

*Encouraging public spaces to offer community partners and neighbourhood groups the opportunity to provide a range of activities, programs, and services.*

## Newsletter Spring '23

### Opening Doors Network:

One of the aims of the Opening Doors project is for Hubs to work together, sharing information, good practice and preventing duplication. Listed are the current Hubs within cluster areas, this information will be useful to encourage you to work more closely and share information with Hubs in your area. If you don't already have the contact details for the hub in your cluster, let us know and we can get these over to you.

| North                      | Mid                             | Southeast  | Southwest                                      |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Bethlehem Church           | Sharon Full Gospel Church       | Llanyravon Methodist Church<br>(Tasty not Wasty CIC) | Fairhill Methodist Church<br>Community Gardens |
| Garnsychan Partnership     | High Street Fitness             | Cwmbran Library                                      | Thornhill Community Centre                     |
| Blaenavon Library          | Pontnewynydd Community Centre   | Ponthir Village Hall                                 | CoStar<br>The Threepenny Bit                   |
| Blaenavon Resource Centre  | Mind Wellbeing Centre           | HWB @ Woodland Road                                  | Salvation Army Cwmbran                         |
| Forgeside Community Garden | Griffithstown Baptist Church    | CCYP   | Able   |
|                            | Cold Barn Farm Community Centre | TLC Community Church                                 | Ty Glas Y Dorlan                               |
|                            | Neighbourhood Learning Centre   | Richmond Road Baptist Church                         |  |
|                            | Upper Trosnant Baptist Church   | Ponthir Sports & Social Club                         |  |
|                            | Pontypool Market                |  |  |
|                            | Torfaen Museum                  |  |  |
|                            | Pontypool Library               |  |  |



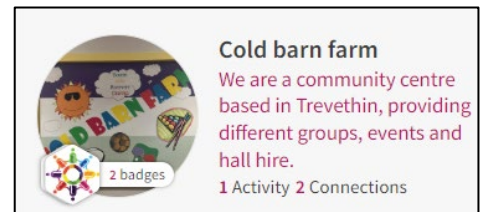
**The Opening Doors Plaque** has been updated with a QR code – have you had yours yet, and are you proudly displaying it? The plaques provide certification that your venue has been approved as an official Opening Door Hub, providing a safe space for accessing local services, information and activities aimed at reducing social isolation and loneliness.

### Digital Champions

Working with Digital Communities Team, we have arranged a training day, *exclusively for Opening Door Hubs*. This training will help you to support your community users with digital technology through becoming a Digital Champion for your hub.

Date of Training: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 10 – 4pm at Cold Barn Farm Community Centre, Includes a free lunch! To book a place, get in touch with Caroline.

**Connect Torfaen** is a community platform where organisations can promote activities, make connections, and share information. Most Hubs have already registered for Connect Torfaen and have badges to show they are part of the Opening Doors network. Remember to add your activities and events, they can be shared straight to Facebook! If you need any support with this get in touch. [Get started - Connect Torfaen](#)



**TVA Wales Facebook** – daily activities are promoted on our Facebook page, let us know if you would like to add any other activities.

### Networking Forum

The last forum took place 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Millennium Hall. Over 30 people attended with speakers from a range of agencies, services, and Hubs. They all gave useful information on topics from wellbeing, cost of living and Hub activities. The networking session was very successful with much information shared, and new connections made. Get in contact if you would like to attend or to speak at the June Networking Forum.



### Get There Together Films



These are short films created with still photography, text and a voice over. They are used to help people in the community feel confident about attending and engaging at Hubs. The films are available in digital and leaflet format. Have a look at the most recent film from TLC Church, it can be found on their profile page on Connect Torfaen. If you haven't made a file and are interested, get in touch. [TLC Church.mp4](#)

### Podcasts

We welcomed Able into the Opening Doors Network this month, and I am sure you will make them most welcome! Able bring with them a wealth of skills in promotion and will be producing podcasts to promote community groups and activities following their successful application to the Connecting Torfaen Grant as part of Opening Doors. If you would like to record a podcast to promote your hub and at the same time learn new podcasting skills, get in touch.

### Information Folders

These folders are nearly ready to go to print and be distributed to Opening Doors Hub soon. They will be a useful resource for the community to gain access to a whole range of services, agencies, organisations and information.

### Connecting Torfaen Grant

In addition to Able being successful with their grant application, Forgeside Community Gardens were also successful. Both projects will help engage lonely and isolated people in the community.

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