



ABERHAFESP

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021 Edition

From the Editor: At the time of publishing this edition we do seem to have some more freedom. Hopefully this will continue and we will soon be able to enjoy a village social life once again.

COMMUNITY EVENT

We would just like to start by introducing ourselves, my name is Alice and my partner is Lewis, we have a little boy Ronnie and live at Beechgrove, Hillcrest. We have been living here since May 2020.

Our little boy Ronnie was born in July 2020, 10 weeks premature at 30 weeks, and with many health complications, and we have spent the majority of time in and out of hospital.

We want to celebrate everything he has come through to still be with us and enjoy his

First birthday the best way we can.

Obviously with everything going on at the moment it's quite difficult. We had planned for this to originally be in our garden but are now planning an event on the

Hillcrest green

keeping groups socially distanced in accordance with Welsh Government guidelines.

The theme will be 'Ronnie Street', as his favourite character is Elmo from Sesame Street, with lots of bright colours, we have planned a small soft play area, a few decorations and a teddy bears picnic style theme, with a few picnic blankets dotted about.

There will be snacks for the children, but you are welcome to bring something that can be put on the BBQ, and any drink for yourselves.

It has been a hard enough year for everyone, and we would love for Ronnie's birthday to be a celebration the whole community can get involved in.

Please pop by and say hello and join us in celebrating not only Ronnie's birthday, but getting through this year.

Saturday 24th July  **from 1.30pm**

Note: In the event of bad weather there will be some shelter provided.

Alice and Lewis Birch

COMMUNITY CENTRE

I am writing this in times which seem as strange and unusual as the weather. At least the plants seem to be getting their acts together, after a very dodgy start.

We have managed two meetings in the hall recently, socially distanced, masked and sprayed and gelled to the eyeballs. We have a protocol to follow, which is up in the foyer, and a “track & trace” register to fill in.

The first meeting was a W.I. routine one, on June 3rd, with no speaker, a catch up one after a long time off. Everyone was very pleased to meet up again and start planning for the future. The second was the AGM for the hall committee, the first for two years. When the time came to ask for nominations for the main offices, there was silence! Edward Parry, Joan Michel and I had expected this, so the meeting was then asked if they would be willing for us all to carry on. There was general agreement, so that is going to happen pro tem, and the rest of the committee have agreed to stay too. This will save rocking the boat at the moment. I must applaud Edward for keeping the finances in such good order, and Joan for getting us the grant from P.C.C. and another from PAVO for the gazebo. Also thanks to the community council for their help.

On a personal note, I have just visited my family in Warwickshire for the first time in eighteen months – quite a thrill! Another thrill was the driving down the M6 Toll, my favourite place for giving the car filters a blow out! The following day, my son drove me down to Calshot Castle, to enable the family to get together after nearly a year to scatter Chris’s ashes in the Solent. I think many families have had this kind of problem. We had a family picnic on the beach, in a place of Chris’s choosing – he was in the R.A.F. there as a very young man, and worked as cox on a motor torpedo boat, and loved the place.

Not so good was the traffic south of Oxford, the A34 being manic. Luckily my son is adept at using the sat nav, so we had no trouble in getting through Southampton, and finding the place. As with many other cities, such as Birmingham and Durham, it is now far more complicated, and Chris’s brother was two hours late as he got lost! What a joy to live up here – makes our traffic seem a breeze.

We do hope things will get back to a new kind of normal now at the hall, albeit gradually. It should happen as the 18+ people get vaccinated. Do try to have an enjoyable summer, and hope that we can all meet up again soon without restrictions.

Maddy Thornton, Chair.

P.S. We are having a Saturday morning session at the hall on Saturday July 17th at 10am to have a sweep and tidy up outside – lots of moss. Any helpers will be most welcome.

Notes:

- We have an 8m x 4m marquee available for hire at £30 per day. Please contact Nigel Hamer 07870220845.
- Hall Hire: It is now possible to hire the hall for functions, albeit with limited numbers and all other Government guidance in place.



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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.

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-Fridd, Hillcrest Aberhafesp, the Community Centre and the telephone kiosk in Bethel.

Details of meetings can also be found on the new Community Council [Facebook page](#) and the **Community Council [website](#)**

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 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.

Meetings are held on a Wednesday evening in the Community centre, (no longer on Zoom), and members of the public can attend any meeting, unless otherwise specified.

If you have an item you wish to add to the agenda please contact the clerk Rachel Hamer rachel.hamer72@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.

RHIWCYNON BROADBAND

Several residents in the Bwlch Y Ffridd area, SY16 3JA,B,D,E and 3PP, 3PY and 3PZ have recently been sent a letter regarding super-fast broadband from Broadway Partners.

The scheme is supported by Powys County Council and a Welsh Government backed Arwain project to help communities engage in such a project.

All residents are encouraged to register an expression of interest, without any initial obligation to take it up, but just to engage in this exciting opportunity.

Packages start from £19.99 per month.

For more information please contact: reece.simmons@powys.gov.uk

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MONTGOMERYSHIRE AND RADNOR BRANCH OF THE RSPCA NEED YOUR HELP!

The Montgomeryshire and Radnor Branch of the RSPCA is a registered charity, number 506701 in its own right. It is one of the many regional branches of RSPCA throughout Wales and England. We are closely affiliated with the National RSPCA body and share their aims.

Montgomeryshire and Radnor is a small branch of dedicated trustees all of whom give their time voluntarily. No member receives any payment except for occasional expenses such as telephone and car usage.

The money we raise is used exclusively to help pets in our local area. Currently our main activity is helping people on low incomes cover the cost of veterinary care for their pets. The cost of some veterinary treatment can be quite a challenge for people on lower incomes. We feel the welfare of all animals is of the highest priority and the financial assistance we give should ensure that no animal suffers unnecessarily from a treatable health problem.

We usually pay part of the cost. Not only is this financial assistance incredibly important for the welfare of the animal but also critically important for the well-being of the owner.

We encourage people to neuter their pets to avoid the expense and issues with unwanted litters. Neutering can also prevent certain illnesses in later life for the animal, we also help to cover the cost of neutering for those on lower incomes.

We visit schools and community groups when possible to speak about the latest research in animal welfare, thereby preventing animals suffering as a result of ignorance or thoughtlessness on the part of owners and owners to be.

We are seeking new trustees and volunteers as many of our longstanding members have retired. Without replacements we are in serious danger of having to close the branch and the vital support we give to local people will no longer be available.

We meet approximately 6 times per year at a time and place to suit those involved, you are not obliged to attend all meetings and you can contribute as much or as little as you feel able to.

If any local businesses or individuals can assist with any form of fundraising activity we would love to hear from you.

As a stand alone charity we accept legacies in memory of loved ones, please text or ring to request a leaflet about legacies.

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ST GWYNOG'S CHURCH

At last! We are back in church for our services which will be held on the first Sunday of the month at 9am (Holy Communion) and the third Sunday at 9.30am (Morning Prayer) and look forward to seeing you. We also hold an 11am short service on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Morning prayer on the second Wednesday and Holy Communion on the fourth Wednesday. We are keeping socially distanced, and wearing masks but no singing!

We had an open air service on Whitsunday and 15 people braved the weather – this was a joint service with Rhydfelin Church. We did not have a church collection but donations were invited for the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) appeal for the Coronavirus in India and £1,035 was sent to this appeal. We would like to thank everyone for their support.

We do not yet know when we are able to restart our coffee mornings but will let you know when we start by email, on Facebook and we will put our usual sign on the roadside. We have missed you all coming to these mornings but we have been able to deliver some afternoon teas each month instead.

We hope that it will not be long before we are able to return to some sort of normality and singing in church without a mask would be great.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped to keep us going during this most unusual of times.

See our [Facebook page](#)

Note: Online Sunday worship is now available on the first Sunday of every month and special occasions. You can view these services at All Saints [here](#).

RYDFELIN CHAPEL

The chapel has started services again just on the first Sunday of each month, but because the chapel is so small we are having to limit it to members only at the moment. We are still hoping to be able to join with St. Gwynog's Church in Aberhafesp on the 5th Sunday of those months in which this happens. We will of course review things should the restrictions change as time goes on.

Angela Owen.

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YOUNG FARMERS

Aberhafesp Community council received an email asking if we would like to nominate anybody for the Montgomeryshire Community Awards 2021.

Without any hesitation we nominated Aberhafesp Young Farmers and Gemma Owen through to the group category, for their work during the lock down, helping people in the parish with shopping, picking up prescriptions, chatting with people and generally anything that they were asked to help with.

They got through to the final 3 in their category, the awards ceremony was live on line. The winner was the 'Powys Covid 19 Vaccination Volunteers' with Aberhafesp Young Farmers being highly commended. A big thanks to them all and congratulations it was well deserved.

Nigel Hamer, Community Council Chair.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We had been patiently waiting for Covid restrictions to be relaxed so that we could hold our meetings indoors. The weather never seemed to be in our favour when we planned an outdoor meeting. We had hoped to use the gazebo which had been purchased by the Community centre but could not even find a dry day in May without any wind to erect it. With the Community centre now open it was a relief to be able to make contact with our members and arrange our June meeting, our first together since September. By observing all the Covid rules, we left the doors open and were joined half way through the evening by a smart tabby cat who must have heard that we were hoping for new members to join us!

We spent an enjoyable evening just having a natter and catching up with members we had not seen for many months.

With larger numbers being allowed to meet outdoors and with great optimism, some outdoor events have been arranged by the County W.I. Walking netball, outdoor bowls and croquet are planned together with a Federation Walk around Guilsfield. The rescheduled county and mid summer show is to go ahead at Abermule Community centre.

In the hope that we can look ahead with more certainty we have arranged a programme for our W.I. to take us to the end of the year.

We look forward to welcoming our members once again at 7pm on the first Thursday of every month at Aberhafesp Community centre.

- 1st July "I cant do joined up writing" a Celebrant's tale Carleen Schofield
- 5th August Garden visiting Llanwnog
- 2nd September Experiences in Dentistry Maddy Thornton
- 7th October History of Llanwnog Church Edward Parry
- 4th November Floral Demonstration Carol Gough
- 2nd December Quiz + Christmas carols

Contact: Elaine Benbow, President: Telephone 01686 625586

CREMATORIUM APPLICATION

The residents of Aberhafesp Village were recently asked if they wanted to participate in a petition to ask that the Crematorium application (near Caersws) be "called in" for further consideration by Welsh Government.

The petition was raised because Powys County Council Planning Committee did not discuss the effect of the new traffic generated by the development on the villages that are on the access routes.

With 60 signatures it has been forwarded to the planning departments at the Welsh Assembly Government and Powys County Council.

The petition gave options as follows:

- a. The proposed Crematorium only be approved if Aberhafesp Community Council's recommendation that a pedestrian walkway through Aberhafesp should be provided is accepted.
- b. The proposed Crematorium should be relocated to a place that did not involve increased traffic through small villages by drivers unfamiliar with the roads.

HAMERBUILD

Nigel Hamer
General Builder
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Supporting the Aberhafesp Community newsletter

IN PRAISE OF THE EUPHEMISM

You may not have given the subject much thought but we all use euphemisms at some time or another, some of us more than others perhaps but nonetheless we colour our conversation with them. The O.E.D. describes euphemism as the substitution of a mild, vague or roundabout expression for a harsh, blunt or direct one. Quite, exactly so.

Let the conversation turn to bodily functions and just listen to those euphemisms dropping in! Don't worry, bodily functions are off the menu, boring at best. I want you to consider a much more interesting subject that surely must be at the top of any euphemistic league table, Death.

We are funny old things us humans and whilst mortality is the most natural thing in the world, if not perhaps the pleasantest, we shy away from using the 'D' word and become really quite linguistically inventive and what a range of terms and phrases we use!

With the aid of euphemism we do not die and neither do our friends, colleagues or distant relatives. We 'croak', perhaps though why this should be is not clear. Alternatively we might 'pop off' as my mother was always going to and one day did. Others choose to 'fall of their perch' or possibly their 'twig'. Card players fold their hands and 'peg out' whilst others feeling their light dimming with age 'snuff it' like candles. These expressions are not difficult to understand but then we come to that very common one, to 'kick the bucket'. Why bucket? What bucket? I'm mystified.

To continue, depending on personal choice or perhaps whether you are a traditionalist or not you might intend 'pushing up daisies' or 'going up the chimney'. Personally I don't fancy either option. Then again some of us get 'called away' or even 'called to higher things', fortunately we are never called to 'lower things'. Some people choose to 'head into the sunset' whilst others 'go west' which geographically must be much the same thing. Yet others 'draw their last breath' and like Pinocchio 'go to meet their maker'.

The list goes on and on or rather it would if I could think of any more examples. Possibly you can.

This could be a prime subject for learned research and since people collect stamps and beer mats why not euphemisms?

And me? Well I've always had a thing about steam engines so when my time comes I shall 'hit the buffers'. Gently I hope.

Graham Green. Bwylch-y-ffridd.

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CLOSURE OF BETHAL CHAPEL



In 1872, a schoolroom and place of worship accompanied by cello and flute, was erected in Bethel, near Aberhafesp, to accommodate growth of population in the district, and growth in spiritual life. It was a branch of Bwlchyffridd Congregational Church, where a day school had been held in the new chapel from 1802 and where I was ordained in 1976.

Following the 1904 revival, the church at Bethel was pulled down in order to rebuild a new, larger church. They received a generous donation from Lord Joicey, former Northumberland coal mine owner who had acquired Gregynog Hall in 1898, and provided employment for many, and owned much of the land in the area at that time.

From these country churches, including Llanwnnog Union of Welsh Independents, the Gospel extended into the wider communities and further afield, including missionaries sent out to Madagascar.

On Sunday June 27th, we recalled the services, youth work and musicals, the renowned eisteddfodau talent celebrated in the district and shared with the Congregational Federation's N.Wales and N.W. Midlands area celebrations. Some members joined us in Llanidloes' hosting of the URC's Provincial Day celebrations in 1994. Bethel Chapel has not had a minister of its own for many years, but continued to hold services with visiting preachers until COVID-19. Today we recalled the members, deacons, ministers, who have served the church here and contributed in so many ways to the spiritual life, educational development and witness in this area.

Members are now scattered at home and abroad by marriage, employment; the farming community has changed, and Gregynog is no longer a big employer. Those who remain are mobile and able to participate and contribute elsewhere, as they have always shared in the past.

The witness of those churched here, began long before their building was erected and will continue long after the doors to the building have closed. A pilgrim people, may they continue to bless and be blessed.

(Yes, we observed social distancing and wore masks throughout, but having eaten the fantastic tea served in distanced pews, they remained around our necks when someone called photo! I hope everyone else also held their breath!)

Sue Roberts: ex minister Bwlch-y-ffridd Chapel.

WORKING DEMONSTRATION DAY

Pontesbury Tractors Limited of Minsterley held this event on Wednesday 30th June at Red House, Aberhafesp by kind permission of the Owen family. Demonstrating a range of Case IH Tractors, AFS, Krone Machinery, and supporting manufacturers.



[See our website:](#)

GARN FACH WIND FARM

You will no doubt have received a brochure through your door from EDF Renewables, regarding the Pre-Application Consultation for the Garn Fach Wind Farm that was announced in January 2020.

Included with the brochure is a Freepost response slip for the public to send feedback, or you can complete this [online](#).

This consultation runs from 30th June until 8th September 2021. There are 17 turbines likely to be erected but the distribution route is currently unknown. This is an opportunity for everyone to make their views known, so I would suggest we should all read it before putting it in the recycling.
Paul Evans, Minhafren, Aberhafesp.

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

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

Residents and friends of Aberhafesp and Bwlch-y-ffridd have submitted their email addresses to the editor 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.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of this newsletter will be published in **October 2021**. Please send any articles of interest to the Editor (mbedworth@gmail.com) no later than the **20th September**.

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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