



# Talybont Matters

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## Talybont Ospreys Cricket Club

Cricket returned to Talybont-on-Usk for the first time since 2018 when the aptly named Talybont Ospreys Cricket Club took to the field on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> July against Llanfryncach Cricket Club in the very first edition of the Dai Poulton Cup. The Cup was organised as a touching tribute to Dai Poulton, a local sadly no longer with us. (Full match report, page 9)

## Talybont Flicks

The Autumn schedule is as follows:

**The Little Stranger**, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

**The Marching Band** (subtitles), Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October

**All of Us Strangers**, date tbc due to Bonfire Night on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November

**The Friend**, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

See you there with your drinks and nibbles!



**Issue 90**

Summer 2025



# Talybont Village Show

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025**

**12:00 to 5:00 pm**



**Henderson Hall and Playing Fields**

**LD3 7YQ**

**Admission to show, displays, stalls and sports**

**Adults - £3 Children 16 and under – Free**

**(Payment by cash or card)**

**Horticulture, floral art, handicraft, domestic, art,  
photography**



**Fancy dress and sports**

**Classes for all ages**



**[www.talybontshow.org](http://www.talybontshow.org)**

THE COMMITTEE HAVE WORKED HARD TO ENSURE THAT THE SHOW GOES ON THIS YEAR, SO PLEASE SUPPORT THE EVENT WITH AT LEAST ONE ENTRY. SHOW SCHEDULES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE VILLAGE SHOP SO COME AND 'HAVE A GO'!



# **TALYBONT-ON-USK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

The Community Council has continued to meet monthly throughout the spring, reviewing planning applications and responding to a range of queries from both within and beyond the community. A few key updates are worth highlighting:

## **Health Service Changes in Powys**

Council members have been attending meetings concerning proposed changes to health services in Powys. These plans are significant and will affect us all. Public consultations are ongoing and open to everyone – we encourage you to attend if you are able. The Council is working alongside other community councils to prepare a joint response. Please do share your views with us.

## **Tram Road Closure and Tree Felling**

Tree felling work continues above the Tram Road and, unfortunately, the track had to be closed at short notice due to safety concerns. It will remain closed over the summer. We have asked to be kept informed about the progress of the work and the expected re-opening date. Updates will be shared on our website and Facebook page. This closure will understandably impact both residents and visitors. Currently, access is restricted only during weekday working hours (6am – 4pm), but this may change.

## **Visitor Survey with the National Park**

The Council has launched a simple visitor survey in collaboration with Brecon Beacons Tourism. Running until the end of August, the survey aims to help us better understand who visits our area, where they come from, what they enjoy and what could be improved. Thank you to all who've taken part so far. We also promise to remove the QR code promptly at the end of August – something we're encouraging all event organisers to do!

## **Community Grant Awards**

We're pleased to report that Talybont Energy has generously awarded the Council a grant to support local projects. We received a good number of applications, and the following were successful:

- Benaiah United Chapel – new doors
- The Village Show Committee – towards a new gazebo
- The Friends of Llandetty Church
- John and Cherry Jones – to support the Talybont history website ([www.talybontonusk.wales](http://www.talybontonusk.wales))
- Maisey McLellan, our youngest applicant, who will be planting flowers in Aber Village.

Our thanks to Talybont Energy for enabling these valuable contributions to community life.

## **Speeding Vehicles A40**

Talybont Community Council has joined with Cwmdu and District Community Council in requesting an urgent meeting with the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss the ongoing issue of vehicles, particularly large numbers of motorcycles, travelling at high speeds and with excessive noise through our villages and along the A40.

## **Caretaker Vacancy**

The Council is currently seeking applicants for a part-time caretaker. Further details are available by contacting our Clerk, Clare, at [talybontcc@gmail.com](mailto:talybontcc@gmail.com)

## **Cricket Team Returns**

Congratulations to the newly re-formed Talybont Cricket Club, who recently played their first match in several years – a tight game where they were delighted to come a close second! Anyone interested in joining the cricket club should contact Geraint James at [geraint.toucc@bitsofbugs.com](mailto:geraint.toucc@bitsofbugs.com)





## The Talybont Tombles

It was a bit of a blowy and showery Saturday morning for our June community litter pick. I'd had a few apologies so we were a small but mighty group, and we managed to cover the key areas, with some of our regular pickers turning out on the Friday and later on the weekend to ensure the village was litter free as the summer visitors descend on Talybont. We were just five adults on the Saturday morning with a further four helping over the weekend.

Gerry Blake covered her usual spot on the road from Talybont to Pencelli on the Friday, collecting over half a bag, whilst Sandra Briskham covered Maesmawr Lane and the estate, collecting very little.

Councillor Raiff Devlin joined the Talybont Tombles for the first time and was enthusiastic to get involved. Raiff covered the canal bank from the lift bridge to Ashford Tunnel, returning along the road. He then stuck around to help me out covering the area of Canol Pentre and contacting National Grid regarding some broken signs within the MUGA. Raiff collected approximately one third of a bag.

Craig Burdon covered the lift bridge – Cui – Cross Oak triangle, returning along the canal, and Gareth and Eirona Davies took on their regular route through the village and along Station Road to the A40, all collecting relatively small amounts of litter.

Clair Morrow and her sister Elaine Welch have been collecting litter around Aber Village and the Dam periodically for some time. Over the weekend of the litter pick they also covered the road from Talybont up to Aber Village and across the dam wall. They collected approximately three quarters of a bag, which included plastic packaging, dog poo bags, bottles and pieces of metal. Unfortunately, just two days later the road along the dam wall was once again littered with rubbish, with Clair collecting another quarter of a bag. This is just so disappointing for all of us working to keep the village clean, tidy and litter free.

Lisa Preece collected only a handful of litter along the Dram Road, which is reassuring, although this time of year is where a lot of litter may be hidden in the overgrown hedgerows. I covered the areas of Henderson Hall car park, playing fields, MUGA, children's play area, Penpentre and behind the bus stop. It was disappointing to collect nearly a full bag of litter, which predominantly came from Henderson Hall car park and the playing fields, where large amounts of rubbish was hidden behind fencing, bins and in undergrowth. This included plastic water bottles, energy drinks, energy gels packaging and cardboard boxes which unfortunately appeared to be linked to endurance events ... and why do these events feel the need to leave all their signs out after the events??!!

Although not part of the weekend litter pick, I have also covered the Orchard Trail in the last few weeks, collecting very little. In total we collected five bags of rubbish. Thank you to all that helped over that weekend, and to all of you that regularly pick-up litter when you are out and about.

**The next Talybont Tombles litter pick will take place on Saturday 6th September at 10am.  
Meeting at Henderson Hall. New members are always welcome – equipment will be provided.**

**Fiona Morris (Organiser)**

**[Fionam25@btinternet.com](mailto:Fionam25@btinternet.com)**

**07971 787817**



# USK VALLEY GARDENING ASSOCIATION (UVGA)

Following the plant sale at Henderson Hall in May the UVGA have made visits to gardens at Treberfydd Nursery and Maesyberllan Farm, Gilwern. The latter visit was arranged by one of our members, Brenda Powell, who, along with her sister, has been responsible for the maintenance of the perennial borders in which the outstanding plants were the colourful Alstroemerias. The most recent visit was to the garden of the Chairman, Keith Holgate, who, with his wife Ruth, entertained a group of about 24 members and friends. The refreshments provided were greatly appreciated by everyone present. A raffle was held during the evening and a total of £110 was raised which was donated to Tŷ Hafan's Children's Hospice at the request of Keith, who is Chairman of the Hospice Trust.

Ruth and Keith's garden was admired for its landscaped features which included a bank of herbaceous perennials and shrubs, a wildlife pond, raised beds containing vegetables and fruit, together with a greenhouse well stocked with tomatoes.

The following programme of indoor meetings will resume in September:

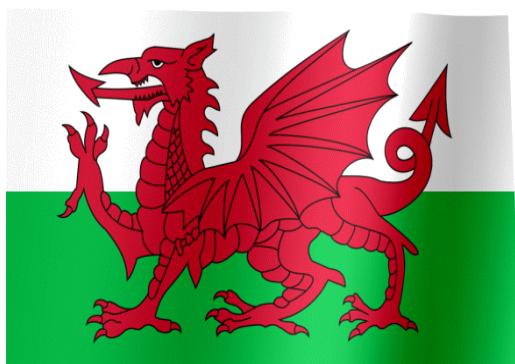
25<sup>th</sup> September — **SPRING BULBS** by Ray Woods at Bwlch Village Hall

17<sup>th</sup> October — **PLANTS IN DRY PLACES** by Colin Greengrass at Henderson Hall, Taybont

18<sup>th</sup> November — **WILLOW WEAVING** by Heather Dickens at Llangynidr Village Hall

All meetings commence at 7pm. For further details contact Linda Windham at [lindawindham9@gmail.com](mailto:lindawindham9@gmail.com)

— Gareth Davies



## WELSH LEARNERS' CORNER CORNEL Y CYMRAEG

Shwmae Bawb, sut mae'ch haf chi hyd yn hyn? (How is your summer so far?) How is your Cymraeg going? Don't forget you are always welcome at the White Hart, Friday mornings, 10.30-12.00, if you want to practise and hear some Cymraeg. Below is a small conversation to help you practise, maybe find a friend who could practise with you. Pob lwc! Mwynhewch! (Enjoy) Diolch yn fawr iawn **Rhian**

A: Pwy wyt ti? — Poi-oit-tee? — Who are you?

B: Rhian ydw i. — [your name]-uh-do-ee — I am [your name].

A: Ble rwyt ti'n byw? — Blair-roy-teen-bi-oo — Where do you live?

B: Talybont — [Your village/town where you live].

A: O ble rwyt ti'n dod yn wreiddiol? — Oh-blair-roi-teen-dord-un-wry-thee-ol? — Where do you come from originally?

B: Dw i'n dod o Dalylllyn\*\*\* yn wreiddiol — Dween-dord-oh-[Name of place of where you come from\*\*\*]-un-wry-thee-ol — I'm originally from Talylllyn.

A: Beth wyt ti'n hoffi wneud? — Beth-oi-teen-hoff-ee-wh-nay-d? — What do you like doing?

B: Dw i'n hoffi dysgu Cymraeg, wrth gwrs! — Dween-hoff-ee-dus-gee-come-raig-oor-th-goor-se — I like learning Welsh, of course!

A: Ble rwyt ti'n dysgu Cymraeg? — blair-roy-teen-dus-gee-come-raig? — Where do you learn Welsh?

B: Dw i'n dysgu Cymraeg yn y Neuadd Talybont — Dween-dus-gee-come-raig-yn-ur-ne-ar-th-tal-ur-bont — I learn Welsh in Talybont Hall.

\*\*\* There is a soft mutation after 'o-from' so Talylllyn changes to a softer d — 'o Dalylllyn' — don't worry too much about them, but they are good to see and understand.



Talybont ladies gave a warm welcome to John Webb of Webbs in Crickhowell at our May meeting. John gave an entertaining and lively account of the beginning of the institution, 'Webbs of Crickhowell' and its progress through the years. We were treated to anecdotes about inadvertent and rare cat napping, hilarious problem-solving deliveries, diligent sales tactics and super-sleuthing events. Not all of which ended well! John's self-deprecating humour manifested itself throughout.

Our June trip was delayed until the beginning of July so an extra event was put on. We enjoyed afternoon tea at the Old Barn Tea Room – the ladies never fail to provide a good spread and, as sandwiches and cake were washed down with copious cups of tea, chatter abounded. The lovely afternoon was rounded off with a short walk.

... And so to our trip. After being inspired by a previous WI evening about H. Avray Tipping and his house and gardens, a bus set off from Brecon with Cherry, our organiser, on board. The bus picked up in Pencelli before arriving in Talybont for the majority of us. We started our day visiting the medieval village of Trellick in Monmouthshire. Cherry had organised a talk for us in the historic parish church. Dick, our guide, pointed out the many ancient features inside and outside of the church. We then walked over the road where lunch awaited us at the Red Lion pub. This was just the start of what turned out to be a truly inspiring and relaxing day. We were met by the present owner of High Glanau Manor, Mrs Helen Garrish. She welcomed us into her home and told us about the adventures she had been on since buying the manor. She had been enthralled by the original owner of the Manor. Research led her to write a dissertation on H. Avray Tipping and restoring his house and gardens, as best she could, to how they had been. She was a passionate and entertaining lady who gave generously of her time. Not only did she walk us round the garden telling us stories, Helen had also made the most delicious cakes and openly allowed us to snoop around her home. It was so relaxing on such a beautiful summer afternoon to be in this arts and crafts garden and home.

To top it all our July meeting took us in another direction. Clare Wright came to demonstrate and instruct us on the art of making Focaccia. Our hosts Tina and Ruth had bought the ingredients for us and we arrived with our own equipment. The hall resembled a domestic science classroom. It was great fun following Clare's instructions to make the bread. We did a final knead at home that night and put the dough in the fridge to make the next day. WhatsApp was full of photos of our finished products – we were all delighted with the results. Thank you Clare for being so organised and teaching us so well.

We have had a very active and varied three months and will have a break now for August before starting again in September with an intriguing evening with Jonathan Arter on Dandelion Dead and the Hay Poisoner, followed by Andy King and an osprey update. I think you will agree Talybont WI has enjoyed a varied programme in 2025. Do join us as a visitor if either or both of these evenings appeals to you.





## Starters

### Tandoori Chicken Wings £5.95

Chicken wings marinated in hot spicy- tandoori masala and cooked in oven, served with hot Indian Sauce



### Chicken Samosa £3.95

Flaky pastry stuffed with chicken



### Vegetable Samosa £3.95

Flaky pastry stuffed with mixed vegetable



### Onion Bhaji £3.95

World famous snack of onion deep- fried in a coating of gram flour batter



### Paneer Tikka £4.95

Marinated chunks of cottage cheese with Tandoori masala and yogurt cooked in the oven



### Aloo Chat £3.95

Boiled potatoes/Chickpeas in a tangy Chat Masala Sweet, sour and bit spicy with topped with Indian savouries and date and tamarind chutney



### Patra £3.95

Patra is made from colocasia leaves (chevu in Tulu, taro, kesuve or arbi) stuffed with gram or rice flour and flavourings such as spices, tamarind, and jaggery



## Main courses

### Chicken Tikka Masala £7.50

We present our exclusive recipe of succulent chicken tikka in a smooth creamy sauce mild & creamy!



### Chicken Jalfrezi £7.00

Chicken breast cooked with a masala of peppers and tomatoes, garnished with fresh green chillies and coriander (Our own recipe)



### Sag Chicken £6.95

Tender pieces of chicken cooked with spinach

### Handi Chicken £7.00

Slow cooked chicken drumsticks in the dry blend of spices with cream and yogurt



### Aloo Spinach £5.95

A delicacy of cumin tempered potatoes cooked with tomato, onion, Spinach and a home-made spice mix



### Mutter Paneer £6.95

Punjabi style Paneer cooked in a homemade sauce with green peas



### Chana Masala £5.95

Chickpeas in a creamy sauce fennel and cumin, with tomatoes, garlic, ginger and coriander.



### Dal Makhani £6.95

Rich, aromatic black bean dal cooked in tomato base tempered with garlic and ginger topped with coconut cream.



GLUTEN



PEANUTS



TREE NUTS



CELERY



MUSTARD



EGGS



MILK



SESAME



FISH



CRUSTACEANS



MOLLUSCS



SOYA



SULPHITES



LUPIN



# THE REWEAR PROJECT

**HENDERSON HALL,  
TALYBONT-ON-USK**

*Fashion is fun, but it doesn't have to cost the earth.*

*Join us to learn how to extend the life of your clothes and  
reduce waste - together.*

**CLOTHES SWAP SHOP  
SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION  
VINTAGE MARKET  
MENDING WORKSHOPS**

**rethink - repair - rewear**

*a free event for all ages. lets rethink fashion together*

The Rewear Project is a free, one-day event taking place on **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August at Henderson Hall in Talybont from 10am to 6pm.**

Organised by Talybont Energy in partnership with Yasmin Saboor, a local resident and vintage fashion business owner, this event brings together creativity, energy, climate action and community spirit — with a focus on making fashion more sustainable and fun for everyone.

**What's On:**

**Clothes Swap** – bring your preloved clothes and swap them for something new-to-you

**Sewing & Mending Workshops** – learn visible mending, upcycling and simple alterations

**Mini Market** – browse vintage and sustainable fashion from local sellers

**Talks & Displays** – learn about fast fashion's energy impact and how to dress more sustainably.

**How It Works:**

1. Bring quality clothes you no longer wear (clean, gently worn and in good condition please — the type you'd give to a friend!)

2. Receive tokens for your items. You'll get one token per item to spend at the swap on the day.

The event is open to all ages and no previous experience is needed — just bring your curiosity and any clothes you'd like to swap.

If you're interested in volunteering for the event, whether it be helping out on the day or to assist with a workshop, or just to find out more, contact [yasmin11saboor@outlook.com](mailto:yasmin11saboor@outlook.com)

## Dai Poulton Cup

With a mix of players who had never played before, occasional cricketers and seasoned players, the newly-formed Talybont Ospreys took to the field to bowl against Llanfrynnach in the inaugural Dai Poulton Cup. E Morgan and L Crockett opened the batting. Talybont soon got into the wickets, with Rhodri Morgan bowling L Crockett, thus claiming the first ever wicket for Talybont Ospreys. With wickets falling at regular intervals and some excellent fielding by the Ospreys, the visitors were reduced to 118 runs off their 30 overs.

The wickets were spread evenly, falling to Sam Harpur (3), Rhodri Morgan (1), Vice-Captain Jo Harpur (1), Andrew Jones (2), Shailesh Kardavara (3) and Richard James (2). There were also notable contributions in the bowling and fielding from Julian Rogers, Richard Preece and Will Thompson.

The Ospreys pair of Tom Short and Richard James took to the field to open the batting and start chasing the target of 119 runs to win. After a steady start from the opening batsmen, with Tom Short falling for 21 and Richard James out for 9, the Ospreys needed to accelerate the chase. With notable contributions from Shailesh Kardavara retiring at 30 not out, Aled McDonough 4, Jules Tunnicliffe 0, Sam Harpur 2, Jo Harpur 1, Rhodri Morgan 2, Andrew Jones 0, Pete Buckenham 0, Huw Morgan 1 and Geraint James 6 not out, for a while they were on course to better Llanfrynnach's score. Unfortunately though, with regular wickets falling and the run rate increasing, the Ospreys ultimately fell short, with a score of 89 off their 30 overs.

With the result irrelevant for an inexperienced team, Talybont can be justly proud of their efforts and were not outplayed by a vastly more experienced Llanfrynnach. A trophy for the newly formed Dai Poulton Cup was prepared for the occasion and presented to Llanfrynnach Captain Iwan Edwards by Talybont Ospreys Captain Tom Short.

We are a club formed for the local community to access a sport in the area and enjoy the excellent facilities we have at our disposal, so if you are interested in playing or being involved with Talybont Ospreys we will be meeting at the community fields every Thursday at 6.30pm for practice until the end of August.



# SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF PLAS PENCELLI

JOIN US  
AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup> 2025  
FROM 12 O'CLOCK TIL 6PM  
PLAS PENCELLI OUTDOOR  
EDUCATION CENTRE LD3 7LX

Bring your own picnic, explore our  
beautiful grounds  
Enjoy some Canoeing, Climbing,  
orienteering.  
Birthday cake & drinks at 4pm



ALL WELCOME BRING THE FAMILY AND  
MAKE A DAY OF IT.  
SHARE STORIES AND MAKE NEW  
MEMORIES.



office@plaspencelli.co.uk 01874665241



# Church Notes

The Beacons Churches (Cantref, Llanfrynnach, Llanhamlach, Llansantffraed, Llandetty and Llanfeugan) are part of the Brecon and Epynt Ministry Area.

## Local Clergy:

Revd Liz Bramley (Curate) [liz.bramley@icloud.com](mailto:liz.bramley@icloud.com) Tel: 01874 665267

Team leader Revd Dr Gill Todd [gbtodd@btinternet.com](mailto:gbtodd@btinternet.com) Tel: 01874 610902

Ministry area website: [www.breconandepyntma.org.uk](http://www.breconandepyntma.org.uk)

A new member of our Ministry Team joined us in June: Revd Jane de Gay. She is gradually getting to know all the churches in the Ministry area and is looking forward to meeting more of the Beacons congregations very soon.



Our churches have all been busy celebrating people's lives in different ways, with baptisms, weddings and, sadly, funerals. There have been some glorious concerts too, and we look forward to more in the coming months.

Llansantffraed Church is taking a break from regular Morning Services at present, but there is a programme of events planned, which includes a Harvest Service in September. Gwent Chamber Orchestra will play there for their pre-Christmas concert in early December.

**TALYBONT SHOW:** We are expecting to be there again at the Churches and Chapels tent, with more displays, and activities for children and adults. We look forward to seeing you!

## CHURCH SERVICES AT PRESENT

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

10am Holy Communion at Llanfrynnach

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month

10am Holy Communion at Llanfeugan

11am Family Church at the Henderson Hall

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

10am Holy Communion at Cantref

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

10am Holy Communion at Llandetty

10am Holy Communion at Llanhamlach

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (when it occurs)

Services will vary - see local information

*We may occasionally have to make changes to services. You will find full and up to date details of services and events on the church and community noticeboards, on our website, [www.breconandepyntma.org.uk](http://www.breconandepyntma.org.uk) and on our Facebook page, Churches around Talybont. All are welcome to our services and events.*



More parkland than farmland  
this part of the canal: a flowery marina  
where well-coiffed narrowboats snooze –  
Bethan, Megan, Blodwen, Nerys.  
Even Hannah Snell in her manly  
battledress is merely decorative.

A smudge of cloud slips sideways  
and there's the scimitar of Pen y Fan.  
We're not two miles from a terrain  
known to kill fit young squaddies.

As if to prove the point, wild twisted trees  
close in – and there, with a sharp frisson  
as if you'd spotted a snow leopard  
in a cowfield: the Usk.

Soft-pawed, it picks an unhurried way  
of least resistance, leaps smoothly  
from rock to rock, never pausing  
till, upstream, it bares its fangs  
and you can hear it snarl among the rapids.  
It's close here, the once and future realm.

Tebycach i barc na phorfa  
yw'r rhan hon o'r gamlas: marina lliwgar  
lle mae cychod culion moethus yn hepiant –  
Bethan, Megan, Blodwen, Nerys.  
A hydnoed Hannah Snell yn ei gwisg filwrol  
ddynol ond fel dan addurn.

Llithra dernyn o gwmwl o'r neilltu  
a dyna lafn Pen y Fan.  
Lai na dwy filltir i ffwrdd mae tirwedd  
sy'n lladd milwyr heini yn eu hieuencid.

Ac i eilio'r ias, cwyd coed gwyrgam gwylt  
o'n cwmpas – ac yna, gwefr  
fel gweld llewppard yr eira  
mewn cae gwartheg: afon Wysg.

Ar bawennau melfed, llithra heb frysio  
ar y llwybr llyfnaf, gan neidio'n ystwyth  
o graig i graig, heb oedi fyth  
hyd nes, fan draw, mae'n ysgyrnygu'i dannedd  
ac yn rhuo drwy raeadrâu.  
Mae'n agos yma, y deyrnas a fu ac a fydd.



# Holiday Adventure Days 2025

**Adventurous Outdoor Activities in the Brecon Beacons**

**Plas Pencelli near Brecon is hosting holiday adventure days for young people (Minimum 8 years)**

***Activity days for families also available please enquire.***

**Further information and booking: [office@plaspencelli.co.uk](mailto:office@plaspencelli.co.uk) 01874 665241**

**Plas Pencelli OEC, Pencelli, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7LX**



Cost £50 per day, 20% discount for 5 or more days booked

Full day offsite activities  
9.30am – 4.30pm

All specialist equipment provided  
***A change of clothes, lunch and drink are all you need.***



Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Canoeing/Kayaking
Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Caving
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Mountain Day
Thu 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Outdoor Rock Climbing
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Gorge Walking

Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Gorge Walking
Tue 29 <sup>th</sup> July	Canoeing/Kayaking
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> July	Caving
Thu 31 <sup>st</sup> July	Mountain Day
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> August	Outdoor Rock Climbing



Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> August	Outdoor Rock Climbing
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> August	Gorge Walking
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> August	Canoeing/Kayaking
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> August	Caving
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> August	Mountain Day

Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> August	Outdoor Rock Climbing
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> August	Gorge Walking
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup> August	Canoeing/Kayaking
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> August	Caving



## The Gilestone

This ancient monument, situated in one of Gilestone Farm's fields, about 300m from the Usk, has been dated by Coflein to the Bronze Age. In Britain this encompasses a wide range from 2,000BC to 800BC. It was in the preceding Neolithic that populations began to engage in religious, ritual or funerary rites in which standing stones – menhirs – played an important part. The Gilestone, or Gilston, could be much older than Bronze Age. It is a Scheduled Monument given protection against unauthorised change. The ground around it is also scheduled, and private.

The material of the Gilestone is conglomerate, similar to sandstone but composed of rounded gravel bound together by a sediment. The pressure of water action over long periods of geological time can cause solidification in an ancient river bed. It is reasonable to conclude that the Gilestone was extracted from the Usk's margin, maybe in time of drought, and erected close by in commemoration of a person or event. Its height above ground is 2.97m, width 2.44m and thickness 1.37m. Assuming a third of its mass is below ground, an estimate of its weight, using an average figure of conglomerate density, is about 18 tons.

The name Gilestone is associated with Sir Giles Pierrepont\*, one of the Norman-French knights who assisted the Marcher Lords in seizing the Welsh kingdom of Brycheiniog in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century. He was the first Lord of Gilestone Manor. 'Pierre' is the French for 'rock' so 'Gilestone' was derived from the Norman French 'Pierre de Giles'.



*Photo by Peter Seaman, from John Jones' website,  
[www.talybontonusk.wales](http://www.talybontonusk.wales)*

\* Pierrepont, the name of a village in Normandy meaning 'stone bridge'

**Talybont Matters is a  
Community Council Publication**

**This edition edited by:  
David MacDonald**

Please email articles and suggestions to:  
[talybontmattersnews@gmail.com](mailto:talybontmattersnews@gmail.com)

**Many thanks to the volunteers and Talybont Stores for their continued help with 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.