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Maerdy

Maerdy Community Newsletter

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RHONDDA-CYNON-TAF
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Will Fire Vandals Jeopardise Our Future Development?

You don't need me to tell you about the deliberate arson that took place on our mountainsides during the recent fine weather. **You might say it was 'boys being boys'. But was it? And what are the likely consequences of these fires?**

In the South Wales area, there were over 850 incidents at a **cost to the taxpayer of nearly £1,000,000**. That's £1,000,000 that may be redirected from the budgets, e.g. the fight against crime, drugs, and possibly other services that come under the responsibility of the local council. The general opinion, yet to be proved conclusively, is that the arson was planned and coordinated. **If this is proved to be the case then what will be implications for future developments?**

In the last issue of the newsletter, we ran an article on the refurbishment plans for the area just north of the village along the old pit road. This refurbishment is planned to improve the general environment – to make the area better for you and me and make it an area we could be proud of. **It will make a start on enhancing our best asset – the beauty and tranquillity of the mountainsides – by planting broad leaf tree and return the area back to as near as possible to the pre-mining forested area of the 18th and 19th century.**

Will this latest spate of mountain fires put this refurbishment on hold? I hope not but if we keep on setting fire to our surroundings I would suggest that this is a strong possibility. **What then for the area?** What other projects may be 'postponed' due to a perception that we don't deserve them because we can't look after them



6 weeks after the fires. The grasses show signs of recovery but there is no sign of recovery to the forests



The mountainsides are beginning to recover but the scares left on our local forests are plain for everyone to see. Large swathes of the forest are damaged and are unlikely to recover naturally. Grass fires are common but wilful destruction of the forest is not. **What can be done to counter this latest threat to our environment?** I don't know but perhaps you have some thought on how to combat this latest form of vandalism. The valleys are just recovering from over 100 years of neglect. **Please don't let these vandals continue to destroy the natural beauty of the area.**

If you feel strongly about this or any other topic we want to hear from you. This is your Newsletter and your views are important to us. Contact us via the Community First Office in Teify House on 755687. Together we can make a difference. Why not come along to a meeting in Teify House on Tuesday 3rd June of Community Safety Group from 4~6pm, when these problems will be discussed.

Congratulation to Lynn Howells



Congratulations to Lynn Howells of North Terrace on his appointment to ***Chief Coach of the combined Pontypridd/Bridgend Rugby team***. The team is one of 5 recently set up by the Welsh Rugby Union to try to make Welsh rugby competitive with the top rugby playing countries in the world.

Lynn's career has seen highly successful stints with both Pontypridd and Cardiff. He was also the forwards' coach with the Welsh team during the Graham Henry years. ***Well-done Lynn and all the best for next season.***

Lynn Howells at our Open Day in November 2002

Community Audit Update

We have been asked to pass on the thanks of the team from the University of Glamorgan to all residents that assisted them in their recently conducted audit. They are currently inputting all the information into their computer systems for analysis and hope to report back to the Communities First Partnership Board in early June.

We are planning to hold a **Residents Meeting on Thursday 19th June at the Community Comprehensive School starting at 6.30pm**. This meeting will be open to all residents. The University team will be reporting back on the results of the recent questionnaire and other activities that have taken place as part of the Community Audit. The results of the Audit will enable Maerdy to draw up an Action Plan that will prioritise the things that need changing. It will also give Communities First the necessary evidence to persuade funding bodies and other agencies to support us. ***Look out for the posters that will be distributed throughout the Ward.***

Please make every effort to attend the meeting as the audit reflects YOUR views and not those of the local or national government bureaucrats.

Report on – Communication Committee



The Communication committee is a small team of 5/6 residents that meet most Tuesday evenings at Teify House. We are trying to bring you updates on events that are happening in the Maerdy Ward but we need your help to ensure that we represent the views of the people of the Maerdy Ward and to keep the articles fresh and interesting.

If you feel that you can contribute or want to know how we go about putting the Newsletter together, why not join us on a Tuesday night. ***If you have information that you think we can use drop it into the***

Communities First Office and we will try to include it in future issues of the Newsletter. We are always looking for new articles. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Report On – Employment Focus Group

The Business & Employment Focus Group is looking for new community representatives and business representatives to join them. The group seeks to

- Promote local trading
- Find ways to develop an ICT infrastructure
- Ensure that there is a focus on helping young people into jobs
- Review transport needs
- Generate links between the community and other agencies that can help people into work

If you have an interest, have things to contribute or just want to attend to see what is going on, then why not come to the next meeting on Thursday 26th June 3~5 pm at Teify House. 5

Everyone is welcome. You can make a difference

Welcome to the New Community Centre Manager

Jeff Williams has recently been appointed as General Manager of Maerdy Community Centre starting work on 19th May. He's from Treorchy and is married with three children. He says "This appointment has meant a big move for me, after 20 years in the manufacturing industry. I am a fully committed believer and supporter of Lifelong Learning and have recently spent several years studying business management in Aberdare College."



His main aim for the Community Centre is to provide the facilities and training required to enrich the lives and prospects of the people of the Rhondda. He is looking forward to working closely with the community to assist in the provision of quality educational and recreational resources to aid in the regeneration of the surrounding area.

On his first visit to the Centre Jeff was most impressed by the superb facilities which have been constructed and amazed to find out that they have been created by local volunteers. Jeff is looking forward to working with the management committee in expanding the services and facilities available to both existing and future group activities.

Anyone wishing to know more about Maerdy Community Centre can contact Jeff on 01443 733417

Crime Prevention Advice

We have received the following tips from Allan Crocombe, the Crime Prevention Officer for Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council.

Summer months see an increase in thefts of garden tools and furniture from unlocked garages or sheds. Ensure that your equipment is stored in locked shed or garage, preferably with a sturdy chain running through the handles and padlocked. Also engrave everything as far as possible with your post code

A new scheme has recently been launched in conjunction with the National Assembly, RCT and the Police to help all victims of car crime and hopefully prevent them becoming victims for a second time.

Simple measures may prevent you becoming a victim – lock all valuables in the boot of the car or better still empty the car. Often more damage is done to the car than the value of the items stolen.

Marking items with you post code will not stop them being stolen but you are more likely to get them back than unmarked items.

The Rectify Scheme provides free security measures such as door and window locks to pensioners, the disabled or those who fall within a vulnerable groups.

You can contact Allan for full details on these and all other Crime Prevention Advice on 04113 743825.

Maerdy Youth Have Fun at the Easter Workshops



The Youth of Maerdy enjoyed another series of workshops during the Easter Holidays. These were organised by Debra Hanney, the Youth Coordinator at Communities First. The photos above are just to give you a small taster of the fun they had. We will be publishing more photos and revealing our plans for the Summer Holidays in our **next issue of the Youth Newsletter due out at the end of July early August. Look out for the posters throughout the Ward nearer the time.**

Community Notice Board

The winners of the Maerdy Library Easter Colouring Competition were:

Under 7s: 1st - Ricky Roberts (James St): 2nd Keira Tustin (James St)
 Over 8s: 1st - Sammy Jo Roberts (North Terr): 2nd Stacey Jones (Griffiths St)

The winners were presented with eggs donated by Carolyn Richards and friends

Congratulations to Maerdy's Tang Su Doo Team on winning 11 medals at Cardiff University Sports Centre on Saturday May 10th 2003.

The winners were;

- Tara Smith who won Gold Breaking and Bronze Form
- Callie Thomas won Bronze Breaking
- Nathan Jones – Gold Breaking
- *Jonathan Thomas had Gold Form*
- Jamie Evans won Silver Breaking
- Daniel Thomas won Silver Breaking
- Christian Thomas, Jamie Evans, Jonathan Thomas won Bronze in Synchronised Form.

Well Done All and Well Done to instructor Mark Jones and everyone who competed.

Teify House, Maerdy 10am ~12 noon June 4 th and June 18 th	Advice Surgeries Held by Tylorstown On-Track Woman's Aid & Drugaid	Ferndale Health Centre 2pm ~ 3.30pm June 9 th , 14 th , 21 st
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If you are experiencing domestic abuse whether physical, emotional or sexual, please feel free to call in for advice and support with Dilys from Woman's Aid.

If you need advice on drug/alcohol issues, please call in to chat to Leah a Drugaid worker.

All information will be kept confidential. Don't suffer in silence!