A MURDER which shocked the small, close-knit community of Llanddewi Brefi 13 years ago is to be re-lived in a television drama.

The S4C series "Dilyn Ddawe: Esgyn Gyda'r Llunedd", on 27 April investigates the death of popular John Williams and the effect it had on the village.

And a host of locals agreed to take part in the programme to recall that fateful night of 23 January 1983.

When the story first broke, one reporter from Pontrhydfendigaid had complete writer's block – for he knew the victim.

Lyn Ebenezer, now a well-known broadcaster based in Aberystwyth, has more than 200 books about different murders. But he added: "These books deal with people I don't know. It was a shock when suddenly someone I knew had been murdered. I just couldn't write about the story."

Lyn recalled: "I would often come across John and he'd usually be drinking cider because it kept rheumatism away, or so he claimed. "He had a very quick wit and he was always surrounded by people.

"He liked to be at the centre of things and he had a vast knowledge about a wide range of subjects. "He was a very dear, modest man, who didn't have an enemy in the world. He was the last man on earth I imagined would be murdered."

A man called Richard Gambrel was eventually charged and found guilty of the murder.

And programme director Catrin Davies, from production company Cwpan, has her own memories of the court case.

She said: "Around 200 people had gathered in Lampeter for the remand hearing. People who were usually so unassuming had been suddenly overcome with rage."

John, known locally as John "Brynambor", is played in the programme by Andrew "Felindre" Jones from Cwman.

And actor Geoffrey Morgan plays Pat Molloy, the CID chief who was in charge at the time.

But many locals agreed to take part as themselves after being assured that John's sister, Elizabeth Hughes, was not against the idea.

Among those taking part are publican Cledwyn Davies and his son Glyn, PC Owen Lake, John's nephew David John, and brothers John and Davyd Jones from Nantllwyd.