



# Talybont Matters

This newsletter can be found in full colour on <http://www.talybont.info/>



Issue 36

Winter 2012

## Please send in articles!

The newsletter will be published quarterly, at the end of January, April, July and October. All articles to be submitted by 20th of these months to appear in the next issue.

Be a journalist, send in articles, news, and what's on in Talybont.

Wherever possible your articles will be published in the next issue. However the editor reserves the right to edit articles or hold them back for subsequent issues should there be insufficient space in the current issue.

Advertise goods, services & activities

# Free!

## Inside this issue:

Henderson Hall Events	2
Paper bin and bottle	2
Flicks in the Sticks	2
Landmark building by JLS	2
Tennis coaching	2
Katy Tutt new clerk to	2
National Park events	3
Private nature reserves	3
Church news	3
Talybont Gardening Association programme	4
Job advertisement:: ERA21 Ltd.	4
Looking back at 2011 weather	4

## Welcome from new owners of Talybont Stores



Rob and Regan would like to wish you all a warm welcome as the new owners of Talybont Stores, as from the 27th January 2012.

We will be extending the hours of the shop:

### New opening times :

**Mon to Sat : 7.00am until 7.00pm**

**Sundays: 8.00am until 6.00pm.**

**Café open daily: 8.00am until 4.00pm .**

We have a full time chef named David, who will be doing a varied and tasty menu with breakfasts and daily specials.

We have also teamed up with Bikes and Hikes to offer **bike hire**.

We will still be doing newspapers and bread orders so please let us know if you would like to continue with this.

We hope to introduce new lines and special offers once we get settled in, so why not pop along and say hello and let us know if there is anything you would like to see stocked in the shop and we will see what we can do.

Hope to see you all soon.

Rob and Regan

## Church bells ring in Canal's 200th Anniversary!



**At 12 midday on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb, church bells along the length of the canal will be rung, from Pontymoile Basin to Brecon, to launch the canal's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

**The official launch event will be held at Pontymoile Basin from 11am with Pontymoile Brass Band Male Voice Choir.**

To commemorate the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal's bicentennial anniversary this year a wide range of activities and events are planned on and along the canal.

The Act of Parliament required to build the canal was obtained in March 1793 and it provided for the making of a navigable waterway from Brecon to Pontymoile, where it would join the Monmouth Canal which went to Newport. It also included permission for the building of several connecting tramways (horse-drawn railways). The canal was opened to Brecon on Christmas Eve 1800, thus connecting the town by water and tramways to Gilwern, Beaufort, Clydach, Glynwerny and

other surrounding industrial areas. Coal, limestone, timber and many other goods were brought up the canal to Brecon and goods were taken from Brecon down the canal included agricultural goods – hay, vegetables etc. – also woollen and leather goods. Brecon old Brewery shipped barrels of ale and porter (a dark brown malt liquor, a favourite drink with London Porters) down by boat to the industrial valleys. In March 1802 work started again at Gilwern and the canal was completed to Pontymoile in 1812, where it joined the flourishing Monmouth Canal, which ran to Newport (and the sea), with a branch going to Crumlin.

This year people and communities up and down the length of the canal want to mark the bi-centennial anniversary. The celebrations will start in February 2012 and carry on throughout the year. If you would like to receive the newsletter with news on the events and activities planned, get in contact!

**If you have an event which you would like to include in the publicity or plans and ideas you wish to develop for next year there will be several people along the length of the canal who will be helping with the coordinating role and available to support groups and events where needed.**

**For more information contact:**  
[canal200powys@gmail.com](mailto:canal200powys@gmail.com)



**Talybont-on-Usk Energy is delighted to fund Talybont Matters**



## HENDERSON HALL

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### Flicks in the Sticks

Tue 21 Feb, 7.30pm  
Tue 20 Mar, 7.30pm  
Tue 24 Apr 7.30pm

#### Easter Bingo

Tue 3 April, 7.00 pm

#### Henderson Hall AGM

Tue 29 May, 7.30 pm

### REGULAR EVENTS

#### Playgroup

Mondays  
10 - 12 am  
Pam Burdon  
01874 676605

#### WI

2<sup>nd</sup> Wed each month  
7pm - 10pm  
President:  
Kathryn James  
01874 623496

#### Brownies

Thursdays  
6.30pm - 7.45pm  
Sue Thorne  
01874 676293

#### Talybont Cricket Club

Wednesdays  
5pm - 6pm  
Geraint James  
01874 676272

#### Junior Tennis Club

Wednesdays  
6pm - 7.30pm  
Margaret Cox  
01874 676697  
Sarah Osborne  
01874 676633

#### Gardening Club

7.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month Oct to June.  
Chairperson:  
Brenda Powell  
01874 676639

#### Short Family Service

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month 11am for approx 25 mins.

## Henderson Hall Key Contacts

Cherry Jones (Chairperson) 676232  
Brenda Powell (Treasurer) 676639  
Sue Thomas (Secretary) 676254

For Hall bookings, contact Heather Stephens (Hall Bookings Secretary)  
Tel: 676242; Email: heather.leejem@orange.net

## Talybont Flicks in the Sticks

Thank you to everyone who has supported Talybont Flicks over the last year and we hope we will be bringing you some fun & interesting films over 2012. If you could spread the word & try to get as many locals & visitors coming along that would be great. We don't run to make a profit but do need to break even in order to continue this fun evening.

Subject to obtaining necessary

permission, some of the films coming up are:

**Tuesday 21st February :**

**The Way Back**

**Tuesday 20th March :**

**Resistance**

**Tuesday 24th April :**

**A Beautiful Mind**

**Tuesday 22nd May :**

**Mao's Last Dancer**

**Tuesday 19th June :**

**The 13th Floor**

## Another landmark building by JLS



*Elim Church, Canal Road Brecon*

J.L. Stephens Ltd completed another major project in Brecon in early October 2011 - the new £1 million church for Elim International.

We understand from Pastor Malcolm Jones that the local church hadn't had a building of their own for over 20 years and with over 100 current members the church is thriving and ready to move into a church building which is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The church was officially opened on 12<sup>th</sup> November - JLS were there to celebrate (that's members of the builders not the pop group!!)

## Katy Tutt - new Clerk for Community Council

I am delighted to have accepted the position of Clerk to the Community Council at Talybont on Usk. I will be shadowing Peter Seaman, the outgoing Clerk from 1<sup>st</sup> February and going it alone from 1<sup>st</sup> April!

I live in Glangrwyney with my husband Steve, and our children, Jessica (6) and Jacob (3). We enjoy family walks, swimming, trips to the cinema, and playing at the park. My career background is in administration, sales and marketing, and I have a degree in French from the

University of London. I am also Secretary to the PTA at Llangattock Church in Wales Primary school, and enjoy organising events to bring families together to raise funds for the school.

I am very much looking forward to taking on the role of Clerk, and hope to continue the good working relationship the Council has with the authorities to work for the interests of the residents and businesses who make up the beautiful community of Talybont on Usk.

**The PAPER BIN AND BOTTLE BANK in the Village Hall car park are still there for everyone to use.** We know that the new recycling collection service will now take your paper and empty bottles but would like to ask if you could still try to use the hall facilities where ever possible. **The hall gets vital funds from the paper and bottle bank collection and your support really helps. Thank you!**

**All films start at 7.30pm and only cost £4.00 to come in.**

We hope there is something for everyone. Don't forget we set out tables and chairs so you can bring your own drinks and nibbles and enjoy them comfortably while you are watching the film!

*Clare Wright*

**Many thanks to the volunteers who distribute this newsletter**

One of our past trainees has decided to move onto pastures new !!! **Andrew Thorne** has set up his own local garden maintenance business and JLS would like to take this opportunity to wish him every success in the future. We know Andrew will never leave the grass grow under his feet!!

## TALYBONT TENNIS COACHING

**WILL RE-START ON  
WED 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2012  
IN  
HENDERSON HALL: 6 - 7PM**



# National Park events to enjoy

## Arts and Crafts Fayre

Sat 11 to Sun 19 Feb 10.00-16.00 every day

Sat 31 March to Sun 15 April 10.00-16.00 every day  
at the Mountain Centre, LD3 8ER.

Free entry.

Come and browse a wide selection of arts and crafts at the National Park Visitor Centre throughout the school half term. Many are made locally, and all are individually hand-made pieces to treasure. Car parking charges apply. For more information contact us on 01874 623366.

## Safety on the Hills / Bronze NNAS Navigation course

Sat 25 and Sun 26 Feb 09:45 – 16:00

Sat 21 and Sun 22 Apr 09:45 – 16:00

at the Mountain Centre (LD3 8ER).

Fee: £60 day 1 only, £110 two days.

Booking essential: 01874 623366.

Ideal for beginners and for refreshing dormant skills; you'll learn useful navigation and mountain safety techniques. Do day 1 as an introduction or both days to gain the Bronze NNAS award. This NNAS accredited course is run by [Manzoku](#) at the Mountain Centre.

## Stargazing

Sat 3 March 19:00-21:30

at the Visitor Centre.

Fee: Adults: £6.00 Children 10 years and over: £4.00 each.

Booking essential: 01874 623366

Cardiff Astronomical Society will once again be hosting an evening of stargazing. If skies are clear their telescopes will be focused on interesting phenomena in the night sky, or if cloudy there will be lectures indoors. Price includes parking, soup and a roll. The event will run whatever the weather! Our stargazing events are very popular, so booking is essential. For more information and to book a place contact us on 01874 623366.

## Wonderful Waterfalls

Sun 22 Apr 10:00 – 14:00

Meet: at Gwaun Hepste car park (SN 935 123 near Ystradfellte)

Suggested donation: £2 per person. - £4 pay & display.

Bookings: 01874 623366.

The tree-lined gorges of the rivers Mellte and Hepste conceal spectacular waterfalls and rare fragile plants. Come and discover the magic of this Special Area of Conservation with the help of National Park wardens.

Length: 3 miles / 4.8km. Total ascent: 150m. Grade: Strenuous.

Trish Doree (BBNPA)

# Your own private nature reserve as part of a wider network



**Did you know that as well as managing our own Nature Reserves, Brecknock Wildlife Trust can also advise you on how to manage your own wildlife havens?**

Throughout the valley around Talybont there are pockets of land that support wildlife. Hotspots include fields where lapwings nest, species rich hedgerows and wildlife friendly gardens to name a few.

There are also species rich natural habitats such as ancient woodland and unimproved pasture, and we encourage owners of these to join our Wildlife Sites Scheme. This is

because these semi-natural habitats are vital to our native species and are a link to our natural heritage. Created by man and environment over many centuries these areas are now becoming extremely fragmented due to changing land use and farming methods. The Wildlife Trust can help you by highlighting the important areas for wildlife on your land, telling you what is there and giving management advice.

By joining the Private Nature Reserves network you can also get forwarded relevant information and access to training courses. Leaflets on wildlife gardening and managing habitats are also available.

Legally protected sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to conserving our native wildlife. Local Nature Reserves managed by Local Authorities, and Nature Reserves managed by Trusts such as the Wildlife Trust, help conserve more wildlife habitats; but these sites can be really

scattered, especially in the lowland agricultural landscape and urban areas. Here the importance of the efforts of many people in their own gardens, smallholdings and farms shouldn't be underestimated. Without this network of green corridors and wildlife havens our wildlife would simply not survive.

### What are Wildlife Sites?

'Wildlife Sites' are the most important places for nature, outside of reserves and other protected areas.

They are recognised by local authorities but are not legally protected. Sites are notified with the permission of the landowner, land use is not affected.

### **For more information contact:**

Stephanie Coates,  
Wildlife Sites Officer,  
Brecknock Wildlife Trust,  
Lion House, Bethel Square,  
Brecon LD3 7AY  
01874 625708  
Or email  
[scoates@brecknockwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:scoates@brecknockwildlifetrust.org.uk)

## Church News

Who said "Never work with children or animals"?! Some silly ass!!! Thanks to the 100s (yes, 100s!!) who turned out on Christmas Eve to walk singing carols through the village behind Peter, the donkey! It was a magical occasion & at least kept the kids' minds off Santa Claus for an hour! Especial thanks to Pat Wilkie, Ray Briskham, Gene Taylor & Peter, Chris Jones, Clare Morgan, Lowry Probert, baby Emilia & Victoria James, amongst a cast of 100s.

### CHURCH SERVICES COMING UP:

This Spring term there will be a Mothers' Day service for all in the Henderson Hall at



Any room at the Inn?

10am. Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March. To prepare for that we'll again ask the ladies to prepare small bouquets of flowers to distribute at the service & the previous day (Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 10-12) dads/granddads & children are

invited to the Hall to make cards & gifts for mums & partake of bacon butties!! All welcome! Free!

**EASTER:** Palm Sunday & Holy Week services will be at Llanfeugan Church, with an Easter Family Service at 11am on Good Friday in the Hall & Easter Day services at 9.30 in Llandetty & 11 in Llansantffraed. The following Sunday (15<sup>th</sup>) at 1pm is a Deanery Pilgrimage/Walk along the canal from the Henderson Hall to Brecon Cathedral. All are welcome (free transport for drivers back to cars afterwards). The annual Henry Vaughan service will be Evensong 3pm in Llansantffraed Church on Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Andy Robinson





Newsletter for Talybont-on-Usk,  
Aber, Buckland, Llansantffraed,  
Pencelli and Scethrog

Produced by: **ERA<sup>21</sup> Ltd.**  
Editor: Claire Gray

**Please send articles & contact  
details to:**

Pentre Melyn  
Buckland  
Bwlch  
LD3 7JJ  
Email: era21@era21.co.uk



<http://www.talybont.info/>



**ERA<sup>21</sup> Ltd.**  
Aspirations Achieved.....

## SELF-EMPLOYED ADMIN JOB

**2 days a week  
£10 per hour - flexible**

Self-motivated person  
required with good  
IT and organisational skills  
to assist our interesting and  
busy company.  
We work across Europe  
from our base in Bwlch.

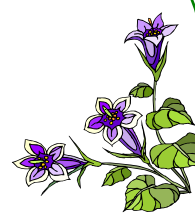
### Duties include:

- organising and booking travel
- updating web & social media sites
- researching rural development issues
- helping to organise meetings and conferences
- editing documents
- +++++

**Please send a CV  
by 15 February 2012 to  
Andrew & Claire Gray at  
era21@era21.co.uk**

see what we do at:  
[www.era21.co.uk](http://www.era21.co.uk)

## TALYBONT-ON-USK & DISTRICT GARDENING ASSOCIATION



Meetings are usually held on the  
3rd Friday of every month  
during the year  
either in the Henderson Hall  
commencing at 7.30 pm or visiting  
gardens during the summer months

**NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME -  
PLEASE JUST COME ALONG!**

**Friday 17th February** - Guest Speaker Gareth Davies who will speak and show slides entitled "Winter Into Spring"

**Friday 16th March** - Gavin Davies, Capel Hendre, Carmarthen - "Gardening and the Law". He will also judge **OUR SPRINGTIME COMPETITION:**  
*Vase of 5 Blooms of Miniature Daffodils or Narcissi in flower  
OR Pot of Primroses or Polyanthus in flower.*

**Thursday 19th April** - 3-Way Quiz with Bwlch & Llangynidr Gardening Clubs at Llangynidr Village Hall, 7.30 pm  
(NOTE THIS IS THE DAY BEFORE OUR USUAL MEETING DATE).

**Friday 18th May** - Dilys Ayling, Merthyr Tydfil - "Trees & Shrubs for All Year Round Interest" - slides and talk.

### Other Dates for your Diary:

20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> April RHS Spring Flower Show, Cardiff  
10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> May Malvern Spring Gardening Show - **we hope to  
organise a Group Club visit—watch out for further details!!**  
19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May 12<sup>th</sup> Smallholders and Garden Festival,  
Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells  
22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> May RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Chairman: Miss Brenda Powell 01874 676639  
Secretary: Mrs. Sandra Briskham 01874 676297

## Looking back at 2011 weather

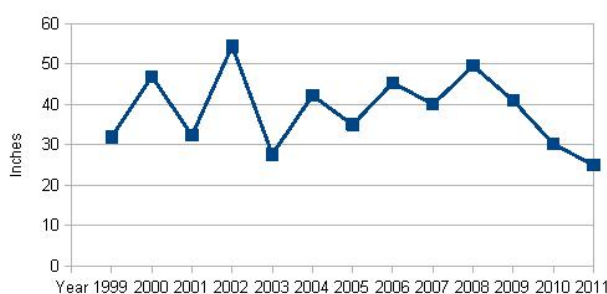
What an amazing year for  
weather extremes we ex-  
perienced in the Talybont  
area!

Let us look at rain first:  
2011 was the driest in my  
14 years of local records; in  
fact it did not just squeak  
past the record, but  
smashed it by nearly 3  
inches!

Temperature extremes  
were again noteworthy but  
— unfortunately only at the  
bottom end of the ther-  
mometer. Night time tem-  
peratures fell to -9°C (16°F)  
on 31<sup>st</sup> January; however this  
low was comprehensively  
beaten in 2010 by -15°C  
(5°F) in November that  
year!

Local gardeners will remem-  
ber March and April 2011.  
They were the driest  
months of the year (0.32 and

Annual rainfall totals



0.21 inches of rain respec-  
tively) and each with very  
pleasant balmy day-time tem-  
peratures significantly above  
the average. September and  
October also recorded unusu-  
ally high mean temperatures.  
I wonder what 2012 will bring  
us. Let us at least hope for  
lovely weather for our local  
Jubilee celebrations in early  
June.

Peter Seaman

### The 200 Club Draw

took place  
in December 2011.  
Winners were:

£50 I Bell  
£35 C Jones  
£25 B Powell  
£15 K Farr  
£10 B Anglezarke

New members  
are very welcome  
Contact Brenda on 676639.