

ABERHAFESP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019/2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Autumn came upon us suddenly this year, and probably thanks to all the rain, the trees all round the centre were particularly vibrant and beautiful. The tubs at the entrance were planted with winter pansies and small trees, and many bulbs were planted all round the front garden.

Our thanks go to Rob Gallier who ran the Shrewsbury half marathon last October and raised £250 towards the upkeep of our local defibrillators.

The Friday night social evenings have gone from strength to strength, with there being three table tennis tables now, and two kurling sets, which gives more scope. Darts remains popular, and the evenings have been made even better by having the bar open.

The Christmas coffee morning in November was very popular with some excellent stalls, Christmas decorations, fancy goods, beautiful small wooden goods (e.g. bowls and stools), quilted goods, bric-a-brac, and of course, the cake stall. The bacon butties were as popular as ever. Proceeds went to the upkeep of the hall fund, with £100 going to Children in Need.



Our usual Christmas Bonanza was held on December 7th with raffle, bar and a delicious two course meal served by Trefor and Carol Davies of the Sandwich Bar. Entertainment was by Tony Rowley, who brought his light machine to shine all round the walls, and give atmosphere. He played a good selection of music all evening, including 70s and 80s. It was a most successful night. Raffle prizes were kindly donated by the Newtown Tesco and Morrisons and John Williams.

The time after Christmas goes a little flat, so please think about coming to 'keep fit' on Friday evenings. From the committee, best wishes to all our readers for a very Happy New Year. Maddy Thornton

SHORT MAT BOWLS

Looking for something to do in the long winter evenings? Why not come along to the Community Centre at 7.30pm on a Tuesday evening and try your hand at Short Mat Bowls.

All ages welcome, no previous experience required.

We can provide the bowls and the tuition. Contact Wynn Benbow. Tel: 01686 625586

The local league consists of 5 clubs, Aberhafesp, Carno, Bettws, Dolfor and Sarn. We play each club home and away and hold Saturday competitions each month. Aberhafesp hosted the Fours competition on December 14th at the Community Centre with one of our teams going through to the finals which will take place in Bettws in February. The Singles were held in Sarn in November and the Doubles in Dolfor. We hope to enter teams for the Triples on January 11th at Bettws. Our league matches will continue twice a month until March – we were runners up last year, hopefully we will do well this year.

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YOUNG FARMERS

These past couple of months have been super busy and lots of fun for our YFC. Between fundraising and competitions our club hasn't really stopped. In November three of our members entered the Public Speaking competition, in the Berriew Community Centre, for the first time and came fourth. Then the Royal Welsh Winter Fair, where Annie Unwin competed in the poultry jointing and managed to come third in Wales. However, there was no time to stop and think about that with the club's annual Christmas bingo coming up, but before that there was a small break when the club managed to go bowling in Shrewsbury and even had time at the end for a quick 'Maccies'. The bingo on December 16th had an amazing turn out, with over fifty people coming and we managed to raise £671; the club couldn't be happier. That same week the members were carol singing at Dolfor village hall to raise funds for the Farm Safety Foundation, Yellow Wellies. This helped us prepare for carol singing around the Aberhafesp community on the last Monday before Christmas, raising a total of £127 for Yellow Wellies. In January we have our dinner and dance at the Bettws village hall, so we are super busy organising that at the moment.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Once again it was a colourful Christmas on Hillcrest. Chris and Kathryn Pugh have always had an impressively colourful display, and over recent years this has encouraged the other Hillcrest residents to contribute. It would be close to impossible, and a threat to the National Grid, for everyone to try to rival the Pugh's display but this Christmas has been the most colourful to date with many households contributing colourful outdoor displays. Once it gets dark Hillcrest becomes a wonderful spectacle to rival Regent Street, and this wonderful scene is completed by Robin and Margaret Jones's village green Christmas tree which they generously provide for the community.

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200 CLUB WINNERS XMAS 2019					
1 st	£100	Joan Wilson, Aberhafesp			
2 nd	£50	Mo Woosnam, Aberhafesp			
3 rd	£50	Katie & Lucy Benbow, Newtown			
4 th	£50	Pugh Grandchildren			
5 th	£25	Glenys Pryce, Aberhafesp			
6 th	£25	Roger Stone, Aberhafesp			
7 th	£25	Glyn & Gwyneth Jones, Newtown			
8 th	£25	Lee Bebb, Aberhbafesp			
9 th	£25	Liz Davies, Tregynon			
10 th	£25	Pippa Parry, Aberhafesp			
11 th	£15	Bobby Richards, Aberhafesp			
12 th	£15	Mrs Schofield, Aberhafesp			
13 th	£15	Mark & Mel Jones, Aberhafesp			
14 th	£15	Mr & Mrs R. Jones, Wernddu, Aberhafesp			

Community Transport in South Montgomeryshire

This is a scheme to help anybody who needs transport to take them to Hospital, Doctor, Dentist, Shopping, Day Care facilities etc.

There are seven drivers who are able to help at a charge of 45p per mile e.g. if you want to go to Shrewsbury hospital it would cost approximately £30 for a round trip.

The driver picks up and returns home after waiting during the appointment, however long it takes. No money is paid to the driver, invoices are sent out after the trip. The driver will pass on any queries to the office if there are additional requirements. Phone 01686 629487 for more information.

Are you elderly, disabled (young or old) or just have mobility problems? Then you need

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Carole on 01686 622566



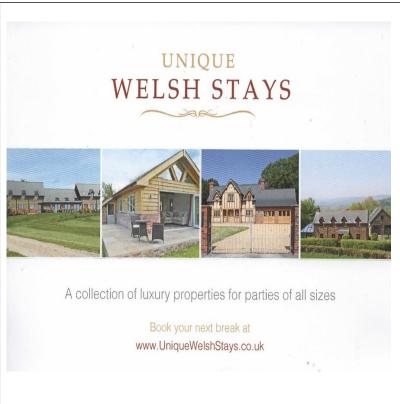
HAMERBUILD

Nigel Hamer
General Builder
Home Maintenance
Bwlch-y-Ffridd
Supporting the Aberhafesp
Community newsletter

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Sian Roberts Plates

From 4th September
Every Wednesday 6-7pm
Caersws Village Hall
Every Friday 9.30 – 10.30am
Fit4 Life Newtown
All ages and abilities welcome, come
along and give it a try.
Phone 07766606276 for details
Find us on Facebook



ST. GWYNOG'S CHURCH

Reopening of St Gwynog's

We were thrilled that we were able to reopen the church on December 8th and thank you to all from the community together with our regular congregation who braved the weather to join with the Revd. Nia Morris who welcomed Archdeacon Barry Wilson. We were grateful to Mr Charles Cowan our architect who also oversaw the whole project and Mr Ian Sneade and his workforce for carrying out the work. We hope that you all like what has been achieved, we certainly like the extra space we now have both at the back and front of church. There will be more room for our teas and chat after the services! We have sent a trolley load of food to the Salvation Army Food Bank together with a cheque for £512 following the service so thank you all for your generosity. We are now back to three services a month on the first three Sundays of the month & we hope later in the year to start another type of service on the fourth Sunday.



Coffee Shop

We continue to enjoy our regular monthly coffee mornings with any profits made going to charity. Our next coffee morning will be held on Saturday February 1st 2020.

Snowdrop & Tea

We will continue with our snowdrop teas - our first for 2020 will be held on Sunday 26th January, the other dates are yet to be decided.

Thank you to the community & church members for cutting the grass in the churchyard throughout 2019. We have had some good comments by all who visit the church. We also aim to keep the church open on a daily basis from January. In the winter it is usually open between 10am & 4pm and slightly longer during the summer months. May we wish all readers of the Aberhafesp news a bright and peaceful 2020.

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MARY RICHARDS INTERESTING LIFE

Fascinating memories written by Mary Richards. She was the grandmother of Nigel Hamer (Oakdene, Bwlch-y-Ffridd). Born Mary Stephens at Bettws Hill, (a farm above Bwlch-y-Ffridd) 23rd April 1904. Married Alf Richards at Bwlch-y-Ffridd chapel June 1936. Lived at Bron Haul, Bethel and had three children, Zena (Nigel's mother), Alun and Olwen. Moved in with her daughter Zena at Cartref, Bwlch-y-Ffridd in the 1970's until her death in 1995 aged 91.

After leaving school age thirteen I was hired – that is what it was called in those days, I went to D.C. Evans in Brynteg, to look after the expected baby as nursemaid, but as the baby was not due until mid-July, I was to learn a little simple cooking. The baby arrived on St Swithun's day, a girl. The only thing I was taught was scrubbing, cleaning, milking the cows, and tending the mill on Saturday and Tuesdays, humping bags of meal, putting them on their traps or whatever vehicle they had. The owners in most cases just sat and looked on either in wonderment or ignorance or it might have been laziness. The lazy beggars, several were too drunk to give me a hand.

I stayed 12 months which was the rule those days, if you left before that you did not get a reference (£10 a year).

My next place was Newtown the top end of New Road. George Owen, the coal man lives there now, it was called Cound Villa. I was there 12 months, here the lady was a tyrant, I often wonder if she had any good points – if so, I never found them. She was a real old skin flint, I was kept short of food, it was even worse than rationing during the war. This will give you some idea – I was allowed a small loaf a week 1/4 lb butter or marg, a cup of sugar, a little jam or marmalade, tea to drink after they had finished with the teapot, dinner the same as they had but a great deal less. If they were serving steak I had to have something cheaper, the veg was the same as theirs only a great deal less. After a while I got fed up and did not see why my bread and butter had to last a week, so when they were out and I was alone. I'd cut a slice off their loaf and have some butter, but she got suspicious and used to mark the butter with a cross and nip out the bread, but two can play that game. I did as near as possible the same, I think she still had her suspicions. My mum used to bring me either a Chelsea bun or doughnut, which filled a little hole, but the maid next door was very good to me and used to pass me a lot of food that her employers used to give her, more than she needed. I have a lot to be thankful for from that girl, her employer was Mr Kinsey the headmaster in the County school. I left (£12 a year).

Well now my sister Jane and I went to London to spread our wings, we were lucky here and stayed four and a half years with Mr. Morgan, who was the man who found the fraud in Farrows bank, which none of you will remember, it was a very big scoop for him and made his name.

I was parlour maid here, but had to take over as nurse maid if they were without a governess. They used to have French or Swiss ones, aupairs today. The eldest daughter was educated at Rodean school. I believe Princess Mary was educated there, the same time Miss Betty went there, it was what was called a finishing school. She was only there one term as she was too clever for that school, and the principal recommended her for Cheltenham College. She was soon top there, however I stray from my story (£20 a year).

My next place was with a family of husband, wife, one child, nanny, cook and myself, after a while I discovered the lady was a small time actress known as Babs, who had two sisters called Billy and Dinkie they were in Rose Marie and sang Valencia and other songs. I was here about 18 months, before they made a move to a posher district, but the flat was too small to need me.

So another move from there I got a job as general maid to a Mr and Mrs Gentwood. He was a retired solicitor, real gentry, for instance, the lady every morning came to give the orders for the day and write the menu and see that I had all the ingredients to make everything. After that she did not come to interfere in the kitchen unless really necessary, even then she would knock on the door and wait for me to say "come in". This place was burgled 3 times while I was there, Mr Gentwood thought they were after some papers as he was a retired solicitor, but they took all they could find of value including a brooch of mine.

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Here I must relate a story – Miss Dorothy, their daughter, went to Africa to work for a very important firm, while there the then Prince of Wales (Duke of Windsor) went on tour, and he went to visit the firm and inspect it, same as they do here. They all had to wear their best bib and tucker, clean and polish up and see that everything was just so, which it was, to all intents and purposes, but alas, something has to go wrong, Miss Dorothy had a stool which you adjust to suit yourself, it was a screw down or up according to your requirements, so when she got up to curtsy the wretched thing made the loudest rude noise you ever heard to the embarrassment of everyone, but the Prince saved the day by remarking – "that's life". Anyway Mr Gentwood died and Mrs Gentwood could not afford to keep this house going so she moved to a small bungalow in Edgeware, but I did not go there.

Next place was with again with a husband, wife, one child, nanny, cook and myself. Here just ordinary service not too bad, though some startling things happened – one terrible thing did happen when they had a dinner party, as is the custom, out came the best of everything, they had a very expensive dinner service, which we were warned to be careful of, so after dinner was over we very carefully washed up and were putting them on a high shelf. I was reaching them up when the darned chauffeur thought he'd tickle me. I dropped the lot and knocked other things as well in trying to save them. Oh what a commotion, but the nanny and cook explained what had happened – my skin was saved but the visitors chauffeur had the sack. We were not fooling about as the lady accused us of.

The next place I only stayed six weeks, the less said the better, but how was I to get a reference? Well Norah Pryce had an idea, she got her employer to write one for me pretending she was my employer, Norah's employer was Mrs Brag who used to work at Gregynog Hall, saved again!!

From here the next one was with a professor, I was a nursemaid here, plus some work. I liked it here as I got a lot of my own way, he was a professor at the London School of Economics, they had two children, Janet Olivia and Linda Veronica, their mother was an actress and I met quite a few noted actors and actresses, including Paul Robeson, (he sang Old Man River in the Showboat film 1936) he was a charming person and loved the children, but the first time he talked to them they yelled, but he soon put them at their ease. I never knew if it was his colour or voice that they did not like, it was such a deep voice, also Flora Robeson.

Then the next place was Red Roofs, Ivor Novello's Country house.

Here we had all the famous actors and actresses you could think of – they are the old ones you see on tele these days, and believe me my heart gave a flutter when I saw them and heard them, for instance in the This Is Your Life Eamon Andrews' programme was Joyce Carey OBE and Lilian Braithwaite's daughter, both regular visitors. To name but a few Greta Garbo, Leslie Howard, Sir Lawrence Olivier, Zena Dare, Edna Best, Heather Thatcher, Raymond Massey and his brother who was high commissioner for Canada, and heaven knows how many others I saw, and sometimes I see their children and know who they are, I wish I could find my autograph book, but even if I could it would take too long to read them all.

Here I can tell you a good tale, as they were returning to Red Roofs after theatre, about 2am the blessed Rolls caught fire, and at that time of night there were not many about, and not near houses or water, but like here houses were few and far between. So as there were six men in the car someone suggested they should all wee on it, which is what they did - well all that could, some were too shy, others laughing too much – anyway they put the fire out. It was a blessing that the ladies were all travelling together in front, so knew nothing about it until later. Edna Best's chauffeur was with the ladies, he had missed the fire, but he was an Irishman and had us in fits of laughter telling us the tale, he had jokes for every occasion, he was a devil.

Now I must dry up – though I've missed a lot out, but I'm sure I've said enough, but I have forgotten to tell you a story of me waiting at table, the table should seat eight comfortably, but alas there were thirteen squeezed round and as it was difficult to wait properly I had to do the best I could – just as I was handing the gravy to Dorothy Dixon (American born actress and singer) someone told a joke and she threw her head back and smacked the gravy out of my hand, it went all over her head and over her suit which was turquoise in colour, what a commotion as the gravy was over the chair which was green velvet. Then she said her outfit was fated, as the day before she was at the Henley Regatta and her brown hat that went with it blew off and went sailing down the Thames.

Here I really must end:

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Oh! I've forgotten to say about the swimming pool at Red Roofs, we had a large pool 16ft at the deep end, luckily I could swim before I went there, so made good use of it. I even taught the cook to swim, she, I may add was 72, so we were all in the pool and had great fun.

I forgot two other episodes, one was the people who were practical jokers and being a maid one was not expected to answer back, but in a roundabout way I did get my own back. We always had a Belgium hare for dinner. So April fools day came and I said to the cook "that's not a hare it's a cat", well he did look a bit funny anyway. The cook told the lady what I had said and planting suspicion, it went from bad to worse - in the end no one would eat it. So I got the last laugh. The other was my birthday when my mum sent me a lovely plump chicken, which I cooked with all the veg and all the staff enjoyed it, but we had planned to eat the joints and have the breast in sandwiches for lunch next day, but alas, we found the family had taken it for their tea while we were not there and had the cheek to tell us how they enjoyed it. I could go on and on over such

Zena Hamer (in Caersws) writes:

My mother, Mary Richards, was unable to fulfil the rest of the story of her life due to having a stroke and could not put pen to paper and we could not ask her questions as she would give the wrong answers.

She was very interested in sport and her main interest was tennis. She entered many matches while she worked in London, I am not sure where but she talked about a Margaret Court, who was a famous Australian tennis player.

At Cartref, she watched it on TV no jobs were done for the fortnight as she called it her holidays. She could ice skate a bit we had her blades at Bronhaul for years, but what happened to them I don't know. She also liked cricket attending many matches on her days off with her sister Jane, she followed Arsenal football club, horse racing and number 5 was her favourite number, there were many other stories while she lived in London, which should have been written down, but sadly were not.

OFF ROAD HELP FOR LOCAL KIDS

A Newtown couple have launched a project to help youngsters get ahead of the game. <u>Mid Wales Off Road</u> is an outdoor activity centre in **Aberhafesp**, run by Andrew Evans with the help of his partner Sian Roberts and 10year old son, George. The centre offers a variety of activities ranging from off road rally karting to paint balling and digger driving.

Over the years Andrew has provided work experience to several young people who were struggling to engage with the traditional approach to education and found he was able to relate to them and help them find their true potential. This sparked a passion for working with disengaged young people and lead to him working on a project with Powys youth services, where a group of young people built off road rally karts and tested them out on the track at Mid Wales Off Road.

After the success of this activity Andrew and Sian have formed a community interest company called <u>The Game Change Project CIC</u> and have secured a grant from the National Lottery Community fund to set up their first programmes. This project will offer a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between mainstream education and a real life workplace, giving young people a new outlook on their future prospects. Andrew said, "We aim to instil a sense of purpose and enthusiasm in young people as well as giving them an opportunity to gain valuable skills and <u>ASDAN</u> accredited training".

The programme will include fun, exciting and engaging activities such as digger driving, equine handling, basic mechanics and machine operating. The project will also involve local businesses as mentors and people from the local community as volunteer peer supporters. Sian added "We would like to create opportunities for volunteers to share their experience".

It is hoped that the project will promote community cohesion by improving relationships between the older and younger generations and also increase prospects for young people to gain employment locally and remain in the area. You can visit the Facebook page or get in touch by emailing gamechangerproject@gmail.com or phone Andrew on 07966370293

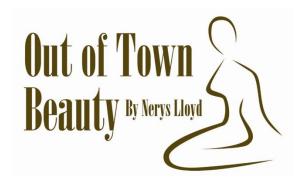
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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We had a busy but successful 2019. We currently have twenty four members and our meetings have been well attended all year. Our programme included talks, practical activities, visits and demonstrations. In October memories of warm summer days returned when Dr. Wolfgang Schaefer described how a wildflower meadow had been created at Cwm Weeg, Dolfor. He used slides to illustrate the plants and insects which had been encouraged to thrive in such peaceful surroundings.

A successful Variety Concert took place at Theatre Hafren in October to celebrate one hundred years of the W.I. in Montgomeryshire and two of our members, Carleen Schofield and Doreen Lloyd took part. We held our AGM in November and after the business had been conducted had a relaxing evening painting our own piece of pottery chosen from a wide selection brought along by Tony Orme from Crackpots with some of our members showing they had quite an artistic flair.

Before the hustle and bustle of Christmas set in we decided to pamper ourselves by inviting Nerys Lloyd from Out of Town Beauty to our December meeting. If you "look good" you "feel good" is her motto. Mince pies, biscuits, tea, coffee and a good natter ended a very relaxed evening.

At the County AGM held in Welshpool in November our W.I. had the great honour of winning the Rose Davies award for our 2019 programme, which had been compiled and printed by Corris Owen. This was especially poignant for us because Rose Davies was an aunt of our member Jean Jones. Also at this meeting it was announced that we had achieved third place in the County for sport.

> Our Sports teams had a busy autumn, travelling to Llangynog for the Short Mat Bowls competition. A long journey to the top end of the county but we were rewarded by first and fourth placings. The Kurling competition quickly followed, this time in Castle Caereinion, again we came home with first and fourth placings. We hosted the Table Tennis tournament at the Community Centre and gained fourth place. The Dominoes team has played all their games, next up is Short Tennis, Badminton and Darts. No time to rest on our laurels, Aberhafep W.I. will have a go at every sport.

Our first meeting of the new year will be at 7.00pm on January 2^{nd} in the The Kurling Team Community Centre and there will be a warm welcome to anyone who would like to come along. Contact Elaine Benbow 01686 625586

2020 Programme					
January 2 nd	Bees	Bill Gough & Roger Stone			
February 6 th	Farm to Fork	Zoe Swain, Morrisons			
March 5 th	FunkyDancing	Bethan Smith Davies			
April 2 nd	Pharmacy	Claire Jones			
May 7 th	Ecuador & The Galapagos Islands	Cynthia McVey			
June 4 th	Summer Trip	To be arranged			
July 2 nd	Evening visit	Cwm Weeg Gardens			
September 3 rd	Welsh costume	Eleri Williams			
October 1 st	Silk Scarf Painting	Mary Byng			
November 5 th	The Accidental Chocolate Maker	Lori Winn			

DID YOU KNOW?

Powys Mobile Library service

visits Bwlch-y-ffridd on the

1st Wednesday of every month between 10.10am and 10.25am.

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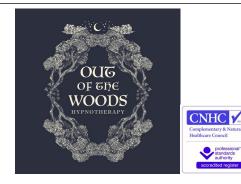
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RHYDFELIN CHAPEL

The Sunday School nativity play was held on Sunday 15th December and although there were only a few children taking part it was excellent. With the singing and acting it certainly put us in the mood for Christmas. The service was followed by tea and to finish off a visit from Father Christmas. On Christmas Eve we held our Carol service which as always was well attended. Services will resume on Sunday 5th January at 2.30pm.

LOCAL CONCERN At the December Community Council meeting local residents raised the isue of the proposed development of ten

houses behind the bungalow called Beechcroft, Aberhafesp (SY16 3HW). It would appear that outline planning consent has already been given for this development but there is local concern that it could have detrimental effects. The major concern is the likely increase in traffic on the B4568, and the related safety issues. The application also proposes the provision of a pavement on the opposite side of the main road to allow people to move between the new estate and the Hillcrest estate. This requires crossing the main road twice, either side of a nearby bend, which residents do not believe is a safe or practical solution, particularly for children.

The planning application (Ref 19/1954/RES) can be viewed on the Powys County Council website, where third party comments can be added, and there have been six comments already submitted, but since December 2018 it has not been possible to view these: 'In light of recent data protection incidents, it is considered that the risk resulting from publishing third party correspondence is too great. Therefore, it has been regrettably agreed that only planning applications and associated supporting information and consultee responses will be published on the Council's website'. A review of this decision was due in December 2019, so there has been a Petition raised as follows: Powys people, environmental organisations and other governmental and non-governmental bodies deserve a fair, transparent planning system. Please put public comments made on Planning Applications back on your web site.

You can sign this petition here.

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THE ABC TAPESTRY



The unveiling of the **Aberhafesp & Boundaries Community Tapestry** on the wall of the Aberhafesp Community centre took place on Friday 25th November 1994. There were events by local organisations, and an opening speech by Eva Bredsdorff, curator of the Powysland Museum, with help from the oldest man and woman in the community and the youngest schoolboy and schoolgirl. At the beginning of 1991 a few of the local residents who liked sewing together (and putting the world to rights while doing so) had the idea of a community sewing project that would bring lots of people together.

Fixing on the idea of an alphabet tapestry meant that the English and Welsh alphabets could be combined, and each square could be used to depict a different aspect of life in the community.

An overall design was drawn up and canvassing began to identify interest and look for funding. Everyone in the community was circulated to see if they wanted to sew and in the end more than 60 (not including the schoolchildren) did so.

The detailed designs for the squares were drawn up, reflecting the seasons, the places of worship, the organisations active in the community, farming, leisure activities and local landmarks. The squares often also contain other references, or extra items, beginning with the initial letter of that square. As it turned out, very few people had joint sewing sessions. Most squares were sewn at home or carried them around (parts of the Tapestry have been to Spain, Morocco, Canada and Australia).

As the squares came back in and the combined efforts looked more and more beautiful, more and more time was spent on discussing how to mount, frame and protect the Tapestry.

The project would not have been possible without the financial support and encouragement of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. The Arts section of the Foundation have as one of their aims the encouragement of community projects in rural areas. Their grant of £1000 enabled all the materials to be bought and also to pay for the stretching and mounting of the finished work. The stretching and backing was done by Wendy Toulson of Kington, a professional conservator, using the method now used for National Trust tapestries.

The Community Centre Association gave an initial grant of £50, with donations from Jean Watson and Judy Hutchings. The Tapestry Group members were Gwen Jones, George Newson, Chrystabel Pogose, Helen Porter, Kate Rayner and Janet Williams. Also involved in the launch were Sue Kenyon and Angela Williams. Three years of work went into the tapestry which consists of 30 individual one foot squares, and an estimated 604,800 stitches. It now belongs to the people of Aberhafesp and serves as a record of the richness of life in our community.

ABERHAFESP COMMUNITY CONTACTS					
Newsletter Editor:	Marilyn Bedworth mbedworth@gmail.com	01686 689977			
Community Centre: Chair	Maddy Thornton christhornton85@btinternet.com	01686 623310			
Community Centre: Treasurer:	Edward Parry edwardgparry@live.co.uk	01686 688346			
Community Centre: Secretary	Joan Michel <u>Joanvera.michel@gmail.com</u>	01686 688550			
Community Centre: Hall Bookings	Elaine Benbow Elainbenbow@hotmail.com	01686 625586			
Community Council Chair	Nigel Hamer nigelhamer68@hotmail.com	01686 650702			
Young Farmers Chair	John Wainwright Johnw95@msn.com				
Aberhafesp Community Council website	www.community-council.org.uk/				
·	<u>aberhafespcommunitycouncil</u>				
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 2020**. Please send any articles of interest to the Editor (mbedworth@gmail.com) no later than the **20**th **March**.

Also: If you are receiving 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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