



# Talybont Matters

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

## Christmas Card Competition—The Results!



With the coronavirus pandemic still causing us to stay at home and realising that the usual community functions, like the parties and Christmas bingo, would not be able to go ahead, we decided at the November meeting of Talybont-on-Usk Community Council to help with raising the festive spirits and promote a Christmas poster competition which could be displayed in a window or door.



Leaflets were delivered to households inviting people to take part and we had a tremendous response with entrants ranging from 2 years old to pension age and spread right across the community.

The entries from all the entrants were of a very high standard and it was evident to see the enjoyment had when producing the posters, which was the main aim for us as a council to see.

It was difficult to separate a winner from all the various entrants but the judges decided on the poster entered by 9 year old **Emilia Rogers**, whose poster is displayed here.

The winner won a hamper kindly donated by Talybont Stores and the runners up each received £5 gift vouchers kindly donated by W R

James and Sons.

We would also like to thank everyone who entered and also to all the volunteers who helped distribute the leaflets around the community.

Geraint James on behalf of Talybont-on-Usk Community Council

## 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](mailto:richardabram@btinternet.com)

For this edition I will again leave quite a few copies in the shop and also 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 72**

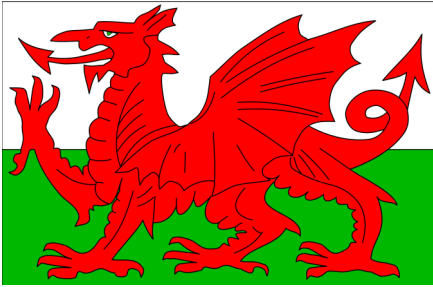
Winter 2021

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.



## WELSH LEARNERS CORNER - CORNEL Y CYMRAEG

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda (Happy New Year)



**Siop Siarad** 10.30 - 12.00 every Friday Morning will be on Zoom up until Half Term and probably longer. If you would like to join us to practice your listening and speaking skills please email me ([rhianyoung38@gmail.com](mailto:rhianyoung38@gmail.com)) for the link. All levels welcome. (Also we are thinking about doing a 10.00 - 10.30 slot for complete beginners if there was enough interest.)

**Dych chi'n mwynhau gwneud symiau?** -da-ch-ch-een-moyn-high-gw-nayd-sum-i-eye- Do you enjoy doing sums?

**Tri llusoi tri** -tree-lee-os-ee-tree- three times three

**Cant rhannu pump** -can't-ran-nee-pim-p- a hundred divided by five

**Naw rhannu Tri** -now-ran-nee-tree - nine divided by three

**Deg adio pump** -deg-add-ee-i-o-pim-p - ten add five

**Mae chwech tynnu tri yn hafal i dri** -my-ch-ware-ch-ton-nee-tree-un-ha-fal-ee-dree - six take away three is equal to three

**Dw i eisiau saith deg tri afal** -do-ee-eye-shy-sigh-th-deg-tree-af-fal - I want seventy three apples

**Ble mae'r dosbarth cerddoriaeth?** -blair-my-r-dos-barth-cer-thor-ree-i-th - Where is the music class?

**Wyt ti'n gallu darllen cerddoriaeth?** -oit-teen-ga-ll-ee-da-llen-cer-thor-ree-i-th - Can you read music?

**Mae Megan yn hoffi'r dosbarth mathemateg** -my-Megan-un-hoff-veer-dos-barth-math-the-ma-teg - Megan likes the mathematics class

Diolch Rhian

## TALYBONT GARDENING CLUB



The club has been making good use of the Community Zoom account with an excellent presentation from a professional gardener based in Essex (we have another one booked for our February meeting), and our recent AGM. At the AGM members voted in favour of a possible amalgamation of the club with Llangynidr which will allow the new club to grow its membership, attract more external speakers and better support the committee members. Richard, our chair, and Sandra, our secretary, are now starting discussions with Llangynidr and hopefully all will proceed smoothly. We hope that in due course Bwlch Garden will also want to join the new club.

In the meantime we have on Friday 19th February Guest Speaker **Sally Morgan** from Somerset on "An Acre of Garden", via Zoom at 7.30 pm. Then on Friday 19th March I will be presenting "Lockdown: The Positives from Gardening and Local Nature", via Zoom at 7.30 pm. Finally on Friday 16th April, Gareth Davies on "Gardens, our lifeline in 2020", again via Zoom at 7.30 pm.



The Club is even getting into Social Media: member **Linda Windham** has set up a brilliant Facebook group for anyone interested in gardening in our community. Within 24 hours, it was answering questions on Cow Parsley and giving tips on splitting herbaceous plants. Contact Linda for more information (you don't need to be a member of our club to join). Or look for '**Talybont on Usk Garden Group**' on Facebook.

If you would like to join the club, please contact our Membership Secretary, Ruth Morgan on 676351.

## The Highway Through Llansantffraed c.1675

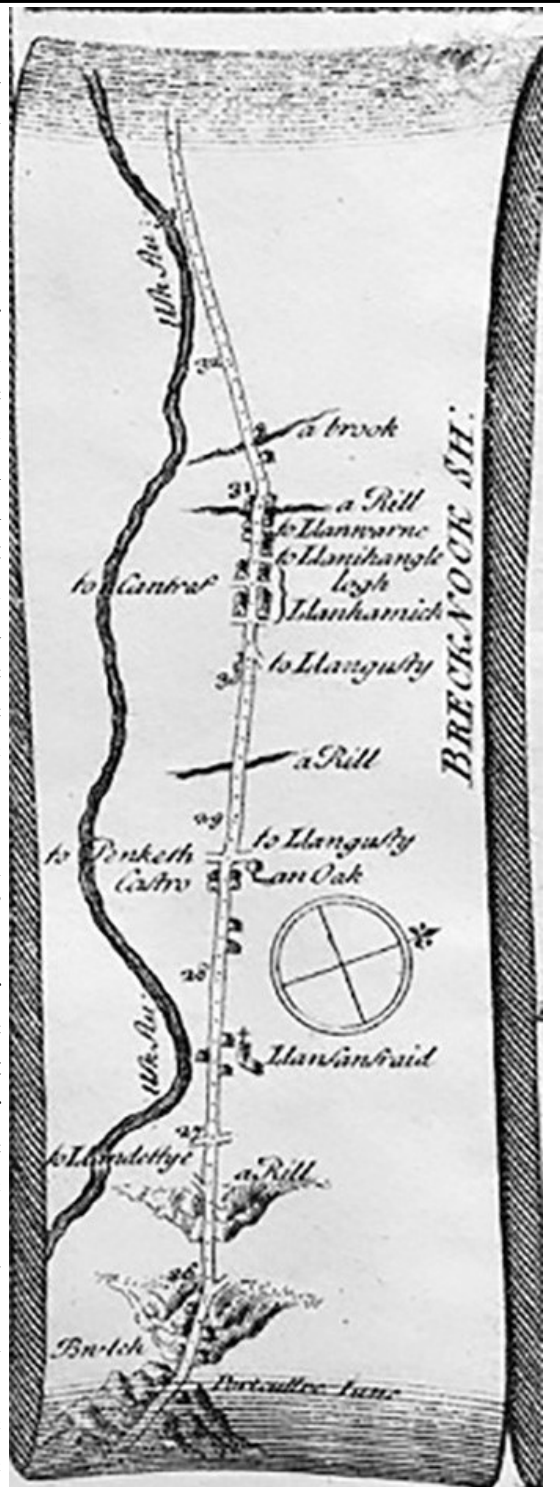
This 1675 map by the great mapmaker John Ogilby, is one of a set of six 'strip maps' that showed the route from Monmouth to Llanbedr Pont Stefan (Lampeter) with distances marked. This is the section from Bwlch to Llanhamlach.

After the climb through the pass at Bwlch there is a side road off left to Llanddetty, probably leading to a ferry at Buckland. Llansantffraed is shown as having a church and three other buildings. After the buildings of Newton there is a junction with side roads left and right. 'An oak' is recorded here. The side road to the left is marked as leading to Pencelli Castle. The direction is correct but maybe there was confusion between 'The Tower' of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century next to this junction and Pencelli Castle just across the river. The side road to the right led to Llangasty. Just beyond this junction a 'Rill' is shown crossing the road. When driving to Brecon in wet weather you can still see this rill streaming across the tarmac. The next side road to the right, leading to Llangasty, is at the junction where 'The Old Ford' pub is now situated. The side road to the associated ford is not shown at this point but a side road to Cantref is shown further along. No toll-booths are shown as this highway did not become a turnpike until after 1830. A toll-gate was then established in Bwlch where the 'Gate Shop' was later built.

There is no side road shown to Talybont. As we know, our village was brought into existence by the construction of the canal 1800-1812. In a tithe map of 1845, a ford is shown at Llansantffraed. Station Road from the station (now an outdoor centre), to a wooden bridge across the Usk was built by the railway company as a private road. Until its adoption in the late 1960s by the Rural District Council, on one day a year it was closed to the public to prevent it becoming a public right-of-way. The wooden bridge has been replaced but remains of its supports can still be seen under the water on the downstream side of today's bridge.

Ogilby's strip maps were not perfect but they would have been useful guides for the traveller over four centuries before the invention of Satnav. Until recently, the AA and the RAC would provide strip maps for your journey, on request. Strip maps were also used in Roman times and were known as Itineraries.

Seamus Hamill-Keays



### Is your community group Zooming?

The Community Council funded pro Zoom account is being very well used by the Garden Club, Siop Siarad, the Hall committee and the Community Council. However, I am sure that there are still one or two other Talybont-based community groups who would greatly benefit by using this free service. It is very user-friendly and the quality surprisingly good.

If you want some advice and help, contact Peter Seaman at [tcommunity@btinternet.com](mailto:tcommunity@btinternet.com) or phone 676225.





## Talybont Tourism Group

We hope that our Tourism 'Give a Little Love' community promotion helped to brighten up the end of what was a strange and worrying 2020. Twelve local households, picked at random, received a local gift delivered by our cheery elves! Here is a selection of our doorstep delivery pics. We hope to do something for the community once a year so look out for the next idea.

2020 also saw the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of our own Talybont Calendar. We were a little bit cautious on how many to get printed but, at the end of the day, they were a sell-out and we could have sold more. Thank you to Talybont Stores for stocking them and to everyone who bought one. We hope you enjoy the wonderful photographs taken by a variety of local residents and visitors.

The winning monthly photographs were from our annual photo competition. The overall winner was Matt Gee, a visitor from America who was here in February and just made it home before we all went into lockdown. His photo is shown below.

Well done Matt and we hope we can welcome you back again when life returns to some sort of normal. The photo competition is about to start again so, next time you are out on any local walk, bike ride or run, do share your photos onto our Visit Talybont Instagram or Facebook pages using #talybontphotocomp or email [visittalybontonusk@gmail.com](mailto:visittalybontonusk@gmail.com) for a chance to be part of our next calendar.

And lastly, if you live here and are involved in local tourism in or around Talybont, whether providing accommodation, experiences, food or crafts, please do email us ([visittalybontonusk@gmail.com](mailto:visittalybontonusk@gmail.com)) and get involved. Annual membership costs very little and gives coverage for your business on our website, social media platforms and importantly gives us a place where we can share and support one another.

Which is even more important in these times.

Wishing all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year from all of us at Talybont Tourism.

Clare Wright  
Fiona Goodsell  
Scott Goodsell



## **Talybont Stores, Canalside Cafe and Post Office**

01874 676663 [www.talybontstores.co.uk](http://www.talybontstores.co.uk) [enquiries@talybontstores.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@talybontstores.co.uk)

**At this very uncertain time, we still need your support to help keep the SHOP 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**

**Please contact us on the above telephone number or Keren Bender on**

**[kerebender1@gmail.com](mailto:kerebender1@gmail.com) 07814513455.**

**We are happy to help**

### **CAFÉ**

**Closed until further notice but takeaway hot drinks available.**

### **SHOP OPEN**

**Monday to Friday 7.00am to 6.00pm**

**Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm**

**Sunday 8.00am until 4.00pm**

### **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**

### **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.

**[Kerebender1@gmail.com](mailto:kerebender1@gmail.com)**

**07814513455**





Visit Talybont-on-Usk

# Photo Competition 2021

Win the choice of:

- A beautifully handcrafted gift from one of our local artisans
- A meal for two at a village pub
- A framed and mounted print of your winning image

Open to any age  
Open to any level

Take a picture of our local area. The best images will be featured on the official Visit Talybont-on-Usk website & social media pages

One image per month will be selected to appear in the very popular 2022 village calendar

The overall winner will be selected from the monthly winners in Autumn 2021

Full details including T&Cs on our social media pages



Send your images to [visittalybontonusk@gmail.com](mailto:visittalybontonusk@gmail.com)  
& upload to social media and [#talybontphoto](https://www.instagram.com/talybontphoto)



## HENDERSON HALL: LAUNCH OF STORYBOARD & ORAL HISTORY RECORDINGS

In 2019, Henderson Hall, in celebration of its 50th Anniversary, received a grant from the National Lottery Heritage fund to create a record of the physical and social history of the Hall and its surrounds. This record took the form of a **Storyboard**, now permanently sited at the Hall, which shows the Hall's vibrant history as a much-valued community hub: the clubs, the activities, and the key events that have taken place over the years. The Storyboard is complemented by **Oral History recordings** which bring to life the memories, experiences and personal stories of 22 people who have supported and been involved with the Hall, enriching community life for others.

The hope was to share the completed project in April 2020, but events that we are all too aware of, scuppered those plans. Despite the setback, the Hall committee took a window of opportunity in December to create an event which enabled the community to view the Storyboard, hear some of the Oral History interviews and give their feedback. This Celebratory weekend was a big success with over 120 adults and children attending. Feedback was very positive and it was a lovely way to bring the community together and share some Christmas cheer, despite the restrictions.



To see the project video and hear the Oral History recordings please go to [www.henderson-hall.com](http://www.henderson-hall.com) and click on the Storyboard tab. Leaflets replicating the Storyboard can also be found in Talybont Stores. Special thanks to all those community members who shared photographs and stories and agreed to be interviewed, alongside those who gave their thoughts, ideas, time and energy throughout the year-long 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. They proved the community spirit in this area is very much alive and kicking. Long may it continue!

Rhiannon Davies



### The Story of Llanfeugan

£3.00

Ideal for a bit of 'lockdown' reading! A fascinating history of our wonderful church here in Pencelli. Available to buy from Talybont Stores or direct from me, Simon Baldwin.

Phone 01874 665405

## CHURCH NOTES

At the time of writing, while we are still in lockdown, the following are being provided across the Beacons Benefice and the wider Ministry Area:

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 ([kelvin@beaconssafaddan.plus.com](mailto:kelvin@beaconssafaddan.plus.com)) 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)







## 200+ Club 2021 Membership Details

**Dear 200+ Club Members**

**We are updating our details for the 200+ Club 2021 Prize Draw.**

**If you have moved since you became a member, please can you email us your new address. Also a telephone number, so we have all the information to get hold of you if you win a prize.**

**Please send your updated information to [hendersonhalltalybont@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonhalltalybont@gmail.com)**

**If you would like to pay your subscription by standing order, let us know and we can post out a new form for you to complete and take into your bank.**

Also if you are happy for Gift Aid to apply to all subscriptions & donations you make from the day of declaration. You confirm that you pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains at least equal to the amount that all charities & Community Sports Clubs to which you will give for this year (22p for each £1 donated). You understand that other taxes such as VAT & Council tax do not qualify.

### **New Members**

We still have some draw numbers available for 2021. If you would like to join, Subscriptions are £10 per year, per number payable in advance. Each member will be allocated one number per £10 subscription. There is no limit to how many numbers a member may purchase.

Prize draws will take place quarterly at Henderson Hall. The quarterly prize draws will be £50, £35, £25, £15 & £10. All prize winners will be notified by post.

**All profits will belong to the Henderson Hall Trust Fund and used at their sole discretion. In the event of any disputes arising, the decision of the Henderson Hall Trust Fund will be final.**

**Membership forms are available at Talybont stores or email us on [hendersonhalltalybont@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonhalltalybont@gmail.com) and one can be emailed out to you. You must remember to take the standing order form to your bank and either drop the membership form off at Talybont ~Stores or email it back to us.**

**This is a worthy cause that has been running now for many years and we Thank You for your continued support and look forward to new members**

**Thank you**

**The Henderson Hall Committee**

December £50	Ray Briskham
£35	Allan Jones
£25	Mike Bugler
£15	Cellan Vaughan
£10	Penny Morgan



## THE TALYBONT TOMBLES

Our last litter pick was arranged for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November but as it had been raining particularly heavy prior to the intended start time Gareth and I decided it was too wet for us "oldies" to go out!

However, I did drive up to the Hall just in case anyone turned up and yes – 2 enthusiasts did arrive appropriately dressed – Rob & Dawn Goodwin! They insisted on going out as they had all the gear on and ironically at that moment the rain stopped anyway! They went from the Rectory Bridge down as far as Ashford Tunnel and back.

I had quite a few apologies from members of our group who could not make it but were prepared to go out sometime the following week when it was (hopefully) drier and more convenient for them. Gareth and Eirona checked out the village main road and Station Road, Anne and Tim walked up the railway line from the dam and along the path at the far side of the reservoir where there was quite a bit of litter, mainly around the car park area. They returned a few days later and picked a further one and a half bags. Looks like we are expanding our "Picking" areas away from the immediate village! Sue Large went along the Towpath to Cross Oak and back; Mike and Clare did their usual "loop" from their house up towards Cui towards Cross Oak and returned by road, and

Kevin started out to do the Dram Road but kept going and going – as far as the Reservoir, across the Dam Wall and back to the village by road – quite a trek but worthwhile as most of the litter he picked up was on the road. Gerry and Jenson have also been out regularly.

I have decided that with the combination of wet wintry weather and Covid restrictions with some of our elderly volunteers not wanting to mix at the moment there will be no specific litter pick dates until possibly the Spring when things will hopefully improve. I think most of our group are very litter conscious anyway and

when they are out walking they do pick up anything obvious as a matter of course. If anyone who is not in our Group would like to help and are out walking on a regular basis I can let you borrow the necessary equipment if you let me know by email

[sandra.briskham@btinternet.com](mailto:sandra.briskham@btinternet.com)

My thanks as always to everyone who did turn out in November in order to keep our village as clean and tidy as possible. Stay safe everyone and lets look forward to some drier and warmer weather when we can get out and about again!

Sandra Briskham, Organiser 676297



## UPDATE ON THE HENRY VAUGHAN GARDEN



It is now wintertime in the garden and the plants are well bedded down. Nina has covered the rose bed with cardboard and Gareth will be laying some mulch around the plants in the Spring. The small Committee met in the garden to discuss the various maintenance issues and this proved a very useful gathering with future plans agreed. Our grateful thanks to

Craig for keeping an eye on the grass cutting over the summer months, which is quite an

onerous task bearing in mind the difficult access and location of the garden; he also erected the Way Marker arrows directing visitors up to the garden from the Canal Towpath. Nina has been extremely busy creating hand-made slate plant labels which are really effective and will help visitors to the garden to identify the various plants, but this is quite a task and is very much an ongoing project – thank you Nina very much.

The hedge at the far end and also the dead elm have now both been cut back with our grateful thanks to Simon and Huw. The original Information Board has now been refurbished and refitted by Simon and Hilary and it really does look very smart; we are also most grateful to Owen who volunteered to check the dog-poo bin on a regular basis, this is a thankless job but a very important one – thank you Owen.

Craig and Simon met Sam Ridge, the National Park Warden, and Alice Thorne, their Archaeologist, on site in December to discuss the proposed new top entrance. Sam and Alice agreed our proposal in general and Sam and his team were due to commence the works on the 15<sup>th</sup> January. However, due to the current Covid lockdown restrictions this obviously did not happen but they will be on site as soon as they are allowed. This new gated entrance with steps will provide an additional access for visitors who are walking down the Dramroad and enable them to walk through the garden to exit via the main bottom entrance. We hope this will encourage more visitors into the garden. Nina had moved some plants in readiness for the proposed works but their final growing positions will have to wait a little longer!

Finally it was pleasing to notice that there was a tremendous crop of apples in the garden this year so hope that some residents made good use of them!

Sandra Briskham

## Isaac "Ike" Phillips

Isaac was born in Lower Wenallt on 17th July 1875 the youngest of three children. He married Elizabeth Price from the adjoining parish of Llanfeugan on 7th July 1897 and they moved to Aber where their first son was born. In 1899 at the onset of the second Boer War (1899-1902) he joined the Third Company of the Imperial Yeomanry as trooper No 28761. He served in South Africa and was awarded a medal setting out the campaigns he took part in. After demobilisation, he and his family moved to Craiglas cottages where he remained for the rest of his life.



He was recorded in the 1911 census as being a castrator which involved going round local farms castrating pigs, lambs and cattle.

Philip Pryce, who now lives in Australia, remembers him. "Ike had a big moustache and he always came to castrate the pigs at Aber Farm. He had a funny smelling blue material that he heated and used as a disinfectant".

He re-joined the army in 1914 and probably due to his age he spent the duration of the war stationed in Hereford. In 1920 he became a Rural Postman reaching the more remote properties on horseback. He retired in 1935 and was awarded the Coronation Medal for his services. He continued with his castration skills assisting local farmers until the late 1940's - his grandson clearly remembers having fried lamb "stones" for breakfast. He died in Brecon Hospital on 27th June 1951 and is buried in Llandetty church.

My thanks go to Tom Thirgood, Isaac's grandson, for sharing the fascinating history of his grandfather's life.

John Jones



**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.

