



Talybont Matters

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<http://www.talybont.org/newsletter.html>



Talybont Stores, Canalside Café and Post Office

***Congratulations to Regan and
Rob on your 10 year
anniversary.***



WINTER OPENING HOURS

SHOP

MONDAY – 7am until 6pm
TUESDAY – 7am until 6pm
WEDNESDAY – 7am until 6pm
THURSDAY – 7am until 6pm
FRIDAY – 7am until 6pm
SATURDAY – 8am until 6pm
SUNDAY – 8am until 4pm

CAFÉ

Cooking until 2.45pm

Possible change to eating inside on the 28th January,
depending on Covid rules

MONDAY – 9am until 3pm
TUESDAY – 9am until 3pm
WEDNESDAY – 9am until 3pm
THURSDAY – 9am until 3pm
FRIDAY – 9am until 3pm
SATURDAY – 9am until 3pm
SUNDAY – 9am until 3pm

POST OFFICE

MONDAY TO SATURDAY 9am until 1.30pm

www.communication4all.co.uk



Talybont-on-Usk Community Council

In May there will be elections for the Community Council.

Please get in touch with our Clerk, if you would like more information on how to apply to become a Community Councillor.

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

Meeting Dates 2022 :-

All meetings are held in Henderson Hall at 7.15pm.

Meetings can also be accessed over Zoom.

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

Monday 17th January

Monday 21st February

Monday 21st March

Monday 25th April

Monday 16th May

Monday 20th June

Monday 18th July

Monday 19th September

Monday 17th October

Monday 21st November

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

Keren Bender 07951536001 or email:- kerenbender1@gmail.com

Talybont community

Zoom

I am pleased to tell everyone that the community Zoom account has been renewed for another year.

The Community Council has kindly agreed to pay for the subscription and local groups just need now to contact me for the log in details. If you have not already been using this great means of keeping things going in our area.

Phone me on **01874 676225**

or email

tcommunity@btinternet.com.

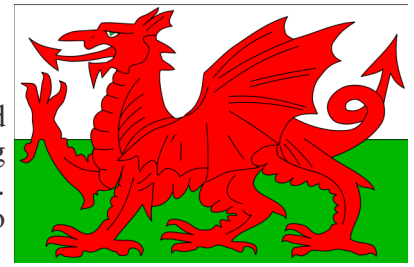
Peter Seaman

Issue 76

Winter 2022



WELSH LEARNERS CORNER - **CORNEL Y CYMRAEG**



It has been really lovely to see new members joining Siop Siarad Talybont to use and practice their Welsh. If you are interested in joining us please simply come along to Henderson Hall on a Friday morning. 10-11 for beginners or 11-12 for more confident to fluent, or you can do both which can be a huge help to both groups.

We are also holding one session a month on a Saturday morning for those who work or can't make a week day. Our first Saturday session will be on 12th Feb, 10-12 in Henderson Hall, come along all levels welcome.

For further information about the group please email Rhian

rhianyoung38@gmail.com

Here are some phrases for you to practice

Ydych chi eisiau ffrwythau neu lysiau? -uh-dur-ch-ee-eye-shy-froi-th-eye-nay-lush-eye- Do you want fruits or vegetables?

Dw i ddim eisiau siocled na losin -do-ee-thim-eye-shy-shoc-led-na-losh-shin- I don't want chocolate or sweets.

Dw i erioed wedi gweld pysgodyn mor lliwgar. -do-ee-err-ree-od-wed-ee-gweld-pus-god-din-morr-lloo-gar- I have never seen a fish so colourful.

Dydy hi erioed wedi Siarad gair o Frangeg. -duh-dee-hee-err-ree-od-wed-ee-shar-rad-guy-err-oh-fran-egg- She has never spoken a word of French.

Mae'n nhw'n mynd i barti yn Abertawe. -mine-who-nn-min-d-ee-bar-tee-un-aber-taw-wee- they are going to a party in Swansea.

Mae hi wedi bod yn gweithio yn yr ardd drwy'r dydd. -my-hee-wed-ee-board-un-gwaith-ee-oh-un-urh-ar-th-tr-oi-ur-dee-th- she has been working in the garden through the day.

Es i am dro o gwmpas y llyn neithiwr. -es-ee-am-drow-oh-gwm-pas-ur-ll-in-nay-th-ee-ur- I went for a walk around the lake last night.

Dw i ddim yn dda ond mae o'n waeth na fi! -do-ee-thim-un-tha-ond-my-oarn-waith-na-fee! I am not good but he is worse than me!



Talybont WI

Talybont WI met in January in Henderson Hall for the first proper meeting since March 2019. It was great to be back and although Covid rules are still in place they did not spoil our evening.

The meeting was lead by Sue Thomas and Sue Thorne, with Rosie Gibson talking about tales of a vet.

We were all a little bit rusty in remembering how to set up the overhead projector, the order of events and such like. I hope our guests will forgive us for our lack of organisation.

Rosie was very interesting and amusing and after 41 years a vet she had plenty of tales to tell. As well as pictures; some pretty, some pretty gory, she had some peculiar visual aids. What might a plastic lid and a wine bottle be used for you may wonder? To replace a prolapsed womb of course.

She described having to leave her bed not once but often many times during the night and still having to be at work on time the next morning. She has had to think on her feet when treating the more unusual animals such as a wallaby or an alpaca and the challenge of dealing with the owner as well as the animal when difficult decisions have to be made. But despite all this she said, the rewards are a plenty particularly when bringing new life into the world.

The competition of a picture with a tail was won by Keren for her unusual picture of a squirrel and a heron on her roof. Carolyn's picture was second and Cherry's third.

9th Feb **Peter Guthrie** **Bees and Royal Welsh Show**

9th Mar **Rhiannon Davies** **Social Prescribing**

13th April **Ceri Lee** **Life on the Flood Plain**

Sue Thorne.





Domestic Heat Trial – Update

Our Domestic Heat Trial started in early January and will run until the end of February. 12 volunteer homes are involved with 4 homes at a time getting to experiment for two weeks with an Infrared heater, an electrically heated seat cover and a battery heated gilet.

We are interested in exploring a different approach to keeping us warm that could involve less fossil fuel energy and less running cost.

Central Heating has created a mindset that we need all the air in our houses heated to a constant temperature in order to stay warm. This requires a lot of energy (and therefore money) to sustain and is vulnerable to draughts, high

ceilings, open doors or poor insulation. And an air temperature of, say, 20 C doesn't actually heat us but just stops us losing heat so rapidly.

A different approach is a person-centred approach – using energy to heat our bodies directly rather than relying exclusively on the surrounding air temperature. Will it work? I don't know but hope that all of us involved in the trial will get a chance to explore that question.

I plan to produce a trial report in late March and hopefully a Talybont Energy talk in Henderson Hall at the end of the trial for wider discussion on this topic.

Thank you to all of you who volunteered to take part and I'm sorry that we were limited in how many homes we could include.

Alison Kidd

alison@prospectory.co.uk

TALYBONT COMMUNITY FIBRE BROADBAND PROJECT

Talybont-on-Usk Community Council are supporting a project in the Community Council area to bring faster and more reliable broadband speeds to every home and business.

AT NO COST TO THE INDIVIDUALS.

The project operates on a voucher scheme which is match funded by the Welsh Government. For each residential property that signs up, the UK Government will give a £1500 voucher and each business £3500. The Welsh Government will then match this funding, effectively doubling the voucher value.

These vouchers then go to the Company that installs the fibre optic cables.

The project will be dependent on how many homes and businesses sign up to it.

Other local villages have completed or are in the process of completing this project, those being Llangorse, Pennorth and Llangynidr.

In the coming weeks leaflets will be dropped at all homes and businesses explaining the project and what the next steps will be.



Usk Valley Gardening Association



Friday February 18th, Henderson Hall 7:00 pm

Peter Guthrie Bees and the importance to our gardens

Thursday March 17th, Llangynidr Village Hall, 7:00 pm

Ivor Mace Vegetables in the kitchen garden

Friday April 22nd, Henderson Hall, 7:00 pm

Members night Practical talks / demonstrations / discussions



Please contact either
or

Gareth Davies, Chair

Susan Hankey, Secretary

gebdavies@btinternet.com

susiecello@me.com



VISIT TO GWERNYFED WALLED GARDEN

On Thursday, 16th December 32 members and friends of the Usk Valley Gardening Association, which included a number from Talybont, visited the Gwernyfed Walled Garden in Three Cocks by kind invitation of the owners Joel and Charlene Durrell. We were warmly welcomed by our hosts and Joel gave us a talk and conducted tour of the gardens.

Originally in the ownership of Powys County Council the site was cultivated and maintained by the Head Gardener, Arthur Davies, and during his time the site offered opportunities for the study of gardening and rural studies as part of the Gwernyfed Secondary School curriculum. After his retirement the site was taken over by Joel and Charlene and they began the restoration of the Grade 2 listed Victorian garden and its large glasshouse. Joel explained the alterations that had been made to the cultivated areas which now feature carefully tended vegetables, fruit trees and flowers. Their dedicated efforts have succeeded in establishing a productive garden which even in the depths of winter proved to be visually attractive because of its many landscaped features. To complete our tour of the site we were shown the woodland area with its undercover of Hellebores and bulbs and finally moved on to see the wild life area and pond from which water is extracted to provide irrigation to the crops during the growing season.



A very enjoyable few hours ended with our group enjoying soup provided by our hosts together with festive mince pies.

Gareth Davies (Chairman UVGA)





THE TALYBONT VILLAGE SHOW IS BACK!



**The show will be returning on Bank
Holiday Saturday
August 27th 2022**



Help us give it a makeover!

Could you spare a few hours to help the organisation and planning? Do you have any ideas about what you would like to see at the show. What works well from other similar shows? Could you help on the day with a stall or setting up?



New to Talybont?

**What a fabulous way to get involved
with village life and meet your neighbours.**

Been here a while?

**You know how important our show is to
the village.**



Young person within our community?

Two of you would make a big difference to our committee.

Please contact any one of:

Richard Abram	richardabram@btinternet.com
Lettie Francis	lettie.osborne@talk21.com
Gareth Davies	gebdavies@btinternet.com
Craig Burdon	burdon.ygorian@gmail.com
Nina Krauzewicz	nina.krauzewicz@gmail.com



Talybont Village Show 2022

As you can see from the previous page the aim is to resume the very successful Talybont Village Show on the usual August Bank Holiday Saturday. However the organising committee is struggling to find additional people to be involved in the organisation of the show.

The advert on the previous page was sent out as a flyer in December but, unfortunately has not produced the results we hoped. We have only had about 4 extra offers of help, only one new committee member, and that, to be honest, is not enough.

The current show committee is down to 5 active members. This is not sufficient to guarantee everything is organised and goes ahead successfully on the day. Especially as one is occupied organising the adult show entries, one with the children's entries and one with the finances on the day. We generally have a good turn out to help set up prior to the day and take down but we need people who are willing to take on some organising (phoning /booking mainly), willing to help out or organise things during the show or young members of our community who can put forward ideas about what they would like to see at the show.

We hope to have an emphasis on family interest and activities, including the usual sports and a planned dog show. Other new ideas include a drumming experience.

So basically. What do people want to see at the show? Is anyone else prepared to become part of the organising committee? Who is able to help out on the day?

Please contact any of the named people on the advert overleaf.

Your village show needs you!

CHURCH NOTES

CHURCH SERVICES

At the time of writing eight of our churches in the Beacons and Llyn Safaddan Ministry Area have now re-opened for worship on Sundays, following this monthly pattern:

Beacons Benefice

10-30am at Llanfrynach Church on the 1st Sunday of the Month

10-30am at Llanfeugan Church on the 2nd Sunday of the Month

10-30am at Cantref Church on the 3rd Sunday of the Month

10-30am at Llanhamlach Church on the 4th Sunday of the Month

Llyn Safaddan

9-30am at Llanfihangel Church on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month

11-00am at Llangors Church on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month

11-00am at Llangasty Church on the 2nd Sunday of the Month

11-00am at Llanywern Church on the 4th Sunday of the Month

This pattern is provisional, as we plan for more churches to be opened for services - please see the Parish website for the latest news. As part of the Church in Wales covid-19 safety recommendations, we are still maintaining social distancing for worshippers as much as possible. Adults and children over the age of 12 are of course legally required to wear a mask at services, unless they have an exemption.

In addition to these services, each week Revd Trina Lodge is continuing to produce a weekly service which is available to watch and join in with on YouTube. You can always find the latest service via the parish web page, or here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaXUvXM2aQxZ7510WvED9Q/videos>

We are also continuing to hold a weekly Ministry Area Service over Zoom at 9-15am each Sunday morning. Please contact me (details below) for the link you'll need in order to join this. **A warm welcome to all.**

Please see church notice boards or leaflets for up to date details of services & events

Parish Website: <https://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/s451/>

Priest-in-Charge : Revd Kelvin Richards



THE TALYBONT TOMBLES



Our last Litter Pick took place on November 6th as a follow up to the village Bonfire and Fireworks evening. We were 12 adults and 2 children which included some new 'Pickers' - Mike Smith and Colin Parry both from Aber, Jayne Gold and her 2 young boys from Penpentre whilst Maesmawr Lane and Close, along with the alley way connecting the Close with Station Road, are now being litter picked on a regular basis.

We all did a very thorough job on the playing field - under the supervision of Mike Wright. When everyone had left for their chosen areas I walked down to Richard Preece who I know had a leaf blower. He blew all the remaining bits of chipboard left on the grass onto the still smouldering bonfire and Chris Jones also turned up to check on the fire so it was all very well timed. Plus the weather was dry which made all the difference.

After the field had been checked and cleaned Gareth and Eirona did their normal route through the village and down Station Road. They collected a bag full of litter including about 20 empty cans of 'Red Bull', a lot of plastic packaging, a few discarded textiles and some cigarette packets. They also collected a cuddly toy which had been thrown into the hedge along Station Road. The bulk of their rubbish was collected between the Outdoor Education Centre and the A40. Gareth said it was definitely one of the largest litter collections that they have made. Craig and Mike Smith did the back road to Cross Oak and returned along the towpath; Colin Parry walked from the Hall up to Aber, then along the dam wall and back again to the hall, Rob and Dawn Goodwin went along the towpath to Ashford Tunnel and back along the road, Mike and Clare Wright did the loop from the drawbridge up towards Cui, towards Cross Oak and back down the road; Tim Martin checked out the Cattle Mart following the bonfire parking which he said was very worthwhile, and Jayne Gold with Emrys and Albie then picked along Penpentre and behind the OAP bungalows. I think the boys enjoyed this new activity and they are now looking after their own litter pick sticks in case they want to go out at any time between our official picks! I shuffled around the immediate Hall area and down towards the bus stop and back. Our bags were combined and left at the Bus stop and they would have added up in total to around 5 complete bags. They were duly collected by the Council a few days later.

Gerry was not able to join us but went out on Thursday and picked 2 bags from the village to Aber including the lanes around Cross Oak. Kevin Hollings went out the following week and checked out the Orchard Walk, so all our areas apart from the Dramroad were covered.

And a very happy ending .. on the Talybont Facebook page that same day I noticed a mum had asked if anyone had seen her daughters loved snow leopard soft toy which she had lost somewhere in the village after the Bonfire - I remembered Gareth saying that he had picked up a cuddly toy so I relayed this information back to Louise and then hey presto a further message saying *"We found her! Bit smelly but we have a very happy child again and thanks again!"* What a wonderful end to the day.



The next Litter Pick will be on **SATURDAY 12th FEBRUARY** when we will meet in the Hall Carpark at 10 am as usual. Some of the vegetation should have died back so more rubbish could be visible. You have been warned!

Once again thank you to all our Pickers and I hope you will all continue to support our village in this very positive way.

Sandra Briskham (Organiser) sandra.briskham@btinternet.com

Tel 01874-676297





Talybont Stores Canalside Cafe and Post Office

01874 676663

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

NEW FOR THIS AUTUMN/WINTER IN THE CAFE MARIMBA HOT CHOCOLATE MELTS

The Marimba Hot Chocolate Melt range is delicious and luxurious, made from real flaked chocolate. **A whole bar of chocolate in every mug**

MILK, WHITE, DARK AND RUBY

Lots of new syrups to make a whole lot of different flavoured Hot Chocolates.

Such as Strawberry & Cream, Ferrero Roche, Banoffee, Gingerbread, Black Forest and so many more

CRAFTY CRAFT SHOP

By Regan

Craftycraftshop21@gmail.com

Handmade Valentines gifts, card and personalized items available in the shop now

Why not choose a card or gift and have it personalised with their name on the item

Local handmade gifts, cards and more

Custom orders welcome.

POST OFFICE

Click & collect, Drop and go, health lottery, foreign currency, Free cash withdrawals etc. Mon to Sat 9am until 1.30pm



Tea and Chat Volunteers Wanted

Tea and Chat is a social club for the older members of the community that meet on the first Monday of the month at 3pm in the Hall.

Unfortunately the helpers are now getting to the stage where they are eligible themselves to sit and have a cup of tea so it would be good to have a few new recruits. It involves setting up the Hall, providing and serving the drinks and refreshments for which there is a small reimbursement from a Community Council grant. The commitment is usually for one month in the year and everyone joins together to help with the Christmas Party.

It is a happy, well established and worthwhile initiative which is even more important in these unsettled times.

The next Tea and Chat will be on Monday 7th February at 3pm.

If you would like more information or would like to join the rota please phone **Cherry Jones on 01874610607** or come and visit us on Monday afternoon.



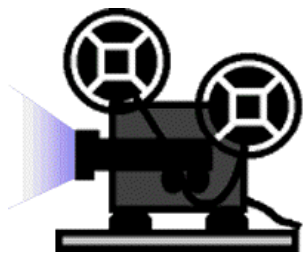
Tea and Chat

A social afternoon for the older members of the community.

Monday 7th February
Monday 7th March
Monday 4th April
at 3pm in Henderson Hall



Talybont 'Flicks'



Your community flicks will be restarting from Wednesday 2nd February so put the date in your diary. With a large drop down screen, surround sound and an induction loop for the hard of hearing, this is a great community get together. Comfy seats and tables are set up, all with plenty of space between them, and you are encouraged to bring drinks and nibbles of your choice to enjoy during your evening. At only £4 a person, this is a great night out and gives you the chance to see a selection of films that you may not otherwise have dipped into. Think of it like a book club, some you may not inspire you, some you will love and, some little gems might pop up that you may otherwise have never seen! Everyone is welcome. Current covid regulations means that you must wear a face mask whilst entering, leaving or walking around the hall.

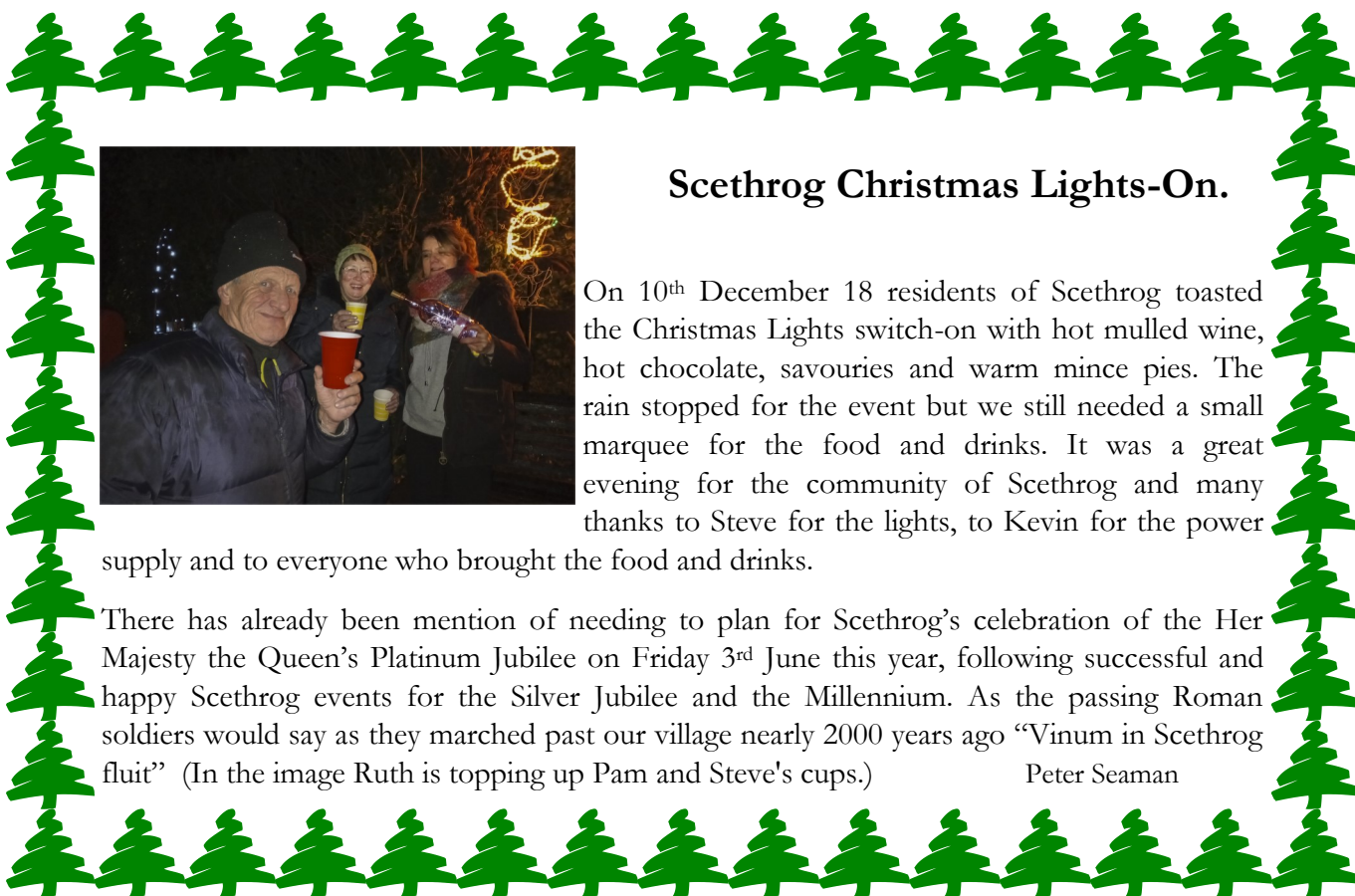
Wednesday 2nd February: What We Do In The Shadows, cert 15. Not your normal vampire movie in any way, this is a hilarious look at three vampires struggling to cope with modern life. From doing housework to trying to get into nightclubs. Very, very funny ...

Wednesday 2nd March: Limbo, cert 12A. A stirring drama about a group of refugees, one a former Syrian musician, who are waiting for their asylum claims to be processed whilst being placed on a remote Scottish island. Barred from working they are forced to take cultural awareness classes. Its a very wry, very eccentric story about physical and spiritual displacement. There is certainly politics at play but also poetry.

Wednesday 6th April: A Walk In the Woods, cert 15. Robert Redford, Nick Nolte and Emma Thompson star in this comedy based on Bill Bryson's book about his decision to hike the 2,200 mile Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia. Together they learn that some roads may be best left untraveled.

Wednesday May 4th: Moonlight, cert 15. This highly acclaimed and award winning film looks at three defining chapters in the life of Chiron, an African-American man growing up in Miami. His epic journey to manhood is guided by the kindness, support and love of the community that helps raise him.

Clare Wright



Scethrog Christmas Lights-On.

On 10th December 18 residents of Scethrog toasted the Christmas Lights switch-on with hot mulled wine, hot chocolate, savouries and warm mince pies. The rain stopped for the event but we still needed a small marquee for the food and drinks. It was a great evening for the community of Scethrog and many thanks to Steve for the lights, to Kevin for the power supply and to everyone who brought the food and drinks.

There has already been mention of needing to plan for Scethrog's celebration of the Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Friday 3rd June this year, following successful and happy Scethrog events for the Silver Jubilee and the Millennium. As the passing Roman soldiers would say as they marched past our village nearly 2000 years ago "Vinum in Scethrog fluit" (In the image Ruth is topping up Pam and Steve's cups.)

Peter Seaman





Celebrate Mothering Sunday

Come and join us in celebrating Mothering Sunday, March 27th, Henderson Hall
Celebrate with friends, tea and cake!

Time to be confirmed nearer the date. Watch local notice boards and social media.

And to end, a ghost story!

Knock! Knock! Who's there?

Jack Seabrook (1919-1996), much-loved Clerk to our Community Council for many years, always provided a welcome for new arrivals in the village with a fount of stories about personalities and events stretching back decades. One of his favourites could be called the Llansantffraed Ghost Story.

You cannot fail to notice the imposing sarcophagus that surmounts the brick-built burial crypt of the Gwynne-Holford family next to St Bride's Church. The family owned most of our valley. Its various notables are interred therein. At some time in the nineteenth century, the crypt had been unsealed for the reception of the latest dear-departed. The sexton descended into the gloom and the musty smell. He could see coffins on the shelves. Suddenly there was a knock from one of them, quickly followed by another. Fearfully startled, he made a rapid exit and hurriedly replaced the outer shutter. Quickly he made for the Rectory, at Rock Cottage, and banging on the door, summoned the Rector. Gasping for breath, he haltingly told of the frightening event.



The Rector, more than a little apprehensive, donned his cassock and hung a crucifix from his neck. With the sexton now carrying an oil lamp, they made for the crypt together, each with his own troublesome thoughts. As an additional precaution, the Rector was carrying a Holy Bible. Removing the outer shutter, they lit the lamp. The Rector went down first. They stood there listening for signs of life. Oh my God! There was another knock! But a movement had caught the Rector's eye. What was that?

It was a warm day and the temperature in the crypt had risen. One of the massive coffins had three swivelling carrying handles on each side. When it, and its occupant, had been laid to rest years before, they had been left in the up position. The warmth had caused expansion of the casket sufficiently to dislodge the handles that, swinging down, had so startled the sexton. **Knock! Knock!**



Seamus Hamill-Keays

**Talybont Matters is a
Community Council Publication**

**This edition edited by:
Richard Abram**

Please send articles and contact details
to:

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**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.

