



# Talybont Matters

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**The Henry Vaughan Memorial Evensong**, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, Llansantffraed Church. Pictured are Revd Liz Bramley and the Choir of St Mary's Priory, Abergavenny, at the grave of poet Henry Vaughan for the wreath-laying. It was the Choir's twentieth visit, under their Director of Music, Tim Pratt (*News from Llansantffraed Church*, p.12).

*Photo courtesy of Mike Williams, Brecknock Society*

## Royal Marines Band in Concert

We are truly delighted to be able to welcome the Band of the Royal Marines to Henderson Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> May for a two-hour concert, performed in aid of the Brecon Mountain Rescue Service. Our Navy friends at the Royal Naval Outdoor Centre in Talybont-on-Usk have arranged for the full, fifty-strong band to come and perform for us in what will surely be a night to remember.

A full bar service will be available before the performance and during the interval, so come along and support our local Mountain Rescue Team, and marvel at the skill and spectacle that is the Royal Marine Band. Doors open at 1830.

Tickets cost £20 each, with all proceeds from the sales going to Mountain Rescue. They are available to buy in cash from Talybont Stores, the White Hart in Talybont and the Royal Oak in Pencelli. You can also request tickets via [treasurer.hendersonhall@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.hendersonhall@gmail.com) (See p.11).

**Issue 93**

Spring 2026



**HENDERSON HALL**      **TALYBONT ON USK**

# 200 CLUB WINNERS

**LATEST WINNERS MARCH 2026**

- £10 GAIL KINVIG (187)
- £10 STUART ISLES (115)
- £15 PAM BURDON (74)
- £15 CAROLINE DANBY (8)
- £25 BARBARA ANGLEZARKE (10)
- £35 ANNIE DIXON (8)
- £50 NEIL STARTIN / JIM MCCULLOCH (144)

**HENDERSON HALL 200 CLUB ESTD 2000**

**TALYBONT-ON-USK**

# Vintage & MAKERS Market

*Summer Special*

**FREE ENTRY!**

FOR THE BEST IN VINTAGE & HANDMADE DELIGHTS

FEATURING *Smith & John's* TEAROOM

**SATURDAY 25TH JULY 10-4**  
**HENDERSON HALL LD3 7YQ**




## Extending a Warm Community Welcome to Refugees at Henderson Hall

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2026

For the past four years Henderson Hall has been flying the flag for Ukraine and welcoming refugees into our community. Working alongside Hay, Brecon and Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees, two very successful welcome days have brought together over 150 refugees from around a dozen different countries, including Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Tunisia, Syria, Albania, Pakistan, Iran, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and, of course, Ukraine.

This year the Welcome Day will be held on **Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> July**. The programme for the day will run between 11am and 4pm, and include drinks and snacks on arrival, lunch, and tea and cakes. For activities there will be a walk through the community orchard or to the Henry Vaughan Garden, crafts and face painting for children, and more of the much-enjoyed outdoor games and activities – plus any other good ideas that are suggested!

Previous days saw all parts of the community very much involved in donating food, time and energy – Talybont shop and cafe, the pubs, Talybont WI, the Hall committee members and many enthusiastic individual volunteers. This year we are hoping for similar enthusiasm and generosity. So if you have any skills you would like to share, or if you would like to be there to help on the day, please do get in touch. We would also value any contributions of cakes or savoury food for the buffet lunch.

Your involvement, however large or small, will be very much appreciated by those who have had to leave their own homes and who have uncertain futures. Once again, we can work together as a community to show our hospitality and kindness, and give our guests another welcome of which we can all be proud.

– Rhiannon Davies

[rhiannon.aber@btinternet.com](mailto:rhiannon.aber@btinternet.com)

01874 676617 / 07940 961006





# TALYBONT-ON-USK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## A40 Crickhowell Roadworks – Phase 2 Reminder

Residents are reminded that essential roadworks on the A40 through Crickhowell are scheduled to take place from **27<sup>th</sup> April to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026**. The project includes carriageway resurfacing, drainage improvements and upgrades to footways. Due to the nature of the works, **traffic management will vary throughout the programme**.

Most activity will take place overnight (7pm–7am), when sections of the A40 will be fully closed. During the daytime, traffic will generally be managed using temporary traffic lights, which may cause delays. There will also be **full weekend closures** at certain points in May, when the road will be closed both day and night. Residents are advised to check signage and plan journeys in advance during these periods. A signed diversion route will be in place during full closures, directing traffic via **Brecon (A40), Merthyr Tydfil (A470) and Abergavenny (A465)** before rejoining the A40. This diversion is expected to add significant travel time.

## Talybont-on-Usk Energy Community Grants

For those who may not be aware, Talybont-on-Usk Energy Ltd owns and manages a community hydro scheme within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. Their 36kW hydroelectric turbine operates using compensation flow from Talybont Reservoir and was originally commissioned in 2006, becoming the first community hydro scheme in Wales. Following a seven-year period out of operation from 2016, while Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water undertook essential dam maintenance works, the turbine was successfully recommissioned in April 2023. Electricity generated by the scheme is sold via Octopus Energy, with the income reinvested into energy saving and sustainable living initiatives within our rural community.

This year, we are delighted to announce an increase in the grant funding made available to the Community Council, rising to £4,000 to support local projects. The Council is, as always, extremely grateful to Talybont-on-Usk Energy for their continued support. As this is 'hot off the press', further details regarding eligibility criteria and the application process will be shared shortly via every means possible. Residents are encouraged to keep an eye on the Community Council's website and Facebook page for updates.

## Saving Our Pencelli Phone Box – A Community Success

We are very pleased to share some positive news regarding the BT public telephone kiosk at Pencelli. Following representations made on behalf of the community, including detailed on-site evidence of mobile phone coverage, BT has now completed its formal regulatory review. We are delighted to report that BT has confirmed the kiosk does not meet Ofcom's criteria for removal, specifically because all four UK mobile networks are not available at this location. As a result, BT has confirmed that the Pencelli phone box will be retained and continue to operate.

This is a significant outcome and demonstrates the importance of local knowledge and community involvement. Evidence gathered locally showed that, in practice, only one mobile network provides a usable signal in the area. This has now been formally recognised by BT at regulatory level. Public phone boxes may be used less frequently than in the past, but in rural areas like ours they remain an important emergency lifeline, particularly where mobile coverage is unreliable.

We would like to thank everyone who supported this effort, including those who assisted with checking mobile coverage and raising awareness of the issue. We will continue to keep the community informed of any future developments.

## Annual Litter Pick Volunteer

We are looking for a volunteer to run the annual litter picking group. The Community Council has all the necessary equipment and would love to hear from you. If you are interested please email the Clerk at [talybontcc@gmail.com](mailto:talybontcc@gmail.com)



# JOIN THE FUN!

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

for the  
**TALYBONT ON USK  
SHOW COMMITTEE**



**Your village show needs you.**

Do you have an interest in joining Talybont on Usk show committee. We are a tiny committee that only meets a few times a year, your support is needed.



To volunteer or for further information contact Lettie Francis, [lettie.osborne@icloud.com](mailto:lettie.osborne@icloud.com)



# TALYBONT FLICKS

## Henderson Hall

Talybont Flicks is a community-run film night, showing a film each month in a relaxed, welcoming setting. It is open to all, entry is £4 (cash only) and screenings start at 7.30pm – an easy and affordable way to enjoy good cinema locally. Please see below for dates and film titles for the upcoming year:

May 6<sup>th</sup>, **The Truth about Cats and Dogs** stars Uma Therman and Janeane Garofalo. A comedy about a witty veterinarian who hosts her own radio show, but is lacking in confidence when it comes to men. She asks for some help from her friend and the resulting chaos sets off a series of hilarious dates.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Tortilla Soup** A delicious slice of life comedy about a gourmet chef and his three beautiful daughters. A feast for the heart as well as the plate.

July 1<sup>st</sup>, **Captain Corelli's Mandolin** stars Nicolas Cage, Penélope Cruz and John Hurt. A true classic – book and film.

August – no film.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Take the Lead** Antonio Banderas stars in this electrifying dance drama. Trying to engage with troubled kids, he takes a genuine interest in their hip hop dancing and, alongside his ballroom skills, a new style of dancing is formed, taking them to a national competition.

October 7<sup>th</sup>, **Goodnight Mister Tom** starring John Thaw. An adaption of the prize-winning children's novel.

November 4<sup>th</sup>, **Mrs Henderson Presents** starring Judi Dench and Bob Hoskins. Set in 1937, a woman of wealth and just widowed decides to buy the Windmill Theatre. When business starts to fail, she has the idea to put naked girls on the stage.

## WELSH LEARNERS' CORNER CORNEL Y CYMRAEG



Croeso bawb! Here are this issue's Welsh phrases for you to practise – a little play with the future tense, Mwynheuwch (enjoy)! Croeso cynnes (a warm welcome) to you to join us at our weekly meet ups in the White Hart, every Friday at 10.30am -12pm. Come along and use your Welsh. If you are interested in learning Welsh also keep an eye on the Learn Welsh website ([learnwelsh.cymru](http://learnwelsh.cymru)) for courses that will be coming up in this area. There will be two-day summer courses for all levels at the end of June/beginning of July and new, 30-week courses starting in September. Diolch yn fawr iawn Rhian

Beth fyddet ti'n wneud? – Beth-futh-ate-teen-wer-nay-d? – What will you be doing? [informal/familiar]

Beth fyddwch chi'n wneud? – Beth futh-er-ch\*-heen-wer-nay-d? – What will you be doing? [formal/group]

Bydda i'n mynd i'r gwaith ddydd Llun. – Buth-ah-een-min-d-eer-g-why-th-thee-th-ll\*\*-een – I will be going to work on Mondays.

Bydd y dosbarth yn nofio yn y pwll ddydd Mawrth. – Beeth-ur-dos-bar-th-un-nov-fi-o-un-ur-pu-ll\*\*-thee-th-mour-th – The class will be swimming in the pool on Tuesdays.

Bydd e'n darllen llyfr ddydd Mercher. – Beeth-en-dar-ll\*\*-en ll\*\*-ifr-thee-th-Mer-ch\*-er. – He will be reading on Wednesdays.

Bydd hi'n mynd i'r archfarchnad ddydd Iau. – Beeth-heen-min-d-eer-ar-ch\*-far-ch\*nad-thee-th-ee-yai – She will be going to the supermarket on Thursdays.

Byddwn ni'n mynd i'r archfarchnad ddydd Gwener. – Buth-thurn-neen-min-d-eer-ar-ch\*-far-ch\*-nad-thee-th-Gwen-er – We will be going to the supermarket on Fridays.

Byddan nhw'n mynd ar wyliau dydd Sul. – Buth-than-new-n-min-d-ar-will-ee-eye-dee-th-seal – They will be going on holiday on Sunday.

Byddi di'n chwarae pêl-droed ddydd Sul. – Buth-thee-deen-ch\*wa-rai-pell-droid-thee-th-seal – You will be playing football on Sundays. [informal/familiar]

Byddwch chi'n aros adre wythnos nesaf. – Buth-er-ch\*-heen-a-ross-ad-dre-oith-noss-nes-af – You will be staying home next week.

\*pronounced as in loch \*\*pronounced by putting your tongue to the roof of your mouth and blowing down the side – you just need to practise this one!



# HENDERSON HALL 200 CLUB



JOIN US FOR A CHANCE TO WIN  
AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL  
VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES

## Register

### EASY SIGN UP

- Only £10 per year
- Flexible payment
- Pay by BACs, Cash or Standing Order

## Win

### DRAWS EVERY QUARTER

- 4 chances to win every year
- 7 prizes each draw
- Top prize of £50

## Support

### LOCAL SUPPORT

- All money goes to the up keep of our village hall
- Registered Charity
- Supporting local community events

To sign up now or for more information -  
Email: [HendersonHall200club@gmail.com](mailto:HendersonHall200club@gmail.com)



## Henderson Hall Trust Fund

Registered Charity No 518549

### 200+ Club - Membership information

Thank you for considering supporting Henderson Hall. Subscriptions are £10 per annum per number payable in advance. Each member will be allocated one number per £10 subscription. There is no limit to how many numbers a member may purchase. Prize draws will take place quarterly at Henderson Hall in Dec, Mar, Jun and Sep. The quarterly prize draws will be £50, £35, £25, 2 x £15 & 2 x £10. All prize winners will be notified by email. All profits will belong to the Henderson Hall Trust Fund and used at their sole discretion. In the event of any disputes arising, the decision of the Henderson Hall Trust Fund will be final.

Title:	Forename:	Surname:
Address:		
Postcode:	No. of 200 Club numbers required:	
email:	Phone No:	
I wish Gift Aid to apply to all subscriptions & donations I make from the day of declaration (22p for each £1 donated). I confirm that I pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount to which I will give to all charities & Community Sports Clubs this year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT & Council tax do not qualify.		
Signature:	Date:	

Please return completed form to: Henderson Hall Trust Fund, Attn Treasurer, Glynderi, Talybont-on-Usk, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7YP or email to: [HendersonHall200club@gmail.com](mailto:HendersonHall200club@gmail.com)

□

### BACS info/Standing Order Form (to be detached & sent to member's bank)

Bank name and address:	
Date:	
Please pay to the credit of Henderson Hall Trust Fund, Sort code 51-81-27, Account no. 02105209 at NatWest, 28 High Street Superior, Brecon, LD3 7LF, using the reference "200 Club" and your name.	
The sum of _____ on _____ (date) and continue to pay annually on the anniversary until I notify you to cancel.	
Signature:	
Forename:	Surname:
Address:	
Sort Code:	Account number:





### 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

### 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

### 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



## Chapel Services

Aber and Benaiah are two independent Congregational Chapels. A service is held in each once a month at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome to sing traditional hymns, listen to an interesting address, meet people and have an hour of quiet reflection.

### Aber

May 10<sup>th</sup> Mrs Penny Robinson  
June 1<sup>st</sup> Mr Paul Rowe  
July 12<sup>th</sup> Mrs Liz Tadd  
August 9<sup>th</sup> Rev Liz Matthews

### Benaiah

May 31<sup>st</sup> Mrs Liz Tadd  
June 21<sup>st</sup> Rebecca Games  
July 26<sup>th</sup> Rebecca Games  
August 23<sup>rd</sup> Mr Paul Edwards

## Talybont on Usk and District WI



It always amazes me how seemingly ordinary women in our community are doing amazing things. This was demonstrated by our speaker in February – Karen Davies, who grew up in Abergavenny and now lives in Sennybridge. She rekindled our memories of growing up in the 70s, doing many of the things that we did and following the same pop bands that we loved too! However, she went on to have a diverse career which went from singing to being a crime detective with the police.

Karen started her working life singing on cruise ships and travelling the world. This led on to her singing for the troops in war zones. She went from witnessing one extreme of life to another. Eventually she wanted a more settled life, but didn't know what to do. Almost by chance she decided to apply to work for the police in the North of England. This resulted in a full career leading her to become a crime detective investigating serious crimes such as child abuse. However, she went on to say, "When life threw a curve ball at my detecting career everything changed, but somehow the ebb and flow of wild water has helped me to regain some equilibrium." She returned to Wales and took up wild swimming. She has since been actively raising money through swimming challenges. Her latest in 2027 is the Statue of Liberty Swim Challenge on behalf of Velindre Cancer Centre.



*WI volunteers Kathy and Debbie litter picking on the Usk ready for the return of the Ospreys. Anne, also present, had taken the photograph.*

March, we had a talk from Major Andy Butcher, the Commandant of Sennybridge camp. He talked about how the boy who skipped school, leaving with no qualifications, went on to complete an MA in Russian History and have a diverse and exciting Army career. Andy's now working towards bringing three elements of Sennybridge together: the town, the camp and the Epynt. He too was a most interesting speaker.

Finally, in April we welcomed Heather Maling to speak to us. Another local lady who has done amazing things. She told us of her discovery after her father's death of an envelope file filled with his story of his survival during World War II. He was the only survivor of a Wellington Bomber that fell over Yugoslavia. He parachuted out of his plane, landing in occupied territory. He was lucky to be alive and luckier still to be found by a Partisan. He was then protected and helped to escape over 200 miles. The story didn't stop there though because Heather decided to visit the place, now in Croatia, to find and retrace her father's story. She was helped in her quest by a local Croatian lady who wrote a letter of introduction, which resulted in a group of people meeting her and guiding her throughout the journey, 75 years after her father's in 1944. She has written a book using the story her father had written, woven together with her own story of discovery. It is called *Joining the Caterpillar Club*. The title refers to those who owe their survival to a silk parachute.

What a great start to the year it has been. The next three months look to be just as interesting:

May: Another local lady, Caroline Danby, is to talk about her life in horticulture.

June: Dave Phillips will talk about his life as a Beefeater.

July: Our annual trip. Destination yet to be confirmed.

Please join us if you would like. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month in Henderson Hall at 7pm.



We recently enjoyed a meal in the Royal Oak to say thank you and a reluctant farewell to three of our long serving Talybont Energy Directors: Hilary Williams, Simon Baldwin and Guy Hope. We reminisced over significant moments in our

20+ year history, including our TV moment when the First Minister switched the turbine on in 2006 (this is available to view online at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCipLQYAi4&t=278s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCipLQYAi4&t=278s)).

Looking forward, we are keen to recruit a few new Directors – particularly younger members of our community and someone with experience working with schools to help build on our engagement with local schools on energy saving and learning activities through the UK Energy Sparks Platform ([energysparks.uk](http://energysparks.uk)). We are currently supporting Llangynidr Primary School and Ysgol Penmaes. Please get in touch if this opportunity is of interest.

We are delighted to have awarded two paid student projects this summer. Building on their popular Swapshop project, Willa-Rose Callender and Betsi Craig plan to run a series of community activities this summer sharing new and old creative skills which can save energy and enable people to experience a fun side of living more sustainably.

On a completely different topic, numerous homes in our community have installed heat pumps in the past few years. Student, Osian James, is going to explore different people's experience of this process – *what did they find easy or difficult? What worked well and maybe not so well? And what would their advice be to others?* We will share these results (anonymously) with the community this autumn. Do get in touch if you have heat pump experiences to share!

Our good friends at Llangattock Green Valleys have invited us to collaborate with them on their excellent Home Energy Service. It offers a range of help, from thermal imaging surveys, borrowing a DIY kit for measuring your home energy consumption, up to an £80 'Home Walk and Talk' visit with an independent, Trustmark endorsed Energy Retrofit Assessor. **This service is now open to all residents in our Talybont district area.** For more information or to book a kit or home visit, see [www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org/your-energy-saving-service-yess](http://www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org/your-energy-saving-service-yess) Llangattock Green Valleys need volunteers for a one-day training course in operating their thermal camera to assist with such surveys. Could you help?

Meanwhile, we are looking into possible initiatives on growing local, sustainable food, reducing food waste and exploring ways of sharing food together. If you are interested, please get in touch with us. We plan to run a local food 'potluck supper' in the summer in Henderson Hall to enjoy eating good food together, and sharing people's interests and ideas on this important topic.

Finally, we have raised our 2026 donation to the Community Council to £4k for them to support small community projects which aren't necessarily related to energy. As always, contact us with any questions or to tell us your areas of interest: [info@talybontenergy.co.uk](mailto:info@talybontenergy.co.uk)

– Alison Kidd

## TEA and CHAT

The group continues to thrive. They meet on the first Monday of the month at 3pm in the Henderson Hall for a social hour. All seniors are welcome to help with the serving or sit and enjoy tea and cake.

### Dates:

May 4<sup>th</sup> (Bank Holiday)  
June 1<sup>st</sup>  
July 6<sup>th</sup>  
August 3<sup>rd</sup>



# ROYAL MARINES BAND CONCERT



IN SUPPORT OF

◆ BRECON MOUNTAIN RESCUE ◆

◆ 21 MAY 2026 • 1900 - 2100 ◆

HENDERSON HALL • TALYBONT ON USK

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:  
TALYBONT STORES & THE WHITE HART INN

TICKETS  
**£20**

[treasurer.hendersonhall@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.hendersonhall@gmail.com)



## News from Llansantffraed Church



Ceremony at the graveside of Henry Vaughan

The **Henry Vaughan Memorial Evensong** on the 26th of April was a great success. It was the twentieth visit from the Choir of St Mary's Priory, Abergavenny, under their Director of Music, Tim Pratt. Beautiful music filled the church. The anthem 'It was a bank of flowers', with Vaughan's poetry put to music composed by Tim, was particularly lovely. There were good sales of the CD, *On a Silent, Shady Green* – musical settings of Vaughan's poetry recorded by the choir of St Mary's Priory at Llansantffraed last year. Vaughan's poem 'Jacob's Pillar and Pillow' was the focus of the service – 'But blessed Jacob, though thy sad distress / Was just the same with ours, and

nothing less' Dr Oliver Peel from the University of Durham gave an inspiring and insightful address exploring the message of the poem and its timeless relevance, reminding the congregation of the challenge of living in the moment, with reference to his own experience as a young father. The service concluded with a reading of Siegfried Sassoon's poem 'At the Grave of Henry Vaughan', written after Sassoon stopped in Llansantffraed in 1924. This will be a busy week at Llansantffraed as we look forward to a choral concert from the Choir of Elstree School, Berkshire, 'A Presentation from Music through the Seasons' at 4pm on Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>. Glasnant Morgan has also kindly agreed to sing at this concert. This will be followed by refreshments at Llansantffraed House, by kind invitation of the Inglis and Ziegler families.

**Mrs Gerard Finch Dawson and *The Churches of Brecknockshire (1909)***. Many thanks to Felicity Kilpatrick, archivist of Christ College, for highlighting the connection between the church and this wonderful book. An article published in Brycheiniog, the highly regarded journal of the Brecknock Society, in 1971 by WE Griffiths asks 'Who was Mrs Dawson?' It is a fascinating read which traces the author's research to identify precisely who was the author of this excellent, and now very rare, guide to the many churches of the county. Her chapter on Llansantffraed contains interesting information provided by the then Rector, Re. M. Powell Williams, on Sant Ffraid (Brigid), the early history of the church and its rebuilding in 1884 to 'form a very pretty figure in the landscape.'

As to who indeed Mrs Dawson was, it turns out that Llansantffraed Church was her very own church, as she lived at Scethrog House and was remembered much later, in 1949, by the postmistress in Scethrog as 'a tall lady who walked a lot and wrote books.'



Mrs Gerard Finch Dawson

### RECENT EVENTS

The **Henry Vaughan Choral Evensong** at a beautifully decorated Llansantffraed Church on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> April gave us a thought-provoking sermon by Dr Oliver Peel from Durham, and beautiful music from St Mary's Priory Choir, Abergavenny, under their award-winning leader, Tim Pratt – their 20<sup>th</sup> visit to Llansantffraed!



### FUTURE EVENTS

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY - the end of Christian Aid Week**  
ALL WELCOME  
**QUIZ FOR CHRISTIAN AID**



3pm at Richard Podger's  
Dros y Sir, Cefn Cantref  
01874 622160

Come along with friends, test your knowledge, enjoy a cup of tea, and give a donation.



The exhaustive research outlined in the Brycheiniog article establishes that Mrs Gerard Finch Dawson was born as Dora Harriet Goodrich at Maisemore Court in Gloucestershire in 1845. A brass plaque in the nave of the church was erected by her in memory of her husband, a barrister, her young grandson who died in India, and her son, who all predeceased her.

If you are interested in reading the chapter from *The Churches of Brecknockshire*, I have a scanned version I am happy to share – Will Hutton, [huttonwill2@hotmail.com](mailto:huttonwill2@hotmail.com)

*On a Silent, Shady Green* is available for £10 from Mervyn Bramley, [mervyn.bramley@icloud.com](mailto:mervyn.bramley@icloud.com)

## Church Notes

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

Revd Liz Bramley [lizbramley@cinw.org.uk](mailto:lizbramley@cinw.org.uk) 01874 665267

Revd Jane de Gay [janedegay@cinw.org.uk](mailto:janedegay@cinw.org.uk) 01874 618485

Team leader Revd Dr Gill Todd [gilltodd@cinw.org.uk](mailto:gilltodd@cinw.org.uk) 01874 610902

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

### CHURCH SERVICES AT PRESENT

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

9.30am Holy Communion at Llanfrynach

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

9.30am 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/Morning Prayer at Llandetty

10am Holy Communion/Morning Prayer at Llanhamlach

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

Services will vary – see local information

*All are welcome to our services and events.*

*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.breconadnepyntma.org.uk](http://www.breconadnepyntma.org.uk) and on our Facebook page, Churches around Talybont.*

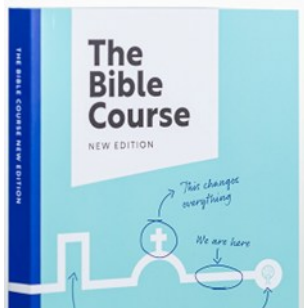
## FUTURE EVENTS (Cont.)

### COMING IN JUNE to the Henderson Hall

What is the world's best selling book? Yes, the Bible.

This new course from Scripture Union gives a complete overview and uses video clips with cutting edge technology to take us to some of the places mentioned, with short talks and discussion.

Whether your knowledge is a bit hazy, or you have a lot to share, come along and find out more about how it all fits together.



### SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY, 3PM

#### HARP AND POETRY CONCERT Llansantffraed Church

“Usk Voices” with the poets Christopher Meredith and Paul Henry, and harpist Martha Powell.

Tickets £15 on sale mid-May, via the Brecknock Society and Llansantffraed Church.



More details tbc on social media and local posters.

**YOU ARE VERY WELCOME AT ALL EVENTS!**



## Reconstructions of Carn Pica

The year in which the beehive cairn was built on the Carn Pica Bronze Age site at the eastern rim of Waun Rydd is not known. Scrutiny of OS map symbols suggests it was after 1953. No record of its construction has been found at the Brecon Beacons National Park, established in 1957, so a reasonable guess is in the late 1950s.

The beehive is drystone. It commands a superb view and has become well visited, sometimes to recall a personal adventure. John Inns, of Crickhowell Adventure, was a famous hillwalker and often went there. He became saddened that the beehive was gradually falling apart. He died in 2007 and a collection was made at his funeral. A professional, Stuart Iles, was engaged to rebuild it as a memorial to John, with help from Richard Preece, Andrew Thorne and others. The artistic rebuild was an astonishing achievement given the exposure to adverse weather and access to the site. It was a perfect example of the style.

In early 2012 there were reports of a partial collapse of the cairn, with ice or lightning damage being the most likely cause. Once more, over the years, the beehive deteriorated. The cairn did not have the integration of a drystone wall, and stones were split and blown off the upper courses. In 2018, Stuart, unpaid, organised a team from Talybont to once more restore Carn Pica, this time from the ground up. This endeavour took until Spring 2025 to complete to Stuart's satisfaction. He worked with minimal financial support, but with willing local volunteers: Richard Preece, Sam Westcott (Stuart's nephew), Michael and Claire Wright, Les Williams, Jon Young and logistical support from Glasnant Morgan, assisted by Hugh and Eifion. Thanks also to Sam Harpur and the National Park for their financial support.

– Seamus Hamill-Keays & Stuart Iles



**Talybont Matters is a  
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**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.

