



Abergavenny Community Centre

Newsletter

December 2018

Welcome to new trustees

Since the summer seven new trustees have been appointed to the board of Abergavenny Community Trust. Chris Irving, Ffion Ansari and Sophie Kumar joined during the summer and Catherine Kelly, John Payne, Nick Hoyal and Sarah Lloyd-Jones will be attending their first meeting in December. Between them they have many years' experience in the business, charity, community and public sectors and bring a wide range of skills to the Trust which will strengthen our governance. Of our original three trustees at the time the charitable status was achieved in February this year, Freddy Edmonds & Paul Downs remain. Chris Aldous has decided he can no longer continue due to his work commitments which take him abroad much of the time. We thank him very much for the contribution he has made.

Improving the building

Since the County Council agreed earlier in the year to allow the Trust a 25 year lease on the building, we have been busy identifying the priorities for improving the building and applying for funding to carry out works.

New toilets Following the receipt of £150,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation, we will soon be going out to tender for installing accessible toilets, automated doors and the creation of a welcome area. This will be a major undertaking and we recognise that there will be some disruption. Our architect who will be supervising the building work will ensure that this is kept to a minimum. In the New Year we will be able to give more details of the work schedule as well as detailed drawings of how it will look once it is finished.

New shutter for front entrance Thanks to the generosity of all who took part in the Promise Auction in September, the noisy shutter will be replaced with an electrically operated quieter model very soon.

Roof repairs Following repair work during October we have not needed the buckets in place to catch the drips outside the toilets and the corridor ceiling is looking dry!

The staircase Now the flat roof is watertight, we can decorate the staircase and the main corridor in the New Year – volunteers to help will be very welcome!

The leaning wall from the car park will be demolished soon and the immediate area behind it will be landscaped.

Energy efficiency is very important to us not least because our bills are very high with a 13% increase in gas prices from January being a particular concern. We have been seeking advice from various quarters about the best ways to tackle this.

To begin with we want to keep more of the heat in the building! We've applied for some grant funding to replace some of the windows in the main hall. We expect to start work on putting insulation above the ceiling tiles after Christmas, beginning with the Learning Room which is the coldest of them all.

Replacing our neon strip lights with LED lighting will save us considerable sums and reduce our carbon emissions. We are expecting to receive funding for this from the EU funded Rural Development Programme.

Afternoon teas

Following a donation from Dormy Care, we have held the first in a series of monthly Sunday afternoon teas. A group of volunteers prepared sandwiches and cakes, got the hall ready and welcomed thirty people.

Thank you

We want to take this opportunity to say ***Thank you*** to all the people – individuals and organisations – who have helped during 2018 in so many different ways to ensure the continuation of what we are able to offer here at the Centre.

Thank you for your cash donations – big and small, regular or one-off. Thank you for your gifts of goods & equipment, and of food including beautiful fresh fruit & veg from the allotments and other growers.

Thank you for your time & effort – in the kitchen preparing food & washing up, looking after the garden, maintaining the building & grounds, supporting one another at coffee morning and See you for lunch, painting & decorating, making & hanging curtains, moving furniture, driving the minibus, making music, as Trustees at meetings and representing us to decision makers, planning & supporting fundraising events and so much more....

Thank you for giving professional or technical advice freely and thanks to our partners - including those who have held team building days with us - and all those who hire space here, contributing to the atmosphere and helping to cover our running costs.

Thank you for being part of the community centre!

In the New Year....

More Concerts we continue our series of Concerts on Saturday evenings with support from Abergavenny Rotary Club beginning on 26th Jan with harpist Ben Creighton-Griffiths and Lionel Elton on recorders.

Further concerts on 23rd Feb, 23rd March & 27th April

Sunday afternoon tea will be on Jan 27th at 3-00pm.

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