



Talybont Matters

Subscribe to this newsletter in full colour at
www.talybont.org/our-newsletter.html



Brecon Canal 225th Anniversary

On Thursday 11th December our local community came together to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the Brecon and Monmouth Canal, creating a beautiful parade of homemade lanterns to accompany the life-sized swan, otter and horse that were supplied by the Canal and River Trust. Thank you to the many locals and families that came and made it such a special evening – and we were so lucky with the weather!

A huge thank you to the hard-working volunteers that contributed to the success of the event, including: Talybont WI, Annie Lawrie, the Canal and River Trust, Kaz and Joe who kept us all in time with their wonderful drumming, Clee, Tompkinson & Francis and John Lee for the use of the Mart for car parking, Sue and all the staff at the White Hart for use of their car park and support on the day, Talybont Stores and Talybont Community Council for their generous donation to support the Lantern Making Workshop, Henderson Hall for supplying the final destination to warm up and, last but not least, all the fabulous volunteers that marshalled and helped keep everyone safe on the night. You were all amazing – THANK YOU!



Issue 92

Winter 2026



On Saturday 3rd January, our annual village children's party took place in Henderson Hall, organised by Lettie Francis. It was very well supported by the children and grandchildren of Talybont-on-Usk, Pencelli and Scethrog. Everyone had a brilliant time dancing to music, playing a variety of party games and enjoying food at the end!

A very big thank to you Lettie, Rob, Rhiannon, Dawn and Alex for putting on a fantastic event for our children and grandchildren.

The event was supported by the children's local church fund.



Seeking new Treasurer

We are looking for a new Treasurer to join the volunteers who make up Henderson Hall Management Committee from May 2026. The role includes keeping records of hall income and expenditure, invoicing hall hirers, paying service providers and managing utilities contracts. This is a vital role in supporting the hall's continued use by the community. A laptop is available and you will be supported as you learn the role.

If you would like to know more and have an hour per week to spare, please email Kirsten Jones at Hendersonhallchair@gmail.com





WELSH LEARNERS' CORNER CORNEL Y CYMRAEG

Shwmae Bawb, Sut dych chi? Are you using your Cymraeg around Talybont? Come and join our friendly group in the White Hart (Y Hydd Gwyn) every Friday morning at 10.30-12.00. Between eight to twelve of us turn up most weeks with different levels of Cymraeg. Croeso cynnes i bawb! Diolch Rhian
Try these phrases (roll your r's):

1. Dw i'n mynd i'r dafarn – dween min-d -eer dah-varn – I am going to the pub.
2. Dw i wedi mynd i'r dafarn – doo-ee-wed-ee-min-d-eer-dah-varn – I have been to the pub.
3. Es i'r dafarn – ess-ee-eer-dah-varn – I went to the pub.
4. Af i'r dafarn – arf-ee-eer-dah-varn – I will go to the pub.
5. Roeddwn i'n mynd i'r dafarn – roy-th-oon-een-min-d-eer-dah-varn – I was going to the pub.
6. Byddai'n mynd i'r dafarn – bu-th-ah-een-min-d-eer-dah-varn – I will be going to the pub.
7. Baswn i'n mynd i'r dafarn – ba-s-oon-een-min-d-eer-dah-varn – I would go to the pub.
8. Dw i ar fin mynd i'r dafarn – doo-ee-ar-feen-min-d-eer-dah-varn – I am about to go to the pub.
9. Dw i eisiau mynd i'r dafarn – doo-ee-eye-shy-min-d-eer-dah-varn – I want to go to the pub.
10. Dw i'n gallu mynd i'r dafarn – dween-ga-ll-ee-min-d-eer-dah-varn – I can go to the pub.

To say the White Hart instead of pub change 'dafarn' to 'Hydd Gwyn' (he-th-gwin), e.g. Dw i'n mynd i'r Hydd Gwyn – I am going to the White Hart!

Defnyddiwch eich Cymraeg – Use your Cymraeg – Pob lwc!

Talybont on Usk and District WI



The ladies of Talybont WI enjoyed a lovely three-course Christmas dinner at Peterstone Court in December. The drive up to the court and the decorations inside are always spectacular and provide just the right atmosphere for the evening. After our meal we took part in a quiz which had been prepared by Sue Thomas. The quiz tested our memory of television programmes. We also passed around a lucky dip sack of Christmas presents. It was a lovely evening.

January was another excellent evening. A previous member of the Talybont community and ex-teacher of Talybont school, Ydwena Jones, came to talk to us about The Epynt. Her family had been displaced by the MOD in 1940, along with all the other 53 families. She told us about how the community was broken up and went here, there and everywhere. They had no help in finding somewhere to go and given little notice. They were mostly tenant farmers and it was only land owners or property owners who were financially compensated. The tenants believed they were doing their bit to help the war effort and did not realise at the time that they would never return to their homes. The Epynt community was 99.9% Welsh speaking, and the displaced children had obvious difficulties if they were sent to an English speaking school. Adults, too, found it hard to settle in their new homes. One man continued to visit his home on The Epynt every day to light a fire to keep the house from deteriorating while it wasn't lived in. Sadly one day he arrived to find it had been bombed and only one wall remained. Ydwena's family had lived there for generations. Her father was farming the family farm at the time. He initially viewed the move with excitement – he had never been further than a few miles from the farm before.

Cofiwch Epynt ('Remember Epynt'), is an ongoing project to recognise the sacrifices made by those families. The MOD have commissioned slates to recognise the names of the farms and the people who lived there, and to mark each site with the slate.

In February our talk will be titled 'Being 60 and swimming with the tide'. This is the story of one women marking her 60th year and raising money for charity through swimming. March, we will welcome Major Andy Butcher MBE. His talk will be 'How I got to where I am now'. He will no doubt tell us more about the slate project as well.

Our yearly programme will be finalised soon. It covers a range of topics from 'Life as a Beefeater', to DNA and family history, and much in between. Ladies, you are very welcome to join us. Second Wednesday of the month, 7pm at Henderson Hall.





TALYBONT-ON-USK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

As 2026 begins, everyone at Talybont on Usk Community Council would like to wish all members of our community a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. The past year has been one of the more testing periods for the Council and has presented a number of significant challenges for our community. In responding to these challenges we have learned a great deal and believe we are stronger as a result. It has reinforced the importance of open and honest communication, working together with our community towards a common purpose, and approaching difficult issues with care and responsibility. As we move into the year ahead, the Council is committed to learning from and building on these experiences in a positive and forward-looking way. We remain focused on our duty to represent the community effectively and to continue working on a number of very important issues. These include the following key relationships and projects:

Working with Welsh Government to determine the future of Gilestone Farm The Council is united in the view that the very difficult period of conflict, dispute and uncertainty surrounding the future of Gilestone Farm should now be put behind us. Looking forward, there is a real opportunity to create something special at this unique site, delivering lasting benefits for the community in many different ways. There is strong potential for Gilestone Farm to become a centre of excellence, with a clear focus on wildlife, the environment and sustainable engagement with the National Park. The arrival of the osprey this year has further highlighted the site's importance and its potential to become a focal point for visitors. The Council hopes to work positively with the Welsh Government and other partners to help realise a future for Gilestone Farm that we can all be proud of and that will benefit both the local community and the wider area for many years to come.

Working with Canal & River Trust to support the future of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal remains a vital part of our community, supporting local heritage, recreation, tourism and wellbeing. Working closely with and in support of the Canal & River Trust is essential to ensuring the long-term sustainability of this important local asset. The Community Council recognises the significant challenges currently facing the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal and the importance of securing its long-term future. We welcome the constructive engagement that has taken place between the Canal & River Trust, the Welsh Government and other partners to provide much needed short to medium term support and stability. This has been an understandably worrying period for many residents, businesses and canal users. Talybont on Usk Community Council fully supports efforts to develop a sustainable, long-term solution and believes that continued partnership working is essential to protect this much loved asset.

Working with Natural Resources Wales The Community Council recognises the important statutory role of Natural Resources Wales in protecting and managing Wales' natural environment, and as such believes that constructive engagement is essential in addressing local environmental challenges and opportunities, including the future of the canal, biodiversity at key sites, and the careful stewardship of sensitive landscapes within and around our community, including the considerable amount of forestry which surrounds us. We support partnership working that balances environmental protection with community benefit, and look forward to continued improving dialogue. Although we will be losing some conifer specific biodiversity with the loss of the conifer plantation on the Wenallt, on a positive note One Voice Wales' Biodiversity Team have awarded us biodiversity support packages in their latest round of funding. Spring bulbs have been planted in the playing field wild flower area and the Henry Vaughan Garden, and we will also receive signage, wild flower seeds and some help with hedging this spring. We continue to monitor the closure of the Brinore Tramroad. While it is understood that this is expected to reopen at the end of February, the Council remains concerned that any further delay into spring and summer could have a significant impact on tourism and local businesses. These concerns have been formally passed on.

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority The Community Council recognises the important role of the Park Authority, and fully acknowledges the practical complexity of achieving its statutory purposes. While engagement with the Authority, particularly in relation to planning matters, can at times be challenging, the Council remains committed to working constructively and in good faith to achieve outcomes that protect the special qualities of the National Park while also supporting the wellbeing and long-term sustainability of our community.



Over the past 12 months the Community Council has continued to press for a stronger and more effective working relationship with the planning authority. As the tier of local government closest to residents, businesses and community organisations we believe the Council is well placed to provide valuable local insight. For this reason we consider it vital that the Community Council's views as a statutory consultee are given appropriate weight and careful consideration. One example of our collaboration is the recent tourism survey, conducted with the help of the National Park. Following on from this we are intending to apply for a grant to improve tourist information and develop a local history trail. Anyone interested in helping please contact Councillor Phil Darbyshire.

Powys County Council In the main all our work with Powys County Council is through our County Councillor, Raiff Devlin. Powys CC is directly responsible for all services apart from those covered by BBNPA, such as planning, and the Community Council is happy to provide advice and support to our residents in their dealings with Powys CC.

Other organisations we work with include **The Police and Commissioner for Police**. This is mainly related to road safety issues, including speeding and the risks to pedestrians along the A40, between Llansantffraed and Bwlch. We are also currently working with the Police Authority and Powys CC Highways Department in reviewing parking arrangements within Talybont, particularly proposals to extend double yellow lines around junctions to improve visibility and safety. Details of these proposed changes can be viewed locally and comments are welcome. **Ofcom**, in relation to mobile signal coverage and broadband rollout. Recently we have been successful in opposing BT's policy to remove our historic red telephone boxes, with the latest success being in retaining service at Pencelli.

Henderson Hall We also must take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the good work by those who dedicate much of their time and effort to make our community a wonderful place to live and visit. So it with this in mind we pay tribute and say a big thanks to the dedicated hall committee and all volunteers who work tirelessly to raise funds and deliver a wonderful service to everyone through our community facilities at Henderson Hall. Thanks also to the newly formed **Talybont Ospreys Cricket Club** for organising a very successful New Years Eve event at the Hall. We wish them every success in building a formidable team and look forward to them hitting many more boundaries in the years to come. A big thanks as well to everyone who supported the recent event marking the Canal anniversary. It really was a great success and much appreciated by the community.

These are just a few examples of successes achieved by local people working together with enthusiasm, dedication and common purpose. Looking ahead to 2026–2027 your community council is focused on building on this theme, and we have already begun work in joining with other community councils as the **Association of Usk Valley Community Councils**. By joining together we will undoubtedly deliver a stronger 'one voice'.

Usk Valley Osprey Group The arrival of ospreys to our valley at Gilestone is an exceptionally exciting development. The Council looks forward to working constructively with relevant partners, including conservation bodies, land managers, and public authorities, to support appropriate protection measures and to ensure that any wider benefits arising from the presence of the ospreys are achieved in a way that is sustainable, responsible and in keeping with the special qualities of the area.

Council Finances The Council is currently setting its budget for the year ahead, and we are certain you will be pleased to hear our key priority remains keeping any increase in the precept to an absolute minimum while continuing to protect essential local services. Given the need to find other sources of funding we have decided to give special attention and focus on seeking available grant aid for some specific projects. Our first application is for the purpose of securing resources to update our tourist information and to develop a new local history trail. We are keen to hear from residents who may wish to support or contribute to this work.

Special thanks to Seamus The Community Council also said goodbye in the autumn to Seamus Hamill-Keays, who stepped down after many years of outstanding service, including a period as Chair. Retired Squadron Leader Seamus has been a huge contributor to the life of the community over many years, bringing wisdom, leadership and an extraordinary depth of experience to the role of councillor. While stepping down from formal office, we very much hope that Seamus will continue to offer his invaluable advice and research from time to time in the years ahead. We thank him sincerely for all he has done and offer our very best wishes for the future.



USK VALLEY GARDENING ASSOCIATION (UVGA)

For the final get-together of the year the members of the Gardening Association met for a Christmas lunch at the Coach and Horses, Llangynidr on Thursday 11th December. The food was enjoyed by all and some light-hearted entertainment was arranged to test the knowledge of those present. Thanks must be extended to all the Officers, particularly Keith Holgate and Linda Windham, for making it all possible.

The programme for 2026 has almost been completed and is shown below:

- 26th January**, Bwlch Village Hall – AGM, followed by a talk on BIO CHAR – Jodie Buck
- 23rd February**, Bwlch Village Hall – WORMS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE GARDEN – Alison Maher
- 30th March**, Bwlch Village Hall – PLANTS FOR ALL SEASONS – Paul Green
- 27th April**, Bwlch Village Hall – PONDS FOR BIODIVERSITY – James Allison
- 2nd May**, Talybont Henderson Hall – PLANT SALE
- Late May** – Visit to Glebe House, National Garden Scheme
- Late June** – Visit to Abergavenny Vineyard
- 16th July** – Visit to Lavender Farm near Builth Wells
- August** – Village Shows
- 28th September**, Talybont Henderson Hall – MEMBERS' EVENING
- 26th October**, Talybont Henderson Hall – A GARDENING TALK – Kevin Thomas
- 30th November**, Talybont Henderson Hall – THE MAGIC OF PLANTS – Stephen Anderton
- December** – Christmas Lunch (date to be decided)

For further details please contact Keith Holgate, Keith@SKholgate.plus.com or Linda Windham, lindawindham9@gmail.com

We are a very friendly gardening group and are always keen to welcome new members.

– Gareth Davies gebdavies@btinternet.com 01874 676200

Hedge planting at Derwen Groes (Cross Oak)

We will be planting a hedge in the coming weeks
– can you help us?

Also learn about our ideas for the land
(on the edge of Talybont)

Saturday 7th February, 10am–1pm
Please bring suitable clothing and gloves

If you want to come please can you let me know.
Contact Richard Luff, Derwen-Groes@outlook.com
or 07974 430406

TEA and CHAT

Fish and Chips Lunch postponed from January to be held at 1pm on **February 2nd** at the Hall. This is thanks to a kind, anonymous donation!

Then as usual at 3pm on the first Monday of the month for the over 60s:

March 2nd – St David's Day Tea
April 6th
May 4th





Served from 4:30 PM till 8:00 PM Last order 7:30 PM Please Note: If you have a food allergy or intolerance please speak to a member of staff about the ingredients in your food and drink before you order.

Starters

Tandoori Chicken Wings £5.95
Allergens: Celery

Chicken Samosa £3.95
Allergens: Soya, Milk, Wheat

Vegetable Samosa £3.95
Allergens: Mustard, Soya, Milk, Wheat

Onion Bhaji £4.35
Allergens: None of the 14 Food Allergens

Aloo Chat £4.35
Allergens: Mustard, Peanuts, Milk, Wheat

Patra £4.35
Allergens: Sesame seeds

Paneer Tikka £4.95
Allergens: Milk, Mustard

Main Courses

Lamb Bhuna(Dhaba style) £11.95
Allergens: Mustard

Chicken Tikka Masala £8.15
Allergens: Milk

Chicken Korma £8.50
Allergens: Milk, Cashew nuts

Chicken Jalfrezi £7.50
Allergens: Mustard

Sag Chicken £7.50
Allergens: Mustard seeds, Cashew nuts

Butter Chicken £8.75
Allergens: Milk, Cashew nuts

Aloo Spinach £6.50
Allergens: Mustard

Mixed Veg Curry (South Indian) Vegan £6.00
Allergens: Mustard

Mutter Paneer (Vegetarian) £7.50
Allergens: Milk, Mustard, Cashew nuts

Chana Masala (Vegan) £6.50
Allergens: Mustard

Dal Makhani (Vegan) £7.50
Allergens: Mustard

Extras

Poppadum £0.90
Pickle Tray £2.50

Allergens: Mustard, Sulphites, Milk
Onion & Cucumber Raita £3.00

Allergens: Mustard, Milk
Chips £4.25

Spicy Chips £4.50

Desserts

Gulab Jamun £5.00
Allergens: Milk

Ras Gulla £5.00
Allergens: Milk

Breads, Naan & Rice

Plain Paratha £1.40
Allergens: Wheat

Lachha Paratha £1.60
Allergens: Wheat

Plain Naan £3.00
Allergens: Wheat

Garlic & Coriander Naan £3.50
Allergens: Wheat

Rotla £2.50
(Gluten free flatbread made from pearl millet or Corn flour)

Plain Rice £3.50

Pilaf Rice £4.50

Egg Fried Rice £5.00
Allergens: Mustard, Egg



Aber and Benaiah Chapel Spring Services

Below is a list of informal yet structured services held at each Chapel once a month. Everyone is welcome to join us for an hour of quiet reflection.

ABER

February 8 th	Rev Liz Matthews
March 8 th	Mrs Penny Robinson
April 12 th	Janet Russell
May 10 th	Mrs Penny Robinson

BENAIAH

February 22 nd	Janet Russell
March 22 nd	Rebecca Games
April 26 th	Mr Paul Rowe
May 31 st	Mrs Liz Tadd



Scethrog Christmas Lights switch-on

Scethrog residents got together at the end of November for the village's annual Christmas light switch-on. We were favoured with dry weather, fine food and plenty to drink. Steve once again excelled at putting together the light display and we are also most grateful to Kevin for the electricity, and to all those who brought food and drinks.

— Peter Seaman



Talybont Flicks will start again on Wednesday 4th February, normal time of 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Please feel free to bring your own drinks and nibbles. Keep your eyes peeled on the Henderson Hall Facebook page for updates on what films will be showing on the first Wednesday of each month. The February film will be *Amadeus*. Hope to see you there.



Talybont Matters

In November 2025 we ran a survey to explore the home heating issues and needs of householders in our community. Sadly, we only received 19 responses, so not necessarily representative of our wider community, but they do suggest that people's top concerns are: finding good advice and good contractors, and wanting to be more sustainable. There were also issues concerning high energy bills, not being warm enough and affording home upgrades. We would like to thank everyone who did respond.

The survey results can be found here: <https://talybontenergy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/talybont-energy-home-heating-survey-results.pdf> – we are now collaborating with the folks of Llangattock Green Energy to find ways we might be able to offer independent heat assessments and advice to our communities.

We are looking to fund a four week 'student' energy project based in our Talybont area this summer. We will select a project which researches or develops an idea which could either reduce our community's energy or generate new energy from a sustainable source. Projects proposed could be in any of the following areas: domestic heating, food, transport, material consumption, waste, fashion, resource sharing or leisure activities/tourism.

Applications are open to students or unemployed people aged 16–25 years who are either part or full residents in the Talybont area or have strong links with it. The funding will cover 20 days work carried out between July and September 2026 at a rate of £100/day. **Applications close on Monday March 23rd 2026 at 9am.** You can find out how to apply here: <https://talybontenergy.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/summer-student-advert-.pdf>

Latest news from Betsi and Willa, the two Crickhowell students running the new **Swapshop project**:

"Recently, we ran our Swapshop event where the community could exchange pre-loved clothes, helping reduce waste and promote sustainability. Alongside this, people were invited to bring unfinished sewing projects to work on together, encouraging creativity and skill-sharing. It was a lovely eco-friendly event that turned out really well and brought the community together."



Finally, the £2k grant which Talybont Energy donated to the Community Council helped support seven different community projects in 2025.

Contact us with any suggestions or questions at info@talybontenergy.co.uk

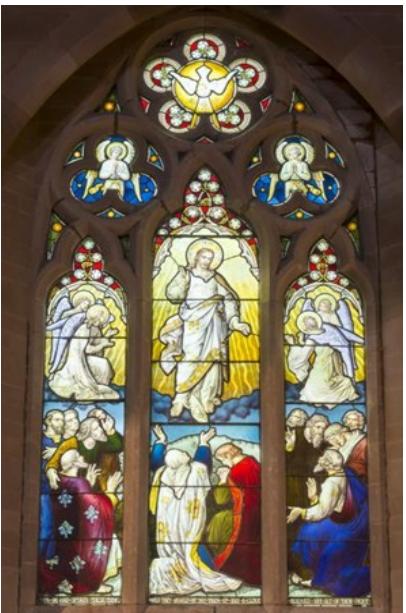
– Alison Kidd



News from Llansantffraed Church

In December we were delighted to welcome back the Gwent Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Stephen Broom and led by Julia Wakins, with soloist Lowri Probert. The sellout concert featured music by Handel, Mozart, Taverner and Berlioz, and also included an evocative rendition by Lowri of the traditional lullaby 'Suo Gân', made famous in *Empire of the Sun* (1987). Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this concert such a success. Our next concert will be a choral concert with poetry readings from the choir of Elstree School on 1st of May at 4pm.

December also gave us the opportunity to celebrate two of the Church's Victorian treasures at our carol service. The stained-glass altar window depicting the Ascension of Christ is contemporaneous with the church (1885) and was produced by the Soho-based firm Ward & Hughes, whose most famous work is probably the east window at Lincoln Cathedral (1855). Grateful thanks to Skyrme Electrical Fire & Security Solutions for their help in replacing the backlight which now illuminates the window to excellent effect at nighttime concerts. Thanks also go to Mrs Susan Williams who plays Llansantffraed's organ, built by the prestigious firm Harrison & Harrison



The altar window at Llansantffraed, The Ascension (Ward & Hughes, 1885)



St Brigid portrayed by artist Kathleen Verschoyle for Cuala Press in the 1920s. Photo: TCD

in 1900, with such skill. The organ was presented to the church by Mary Eleanor Gwynne Holford, wife of the then owner of Buckland Hall (and major benefactor of the church) JPW Gwynne Holford.

We will be holding two open houses in the early spring – loosely defined! – 2pm–4pm on the first Sundays of February and March, to mark St Brigid's (Ffraid is Welsh for Brigid) and St David's Days. We also look forward to a Mothering Sunday service on the 15th of March and an evening communion on Maundy Thursday during Holy Week.

RECENT EVENTS



Lowri Probert performed in front of a packed Llansantffraed Church with the Gwent Chamber Orchestra in December.



Talybont Living Nativity drew crowds through the village to Talybont Farm on Christmas Eve, led by the year's Holy Family, the Morgans. £360 was raised for DEC Gaza, and acknowledged with many thanks.



Church Notes

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

Revd Liz Bramley lizbramley@cinw.org.uk 01874 665267

Revd Jane de Gay janedegay@cinw.org.uk 01874 618485

Team leader Revd Dr Gill Todd gilltodd@cinw.org.uk 01874 610902

Ministry area website: www.breconandepyntma.org.uk

CHURCH SERVICES AT PRESENT

1st Sunday of the month

9.30am Holy Communion at Llanfrynnach

2nd Sunday of the month

9.30am Holy Communion at Llanfeugan

11am Family Church at the Henderson Hall

3rd Sunday of the month

10am Holy Communion at Cantref

4th Sunday of the month

10am Holy Communion/Morning Prayer at Llandetty

10am Holy Communion/Morning Prayer at Llanhamlach

5th Sunday of the month (when it occurs)

Services will vary – see local information

Palm Sunday 29th March 10am at Cantref

EASTER CHURCH SERVICES

Ash Wednesday 18th February

10am Communion, Llanfeugan

Mothering Sunday 15th March

10am Family Service, Llansantffraed

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

6pm Communion, Llansantffraed

Good Friday 3rd April

2pm The Last Hour, Llanfeugan

Easter Sunday 5th April

10am Communion, Llandetty

Interested in supporting Llansantffraed Church? Have an idea for how the church could be used? Time on your hands and looking for worthwhile activities locally? Get in touch: buttonwill2@hotmail.com

We are particularly keen to hear from young people in the community who are interested in developing their skills and interests by getting involved with Llansantffraed. For instance, this could be by using their creativity to promote activities at the church or through helping out at ticketed events, which is not only good fun, but also improves people skills.

Do also get in touch if you would like to play our one-hundred-and-twenty-five-year-old Harrison & Harrison organ.

FUTURE EVENTS



Sunday 1st February, 2–4pm

OPEN HOUSE to celebrate St Brigid's Day
Crafts, live music, refreshments.



Sunday 1st March, 2–4pm

ST DAVID'S DAY TEA and OPEN HOUSE

**YOU ARE ALL
VERY WELCOME!**

MORE DATES TO NOTE:

Sunday 26th April, 3pm

Henry Vaughan Choral
Evensong, Llansantffraed

Friday 1st May, 4pm

Choral Concert,
Llansantffraed





With thanks to Bomber Command Museum

In late evening on the 5th July 1942, a Vickers Wellington 1C bomber, Serial Number R1465, of 22 Operational Training Unit, took off from RAF Wellesbourne Mountford, near Stratford-upon-Avon. The crew of five was on a night navigation training exercise to the bombing range at Stert Flats on the Somerset coast. Its cruising speed was 200kts and the briefed height was 10,000 feet. The aircraft was armed with practice and incendiary bombs. After midnight, heavy, deep cloud was encountered. The subsequent unit inquiry concluded the pilot and observers were unsure of their exact position and were unaware the aircraft was approaching mountains. The pilot descended below the briefed height, probably to obtain a visual fix. As the aircraft descended below 2,500 feet over the Brecon Beacons, it struck a shoulder on Waun Rydd, Cwar y Griffin, and was smashed to pieces. All the crew, volunteer members of the Royal Canadian Air Force, perished. It was 0.30 hrs on 6th July 1942.

The crew members were:

Pilot: Flt Sgt John Beverley Kemp of Ontario, aged 21

Observer: Flt Sgt Edward Ernest Mittel of Ontario, aged 22

Observer: Sgt Kenneth Ferguson Yuill of Manitoba, aged 30

W.Op/Air Gunner: Flt Sgt Harold Crighton Beatty of Alberta, aged 27

Air Gunner: Sgt James Patrick Hayes of Manitoba, aged 22

They were buried in Hereford Cemetery in a joint grave, the plot being marked by five CWGC gravestones.

In 1980 a team of students from Tredegar Comprehensive School, led by teacher Brian O'Hannolan and moved by the sacrifice of the Canadian volunteers, toiled up the mountainside to reach the site of the crash four miles south of Talybont-on-Usk, MR SO 062200. It was easily identifiable by the remaining wreckage. There they built a permanent memorial from local stone that bears a plaque with the names of the airmen. This labour of love is often visited and especially every Remembrance Sunday. It is now recognised as an official Canadian War Memorial and has also been adopted by the Royal Air Force. Well done Tredegar Comp!

— Seamus Hamill-Keays BEM Sqn Ldr RAF(Rtd)

**Talybont Matters is a
Community Council Publication**

**This edition edited by:
David MacDonald**

Please email articles and suggestions to:
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.

