



Talybont Matters

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BONFIRE NIGHT RETURNS



After our last very successful Golden Jubilee Bonfire Night in 2019, Bonfire Night is back. It will be our first community get together at the Henderson Hall since our Christmas Storyboard unveiling last year.

As usual, we will have a BBQ with burgers and sausages available. Also hot chocolate, soup and cold drinks.

Entry will be **£3 for adults and £2 for children, £8 for families**. Gates open at 6pm and the bonfire will be lit at 6.15. Fireworks will start at 6.45pm. **No sparklers please.**

The hall will be open to provide an unsupervised creche facility for babies and toddlers who may not like the fireworks. We also hope to have a Face Painting session arranged.

The Navy have volunteered to build the bonfire and you can drop off any unwanted wood, cardboard etc at the hall from the 2nd November. **No plastic please.**

Clee Tompkinson & Francis have very kindly agreed to open the market for overflow parking for family and friends joining us for Bonfire Night.

Last, but not least, there will be a Guy competition!

Bring your guys for judging on Friday afternoon. The winner will get a basket of treats kindly donated by Regan and Rob at Talybont Stores.



See you on November 5th at 6 pm.

Anne Jeans

LITTER BINS FOR PENCELLI



Thanks to funding from the Community Council, Pencelli now has two litter bins located within the village boundaries. One is sited at the top of the steps leading up from the canal by the main road bridge and the other next to the Millennium seat by the boat launch ramp. These will be emptied and maintained by local residents and should hopefully encourage people to put litter in the correct place.

Thank you Keren Bender for organising and Simon Baldwin for helping me secure them in place.

Richard Abram

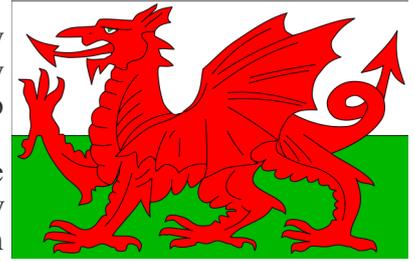


WELSH LEARNERS CORNER - CORNEL Y CYMRAEG

Siop Siarad held a very successful Bore Coffi in Henderson Hall Friday 10th September. The Bore Coffi session was to get the community together to find out if there were Welsh Learners that would like Siop Siarad to run sessions for complete beginners.

We are pleased to let you know that from this session Siop Siarad have decided to run a Siop Siarad for complete beginners from 10-11 every Friday morning in Henderson Hall. Normal Siop Siarad then runs from 11-12 where you are then welcome to stay or can leave. We would like to welcome any new learners along to try out our new sessions, whether the complete beginners or the more advanced Siop Siarad.

If you wish to know any more information about the sessions then please email Rhian at rhianyoung38@gmail.com or just turn up one Friday morning. You do not need to commit just come when you can, but the more you practice the easier it becomes to use our lovely language.



A taster of what we have been practicing in our sessions so far

Rhian ydw i - Rhian-uh-doo-ee - I am Rhian

Dw i'n byw yng Nhalybont - dween-be-oo-ung-hal-ybont - I live in Talybont

Mae Cath Bach gyda fi - my-car-th-baa-ch-gud-ah-fee- I have a kitten

Dw i'n hoffi dysgu Cymraeg a rhedeg - dween-hoff-ee-dusk-gee-ker-mraig-ah-rhed-deg - I like learning Welsh and running

Es i'r sinema i weld James Bond - ess-ee-eer-cinema-ee-weld-James Bond - I went to the cinema to see James bond

A couple of phrases for the **Hydref** (Autumn/Also the same word for October)

Calon Gaeaf - Cal-on-gay-af - Halloween

Losin - losh-in - sweets

Noson Tan Wyllt - Noss-on-tan-wi-ll-t - Fireworks night (ll is a tricky one, tongue to the roof of the mouth and blow down the side of your tongue, pob lwc)

Mae dail y coed yn gwypo lawr- my-day-il-ur-coid-un-coup-oh-lour - The trees leaves are falling down.
Pob lwc, mwynhewch (enjoy) Rhian Young

Domestic heat trial this winter.

Do you want to take part?



We all want to be toasty warm at home in the long winter months. Can we do this using less fossil fuels which are both unsustainable and expensive?

In partnership with Talybont Energy, I'm planning to run a trial this winter in 12 local households testing out some low tech heating alternatives which might help you reduce your oil or LPG whilst still being comfortably warm.

I'm looking for households where some of you are at home most of the day, you would like to reduce your reliance on oil and you enjoy trying new things.

If you think you might like to take part, please complete this short survey using the link below or the QR code

<https://forms.gle/Z5fapP6NE3XWMd4YA>

I can then assess interest levels and select the most suitable households. All ages, lifestyles and house types welcome.

Thank you and do email me if you have questions.

Alison Kidd alison@prospectory.co.uk



THE TALYBONT TOMBLES



Our last Litter Pick on Saturday 14th August was rather disappointing due to the lack of volunteers on the day, mainly due to folks catching up on holidays postponed from last year! Who can blame them! However, those that did turn up worked extremely hard and we covered the majority of our normal areas.

The improved new Rings and Grabbers were a great success and it does make litter picking a much more enjoyable task. We did not pick up an enormous amount due to the growing vegetation. Our next one,

in November, should produce many more bags when hopefully the grass will have died back somewhat and all will be revealed!

Saturday's haul consisted of 2 bags - Gareth and Eirona picked the most mainly from the main road through the village; Anne and Tim picked the towpath to Ashford Tunnel and back along the road, whilst Dawn and Rob picked the towpath in the opposite direction to Cross Oak and returned back along the road. Debby and I did the playing field, car park and round the hall, Penpentre, and the OAP bungalows. Although not able to join us on the day Mike & Clare did a fantastic job at checking out the Dram Road, the Henry Vaughan Garden, and Tow path to the bus shelter; they found it very encouraging as they only had a third of a bag of rubbish, the smallish amount they have ever collected. They added that most of the litter they have picked in the past is from the roadside rather than the immediate village areas so it is obvious the bulk of our litter here is being thrown out of passing vehicles.

Once again, many thanks to all for your enthusiasm and help.

Our next one will be on **SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER** when we will also check out the area around the hall and the immediate vicinity following the Bonfire and Fireworks the previous evening. Please meet as usual in the hall car park at 10 am.

Sandra Briskham (Organiser), sandra.briskham@btinternet.com



Update from Talybont-on-Usk Community Council

The Community Council continues to work on issues affecting its residents.

Your Community Councillors and your County Councillor continues to press for a meeting with Brecon Beacons National Parks concerning the proposed Camping Site at the Outdoor Pursuits Centre at Station Road. Unfortunately, the Head of Planning at BBNP has now left his position, which may cause further delays in the process.

We have received increasing numbers of concerns over recent events and races taking place in and around our area, which we are investigating through Event Organisers and Landowners.

Our calls for the return of cardboard recycling has been refused by Powys County Council for a second time in the past six months. We will continue to pursue this issue.

We thank Powys Highways Department for road sweeping, drain clearing and re-lining the roads in Talybont and Aber.

Community Councillors have been invited to meetings with both the Leader of Powys County Council and the CEO of Brecon Beacon and National Parks. We will take this opportunity to raise your concerns.

Please let a Community Councillor know if you have a need for road salt ahead of this winter.

Keren Bender, Clerk to the Council

HALLOWEEN COSTUME COMPETITION

**SUNDAY 31ST OCTOBER
AT
TALYBONT STORES**

**Come Trick or Treating & show us your
scary costume**

**The best Costume wins a prize
Adults prize available as well -
for all the big kids out there**



Usk Valley Gardening Association

New club up and running!



An inaugural meeting of the Usk Valley Gardening Association (UVGA) took place mid September at Henderson Hall. About 30 attended (not including about 20 who sent their apologies) and the new constitution was agreed and committee members elected.

The association is an amalgamation of gardening clubs from Talybont, Bwlch and Llangynidr.

By doing this it has given us a much larger membership base and will enable us to put on larger scale talks, visits and, hopefully, activities designed to recruit new, and possibly, a younger generation of gardeners to our cause!

A full programme for the coming year is nearly complete and full details will be published as soon as it is all confirmed. Our meetings will be held on a rotational basis between the village halls in Talybont, Bwlch and Llangynidr.

Next scheduled meeting is on

Friday, November 19th, Henderson Hall at 7:00pm

So, if you would like to join us please come along. You don't need to be an experienced gardener by any means. In fact, it would be a good opportunity to tap into a big pool of experience in a whole variety of gardening activities.

Please contact either Gareth Davies, Chair gebdavies@btinternet.com
or Susan Hankey, Secretary susiecello@me.com



Community Orchards and Trail Refurb

A small but perfectly-formed group gathered on Saturday 16th October to lay wood chip - kindly provided by Oren Tree Surgeons and then moved close to the site by Charles Weston and his tractor mounted big grain bucket - on part of the Community Orchard Trail.



A larger, early September working party had made great progress preparing the ground for these wood chip laying endeavours by clearing weeds from the path below the flight of steps and from the Gilestone Community Orchard.

A weed-control layer has now been added to a long section of this path and wood chip placed on top to be trodden down by the many intrepid walkers who use this permissive path. Vital work was also initiated laying wood chip onto the weed control matting between some of the fruit trees - with plenty more to be done to prolong the life of the matting and to help it stay in place when the wind blows.



Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this highly sociable work keeping this very well-used community asset in good shape.

The next working party will meet at **10AM on Saturday 18th December** - please make a note of the date.



All welcome - especially those who use the Orchards Trail .

Michael Wright & Cllr Simon Baldwin for ToUCC



Do you know your neighbours?

Pencelli's home for rare bats



Nestled on the banks of the Nant Menasgin is Pencelli Mill, one of Vincent Wildlife Trust's (VWT) bat reserves. Home to a maternity (breeding) colony of over 400 lesser horseshoe bats, this is one of a group of lesser horseshoe bat reserves that VWT looks after in the Usk Valley from Brecon to Llangattock.

This bat colony of originally only 50 individuals was discovered by the local bat group in 1990 and is now owned and managed by VWT. Over the years, repairs have been made to secure the building for the bats and improve internal conditions for the bats to breed. The building itself is vital for lesser horseshoe bats and provides a safe place for them to rear their young in the summer months. Around Pencelli, rivers, hedgerows and tree lines are important features for the bats to navigate safely across the landscape. They use these to fly to foraging areas at night (which could include your garden!), enjoying any craneflies, lacewings and small moths as they flutter along.

In June, VWT staff and volunteers carry out emergence counts at the reserve: on site ready from dusk, they count the bats as they leave the roost to feed. These counts are part of Bat Conservation Trust's National Bat Monitoring Programme and help us to understand how bat populations are faring. Fortunately, following periods of decline earlier in the 20th century, lesser horseshoe numbers are recovering well in Britain and the Usk Valley is a stronghold for them.

Pencelli's bat reserve encompasses areas of grassland, hedgerows and a small orchard, and at this time of year, we turn our attention to the upkeep of the building and habitats for the benefit of bats and other wildlife. We've made a start this year with cutting the grassland to encourage a more diverse mix of grasses and wildflowers, and we'll be managing it further to turn it into a wildflower meadow. There's also a little orchard that needs looking after, as well as other maintenance tasks that vary each year.



If you'd like to get involved and contribute to the conservation of these rare mammals, we'd love to hear from you! We have a volunteer day planned for this winter (**Saturday 13 November**), when we'll do practical work at the reserve using hand tools to clear vegetation, so a moderate level of fitness is required. Please contact us if you are interested in helping on this day. We are also looking for bat roost monitors for summer 2022.

If you would like to volunteer at Pencelli on the date above, next summer or elsewhere in the Usk Valley, please contact Laura at lauralawrance-owen@vwt.org.uk or 07932 668838.



Peter Watkins - Notes from Aber

Peter Watkins loved the village of Aber and its surrounds. He first started visiting in 1985 when he bought Ty Uchaf in Aber as a second home. From that moment on, he visited as often as he could with his family and friends. He visited at all times of year and in every weather, escaping London and his hectic job as a Physician specializing in Diabetes. Peter loved to write - after retirement he edited the journal of the Royal College of Physicians for many years - and some days in Aber he just had to put pen to paper. His notes record the local wildlife and include poetic descriptions of the landscape in different seasons and weathers.

Spring

A truly magnificent spring day - early morning mist slowly dissolves revealing an unblemished blue sky from horizon to horizon. It is warm and there is no wind. Silent. Landscape of incredible beauty.

The birds are in good voice, and the larks sing from heaven. The streams are smaller than usual but their music gentle and the light on the water twinkles. The ground is dry for our picnic by "Pepsi's* pool".

And flowers everywhere - white blossom of hawthorn and cherry; the ground yellow with celandine and dandelions, interspersed with wood anemones and violets peeping out from the grass. New born lambs trot besides their mothers for safety. The distant views have a little mystery masked by a gentle haze.

An incomparable wonderful day.

*Pepsi was our dog. She loved Aber too.

Landscape of daffodils, and lambing time just outside our bedroom window.

Tor-y-Foel looks stern - landscape of unsteady white lambs - delightful.

Farmers busy day and night. We watch the farmers - headlights circle the field in the dark starry night, caring for their lambs and their mothers.

In the early morning sunshine - sudden activity - a rugby tackle to a ewe - a hand - and a lamb is born.

Summer sunshine

Today - brilliant early summer sunshine illuminates the entire landscape, from our garden and extending high into the hills. As we climb up the lane, the whole range of the Black mountains reveal itself, slightly hazy, a little ghostly. We pass the restored cottages at the end of the valley.

Now acres of apple blossom, and close by enlivened by a mass of red campion. Then over the stream and over the Private Gate. Colour everywhere today.

The entire mountainside is blue - a deep blue - a deep voluptuous blue covers the landscape taking the eye to the mountain tops and down to the valleys below, where streams add a little music to this blue blaze of the bluebells. Simply magnificent.

Summer rain

It is late mid-summer. The sky is a steely-gray and threatening yet silent. It is now releasing some drizzle rendering the conservatory roof to come alive. The dull green leaves on hedges and trees are lifeless and scarcely move. Cool dampness everywhere pervades the dull day. Buzzards are circling above calling gloomily to each other. And at the same time a soft, white steamy mist is rolling down the steep slopes of Tor-y-Foel, which is slowly disappearing until nothing remains. Nature is suppressed, only to wake to the tinkling sound of more drizzle, with a grand finale of driving rain - driving down the valley as it so often does.

Winter

One of the coldest most brilliant frosty mornings: with a low orange sun gilding the mountains with light pink. The hoar frost glistening, a deep blue sky, the leaves crunching underfoot.

Llangorse Lake welcoming to thousands of ducks and geese. Little bird sounds from invisible birds in the reeds.

A Buzzard sits in a tree on the way home.

This morning a spectacular and very cold early morning. A hard white frost covers the landscape below endless, peerless blue sky, while a strong low sunshine illuminates the entire valley.

Rare and beautiful and very cold!

Peter died in May 2019 and his headstone can be found in Aber cemetery, a location he would have found immensely enjoyable and totally peaceful.

Valerie Watkins





Talybont Stores Canalside Cafe and Post Office

01874 676663

www.talybontstores.co.uk
enquiries@talybontstores.co.uk

SHOP OPEN Monday to Friday 7 am to 7 pm
Saturday 8 am to 7 pm
Sunday 8 am to 5 pm
CAFÉ 9 am to 5 pm Cooking all day. Menu online www.talybontstores.co.uk

POST OFFICE Monday to Saturday 9 am until 1.30 pm
Click & collect, Drop and go, health lottery, foreign currency,
free cash withdrawals etc.

NEW FOR THIS AUTUMN/WINTER IN THE CAFE MARIMBA HOT CHOCOLATE MELTS

The Marimba Hot Chocolate Melt range is delicious and luxurious, made from real flaked chocolate. **A whole bar of chocolate in every mug**

MILK, WHITE, DARK AND RUBY

Lots of new syrups to make a whole lot of different flavoured Hot Chocolates. Such as Strawberry & Cream, Ferrero Roche, Banoffee, Gingerbread, Black Forest and so many more

HALLOWEEN

Best costume competition – children and adults welcome to enter
Prize for best costume

CHRISTMAS

Stocking Christmas items now.
Stocking fillers, chocolates, biscuits and gifts
Orders for our popular Christmas Hamper taken soon, with local products

CRAFTY CRAFT SHOP

By Regan

Craftycraftshop21@gmail.com

Local handmade gifts, cards and more
Personalized mugs, T-shirts, cushions and more
Personalized Christmas cards, mugs etc - examples will be in the shop
Custom orders welcome.

10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

On the 27th January 2022, we will be celebrating 10 years as the proud owners of Talybont Stores, Canalside Café and Post Office. As a thank you to everyone that has supported us we want to celebrate this with all of you. So watch this space!

We are also on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram



The Victorinus Stone and the Vale of Slaughter



An ancient monument, now resident in Brecon Museum, is a gravestone inscribed in Latin, 'Nemnius Son of Victorinus'. It has been identified as a Christian monument dating from the 6th century AD (Nash-Williams). Its height above the ground was 3½ feet with an equal length below ground. It was recorded by Elizabethan scholar, William Camden, at the end of the 16th century.

According to Theophilus Jones, the famous Brecknockshire historian, writing in 1809, it stood for centuries in the middle of the road halfway between Llansantffraed and LLanhamlach. When the turnpike was instituted c. 1770, it was moved to the west side of the highway. It was later purloined by a local resident who used it as a garden roller. Local antiquarians remonstrated and it was put back on where it had been, whence it was removed to Brecon Museum in 1951.

It is noteworthy that Roman names are inscribed on the stone. A century after the departure of the Legions from Britain, Roman names had fallen out of use. These names indicate close connections with Gaul where Roman style was persisting (Nash-Williams).

Why this spot was chosen to inter the son of a local notable, probably a military leader, possibly from Gaul? The answer is not far away. A nearby cwm, or glen, is marked on maps as Cwm Gelanedd. The authoritative dictionary *Y Geriadur Prifysgol Cymru* gives the feminine noun 'celanedd' as 'a heap of dead bodies, carnage, massacre' (a Welsh mutation is in action in the second word, c -> g). It is reasonable to suppose that Nemnius, and many others, lost their lives in combat at this location. Maybe he and his father, and other warriors, were defending the Irish dynasty, Christian, that had established itself in Brycheiniog in the 5th century. Who the attackers were, coming up the valley, must be left to our imaginations. It was the Dark Ages after all.
Seamus Hamill-Keays



TCB - Telephone Call Box

PTO - Post and Telegraph Office

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 October 2021

£50	Brenda Powell
£35	Jenny Merrill
£25	Alistair Mackeown
£15	Shelagh Salter-Jones
£10	Robert Jones



Talybont Shared Electric Van – new rental arrangements



The Kangoo Electric Van which Talybont Energy funds is now operated entirely via Karshare

<https://karshare.com/>

a new UK shared car rental company. This means the van can now be booked and used by anyone. All you have to do is become a member of Karshare (which is free), provide them with your licence and payment details and download their mobile 'phone app which allows you to book and then open and operate the vehicle and use it for a few hours or a day or more. Prices are listed for the van on the Karshare website.

The van is parked and charged at Henderson Hall using the wonderful solar PV on Henderson Hall roof. Its range is around 60-70 miles (depending how fast you drive and how cold the weather is!). You can switch its configuration between a 5 seater people carrier or a van with a large rear space for carrying loads. Karshare enables individuals to rent out their own cars when they aren't using them. UK motorists spend an average of £2,000/year on a car's running costs (according to research by Kwik-Fit) and that doesn't take into account the cost of the car itself. Karshare's model means that cars in a local community can be shared (without the need for a car club) providing the owner with a small rental income to offset their running costs.

We hope that, over time, some in our community might try registering their own cars with Karshare so we do have some cars available for others to use occasionally with all the insurance, logistics and payment hassle taken care of. The owner (obviously) gets to determine when their car is available to rent. Feel free to ask Karshare any questions. They are a friendly bunch.

info@talybontenergy.co.uk



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.

**This edition edited by:
Richard Abram**

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

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.

CHURCH NOTES
CHURCH SERVICES

Six of our churches in the Beacons and Llyn Safaddan Ministry Area have now re-opened for worship on Sundays, following this monthly pattern:

- 10-30am at Llanfrynach Church on the 1st Sunday of the Month**
- 10-30am at Llanfeugan Church on the 2nd Sunday of the Month**
- 10-30am at Cantref Church on the 3rd Sunday of the Month**
- 10-30am at Llanhamlach Church on the 4th Sunday of the Month**
- 11-00am at Llangors Church on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month**
- 11-00am at Llangasty Church on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month**

This pattern, however is provisional and likely to change as more churches are opened for services - please see the Parish website for the latest news. As part of the Church in Wales covid-19 safety recommendations, we are still maintaining social distancing for worshippers as much as possible. This means that spaces in church could be limited, and so we are asking people to let us know if they are intending to come to a particular service. Adults and children over the age of 12 are legally required to wear a mask at services, unless they have an exemption.

In addition to these services each week Revd Trina Lodge is continuing to produce a weekly service which is available to watch and join in with on YouTube. You can always find the latest service via the parish web page, or here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaAxUvXM2aQxZ7510WvED9Q/videos>

We are also continuing to hold a weekly Ministry Area Service over Zoom at 9-15am each Sunday morning. Please contact me (details below) for the link you'll need in order to join this.

A warm welcome to all

Please see church notice boards or leaflets for up to date details of services & events

Parish Website: <https://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/s451/>

Priest-in-Charge : Revd Kelvin Richards

Tel. 01874 676146 email: kelvin@beaconssafaddan.plus.com

