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**Maerdy**

# Maerdy Community Newsletter

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## Edward Street Consultation



survey and these were wide and varied - ranging from landscaping the area, to providing a play area, to having a McDonalds in the area.

Groundwork Trust developed these results and produced some ideas that may be used for further discussions with the residents. The details were exhibited at a drop-in meeting held in the Maerdy Infants School in May. Several residents called into the school to discuss the proposals with the Groundwork team working on the project. The Housing Group will now progress the suggestions and try to secure the necessary funding to ensure the scheme's success.

Earlier this year, a group of resident volunteers helped experts from Groundwork Trust to find out what the residents of Edward Street wanted to replace the houses that have been demolished on the mountain side of the Street. In April we brought you the results of the



## Citizens Advice Bureau

"He lost his job and is heavily in debt. They cut her benefits and she faces eviction". Could you help? You could if you trained to be a volunteer with CAB. Pontypridd (Taff Ely & Rhondda) Citizens Advice Bureau offers free, confidential, impartial and independent quality advice on any subject from debt and benefits to employment and housing.

They have over 30 volunteers but always need more to provide an even better service to the local community. Volunteers are their lifeblood. You don't need any special skills or qualifications to be a volunteer with CAB. Each volunteer has the opportunity to fully utilise their skills and talents and develop new skills and competences, enhancing their C.V. for future further education or employment opportunities.

It's important work and every volunteer is highly valued. It's the chance to do some good, have some influence and make some impact. CAB volunteers contribute directly to the economic, cultural and physical well-being of their community.

If you would like to volunteer with Pontypridd CAB contact Sarah Jenkins or Steve Brinkworth on (Volunteers only - not for advice) 01443 409284"

## **Community Safety Group - Forest Fires**

Last month our lead story featured the spate of mountain fires that we experienced earlier this year and reported that the Community Safety Group had arranged a meeting with interested parties. This meeting was on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> June and, out of interest, I went along to hear the 'official' line on what was happening.

The meeting was chaired by Cullen Morris and was attended by representatives from the Forestry Commission, Fire Service, Police, RCT Council to name but a few. I was also pleased to see several new faces from within the community and the Community Comprehensive School represented by their headmaster accompanied by about 6 local students.

The main points raised were:

- **170 fires** in the South Wales Area 60% of which were in the RCT area
- **300 acres of mature forest** lost between Maerdy and Treherbert valued at **£2.5m**
- a further **£1m required to clean** up the devastated forest area
- **Destruction of local wildlife.**
- South Wales Fire Service attended over **1600 fires at a cost of £1.7 million in the Rhondda valleys** alone.
- Fire units from **Bristol/Bath put on standby** to cover for the local crews.
- What effect do the smoke/fires have on your health?

Following some lengthy discussions, the meeting agreed to:

- Draw up an Action Plan to try to change the culture
- Create a hard-hitting display
- Improve communications - feature articles, Crime-stopper's beer-mat campaign, bill-boards posters, etc..
- More community involvement in the redevelopment decisions and re-planting of the trees.
- More media coverage and a video project of the redevelopment.
- Hold a day with emphasis on the environment

**Did you listen to Eye on Wales on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June on Radio Wales?** Several of Maerdy residents were interviewed about their thoughts on the local arson. These interviews were set up as a direct result of the meeting.

### **Community Audit Results**

The results of the recently conducted Community Audit were revealed at a Residents Meeting held at the Comprehensive School on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The audit was conducted by a team from the University Of Glamorgan with the help of local volunteers and reflects what you want for your community. The main findings were:

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E

About 33 residents attended along with several interested bodies.

The next step will be for the Partnership Board to prioritise these results and produce a 3, 5 and 10 year Action Plan which will demonstrate how these requirements will be progressed over the coming years and more importantly how they see them being funded.

## Spotlight on:- The Children's Disco, Maerdy Conservative Club.



music is played by D.J., Peter Millington and his wife Katrina. Peter and Katrina work hard for local charities and have raised lots of money for Maerdy Infants and Trealaw Special School.

Ralph and his helpers run a tight ship and will not tolerate any trouble in or around the Con Club.

It is open to anyone from 6 months up to the ripe old age of 15 years. Membership is just £1.00/year which goes towards the cost of the Christmas Party, Halloween and an August Summer Party. Entrance fee is just 50p (Adults 25p). Children under 7 have to be accompanied by an adult. The Discos will be held all throughout the summer months and pop, crisps and sweets are available to keep you refreshed.

Ralph will also help you organise your children's birthday parties. Phone him on 732195 for more information.

One of the longest running activities for our children and young people is the disco at the Con Club held on a Wednesday night between 7pm and 8.30pm. Some 12 years ago, Ralph Morgan, Carol Mitchel and Glynis Evans decided to give the children of Maerdy something to do and a place to meet on a weekly basis. The Children's disco was born. It is a tribute to them that it is the success that it is with approximately 80 children and adults attending each week.

Ralph and co are helped each week by Kay, Joanna, Donna, Sian and Dai Champ. The



## Teify House Singers



*Len Morris conducts the choir while Bryan Davies accompanies Lynda Coombes*

The Teify House Singers, conducted by Mr Len Morris, held a concert at Teify house in May. They sang a mixture of songs and were accompanied by their

regular pianist Mrs Joan Davies.

Guest artists for the evening were Mrs Linda Coombes and her daughter Amy. This was Amy's first appearance in Maerdy. Hopefully it will not be her last.



Mr Bryan Davies from Morris Terrace accompanied them and both the singing and accompaniment were exceptional – such talent.

Mrs Beryl Pearson recited 2 funny poems and the evening was a joy from start to finish. Our thanks go to everyone who helped to make the evening such a success. A collection taken during the evening was donated to Trealaw Special School.

The choir meets every Tuesday at 6pm at Teify House. They are always looking for new members and, if you are interested, you will be assured of a warm welcome.

### **Community Notice Board**

**Summer Environmental Day** will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> July to tie in with the start of the school summer holidays. There'll be lots of fun and games for the young ones as well as plenty of interesting information about our environment. **Look out for the posters nearer the date**

**Did You Know that an "Advice Centre" for anyone who needs a chat about any matters - filling in forms, spiritual concerns, personal problems, etc. is held every Wednesday between 10am-12pm, in Seion Vestry, access by the side door. Come at 11am & there's a free cup of coffee! Be assured there is no charge or requirement to be a member of any church/chapel. **All sessions are held in total confidence.****

**Budding Picassos.** Maerdy was well represented again at this year's annual "Art Society's Exhibition" held in the Catholic Church, Ferndale. **Mrs Sandra Hunt, Mrs Carol Nelson, Mrs Julie Price (nee Facey) and Mr Ainsley Shurley** submitted superb examples of land and sea scapes, abstracts, animal studies and floral arrangements. The materials utilised were equally varied ranging from water colours, oils, pencils and charcoal drawings to acrylic and silk painting. Their work was most impressive and the whole exhibition was well worth a visit. We look forward to next year's effort. **Well Done to you all!!**

If you would like to get involved from anything from gardening, tackling litter problems to environmental art and encourage wildlife, then this could be for you. If you belong to a community group or know of interested people but are unsure how to begin then I would love to hear from you. I can give you support in setting up your group, finding funding and management of the project including financial advice and habitat development. **If you have an environmental project you would like help with then call Michelle from Groundwork on 01685 883800**

**We are always on the lookout for new articles and/or your views on any subject. If you disagree or agree with what we are writing let us know. We welcome feedback whether positive or negative. If you have anything to say contact us at the Teify House office.**

The Community Notice Board may be used by any organisation in the Maerdy Ward to advertise events they are holding or information that you think may be of benefit to your fellow residents. Contact Ros Davis on 755687 for further details. **If we don't know about it – we can't tell you about it.**