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ABERHAFESP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2019 Edition

COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

The highlight of the summer was undoubtedly the 40th Anniversary Lunch on Sunday 21st July to celebrate the opening of the hall forty years ago. This had a Ruby theme, with red flowers, balloons and decorations. The afternoon began with a cottage pie lunch, followed by many delicious puddings produced by the committee and community members. Lunch was followed by a programme of entertainment, begun by the Rev. Sue Roberts with an opening prayer and then a talk about her memories of the opening day. Our first chairman Michael Jones, also present on the opening day, talked about his memories and interesting facts about the history of the hall.

We had some lovely musical items, with young Rhys Nutting on the piano, his father Alwyn Nutting playing the trumpet, accompanied by his mother. Edward Owen singing 'Calon Lan' accompanied by Gwyneth Jones. Christine Cooper read a stirring poem, a favourite from her youth, and a poem by Margaret Pugh about the local area was read beautifully by Joan Michel.

There was then an interlude for cake, a beauty with red roses, made by Jean Jones, and then former headmaster and chairman Bob Davies had the last word about the original opening, to close a really enjoyable programme. This really popular and well attended day was also a great success financially, which will go to improve facilities.

The Friday night sports and social evenings have continued through the summer, and with the darker evenings upon us, we hope more people of all ages will join us to keep fit, and have fun. You can play table tennis, darts and kurling, have tea or coffee and biscuits, and all for £2. Sorry, drinks from the bar are extra. The summer break was ended by a coffee morning on 21st September, in aid of the upkeep of our three local defibrillators. These need to be inspected weekly and the pads (adult and paediatric) need regular replacement, also the batteries. We are indebted to Margaret Jones (ME) for her constant care of the appliances, using her knowledge and expertise. Also, many thanks to Nigel Hamer, who helps by checking them regularly. Apart from being very enjoyable, the coffee morning raised £350 for the defibrillator account, which will keep them going for at least a year. Thanks also to Rob Gallier, who will be running the Shrewsbury half marathon in October, raising money for our defibrillator account as well.

By the time you read this, we shall have had another coffee morning on Friday 27th September for the Macmillan nurses, as part of the National Coffee morning when we raised £370 for this cause.

You will probably have noticed that the drains around the front and side of the hall have been refurbished, and a gravel path laid on top, making it easier and drier to walk round the hall. The rusty and unsightly portacabin at the rear is being scraped, sanded and painted grey, and already looks much better, especially from the kitchen window! Any help would be very welcome as it is very large – we specially need tall people with long arms to reach the top. Any volunteers, please phone me. The bed at the front has had the little stone wall improved with more big stones, and more topsoil has been added ready for more planting. Thanks to everyone who has helped with the hall this summer, in any capacity, and to all of you who support all our functions. It is all much appreciated. *Maddy Thornton.*

POTHoles

To report a pothole on the roads of Powys call 08456027035 press option 3 for Highways. Give as much information as possible e.g. road name or road number or the address or postcode that it is located. Alternatively, it can be reported online by going to the Powys County Council website.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday

16th November

10am – 12 noon.

Stalls selling Bric-a-brac, plants, cakes etc, and a raffle.



Xmas Coffee Morning
(raising money for Community Centre Funds)

£2 entry includes cup of tea or coffee and piece of toast.



Bacon bap £2

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

RHYDFELIN CHAPEL

Services resumed at the beginning of September following a short break over the summer, with the harvest thanksgiving services on Friday 27th September conducted by the Rev Jenny Garrard, and Sunday 29th September conducted by Mrs. Debbie Peck. The Sunday service was shared with friends from Aberhafesp Church with donations to each of the following charities: Pont Hafren, Parkinson's Montgomeryshire Branch, Motor Neurone Association and Montgomery Family Crisis Centre.

Our Services are held at 2.30pm and a very warm welcome is extended to all.



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YOUNG FARMERS

On the 9th September our club had its annual new member evening. We had four new members come and join in at our games night. Thanks to Julie Turner we had great fun and the new members learned about YFC. We played games like 'How well do you know me?' when four members stood up and the teams had to guess, out of those members, how many did what Julie asked that day.

On Sunday 15th September we held our annual car treasure hunt. This year Mr and Mrs Owen organised the route and questions. We had a great turn out of about 15 cars and with the food as well being sold the club made just over £450. At the end of September we compete at the county field day at Glangweden, Trefeglwys. We have so many more fun things planned in the future.

Our programme is as currently as follows, but some events may change nearer the time.

Club nights start at 7.30pm and finish at 9.00pm unless told otherwise.

5 th October	Clay pigeon shoot, Trefeglwys
7 th October	Games and Eisteddfod competition deciding
14 th October	Practice for Eisteddfod TBC
21 st October	Eisteddfod practice
26 th October	Eisteddfod
4 th November	Trip away. TBC
18 th November	Pub games night. TBC
2 nd December	Christmas decoration making
16 th December	Christmas bingo
22 nd December	Carol Singing

200 CLUB WINNERS SUMMER 2019

£75	Russell Bradley	
2 nd	Mrs Bird	Aberhafesp
3 rd	Melonie Smith	Newtown
4 th	Ivor Lloyd	Bwlch-y-Ffridd
5 th	Dyffryn Grandchildren	Aberhafesp
6 th	Ann Humphreys	Newtown
7 th	Mark Evans	Aberhafesp
8 th	Linda Davies	Forden
9 th	Mike Atkins	Aberhafesp
10 th	Kate Raynor	Newtown
11 th	Edward Owen	Newtown
12 th	Owen Grandchildren	Bwlch-y-Ffridd

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THE SHOOT (memories from Michael Jones)

My memories of a large shooting party being at the Cwm pre 2nd World War, are quite vivid, although I was quite young. Lord Davies of Llandinam held the shooting rights over the Cwm and it provided very good shooting because it was centred on the Nant Rhyd Rhos Lan valley, with an abundance of trees and copses with the fifty-acre block of the Cwm wood on its northern side. An ideal habitat for the raising of young pheasants and other game under the surveillance of the keeper, Mr. Williams of Bronfynnon, an ex First World War soldier, who had an injured leg.

On the day of the shoot, the Cwm House would be taken over by Plas Dinam staff who used it to serve the midday meal; they would bring their hampers of food plus the silver service, and suitable beverages remembering that the Davies family adhered to a temperance upbringing. Lord Davies MP was always striving to bring about peace between nations, he built the Temple of Peace in Cardiff, selling four farms from his estate in Llanwnnog to pay for it. On the day that I recall, he invited Joachim von Ribbentrop, the German ambassador to the United Kingdom, to the shoot. Ribbentrop had a history of trying to reverse the Treaty of Versailles and wished to sign an Anglo-German alliance or return the lost German African Colonies to Germany, and he devoted considerable time to courting what he called men of influence as the best way to achieve this Anglo-German alliance. Ribbentrop mistakenly thought that the aristocracy ran Britain behind the scenes over riding Parliament, but members of our cabinet always rated him as a second-rate person.

So, the shoot was held, and at lunch time the main party ate in the dining room at the Cwm. The 'bag' of the day was laid out in front of the garden fence, lines of pheasants, partridge, snipe, hares and rabbits were there for the shooters to inspect. The beaters and picker uppers, with their spaniels and retrievers went over to the barn to eat from their lunch boxes with cider to drink and the dogs having any leftovers. The game keeper would have worked hard all year to please Lord Davies on this day. Raising pheasants, keeping the predators at bay, making sure the pheasants were sitting, and that they would not smother in the release pens. I saw more wildlife in my young years that I have seen in recent years, both game birds and our natural garden birds, every hedge supported an abundance of nests, the noise of bird life was a joy to hear. The game keeper ensured that there was a balance of nature in the countryside. The wood itself was managed, rides were kept clear, and old oak trees were left for roosting. At harvest time my father took a cart load of sheaves of corn from the perimeter of fields and spread them in the wood. A healthy flock of birds enabled them to fly higher on the day of the shoot. So, at the end of the day the shooting brakes would be loaded up and the chauffeurs would transport the shooters, Ribbentrop included, back to Plas Dinam for the evening.

FUN IN HILLCREST

On 31st August we had one of our gatherings on the Village Green at Hillcrest. The weather forecast was for a dry afternoon but shortly after we sat down it started to pour with rain. Fortunately, the situation was saved by Lynn with his camper van awning, and Chris with his gazebo. It was a tight fit under these shelters due to a good turnout but luckily the rain didn't last long.

As usual it was a 'bring your own food and drink' event and as usual everyone brought extra food with them so there was plenty of sharing. Kat's fresh homemade chips were a popular highlight. Lots of ball games were played on the green by both young and old. The conversation and laughter continued well into the evening until it started to get a bit chilly outside.

These gatherings never fail to be enjoyable and serve as a comforting reminder of what a lovely close-knit community we have here in Aberhafesp.

ST. GWYNOG'S CHURCH

Services: At last the repairs to St. Gwynog's have started. As this goes to print, we will have started the work (16th September) which is estimated to take 8 weeks. During this time the church will be closed, but the services will continue as normal on the first and third Sundays at 9.30am and every Wednesday at 10.30am, in the church room, which will be accessed from the back door.

We also have some excellent news regarding our Sunday services in that we shall be having a third service from November, initially Morning Prayer, meaning that we have services on the first three Sundays of the month. From the New Year we are also planning a less formal prayer breakfast meaning that we shall have some form of service or event on every Sunday of the month, sharing any fifth Sunday with Rhydfelin Chapel.

Thank you: Our thanks to all who support us with the grass cutting in the churchyard, it is very much appreciated. We do get comments of how well it is kept! We hope that the last cut will take place during September, but details will follow.



Coffee Mornings: These will continue to take place on the first Saturday of each month in the church room, accessed from the back door 10am-12 noon.

Harvest Service: This was due to take place on the 6th October but again because of the repairs we have deferred this until the completion of the work. We will then celebrate with a harvest service of thanks both for the farmers' harvest and our own repairs.

Congratulations: Our congratulations to Marjorie Price and Chris Smith of Pen-y-Ffordd, Hillcrest who were married on the 24th August.

Christmas Wreaths: If you would like to order one of these very popular wreaths, please give your order to Pam by the 8th December. Wreaths are £3.50 each.

See our **Facebook Page** for more information.

RENEW YOUR BUS PASS

The current Concessionary Travel Cards (bus passes) all have a common expiry date of 31st December 2019 and need to be replaced. The old-style cards will not be recognised by electronic readers on buses after this date. This means ALL current eligible pass holders will need to re-apply and receive a new smartcard. The new smartcard will be future proofed and be compatible with future enhancements such as public transport integration as that becomes possible. The new-style cards will offer the same free travel rights and benefits as the current cards.

Cards can be renewed online <https://tfw.gov.wales/travelcards>.

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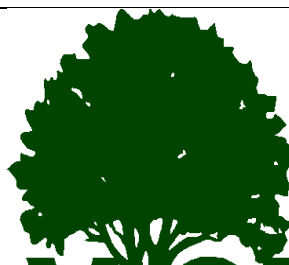
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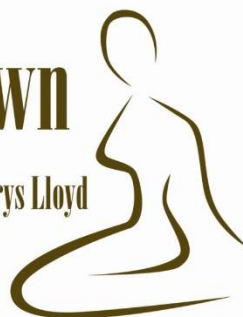
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MOTHERS' UNION

A group of 15 members and friends of Aberhafesp MU Group shared an enjoyable, sunny afternoon in the Shropshire village of Chirbury on the 11th July.

The visit began with a very interesting demonstration of hand crafting original and unique pottery items by Ralph Jandrell onsite at his Pottery and Gallery at Unit 4, Shepherd's Yard, Chirbury, SY15 6BH. Ralph has run his own pottery studio since 1997. He takes his inspiration from the beautiful, local countryside.

After browsing and purchasing items from the range of Ralph's pottery – and pausing to see the amazing array of rocking horses at Sally's Unit in Shepherd's Yard – we made our way to The Herbert Arms Hotel for afternoon tea. Duly refreshed with tea or coffee and filled with sandwiches and cake some of our group visited the local St. Michael's Church in Chirbury. The old building filled with various artefacts provided another interesting aspect to our trip. Despite one short shower of rain temporarily interrupting the sunshine, we had a very pleasant trip.

Barbara Moelwyn-Williams. Committee Co-ordinator Aberhafesp Mothers' Union

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Did you all vote for the Aberhafesp 'W.I. Lady' Scarecrow? Every W.I in the county was invited to make one to celebrate the 100th birthday of Montgomeryshire W.I. and also to promote our local W.I.s In the case of Aberhafesp, she was a dual purpose scarecrow – on the day we put her in place we certainly slowed the traffic down through the village – we had some very strange looks from passing motorists. We usually have a country walk for our July meeting, but this year held our meeting at the centre, and we were rewarded with a worthwhile and informative talk from diabetic nurse, Gill Hill. She told us how to recognise the symptoms of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. We were shocked to find how many teaspoons of sugar everyday food contains.

In September members and their husbands visited Leighton Stud. What an impressive place, from the wonderful horses to the preservation work taking place on the old buildings. The evening was rounded off in true W.I. style with a meal at The Railway Inn, Forden.

Our Outdoor Bowls team are to be congratulated on their success in the County competition in July. Liz Davies and Doreen Lloyd had first place, Margaret Pugh and Angela Welbourn second place, and Jean Jones and Joyce Owen fourth place. Well done. We entered a team in the Croquet competition and are looking forward to taking part in the Short Mat Bowls and Kurling competitions coming up shortly.

There is so much on offer at your local W.I. come along and see for yourself. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7.00pm in Aberhafesp Community Centre.

Contact Elaine Benbow Tel: 01686 625586

3 rd October	Illustrated Talk 'Wildflower Meadows' Dr. Wolfgang Shaeffer
7 th November	AGM + Crackpots paint your own pottery – Tony and Cheryl Orme
5 th December	Feel Good and Look Good

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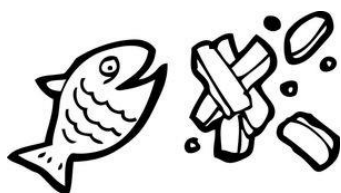
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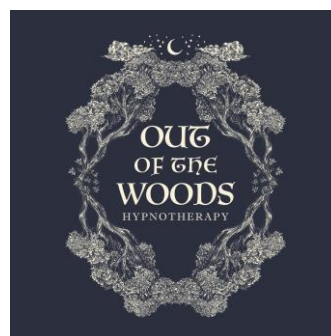
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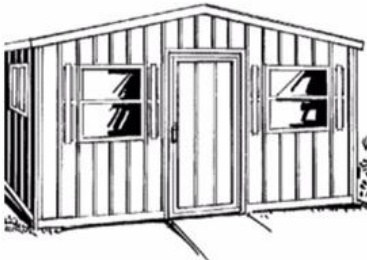
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ABERHAFESP TREFOIL GUILD

Were you ever a Rainbow Brownie, Guide or Ranger?

If you were you may have heard of the Trefoil Guild but on the other hand you probably haven't. The Trefoil Guild is a branch of 'Girlguiding' whose members (both male and female) are over 18 and agree to support the Guiding ethos which includes 'the promise' and to help other people both inside and outside of guiding. The Trefoil Guild began in the UK in 1943 and now has more than 1,100 Trefoil Guilds with over 20,000 members. Our Guild, in Aberhafesp is not quite so old, we will be celebrating our 30th birthday next year. The Trefoil Guild programme is as wide and varied as our members wish, as we plan it ourselves. For the last five years we have decided upon a theme and chosen activities to fit into this e.g. special days or celebrations, TV programmes, year of legends, Trefoil 75th birthday celebrations, and this year colour. The activities selected have ranged from UN world toilet day; Holby City when we were instructed by a member of the local St. John Ambulance in CPR and how to use a defibrillator; we had a picnic at Llangorse Lake and heard its legend; our pamper evening had us laughing so much; and this year our theme of colour has amongst other things seen us tie dying and visiting a lavender farm. We all enjoy eating and usually celebrate the New Year with a meal at a local restaurant. We also take every opportunity to remember guiding members in other countries on Guide World Thinking Day by making, or buying, then sampling a variety of International foods, attempting crafts, music and other art form from different parts of the world. This year we had a 'Rainbow of food' from around the world. We also have a twin Guild in Australia with which we correspond.

Several years ago, a group from our Guild visited 'Our Chalet', the International Guide Centre in Switzerland. We had a great time hiking, visiting places of interest and of course meeting Guides from around the world. This year some of our members went to the Welsh Trefoil AGM on Anglesey. We decided that this was a good excuse for a mini break, so once again we decided to book a cottage nearby and have another mini break. We had such a lot of fun that we are starting to plan for next year. We are only a small group here in Aberhafesp but if anyone thinks that they may be interested in finding out more about us or even coming to join us for an activity or two give Shirley a call on 01686 625623. She will be more than happy to have a chat with you. (You do NOT have to have been a member of the Guide Association, in fact several of our members never have been).

We normally meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30pm but this year as many of our activities needed to be done during the day, we have done just that and met during the day. It just depends on what our members want, we can chop and change as long as we are all in agreement and having fun together.

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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 **January 2020**. Please send any articles of interest and your email addresses to the Editor (mbedworth@gmail.com) no later than the **20th December**.