



communities first cymunedau yn gyntaf

Maerdy

Maerdy Community Newsletter

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A Merry Christmas From Community First – Maerdy

Welcome to Issue 3 of the Community Newsletter. Let's start by wishing everyone in the Maerdy Ward a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's hope that the New Year will bring in a brighter future for the residents of Maerdy.

We often hear about the negative aspects of life in Maerdy, so this month we introduce a new feature to spotlight local groups and activities to "publicise the positives". Throughout the coming issues we will try to visit all groups and organisations based in Maerdy. This month the **spotlight is on the Tang Soo Do Martial Arts Group** based in the Community Centre. There is also an interview with Debra Hanney, the Youth coordinator at Communities First – Maerdy and details of the Community First Trust Fund.

Maerdy Organisations Benefit from the Communities First Trust Fund

The Welsh Assembly has allocated £9m to the Communities First Trust Fund to provide small grants to local community and voluntary groups in Communities First areas and **three Maerdy organisations are among the first to benefit**. Seion Baptist Chapel, Maerdy's First Response Team and Maerdy Social Club football team have been awarded £1500, £1225 and £928 respectively.

Each Communities First area will be able to access £20,000 in grants each year. **This means that, at the time of going to print, there was still about £16,000 awaiting applications from Maerdy organisations.** Decisions on grant applications are made very quickly by regional Support Groups They involve people with a direct understanding of community development.

The Fund is aimed at supporting activities that involve local people through community led organisations that provide economic, environmental or cultural benefit.

What kind of project/activity will be supported?

- Small scale equipment for community groups, including computer hardware and software
- Minor repairs for community buildings
- Small scale community events/festivals
- Parent and toddler groups, children's playgroups
- Sports or social clubs
- Youth clubs or other young people's organisations

These are **only some** of the organisation/activities that could benefit.

So is your organisation missing out? Further advice, full details of the Fund and how you can apply is available from Ros Davis at the Communities First office in Teify House. Phone her on 755687. Alternatively Freephone "Communities First Helpline" on 0800 587 8898 and ask for an application pack.

SPOTLIGHT ON -----THE TANG SOO DO GROUP



Carol Mainwaring and her 13-year old son Michael went along to join Kyo Sa Nim Mark Jones after another busy class at the Community Centre.

Mark told them that Tang Soo Do Karate is a form of martial arts, which was developed hundred of years ago in Korea. The teachings promote self-disciplines and self-confidence and have developed a strong national following.

The benefits of Tang Soo Do are many and varied. The students learn self defence skills, improved coordination, meet new friends, increase confidence, get fit and burn up to 600 calories/hour. Young people particularly benefit from gaining inner strength to deal with the many temptations facing them.

The students learn traditional "forms" for self-defence and sparring. Grades are awarded for improvement. There are currently 35 students in Maerdy aged between 5 years to 43 years old. Mark stressed that age was no barrier and says "we would welcome anyone from 5 years to 70". Following their spectacular demonstration at our launch day in November, they have welcomed 9 new members and will be pleased to greet more.



There are two major competitions annually, which are the Tang Soo Do National Championships and the Martial arts Open Tournaments. On 24th November, a team of 9 students brought back a clutch of 6 medals from the Open Tournament, which is run in aid of the Marie Curie Cancer Appeal. The medal winners are listed on our Community Notice Board on the back page. Congratulations to all of you and keep promoting the name of Maerdy.



If you're interested in joining Mark and the rest of the students, contact him at the Community Centre. Training sessions are held on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. Further information on Tang Soo Do can be obtained from www.tangsoodo.co.uk.

Maerdy Archives needs your help on a new project they plan to start next year. They would welcome help from anyone, of any age, who can assist in compiling information from census forms, electoral registers, newspaper cutting, the web, etc. for inclusion into a library for the use of visitors to Maerdy and the community residents. It is planned to visit libraries and records offices to draw down the information on Maerdy. If you think you can help **contact David Owen on 730073 or Cullen Morris on 755320**. We will bring you more information in our next issue.

The Youth Group Interviews Debra Hanney, Youth Coordinator



Our newly appointed Youth Coordinator, **Debra Hanney**, left, was interviewed by 4 members of the Maerdy Youth Group – **Lee Roberts, Stephan Jones and Michael and Shauna Mainwaring**. Here's an extract from the interview.

Do You Like your Job?

Yes I do, it's been an extremely busy time. I've only been in post six weeks but already I've had the opportunity of meeting a varied selection of residents both young and old, community groups, schools and also my new colleagues within the Communities First team

Do you feel like you've settled in?

It's still early days yet but the reception and support I've received has been very positive and everybody has made me feel welcome. I've been out into the community to try and see for myself what activities, facilities and issues there are in Maerdy concerning the youth. However I see this as an ongoing process as consideration has to be given to youth who have previously been excluded. This will take time to accomplish.

What do you think you can do to help us?

It is important the youth feel they have the opportunity to play an active part in the way their community is shaped and that their views are seriously taken on board. My role is to provide support, guidance and practical assistance to all youth in Maerdy and also to try to actively engage those particularly at risk of exclusion. Part of my responsibilities include establishing and assisting in delivering activities which meet the needs of young people and ensuring the young people are actively involved in contributing to the Community Action Plan.



Part of my role is to enable each young person to feel confident and empowered enough to do things for themselves. We need to enable youngsters to access appropriate training and development opportunities that will encourage them to organise as well as participate in new activities I hope as many young people as possible will get in touch.

How can we get things moving to make what we want happen?

Within the next few weeks I will be arranging an informal meeting with the young men and women of Maerdy to discuss the setting up and maintenance of a youth focus group, Its important that people like yourselves attend and encourage your friends as well. This is just the starting point and we are eager to listen to what you have to say and in which ways you would like to take issues forward. Hopefully these meetings will not just be a talking shop but will ensure action/progress is made and that projects and activities are delivered over a period of time.

We are also looking for parents, friends and family to support youth activities within the community – so urge them to get in touch.

This is small extract from the interview with Debra. Contact Debra or Ros at the Communities First Office in Teify House or phone 755687 for a full copy of the interview.

Community Notice Board

Congratulations to students from the **Tang Soo Do Group** based at the Community Centre who brought back a clutch of 6 medals from the Martial Arts Open Tournament. The winners were:

Jay Redler (5 year old)	1 ST	-	Forms	
Natalie Chilcott	2 nd	-	Sparring	
Jonathon Thomas	1 st	-	Forms	
Kyle Beasley	3 rd	-	Forms	
Christian Thomas	3 rd	-	Forms	and 2 nd - Sparring

A **Health Workshop** is planned for 17th January 2003. It will explore many of the issues that affect the **Health and Well Being** of the people of Maerdy. It will be held at Teify House between the hours of 9.30 and 3.30. Why not pay us a visit and find out how you could benefit from the day. Lunch will be provided. Watch out for further information in early January. Full details are available from **Ros Davis at the Communities First Office in Teify House on 755687**

Are you interested in helping to organise/run a disco for the 11 ~16 year olds. If you are we want to hear from you. Plans are in their early stages. If you're interested, then contact **Debra Hanney at Teify House on 755687**

The Community Centre are staging their annual pantomime, **Dick Whittington**, on January 2nd at 2 pm. Tickets are available from the Bethan @ 14 Griffith Street or Bryn and Ann @ 40 Excelsior Terrace. **Adults £3.00, Children £1.50 Joint Adult and Child £4.00**

All Saints Church

Weekly Services

Sunday	-	Eucharist Service at 9.30.
Tuesday	-	Morning Prayer at 10.00
1 st Tuesday of each Month	-	Eucharist Service

Special Services for Christmas

Sunday 22 nd December	-	Children's Play and Carol Service (refreshments after)
Tuesday 24 th December	-	Christmas Eve service starting at 9.30 pm
Christmas Morning Eucharist at 8.30 am		

All more than Welcome

**Anyone requiring a home Eucharist Over Christmas should contact:
Revd Iris Thomas or a Church warden**

If you feel that you can contribute or you want to volunteer for any of the Focus Groups, you are welcome to attend any of the meetings. The latest dates for the Focus Group meetings are:-

Communication Group	Tuesdays	6.45 pm	Teify House
Education & Training Group	Last Tuesday of each month	5 pm	Ferndale Community School
Community Safety Group	Last Wednesday of each month	4 pm	Teify House
Steering/Residents Group	To be confirmed	TBC	TBC
Environmental Group	2nd January then First Wednesday of each month	5 pm	Teify House
Housing Group	To be confirmed	TBC	TBC
Estate Residents Group	22nd January	2 pm	Teify House