The WI recently submitted an application for funding from the community fund, and is grateful for a grant £515 as seed funding towards this initiative.

Is there anyone out there who would like to contribute? If so, please contact WI representative Sue Thorne on 01874 676293.

Talybont now has its very own tourism leaflet and map, thanks to support given to the Talybont Tourism Alliance by the BBNPA's 'Rural Alliances' Project. *Rural Alliances* is co-funded by the ERDF's IINTERREG IVB Programme, and also by the Welsh Government, to strengthen communities in rural areas of NW Europe and help to address negative impacts brought about by demographic change by making rural communities more vibrant & self-reliant.

OPEN DAY at TIRATANALOKA Buddhist retreat centre, Aber on 7th Sept

Would you believe it - Tiratanaloka is now in its 20th year! The original team set up the charity and bought Aberclydach House (just opposite Aber Farm) back in 1994. In order to celebrate our 20th anniversary we will be holding an open day on **Sunday 7th of September from 10.00 till 5.00**. There will be a chance to look around the retreat centre and garden, chat to the team over tea and cakes, or listen to short presentations on meditation and Buddhism for anyone who is interested. Everyone is welcome! I hope to see some of you here in September.

Vajrasakhi



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

Produced by: ERA²¹ Ltd.
Editor: Claire Gray

Please send articles & contact
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Email: era21@era21.co.uk



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

Available in the Brecon area:

Guided nature walks, power point wildlife talks,
power point wildlife quiz, wildlife surveys and
bird identification courses.

Please visit www.ecologycymru.co.uk for more
details and contact Neville Davies on
ecologycymru@gmail.com for further details on
walks venues etc.

Church News

CLOSED CHURCHES!

Llandetty Church will be closed for the foreseeable future due to the closure of the back road (length of time for repairs unknown!). If road remains open for any period we will resume services there, so watch for notice sheet information & road closed signs!! So too will Llansantffraed Church be closed for major repairs to the floor for several months after April 27th. Please be advised that there will be consequently more services at Llanfeugan Church & maybe 1 or 2 more joint services with the Beacons group.

SONGS OF PRAISE.

There is to be a combined Songs of Praise held, probably in Benaiah Chapel, at 10am.

Llansantffraed Church Restoration

Work to replace the floor at the church commenced on Monday 28th April, the Contractors are our local building firm J L Stephens & Sons of Talybont-on-Usk, and the church is now closed for 6-8 weeks. Services normally held will be rescheduled to either Llandetty or Llanfeugan. Once the works have been completed we propose holding an Open Weekend when local resi-

on Sunday June 29th. This will be for the 6 churches in the new group as well as the 2 chapels.
Might be standing room only!!!

RETIREMENT! Rumours of Andy's retirement are surprisingly true! I have reached my sell-by date (50 isn't it!?) so finish at the end of the summer. After **10 years** in Talybont both you & I need the break! My final official service will be a United Family Service at 11am on Sunday 31st August at the rear of the Henderson Hall, followed by a family picnic & you are all invited!
We are not moving away for now as we have a home here, so you won't get rid of us that easily!!

Andy Robinson

dents may come and view the new floor and other internal alterations when it is hoped to create a specific Henry Vaughan corner where information and leaflets about his life and works will be on permanent display. Other groups are keen to assist with this proposal – they are the Vaughan Association, Brecknock Society & Museum Friends, and Brecknock Art Trust. Sandra Briskham

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!!



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

Annual membership is only £5 per annum.

Friday 16th May: "Tea, Tour & Talk" - come and meet the new owner of The Walled Garden, Treberfydd - 7pm.

Thursday 26th June: Visit to Courts Garden, Bradford-on-Avon and Great Chalfield Manor, Wiltshire Gardens (arranged by Pat Wilkie).

Sunday 13th July: National Garden Scheme Open Gardens in Talybont - Lonicera, Brodawel, and Ty Cam, from 2 - 6 pm, Teas at The Usk Inn.

Sunday 27th July: Open Gardens in Talybont in aid of Llansantffraed Church - Cornerbrook, Brodawel, 17 Maesmawr Close, Ty Cam and Narrobourne, from 2 - 6 pm. Teas at Brodawel.

OTHER NOTABLE GARDENING DATES:

8th - 11th May: Malvern Spring Gardening Show

17th - 18th May: Spring Festival, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells

20th - 24th May: RHS Chelsea Flower Show

12th - 15th June: BBC Gardeners World Live, Birmingham NEC

8th - 13th July: Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

21st - 24th July: Royal Welsh Show, Builth Wells

23rd - 27th July: RHS Tatton Park Flower Show

2 August: Brecon Show

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



Llangynidr Farmers' & Producers' Market Dates
May 25 ~ June 29 ~ July 27

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Open Gardens - some of the members of Llansantffraed Church will be opening their Gardens to raise funds for the church on Sunday 27th July, 2- 6 pm, admission £6 for 5 gardens, or £2 per single garden, afternoon teas will also be available for £2.50

An Autumn Concert will be held on Friday 31st October at the Church with the Talgarth Male Voice Choir and they will be joined by popular local soloists Lowri Probert and Glasnant Morgan, tickets will be on sale nearer the time.

Note from the Editor:

Please see the front page about the Public Appeal to raise funding towards restoration costs to restore and improve access to the grave of Henry Vaughan at the top of Llansantffraed Churchyard.

