

CONTACT



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Community Magazine for the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil

| Summer 2024

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school uniform
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New Mayor Elected

Councillor John Thomas was elected Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil at the Council's Annual General Meeting in May 2024.

Husband to Debbie, Dad to Gareth, Emma, Nathan and Rachel, and Granddad to nine; John was born and raised in Primrose Hill, Twynrodyn and has been a Town Ward Councillor since 2017.

John said: *"It is a great honour and privilege to become Mayor. I want to do the residents of Merthyr Tydfil proud."*

His Consort for the municipal year is his wife, Debbie Thomas.

John has chosen to support two local charities:

Ty Enfys Dementia Unit

"My father-in-law attended the previous unit for 13 years and the work and care the staff there show everyone who attends is incredible."

Hope Pantry

"After visiting Hope Pantry on several occasions and seeing the amazing work Heidi and her team of volunteers carry out, I felt that it deserved support from the mayor's charity this year."

If you would like to invite the Mayor to an event, or donate to the Mayor's appeal, please contact: mayoral@merthyr.gov.uk

Deputy Mayor is Dowlais & Pant Ward Member Cllr Paula Layton, whose Consort will be her partner, Cllr Declan Sammon, pictured here with their family.



What's On



Find out what's on in Merthyr Tydfil this summer!
visitmerthyr.co.uk/whats-on



Cllr Geraint Thomas
Leader of the Council

Welcome to your summer edition of Contact.

We have lots of lovely stories to share with you, including great care home inspections, biodiversity projects and news from our schools.

With a very ambitious Welsh Government recycling target of 70% for Merthyr Tydfil, we're appealing to all residents to use our kerbside recycle service and to recycle as much as possible at home. If all our households recycled food waste this would go a long way to achieve this target. See **page 7** for more information.

The news we've all been waiting for – the pools at Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre have reopened! See the first people making a splash on **page 3**.

This year the National Eisteddfod of Wales is coming to South Wales! Whether you speak Welsh or not, the Eisteddfod promises to be brilliant event for all the family – find out where to buy tickets on **page 4**.

Whatever you're doing this summer, stay safe and enjoy!

G. V. Thomas



Cllr Michelle Symonds
Regeneration
Cabinet Member

Hello from Halo

There are exciting plans for Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre, Aberfan & Merthyr Vale Community Centre and the Splash Park and Cafe at Cyfarthfa Park, thanks to a new partnership between the Council and Halo Leisure.



Scott Rolfe, Halo's Chief Executive, said: *"We are delighted to be selected by the Council as the operational partner for these leisure facilities. Our social enterprise business model and registered charity status allows us to trade for social purposes and 'not for profit', something the Council recognised as a sign of quality and strength."*

Alyn Owen, our Deputy Chief Executive said: *"We have seen the way Halo has transformed other leisure centres and pools and the dramatic impact that's had on visitor numbers and therefore the health of the communities around them."*

Scott added: *"We will work with the teams at the sites and the Council to support even more local people to participate in some form of exercise, increase the range of activities available to them, and invest in the leisure facilities. We are confident that, together, we can transform services and facilities for the benefit of residents and get more people more active more often."*



Glebeland Update

Work is progressing on the old bus station site to transform the unused space into a marketplace with an events area and open green space.

Contractors have been on site since January and work is scheduled to be completed by Autumn 2024.

The circa £1m development has been made possible thanks to Welsh Government funding.

Cllr Michelle Symonds said:

"We're delighted that plans for the site are coming to fruition – these are exciting times for Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre!"



For more information and to complete our Placemaking Plan consultation visit merthyrtowncentreplacemaking.com

This survey closes **31 July 2024**



Cllr Geraint Thomas
Leader & Education
Cabinet Member

Community Focused Schools (CFS) is a national priority for Welsh Government

CFS fits into our Raising Aspirations Raising Standards (RARS) strategy, recognising that outcomes for our youngsters are inextricably shaped outside of school by families and communities.

Our team is actively engaging with schools and local community services across Merthyr Tydfil, fostering positive relationships to support our youngsters. We're committed to working together to create a strong, supportive environment for our students to thrive.

Since April 2023, our team has been actively working with families to provide support with the cost of living. We've also been participating in local community events and creating volunteering opportunities within Parent Teachers Associations and "Friends of" groups in local schools.

Pre-loved school uniforms...



Are available to collect **free of charge** from :
The New Lease of Life Shop during every school holiday.

Bywyd Newydd
A New Lease of Life

Unit 20, Merthyr Tydfil Industrial Park,
Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4DR

Donations of clean uniforms that are
still in good condition are welcome.



Merthyr Tudful yn ailgylchu
Merthyr Tydfil recycles



ADDYSG CYMRU
EDUCATION WALES
cefnhaddu ein cenedl | our national mission



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Check if your child is eligible
for **Free School Meals** and up
to **£200 for School Essentials**.



The aim for all schools is to;

- **Build strong partnership with families**
- **Respond to the needs of their community**
- **Collaborate effectively with other services**

CFS, local community provisions and a variety of schools across the county borough are working alongside the "Foundation of Community Engagement" to celebrate their successes involving community and family engagement work.

This work is shared on the CFS Facebook page
"Community Focused Schools – Merthyr Tydfil"

For more information please email: cfs@merthyr.gov.uk



The National Eisteddfod of Wales, one of Europe's largest cultural festivals, is being hosted right on Merthyr Tydfil's doorstep this year, in Pontypridd from **3-10 August 2024**.

The event is a celebration of Welsh culture, a mix of talent competitions and evening concerts, gigs, plays, exhibitions and much more. The Eisteddfod is a family friendly event that welcomes all, no matter of your Welsh language skills, there's something for everyone.

Tickets can be purchased: eisteddfod.wales/2024/tickets



Cllr Julia Jenkins
Social Services
Cabinet Member

We're thrilled to share that Tŷ Gurnos Newydd Care Home, Tŷ Bargoed Newydd and Llysfaen Residential Home all received outstanding results in recent inspections.

Inspectors and residents alike were impressed with the high standard of care and service provided at each facility.

We are extremely proud of our dedicated staff who consistently go above and beyond to ensure the well-being and satisfaction of our residents.

These glowing results are a testament to their hard work and commitment to excellence. We are grateful for the positive feedback and will continue to strive for excellence in our care homes.

A selection of glowing comments from inspectors and residents are captured below...

"People are genuinely being supported to lead meaningful lives"

"One of the most beautiful care homes"

"Amazing, marvellous, wouldn't want him to live anywhere else"



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**
Merthyr Tudful

**foster
wales**
Merthyr Tydfil



beth allwch chi ei gynnig?

what will you bring to the table?

Fostering is about consistency, come rain or shine. It's about spending the time you have, to give them the time they need.

Everybody can bring something to the table when it comes to local authority fostering. With Foster Wales Merthyr, we'll give you the local expertise, financial support, and training you'll need.

Mae maethu yn golygu bod yno'n gyson, glaw neu hindda. Rhoi'r amser sydd ei angen arnynt gyda'r amser sydd gennych. Gall pawb gynnig rhywbeth gyda maethu awdurdodau lleol.

Gyda Maethu Cymru Merthyr Tudful, eich cyngor lleol, byddwn yn rhoi'r arbenigedd lleol, cymorth ariannol, a'r hyfforddiant sydd eu hangen arnoch.

01443 425007

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



Foster Wales Merthyr Tydfil has been working with artist Tee2Sugars and local children to create a beautiful mural which celebrates the difference local authority fostering makes to young people.





Cllr David Hughes
Neighbourhood Services
Cabinet Member

Trelewis Wetlands: A Biodiversity Haven

Our hardworking Biodiversity team, along with great volunteers, have been busy monitoring the wetland at Trelewis and installing additional features throughout the area to signify the importance of this habitat and the species it supports.

A Dragonfly and Frog Totem Pole were installed to attract younger visitors, along with supporting education of species present at the site.

Furthermore, an additional Bug Hotel was installed, and half completed in hopes that local people visiting could add to it.

Alongside these new features a Magnifying post was installed which would allow children and adults to observe different flora and fauna on a bigger scale.

Much needed work on the woodland has been managed and natural paths being created by visitors of the site.

Lastly, a small scrape was constructed by the team coupled up with a Hügeltkultur on its southern side, which will act as a place for invertebrates, mammals and amphibians to use. This will act as another form of habitat creation within the Wetland which will increase the biodiversity in the area.

This project was funded by Local Places for Nature and was a SUD's project to help try and mitigate the run-off water which was waterlogging the football pitch below.



Abercanaid Primary School's Eco Committee enjoyed a tour of our recycling depot and learned about what happens to our waste after it's collected from the kerbside.



The children watched a forklift demonstrate how food waste is emptied into giant bins, explored the storing areas for plastics, metals, cardboard and even saw the materials travelling along a conveyor belt, getting ready to be pressed into bales.

To end their tour, everyone received a goody bag made from recycled materials full of gifts - all recycled, of course!

Our **Bulky Rubble Service** is now available for large quantities of rubble generated from households that are carrying out minor improvements.

Rubble will be collected kerbside in tonne sacks provided by the council.

For more information

 wasteservices@merthyr.gov.uk
 01685 725000

BOOK NOW



merthyr.gov.uk/recycling



We must recycle **70%** of the waste we collect

We currently recycle just **64%**



We still have a long way to go...

Last year we sent **10,000 tonnes** of wheeled bin waste to incineration at an **Energy from Waste plant**

5,000 tonnes of which could have been **recycled** instead

3,000 tonnes of this was **food waste**



If everyone in Merthyr Tydfil **recycled food waste at home** our recycling rate would increase by

10%



As residents, we have a collective responsibility to recycle as much as we can.



Saving these valuable resources for future generations.

If we fail to achieve the 70% target, the Council will be fined £52K for every 1% under the target.

FINED

This will impact other services.

You can prevent this by using the recycling services provided.



ORDER YOUR RECYCLING CONTAINERS TODAY!

Remember...

- ✓ Prevent waste by choosing to reuse, donate or repair before recycling.
- ✓ Never place recyclables in your refuse bin, you could receive a fine and those resources are lost forever.



Household Recycling Centres - Opening Times

Aberfan

Summer: 31 March 2024 - 26 October 2024

Dowlais

Monday	10.00am - 6.00pm
Tuesday	10.00am - 6.00pm
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	11.00am - 7.00pm
Friday	10.00am - 6.00pm
Saturday	9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday	9.00am - 5.00pm



Monday	10.00am - 6.00pm
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday	11.00am - 7.00pm
Thursday	11.00am - 7.00pm
Friday	10.00am - 6.00pm
Saturday	9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday	9.00am - 5.00pm

Aberfan

Winter: 27 October 2024 - 29 March 2025

Dowlais

Monday	9.00am - 4.30pm
Tuesday	9.00am - 4.30pm
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	9.00am - 4.30pm
Friday	9.00am - 4.30pm
Saturday	9.00am - 4.30pm
Sunday	9.00am - 4.30pm



Monday	9.00am - 4.30pm
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday	9.00am - 4.30pm
Thursday	9.00am - 4.30pm
Friday	9.00am - 4.30pm
Saturday	9.00am - 4.30pm
Sunday	9.00am - 4.30pm



Have Your Say

Your views matter to us. Complete our surveys and consultations by visiting: merthyr.gov.uk/HaveYourSay



Cllr Andrew Barry
Deputy Leader
Governance &
Corporate Services
Cabinet Member



Panel Dinasyddion
Citizens' Panel

We have been busy developing our **Citizens' Panel** and are inviting local residents to join us and play a part in improving the lives of those working and living in our County Borough.

For more information and to apply: merthyr.gov.uk/CitizensPanel



**CRT
TOGETHER**

IMPROVING THE CANCER JOURNEY



Offering support to
people impacted by
cancer.



HOW CAN WE HELP?

Are you or a family member
living with cancer?

We can help link you to a number
of support services within the
Cwm Taf Morgannwg area,
centred around your needs.



TOGETHER@COALFIELDS-REGEN.ORG.UK
07561 857803 | [BIT.LY/CRTREFER](https://bit.ly/CRTREFER)

HWB CANA, PENYWAUN
CF44 9DE



**Merthyr
Pride**

2024

Join us on **Saturday 17th August**
for Merthyr Pride – a safe space
for our community to celebrate
equality and diversity.

Parade
starts
11am!

Pride Parade • Drag queens
Live music • Food and drink
Market stalls • Much more!

Saturday 17 August
Penderyn Square: 11am
The College Merthyr
Tydfil: 12pm-6pm

You don't need a ticket and
everyone is welcome!

Follow us for the latest news!

Search:
Merthyr Pride



Supported by:



For help and advice on the Cost of Living
merthyr.gov.uk/CostOfLiving

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

July 2024.