



# Maerdy Community Newsletter



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Maerdy

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## The Road to Nowhere ~ 2

Thank you for your response to our article last month on the termination of the Rhondda Fach bypass at Pontygwaith and the effects it will have on the communities of Maerdy, Ferndale and Tylorstown.

Several letters and e-mails have been received voicing support and many of you also gave verbal support to the sentiments expressed.

The article appears to have sparked some correspondence in the Rhondda Leader. Unfortunately the subject has been turned into a political argument as to who is responsible for the road not running the full length of the valley. **We are not interested as to which political party shoulders that responsibility – all we want is cooperation from all parties, whatever political persuasion, to get the road extension.** One thing is certain, if we do not work together then we may as well give up the fight now.

What is needed now is a joint campaign involving all councillors, our M.P., our A.M., industrialists and anyone else who can offer assistance.

We are in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and are driving on roads designed when the main mode of transport was the horse and cart. We lurch from pothole to pothole and from road patch to road patch. It's time to campaign strongly for the road extension. If we miss this opportunity we may never have another chance to have this road.

We intend to call a Residents Meeting to discuss this issue on how we can take this issue forward and to further gauge support. **IF YOU WANT A MEETING LET US KNOW and we will arrange it.**

You can write or visit us at Teify House or contact one of the Communications Group; **Jean John or Carolyn Richards from Oxford Street, Dave Chapman from Richard Street, or Lynda Lewis from Morris Terrace.** You can also e-mail us at [davechapmancf43@hotmail.com](mailto:davechapmancf43@hotmail.com)

This article does not necessarily reflect the views of the Communities First Partnership but are the opinions of the Communications Group that edit this newsletter.

### Maerdy Hall – Danger Warning

**An initial inspection of the Maerdy Hall has revealed that the building is extremely dangerous. Not only do your children run the risk of being injured by playing inside the building, but there are many other potential hazards that could occur through children playing in the unsafe, unsupervised environment inside the building.**

**The Communities First Partnership Board urges you to warn your children not to go into the building.**

**The Communities First Partnership in conjunction with the 'Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation' are currently looking into how this problem can best be managed and seeking the necessary funding for the building's demolition**

### Housing Group Meeting For All the Community

There will be a meeting in Teify House on October 14th @ 10am, for people interested in the Housing Group. RCT will present their new Housing Strategy

## Calling all you home-workers

We welcome to Maerdy **Julie Davies** of the **National Group on Home-working Project** who have just opened an office in the area. The Project has received funding from the Welsh Assembly and Oxfam Cymru to **advise and help anyone working from home on how to improve their basic employment rights and benefits**. They also help employers to retain a happy and efficient home-worker base and advise them of the rights of home-workers.

Julie, pictured right, is the local advisor and she has an office above the hairdressers, Colours and Curls, on Maerdy Road. **She hopes to organize informal meetings and possibly coffee mornings at which home-workers can meet each other to discuss their problems and get to know each other.**

The National Group on Home-workers is a non-profit making organisation and membership is free. You don't have to be a member to seek advice from Julie and all conversations will be held in the strictest confidence.



If your interested or think you could benefit from the service offered why not contact Julie on 0845 600 8145 or pay her a visit at the office in Maerdy Road.

## Lost Property!!!!

***Have you had 14 items of clothing stolen from your washing line in the last 48 hours? Found behind Seion chapel Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept.***

***The item includes children's school clothes. Ring 757655 or call at 11, Brook Street***

**Christianity Explored 2003** is a short, practical introduction to the Christian Faith. It is a proven course run in many countries all around the world. Over ten weeks it attempts to answer the "*hard*" questions that may be obstacles to a real, life-changing faith in Jesus Christ. **Each session starts at 7pm.**

After a light snack we watch a video, then there is an opportunity to discuss, or listen to others discuss the Bible's teachings, or raise any difficulties that trouble you. Many have found it a great help.

You will not be under pressure to read aloud, sing or pray. No previous knowledge or church attendance is necessary. Each session finishes before 9pm.

**All sessions are free.**

**Literature is provided free.**

**All ages are most welcome**

**The first session is on Wednesday October 1<sup>st</sup> at Seion Vestry.**

**For further details telephone 01443 757961**

## Sporting Personalities - Gareth David Hughes (Alfie)

This month we start a new feature on sporting personalities from Maerdy. Over the coming months we want to praise our unsung heroes. We start the series with a profile of one of our famous bowlers – Gareth David Hughes – also known to most of you as Alfie

Alfie, from James Street, started his bowling career in Maerdy Bowls Club before moving to the Ferndale Club in 1998. He rightly deserved his selection to represent Wales in the international series in Belfast in 2001, Worthing in 2002 and this year in Ayr.

2003 has been a busy year for Alfie. As well as the trip to Ayr, he represented Wales in Jersey and he has taken part at the English Bowling Association Centenary Series which was played over 14 days at 5 different venues.

His international career started after he was part of the team which won the Fours Welsh Championship 2000. His team went on to become runners up to Ireland on the trip to Belfast the following year.



Alfie has had many successes in the Mid Glamorgan County Tournament where he won the 2003 Triples and came runner up in the Pairs.

**Alfie is a very competitive bowler but plays his bowls in a manner which ensures that bowls is played in the correct spirit.**

## Maerdy Community Centre – Autumn Courses

The Maerdy Community Centre are hosting several courses in partnership with Coleg Morganwg, University of Glamorgan, and Cardiff University starting in September. All courses have beginner classes so no experience is necessary and range from the arts through woodcraft to computers.

Some courses are already arranged:

### Computers: Starting 11<sup>th</sup> September

- Morning Session - Introduction to Power Point
- Afternoon Session - Desktop Publishing Level 1

### Dance

This practical course concentrates on the various styles, including street-dancing and salsa. No previous experience necessary.

4 Weekly meetings on Thursdays from 7pm ~ 9pm starting on October 2nd

### Music

This course covers a broad range of musical study across the classical and popular repertoire and will include reading and theory, arrangements and composition as well as instrumental and vocal techniques.

10 weekly meetings on Tuesdays from 7pm ~ 9pm from September 30<sup>th</sup>

**Anyone interested can get further information from Jeff Williams at the Community Centre on 01443 733417**

## **Changes to the issue of Repeat Prescriptions**

A recent directive from the Rhondda Cynon Taff Local Health Board, working on guidance from the Welsh Assembly, has resulted in changes in the way **REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS** will be issued throughout the RCT area. **(Each doctors' practice HAS to implement these changes they are not negotiable.)**

### **These changes have been introduced to:**

- Provide a safer environment for the prescribing of all medication
- Make patients accountable and responsible for their own prescriptions
- Reduce wastage of drugs that is costing the Health Service large sums of money.

### **The system will work as follows:**

- Repeat prescription cannot be ordered over the telephone
- 48 hours notice (2 working days) must be given to the surgery
- You will be issued with a **printed reorder slip each month**
- A box marked "**Repeat Prescriptions**" will be located on the reception counter for you to post your reorder slips. They may also be posted through the surgery letter-box.
- Tick the items you require on your reorder slip. If you don't tick an item it will not be processed for you.
- If there are items on the reorder slip that you know you no longer need, please cross them off the reorder slip and they will be removed from your records.
- If you lose your slip, please ask the receptionist for advice.
- You can nominate one of the local pharmacies to order your prescription for you every month but you will have to arrange this.
- The chemists are listed on the reorder slip for you to choose. Please do not forget to check with the chemist when you may collect your medication or arrange with them for the prescription to be delivered to your home – where this service is available.
- The chemists are not obliged to loan you any medication.
- If you do not indicate that you wish the chemist to act on your behalf, then your prescription will be filed at the surgery for you or your nominated representative.
- You can post your reorder slips to the surgery. You must enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you wish the prescription to be returned to you. If there is no envelope enclosed the prescription will be filed at the surgery for collection.
- No repeat prescriptions will be processed on a weekend.

### **Days For Ordering and Collection of Repeat Prescriptions**

<b>Order from the Surgery</b>	<b>Collect from the Surgery after 2pm</b>
Monday	Wednesday
Tuesday	Thursday (between 11 ~ 12 noon)
Wednesday	Friday
Thursday	Monday
Friday	Tuesday

**You will still be able telephone to order treatments for any acute illness such as colds, flue etc**

We still need your help to get the news of the area but do please keep in mind that we have limited time and so we need you to come to us. You can contact us at Teify House or any member of the Communication Group. You can also e-mail us at [davechapmancf43@hotmail.com](mailto:davechapmancf43@hotmail.com)

**Remember – if we don't know about it we can't tell you about it**