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|  |  | **The “STWFF DIRECTORY”**  **A guide to LOCAL RE-USE & RECYCLING Opportunities**  **TO REDUCE OUR LEVELS OF CONSUMPTION OF “STWFF” [WELSH FOR “stuFF”] AND OF WASTE**  *Oct 2022* **V2.0**  From **Abergavenny Climate Action**  *Our thanks to all our partners agreeing to appear in this directory*  Other services may be added in the future |

Our love of buying “stuff” is a major contributor to climate change. It adds to waste, to the consumption of energy and resources, and to landfill in the UK and beyond.

This directory describes some of the many initiatives and opportunities locally which offer ways to reduce our consumption. To:

* avoid purchasing
* borrow
* repair
* re-use
* re-purpose
* recycle and disposal

more extensively and efficiently.

The directory is our attempt to publicise these opportunities and so to encourage their use.

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**Benthyg Abergavenny (Benthyg-y-fenni)**

<https://benthyg-cymru.org>

<https://monmouthshire.benthyg.cymru>

‘Benthyg’ is Welsh for loan or borrow. Benthyg Abergavenny is creating a “Library of Things” based at the Community Centre, where it will be possible to borrow a wide range of items [such as DIY equipment, garden tools, wheelbarrows, tents, party crockery, tables & chairs] at low cost, thereby saving money and space in your homes.

* Donate items which are needed;
* Browse items you can borrow on the Benthyg website;
* Items are offered out for loan at very reasonable rates for a period of 4-7 days;
* Meet to share knowledge and skills with each other, thus increasing community resilience.

There will be four ‘Benthygs’ in Monmouthshire: Abergavenny, Monmouth, Caldicot and Chepstow. The Monmouth branch is already operating at Bridges Centre, Monmouth and the other three sites will follow shortly.

**Charity Shops**

<https://www.yell.com/s/charity+shops-abergavenny.html>

Charity shops are a great way of promoting re-use. They offer a wide variety of donated used goods a second life [e.g. clothing, shoes, books, DVDs, toys and furniture] which might otherwise be sent to landfill.

* there are too many charity shops in the Abergavenny area to list here – a subset are on Yell (link above);
* Do follow guidelines when donating, such as ensuring all donations are in a good state of repair and cleanliness;
* Please do not leave bags outside the shops;
* See more about charity shops in the Recycling Directory for Abergavenny, [here](https://www.abergavennybaptist.co.uk/_files/ugd/70490a_f1241dd597ca4cae86ab918923ebeebc.pdf).

**Cwtch Angels**

Facebook: “Cwtch Angels, Community CIC”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/491313248120903/about/>

Cwtch Angels is a support group within the community, providing help in such ways as food parcels, clothes & household items to families and individuals in need. It is run as a Community Interest Company on as a not-for-profit basis.

* food donations are received from local supermarkets and the public;
* a monthly supply of fresh food [for a fee] is received from Fairshare;
* food is stored at the Abergavenny Community Fridge at Unit 2, Hatherleigh Place, West Union Road ;
* clothes, toys and household items are donated by the public;
* support programmes are run, e.g. the 2022 Summer Holiday Hunger programme, designed to help parents struggling through the Summer holidays to feed their children.

**Facebook Marketplace and Gumtree**

<https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/>

<https://www.gumtree.com/for-sale/abergavenny>

* These are just 2 of several national marketplaces for buying and selling goods, primarily for reuse.
* So they are rather like Freecycle, but are not free (although you can post to give away if you like)!
* Both operate nationally but can filter to the local area to minimize distance to travel.

**Freecycle**

<https://uk.freecycle.org/>

<https://www.freecycle.org/town/AbergavennyUK>

Freecycle is a national grassroots online site which, via posts on the website, is giving (and getting) stuff for free locally, thus promoting re-use and reducing waste.

* to view items being given away or sought you should sign-up to be a member of the local Town Group [there is an Abergavenny group];
* membership is free;
* members post items that are “offered” or “wanted”;
* everything posted must be FREE and legal.

**Homemakers (Monmouthshire / Abergavenny)**

<https://www.hmcrecycling.co.uk/>

Tel: 01873 857618 / 9

Homemakers take in used furniture and many household items for reuse and recycling

* items can be dropped off at their collection centre;
* there’s also a collection and house clearance service;
* items collected are sorted & refurbished;
* there’s a showroom off Union Road West in Abergavenny where the public can buy furniture and other household items;
* they support needy people, e.g. who are in a crisis situation or homeless, with means to help furnish a home.

If you would like to volunteer to help at Homemakers, contact them on 01873 857618 or visit their website.

**Little Green Refills**

<https://little-green-refills.myshopify.com/>

Tel: 07598 147080

Little Green Refills offers refills of household cleaning products, body care and food items, and a wide range of sustainable and ethical home wares. It is run by two Abergavenny mums who are passionate about reducing plastic waste. Much of the stock is from local producers and makers, thus reducing their carbon footprint and supporting the local economy.

* the shop is at 9 Market St, Abergavenny;
* the coffee house serves coffee, cakes and vegetarian and vegan food.

**Natural Weigh**

**Wales' first zero waste shop**

<https://naturalweigh.co.uk/shop/>

tel: 01873 269493

Natural Weigh is a zero-waste shop selling a wide range of natural [mostly organic] wholefoods, cleaning products and personal care products, free from single-use plastic packaging. It has been leading the way in the zero waste sector since 3rd March 2018 when it first opened in Crickhowell.

* check out the range of products they sell online [https://naturalweigh.co.uk/shop/] ;
* visit the shop at 54 High St, Crickhowell;
* you are encouraged to bring in your own containers to reuse and refill;
* all goods are sold by weight so you only buy what you need.

**OLIO**

<https://olioex.com>

OLIO is an international app that supports sharing, primarily of food but also non-food items. OLIO connects neighbours with each other and with local businesses [e.g. Tescos ], so surplus food can be shared not thrown away. This could be food nearing its sell-by date in local stores, spare home-grown vegetables, bread from your baker, or the groceries left in your fridge when you go away.

* The OLIO app is free to download from Apple Store for iPhones, or Google Play Store if you're on android. You'll need to create an account using your email address or Facebook account and share your location.
* To make an item available, simply open the app, add a photo, description, and when and where the item is available for pick-up.
* To access items, simply browse the listings available near you, request whatever takes your fancy and arrange a pick-up via private messaging.

**The Repair Café**

Email: [repaircafeabergavenny@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafeabergavenny@gmail.com)

Facebook page: The Repair Café Abergavenny

Twitter: AbergavennyCafe

Instagram: repaircafeabergavenny

<https://repaircafewales.org/about-us/>

<https://repaircafewales.org/venue/abergavenny/>

Repair Café Abergavenny is part of a network of repair cafes opened and supported by Repair Cafés Wales, who work together to reduce waste, share skills and strengthen our communities. Volunteers in the café repair household items including small electrical items (not microwaves), ceramics, silver jewellery, small furniture, bicycles and items needing darning and sewing

It meets 11 – 2pm, 3rd Saturday each month, in Abergavenny Community Centre, Merthyr Road, Abergavenny NP7 5BY;

* there are 30-minute repair slots;
* labour is free [but donations are welcome];
* drop in on the day, but it’s better to book by messaging or emailing, especially for ceramics, jewellery, small furniture and bicycles.

**The Re-use Shop (Llanfoist)**

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/reuse-shop/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MonCCRecycling/>

There are two Reuse Shops in Monmouthshire that sell items – everything from bric-a-brac to antiques and collectables – saved from disposal at Monmouthshire County Council Recycling Cantres, e.g. at Llanfoist. Profits from the shop go towards tree planting in Monmouthshire.

* Shop enquiries can be made at: [RecyclingandWaste@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:RecyclingandWaste@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

**“Seedy Sunday”**

The main business of the annual “Seedy Sunday” event is seed and plant swapping. It also has other stalls which have a plant growing and environmental focus.

* it is held early in the year at the Abergavenny Community Centre before the planting season begins;
* bring your seeds and young plants along!

**Tools for Self-Reliance**

<https://www.tfsrcymru.org.uk/>

tel: 0330 355 0122

Tools for Self-Reliance [TFSR] Cymru is a charity that aims to improve the lives of African artisans & families by providing them with quality refurbished tools & training. TfSR has been especially active in Tanzania.

* TfSR take in old and unwanted hand tools, sewing machines etc at their workshop and shop in Crickhowell;
* these are refurbished to a high standard by skilled volunteers in the TfSR workshop and sent to community groups in Africa;
* some are sold online and from their shop in Crickhowell;
* a repair service is also offered to local people which gives old tools new life for a small fee, and includes sharpening and new (Fork and other) Handles.

**Toy Share Abergavenny**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/toyshareabergavenny/>

Toy Share Abergavenny, a Facebook group set up in March 2022, enables members to share toys suitable for children aged 0 - 12 years.

Members can access items suitable for the development stage of their child and offer them back to the group once they have finished playing with them. Toys that are offered range from wooden blocks and baby gyms through to ride-on toys and bikes – we've even spotted a games console or two!

Toy Share supports members to buy less, normalise second hand and reduce the impact of toys on the environment.

* joining the group and borrowing an item are free;
* there is no set limit on how long members may keep an item locally in Abergavenny;
* Toy Share simply requests that all members give as much as they take from the group to keep the sharing cycle going.

Kindness breeds kindness and so far over 600 toys have been offered within the group, with many toys being reshared again and again.

**Repurposing and upcycling**

Find new uses for objects, be creative. That old sink could become a planter. Fix and upcycle with simple repairs and a paint job. There are many sources online to help you with ideas and to avoid sending more items to landfill.

The only limit is your imagination.

* Alternatively, why not offer the things you don’t want for someone else to re-purpose, reuse, renovate, fix and/or upcycle.
* Via Freecycle, Facebook Marketplace, donation to Homemakers, Cwtch Angel or others.

**RECYCLING and RESPONSIBLE DISPOSAL**

If goods have really used their end of life, then responsible recycling and disposal is required. Of course, many items are very likely to require recycling, such as glass, paper, plastics, cans.

* Be sure to check what can and should / should not go in your recycling bins and bags to ensure they can be recycled successfully and efficiently;
* Information can be found depending upon your location.

**What goes in which bag?**

* **In Monmouthshire,** check at

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2022/01/What-goes-where-2022-ENG.pdf>

* **In Powys**, see an A to Z of recycling items at:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/7744/A-to-Z-of-waste-and-recyclable-items>

**What if it can’t go in the bin or Bag?**

**More opportunities to recycle:**

There are a number of schemes to enable recycling of items that cannot be put into your regular recycling, from Pharmaceutical Blister Packs, Dental supplies, Spectacles and contact lenses, to Bras!

**THE RECYCLING DIRECTORY**

An excellent summary of what can be recycled, and where, has been created by the Baptist Church as part of an “EcoChurch” initiative in Abergavenny. It is very kindly shared to include in this directory.

For background on the EcoChurch initiative, visit:<https://www.abergavennybaptist.co.uk/eco-church> .

* To download the Recycling Directory for Abergavenny, please click [here](https://www.abergavennybaptist.co.uk/_files/ugd/70490a_f1241dd597ca4cae86ab918923ebeebc.pdf);
* Items are listed alphabetically indicating where they can be recycled locally.

Please take a look – you may be surprised how much more you can do to reduce the amount of waste which goes to landfill.

**Other national resources for recycling include:**

<https://walesrecycles.org.uk/what-to-do-with>

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/>