

# Your recycling and non-recyclable waste collections



 Merthyr Tudful yn ailgylchu  
Merthyr Tydfil recycles



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
**MERTHYR TUDFUL**  
**MERTHYR TYDFIL**  
County Borough Council



# Your recycling and non-recyclable waste collections

To help you dispose of your waste responsibly from home, we provide you with separate containers to sort your recycling and leftover non-recyclable waste.

## Every week, we collect:

- your **food waste** from your **blue caddy**,
- your **metal cans, tins, aerosols and foil** and **plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays** from your **reusable blue sack**,
- your **glass bottles and jars** from your **black or green Recycling Box 3**,
- your **cardboard** from your **black or green Recycling Box 2**,
- your **paper** from your **black or green Recycling Box 1**,
- your **household batteries** in **council-provided single-use purple bags**,
- your **small electrical items** in **your own plastic carrier bags**, and
- your **textiles** in **your own plastic carrier bags**.

## Every two weeks, we collect:

- your **garden waste** from your **reusable green sack**, between April and November, and
- your leftover **non-recyclable waste** from your **black wheeled bin**.



To check your collection dates, scan the **QR code**, visit our website at [www.merthyr.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/recycling) or **contact us**.





# Why should I sort and recycle my waste?

## Saving energy and our planet

Recycling our waste to create new items uses far less energy than using new (or 'virgin') materials. This helps reduce our carbon emissions and helps prevent climate change.



## Improving the quality of recycling

By collecting your recycling in separate containers, already sorted, it improves the quality of the materials we collect from you. This means more of it will remain within the UK to be recycled to create new products - rather than being sent abroad - which is better for the environment.



## Making savings

When people put recyclable materials in their black wheeled bin, we pay more to get rid of those items that could have been recycled instead. This means we have less money to spend on other important services.



## Meeting recycling targets

Our collection services follow Welsh Government's guidance, which aims to help us reach its national target of recycling 70% of all our waste. We currently recycle 66% of our waste (2024/25). If we don't meet the recycling target, we might have to pay a fine.





# How should I present my recycling and non-recyclable waste for you to collect?

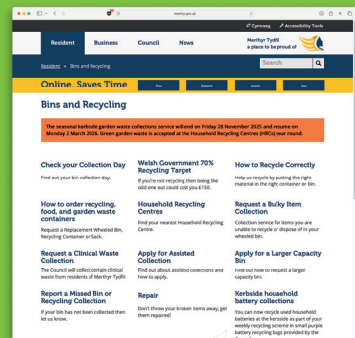
1. Put the correct items in the correct containers. (See pages 5 to 16 for 'what goes where?')
2. Tie your food waste caddy liners and plastic bags securely.
3. Close the flaps and secure the lids on your containers to prevent their contents from escaping and to keep items as dry as possible.
4. Use only the Council-provided containers for your recycling. Only use your own single-use plastic bags for any small electrical items or textiles you need to put out to be recycled.
5. Place your containers at your collection point by 7am on your collection day, ensuring they don't block the pavement or street.
6. Collect your containers from your collection point once we've collected their contents.

## How may I get more support?

### Contact us to find out:

- how to order a new or replacement container
- your collection days and dates
- what else you can and can't recycle
- what other support or extra services we can give you to help you sort your waste and recycle correctly.

We're here to help if you have any questions.





# What goes where?

## Food waste



**Blue caddy**



### **Yes please**

- ✓ Used teabags and coffee grounds
- ✓ Eggshells
- ✓ Fruit skins and vegetable peelings
- ✓ Raw and cooked meat and fish, including bones and shells
- ✓ Plate scrapings
- ✓ Stale bread
- ✓ Leftovers that can't be safely stored to eat later
- ✓ Food that's no longer safe to eat
- ✓ Animal food

### **Please remember:**

- if you need more food waste caddy liners, tie one to the handle of your outdoor caddy on your collection day, and we'll leave a new roll on or next to your caddy. You may also order them online or pick them up from council buildings.

### **No thank you**

- ✗ Packaging of any kind
- ✗ Liquids such as milk \*
- ✗ Liquid oils or fats \*\*
- ✗ Any material that's not food waste
- ✗ Coffee pods \*\*\*

\* You may pour small amounts of liquid food or drinks down the sink, ideally alongside a small amount of water to ensure the waste runs away easily, without causing blockages.

\*\* Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre in a suitable container.

\*\*\* Put these items in your blue sack with your metals and plastics.

We collect your **food waste** from your home **every week**.  
To check your collection dates, visit our website or contact us.



# What goes where?

## Metals and plastics



**Reusable blue sack**



- Metal cans, tins, aerosols and foil
- Plastic bottles, pots, tubs, trays and tubes

### ✓ Yes please

#### Metals

- ✓ Drinks cans, such as those used for beer and soft drinks
- ✓ Food tins, such as those used for beans and soup
- ✓ Metal chocolate and biscuit tins, and their lids
- ✓ Empty aerosols
- ✓ Clean foil sheets and trays

#### Please remember to:

- remove any plastic film lids (see page 16)
- empty, wash and squash metal and plastic items
- ensure aerosols are empty
- ensure foil is clean
- close the flap on your sack to prevent its contents from escaping

### ✗ No thank you

#### Metals

- ✗ Cartons, such as Tetra Pak \*
- ✗ Crisp packets \*\*
- ✗ Foil sweet wrappers \*\*
- ✗ Food or drink laminated foil pouches, such as those used for coffee, juice, rice, baby food or pet food \*\*
- ✗ Metal pots, pans or cutlery \*\*\*
- ✗ E-cigarettes or vapes and their batteries \*\*\*
- ✗ Aesthetic or clinical needles or syringes \*\*\*\*

\* Put these items in your black or green Recycling Box 2 with your cardboard.

\*\* If you need to get rid of these items, see page 16.

\*\*\* Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre.

\*\*\*\* Please contact your local health board, community nurse or health care provider to arrange a clinical waste collection for these items.





# What goes where?

## Metals and plastics continued...

### ✓ Yes please

#### Plastics

- ✓ Plastic skincare and toiletry bottles, such as those used for hand wash, body wash, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner and bubble bath
- ✓ Plastic tubes, such as toothpaste tubes
- ✓ Plastic cleaning product bottles, such as those used for bleach, washing-up liquid, laundry detergent and fabric conditioner, and tubs that hold laundry washing capsules and tablets
- ✓ Plastic drinks bottles, such as those used for soft drinks, milk and water
- ✓ Plastic pots, such as cream and yoghurt pots
- ✓ Plastic tubs, such as butter, margarine, chocolate, sweet and ice cream tubs
- ✓ Plastic trays, such as cake, muffin and meat trays
- ✓ Plastic punnets, such as fruit and vegetable punnets
- ✓ Plastic takeaway trays and lids
- ✓ Plastic bottles from your garage, greenhouse or shed, such as non-toxic liquid plant food bottles

### ✗ No thank you

#### Plastics

- ✗ Plastic bags or wrapping (see page 16)
  - ✗ Netting used to package fruit or vegetables \*
  - ✗ Cat or dog dry food bags \*
  - ✗ Garden compost or topsoil bags \*
  - ✗ Blister packs, that is the plastic and foil packaging used for tablets or capsules \*
  - ✗ Toothbrushes \*
  - ✗ Plastic razors \*
  - ✗ Hard plastics, such as garden chairs, children's toys, washing-up bowls, plant pots or Tupperware containers \*\*
  - ✗ Lighters or gas canisters \*\*\*
- \* Put these items in your black wheeled bin.
- \*\* If your items are in good condition, donate them to your local charity shop. If they're broken, please take these items to your local Recycling Centre, or put them in your black wheeled bin. Wrap these items safely in an old newspaper or kitchen roll, or double-bag them, to ensure crews aren't harmed when collecting them.
- \*\*\* Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre.



We collect your **metals and plastics** from your home **every week**.  
To check your collection dates, visit our website or contact us.



# What goes where?

## Glass bottles and jars



**Black or green  
Recycling Box 3**



### ✓ Yes please

- ✓ Glass bottles, such as those used for beer, wine and soft drinks
- ✓ Glass jars, such as those used for baby food and sauces
- ✓ Non-food and drink glass bottles and jars, such as those used for perfume, aftershave and face creams

### Please remember to:

- empty and rinse glass items
- remove any metal or plastic caps or lids and put these in your reusable blue sack for your metals and plastics
- secure the 'shower cap' lid on your box to prevent its contents from escaping

### ✗ No thank you

- ✗ Ceramics or china \*
- ✗ Drinking glasses \*
- ✗ Light bulbs
- ✗ Flat glass, such as windows \*
- ✗ Mirrors \*
- ✗ Glass cookware, such as Pyrex \*
- ✗ Microwave plates
- ✗ Vases \*
- ✗ Nail varnish bottles
- ✗ Broken glass

\* If your items are in good condition, donate them to your local charity shop. If they're broken, please take these items to your local Recycling Centre, or put them in your black wheeled bin. Wrap these items safely in an old newspaper or kitchen roll, or double-bag them, to ensure crews aren't harmed when collecting them.

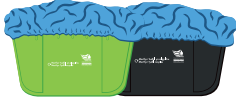
We collect your **glass bottles and jars** from your home **every week**.

To check your collection dates, visit our website or contact us.



# What goes where?

## Cardboard



**Black or green  
Recycling Box 2**



### ✓ Yes please

- ✓ Cardboard boxes, such as those used for cereals, cakes, dishwasher tablets, shoes, tissues, toiletries, and toothpaste
- ✓ Toilet roll tubes
- ✓ Egg cartons
- ✓ Card sleeves used to package foods, including ready-meals and multipacks
- ✓ Greeting cards that don't have badges, bows, foil, glitter or ribbons
- ✓ Cardboard backing from packs of batteries and toothbrushes
- ✓ Online delivery boxes and cardboard envelopes
- ✓ Food and drink cartons, such as Tetra Pak
- ✓ Brown and grey paper

### ✗ No thank you

- ✗ Greeting cards that have badges, bows, foil, glitter or ribbons that can't be removed \*
- ✗ Polystyrene \*

\* Put these items in your black wheeled bin.

### Please remember to:

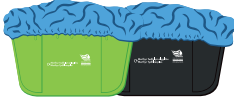
- cut and flatten cardboard to ensure it fits in your box
- secure the 'shower cap' lid on your box to prevent its contents from escaping and to keep items as dry as possible
- take any cardboard that doesn't fit in your box to your local Recycling Centre

We collect your **cardboard** from your home **every week**.  
To check your collection dates, visit our website or contact us.



# What goes where?

## Paper



**Black or green  
Recycling Box 1**



### ✓ Yes please

- ✓ Letters
- ✓ Envelopes, with and without windows
- ✓ Magazines
- ✓ Newspapers
- ✓ Brochures and catalogues
- ✓ Printer paper
- ✓ Small amounts of shredded paper, such as receipts and household bills – please put this in a container made of card or paper, such as a brown or white paper bag, then put it in your box

### ✗ No thank you

- ✗ Kitchen roll, paper towels or tissues \*
- ✗ Scratch cards \*
- ✗ Sticky papers, such as sticky labels or paper tape \*
- ✗ Wallpaper \*
- ✗ Plastic film, such as that used to wrap magazines (see page 16)

\* Put these items in your black wheeled bin.

### Please remember to:

- secure the 'shower cap' lid on your box to prevent its contents from escaping and to keep items as dry as possible

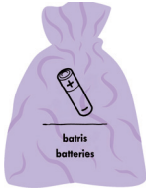
We collect your **paper** from your home **every week**.  
To check your collection dates, visit our website or contact us.





# What goes where?

## Household batteries



Purple bag



### ✓ Yes please

- ✓ Household batteries, such as AAA, AA, B, C, D, DD and 9V batteries
- ✓ Lithium-ion 'button' batteries, such as those used in calculators, hearing aids and watches
- ✓ Removable batteries from e-cigarettes and vapes - if you need to get rid of e-cigarettes or vapes, see page 12

### Please remember:

- to tie your bag securely to prevent its contents from escaping and to keep items as dry as possible
- to place your bag on or next to your recycling boxes on your collection day
- if you need more purple bags, you may order them online or pick them up from council buildings

### ✗ No thank you

- ✗ Chargeable batteries from laptops, mobile phones, power tools or vacuum cleaners \*
- ✗ Car batteries \*
- ✗ Battery chargers \*

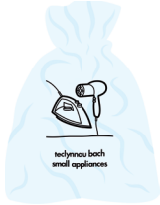
\* Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre.

We collect your **household batteries** from your home **every week**.  
To check your collection dates, visit our website or contact us.



# What goes where?

## Small electrical items



**Your own plastic carrier bags**



### ✓ Yes please

- ✓ Kettles
- ✓ Hairdryers
- ✓ Toasters
- ✓ Power tools
- ✓ Radios
- ✓ Irons
- ✓ E-cigarettes and vapes - if you need to get rid of removable batteries from e-cigarettes or vapes, see page 11

### ✗ No thank you

- ✗ Televisions \*
- ✗ Vacuum cleaners \*
- ✗ Microwaves \*
- ✗ Electric clothes airers \*
- ✗ White electrical appliances, such as fridges or freezers \*\*

\* Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre.

\*\* Order a free bulky waste collection (see page 17).

### Please remember:

- items should be no larger than a kettle or toaster
- to tie your bag securely to prevent its contents from escaping and to keep items as dry as possible
- to place your bag on or next to your recycling boxes on your collection day

We collect your **small electrical items** from your home **every week**.  
To check your collection dates, visit our website or contact us.











# What goes where?

## Textiles








**Your own plastic carrier bags**

### **Yes please**

-  Adults and children's clothing
-  Shoes
-  Handbags
-  Belts
-  Curtains
-  Bedding

### **No thank you**

-  Duvets or quilts \*
-  Pillows \*
-  Sleeping bags \*
-  Cushion inners \*
-  Carpets \*

\* Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre.

### **Please remember to:**

- ensure your textiles are clean and dry, and shoes are in pairs
- tie your bag securely to prevent its contents from escaping and to keep items as dry as possible
- place your bag on or next to your recycling boxes on your collection day

We collect your **textiles** from your home **every week**.  
To check your collection dates, visit our website or contact us.



# What goes where?

## Garden waste



Reusable green sack



### ✓ Yes please

- ✓ Grass, leaves and most weeds
- ✓ Plants and flowers
- ✓ Shrub cuttings and hedge clippings
- ✓ Branches, twigs, wood chippings and bark
- ✓ Bedding used by pets that don't eat meat

### Please remember:

- we collect garden waste between April and November
- you may take garden waste to your local Recycling Centre all year round

### ✗ No thank you

- ✗ Food waste \*
- ✗ Animal faeces \*\*
- ✗ Bedding used by pets that eat meat \*\*
- ✗ Soil, stones or logs \*\*\*
- ✗ Any garden furniture, whether plastic or wooden \*\*\*
- ✗ Invasive weeds, such as Japanese knotweed or Ragwort \*\*\*\*

\* Put these items in your blue caddy.

\*\* Put these items in your black wheeled bin.

\*\*\* Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre.

\*\*\*\* Please arrange for a specialist contractor to collect this item and dispose of it safely.

We collect your **garden waste** from your home **every two weeks**, between March and November, if you've signed up to this service. To check your collection dates, visit our website or contact us.



# What goes where?

## Non-recyclable waste



**Black  
wheeled bin**



### **Yes please**

- ✓ All remaining household waste that can't be recycled, such as polystyrene

If you need to get rid of any **plastic bags and wrapping** items, see page 16 to find out how you can recycle these at 'out-of-home' recycling points at locations such as supermarkets.

### **No thank you**

- ✗ Any items that can be recycled from home using your Council-provided containers - including food waste - or those that can be recycled at your local Recycling Centre

### **Please remember:**

- not to put extra waste alongside, or on top of, your black wheeled bin. This is known as 'side waste'. We don't collect 'side waste' and you may have to pay a fine.

We collect your **non recyclable waste** from your home **every two weeks**. To check your collection dates, visit our website or contact us.



# What goes where?

## What should I do with plastic bags and wrapping?

If you need to get rid of any **plastic bags or wrapping**, some of these items are accepted at 'out-of-home' recycling points at locations such as supermarkets.

Visit [walesrecycles.org.uk](http://walesrecycles.org.uk) to find your nearest facility.

The types of items accepted may vary between different locations, therefore please follow the guidance provided by the organisation managing the recycling point.



Carrier bags and Bags for Life



Ready-packed fruit, salad and vegetable bags



Thin plastic bags for loose fruit, salad and vegetable items



Film, such as cling film, ready meal lids and yoghurt pot lids



Freezer bags



Frozen food bags



Pasta and rice bags



Bread bags



Magazine and newspaper wrapping



Multipack wrapping and rings from bottle and can multipacks



Cereal box liners



Wrapping for toilet and kitchen roll packs



Dry cleaning bags and bags covering new clothing



Parcel bags and bubble wrap



Animal feed bags



Crisp packets and biscuit wrappers



Food and drink laminated foil pouches, such as those used for coffee, juice, rice, baby food and pet food

If you're unable to take these items to an 'out-of-home' recycling point, **please put them in your black wheeled bin.**



**Don't put them in your reusable blue sack** with your plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays.





## What other services or support do you offer?

### Bulky waste collections

If you have large household items and appliances you no longer need and are unable to visit one of our Recycling Centres, you may book a bulky waste collection.



We collect big metal items and white electrical appliances, like fridges and freezers, for free. We charge a fee for collecting other types of items.

For more information or to book a collection, visit our website at

[www.merthyr.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/recycling)

### Home visits from a Recycling Officer

We have a team of Recycling Officers that can give you advice and guidance about all our recycling and non-recyclable waste services. They'll support you to maximise your recycling and minimise your non-recyclable waste by helping you to sort your waste correctly.



### Reusing your unwanted items

If you have unwanted items that are in good or reasonable condition, take them to 'A New Lease of Life', our reuse shop in Pentrebach. Our team will make sure the items you donate are safe and in good working order before putting them up for sale to support a local charity. For more information, visit [www.merthyr.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/recycling). You may also donate items to your local charity shop.

### Recycling Centres

You may recycle many different materials at your local Recycling Centre that we're unable to collect from



your home as part of our weekly recycling collection services, such as bedding and mattresses, large electrical items, plasterboard, CDs, carpets, oil, gas bottles and rubble.

**Please note:** If you bring bags of non-recyclable waste to a Recycling Centre, we will ask you to open them so we can check they don't contain recyclable items. To find out about your local Recycling Centre, as well as any information you need to know before you visit, go to our website.

### Repairing your broken items

If you have a broken item, you could find a local repair business through our online repair directory, at [repaircafewales.org](http://repaircafewales.org)



This website also allows you to search for events in your area where you might get your broken item repaired for free by volunteers.

By repairing your items instead of buying new, you reduce your carbon emissions and help prevent climate change, as well as save money.

### Assisted collections

If you can't put out your recycling and non-recyclable waste for collection because you have limited mobility, and no one can help you, you may apply for an 'assisted collection'. We will then assess your situation.



An 'assisted collection' is when our crews collect your recycling and non-recyclable waste from an agreed collection point.



## Frequently asked questions

### What happens to my recycling once you collect it?

In 2023/24, 49% of the recycling we collected in Merthyr Tydfil stayed in Wales, 34% went elsewhere in the UK, and 17% went overseas.

To find out more about what happens to your recycling once we collect it, and where each separate material goes, visit [www.myrecyclingwales.org.uk](http://www.myrecyclingwales.org.uk)

To find out what your recycling becomes, visit [www.walesrecycles.org.uk](http://www.walesrecycles.org.uk)

### What happens if I have more recycling than I can fit in my containers?

If you regularly have more recycling than you can fit in your containers, you may order extra ones by visiting our website or contacting us, and we'll deliver them to your home.

Alternatively, if you only occasionally have more recycling than you can fit in your container, please hold onto these items until your next collection day, or take them to your local Recycling Centre.

Please ensure you make the most of the space in your containers, by safely crushing or squashing metal, plastic, and carton items where possible, and cutting cardboard, so they fit.

### May I have an extra container for my recycling?

Yes. If you regularly have more recycling than you can fit in your containers, you may order extra ones by visiting our website or contacting us, and we'll deliver them to your home.

You may also order replacement lids for your boxes and caddies.

### I only produce a small amount of recycling. What should I do?

If you only produce a small amount of recycling, you don't need to put your containers out every week. But please don't wait until they're very heavy, because that can be unsafe for our workers and may mean we can't collect your recycling.

If you have any specific needs or accessibility concerns, please contact us to discuss your options.





## Frequently asked questions

### **What happens if I have more non-recyclable waste than I can fit in my black wheeled bin?**

If you're recycling all you can each week, you should have enough space in your black wheeled bin for your leftover non-recyclable waste.

You must ensure all your waste fits in your bin, and its lid must fully close.

If you occasionally have more waste than you can fit in your bin, please hold onto these items until your next collection day, or take them to your local Recycling Centre.

If you regularly have more waste than you can fit in your bin, and you're recycling all you can, contact us.

Please remember not to put extra waste alongside, or on top of, your bin. This is known as 'side waste'. We don't collect 'side waste' and you may have to pay a fine.

### **What should I do if I need a new or replacement container for my recycling or non-recyclable waste?**

You may order a new or replacement container by visiting our website or contacting us, and we'll deliver it to your home.

### **What should I do if I need more food waste caddy liners?**

If you need more food waste caddy liners, tie one to the handle of your outdoor caddy on your collection day, and we'll leave a new roll on or next to your caddy. You may also order them online or pick them up

from council buildings, including the Civic Centre, local civic buildings, community centres, libraries, leisure centres, Recycling Centres, the Town Centre Hub, and The Reuse Shop ('A New Lease of Life').

### **Why have you collected some of my recycling and non-recyclable waste, but not all of it?**

We collect your food waste and recycling every week. We collect your garden waste (from April to November) and non-recyclable waste every two weeks. For some homes, these collections happen on different days of the week. To check your collection dates, visit our website or contact us.

If you put items in a recycling container that we don't currently accept, we'll leave the items and put a tag on the container explaining why.

If you've put extra non-recyclable waste alongside, or on top of, your black wheeled bin, this is known as 'side waste'. We don't collect 'side waste' and you may have to pay a fine.

If you need to report a missed collection, please do so the day after your usual collection day, in case we've been delayed.



# Frequently asked questions

## Why have you not collected any of my recycling and non-recyclable waste?

If we've not collected any of your recycling and non-recyclable waste by the evening on your usual collection day, please check our website for information about any potential disruptions to our collection services.

If you need to report a missed collection, please do so the day after your usual collection day, in case we've been delayed.

## What else can I recycle?

To find out what other household waste you can recycle at home, or at your local Recycling Centre, visit our website or contact us.

## What will happen if I accidentally put the wrong items in my recycling containers?

It's important you put the correct items in the correct containers, and that your recycling containers don't contain items that can't be recycled from home. However, we recognise anyone can make a mistake.

**If you put an item in a container that should have been put in a different one** – such as a metal can in your box for cardboard – our crews will collect all your recycling and will put the misplaced item into the correct compartment on our vehicle to ensure its recycled correctly. They'll place a tag on your container telling you the item you misplaced so you can get it right next time.

**If you put an item in a container that we**

**can't currently collect from your home to be recycled** – such as a plastic bag, or metal pan or pot – our crews will collect most of your recycling but will leave the misplaced item behind. They'll place a tag on your container asking you to remove that item and telling you how to dispose of it correctly.

**If you put an item in a container that's potentially dangerous for us to handle** – such as lighters, gas canisters or clinical waste – our crews won't collect any of its contents. They'll place a tag on your container asking you to remove the item in time for your next collection.

If, after looking at this booklet, you're unsure of where to put certain items, visit our website or contact us for more support.

If you realise you've put something in the wrong container after we've collected your recycling, please don't worry – just try to remember to get it right next time.

Please also remember to remove the tag from your container, then put it in your recycling box.

## What will happen if I don't recycle enough of my waste?

We have a team of Recycling Officers that can give you advice and guidance about all our recycling and waste services.

If you'd like to speak with a member of our team, or arrange for them to visit your home, please contact us.

 [www.merthyr.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/recycling)

 [wasteservices@merthyr.gov.uk](mailto:wasteservices@merthyr.gov.uk)

 01685 725000

 [merthyrtydfilcbc](https://www.facebook.com/merthyrtydfilcbc)

 [@merthyrtydfilcbc](https://www.instagram.com/merthyrtydfilcbc)