



Talybont Matters

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



Project Pencelli

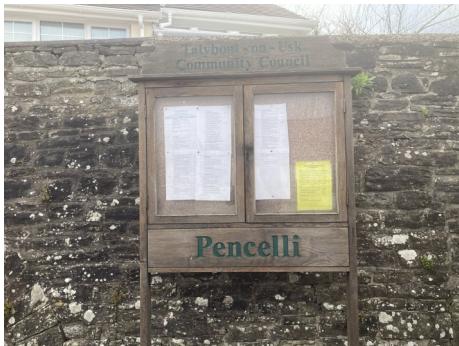
What we did in the lockdown

A few weeks ago Pencelli residents decided to utilise the spare time due to the latest lockdown by giving the village and surrounding area a bit of a makeover. Inspired by a chance remark regarding the overgrown nature of the area around the Royal Oak car park it blossomed into a full scale effort to set the village up for the anticipated return of visitors.



Hard graft has resulted in the whole area around the car park being cleared of brambles and overgrown vegetation. We now have neatly trimmed hedges, pruned trees and bushes and an extensive layer of donated wood chippings down as a mulch. Thanks here must go to Howard Morgan for the use of his trailer and for his expert tractor driving skills in clearing huge swathes of brambles. It saved us hours of toil!

The village notice board has been sanded and now has a lovely new coating of preserving teak oil applied.



Litter has been picked both from the towpath and road side between Cross Oaks and the Storehouse bridge. Road gutters around the village have been cleared. Three planters, made by Adam Richards, are positioned around the village, with more to come, and are being planted and maintained by various people. We are also putting in a bid to the Community Council for a couple of village maintained litter bins to accommodate the anticipated footfall in the months ahead.



Thanks go to Fran and Andrew Griffiths, Adam and Aimee Richards, Simon Baldwin, Gill Abram, Pam Langton and daughter Pat, Kate and Gwyn Jones, Craig Powell, Sara and Richard Price, Steve Moses, Howard Morgan and last, but not least, Ricky McWilliams for sourcing all the woodchip.

All of this combines with the lovely new towpath that has been laid by the CRT between Pencelli and Talybont and the brand new outside bar in the Royal Oak pub garden superbly constructed by Adam Richards.

Pencelli is all set and raring to go!

Richard Abram



Issue 73

Spring 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



It has been lovely to see some new learners at our Shop Siarad sessions which are currently on Zoom Friday mornings 10.30-12.00. If you are interested to join us or want to find out more please email me rhianyoung38@gmail.com, if you have been learning Welsh and want to have a chance to use what you have learnt no matter how basic, you are very welcome to join us. We try and do a variety for all levels, the growth and use of the language is the reason that we started this group. Have a go at the following and try and use them in everyday conversation!

Wnei di agor y ffenest? -where-nay-dee-ag-ohr-ur-fen-nest? - Will you open the window?

Dweud y gwir -dwaid-ur-gweer- to say the truth

Dw i'n nabod rhywun sy'n byw yno -dween-na-bod-rhoo-een-seen-be-oo-un-no- I know someone who lives there

Dw i'n nabod rhywun sy'n gweithio yn yr archfarchnad -dween-na-bod-rhoo-een-seen-gwayth-ee-oh-un-ur-ar-ch-far-ch--nad (ch as at ending of loch)- I know someone who works in the supermarket.

Pwy sy'n mynd? -poi-seen-min-d- Who is going?

Pwy sy'n oer? -poi-seen-oi-er- Who is cold?

Af i i'r Siop Siarad bore Wener - af-ee-eer-shop-shar-rad-bor-re-wen-er- I'll go to Siop Siarad (talking shop) on Friday morning.

Af i ddim i'r Siop Siarad bore Wener -af-ee-thim-eer-shop-shar-rad-bor-re-wen-er- I'll not go to Siop Siarad on Friday morning.

Ei di i'r Siop Siarad bore Wener -a-dee-eer-shop-shar-rad-bor-re-wen-er- You'll go to Siop Siarad on Friday morning.

We are hoping to return to face to face meetings as soon as we can, hopefully meeting up in the Hall field, depending on the weather, until we can hopefully return to The White Hart.

Diolch

Rhian

THE TALYBONT TOMBLES

Due to the various Covid19 restrictions and lockdowns we have not met as a group since last November. The majority of our group are elderly and were not happy at meeting as a group. However some of them have been out and about as 'couples' and I would like to thank them for their ongoing enthusiasm at keeping our beautiful village neat and tidy.



Gareth and I think that following the May Bank Holiday may be a good opportunity for us to meet, as no doubt visitors will have been around! So our next Pick will be on **SATURDAY 8th MAY** meeting at the Hall Car Park at 10 am. Please try to join us. It is quite a social event, we try to work in pairs but that could be slightly different this time. Nevertheless we will be grateful for your support.

Bags and Hoops will be provided as usual. Hope to see you then. Take care and stay safe.

Sandra (Organiser) sandra.briskham@btinternet.com



TALYBONT GARDENING CLUB

Zoom gardening in Talybont

Gardeners in Talybont are enjoying a series of special Zoom gardening presentations provided by Talybont Gardening Club and using the excellent Community Zoom account funded by the Community Council. Invitations were extended to gardeners in Bwlch and Llangynidr and a recent session had over 40 people taking part. On 16th April our own Gareth Davies told us how gardens, have for many of us been our lifeline in 2020. His illustrated talk included the National Botanic Garden, an RHS Partner Garden at Dyffryn Fernant and Gareth's own garden in Talybont-on-Usk. On May 21st Mandy Bradshaw will give us presentation on 'The Four Seasons - Cotswolds style'. Mandy is a freelance writer, editor and photographer, a winner of PPA Garden Journalist of the Year Award and a Garden Media Guild member. On Friday June 18th another external presenter Doug Stewart will tell us about '10 Ways to a Better Garden'. The Club will then have a summer break (we may even plan a garden visit) and in August we shall be forming a new club with gardeners from Llangynidr. Together with the local gardening Facebook page 'Usk Valley Gardening Forum' set up by member Linda Windham. Gardening is a trending in this area.



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

Peter Seaman



The Four Seasons – Cotswold Style

an illustrated talk taking a look at Cotswold gardens through every season

by Mandy Bradshaw

Freelance writer, editor and photographer

Winner of PPA Garden Journalist of the Year Award

and Garden Media Guild member

The Four Seasons



For gardeners in the Talybont, Bwlch and Llangynidr communities

7.30pm Friday 21st May 2021

Delivered by Talybont community Zoom

To register, email

tcommunity@btinternet.com

(there is no need to register again for those who have already taken part in these Garden Zoom presentations)





News from 1st Llangyndir Scouts

Despite a year of disruption, 1st Llangynidr Scouts and Cubs are celebrating ongoing successes.

Face to face Scouting was obviously halted in March 2020 – Leaders will never forget having to make the heart-breaking decision to postpone Spring Cub Camp two weekends before the official lockdown commenced.

After a couple of months of planning how to move forward, families juggling new routines and leaders muddling through work schedules, we returned to Zoom meetings. A whole new world – but one that was fun and engaging for all involved. We have been able to engage in many activities that allow our young people to work towards their badges and continue to develop their Scouting skills for life.

Online cooking sessions have been an absolute highlight – ranging from brownies, pizzas and cakes. Quizzes are really enjoyed along with scavenger hunts, art masterclasses with Lee Wright, tennis sessions and even a virtual Cub Summer Camp weekend.

We were fortunate to have a window of outdoor sessions with the Scouts – which allowed us to generate the necessary risk assessments and deliver Covid safe outdoor experiences. To see 12 young people together, walking (at social distances), laughing and joking gave us all great heart that we will bounce back. Winter has been tough, but it hasn't stopped us! Scouts are working with a local sixth form student to complete their Astronautics badge whilst Cubs are busy setting challenges, working towards their Personal Challenge award.

Meanwhile, the leadership team have been successful in securing a £900 grant from Monmouthshire Building Society. This has allowed purchase of litter picking equipment along with woodcraft and woodland maintenance equipment. Using these, we will engage with local community organisations to contribute towards their ongoing environmental projects. We are working with Brecon Beacons National Park in a nationwide camera trap project – monitoring and recording local wildlife levels.

Our long-term Scout leader will be leaving us in July 2021 after many years of fun, laughter and inspiring our young people. He will be greatly missed and leaves big shoes to fill! Therefore, we are seeking new leaders and assistant leaders for our team. If you think you could help our young people experience life changing activities, this is a role for you. We have a great team to support you and the young people that we work with are the absolute best! Plus, the leaders are quite ok as well! Please do get in touch for more details.

Here's to summer 2021, warmer weather and a return to face-to-face Scouting. Our young people continue to inspire us daily and we can't wait to be together again, around a camp-fire, running around, supporting the local community, laughing and growing together in our Scouting world.

Mark Critchley Group Scout Leader,
1st Llangynidr & surrounding areas.



Scout Leaders Wanted

Have FUN ...and Make a Difference

Can you make it possible for young people aged 10-14 years old to experience life changing adventure?

If so, 1st Llangynidr Scouts are seeking Scout Leaders.

Previous Scouting Experience not essential. You'll need to be at least 18 years old, enthusiast & organised: we will teach you the rest along with all the training, support & mentoring that you'll ever need. Plus paid expenses, uniform, first aid qualification and ongoing professional development opportunities.

Covid hasn't stopped us—we are currently virtual and looking forward to when we can meet fortnightly, term time, for 3 hours. Help is available each week from a team of parent helpers and you'll be supported all the way by an enthusiastic team of leaders and committee members.

Interested?

Call Mark, Group Scout Leader, 07377 655589

Email 1stllangynidr@gmail.com



Talybont Stores, Canalside Cafe and Post Office

01874 676663 www.talybontstores.co.uk 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.**

CAFÉ

9 am to 5 pm Cooking all day. Menu online www.talybontstores.co.uk

SHOP OPEN

Monday to Friday 7 am to 6 pm

Saturday 8 am to 6 pm

Sunday 8 am to 5 pm

POST OFFICE

Monday to Saturday 9 am until 1.30 pm

We can set up a monthly account for you, so you can pay by either cheque or BACS payments

Message from Talybont-on-Usk Community Council

Talybont-on-Usk Community Council is delighted to announce that The Community Fund will be running again this year.

The Fund will be open to any Local Groups who would like to apply.

It's very simple to apply for funding, just send an email to the Clerk, Keren Bender, with details of how much you would like to apply for and the reason for the application.

Closing date for applications is Friday June 18th 2021.

kerenbender1@gmail.com



Spring is springing in the Vaughan Garden



Its been quiet in the garden lately, but hopefully this summer more work will be in evidence this year as BBNP and locals put in an entrance at the uphill boundary to the garden. No longer will you have to walk all the way down to the main entrance to visit!

Hedge and tree work has been going on to keep the boundaries in check and the first grass cut of the season has been carried out by Craig and the mole hills gently smoothed over. A delivery of rotted hay to keep the roses happy is imminent and will also be used to soup up the bug hotels made by the cubs. These local youngsters are also maintaining interest in the garden and the scouts hope to set up camera traps to see what wildlife visits when people are not about. The profusion of insects visiting the flowers last year suggest the biodiversity of the garden is increasing, so hopefully a passing hungry hedgehog will be seen...

Meantime, all the day to day maintenance goes on - weeding, planting, grass cutting, hedge trimming - if you would like to join in or help with ongoing tidying or other projects please contact Nina at nina.krauzewicz@gmail.com



Nina and Sandra



Henderson Hall News

As Coronavirus restrictions are eased, we look forward to welcoming individuals and groups back to using and enjoying Henderson Hall. The regulations now state that from May 3rd community centres can re-open for both children's activities and organised indoor activities for up to 15 adults.

Many of you will have been at the event in December and seen the Storyboard charting the Hall's 50 years of serving the community. While we welcome the Hall being hired by visitors, we are particularly keen to see it once again being used by local people and for many more of you to see the Storyboard that is now proudly and permanently displayed in the Hall.

If you have any suggestions for the Hall's use, whether that be for a one-off community event or for regular events or meetings, we are very keen to hear from you.

We would love to see Playgroup re-commencing in September but at present have no-one to take this on. The Hall accommodates a breadth of high quality playgroup resources and the Hall Trust Fund will make a small grant available to support the Playgroup re-starting.

If you think you may be interested please get in touch.

If you would like to make a new booking or re-instate bookings for groups that had to be suspended last year, please email hendersonhall@gmail.com. Alternatively, further information including the costs of Hall Hire can be found on our website www.henderson-hall.com.

For general enquiries and to share any suggestions for events email hendersonhallsecretary.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Henderson Hall Trustees

Message from Talybont-on-Usk Community Council Tennis Courts

As you would have noticed one of the tennis courts has been closed for some time. The reason is there was a flood that has caused damage to the surface. The Community Council is in the middle of an insurance claim.

Please be patient and as soon as we can both courts will be open for you to enjoy.





Invasive Plants in the Talybont Valley

Your help is required

The invasive plant species in question are not those futuristic 'Triffids' as featured in John Wyndham's 1951 post-apocalyptic novel 'The Day of the Triffids', but the less scary, though none the less invasive non-native plant - Himalayan balsam, also known as: Police helmets, Indian balsam and Jac y Neidiwr.



Why is Himalayan balsam a concern as an invasive non-native species (INNS)?

The plant can quickly form very dense stands, which smother all native vegetation reducing the biodiversity of the area.

In winter when the plant dies it leaves bare ground which is more susceptible to erosion which can lead to large sections of riverbank being eroded.

The distinctive pinky-purple trumpet shaped flowers are very attractive to bees, which has the potential to bias bees to collect nectar from balsam rather than from native plants thereby reducing native plant pollination.

It spreads easily through seed dispersal, with each plant producing up to 800 seeds per year. The seeds are dispersed by exploding seedpods which can scatter the seeds approximately 7m from each plant, thereby quickly colonising a location.

This summer, Covid-19 restrictions permitting, we look forward to teaming up with members from the local Aber & Talybont Communities to begin 'balsam bashes' in the Caerfanell river catchment. Balsam infestations are controlled by hand pulling plants wearing gloves, with larger infestations controlled by scything and/or mowing.

How you can help? By reporting sightings, please use the contact details below or send them directly to BIS (www.bis.org.uk or Tel: 01874 610881). You can also submit your INNS sightings to BIS using WiReD or use the Local Environmental Records Centre (Wales LERC) App to record any INNS sightings on your mobile phone whilst out and about. A useful field guide on invasive species covering both flora and fauna published by Bloomsbury in 2015 is 'Invasive Plants & Animals in Britain' by Booy, Wade & Roy.

If you are interested in helping control balsam in the Caerfanell Valley or you would like any further information on the INNS Project, please contact Bev Lewis.

Beverley.Lewis@beacons-npa.gov.uk Tel: 07854 997 508



CHURCH NOTES

SERVICES

As we come out of lockdown two of our churches in the Beacons and Llyn Safaddan Ministry Area are presently open for worship on Sundays, following this monthly pattern:

10-30am at Llanfrynnach Church on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month
10-30am at Llangors Church on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month

Because of the need for social distancing we are however limited in the number of people we can accommodate at either church, so if you'd like to come to a service could you let me know by telephone (01874-676146) or email Kelvin at kelvin@beaconsafaddan.plus.com by mid-day the day before, so that places can be safely assigned.

The weekly live service held over Zoom at 9-30am each Sunday is continuing at present. All are welcome to participate in this - just email me, as above, for the link you'll need in order to join.

We are also continuing to produce a short recorded service, on YouTube each week for people to listen to and join in with. The link to this can be found on the Beacons Benefice webpage:

<https://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/s475/>

There is also weekly short service of prayers and readings for people to use at home. This is also available to download on the Beacons Benefice website.

Finally Rev Liz Bramley leads a Family Church service, also over Zoom on the second Sunday of each month. Please email Kelvin as above for the link if you'll like to join this.

HENRY VAUGHAN

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the birth near Llansantffraed of Breconshire's famous poet and physician Henry Vaughan and his twin brother Thomas. Many of Henry's poems are inspired by our Beacons and Usk Valley landscape in which he saw God's hand at work. Both brothers are associated with Llansantffraed Church – Henry lies buried in the churchyard and Thomas was rector of Llansantffraed from 1644 to 1650.

We usually hold an annual evensong service at Llansantffraed Church in April on the anniversary of Henry Vaughan's death, but this has not been possible the last two years due to the Covid pandemic. However our Ministry Area's YouTube service (see above) on Sunday 25 April celebrates and give thanks for Henry Vaughan's life, and also at this time the dedication of doctors, nurses and carers across the years. The service includes a video of wreath-laying at his grave, carried out under Covid restrictions. The service is available on the Beacons Benefice website (see above).

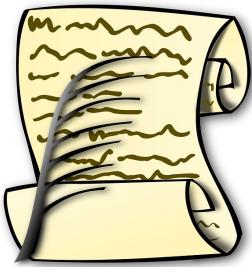
The anniversary was also marked in a BBC Radio Wales programme - 'Henry Vaughan @ 400' which went out on Sunday 18 April, and which is available to listen to on the BCC Sounds app or as a podcast.

Finally there is a display of books, artwork and objects related to Henry Vaughan at y Gaer, Brecon starting in late April. Further details can be found on on y Gaer's website:

<https://www.ygaerpowys.org.uk/>

Kelvin Richards





The Census of Talybont-on-Usk in 1911

By now, all details requested from us on 21st March will have been included on the 2021 Census returns. The information recorded will, for some years, be pored over by statisticians, economists, educationalists, politicians, NHS managers and other authorised researchers. The general public will not have sight of it until 100 years have passed. The last Census to which the public have access is the one for 1911 (The 1921 Census will be released next year.)

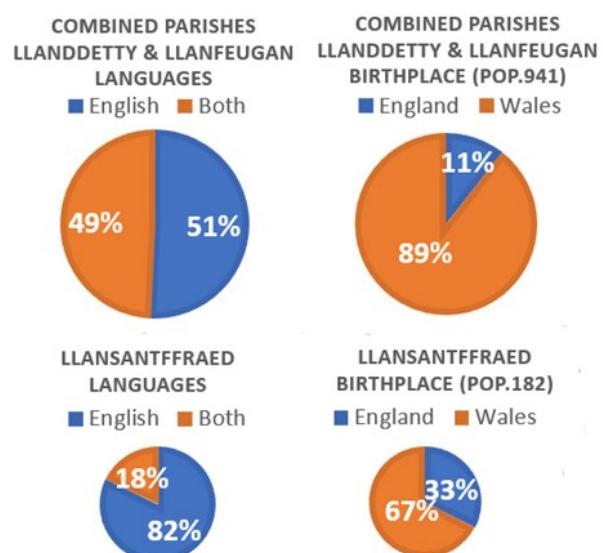
An analysis of this Census for the three civil Parishes that were combined in 1972 to form the Talybont-on-Usk Community appears in the charts below. They illustrate the details recorded by householders in terms of languages spoken and birthplaces. The analysis showed that the percentages of both measures for Llanddety and Llanfeugan were within 1% so they have been combined. Llansantffraed is quite different in terms of total population (POP.), languages spoken, and birthplaces. The main employer in this Parish was the Buckland Estate. Most of the estate workers and servants came from England. For example, of the ten persons enumerated in Buckland Hall only two, the Estate's owner, J P W Gwynne-Holford, and a scullery maid, Polly Cross from Bwlch, were born in Wales.

Unlike previous censuses, it was the householder and not the Census Enumerator who completed the census form.

Only a few persons were recorded as speaking only Welsh; they were of the oldest generation. 'Both' indicates that both Welsh and English were recorded as being spoken. Children under 3 years of age are not recorded in the language entries. In this analysis, 'Wales' is taken to include Monmouthshire, a county that was not confirmed to be part of Wales until 1972.

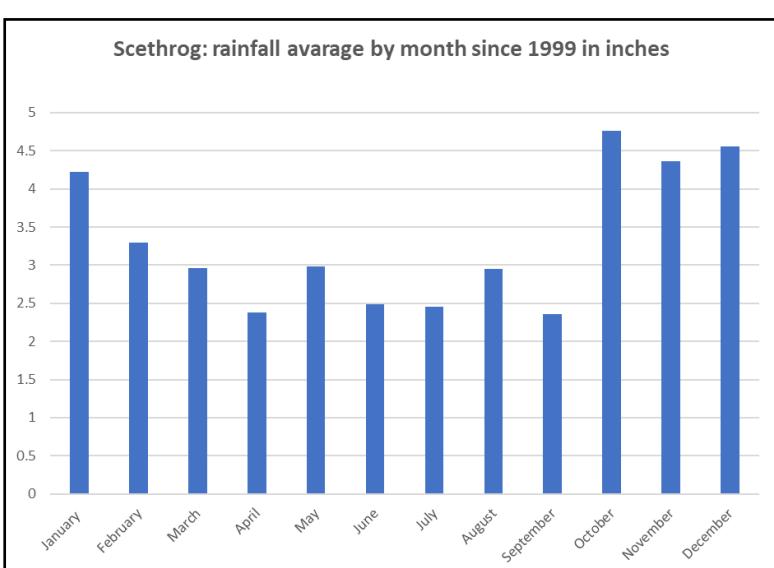
Persons born neither in Wales nor England, numbering just over a dozen, are not included in the charts, for simplicity's sake.

Seamus Hamill -Keays



Rainfall averages

Up to 18th April I have recorded a 1/10th inch of rain this month. It is part of a pattern and amazingly April is only just beaten into first place as the driest month of the year by September. This is very weird with the most probable explanation being climate change. One example of its consequences could spell disaster for migrant birds which would normally through millennia of evolution expect plentiful food on arrival here only to find they arrived too late. Perhaps we must all no longer pay lip service to our impacts on climate and the environment and try to reflect the values of living in a National Park – just thoughts.



Peter Seaman



Wildflower Project Update.



The wildflower areas have been prepared and seeded – natural wildflower meadow seed kindly donated from the wildflower meadow at Ty Mawr, above Llangorse Lake. Donations of seed packets from local gardeners have also been welcome.

At the moment, we are waiting for germination of seeds – the most vulnerable time for flowers, not being helped by a very prolonged dry spell!

As wildflower meadows can take a couple of years to establish, we are also growing some wildflower plants in greenhouses to put out later. We will start to put some out as soon as there's a few days of rain in the forecast! A grant application is going in - the time frame now means a lot of work will take place this autumn, a good time to get wildflower seed and plants in ready for next Spring.

Thank you all for your support and patience - we are still at the mercy of our changing weather patterns!

Linda Windham



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.

***** STOP PRESS *****
TALYBONT VILLAGE SHOW
SATURDAY AUGUST 28th 2021
*** HOLD THE DATE ***

First the bad news!

A recent meeting of the Talybont Show Committee made the regrettable decision that, once again, the annual show will have to be cancelled this year. The decision was not made lightly. The committee felt that, with all the possible constraints and the continuing uncertainty regarding outside events this summer, it will be impossible to hold the show on the scale that everyone is used to.

HOWEVER. Now some good news: No 1

The show is going virtual instead. The aim is to, within the next few weeks, produce a schedule of categories for both adults and children. This will be printed and be available to be collected from the shop as usual. It will also be advertised on all our local social media platforms.

Categories will be different to the usual and all entries will be free of charge via photos emailed to a published email account. These will be judged and certificates awarded.

Good news: No 2

It is hoped to use the planned date and combine with the Henderson Hall committee to plan, if possible, a Community outdoor event on the field. Possibly in the form of a BBQ and utilising the fact that Brecon Town Band is already booked. Very much in the early stages of planning but here's hoping. So

*** HOLD THE DATE ***

HENDERSON HALL 200 CLUB

Henderson Hall runs a 200 Club which helps with the upkeep of the hall, from which we all benefit. It is only £10 per year and the draws take place every quarter - usually at an event in the hall. There are 5 Prizes each time which are £50, £35, £25, £15, and £10.

Winners March 2021

£50	Sue Thorne
£35	Tim Martin
£25	Kevin Hollings
£15	Ray Briskham
£10	Amanda Williams