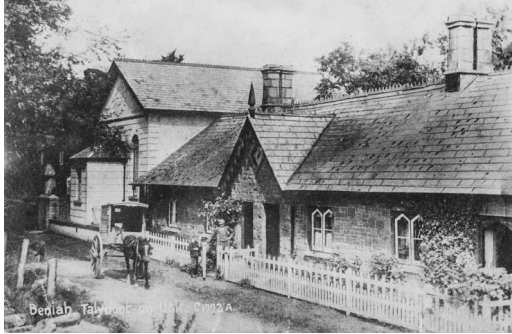




Talybont Matters

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



TALYBONT-ON USK - OUR COMMUNITY PAST TO THE PRESENT

Launch of a special website

This new website will be launched on 31st October. The site displays photographs both old and new about our community and its history. The launch was originally planned with a presentation at the Henderson Hall in April, but had to be cancelled due to the Covid 19 restrictions. As these show no signs of ending it will now appear directly on the internet for everyone to view.

Please go to either www.talybontonusk.wales or <https://talybontonusk.wales> where you will discover a collection of images and information about our community. The site has been especially designed to be 'user friendly' with easy to access sections on our history, places of worship, transport and industry, land use, our settlements, schools, war time, societies and entertainment, and attractions. This project is not a definitive work and it can be readily expanded and corrected if required. The excellent exhibition, sound recordings and brochure connected to the 50th anniversary of the Henderson Hall covered groups, clubs and events comprehensively so these have not been duplicated in any detail. This has all been made possible by research and contributions of photographs, computing expertise and local knowledge by many generous people.

I hope you will enjoy looking through the various sections and possibly learn a little more about this very special part of Wales.

John Jones



Talybont Matters Paper Copies

Normally about 350 paper copies of Talybont Matters would be posted through letter boxes by our fantastic team of distributors. However, since Covid, the distribution has been mostly through an email list. Unfortunately this only reaches about 130 residents. If you would like to be added to that email distribution list, or know someone who would, please could contact emails be forwarded to

richardabram@btinternet.com

For the past two editions I have left quite a few copies in the shop but, as not many were collected, I am assuming people didn't know they were there. For this edition I will again leave quite a few copies in the shop and also intend to place some in the bus shelter which is acting as a wonderful community exchange hub. Please can you pass the word on. Thank you.

Richard Abram

Issue 71

Autumn 2020

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.



TALYBONT GARDENING CLUB

Virtual Gardening – an idea



It is so sad that our social and club activities often using the Henderson Hall have been curtailed as a result of the Corona virus pandemic. I believe that the once vibrant community activities in the Community area are at risk unless some steps are taken to seek out alternative means of socialising and sharing. I was disappointed that the village show had to be cancelled as I felt that an alternative based on displays in residents' front gardens or online (for photographs for example) could have replaced the show in the hall and on the field. These are my personal views and do not necessarily represent the views of the committee of the Garden Club.

I think the community, perhaps using the Garden Club as a leader, should consider using Zoom or similar techniques to regenerate social interaction and entertainment in what is going to be a long winter – the virus is going to be with us for months to come and we are going to have to learn to adapt to its restrictions it is causing us. Zoom and other apps are already being widely used by us to communicate with families and friends. The skills and knowledge are already there in our community. The Garden Club could perhaps lead the way as an experiment by holding some online meetings using both local and others to present on



gardening topics. If you are a Garden Club member or may be interested in taking part in virtual meeting when we have a presenter please email Sandra the Garden club secretary at sandra.briskham@btinternet.com

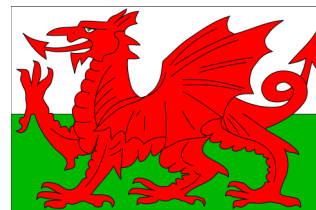
A few days ago I wrote to the Community Council asking for its help and support. It is doing a superb job coordinating and supporting essential services for the elderly and vulnerable. I am delighted to report that the Council has agreed to fund an annual 'pro' Zoom subscription. In liaison with the Clerk to the Council, I am setting

up the 'community' account with the intention of the Garden Club and the Community Council trialling it. If your Talybont club or social group want to know more, please contact me on

tcommunity@btinternet.com

Peter Seaman

WELSH LEARNERS CORNER - CORNEL Y CYMRAEG



Gaeaf - gay-af -. Winter

Mae'n teimlo'n oer - mine-tame-lo-n-oi-ur - It's feeling cold.

Wyt ti'n gwisgo dillad cynnes? - oi-teen-gwisk-go-di-ll-ad-cun-nes? - Are you wearing warm clothes?

Mi wna i wisgo het. - me-woo-na-ee-wisk-go-het - I will wear a hat.

Mi wna i wisgo dillad cynnes. - me-woo-na-ee-wisk-go-di-ll-ad-cun-nes - I will wear warm clothes.

Prynodd Megan ddillad cynnes. - prun-ov-th-Megan-thi-ll-ad-cun-nes - Megan bought warm clothes.

Bydda i'n gwisgo dillad cynnes yfory. - buf-tha-een-gwisk-go-di-ll-ad-cun-nes-ur-for-ee. - I will wear warm clothes tomorrow.

Mae dillad cynnes gyda fi. -my-di-ll-ad-cun-nes-gud-da-vee- I have got warm clothes.

Diolch

Rhian



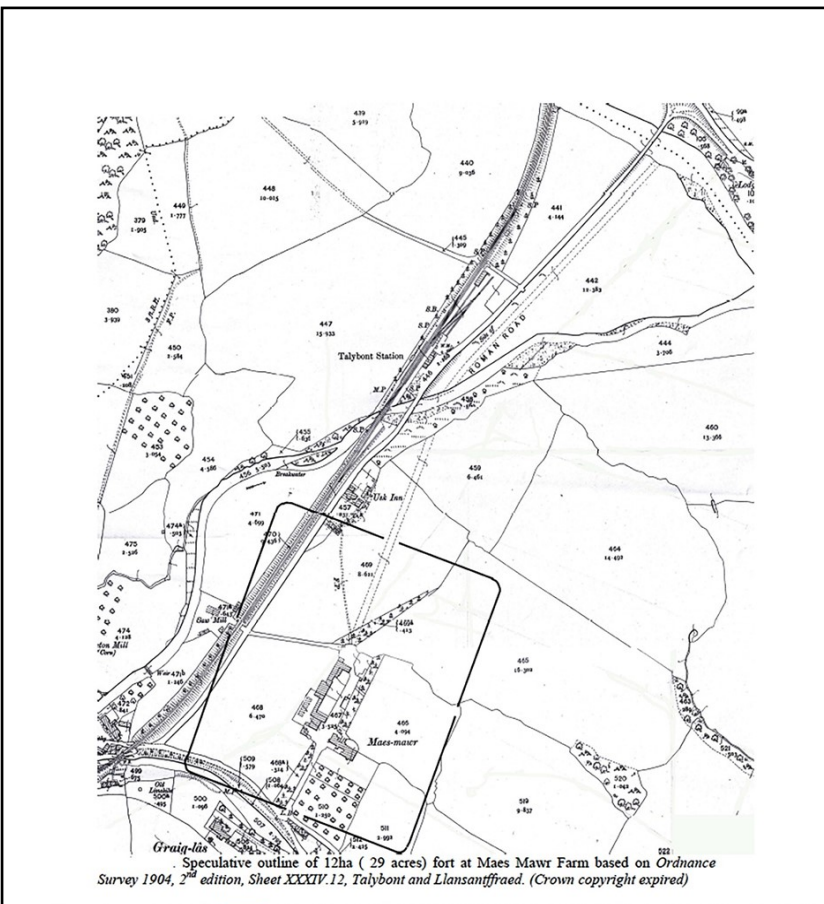
A Roman Fort at Talybont?

What have the Romans ever done for us?

Well, it can be argued that the need to subjugate the British tribes led to the construction of the basis of our major road routes. The A40, for example, in the Usk Valley, for long stretches, is aligned with the Roman road from the fort at Abergavenny to the fort at Brecon Gaer. Part of this original route can be traced straight from Tretower to Bwlch with a 'half-way house' at the small fort at Pen-y-Gaer. The Roman route then passed through Llansantffraed and paralleled the Usk to Brecon Gaer, the most important fort in the area.

For some time, the track over Allt-yr-Esgair was regarded as a Roman road, even being marked as such on Ordnance Survey (OS) maps. Authoritative opinion now discounts this, along with the identification of the track from the fort at Gelligaer past Bryn Melyn to Maes Mawr Farm, as a Roman road. (This was a Celtic trade route long before Britain was a gleam in the eye of Julius Caesar.) In the 1st Century AD, the supply route for the Cohorts from Penndarren Fort to Brecon Gaer was over the pass at Storey Arms, a much easier gradient for heavy wagons drawn by pairs of oxen yoked together.

Starting in Edwardian times, OS maps show a Roman road spur from the Abergavenny-Gaer road at Llansantffraed to Maes Mawr Farm. This is curious. Why would the Romans have built it? It went no further. Recent research confirms the Usk Valley as one of the routes of the encirclement of the very troublesome local tribe, the Silures, by the Legions, *circa* 75 AD. Tacitus, the Roman historian, tells us after this conquest by the Roman general Agricola, a 'ring of forts' was established around the territory of the tribe. He would know; Agricola was his father-in-law. This ring includes Penndarren, Brecon Gaer, Llandovery, and Gelligaer. It does not take a military genius to identify the position of Talybont as an important strategic location, commanding a major route into the heart of Silurian territory, Glyn y Collwyn. A fort at Talybont would give a considerable advantage.



The provenance of the Roman spur to Talybont on older OS maps has been lost. All the documents relating to its inclusion were destroyed in the Second World War bombing of Southampton. Modern OS maps do not show it. Literally earth-shaking events during the 19th Century, canal and railway building, reshaped our landscape, possibly obliterating Roman remains. The map below shows the probable alignment of a Roman fort at Talybont.

For more information please see my article '*The Conquest of the Silures*', in *Brycheiniog* Vol.XLIV, available on-line through the website of the Brecknock Society, <https://brecknocksociety.co.uk/resources/brycheiniog/>

Seamus Hamill-Keays



THE TALYBONT TOMBLES

Our last litter pick took place on the 4th August. We were 14 adults and 4 youngsters altogether - slightly down on numbers but this was due to some of our group choosing not to be out and about at this time and encountering the large number of visitors in the village, but we still managed a good "haul".



Gareth and Eirona decided on a change of route this time due to Station Road being pretty clean - and ventured along the towpath from the drawbridge to Ashford Tunnel, and the main road through the village, whilst Craig "picked" the towpath in the opposite direction as far as Cross Oak; Neville and Monique chose their usual route - the Dram Road, Kevin did Maesmawr Close and Maesmawr Lane, whilst Sarah, Lettie, Elsie and Pip, Jonathan and Joel covered the car park, playing field and play area; Anne and Tim checked out the Orchard Walk and the bottom end of Station Road whilst Mike and Clare "picked" the back road past Cui Parc to Cross Oak and back by road, and then later in the week did Penpentre, the OAP Bungalows and behind the bus shelter. Gerry and her young helper, Jenson, chose to do the dam wall area up the reservoir as she had picked that area the week before and felt it was worth doing again - and it was! In fact a few days later she checked on the play area and car park and filled a carrier bag, which just goes to show how much is left behind in the space of a week of the previous litter pick.



"Catch the Community Spirit"

In total we filled the equivalent of 4 red/brown bags but suspect more could be lurking in the undergrowth which will be revealed next time!! I have since spotted Gerry out and about with Jenson complete in yellow jackets and with rubbish bags - thank you so much Gerry - you are so dedicated!

Due to the new Covid 19 restrictions we have decided to hold our next litter pick on **Saturday morning the 28th November** when we will meet in the Hall carpark at **10 o'clock**. In the meantime if anyone is out walking and sees any litter please do pick it up and let me know so that I can "log" it in.

Sandra Briskham, Organiser sandra.briskham@btinternet.com or phone 676297

A message from the Community Council

With Coronavirus very much a part of our lives we are still here to give support to anyone who needs it. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Please contact Keren Bender, Clerk to the Community Council, if you require any assistance.

Our wonderful volunteers have helped many of you over the past months and stand ready to continue with that support.

Kerenbender1@gmail.com

07814513455



CHURCH NOTES

At the time of writing the following are being provided across the Beacons Benefice and the wider Ministry Area:

Since the beginning of September Llanfrynach Church in the Beacons Benefice and Llangors Church in Llyn Safaddan Parish have been open for worship - 'The monthly pattern is:

10-30am at Llanfrynach on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month

10-30am at Llangors on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month

Because of the need for social distancing we are limited in the number of people we can accommodate at either church building, so if you'd like to come to a service could you let me know by phone (01874-676146) or email (kelvin@beaconssafaddan.plus.com) by mid-day the day before, so that places can be safely assigned.

Please note though, that for the duration of the 'firebreak' lockdown (23rd Oct - 9th Nov) no services in church are allowed to take place. However on Remembrance Sunday 8th November the wreath laying ceremony and act of Remembrance at Cross Oak at 11am is able to go ahead as planned.

A weekly short service of prayers and readings for people to use at home. This is available to download on the Beacons Benefice website: <https://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/s475/>

A short recorded video service, uploaded to YouTube each week for people to listen to and join in with. The link to this can also be found on the Benefice webpage.

A weekly live service held over Zoom at 9-30am each Sunday, which all are welcome to participate in - just email me for the link you'll need in order to join.

A Family Church service, also over Zoom at 11-30am on the second Sunday of each month - again email me for the link if you'll like to join this.

Kelvin Richards (Priest in Charge)

Reminiscences of Summer in the Vaughan Garden



It's getting chilly, fires are being lit, the sycamore keys and leaves are raining down from the trees. Sit down with a warm drink and cast your mind back to the heady days of this summer.

In the Vaughan Garden, over the old railway bridge and a short walk up the Dramroad, the herbs flowered like never before, bees buzzed and the grass grew green and lush.



Many thanks to Peter Seaman for the photography: from top clockwise, a view down the raised bed, Rosa gallica 'Versicolor', betony, elecampane.





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Homemade soups, with white or malted bloomer bread

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Chicken goujons and chips

Chicken curry with rice or chips

Southern fried chicken wings, chips and dips

Chicken burger, chips and dips

MASH IT UP THURSDAY

Sausages, mash, peas and onion gravy

Chicken casserole and mash

Cottage pie and peas

SEAFOOD FRIDAY

Battered cod, chips and mushy peas

Fish cakes, chips, beans or peas

Scampi, chips and peas

Fish pie with cheesy top and peas

Please help support your local café to continue it staying as part of your community, in these difficult times. Thank you

HENDERSON HALL 200 CLUB

Henderson Hall runs a 200 Club which helps with the upkeep of the hall, from which we all benefit. It is only £10 per year and the draws take place every quarter - usually at an event in the hall. There are 5 Prizes each time which are £50, £35, £25, £15, and £10.

Winners July 2020

£50	Tim Martin
£35	G Rees
£25	Rhiannon Davies
£15	Alastair Mackeown
£10	Amanda Williams

Special Drinks Menu

Baileys Hot Chocolate £6.00
The works, hot chocolate, cream and marshmallows £3.95

Shmoo Milkshakes £2.00/£2.50
Strawberry, chocolate, banana, vanilla
Add extras: cream, marshmallows, chocolate curls 50p each

Make a Shake £3.95
Additional item £1.00
Oreo, Snickers, Mars, Maltesers, Baileys £5.95
Add: syrup, cream, choc curls, marshmallows 50p

Smoothies £3.95 Extra shot 50p
Strawberry delight, Berry burst, Tropical heaven, Lemon Zing

Cocktails £5.50
Strawberry vodka cocktail
Vodka Berry burst
Pina colada
Lemon Gin

Iced Tea £2.50 Extra shot 50p
Lemon Tea, Raspberry Tea, Passion Fruit & Lemon

Iced Coffee £2.50 Extra shot 50p
Served with milk and honey
Iced vanilla coffee £3.00

Iced Frappe
Latte £2.95 Vanilla latte £3.45
Caramel latte £3.45 Mocha £3.25

Add a different Flavoured Syrup or an extra one for only 50p

We also have a large range of syrups for your coffees and hot chocolate

Talybont Stores, Canalside Cafe and Post Office

01874 676663 www.talybontstores.co.uk enquiries@talybontstores.co.uk

At this very uncertain time, we still need your support to help keep the SHOP, CAFE and POST OFFICE open. So, if you can please buy local to help your local community. We would be most grateful.

Thank you

Regan, Rob and all the staff at Talybont Stores

SO PLEASE IF YOU NEED ANYTHING DELIVERED

**Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, Fresh daily Bread and rolls, delivered daily
Milk, cheese and Yoghurts, Groceries, Newspapers**

Or anything else that we stock we can get it in for you the next day

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kerenbender1@gmail.com 07814513455.

We are happy to help

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Closed Monday

Tuesday to Friday 12.00pm until 3.00pm

Saturday & Sunday 9.00am until 4.00pm

SHOP OPEN

Monday to Friday 7.00am to 7.00pm

Saturday 8.00am to 7.00pm

Sunday 8.00am until 5.00pm

POST OFFICE

Monday to Saturday 9.00am until 1.30pm

We can set up a monthly account for you, so you can pay by either cheque or bacs payments

Talybont Dark Skies Event

Whether you live in Talybont or indeed, know of friends and family who may be interested, our Dark Skies event will really give you an in-depth view into our November night sky. Join us on Thursday 19th November on Zoom where, state of the art planetarium software will be used so that you can be part of our Dark Skies event and see the stars on your own tablet, PC or phone. If you are lucky enough to have good WiFi and the sky is clear, you could even get involved outside! Get your invitation by typing in the link to your web browser and do feel free to spread the word. It would be great to have lots of you joining us. And don't panic - you don't have to have Zoom downloaded on your device. The invitation will enable you to access the event on the night with a special link.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/star-party-tickets-124069915457>

Darren James
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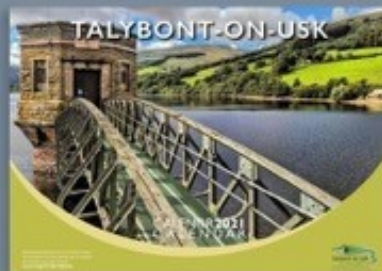
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Talybont-on-Usk 2021 Calendar

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Live in Talybont? Get free delivery to your Talybont address if you order online using the code 'LiveLocal2020' at the checkout

Talybont Matters is a Community Council Publication

This edition edited by:
Richard Abram

Please send articles & contact details to:
 Ger-Yr-Afon, Pencelli,
 LD3 7LX
 email: richardabram@btinternet.com

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.

