



Abergavenny Community Centre

Newsletter

April 2019

Later this month...

Footloose Dance Orchestra 7-30pm on Sat April 27th

This 17 piece orchestra will be playing music from the 1920s & 30s

Tickets: £10 on the door Bar open from 6-30pm

This is the last in our present series of fundraising concerts. We are very grateful to Lionel Elton of the Abergavenny Rotary Club for his invaluable help with organising such enjoyable evenings and for attracting an array of talented performers. We are also very grateful to our audiences for raising in excess of £1,500. This sum has enabled us to undertake some essential building work to make the grounds safer – see below.

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### **Paul Downs**

Paul was one of our founding Trustees, having been one of the first directors of the Trust before we became a charity. Paul made a tremendous contribution to the establishment of the community centre and in the negotiations with the County Council over the lease. Unfortunately, Paul has decided to step down due to work and business commitments. He is sadly missed.

### **Funding Partnership with Abergavenny Town Council**

We are delighted to have entered into a Funding Partnership with the Town Council, formally signed at the coffee morning in the Centre on March 8<sup>th</sup> by Deputy Mayor, Councillor Tony Konieczny and Nick Hoyal for the Trustees. At the brief ceremony we

were also presented with a cheque for £25,000 which is to be used on energy efficiency measures. In addition the Council will contribute £10,000 towards running costs from May and the same again next year. In return the Centre will support activities which contribute towards the Town Council's Wellbeing of Future Generations goals.

We would like to thank the Town Councillors for implementing this innovative way of supporting community organisations and to express our appreciation for the assistance given us by the Town Clerk.

### **Visit from Julie Morgan AM of the Welsh Government**

The following week we received a visit from Julie Morgan AM, Deputy Minister for Health & Social Services together with Welsh Government staff with responsibility for policy on Loneliness & isolation. We are grateful to Nick Ramsay AM, who came too, for arranging the visit. Subsequently, Julie Morgan wrote to say she had thoroughly enjoyed the visit and had learned a lot about how community-led grassroots action could be successful in alleviating social isolation.

### **Thanks for donations**

Thanks to all the individuals who make monthly donations and to several organisations that have helped in the past few months. We are especially grateful to Y Fenni Business Community for their generous donation of £870 following an event at the Angel Hotel and to The Auberge for £100.

### **Seeking new trustees**

The Trustees have decided that they would like to appoint up to four more members to further strengthen the governance of the charity. They are especially interested in receiving applications from people who share the aims & values of the Trust and have skills in financial management and construction/estates management.

For further details of the role together with an application form, or for an informal discussion, please contact Jeremy Gass, the Acting Secretary to the Trustees, at [secretaryaberct@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryaberct@gmail.com) .

### **Improving the building & grounds**

Since the beginning of the year we have carried out work to make the grounds safer and to begin to improve energy efficiency.

***Making the grounds safer*** - the retaining wall from the lower car park, which was leaning dangerously, has been demolished and the immediate area behind has been landscaped. Shortly afterwards, the ramp to the upper car park and garden area was repaired and resurfaced. A grant of £2,500 from the Welsh Church Fund administered by the County Council together with money from the fundraising concerts enabled us to pay for this work. Our thanks go to Councillor Sheila Woodhouse for her advice on the funding.

These measures, combined with new external lighting, have addressed some significant health and safety risks.

***Improving energy efficiency*** - a start has been made on improving insulation and renewing wasteful strip lighting with new LED lights. The Learning Room is the first area to benefit from this work and already it feels warmer. We are still hopeful that LED lights can be installed throughout the building with the help of funding from the EU funded Rural Development Programme. We have applied to the Screwfix Foundation for a grant to put insulation material above the ceiling tiles in the other rooms.

***New shutter for front entrance*** - the noisy shutter has now been replaced with an electrically operated quieter model thanks to the generosity of all who took part in the Promise Auction before Christmas.

***New internal ramp*** – the ‘temporary’ ramp between the lower rooms and the main hall has been replaced with a much improved version. This was made possible by a grant from the County Council out of ‘Section 106’ money from a new housing development on Brecon Road. We are very grateful to the volunteer who gave the finishing touches to the woodwork.

***New toilets & welcome area*** Following the receipt of £150,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation for installing accessible toilets, automated doors and the creation of a welcome area, our architect has begun the tendering process. Once a contractor has been selected and we know when work will begin, we will provide more information on the timescale.

## **Afternoon teas**

Volunteers continue to serve afternoon teas on the final Sunday of the month. We are grateful to the Monmouthshire Housing Association for their donation of £250 which will enable us to continue to provide these teas.

## **Weekly activities**

Mondays from 11.00 to 1.30 **Family Café**

Wednesdays at 12.30 **See you for lunch** a two course meal – suggested donation £7

Fridays from 10.30 to 12.00 **Coffee Morning** followed at 12.00 til 1.00 by a **Light lunch** of homemade soup, bread & cheese - suggested donation £3

***Thank you for your ongoing support for the life and work of the community centre!***

Dates for your diary:

**Sat Apr 27<sup>th</sup> – Concert with Footloose Dance Orchestra 6-30pm for 7-30pm £10**

**Sun Apr 28<sup>th</sup> - Afternoon tea at 3-00pm.**

Contact us:

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