



Talybont Matters

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

The Queen's Green Canopy and Platinum Jubilee Wood – PLANTED!



On Friday 25th November a small group of us helped Jim Wright, from Pryor & Rickett, to mark out the planting holes for the trees with canes so that they were evenly spaced, but not in straight lines. The small trees or saplings were then randomly distributed alongside the canes for planting the next day. The Woodland Trust had kindly donated nearly 200 trees comprising several different species to make up a natural woodland – amongst others Birch, Rowan, Holly, Willow and Field Maple.

The following morning dawned grey and cold, but luckily not raining, and by 10.00am a wonderful band of helpers had appeared, many carrying good spades and ready for action. Jim showed us exactly how to plant and then fix the rabbit guards around each little tree and, thanks to a lot of hard work, we had finished the whole task by 11.45. Time then for well-deserved refreshments of apple juice and cider!

We are very grateful to everyone who came that morning – we were 17 in all – because without you there to help, it would have been a very long job to get done.

Thank you also to all those who publicised the event beforehand with posters and such like, and to Harry Chapman who has made a wonderful oak stand for the Welsh slate memorial plaque, and also an oak bench for all to enjoy the view of the hills and this little woodland as it matures.

It is very exciting to have accomplished this community project, and we do hope many of you will follow the footpath through the wood and watch the trees growing over the years. It is a wonderful celebration of the Platinum Jubilee and also a fitting memorial to our late Queen Elizabeth, whose inspired idea it was in the first place. We hope it will provide pleasure and enjoyment for everyone for many years ahead.



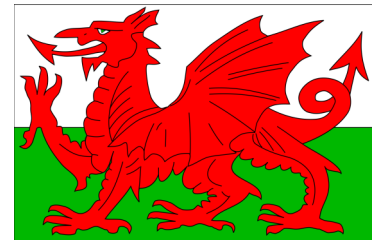
Issue 80

Winter 2023



WELSH LEARNERS' CORNER - CORNEL Y CYMRAEG

Croeso



This issue I decided to do the first verse and chorus for Yma o hyd. I hope you enjoy trying it out and ensure you pelt it out as the song deserves. Don't forget if you wish to practise and use your Welsh you are very welcome to come along to your local Siop Siarad on a Friday morning 10.30 – 12 in the White Hart. We have had a lovely welcome back from the White Hart, with a warm, welcoming fire and paned o de! Croeso cynnes i bawb.

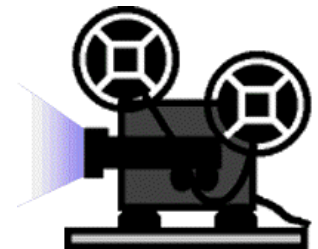
Dwyt ti'm yn cofio Macsen -doit-teem-un-covio-Maxen- You don't remember Macsen
Does neb yn ei nabod o -dois-neb-un-ee-nab-bod-oh- Nobody knows him
Mae mil a chwe chant o flynyddoedd -my-meel-ah-cwhere-chant-oh-flun-eth-oith- One thousand and six hundred years
Yn amser rhy hir i'r co' -un-am-ser-rhee-here-eer-cor- Is a time too long to remember
Pan aeth Magus Maximus o Gymru -pan-eye-th-Magnus-Maxomus-oh-gum-ree- When Magnus Maximus left Wales
Yn y flwyddyn tri-chant-wyth-tri -un-ur-floi-thin-tree-chant-oi-th-tree- In the year 383
A'n gadael yn genedl gyfan -an-gad-dail-un-gen-ed-el-ger-van- Leaving us a whole nation
A heddiw: wele ni! -ar-heth-thee-well-er-nee- And today: look at us

Ry'n ni yma o hyd (x2) -run-nee-um-ah-oh-heed- We are still here
Er gwaetha pawb a phopeth, (x3) -err-gway-tha-powb-ah-phop-peth- Despite everyone and everything
Ry'n ni yma o hyd (x2)
Er gwaetha pawb a phopeth (x3)
Ry'n ni yma o hyd

Talybont Flicks

Flicks will resume the first Wednesday of February, which is actually the 1st of the month. Subsequent dates are always the first Wednesday of the month and always start at 7.30pm, but note that we don't show a film in August.

I think we have a range of interesting films for the first half of 2023. Put the dates in your diary and spread the word so we can keep going with our village hall community event. We need a few more people to keep it viable. It's still only £4 and you can bring your own refreshments, so why not come along for a couple of hours rather than sitting at home?!



If you would like to be added onto the mailing list for the monthly reminder of what's showing contact Clare on clarewright.osm@btinternet.com

February 1st: Wild Rose, cert 15, starring Jessie Buckley and Julie Walters. A British film set in Glasgow. Young mum (Jessie Buckley) is bursting with raw talent, charisma and cheek. Fresh out of jail with two young kids, all she wants to do is get out of Glasgow and be a country singer in Nashville. A gritty, feel-good drama.

Other films to come are: the Banshees of Inisherin, Living, Emily, Ticket to Paradise, and the Quiet Girl.



Talybont-on-Usk Community Council

Richard Abram

The Community Council wishes to extend its grateful thanks to Richard Abram for his work and commitment to Talybont Matters since 2016. We wish him every success and happiness in his future endeavours. The Community Council welcomes David MacDonald as its new editor, and hopes he enjoys working with contributors and readers alike.

Meetings with Partners

The Community Council are working in partnership with Powys County Council Highways Department to develop a plan for traffic calming measures throughout the community. The Community Council is also in the process of working with BBNP to embark on training for Place Planning.

The Community Council is extending its period of adoption for the Canal between bridges 142 and 144. The adoption process, which is managed by the Canal and River Trust, involves our community undertaking volunteer activities such as litter picking, management of the dog waste bins and other important checks. CRT also benefits from this recognised community involvement by registering our adoption when applying for funding.

New Canal and River Trust Volunteer Ranger

The Community Council extends a warm welcome to Howard Noble, the new CRT Volunteer Ranger, who will be covering the canal from just south of Talybont (bridge 142) to just short of Pencelli (152).

Gilestone Farm

The Community Council continues to pursue issues around the purchase of Gilestone Farm by the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government has given assurances they will meet with the Community Council as soon as the assessment process of the Green Man Business Plan has been completed.

Website and Facebook

The Community Council has redesigned its website and developed its Facebook page – take a look at the website at www.talybont.org

Zoom Facility

The Community Council holds the Zoom facility that any community group can access. Please contact our Clerk should you want to use Zoom for any of your meetings.

Agendas and Minutes can be found on our website – www.talybont.org

Meeting Dates

Next meeting will be held on **Monday 20th February 2023**. All meetings are held in Henderson Hall at 7.15pm. Meetings can also be accessed over Zoom.

If you would like to attend a meeting please contact our Clerk.

Keren Bender 07951 536001

email: talybontcc@gmail.com

The Community Council continues to work on issues on behalf of its residents.



Henderson Hall hosts Ukrainian Christmas Celebration

For the past six months the Henderson Hall Committee has been supporting hosts and their Ukrainian guests, and flying the Ukrainian and Welsh flags together at every opportunity.

A number of key events have been held at the Hall, including meetings with the local MP Fay Jones, Powys County Councillors and staff, and those involving different support agencies and organisations.



On 7th January, Orthodox Christmas Day, the Hall hosted a celebration for over fifty local Ukrainian refugees, along with their hosts and the many volunteers who have supported them. A packed afternoon included children singing Ukrainian Christmas carols, a magician, a feast of Ukrainian and Welsh food brought by attendees, followed by a Ceilidh. There was even a visit from Ded Moroz (Ukrainian Father Christmas) who gave presents to all the children, including soft toys generously donated by Talybont resident Allan Jones. Laughter and enjoyment was in abundance, but what was most evident was the feeling of togetherness and community.

The event was funded and coordinated by Crickhowell Supports Ukraine and made possible, on the day, by members of the WI and Hall management committee, who generously and enthusiastically helped it to run smoothly!

If you would like to help pour the tea or sit down for a chat then come and join us on the first Monday of the month.

TEA and CHAT

A social group for the over 60's
Henderson Hall at 3pm
February 6th
March 6th





Talybont Stores, Canalside Cafe & Post Office

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

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Monday to Friday 7.00am until 6.00pm

Saturday 8.00am until 6.00pm

Sunday 8.00am until 5.00pm

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We are also on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram



Talybont WI

Bad weather didn't put the Talybont WI ladies off from attending the first meeting of the year in January. The speaker for the evening was Helen Walker, daughter-in-law to Trish, one of our members. Helen gave a most interesting insight into her transition from a lawyer to a candle and silver jewellery maker, and her business called Tangled Vine. She demonstrated the candle making process using soy wax, which is more expensive but healthier than paraffin.

Members were fascinated. The competition was to guess the fragrance of several candles. A task much harder than you might imagine!

Our programme for the rest of the year is planned, with a variety of interesting and diverse evenings ahead. Here are the next three:

8th FEBRUARY - Mr Deeno, PCC, 'What happens when we talk a load of rubbish?'

8th MARCH - Pat Wilkie, 'Victorian gardeners'

12th APRIL - Jasmijn Muller, 'If you give a girl a bike'

Please join us any evening that takes your fancy, you will be made very welcome and if you would like to join we are always open to new members.





USK VALLEY GARDENING ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2023

Friday 20th January at TALYBONT

AGM

Tuesday 14th February at LLANGYNIDR

DAHLIAS—Mark Ashton

Friday 17th March at TALYBONT

RESTORATION OF A VICTORIAN WALLED GARDEN—Mike Thurlow

Tuesday 18th April at LLANGYNIDR

NO DIG GARDENING—Richard Higgins

Friday 19th May

VISIT TO LLYSDINAM GARDENS—talk and conducted tour

Friday 16th June

VISIT TO NINA'S GARDEN at TALYBONT

Thursday 20th July

VISIT TO NEUADD GARDEN, LLANBEDR

August—NO MEETING

Thursday 21st September at BWLCH

ACERS (JAPANESE MAPLES)—Edward Smith

Friday 20th October

VISIT TO WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM

Thursday 16th November at BWLCH

TULIPS and TULIP MANIA—Roger Evans

December—CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Meetings take place in HENDERSON HALL, TALYBONT, VILLAGE HALL, LLANGYNIDR and VILLAGE HALL, BWLCH in the third week of the month, on different evenings, but always with a 7.00pm start.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP £10, NON-MEMBERS £3 per meeting, payable on the night.

EVERYONE WELCOME

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT GARETH DAVIES ON 01874 676200 email gebdavies@btinternet.com



The Talybont Tombles



I'd like to start by wishing everyone a HAPPY NEW YEAR and good health in 2023.

The Talybont Tombles took part in the final organised litter pick of 2022 on Sunday 6th November, following the firework display the previous evening. There were some heavy showers about and whilst some of us managed to dodge them, others were less fortunate. Despite the weather there was a good turnout of eleven adults and two children, plus Gareth and Eirona Davies, who completed their regular route (Station Road to A40

and back through the village) in the morning, and Clare and Mike Wright who kindly completed the Lift Bridge to Aber Village and across the dam the following week.

The primary aim of the pick was to target the playing fields/car park and the areas near Henderson Hall following the Firework display and increased footfall to the area. This was largely covered by Sue Large, Mike Smith, Dawn Goodwin, myself, Jayne Gold, Eluned (Nain Gold), and young helpers Albie and Emrys. There were the usual wrappers, tissues and small pieces of plastic, but I think we were all impressed at the low levels of litter following the event, which is reassuring. We even found some loose change, which we donated to the charity boxes in Talybont Stores.

Dawn also covered the areas around the OAP bungalows, Canol Pentre and behind the bus stop, whilst I covered Penpentre. Gareth and Eirona collected half to three quarters of a bag of rubbish on the main road through the village and along Station Road to the A40, which included the usual items such as plastic bottles, food cartons, cigarette packets and tissues. Anne Jeans and Tim Martin kindly covered the canal bank down to Cross Oak returning along the road. Huw focused on the road from the drawbridge, past Cui to Cross Oak, returning to the village, whilst the canal bank from the drawbridge to Ashford Tunnel and back along the road was covered by Craig Burden. Lisa Preece covered the Tram Road. Some collected less than others, but generally the amount of litter was very low.



On the day, we collected four bags of litter, two bags less than our previous pick in September 2022. A big thank you to everyone who turned up and took part on a damp and grey Sunday afternoon.

The first organised litter pick of 2023 will take place on Saturday 18th March at 10.00am – hopefully Spring will be on its way by then!

Please contact me for more information if you would like to join us on March 18th or future litter picks. Equipment will be provided.

Fiona Morris (Organiser)

Fionam25@btinternet.com

Tel: 07971 787817



Talybont Children's Party returns to Henderson Hall!



With Covid hopefully behind us, Sunday January 8th saw the return of the Children's Christmas and New Year Party at Henderson Hall.

Over forty children from the local area, along with their parents, enjoyed an afternoon visit from a giant panda and a beautiful glowing bubble show performed by a Ukrainian lady who lives locally: Mikhno Project. There was huge enthusiasm and delight and, after tea, each child was given a bubble-wand to take home and practice for themselves!

This event was generously funded by the Church Fund, and made possible with the help and enthusiasm of Lettie and some of the Hall committee members.

For anyone interested in knowing more about events and celebrations the Mikhno Project can offer, please contact Anna on 07496 669371

'Curlew Scouts'

The Usk Valley Conservation Group is a local charity established to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Usk valley, in particular but not exclusively the Lesser Horseshoe Bat and the Curlew, by conservation work and active protection measures. It also seeks to advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Usk valley. Many readers will know that we have been focusing much of our attention on the proposals by the Welsh Government and the Green Man Festival for the use of Gilestone farm. This is ongoing, but we also want to carry out other environmental and wildlife conservation work.

Given the immediate threat to the UK curlew population (extinct by 2030 with no action) and the fact that many of us in the community still listen for them in the spring, a number of us are organising to help the few remaining curlews that visit here and attempt to nest. There are already a number of local people who have come forward to act as 'Curlew Scouts'. However, more are needed further up and down the Usk valley. We are asking people to post their sightings on the excellent Brecknock Bird website – www.brecknockbirds.co.uk. We can supply diaries for volunteers to note down any curlew activity of interest. If you would like to know more and perhaps volunteer to become a Curlew Scout, please contact us at info@uvcg.org and we will try to arrange a meeting of volunteers. We have also set up a Twitter account, again to focus on wildlife issues in our beautiful valley here – find us [@talyvalley](https://twitter.com/talyvalley)



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Peter Seaman. Co-chair, UVCG



CHURCH NOTES

LIVING NATIVITY 2022: A huge thank you to everybody who helped make the return of the Living Nativity such a success. This year's Holy Family came to our area as refugees from Ukraine: baby Emmanuela was born in a bomb shelter, and the family escaped the violence very soon afterwards. These parallels with the story of Jesus' birth made the Christmas story particularly relevant. Thanks to your generosity we raised £470 for the British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal.



This is to recognise the wonderful achievement

Talybont Living Nativity

for donating **£470.00** for the
British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal

This valued donation will provide practical,
medical and emotional care to people in crisis.

Your kindness will help to save lives
and will bring happiness to many.

WARM SPACES GRANT: The church authorities have made two small grants to help Talybont residents keep a little warmer over the winter months. Watch out for posters and postings on Facebook to see what is planned in Henderson Hall and the Canalside Café in the weeks to come!

EASTER SERVICES 2023:

Mothering Sunday 19th March

10.00am Family Service at Llansantffraed Church

10.00am Mothering Sunday Communion at Llanfrynach Church

Palm Sunday 2nd April

10.00am Celebration Communion at Llanfrynach Church

Maundy Thursday 6th April

7.00pm Holy Communion at Llanfeugan Church

Good Friday 7th April

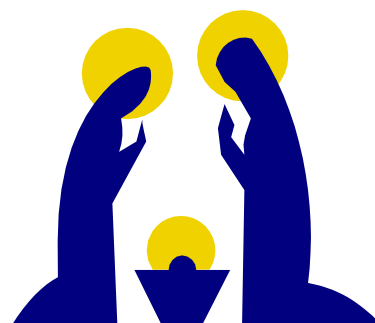
10.00am Family service at Cantref Church

2.00pm 'The Last Hour' at Llansantffraed Church

Easter Sunday 9th April

10.00am Easter Communion at Llandetty Church

10.00am Easter Communion at Llanhamlach Church



All are welcome to these services.

You can find further details, as well as notices of any changes, on the Beacons Benefice webpage: <https://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/s475> on social media, and on the village noticeboard. There is also a new Facebook page for our churches — <https://www.facebook.com/churchesaroundtalybont> — please visit and like us!

- Liz Bramley, for Kelvin Richards, Priest in Charge



SCETHROG EXPLOSION: Providential escape for many

From the Brecon & Radnor Express 17th October 1957

“The fog we have been cursing all the way saved our lives. It was a terrible experience but I’m glad it did not happen a few minutes later when we would have been in the middle of Brecon Town.” These were the words of Mr William Hooper, the driver’s mate, in an interview, emphasize the providential nature of the escape from death of many people when a lorry carrying three and a half ton of TNT blasting dust blew up near the hamlet of Scethrog, five miles from Brecon, on the Abergavenny road, early on Friday morning last. Had the driver not stopped to wipe the windscreen – the mechanical wipers could not clear the thick mist away - the men would not have been aware that among the mist was smoke issuing from the rear offside wheel. Their lorry was on fire.

Mr Hooper, aged sixty-one, and the driver, Mr Melvin Noel Hancock, aged twenty-two, were about one hundred yards away from the lorry, and running very fast in opposite directions to stop traffic, when it was blown to bits. They were taken to Brecon Hospital suffering from shock but were discharged later in the morning and were able to return to their homes in Cornwall.

Providential too, were the escapes of occupants of wrecked cottages adjoining the road – the Scethrog Post Office and the house next door, the home of Mr and Mrs Leonard Butcher. They were sleeping away for the night in Talybont-on-Usk. Mrs Clarke, the elderly Post Mistress, worried about spending a neighbourless night, had stayed with the Martin-Hursts about a quarter of a mile away in Scethrog. Had the families been at home in all probability they would have been killed. Mr Martin-Hurst estimated the damage to his house at £1,200. There was not a door or window left intact, he said.

Comment

One might ponder what on earth was an explosives-laden lorry doing trundling along a highway in the Usk Valley early one morning, on its way to the open-cast mineral quarry near Hirwaun having come from Cornwall. It was years before the Heads of the Valley road, the A465, was constructed; the M4 was just a faint gleam in someone’s eye. One can surmise that the lorry’s circuitous route was chosen to avoid large conurbations: Newport, Cardiff, the densely-populated Taff and Cynon Valleys. Putting Abergavenny, Crickhowell, Bwlch, Scethrog and Brecon at risk was the less potentially calamitous choice (the Brecon by-pass was not built until the early 1980s). As it turned out, the finger of providence proved it to be a good one.

Seamus Hamill-Keays

With acknowledgements to the B&R and John Jones (www.talybontonusk.wales)

**Talybont Matters is a
Community Council Publication**

**This edition edited by:
David MacDonald**

Please email articles, comments and
suggestions to:
talybontmattersnews@gmail.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.**

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.

