



REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you to all who attended the Harvest Supper on Saturday 7th October and of course to the kitchen ladies for producing a lovely meal. The regular Pop up coffee mornings are continuing to be successful as are the Friday nights at the Wander Inn. We now have a pool table that makes these dark winter evenings more jolly.

The Young Farmers did a splendid job arranging the Christmas Market on Friday 24th November and the Tractor Run on Saturday 9th December was once again a roaring success. Despite their youth (the events as well as the Young Farmers!), both events are expected to be on the 2024 calendar.




Julie and Peter Frances from Llandinam brought their unique brand of entertainment and encouragement to us all to Sing! (loudly!). Those of us not in the Christmas spirit beforehand certainly were afterwards! Alison, my wife, played the piano. Much appreciation to all to took part. And apologies for only showing Nigel's legs. (Are these your best bits Nigel?!)

The Quiz Night on December 15th was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thanks to John Schofield and Marilyn who helped with questions, scoring, organisation and marketing.

We hope to run some if not all these events again next year.
No excuses – diaries out!

Logo:

After

- extensive market research (none)
- user group polling (I asked Mrs B)
- and studies into what makes a good logo (looked it up once on  Google)

we (I) have introduced the new ACA logo.

There is some logic in it all. The colour green is us around here isn't it? Well maybe it is when the sun comes out. And the shape? Take a look at the Aberhafesp Community (electoral) Ward map for inspiration. It's shaped a bit like Italy but with quad bikes and sheep instead of Lambretta's and pizzas.

Talking of pizzas.... **2024**

We all hope you enjoy a peaceful and prosperous 2024. We share in the wish for some good sense and stability out there in the wider world. I'm not holding my breath though at the moment.

Brightening things up here, the following (hopefully) events and things are at various stages of planning:

- ceilidh
- spud in a bucket competition
- pizzas (?) at the Wander-Inn
- bi-monthly card and bingo night
- bi-monthly quiz night
- badminton
- some music and/or theatre

and the launch of the ACA website.

OpenReach

OpenReach is part of the BT near monopoly. Don't you just love 'em. At the sharp end, their people are fine. (I have to say that; my nephew works for them.) Corporately though, I'm not so sure.

They are installing fibre optic lines which will be used by the various telecoms companies to provide ultra-high speed broadband around here. Exactly where though is a lottery, the patchy nature of availability being in part influenced by existing equipment and capacity, but also partly due to community pressure. Have a look [here](#) at the UK Government's Project Gigabit page and see if you can work out what it is all about. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/project-gigabit-uk-gigabit-programme>

If you are in Tregynon, happy days. An SY16 3EJ postcode will allow you into the world of up to 1000mbps download speeds (i.e. very fast) now. Likewise, if you have a SY16 3HT postcode (around the Community Centre area), you too can obtain ultra-high speed broadband straight away.

On the other hand, if you are (like me) in Bwlch-y-Ffridd, you will have to wait: "Build planned between now and Dec-2026". A meeting is planned with the Association, OpenReach and Powys CC, so watch this space along with OR's availability checker here:

<https://www.openreach.com/fibre-checker>

Regarding new stuff happening to keep you all informed about local events being planned, there is serious progress being made on the new ACA website which will launch soon.

Very best wishes for a happy and successful 2024.

John Bateson: Chair

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SHORT MAT BOWLS



We began our 2023/24 season in September by welcoming two new players, bringing our total of players to twenty with each session being well attended. So far, we have played four matches in the Sir Drefaldwyn League and have entered teams in the Singles, Pairs and Triples Saturday competitions. The winners from these games will play in the finals to be held at Aberhafesp in February 2024. *Elaine Benbow 01686 625586*

LOCATIONS OF OUR THREE LOCAL REGISTERED DEFIBRILLATORS AND PROCEDURES



To access the AED box you have to **Phone 999 or 112**
Request an ambulance and tell them your location (see below for post code of the nearest defibrillator) Ambulance control will give you a
CODE to open the defibrillator box
Follow the instructions. Paramedics will be on the way to administer the next stage of the resuscitation process.
Due to insurance purposes the Code is not displayed on the boxes

**ENTRANCE TO HILLCREST,
ABERHAFESP SY16 3JR**

**ON THE WALL OUTSIDE THE
COMMUNITY CENTRE SY16 3HT**

INSIDE THE OLD PHONE BOX IN BWLCH-Y-FFRIDD SY16 3HX

ABERHAFESP YOUNG FARMERS

Aberhafesp YFC have had a busy time getting ready for our Christmas market held for the community along with arranging our tractor run. We'd just like to thank everyone that came to support these events and look forward to organising the same in future years!

Our Christmas market had over 10 stalls from local businesses, people and members selling lots of different items ready for Christmas, and the Wander Inn as ever were lovely hosts and got everyone ready to start the festive season.

Onto our tractor run, what a night! Over 33 tractors, 26 stewards and lots of lights. A night to remember with still some money to be counted we are over £2,000 money raised for the Lingen Davies Montgomeryshire branch, along with our club! Again, we really appreciate the support for our events and to raise such big amounts for great causes. You can see some videos of our Tractor Run on our [Facebook Page](#)

Our members have enjoyed some club nights last couple of months, and look forward to some time off over the Christmas holidays before the February festival and public speaking in the new year!



Aberhafesp YFC have had a great year again, growing from strength to strength, but to continue to be a youth movement in this area we need your continued support at our events. Please promote our club to encourage more members to join, and continue to be involved in whatever way.

We look forward to another year of YFC and we wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Gemma Owen: Secretary

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ST GWYNOG'S CHURCH

We continue our services which are held on the first Sunday of the month at 9am (Holy Communion) and the third Sunday at 9.30am (Morning Prayer) and we look forward to welcoming you. We also hold an 11am short service on the second & fourth Wednesdays of the month. Morning Prayer on second Wednesday and Holy Communion on fourth Wednesday.

We held our joint service with Rhydfelin on the 29th October and celebrated Harvest together. The collection was in aid of the Salvation Army Food Bank and thanks to everyone's generosity we were able to send a wheelbarrow full of food & a cheque for £900. The afternoon ended with a very enjoyable harvest tea.

We were able to dodge the rain for our outdoor Remembrance service on 12th November. We were delighted that members of the Community were able to join us. We thank Pat for carrying the cross down to the Memorial and to Gerard for the commendation and the epitaph and Alwyn our trumpeter.



We continue to enjoy the Fairtrade coffee mornings each month. We will not be having a coffee morning in January but we are hoping to have our snowdrop teas in late January/February but no dates yet.

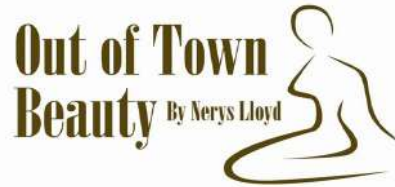
We would also like to thank all our helpers and cake providers who all work so hard during the year. We thank you for your help and continued support for the coffee mornings with the profit going to charity. Our next coffee morning will be on **3rd February** and we hope you are able to join us.

Thank you to everyone who helped & supported us at our Christmas services and to the community for supporting us over the past year.

Richard Bresnen: Vicar's Warden

richard.bresnen@gmail.com 01686 420208 / 07595 349940

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200 CLUB

Draw was made at the Harvest Supper on 7th October

£50	Sarah & Stephen	Aberhafesp
£25	Andrea Ford	Aberhafesp
£25	Ann Humphreys	Newtown
£25	John & Alwena	Aberhafesp
£25	Ankur Sharma	Aberhafesp
£25	Bronwen Williams	Trefeglys
£15	Maddy Thornton	Aberhafesp
£15	Sioned Wilson	Aberhafesp
£15	John & Alison Bateson	Bwychyfridd
£15	Meurig Jones	Aberhafesp

200 CLUB

Xmas Draw was made at a Popup Coffee Bar Friday

£100	Michael Davies	Aberhafesp
£75	John Richards	Llanwnog
£50	Ivor Lloyd	Bwlchyfridd
£50	Tricia Fleming	Aberhafesp
£25	John Shearer	Tregynon
£25	Barbara Jones	Hillcrest
£25	Liza & Barry Owen	Aberhafesp
£25	Lucy & Kate Benbow	Newtown
£25	Caroline Davies	Hillcrest
£15	Maddy Thornton	Aberhafesp
£15	Shaun Karen	Aberhafesp
£15	Rob Gallier	Bwlchyfridd
£15	Graham Green	Bwlchfridd
£15	Charley Pryce	Aberhafesp

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In October Aberhafesp WI had an interesting evening with Monty's Brewery who came along to share how they had started up and how the different ranges had evolved with opportunities to taste various brews along the way, a lot of fun was had by all and it was amazing to hear where it is supplied to.

Later in October several members attended the group meeting at Forden to see flower arranging demonstrations and an invitation was given to them to come along to the next group meeting at Aberhafesp in April 2024 when we have the privilege of hosting it.

Then in November at our AGM we had Dewi Morris from Severn River Trust who after an interesting talk about his work had us all making "wish boats" out of twigs and bits to be set sail on the river.



In December we got together to make table decorations / wreaths and had a fun time creating our masterpieces.

We hope to provide a varied programme for all and are happy to welcome new members to join our friendly group who meet on the first Thursday of the month in Aberhafesp Community Centre at 7pm, please do come along and meet us.

Stephanie Benbow, President, 01686 629572



The family of Ronnie Jones raised almost £4,000 for Hope House Children's Hospices by holding a fun day in Caersws Saturday 22nd July 2023

The family of an Aberhafesp baby who died aged just 15 months old have raised thousands for charity.

Ronnie was born with complex needs and received care at Hope House until he died in November 2021. His parents Alice and Lewis and brother and sister Dougie and Mina wanted to keep raising money to support the hospice which provided Ronnie and the family with care and support.

“Despite some bad weather, it was really well attended and everyone had a great time,” said Ronnie’s mum Alice.

“We lost Ronnie at 15 months and Hope House was there for us throughout that. They have been there for us from the beginning so we just wanted to do something to give back. Added to our running total, we have raised nearly £20,000 over the last two years which is a massive amount and we are really pleased with it.

We would like to thank fundraiser Bekki from Hope House for helping with anything we needed and all of our sponsors for this year’s event.”

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Aberhafesp Community Council covers the area of Aberhafesp, Bwlch-y-Fridd, Bethel and Rhyd-y-Felin.

A Community Council is governed by the Local Government Act of 1972. Here in Aberhafesp it consists of seven Councillors who sign a Declaration of Office and work on a voluntary basis for the good of the whole community. They are supported by a clerk who is employed to ensure the correct procedures are enforced and the smooth running of the Council in general. Meetings are held on a **Wednesday evening in the Community centre**, and members of the public can attend any meeting, unless otherwise specified.

Notice of each meeting

is displayed for three clear days giving the date, the time, and the agenda.

They are posted on the notice boards at Bwlch-y-Ffridd, Hillcrest Aberhafesp, the Community Centre and the telephone kiosk in Bethel.

Details of meetings can also be found on the Community Council [Facebook page](#) and the website aberhafesp.community-council.org.uk

You can access the latest *County Councillor monthly reports* as well as current *County planning applications*, where you can enter comments to support or object.

The decisions made at a meeting and also the attendees are posted on the website within a week of a meeting. The full minutes of meetings are only posted on the website after they have been approved by the Community Council which takes place at the start of the following meeting. For example minutes from a meeting in July would be approved in August, if a meeting was held then. If you have an item you wish to add to the agenda please contact the clerk Rachel Hamer aberhafespcommunitycouncil@hotmail.com

Come and just watch if you have an interest in anything on the agenda, or if you have anything you wish to bring to the attention of the council and you wish to speak at the meeting you need to ask the chairman.

MOTHERS' UNION

Aberhafesp Mothers' Union held their Summer Trip on July 20th 2023 and, as planned, visited the Mid Wales Arts Centre, Maesmawr, near Caersws.

We enjoyed a guided walk and talk both through the outdoor woodland and garden areas and the indoor exhibition of interesting and diverse artwork.

A beautifully presented afternoon tea was enjoyed afterwards surrounded by more interesting artwork which sparked lots of conversation. It was a most enjoyable afternoon.

On August 13th Aberhafesp Mothers' Union held a Strawberry Tea at St.Gwynog's Church from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Seasonal and tasty strawberries were enjoyed alongside a variety of savoury and sweet items. No fixed entrance fee was charged but donations were gratefully accepted and the proceeds were given to Montgomery Family Crisis Centre.

September's Mothers' Union was held on 21st of the month in the church room at St.Gwynog's Church. Helen Davies gave an interesting and informative talk about the aims and work of Lingen Davies Fund, the current fund-raising campaign and events of the Live Life cancer awareness programme to promote early diagnosis. She also outlined the Powys Cancer Champion project and how to become a Powys Cancer Champion.

The planned Mothers' Union meeting for October 2023 was cancelled since the speaker from Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre was unable to attend. The meeting was held as a social event where lots of conversation took place over tea and biscuits.

November 2023 brought the MU (Diocese of St Asaph) WAVE OF PRAYER-Journey of Transformation to St.Gwynog's Church. On Sunday November 19th at 2:00pm Aberhafesp received the Wave of Prayer from Bettws Cedewain MU. The short service prayed for personal and spiritual transformation and for transformation within Mothers' Union. Aberhafesp MU branch passed on the Wave of Prayer to the Rhyl branch.

Early in the New Year a MU Committee Meeting is planned in order to arrange a diary of events for 2024. We continue to invite anyone who would like to join Aberhafesp Mothers' Union to get in touch.

Barbara Moelwyn-Williams: Tel. 01686627329

Aberhafesp Mothers' Union Committee Member



DRIVING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



LOOKING FOR DRIVING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP COLLECT SURPLUS FOOD FROM LOCAL SUPERMARKETS

Volunteer drivers play a fundamental role in the running of Newtown Food Surplus. They collect surplus food from local organisations supporting our community, which is then distributed during our foodshares.

A driving licence is all you need to collect food, we've also got a van, we just need you!

What you will be doing

Collecting surplus food from collection points and delivering it to our Hub for distribution at our Foodshares in Newtown every Monday and Friday. Collections are daily during the day and in evenings from supermarkets in Newtown and Welshpool.

You will be a friendly face of Newtown Food Surplus, interacting with the supermarkets, making sure that the collections are completed and working with our Hub Team volunteers to unload collections at our unit on St Giles Ind. Est.

The skills you need

Driving volunteers must be at least 18 years old and hold a full driving licence. You must be insured if using your own vehicle to help us. We have our own policy in place to sign if using our company van and not your own vehicle. Details & policy to be discussed should you express interest in driving our vehicle.

Positive, friendly, flexible, adaptable and committed to helping a worthy cause. Able to perform physical tasks, lifting, loading and organising. Volunteers can choose how many hours they are happy to commit to a week, a regular commitment would be preferred, so we can plan our rota and food collections accordingly.

The benefits for you

A chance to meet new people, building relationships with local supermarkets, volunteers and the public. Actively ensuring that good food is not wasted and gets into the hands of the people who need it.

Contribute to your local community, build your confidence and feel a sense of purpose. Travel expenses are refunded back to you for using your own vehicle.

Volunteers will be supported by our friendly team & will be signed up to our volunteer reward system. Which can amount to free cinema and bowling tickets!

We urgently need evening volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact us at: info@nfs.wales or call us on 07975594647



THANK YOU
VOLUNTEERS

We couldn't do it without you



THE GAME CHANGE PROJECT



This project is based at Llwydcoed Mill, Aberhafesp and helps young people who struggle in mainstream education to improve confidence and wellbeing by taking part in practical activities.

36 local teenagers attend weekly sessions to learn about animal care, equine handling, mechanics and land based skills.

In November 2023, the project appeared on ITV Coast and Country and we were overwhelmed by the support and lovely messages received following the programme. We were very proud of our young participants who were naturals on camera.

We are very grateful to have received kind donations from Aberhafesp Community Council and Knit & Natter Newtown to help support our cause. We are also grateful for corporate donations received from Jewson (building materials) Independent Slate Supplies (£100) TG Group (High vis, stationary, caps) The Works, Newtown (craft items) Morrisons & Tesco (food and groceries).

Thanks to grants from The Clothworkers Foundation and Hilltop Honey, we are now proud owners of a 14 seat minibus, which has already been put to good use transporting groups on visits to Vintage Voltage, Newtown and Newtown Fire Station. The bus also transported the toys donated to our Hope House Christmas appeal.

Projects Land Based Groups have been busy learning construction techniques using natural materials. Equine groups have been working hard with all the winter animal care, making fat balls for wild birds, making the flags for the bike run and making a giant Christmas card for children at Hope House.

Mechanics groups have taken down the marquee, decorated the fast track for the illuminated tractor run and worked on some rally karts purchased for the group to work on and drive.

We have also discussed topics like cost of living and the effects of peer pressure during weekly sessions.

If anyone would like to get involved with the project, please get in touch. We have vacancies for volunteers and new committee members to join our board of directors.

Sian Roberts, Project Manager 07766606276



GARDENING SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE

CONTACT: LEWIS JONES

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Email: greengreengrassgardener@gmail.com

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A.L.Benbow
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COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL HIRE

If you are arranging a family event, children's party, funeral tea, or a meeting, our community centre building, marquee and a gazebo are all available for hire. There is a fully functioning kitchen and a sound system which includes a hearing loop. Local residents are also able to hire tables and chairs for private off site functions. See below for contact details.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

Residents and friends of Aberhafesp, Bwlch-y-ffridd, Bethel, Rhyd-y-Felin and have submitted their email addresses to the compiler of this newsletter giving permission for the distribution of quarterly issues of the newsletter plus occasional emails giving additional local news and/or information. Consent for the use of personal details to be held for this purpose can be withdrawn at any time.

ABERHAFESP COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Newsletter Editor	Marilyn Bedworth mbedworth@gmail.com	07734329941
Community Centre: Chair	John Bateson johnfbateson@gmail.com	01686650830/ 07799881851
Community Centre: Treasurer	Cheryl Bridle cjbridle@hotmail.co.uk	07976262932
Community Centre Sec.	Janet Davies janetannd54@gmail.com	07796408900
Community Centre: Hall Bookings	Graham Green graham.green2@btinternet.com	01686 651225
Marquee/gazebo Hire	Nigel Hamer nigelhamer68@hotmail.com	01686 650702
Community Council Chair	Alwyn Nutting glascoed1@gmail.com	01686 650862
Young Farmers Chair	Jamie Owen jamesowen270998@gmail.com	07377341322
Young Farmers Sec. W.I. President	Gemma Owen gemlouowen@gmail.com Stephanie Benbow Stephaniebenbow@btinternet.com	07791466484 01686 629572
Mother's Union	Barbara Moelwyn-Williams b.moelwynwilliams@btinternet.com	01686 627329
Community Council website	aberhafesp.community.council.org.uk	

This newsletter can be accessed from both the website and our [Facebook](#) page

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of this newsletter will be published in April 2024. Please send any articles of interest to the editor (mbedworth@gmail.com) no later than the **20th March**.

Also: If you usually receive this newsletter as a printed copy through your letterbox and you have an email address please let the editor know so that we can save on the cost of printing.

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2024



**GOOD HEALTH AND
HAPPINESS TO ALL
OUR READERS**