



Maerdy Community Newsletter

communities first cymunedau yn gynta
Maerdy

Funded by Communities First



Volume 1 Issue 2 – November 2002

Welcome to issue 2

The Launch/Open fun day was a great success with over 700 people visiting us to enjoy the exhibits and events that we had arranged. Our thanks to all of you that attended making it such a great day out. Our thanks are also extended to Ferndale Community School for all the help given on the day.

What have we for you this month? Well there's a report on the fun day, more information about the structure of Community First - Maerdy and details of some activities that have been arranged for the Christmas period.

As we said last month, we want this newsletter to be for you, the residents of the Maerdy Ward. If we just go on about Communities First, you'll soon get tired of us. So we want to hear from all organizations, associations and voluntary groups working in Maerdy. If you think we can help or you wish to contribute to the newsletter, contact Ros Davis at the office in Teify House on **01443 755687**. We look forward to hearing from you. If you are organizing any events over the Christmas period and you let us know, we will try to include it in our December edition. We are hoping to get it to you by the 17th of December.

Launch/Open Fun Day Out - a great success



Lynn Howells

The Launch/Open Day held on the 9th of November was an outstanding success with over 700 of you visiting us on the day. As we indicated last month, there was something for everyone. From the time the doors opened at 10 o'clock until we closed, both the Barn and Main Hall of the school were with the residents of Maerdy.

Lynn Howells, pictured left, opened the day by reminding all present that he, as a Maerdy resident, was pleased to see the starting of something new for Maerdy, which was primarily being driven by the residents of Maerdy. He was sure that the youngsters present would see the benefits from the project.

The activities in the Barn included a chance for you to try out your skills in activities like

creating your own tile mosaic or your own clay model. You could practice your drumming skills with the Bin Busters or your circus skills on the unicycle or stilts. We were also enthralled by a display of martial arts by the Maerdy based Tang Soo Do group. There was a team of 3 Face Painters who were kept going flat out for over 3¹/₂ hours, pleasing over 100 of your children. These together with the inflatable bouncy castle/assault course ensured that the children, and parents, had a good day.



Senior Cheerleaders

Launch/Open Fun Day Out – a great success (Cont)



Maerdy Tang Soo Do

Meanwhile in the Main Hall, there were stands displaying the work of several groups that have been working in Maerdy for many years. The Archive Society, GEAR (Group for Environmental Awareness), Seion Baptist, Teify House Sewing Group and the Community Centre Craft Group were all represented. The Teify House Line dancers and the Cheerleaders entertained us in the Main Hall while the Ladies of All Saints' Church kept us topped up with light refreshments.

On a more serious note, there were

displays from Community First, Environmental Focus Group, Taff Ely Drugs Awareness, Action Team for Jobs and the local library – all of which do work in the area. Other guest stands were from Age Concern, CISWO and the Arts Factory. On the Communities First stand we had a "Talking Wall" where you were invited to forward your suggestions. Some good ideas have been put forward and will be looked at over the next few months. Much interest also was shown on our Environmental stand and we thank those of you that filled in our questionnaire.



Seion Baptist Church Stand

The Launch Organising Committee extends their thanks to you all for the support you have shown. We hope that you all enjoyed yourselves and have gone away with a greater understanding of the aims of Community First and how YOU can get more involved with the programme. They would also like to thank Mr Jenkins, head-teacher of Ferndale Community School and his staff who helped to make the day the success it undoubtedly was.

The Structure of Communities First - Maerdy

In last month's issue we interviewed Ros Davis, the coordinator of Communities First – Maerdy, who outlined the hopes and aspirations of the programme. This month we will try to explain the set up of the committees and the progress made to date.

Partnership

The PARTNERSHIP will be the hub of the programme. It will consist of representatives from the community of Maerdy, statutory bodies (RCT, South Wales Police etc.), and voluntary organizations/local businesses – each grouping having equal representation. It will be the Partnership's responsibility to put together an Action Plan for Maerdy and see that the plans are implemented successfully.

Residents' Committee

The Steering/Residents Committee was formed about a year ago to help with such things as staff appointments. Members have worked very hard to bring Communities First "on line" in Maerdy. At present it meets on a fortnightly basis and meetings are open to all residents.

Environmental Focus Group

The Environment Focus Group is chaired by John Thomas. The Group meets on Wednesdays and is currently looking at the proposed new land reclamation project for the pithead site. The eventual usage of the site needs to be decided before the work begins.

**Community
Safety Focus
Group**

The **Community Safety Focus Group** is chaired by Cullen Morris. The group meets on the last Wednesday of each month and we must thank this group for supplying us with useful information about how we can protect ourselves, grants available and initiatives that may be of benefit to us all. Sergeant Anthony Pit represents the Police on this committee.

**Employment
focus Group**

The **Employment Focus Group** has yet to be formed but will, we feel, be one of the most important areas. It is hoped that it will be able to tackle the high unemployment in Maerdy by trying to improve accessibility and affordable transport services and widen employment and business opportunities. Another aspect they may wish to look at generating better links with the various agencies and businesses, which help to provide assistance for those seeking employment

**Education Focus
Group**

The **Education Focus Group** is chaired by Mr. Peter Jenkins, Head-teacher of Ferndale Community School. The group's remit is to identify, initiate and facilitate increased opportunities for informal and formal education & training. The group will eventually work closely with the Employment Focus Group but also recognizes that learning is for life as well as employment.

**Health Focus
Group**

The **Health Focus Group** has only recently been formed and is due to have its first meeting. It will be addressing issues such as residents getting the help needed to reduce the risk of heart and other diseases, promoting healthy life styles and to ensure that health and social care advice is provided by the appropriate agencies.

**Housing Focus
Group**

The **Housing Focus Group** is currently evaluating the feasibility of a project to improve Edwards Street. It is hoped to conduct a survey amongst the residents in the near future to gauge their views and get their thoughts and suggestions.

Helping to co-ordinate the work of the committees is Ros Davis who gave last month's interview. If you feel you want to get more involved on one or more of the committees or if you think you have something to contribute, please feel free to contact Ros at the Teify House office on **01443 755687**

Ros mentioned last month that a Youth Coordinator had been appointed. Well, Debra Hanney started work in her new role at the end of October. Over the next few weeks she will be working closely with all the schools and youth organizations operating in the Maerdy area and we will be bringing you an interview with Debra in the next few months – after she has had time to “get her feet under the table”.

Over the next few months we will bring you a more in-depth insight into the aims and ambitions of each of the Focus Groups. We will need help from the community in deciding what these aims should be. This is **YOUR** chance, not only to have your say, but also to get involved. Any help, however small, will be appreciated.

Community Notice Board

Maerdy Junior School – will be holding their *Concert* at 1.30 on December 10th and 11th at the school. All are welcome. The following week the children will be going to see *Harry Potter* at the Park and Dare and to Cardiff New Theatre to see *Dick Whittington*.

Maerdy Infants School – will be holding their *Carol Service* at Seion Baptist on 12th December. Parents don't forget.

Christmas Meetings

Welcome to Seion's meetings as we run up towards Christmas.

We begin a short series of messages on:

The Facts & the Meaning behind the Christmas story

at 11am on Sunday December 8th

Our **Family Service** is at 11am with our children taking part
on Sunday December 15th

Our **Carol Service** is at 5:30pm with a light buffet afterwards.

We continue our series on **the Facts & the Meaning of Christmas**
on Sunday December 22nd at 11am

On **Christmas Day** we meet for a short service at 10am to say thank you
to God & encourage the children to share their joy with us by bringing a
favourite present they've opened that morning!

A Warm Welcome to any or all of the above meetings.

Happy Christmas to everyone in Maerdy

**“You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save
His people from their sins”. Matthew 1:21**

N **Make something new for Christmas!**

E Do you ever get fed up at home?

X Why not take this chance to get out of the house, meet up with friends for a chat and be a bit creative at the same time?

T A new group started on Wednesday 20th November at Maerdy Community Centre. An experienced craft specialist was on hand to give ideas for making Christmas decorations etc. Tea & Coffee were available. *Why not join us next week and every Wednesday 9.30 ~ 11.30 at Maerdy Community Centre*

S If you have young children you can bring them with you and an experienced nursery nurse will be on hand to help entertain them.

T It is absolutely free and there is no need to book. Just turn up. Why not bring your friends?

E For more information contact **Ros Davis** Maerdy Communities First Coordinator on **755687** or call in to the **Communities First Office in Teify House.**

P

S