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ABERHAFESP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020 Edition



From the Editor:

Well here is another edition of our village newsletter, unsurprisingly with limited news. However, I do hope you enjoy reading what I have been able to put together while we are still locked down in Wales. Let us all hope that things have improved by October so I can report on some exciting events and we can all get together to enjoy ourselves.

COVID-19 TESTING

Hundreds of people in Powys with COVID-19 symptoms can now be tested each day thanks to a new partnership between Powys Teaching Health Board, UK Armed Forces, Powys County Council and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society.

Anyone with symptoms – new continuous cough, fever, or loss of sense of taste or smell – can request a home testing kit or can book an appointment at drive-in testing units in the county. These are currently located at Bronllys Hospital, Theatre Hafren in Newtown and the Royal Welsh Showground. Visit the [Welsh Government website](#) or call 119, or 18001119 for people with hearing or speech difficulties.

The drive-in testing units are available by appointment only. When fully operational the units will normally accommodate around 10-15 tests per hour.

In Powys, this can currently be booked by emailing powysresourcing@wales.nhs.uk or calling 01874 712600 or by visiting the Health Board website [here](#).

BEWARE OF SCAMS

The NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect scheme recently launched to help reduce the spread of the virus so, if you are contacted by someone from the service as you have been in close contact with a person who is confirmed as having the virus, you should self-isolate for 14 days, and request a test if you develop symptoms.

Criminals have been taking the opportunity to exploit the COVID-19 pandemic for financial gain. With the launch of this new service it is important to know how to spot the signs if criminals choose to try and take advantage of it.

Contact tracers will NEVER:

- Ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (for example, those starting with 089 or 087)
- Ask you to make any form of payment
- Ask you for any details about your bank account
- Ask you for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- Ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to setup any over the phone
- Ask you to purchase a product
- Ask you to visit any website that does not belong to the Government or NHS
- Ask you to download any software to your device or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet.
- For more information on Track, Trace, Protect visit: <https://gov.wales/contact-tracing-your-questions>

CORONAVIRUS MASKS FOR SALE £5 each including p&p

Homemade masks all double lined washable cotton with small opening for extra filter if necessary, and soft jersey fabric ties for securing. (can be elastic if preferred)

Get in touch if you need one (or more). Can deliver locally or by horse power, or can be collected from Clatter.

Janey E Cooper, Crossgates, Clatter, SY17 5NN Tel: 07427104082

FACE VISORS (FREE – donations accepted)

Available from All Saints Church Newtown. Contact Rev. Canon Nia Wyn Morris: 07833302312

COMMUNITY CENTRE

I have been asked to write something optimistic for this newsletter, and at first this seemed a tall order, but not so!

In mid May, I was standing in the garden when something swooped low over my head, the house martins signalling their return from North Africa. In no time there were squeals of delight, as they found their old nest above the bedroom window, and set about its refurbishment.

At the hall, we are endeavouring to keep it looking good. Jack is doing the lawns, the pots are planted, and the fire alarm system has had its annual check. Minor repairs and replacements are being done inside including a better dart board light. As we have no income, it has been a bit of a worry. Luckily we have saved for a rainy day, we were not expecting it to be a pandemic though! We have had good news, in that we have received a recent grant, which will help, so have decided to go ahead with the replacement of the rotten fascia by the front door. This should be done very soon, and will be easier to do while the hall is not in use, so when we are able to hold functions again, it will be all ready – I can't wait!

More good news is that our community has pulled together to help each other in the last few months. Everyone has been very kind, and Chris and I treasure our rainbow on the front door, painted for us by two local young ladies. The garden centres have helped by delivering, and one temporary delivery driver told me that it was his favourite ever job going round seeing all the beautiful gardens. Haven't the gardens all put on a good show this year to cheer us up?

We must thank the local shops who have been good with deliveries, and local friends for fetching things from the shops, not forgetting our young farmers, who set up a scheme to help local vulnerable people, at the same time putting Aberhafesp on the map with their slot on TV.

To conclude, all the best to everyone, stay safe, and we hope that we really will all meet again, very soon. Maddy Thornton.

Footnote: We are aware that an AGM for the Hall committee is due in July, but as we are unable to hold one at present the committee will carry on until it is possible to have one, possibly in the Autumn. The same with the 200 club. The due draws will be completed in the Autumn, and hopefully we will be able to sell tickets for the new year as soon as possible in 2021.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

During the lockdown the Aberhafesp WI like all other social groups had to stop. We would have enjoyed a talk about pharmacy by Claire Jones in April with a competition to decorate an egg. In May we were to listen to Cynthia McVey talking about Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands and our competition was to be a jug of flowers from the garden. However we are a positive, forward looking group and in September we hope to be able to welcome Llangynog WI to our meeting when Eleri Williams will talk about Welsh costume and our competition will be to make 4 Welsh cakes. Whilst members have been keeping in touch with each other through phone calls, emails and letters but we will certainly be ready by then to get together and have a chat over a cup of tea! Although the WI office in Abermule is closed we are able to contact officers for advice or support. While we are all at home catching up on jobs we have been meaning to do but never quite getting around to: sorting cupboards, painting, decorating, cleaning, gardening etc. Our last WI newsletter encourages us to enter the 2021 calendar competition of the theme of 'Black and White' so some of us may get our cameras out and enter. We are also encouraged to enter the Denman Cup competition – 'What I heard on the bus', a 500 word piece of creative writing which may be comical, serious, fact or fiction. We have some talented members who may put pen to paper and enter this competition. 'WI's got Talent' takes place in October so social distancing practices will need to take place in the very near future in preparation for this! Carleen Schofield, Secretary.



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Notice: At present I am doing home visits if anyone is in need. The last thing we need is people falling etc. Taking cross infection control very seriously of course. Anybody in desperate need can contact me, and we can make the decision on the best way forward, as it really depends on their medical condition.



HAMERBUILD

Nigel Hamer

General Builder

Home Maintenance

Bwlch-y-Ffridd

*Supporting the Aberhafesp Community
newsletter*

ONLINE SHOPPING

Since we've all been living in Lockdown
I've found a wonderful way to shop;
I just go online,
It doesn't matter what time,
I can shop while others sleep,
In the middle of the day,
While others play,
I'm shopping,
It is such a treat!

I can spend the whole day
Just looking,
Window shopping is fun
With no flagging
Nor dropping.
It's easy on the feet
As I stay in my seat
And travel from store to store,
And if I fancy a break
There's coffee and cake
Waiting for me in the next room!

It's become a weekly ritual
Booking the supermarket delivery slot;
The website's a dream
If you know what I mean
'cos there's a record
Of all that I've bought!
I can click and just pick
My grocery trip,
But don't forget as you shop
That delivery slot,
Then a nice young man
Will arrive with a van,
With all of your shopping on board.

In these days of attrition
I'm in a position
To make a tactical purchase
So in May I began
My Christmas shopping plan
And nailed it, at cut down prices.
So let me recommend
To all of my friends,
A way to shop that doesn't tire
Go online – have a blast
And though Lockdown won't last
I'll be sticking to supermarkets online.

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LOCKDOWN

THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY AND THE BEAUTIFUL

It was fortunate for us all that May was such an exceptionally fine month; the summer weather encouraged gardeners, both the experienced and the newcomers. With all social activities cancelled, what to fill our time with? Suddenly some people had time on their hands and fancied harvesting fresh radishes and lettuces quickly while looking forward to later crops of runner beans and winter leeks. Others changes to a different regular routine, switched on the TV for exercise and cookery classes, or followed through their plan to spring clean the whole house! A seasonal task, after all.

For those in isolation gardens have been life-savers and havens of retreat outside the house: they provided opportunities to chat “over the garden wall” at the 2m distance, to keep in touch and meet. Out here in the country we are very aware of our good fortune to be living away from big towns and cities. “How do they manage?” we said to each other, thinking of blocks of flats, several children confined in a small home, their playgrounds closed, communication limited to digital devices and no hugs from granny.

Digital devices have now become the norm. Mass communication is essential for disseminating information and of course, for keeping friends and family in touch. We can see concerts, take part in all sorts of groups through Zoom and the like. We can learn new skills and take up new interests. Of course, there is another side to all this; the bad and the ugly, the mis-use of such power; the insults, threats and evil that we hear about that cause immense suffering and anger.

Have you been watching ‘Springwatch’? What an inspiring programme! What a wake-up call and reminder of the beauties and complexity of nature, and the inter-dependence of all things living.


These are two special moments of my Springwatch: seeing two young wrens fledge out of a rope nesting pocket that I didn't know had been occupied even though it was next to the door; and walking along the middle of the B4568 as the sun set and the only sounds were those of my footsteps and the songs of the blackbirds.

We don't know what the next few months will bring. Let's all be hopeful; so, back to the good and the beautiful, and thinking ahead to when the tomatoes, beetroot, beans are ready to harvest all at the same time and there is a mini glut; would it be possible to have a car-boot swap at the Community Centre of surplus produce thus keeping up the tradition of putting a box of this or that at the gate for people to help themselves?

Anne Griffiths, Aberhafesp Hall.

Unfortunately the staff at
DIAL-A-RIDE
have been furloughed, so there is currently no service available
Hopefully this will resume in the near future
call or ring Steve Evans for up to date information
on 01686 622566

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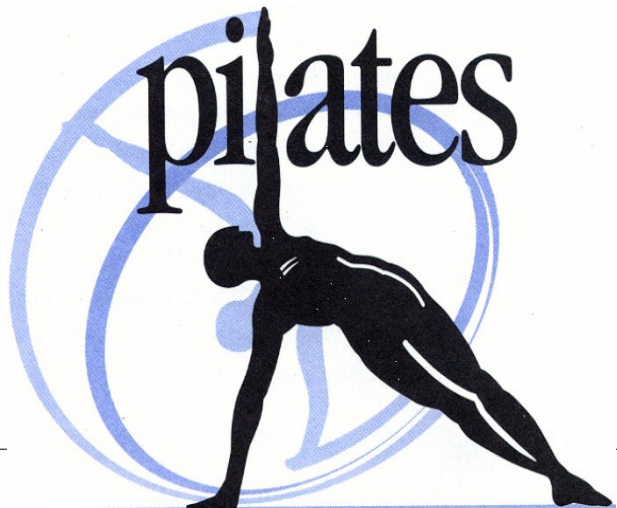
Sian Roberts

Every Wednesday 6-7pm Caersws Village Hall
Every Friday 9.30am – 10.30am Fit 4 Life Newtown
All ages and abilities welcome,
come along and give it a try.
Phone 07766606276 for details.

At the time of publishing this newsletter

All classes cancelled until further notice.

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ST. GWYNOG'S CHURCH

The villagers of Aberhafesp enjoy hearing St. Gwynog's 163 year old turret clock strike every hour. The clock strikes the hours using the tenor bell. It is a very accurate time piece so have you ever wondered how this happens 24/7, 365 days a year?

We have a small team of dedicated volunteers who work on a rota to wind the clock every week and maintain its 7 day movement.

The clock and it's west facing face were restored by Alan Cooper who maintained it from 1999 until his death in 2015. Last October, the movement was thoroughly cleaned.

The clock has a face on the south side of the tower and a second face on the west which are connected by shafts, universal joints and bevel gears. **Thank you to our volunteers**



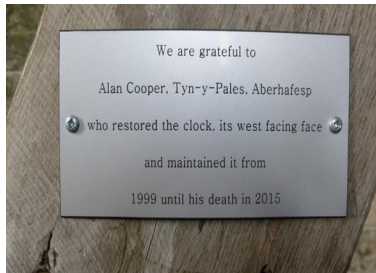
South Face



The Movement



Close up of escapement



Dedication plaque to Alan Cooper



Repeater that is used to synchronise the clock faces



The weights.

The right weight drives the train and the left weight drives the striking mechanism



Pendulum



Drums of rope that support the weights



Close up of striking mechanism

LOCAL SUPPORT

As there still are still no services or activities in our churches or community it is important that we continue to make every effort to care for the spiritual welfare of our people as well as their well-being in general. In approaching those who are of a Christian faith we offer to make regular calls or pray together over the telephone or other means of communication. You can contact:

Pam Thompson on 091686 627959 (pamcrusty@gmail.com)

or Elinor Francis: 01686 689966 (egfrancis27@gmail.com)

If you need pastoral support of a priest/minister please contact

Rev Nia Morris: niawyn1000@yahoo.com/07833302312 who will arrange this. You can view the Sunday services recorded at All Saints [here](#).



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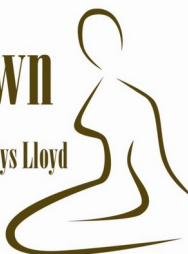
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**AT THE TIME OF PUBLISHING THIS NEWSLETTER WE ARE STILL WAITING TO
HEAR FROM THE WELSH GOVERNMENT ABOUT WHEN WE CAN REOPEN.**

WE HAVE A WAITING LIST IF YOU WISH TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

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 Call Kara on 07704911765
 or email:
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YOUNG FARMERS

The YFC has been quiet since lockdown, however the farming community has kept a positive vibe. Lots of people haven't stopped working with many farmers enjoying the lockdown because the kids are at home to help with the work. Markets are still buzzing with sales and prices are higher than normal. YFC Montgomeryshire has had a virtual farm tour which helped raise money for charity. [See here:](#)

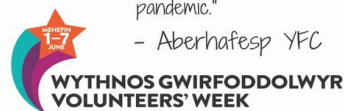
ALSO: Some of our members are taking part in the Wales YFC Virtual Royal Welsh Show Competition. Results to be announced on Saturday 11th July.

Follow us on [Facebook](#)



"For Volunteers' Week, we would like to give a huge thank you to our Vice Chairman, Gemma Owen, for volunteering and carrying out important work in the community throughout the Covid-19 pandemic."

- Aberhafesp YFC



APPLICATION FOR INTENSIVE PIG REARING UNIT AT BANK FARM, ABERHAFESP

A pre-planning application has been published outlining details for the erection of a livestock building to be located in open fields in front of Bank Farm, Aberhafesp, approximately 300 metres from the crossroads and close to the Fachwen pool. The proposed building will house 1000 pigs that will be reared intensively indoors for twenty weeks before being removed for slaughter in articulated lorries. There are serious concerns regarding the impact of this type of development on both water and soil pollution and the impact of increased traffic on local roads. Consultation documents are available to read on www.ianpickassociates.co.uk in the 'Community Consultation Packs' section (J.W. Hopkins 'Erection of a livestock building'). This company are acting as consultants for the proposed development. If you would like to comment there are details on how you can contact the company in the 'Contact Us' section of the website. If you would like any other information please email: lloydjenny93@gmail.com

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Planning Applications

It is the duty of Aberhafesp Community Council to comment on Planning Applications in the parish.

- Powys County Council no longer publish public comments on Planning Applications on their planning website, this means that Community Councillors are unaware of the feelings of local people towards applications.
- It is therefore suggested that if anyone has comments in support of or objecting to Planning Applications in the area then they should make their views known to the Community Council in addition to entering their comments on the Powys County Council website.
- This is particularly important whilst physical meetings of the Council are on hold.

Please note that it is just as important to communicate support for an application as objections to it so that the Community Council can get a balanced view of local opinion.

Aberhafesp Community Councillor contact information can be found at:

<http://www.community-council>.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As you can understand we have not been able to meet for the last few months. We have not been able to hold the AGM and advice for local councils was to leave the positions of chair and vice chair in place until we are able to hold meetings again. We are hoping to hold a meeting in the very near future, as lock down seems to be slowly easing. Our next meeting will be held with social distancing in mind, which will be strange but may become the new normal. Hope all is well.
Chair: Nigel Hamer

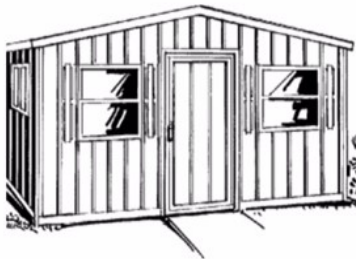
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Community Council Chair	Nigel Hamer nigelhamer68@hotmail.com	01686 650702
Young Farmers Chair	John Wainwright Johnw95@msn.com	
Aberhafesp Community Council website	www.community-council.org.uk/aberhafespcommunitycouncil	

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 2020**. 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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