

CONTACT



Cylch
Meithrin Y Gurnos
awarded Best
Playgroup in South
East Wales
**Read more on
page 8**



Welcome to the Winter edition of our Contact Community Magazine

It has been such a busy time since our summer issue, and now the darker nights and colder weather are truly upon us. As always, we want you and your families to stay well and be winter ready. You will find top tips and emergency phone numbers on **page 3**.

Having your say is more important than ever, and I encourage all residents to take part in the latest consultations on Budget Setting and the bi-annual Residents Survey. We are also looking for new members to join the brand-new Citizens' Panel, read more on **page 2**. I was delighted to attend the Rugby World Cup event that saw 20 of our talented schools compete and enjoy a fulfilled day of sporting success, read more and see photos captured on the day on **page 3**.

There has been plenty going on at Ty Bargoed Newydd, including the welcomed addition of a greenhouse, which the green fingered residents and staff are already getting stuck into. Check out page 3 to see more. Also, the talented residents have set up a Poetry Group, and have shared a heartfelt and beautiful poem with us. Don't miss it on **page 8**.

On page 6 see the latest updates on the impressive regeneration work going on. Read about the 200 new homes coming soon to Abercaniaid, along with a luxury hotel being built in the former Howfields Bakery site in our town centre.

I am excited to share that Welsh Government has approved the funding package for the redevelopment of the old bus station site. This is a positive and welcomed update for our town! Read more on **page 7**.

Talking of our town centre, why not take advantage of the free weekend parking this festive season? You can park for free every Friday and Saturday from now until Friday 21 December. Let's shop local and support our amazing local businesses this Christmas. You can even go the extra mile with the exclusive Merthyr Gift Card, more on **page 8**. I hope you enjoy this winter edition of Contact, full of positive stories and highlighting the great work and achievements of many residents, groups and organisations within our county borough. Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

G. Thomas

Councillor Geraint Thomas
Leader

The Council's budget setting process

By law, all Local Authorities are required to set their budget and Council Tax each financial year. During this process residents are asked their views and opinions on how the Council should spend its budget and how Council Tax should be set.

The process for the 2024/25 financial year started in November 2023 and will last for 12 weeks, until early February 2024.

We, like all councils across the UK, continue to be faced with challenging times. Over the last 15 years, since the credit crunch, councils have been faced with budget cuts which have caused us to struggle with balancing budgets while maintaining crucial services.

Your views are important to us. Please have your say by visiting smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MTCBCBudget24-25 or paper copies are available at Council buildings.

Cabinet Members will also be visiting various community locations to engage with our residents.

During the next stage of the process, Welsh Government will inform all Councils across Wales of what their provisional budget settlement will be. This is usually late December, and at this point we will have a better indication of what money will be given to us to deliver our services.

In early March a final budget settlement will be published by Welsh Government and at this point, together with resident's feedback from the budget consultation, a report will be taken to Full Council to approve the Council budget and to set Council Tax.

Key dates:

- 20 December 2023: Provisional Settlement from WG
- Early February 2024: Feedback from Budget Consultation Process
- Early March: Final Budget Settlement from WG
- 6 March 2024: Provisional Budget Setting Special Council

Join our Citizens' Panel



This is an exciting opportunity for you to help shape local services!

We're inviting residents to join us and play a part in improving the lives of those living and working in Merthyr Tydfil.

This panel will help us understand the views of our residents on a wide range of issues, such as the delivery of our front-line services, the environment, and local economy.

Feedback from the panel will inform our decisions and help us do the right things to meet local people's needs.

The commitment is low – you will simply be invited to take part in

online engagements, such as surveys, and you can choose which activities you would like to take part in. To register your interest email corporate.communications@merthyr.gov.uk



If you need support with the Cost of Living please visit our dedicated web pages merthyr.gov.uk/cost-of-living for advice.

Alternatively, you can call **01685 725000**.

Residents Survey 2023-24

How satisfied are you as a resident in Merthyr Tydfil? Let us know and be in with a chance to win £100 Tesco vouchers! As a user of public services in Merthyr Tydfil, the Council invites you to take part in our Residents' Survey. We want to get your views on a wide range of issues

and services relevant to Merthyr Tydfil, including education, social care, and waste management.

The online survey can be found at smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ResidentsSurvey2023

If you have any questions, would like help completing the form, or would like a copy of the questionnaire in another format or language, email corporate.communications@merthyr.gov.uk or phone **(01685) 725000**.



Mayor's Charities

This year the Mayor is supporting two local charities:

#4Tom, which was set up by the Bedlinog family of Tomas David Smerdon, who died in 2019 aged just 22. The charity is helping other young people suffering from anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts and substance misuse causing mental health issues through counselling and support groups;

Friends of Greenfield, which raises funds to provide additional facilities to Greenfield Special School.

If you'd like to invite the Mayor to an event, or to donate to these wonderful charities, please contact mayoral@merthyr.gov.uk



All information contained within this publication was correct at time of print.



Have Your Say

www.merthyr.gov.uk/council/have-your-say



Foster with your local authority

There are children in Merthyr who need a foster home. A safe place, a place to learn, and a place to laugh. A place to be loved.

Maethu gyda'ch awdurdod lleol

Mae yna blant ym Merthyr angen cartref maeth. Lle diogel, lle i ddysgu, a lle i chwervthin. Lle llawn cariad.

maethu
cymru

foster
wales



Fostering can be anything from an overnight stay, a short-break or longer-term. No two children are the same and every single one will need something different out of foster care.

That's why there is no typical foster family. With Foster Wales Merthyr, we'll give you the local expertise, financial support, and training you'll need to build better futures for local children.

Gall maethu fod yn unrhyw beth o arhosiad dros nos, seibiant byr neu dymor hwy. Mae pob plentyn yn wahanol a bydd angen gofal maeth gwahanol ar bob un.

Dyna pam nad oes teulu maeth nodweddiadol. Gyda Maethu Cymru Merthyr Tudful, eich cyngor lleol, byddwn yn rhoi'r arbenigedd lleol, cymorth ariannol, a'r hyfforddiant sydd eu hangen arnoch i adeiladu gwell dyfodol i blant lleol.

01443 425007

merthyrtdful.maethucymru.llyw.cymru
merthyrtydfil.fosterwales.gov.wales

Early Help Hub

The Council and Barnardos to continue their long-term partnership to provide a "Team Around the Family" for local families who need it most

The Council and Barnardo's have extended their commitment to providing prevention support to local families via the Early Help Hub (EHH). This new agreement ensures the service will continue beyond 2026, giving much needed Team Around the Family support to families who have been affected by poverty, health, educational, relationship and parental challenges.

Since April 2022, 318 families have accessed the offer, receiving an assessment through the Early Help Hub to look at their individual needs, then being allocated a Barnardo's keyworker to ensure the right help and support is provided at the right time.

Councillor Julia Jenkins, Cabinet Member for Social Services said;

"The Early Help Hub ensures families have their voices heard and have more control over what support they can access to improve their circumstances. The support plan is developed with the family, ensuring they have a say every step of the way."

"We are proud that 92% of families who have accessed the support have reported vast improvements when they leave the service."

"This includes 164 family members seeing an improvement in their financial situation, and 268 seeing improvements in their mental emotional wellbeing. The statistics really do speak for themselves."

Team Around the Family is just one of the packages of support on offer through our Early Help Hub, who have overall supported 2714 referrals since April 2022.

If you're a local resident with children aged 0-18 years, we can support you with advice on:

- Housing
- Finance
- Physical Health
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Behaviour Challenges
- Education and Parenting
- Accessing activities and support within the local community

For more information, or to complete a self-referral:

☎ 01685 725000

✉ EarlyHelp.Hub@merthyr.gov.uk

Smiles all around as new greenhouse arrives at Ty Bargoed Newydd

Residents and staff at Ty Bargoed Newydd are thrilled with the bespoke greenhouse their good friends from Cyfarthfa Greenhouses built for them. Everyone is excited to grow plants

and vegetables all year round. Weekly meetings mean quality time is spent together, sharing ideas and new experiences whilst developing the gardens in partnership.



Are you Winter Ready?



Know Your FREE Emergency Numbers

105	Power Cut Emergency
0800 111 999	Gas Emergency
01443 425011	Social Care & Welfare Services Duty Team
01685 385231	Out of Hours Emergency
01685 384489	Flooding Emergency

Top Tips

Prepare your home – Keep a torch handy in case of a power cut. Always get your appliances serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Vulnerable households can get extra support through the Priority Services Register. Contact your utilities provider to find out more.

Protect your home – If you think there may be a risk of flooding you should take every precaution to protect your home. Sandbags are not available upon request and are only issued in the event of a flooding emergency. Sandbags can be purchased from your local builder's merchant.

Adverse Weather – Keep an eye on the weather forecast. If you have a power cut or gas emergency, check on your neighbours. For weather alerts please visit metoffice.gov.uk or naturalresources.wales. If you notice a grit bin that needs filling please visit merthyr.gov.uk

School Closures - Each school is responsible for updating their status and will let you know of any important information specific to that school.

Merthyr Tydfil Schools Rugby World Cup 2023

On Wednesday 18 October we saw over 200 pupils from across Merthyr Tydfil competing and enjoying a fun filled day at the Merthyr Schools Rugby World Cup event, organised by the brilliant Class 10 at Pantysgallog Primary School.

The following 20 primary schools from Merthyr took part in the tournament:

Pantysgallog, Dowlais, Ysgol Y Graig, Goetre, Gellifaelog, Gwaunfarren, St Illtyds, St Marys, St Aloysius, Cyfarthfa Park, Coed Y Dderwen, Heolgerrig, Twynnyrodyn, Caedraw, Trelewis, Bedlinog, Troedryhiw, Ysgol Santes Tudfil, Abercanaid,



Edwardsville.

Craig Lynch, Deputy Head at Pantysgallog Primary School told us; "The competition was strong with so much talent on display. We're very proud of the effort of our Class 10 and staff from Pantysgallog in making the day a success! "Congratulations to Ysgol Santes Tudful who were playing as France,

on defeating Twynnyrodyn, who were playing as England, in the final to be crowned our champions.

Also, we would like to extend a congratulations to Cyfarthfa Park Primary on winning the Fair Play award for Excellent Sportsmanship. "It was wonderful to see a large crowd of local people, family and friends cheering the students from



the stands. Thank you all for joining us!

"Finally, thank you to New Directions, Valley Education Services Ltd, Active Merthyr Tydfil Merthyr RFC and Pen-Y-Dre High School for supporting us to make our event happen."

Recognition of Excellence awarded to School Catering Department

We're delighted to announce that Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's School Catering Department scooped up the prestigious Recognition of Excellence for the Welsh Government Food in Schools Award.



The Local Authority Catering Association (LACA) Awards ceremony, which took place on Thursday 26 October at Vale Resort Mid Glamorgan, aims to recognise individuals and teams who continue

Rollout of Universal Primary Free School Meals to all primary school children



ADDYSG CYMRU
EDUCATION WALES
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



September 2022

all children in Reception

April 2023

all children in Reception and majority in Years 1 and 2

September 2023

majority of children in Years 3 and 4

April 2024

majority of children in Years 5 and 6

September 2024

all children up to Year 6

Check with your Local Authority or school on their plans for rollout



to make a real difference in education catering. Michelle Jones, Cabinet Member for Education said; "I am really proud of this

achievement from our dedicated and hardworking School Catering Department here at Merthyr Tydfil CBC.

"It's great to see their commitment

to always delivering the best quality and service is being recognised and we can sing their praises with this impressive award. Da iawn pawb!"

Become a School Governor

School governors play a vital role in education, making a difference by shaping the future of local children and young people.

What is a Governor?

Governors are volunteers who work closely with the Headteacher and

school staff and are part of the overall leadership and management. The governing body helps govern the school framework and the Headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day management.

Together they are responsible for managing the school budget, recruitment of staff, maintaining links with parents and the community and promoting high standards of educational achievement.

Rewards of being a Governor

- The opportunity to develop new skills and undertake free training provided by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and the Central South Consortium on various aspects of your role as a governor.
- The knowledge that you have played a part in improving children's education and supported the school's staff.
- The opportunity to work as part of a team.

Find out more www.merthyr.gov.uk/school-governors/



Recycle this Christmas!



Your collection days will be later over the festive period:

NORMAL COLLECTION DAY:	WILL BE COLLECTED ON:
Monday 25th December	Wednesday 27th December
Tuesday 26th December	Thursday 28th December
Wednesday 27th December	Friday 29th December
Thursday 28th December	Saturday 30th December
Friday 29th December	Sunday 31st December
Monday 1st January	Tuesday 2nd January
Tuesday 2nd January	Wednesday 3rd January
Wednesday 3rd January	Thursday 4th January
Thursday 4th January	Friday 5th January
Friday 5th January	Saturday 6th January

Bulky household waste collections

There will be no bulky collections throughout the Christmas period. The last day of collections will be Friday 22nd December and they will resume on Wednesday 10th January.

Christmas Tree recycling

Real Christmas trees will be collected on a request basis only. Booking is available from Monday 18th December until Wednesday 3rd January.

How to book:

Online: merthyr.gov.uk/book-a-christmas-tree-collection

Telephone: 01685 725000

Collections will begin on Monday 8th January 2024 for a two-week period only. Trees must be cut into manageable pieces, no longer than 1.5meters and no heavier than 25kg.

Household Waste & Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

Our HWRCs will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day.

Normal winter opening times (9am – 4.30pm) apply on all other dates.

Recycling

Please recycle all you can over the festive period at the kerbside or HWRCs!

Top tips:

- Brown paper is classed as packaging and can be recycled in your cardboard box.
- Recyclable wrapping paper can be placed in your paper recycling box.

Non-recyclable shiny or glitter wrapping paper must be placed in the grey wheeled waste bin due to the variety of mixed materials found on these products.

- To prevent waste, why not use reusable gift bags instead of wrapping paper this year!
- Fold down or break up cardboard boxes so they fit in the recycling box. Please remove all other packaging before recycling.
- Rip off the back of your Christmas cards and recycle them in your cardboard box. Any parts of the card with glitter or ribbons will need to go in the non-recyclable bin.
- Don't forget to recycle your batteries on the kerbside by obtaining a purple battery bag from your local library or HWRC.
- Recycle any broken or obsolete electric lights or decorations in a carrier bag at the side of your recycling box.
- Recycle your clean foil in the blue bag.
- Reduce food waste and save money by planning meals with leftovers.
- Recycle all food that cannot be eaten.
- Having a pre-Christmas clear out? Donate any good, clean, reusable items to the New Lease of Life shop in Pentrebach CF48 4DR.

If you're not sure on what can be recycled, visit our website:

merthyr.gov.uk/resident/bins-and-recycling/how-to-recycle-correctly

Landslip prevention works: Vaynor Road closure

In September the section of Vaynor Road between the Aberglais Inn and Dol-Y-Coed House closed for approximately seven months. Over the past three years the Council has been working alongside geologists, geotechnical engineers and specialist contractors to investigate the causes of landslips and to develop proposals to implement a stabilisation scheme of the embankment situated above Vaynor Road.

Investigations and temporary remedial works have been carried out over recent years, and this has been essential in designing a permanent solution for this area to prevent future landslips.

The successful implementation of

this permanent scheme means that this section of road needs to close for the entire duration of the work.

Whilst we would have preferred to do this during the spring/summer seasons, we understand that this would have created significant disruption to tourism and businesses in the area, so to reduce the community impact as much as possible the work started in the autumn. Welsh Government funding also ends next year, so it was essential to progress before the funding expires.

It is not possible for any vehicle to pass through this section while construction work is taking place. The diversion route is via Pant and further information is available on the Council's website, and signage is displayed.

Questions? Contact:

engineeringandtraffic@merthyr.gov.uk

Electric vehicles are the future

Councillor Michelle Symonds, Cabinet Member for Regeneration tells us; "Our commitment and progress with supporting a reliable EV infrastructure is a great addition for the Town and Borough. Funding from Cardiff Capital Region has enabled Phase 1 to be completed and we now move forward with installations at another potential 10 sites."

A full list of charging point locations and types can be found here;

Location	Postcode	Charger type & Quantity	
		22kw	7kw
Victoria Street Car Park	CF48 3RN	2	0
Rhydyar Leisure Centre Car Park	CF48 1UT	4	0
Trelewis Car Park	CF46 6AB	2	0
Perrott Street Car Park	CF46 5ET	2	0
Pontmoralis Car Park	CF47 8UN	2	0
Orbit Car Park	CF48 1DL	0	2
Castle Car Park	CF47 8JD	4	0
Gilar Street Car Park	CF47 8DP	2	0
St Tydfils Car Park (College)	CF48 1AR	2	4

For further information on the use and operation of these charge points please visit: www.connectedkerb.com

200 new homes coming to Merthyr Tydfil



A Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCR) housing investment fund is bringing 200 much-needed new homes to Abercarnaid.

The £35m Housing Viability Gap Fund was launched in 2021 by CCR to stimulate the housing market by helping to unlock previously stalled housing sites across the region.

£3.5m of the fund has been secured for Dragon Park, for works including ground remediation and associated development infrastructure. These works will unlock 200 units, of which up to 20% will be affordable homes.

The remediation works will be completed by November 2024, with the housing outputs due to be realised by December 2028.

The developer, Davies Homes Ltd, is a family-owned house building company that was established by Michael Davies in 1986. Since then, it has built over 2,500 homes, predominately in the South Wales Valleys. They specialise in brownfield sites where past mine workings are prevalent.

Councillor Michelle Symonds, Cabinet Member for Regenerations, Housing and Public Protection, said: "This funding is a very welcome investment in Merthyr Tydfil and will bring much-needed homes to the area.

"The main access to the site would be from the south via an upgraded existing roundabout and the road would pass around a "multifunctional open space" which is to be used for recreation, play and sustainable drainage and Davies Homes are also aiming to introduce new biodiversity habitats.

"There will be sufficient open space on the site along with active travel routes, including a path for cyclists and pedestrians."

Matthew Davies, Managing Director of Davies Homes, said: "The collaboration with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council on the Dragon Parc site has been extremely positive and will allow us to build these fantastic new homes in Abercarnaid.

"We are confident the development will be a great success and look forward to delivering this scheme and continuing our partnership with MTCBC."

Regeneration

Luxury Merthyr Tydfil hotel arises on site of historic local bakery

This autumn, Merthyr Tydfil town centre will welcome a new boutique hotel — within the former walls of historic bakery and confectioners, Howfield's & Son (est. 1921).

Howfields Hotel, the circa £2m development will also see the addition of a high-end restaurant, stylish bar, and 13 luxury private flats — bringing a new era of elegance and modernity to the town centre.

At the helm of the project is Glynneath-based development company, RWP Properties, which has invested significantly into the venture.

In recognition of impact the project will make on the town centre, RWP Properties also received support from the Welsh Government's Transforming Towns initiative to the value of £770k and finance from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.



The centrepiece of the development will be the boutique hotel, which will offer eight double bedrooms — each fitted with beautiful furnishings and amenities, with the aim of attracting both leisure and business travellers seeking a luxurious and comfortable stay. Adding further excitement to the development, however, is the inclusion of esteemed Swansea-based restaurant, Haystack, and a stylish new bar — aptly named 'Needle'.

Expanding its reach from Swansea to the Valleys, Haystack in Merthyr Tydfil will serve breakfast, lunch,

and evening menus, providing delectable dishes that cater to all palates. The business will also take advantage of an outside terrace at the rear of the property — offering an enchanting dining experience within a comfortable environment. Recognising the importance of supporting local businesses, RWP Properties has also committed to maintaining popular café, Café N Joy — which already exists within the property. The entire café has undergone a thoughtful renovation, courtesy of RWP, to enhance its offerings, further contributing to the town centre's vibrant culinary scene.

BillyChip

The Hideout café is the first local businesses leading the way in Merthyr Tydfil by signing up to the very unique BillyChip project, supporting those most in need within the town centre.

The project breaks down barriers and provides a safe and secure way to donate to those sleeping rough or experiencing homelessness, without the fear or worry of giving money which could be used on alcohol or drugs.

Geraint Thomas, Leader of the Council stated;

"I am delighted that local businesses within Merthyr Tydfil are recognising the importance of the BillyChip project and proudly signing up to this innovative scheme, that will give our community members a safe, easy and simple method to support those most in need.

"If you would like to help, I would encourage you to purchase a BillyChip token and donate that, instead of giving money, as the token can be used safely at places like the Hideout and redeemed for a hot drink or snack."

Michelle Symonds, Cabinet Member for Public Protections said; *"I'm very grateful to the Hideout cafe for paving the way in Merthyr Tydfil, and I encourage and am hopeful that other food places will consider doing the same; showing compassion and kindness throughout our town."*

The project really is one of a kind and was set up in memory of Billy Abernethy-Hope, a 20-year-old ambulance driver who died in 2018. It was Billy's dream to encourage generosity among those who may feel reluctant to give money to people experiencing

homelessness. Tragically, Billy passed away before he could see his heartwarming idea come to fruition, but his family continued his legacy.

Natasha Price, owner of the Hideout said; *"I think it's great for the community to be able to give something back to the homeless, without having to worry about giving cash directly, and you know they are eating and having a warm drink by gifting them with a BillyChip. I think it's fantastic for our community."*



YMCA building continues its renovation journey



Phase two of the renovation of the old YMCA building in Pontmorlais is now almost complete.

The Grade II Listed building, which has been derelict for more than two decades, has now been stabilised and made completely watertight. Works have included:

- The rebuilding of the north

Timber lintels exchanged for new concrete lintels.

- The rebuilding of the north section of the building, with timber floors and walls to support the new temporary roof.
- The partial rebuilds of retaining walls.
- Ground anchors installed to secure loose/weak external ground.
- Cintec anchors installed to strengthen the external brick walls.
- Existing temporary roof replaced with new, longer-lasting temporary roof.
- New brick work to the top of the building.

- Terracotta repairs to preserve the existing terracotta blocks.
- Building completely repointed and treated to reduce the risk of vegetation regrowing.
- New metal railing fence installed to match existing wall memorial.
- Promenade reinstated for public use.

Phase one was completed in 2014 as part of the Townscape Heritage Initiative, a programme with the objective of bringing historic, derelict buildings in Pontmorlais back into use, funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund and CADW.

Following the completion of this phase – contractors are due to be off-site by the end of January

2024 – we will look towards Phase three, which will consist of a re-assessment of the future use of the building followed by the completion of the works once a suitable use is agreed.

Michelle Symonds, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, said: "It's great to see the developments at the YMCA building."

"John Weaver Contractors has not only stabilised the building but has also transformed the look of it. It's now not only much safer, but far more aesthetically pleasing, bringing the beautiful structure closer to its former glory."

"We are now looking forward to the completion of the renovation and a decision on its future use."

Our Town Centre Wardens are working to keep you safe this festive period

Whether you're shopping, enjoying a Christmas party, or simply out and about in the town centre – our Wardens are here to keep you safe and make your town centre experience as pleasant as possible.

You'll find our Wardens walking around town and the neighbouring streets in their distinctive red jackets. They're here to provide reassurance and assist with any issues in the town centre.

Warden Huw Wilson, said: "We've been patrolling the town for the last four months so we hope you've seen an improvement in some areas."

"We've listened to your frustrations around anti-social behaviour and have engaged with these individuals, dispersing them when large crowds gather, and addressed their actions. We recently worked with some of them

to clear vegetation in a local church, engaging them in positive town improvement activities."

"We work very closely with the local Community Support Officers to assist with crime prevention, as well as the Council's CCTV operatives. The CCTV system, which covers the whole town centre, is a major asset by assisting us with incidents, recording footage to provide to the police and directing us to any areas of concern."

"If you see us, please be sure to say hello – we're here to help you!"

If you're experiencing any issues in the town centre, please contact the wardens:

Haley: 07566 297440

Mathew: 07566 297444

Huw: 07566 297479

Glebeland site development given the go-ahead

Welsh Government has agreed its funding package for the redevelopment of the former bus station site.

Contractors will be onsite from 8th January 2024 and work is expected to be completed at the end of Spring.



Glebeland Site - Proposed Amenities and Arrangements

Funded by UK Government Wedi ei ariannu gan Llywodraeth y DU

YR HYB | THE HUB
Cathu, Cymorth a Chymorth i Gyhoeddus

OPENING SOON!

EARLY HELP
Helping families to access the right support at the right time.

EMPLOYABILITY
Communities for Work +, support with upskilling, training and employment needs.

DIGITAL SUPPORT
Access to all council services, just a click of a button.

HOUSING/ WELFARE AND BENEFIT ADVICE AND SUPPORT
All our housing, welfare and benefit advice and support services are available online.

for more information email: TownCentreHub@merthyr.gov.uk

FYNIANT — BRO — LEVELLING — UP —





Ty Bargoed Newydd Poetry Group

Ty Bargoed Newydd is a home for older people - some of whom have dementia. The home is situated within Treharris, and has various activities on offer, one of which is a successful poetry group. The residents wished to demonstrate their creativity and humour by sharing this wonderful poem.



Open The Door And Let Me In

*Into this paradise so golden
You can come to live with us when you are olden
Ty Bargoed is very nice
They serve lovely tea and cake by the slice
The people there are very caring
All the time they are sharing
The food here is plenty and tasty
You will put on five stone and become very waistie
But with our aerobics class every morning
It will wake you up and put a stop to your yawning
We are surrounded by gardens with flowers so bright
In the summer it's such a beautiful sight
We love to get together and have a sing song
We think we sound amazing but our tone may be slightly wrong
Anyway what matters is that we are a happy bunch
especially at 12 o'clock when we sit down to lunch
Ty Bargoed Newydd residents welcome you to our home
and hope you will stay a while*



Show them how much you care with one-of-a-kind finds in Merthyr Tydfil town centre!

The Merthyr Gift Card is accepted in a variety of town centre businesses. It's easy to buy and fun to spend, making it the perfect gift all year round.

SUPPORT YOUR TOWN CENTRE



www.merthyrgiftcard.com

from £5 to £500

Cylch Meithrin Y Gurnos awarded best Welsh playgroup in South East Wales

The Mudiad Meithrin Annual Awards Ceremony, held 14 October, aims to recognise and celebrate the excellent work achieved at Mudiad Meithrin's Welsh-medium playgroups and day nurseries across Wales.

Leanne Marsh, Head of Services Development for Mudiad Meithrin said:

"Our Awards Ceremony is a wonderful way to raise the profile of the workforce and early years settings and shows how important this service is to the local community and to the economy. We received over 300 nominations this year, and it's a lovely way for the staff and volunteers to be recognised by being nominated by the parents of the children in their care."

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is delighted to announce our Cylch Meithrin Y Gurnos was awarded best playgroup in South East Wales.

Councillor Michelle Symonds, Welsh Language Champion said; "The Local Authority is extremely proud to hear that the Cylch Meithrin in Gurnos has won the award for the best Cylch Meithrin in South East Wales."

"Growing Welsh-medium education is a key element of our Welsh in Education strategic plan and this award supports our ambition."

"The playgroup is a new addition to the community, only opening its doors in January 2023, so this truly is a fantastic achievement. Well done to the staff and management committee who have worked hard to develop the setting since it has opened. Llongyfarchiadau i bawb!"

To find out more about Cylch Meithrin Y Gurnos please visit meithrin.cymru/cylchs/y-gurnos

