

# Talybont Matters

Find this newsletter in full colour at www.talybont.org/our-newsletter.html

#### YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Community Council is actively involved in representing the community with a brand new Council in recent weeks, comprising Geraint James, Nina Krauzewicz, John Jones, Harry Chapman, Phil Darbyshire and Chris Jones, supported by the Clerk, Clare Preece. We still have three vacancies and would welcome anyone interested in filling one of these posts to get in touch with the Clerk at <a href="mailto:talybontcc@gmail.com">talybontcc@gmail.com</a>

Top of the agenda is to effectively represent the views of the community in an official capacity surrounding the development of the Gilestone Farm Project. Questions have been directed to Powys County Council by County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe at the request of the Community Council, and it has been ascertained that at present Gilestone do not have licencing or permission for large scale events with overnight camping and/or alcohol sale. It relies on temporary licencing (TENs), allowing events of less than 500



people. The Community Council has entered into a stage of consultation with the Welsh Government around the Gilestone Project, and an important part of this consultation is to ask the community their views on the various aspects of the plan. A survey is being finalised which will be undertaken in early August. The results will be published and will form part of a response by the Community Council to the plans of the Welsh Government and Green Man before any lease is finalised.

In addition to this the Council are striving to support many other aspects of community life, including plans surrounding the Nepali Village, the Henderson Hall public toilets and sporting facilities, as well as highways and other planning matters to name but a few.

# PLEASE GET IN TOUCH · WE VALUE YOUR INPUT BEST WISHES · TALYBONT-ON-USK COMMUNITY COUNCIL



#### 200 Club Latest Winners:

£10 - Rhiannon Davies; Amanda Williams

£15 - Sue Large; Ruth Holgate

£25 - Rachel Richards

£35 - Gwyn Jones

£50 - GR Hope

Thanks to all members for supporting Henderson Hall For more information on 200 Club visit:

https://www.henderson-hall.com/fundraising

Issue 82

Summer 2023



## Talybont Welcome Day: A Community Effort to be Proud Of



Working alongside Hay, Brecon and Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees, and with support from Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations and Powys County Council, on Sunday 25th June Henderson Hall and the Talybont community welcomed over 100 asylum seekers and refugees, including around 50 local Ukrainians.

The programme for the welcome day included drinks and snacks on arrival, followed by lunch, and then tea and cakes. For activities there were guided walks through the Community Orchard and Henry Vaughan Garden, crafts, face-painting and, in the afternoon, all sorts of games and sports for the children - running races, sack races, tug-of-war - while the adults just relaxed and chatted in the sun! An actionpacked day, with lots of happy, smiling faces throughout.

The event was a big success due to a fantastic team effort and so many people from the community getting involved. We said we would give everyone a day to remember, and we certainly did!

The first, but maybe not the last welcome day at the Hall, which constantly flies the Ukrainian flag in solidarity for refugees living locally.







Special thanks to the White Hart, the Star Inn, and Talybont Shop and Post Office for their generous food and drink contributions, and to others who dropped off cakes during the day; Rhiannon for her overall coordination; Linda and Gail for the much enjoyed guided walks; Talybont WI ladies: Trish, Ruth and Deborah and Henderson Hall committee members: Julia, Gail, Linda and Liz, all real troopers in the kitchen; Anna Bell for her magnificent face-painting; and Chris Jones, along with Rob and Lettie Francis, who organised the children's races, creating a lot of fun and laughter. For all involved it was a day to remember – and one the community can be truly proud of.

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# WELSH LEARNERS' CORNER - CORNEL Y CYMRAEG

Shwmae pawb, Siop Siarad are enjoying their morning sessions back in the White Hart with a lovely 'paned' (cuppa). Croeso cynnes i bawb to come along and chat in Cymraeg. 10.30 - 12, every Friday morning. All levels welcome. Here are a few sentences for you to practise, use and enjoy.



Diolch Siop Siarad Talybont

- Fyddi di'n mynd i'r dre heddiw? Futh-thee-deen-min-d-eer-dre -heth-thee? Will you go to the town today?
- Fyddi di'n prynu ffrwythau o'r farchnad i fi? Futh-thee-deen-prun-ee-froy-th-eye-o-rr-far-ch-nad-ee-fee? Will you buy some fruit from the market for me?
- Bydda, wrth gwrs. Beth wyt ti eisiau? Buth-ah-oo-th-gors- Beth-ot-ti-eye-shy? Yes, of course. What do you want?
- Dw i angen trwsio'r esgidiau'ma. do-ee-ang-en- trooce-see-o-rr-es-gid-ee-eye-ma I need to fix these shoes.
- Fyddi di'n gallu mynd I'r swyddfa bost? Futh-ee-deen-gall-ee-min-d-eer-soy-th-fa-bost? –
   Will you be able to go to the post office?
- Dw i angen stampiau i bostio anrheg. do-ee-ang-en-stamp-ee-eye-ee-bost-ee-o-an-rheg I need stamps to post a present.
- Wel, bydd y swyddfa bost yn brysur iawn. Wel-bee-th-ur-soy-th-fa-bost-un-brus-eer-yawn –
   Well, the post office will be very busy.
- Oes ots gyda ti fynd i nôl y pregripsiwn yma o'r fferyllfa? Oi-s-ots-gud-da-tea-fin-d-ee-nol-ur -pre-grip-shun-um-ma-orr-ver-ur-ll-fa? – Do you mind going to fetch this prescription from the chemists?
- Does dim tabledi pen tost ar ôl doi-ce-dim-tab-bled-dee-pen-tost-arr-all There are no headache tablets left.

# **Talybont WI**

In June, Talybont WI enjoyed a delightful evening with Andrea Jarman, circle dancing. It was one of those seriously hot days so we were glad we were not line dancing! Circle dancing is gentle, relaxing and all consuming. Your thoughts have to be on the steps and the direction of travel. It is no good thinking about what you will have for tea or anything else, or the circle will collapse. This is the second time Andrea has travelled up from Cardiff to teach a session as we enjoyed it so much the first time.

July was quite different. We had a talk about Influential women of Brecon, given by Carla Rapoport. She first talked about the significance of Boudicca to Brecon and Colchester. What an amazing woman taking over her husband's position in the army and leading them into battle! We moved on to Sarah Siddons, an extremely important actress, Gwenllian Morgan, the first female mayor of Brecon and, finally, Frances Hoggan, the first female in Europe to gain a medical degree. Important women indeed.

We will not be having a meeting in August. In September we welcome our very own Pat Wilkie, whose talk was postponed in March due to snow. October we will welcome another Talybont local, Annie Dixon, who is going to transport us to Patagonia through stories and pictures. November is our annual AGM and supper, and December a Christmas meal out. Do come and join us, even if it is for a night or two.

the VIII INSPIRING WOMEN

Guests are always welcome – contact Penny Morgan 01874 665283





After its seven year absence, our community turbine has been back up and running for three months now, with only the occasional software hitches

which Nick Willson and the DCWW engineering staff are slowly ironing out. The turbine is currently generating at 26kW which is our summer rate.

We said a sad farewell to Will Gold and thanked him for all he's contributed in helping us through the difficult years when the turbine wasn't working. We wish Will, Jayne and the boys a great adventure in Utah. It was serendipitous to welcome Russ Jones to join us as a new Director as Will left.

In the past, we have run technology user trials, helped fund solar PV, a heat pump and EV charge points at Henderson Hall. We also ran a community car share scheme for ten years, but sadly had to sell the one remaining vehicle last year due to running out of funds. We have also created and run educational packages for local schools and novel energy badges for the scouts.

We are now busy discussing how best to use the new turbine income to help members of our community to reduce their dependence on fossil fuel energy, learn how they can generate their own renewable energy for their homes or businesses, or simply how to reduce their energy costs and use. This could be in heating, food, travel, material consumption, waste or leisure.

We are delighted to announce that Billy Merrill-Glover won our four week summer student award for his proposed feasibility study on using our Mon & Brec canal for a potential water source heat pump. If you encounter Billy studying the canal depth or flow, or collecting other data he needs, I'm sure he would be happy to answer questions about his project. Water is the most efficient of the three sources for heat pumps (air, ground and water), but it does require the buildings you wish to heat to be adjacent to bodies of water which, in this case, we are lucky enough to have.

We will publish our plans going forward over the next few months at <a href="https://www.talybontenergy.co.uk">www.talybontenergy.co.uk</a>. We are keen to hear your ideas, questions and priorities in terms of your own domestic, business or community energy concerns. There are no simple answers, but we hope to find ways to help us all along the critical path to a low carbon future and building energy resilience. Do email us at <a href="mailto:info@talybontenergy.co.uk">info@talybontenergy.co.uk</a> and let us know if you would like to join our email distribution list. As we are all volunteers replies can take time.

These are our eight Directors:

Barbara Anglezarke, Nick Willson, Guy Hope, Hilary Williams, Simon Baldwin, Michael Harrison, Russ Jones and Alison Kidd



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HORTICULTURE, FLORAL, DOMESTIC, HANDICRAFT, ART, PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES FOR ALL AGES. FOOD AND DRINK BY WI, BRECON TOWN BAND, LLANFAES DAIRY ICE CREAM, CHILDREN'S SPORTS, CRAFT STALLS, TUG OF WAR, BOUNCY CASTLE, DOG SHOW, OWL DISPLAY, CIRCUS SKILLS, MILITARY VEHICLES, MOUNTAIN RESCUE AND MUCH MORE...

Adults: £3.00 Children: 16 and under FREE - Gates open at 12:00 Show schedule available from Talybont Stores and online

www.talybontshow.org



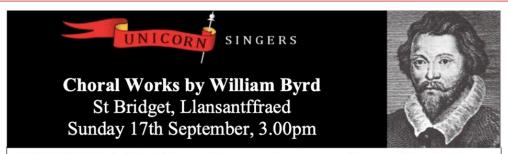
## **Celebrating King Charles III Coronation**

Red, white and blue were the colours of the day on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> as the community came together to celebrate the Coronation at Henderson Hall. The large, high-definition widescreen came in to its own in the morning as we gathered to watch the pomp and ceremony. In true Hall tradition, drinks and home-made cakes were served, and this was supplemented by a delicious lunch brought by a family from Pencelli.

In the afternoon more and more adults and children arrived, including some of the Ukrainians living locally, all with a fabulous selection of cakes to share. We were treated to two hours of uplifting music and dancing by Al's Ceilidh band, Crannog.

In years to come, when asked where they were for the Coronation, a good number of people will look back and say, 'I spent the day in Henderson Hall, and danced my socks off. It was great fun!'

With thanks to Powys County Council and Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations for supporting this event.



**SAVE THE DATE** The Unicorn Singers will return to Llansantffraed with an afternoon concert to celebrate the 400th anniversary of William Byrd's death with a selection of mainly sacred works from the composer's vast output. More details of programme and price to be announced. Tickets will be available for purchase beforehand and also at the door on the day.

#### **Church Notes**

At the end of May our Beacons churches moved into a bigger group: the Brecon and Epynt Ministry Area, supported by a larger number of clergy and congregations, both east and west of Brecon. Our new team leader is Revd Dr Gill Todd. She can be reached at <a href="mailto:gbtodd@btinternet.com">gbtodd@btinternet.com</a>



Our regular pattern of church services remains the same:

First Sunday of the month Second Sunday

Third Sunday Fourth Sunday Fifth Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup> Llanfrynach, Holy Communion 10am Llanfeugan, Holy Communion 10am Henderson Hall Family Church 11am

Llansantffraed and Cantref, Holy Communion 10am Llandetty and Llanhamlach, Holy Communion 10am

Llandetty Ministry Area Communion 10am

September and October will see our Harvest Services, so this pattern may vary. Check for details and updates on the **Churches around Talybont** Facebook page.

**Revd Liz Bramley**, for Revd Kelvin Richards



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## **Friends of Llandetty Church**

The recently formed 'Friends of Llandetty Church' group has had a busy time working on several projects which have the collective aim of opening up the churchyard and the building to the wider public, both locals and visitors alike.

The church is now open at all times for visitors to explore its historic building interior. To encourage and direct canal users to the church there is now a new finger post sign on the canal towpath at Bridge 138, to guide those passing along the canal towards the yard and



building. There has since been a large increase of interested visitors who would not have known of its existence otherwise! Some have even made notes of their wildlife sightings on the newly installed blackboard in the porch.

The group has also spent many days in the yard cutting back and clearing vast swathes of land that has become overrun by brambles and undergrowth. Several hidden gravestones were uncovered, and views and access to the river bank boundary are now more accessible. This has been carried out under the guidance of a qualified ecologist who has kindly offered to volunteer his time to produce and update an ongoing ecological survey.

This work will continue, thanks to the recent award of a grant, with the clearing and reinstatement of the recently discovered avenue of yews, further yard clearance and the installation of some picnic benches to encourage visitors to stay a little while and appreciate the lovely setting, and its stunning variety of flora and fauna. The long-term goal is to keep the church and churchyard maintained and open to everyone, and to encourage many different uses of both into the future.

Neil Startin (Llandetty Hall Farm)







## **The Talybont Tombles**



We regrouped Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May for the second organised litter pick of 2023. It's a busy time of year and I'd received a number of apologies due to other commitments. We were a slightly smaller group of eight adults and two children, plus Gerry Blake on the Friday and Sandra Briskham the following Wednesday. But I am glad to say we managed to cover the main areas, either on the day or over the next few days – and the weather stayed dry, which was a pleasant surprise.

Gerry Blake covered the back road from Talybont to Pencelli on the Friday before, collecting one and a half bags of litter. This was a great help and probably one of the worse areas we cover on the organised pick, whether it's because of people throwing litter out of car windows or the reoccurring issue of the recycling lorries travelling around with insecure rear doors remains to be seen. Gareth and Eirona Davies collected just under half a bag of rubbish through the village and along Station Road to the A40, which was a marked reduction on the previous organised pick in March.

The areas of the canal were much better than March. Julie and Craig Burdon covered the area behind the bus stop and the canal bank to Ashford tunnel, returning to the village along the road, whilst Ellen Walsh Moorman covered the canal path to Pencelli. Lisa Preece covered the Dram Road, Talybont Dam wall, returning to Talybont via Aber village, again collecting far less than usual.

Lettie Francis with little helpers Elsie and Pip covered the playing field, tennis court area and children's play area, again collecting very little. I covered Henderson Hall car park, the Penpentre Estate, Canol Pentre front and rear, and the road up from the village to Gilestone cottages. Very little litter was collected from these areas either, with the exception of a plastic bin and metal table frame that appeared to be fly tipped in the car park.



A couple of days later Sandra Briskham was kind enough to cover Maesmawr Lane, Maesmawr Close and parts of the farm lane that forms part of the Orchard Trail loop. There was very litter collected here which is good news. Over the next few weeks I was able to cover the Cui/Cross Oak triangle and the Orchard Trail through the woods at Gilestone.

In total we collected seven bags (some fuller than others) on that weekend and approximately ¾ bag over the subsequent weeks. The quantity was much lower than the last organised pick in March, though the increased growth in the hedgerow and verges made the litter pick far more challenging. However, the consensus was that litter levels were lower than the same time in 2022, which is reassuring. A huge thank you to everyone who turned up and took part, on the day or otherwise.

Our next Talybont Tombles litter pick will take place on <u>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 10am.</u>
Meeting at Henderson Hall. New members are always welcome.

Please contact me for more information if you would like to join us on September 16<sup>th</sup> or future litter picks. Equipment will be provided, but please bring your own gloves.

Fiona Morris (Organiser)

Fionam25@btinternet.com

07971 787817



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#### **Usk Valley Gardening Association**



On the afternoon of Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 18 members and friends of the Usk Valley Gardening Association visited the Neuadd garden, Llanbedr, near Crickhowell, and were escorted on a tour of the garden by the owner, Philippa Herbert, and the Head Gardener, Mark.

The garden opens under the National Garden Scheme in early June and visits by small groups can be arranged between June and September. Restoration of the garden began in 1999 and many unusual trees and shrubs have been planted. The

tour of the garden began with a woodland walk, with its ponds and streams, and ended in the walled garden with its decorative planting of fruit, vegetables and flowers. From here there were spectacular views of the surrounding countryside which were appreciated by all present.

The Usk Valley Gardening Association (UVGA) does not meet formally during the month of August, but many of its members will be involved with the Village Shows which are held in Talybont on 26<sup>th</sup> August and in Llangynidr on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

The next indoor meeting will be held in Bwlch Village Hall on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, when the guest speaker will be Edward Smith of Credale Nursery near Leominster who will talk on Acers (Japanese Maples) and plants will be available for purchase.

If non-members are interested in attending this meeting they will be very welcome and there will be a small charge. For attendance and payment details contact either of the following Officers:

Gareth Davies (Chairman), 01874 676200 <a href="mailto:gebdavies@btinternet.com">gebdavies@btinternet.com</a>
Linda Windham (Programme Secretary), 07513 099747 <a href="mailto:lindawindham9@gmail.com">lindawindham9@gmail.com</a>

# **South Powys Ukrainian Oral History Project**

In May 2023, with the support of Powys County Council and Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations, Henderson Hall Committee was awarded a small Refugee Support Grant to set up a Ukrainian Audio Recording Oral History Project. This project will bring to life the experiences of some of those involved within the Powys Ukrainian Resettlement Programme and showcase the personal stories of sanctuary seekers, hosts, supporters and the voluntary sector, who have come together following the illegal invasion of Ukraine.

Its aim is to raise awareness and understanding of Ukrainians living locally, and to preserve and celebrate this snapshot in time within Powys' social history. It also seeks to make real the impact of the continuing war.



The recordings, due to be completed by the end of July, will be permanently sited on the Henderson Hall website, as well as on the Powys County Council and PAVO websites. They will also be widely shared through social media, including on Henderson Hall's Facebook page. We warmly invite you to seek them out and to hear first-hand the stories of some sanctuary seekers who have resettled in Powys.



### TEA and CHAT

Tea and Chat on the first Monday of the month continues to thrive. There was an issue with funding recently, but a couple of the members volunteered to bake a cake each so we were able to continue. Fortunately, thanks to the Henderson Hall Committee and Talybont-on-Usk Community Council we are now back to normal.

All seniors are welcome to come along for a social get together and we are always looking for people to host one month a year.

#### Dates:



Monday 7th August at 3pm in Henderson Hall Monday 4th September Monday 2nd October

For more information contact Cherry Jones 610607



#### **Usk Valley Conservation Group**

Off the back of our successful World Curlew Day evening, where we exhibited a Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust film, we were hugely lucky to attend their curlew head-starting unit at Slimbridge last week. What a day. Such dedication and enthusiasm from the professionals who run the unit – Tanya Griggs, Kane Bridges and Mike Smart. Our group, which included our Brecknock Bird Recorder, Andy King, were treated to the full rundown of activities required to practise this special method of curlew 'regeneration' – from meeting 'Colin', the decoy stuffed curlew to lure other curlews in to be caught and tagged, to witnessing at close quarters the hatched curlew chicks being reared for release on Dartmoor.

Huge thanks are due to the wonderful WWT staff. It was a day certainly to cherish and hopefully important links were forged with our own Important Curlew Area (ICA) 12 (this is the most southerly area identified for rescuing curlews from extinction in Wales by the national body, Gylfinir Cymru, and led locally by Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority).

Please note this WWT head-starting unit at Slimbridge, with its strict biosecurity measures, is not open to the public.

Other activities within our local ICA 12: Some of our curlew scouts were proud to be able to carry out stewarding duties around one of the curlew nests found on Mynydd Illtyd. Under the guidance of Andy King, our County Bird Recorder, and with the help of National Park Authority electric fencing, we saw the nest of four reach full term. All four chicks were hatched on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. We eagerly await further news. The picture remains unclear as to whether there are any nesting pairs around Talybont this year.

Report by Fran Groves

Submitted by **Peter Seaman** 



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# Howel Llewellyn Richards MC FRAgS A Talybont Hero of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

## The Gazette 8<sup>th</sup> October 1919: Citation for the award of the Military Cross

2nd Lt. Howel Llewellyn Richards, Lincs. Yeo. attd. 12th Lancers.

For conspicuous gallantry on 5th November, 1918, in the neighbourhood of Landrecies. When in command of a troop co-operating with the infantry attack, he pushed boldly forward in the face of heavy fire, and by his skilful dispositions of his Hotchkiss-gun team and the remainder of his troop succeeded in working round and silencing a hostile machine gun, which up till then had been effectively delaying the infantry advance.

#### From the Obituary by Dr Wynne Davies (Welsh Pony and Cob Society Journal, 1983)

By the death on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1982 of Mr Llewellyn Richards of the Criban Stud, the last direct link of a chain of pony breeding in the Brecon Beacons stretching back over 300 years or more is broken.

After distinguished service in the 1914-18 war where he served in Egypt, the Montgomeryshire Yeomanry, the Lincolnshire Yeomanry and the 12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers in France. He was awarded the M.C. in 1918 for conspicuous gallantry, only six days before the Armistice. He and his troops later crossed into Germany. Mr Richards married Renie Watkins and leaving the Army in 1922, settled in his native Talybont-on-Usk initially at Pencelli Castle.

Then followed a period of farming at Oundle in Northamptonshire where he continued to breed pure Welsh Mountain Ponies of the highest calibre and also experimented with the breeding of larger riding ponies on these more fertile pastures. In this latter venture his colleague was Mrs Nell Pennel who had also been brought up at Talybont-on-Usk. The urge to return to Breconshire was too great and Mr and Mrs Richards arrived back at Talybont with their ponies and soon turned out one Champion mountain pony after another all bearing the name of the Criban Stud. In 1944 a much-needed additional blood-line was introduced into Section 'B' with Criban Victor, a magnificent stallion, whose painting appeared on the 11p Post Office stamp in 1978.

Whilst the mountain ponies lived in herds with the Criban sheep way up on the Brecon Beacons, the larger ponies were kept on the lower land around The Allt, strains descended from Thoroughbreds to produce famous Polo Ponies that retained 50% Welsh character. Llewellyn and Renie lived at 'The Allt' at Llansantffraed from 1947.

Llewellyn's contribution towards the furtherance of Welsh breeds is infinite; he had judged Welsh ponies and cobs, and riding ponies in every major show in the UK and also judged widely overseas: Holland, France, Denmark, South Africa, including Australia as recently as 1979.

He was a Member of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society for 50 years, President in 1959-60, and society representative on the British Horse Society Council. He was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Agricultural Society in 1970.

The direct link mentioned at the start of the Obituary above has not been broken. Llewellyn's niece Sarah Osborne and her husband Anthony, and daughters Lettie and Alice, who run the Cui Stud in Talybont, ensure that the blood-lines, that have been carefully bred by the same family for over 300 years, continue to be sought by breeders worldwide.

(Photo courtesy Welsh Pony and Cob Society)

Compiled by Seamus Hamill-Keays, The Allt, with help from Finn, nephew.





# Talybont Stores, Canal Side Cafe & Post Office 01874 676663

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

#### **SUMMER HOURS**

#### **CAFÉ**

Monday to Sunday 9am until 5pm
Cooking until 4pm

Soft serve ice cream, Smoothies, Iced teas and coffees, Milkshakes, Frappes

#### SHOP

Monday until Friday 7am until 7pm Saturday 8am until 7pm Sunday 8am until 6pm

Orders taken for: Fruit, Vegetables, Fresh daily bread, Milk, Newspapers

#### **POST OFFICE**

Amazon Hub – have your Amazon parcels delivered to the post office
Click & Collect, Drop and Go
Free cash withdrawals
Mon to Sat 9am until 1.30pm



We are also on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram



# Talybont Matters is a Community Council Publication

# This edition edited by: David MacDonald

Please email articles 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.



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