

CONTACT





Welcome to this issue of your Contact Community Newspaper



In the last six months, the Coronavirus pandemic has affected us in many different ways. The impact of this virus has been devastating and it is more important than ever that we are able to support each other.

One theme that has certainly united people is our appreciation for the commitment and dedication of NHS staff who continue to provide the care, support and services that we all rely on.

The partnership work with the voluntary sector and other organisations has also proved invaluable during these unprecedented times. I would like to thank all those that helped support those shielding and other vulnerable individuals who needed assistance.

I would also like to thank many of our Council staff who have worked every day through this pandemic. I particularly want to mention our frontline staff, those that have delivered the Personal Protective Equipment to our care providers and our social care staff who have been extraordinary.

To be able to respond to this virus, we have developed robust recovery plans in line with government guidance. The success of this will hinge on partnership working and pooling our energies so that together, we can reduce the transmission of the virus. We all have a role to play, working with Welsh Government to allow us to ease restrictions, while at the same time controlling the spread of infection.

Coronavirus has not gone away; it remains here, and it is important that we use our experiences over the past six months to help shape arrangements for the future.

Let us hope that through determination, stringently adhering to social distancing and following the governments' guidelines as and when situations change, we may be able to get back to some normality.

Throughout the pandemic, we have continued to work behind the scenes with our Welsh Government Advisors as part of our statutory support package. We have welcomed this support and will update further on our transformation programme in the coming months.

Finally, I would like to personally congratulate our young people on their recent achievements at A Level and GCSE. 2020 has been a hard time for us all, but particularly for those students in their final years of school and college.

Whatever the circumstances, we aim high for our young people. We support them to aspire and achieve and we look forward to seeing them flourish, both now and in the future.

Stay safe.

Kevin O'Neill

Councillor Kevin O'Neill
Leader Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Armed Forces Events 2020

29th February saw the 3rd Battalion the Royal Welsh march through the town centre to celebrate St David's Day and to mark the Reaffirmation of the Freedom of the County Borough, which was granted to the Regiment in 1911.

A service was also held in the memorial garden of St Tydfil's Old Parish Church to honour Sergeant John Collins of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who was presented with the highest military award, the Victoria Cross, for his gallantry during the First World War.

75th Anniversary of VE Day 8th May 2020

The Council asked residents to join in the

nation's toast to the heroes of the Second World War on the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, organisations such as the Royal British Legion requested that people stay at home to mark this occasion. Celebrations were held in people's own gardens, following the national social distancing guidelines.

Armed Forces Day 27th June 2020

The specially commissioned Armed Forces Day flags were raised on Monday 22nd June 2020 to demonstrate our commitment and acknowledge the start of Armed Forces Week. His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Howard

Barrett, the Leader, Cllr Kevin O'Neill and Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Andrew Barry all done a video message promoting this annual event.

75th anniversary of V J Day 15th August 2020

A service to remember the fallen in Japan and to celebrate the 75th anniversary of their freedom was held at the Pant War Memorial on Saturday 15th August 2020 at 11am. His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Howard Barrett laid a wreath on behalf of the citizens of the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil and Mr Vivian Whatley laid a wreath in remembrance of his late father who was killed in Japan, whose name is on the War Memorial.



A LEVEL & GCSE RESULTS

"Well done to all young people across Merthyr Tydfil who received their A-level and GCSE results this August. The results are testament to the hard work put in by students and also to the staff of the schools who have worked so hard to ensure our young people achieve the

best they can.

"The past few months have been unprecedented in so many ways. Whilst result day celebrations were very different, I do hope that each and every one of our young people has taken the time to reflect on their achievements. On behalf of the Council, I would like to wish them every success for their future."

Cllr Lisa Mytton, Cabinet Member for Learning and Deputy Leader of MTCBC.



Covid-19: Test, Trace, Protect.

1. Are you showing symptoms of Covid?

Recent continuous cough, high temperature, a loss of change to your sense of taste or smell.



2. Get tested

By either booking an appointment at our office through 1410 or by ordering a home testing kit at:

www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test

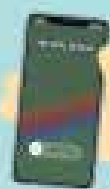


3. If you test Positive, self-isolate for 10 days.



4. Trace.

Work with our contact tracers to tell all people you have been in contact so they can self-isolate. Your contact tracers will contact you via the number 02921 96 1111. Please keep an eye out for their call.



Protect yourself and others

Together we'll keep Wales safe



WASH HANDS REGULARLY

Especially if you've been shopping, picked up a package or are about to handle food



KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCING

Stay two meters away from people who aren't in your extended household



WEAR A FACE COVERING

Where required or in enclosed spaces where social distancing is difficult



SELF ISOLATE

Stay home if you or someone in your household have symptoms, or if you're asked to by a contact tracer



GET TESTED

Call 119 or book a test online immediately if you have a high temperature, a new continuous cough, and/or a loss of taste or smell

For the latest advice on staying safe, self-isolation and testing, visit gov.wales/coronavirus





Merthyr Tydfil businesses helped to access more than £20m Covid-19 support

Merthyr Tydfil council officers worked closely with local businesses to try to limit the damage they faced as a result of the coronavirus lockdown.

As well helping companies access over £20m in Welsh Government grants and business rates holidays, the Council's Revenues and Community Regeneration teams helped them plan

for recovery using a business health check questionnaire.

More than 1,000 Merthyr Tydfil businesses with premises affected by coronavirus were identified as qualifying for and received funding.

In addition, 120 businesses took part in a survey aimed at building a picture

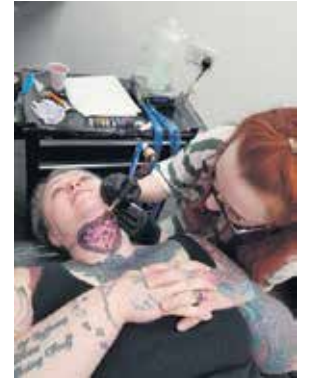
of Covid-19's impact on their trading and recovery planning, the results of which are being used to determine what further support is needed.

A high percentage of those responses were from town centre businesses; 96 % of responders said they had suffered income loss; 47 % had furloughed staff; 66 % had received grants; and 27 % had coronavirus recovery plans.

Cllr Andrew Barry, Cabinet Member

for Finance and Governance, said: "We were delighted with the way in which we were able to quickly get the financial support out to our businesses."

One local business in receipt of a grant was Lucy Lou's Tattoos in Pontmorlais. Proprietor Lucy Turner pictured at work.



Partnership working ensures town centre is safely open for business

Merthyr Tydfil town centre was safely up and running again in the summer, thanks to a partnership approach.

The Council, the Big Heart of Merthyr Tydfil, St Tydfil's Shopping Centre and South Wales Police Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf pulled out all the stops in ensuring returning shoppers felt safe using the town centre.

The local authority gave more than 50 businesses - including retail, hairdressers, pubs and cafés - Personal Protective Equipment including gloves, hand sanitiser, facemasks and visors, and floor stickers.

Signage was erected and floor



markings implemented across town to remind people to keep their distance. At the bus station, barriers were removed to help maintain social distancing and pedestrian flow.

Police officers were out and about in the town centre, carrying out enforcement to ensure pedestrian safety and help maintain social distancing. They have also been issuing warning notices to any vehicles parked or driving through the pedestrian area.

Animated video delivers entrepreneurship message

The Council's support project for budding entrepreneurs has launched a fun animated promotional video to show what it can offer in a simple and eye catching way.

Merthyr Tydfil Community Enterprise is a one-stop shop for people with new business ideas, providing them with a complete support package to help turn their dreams into reality.

Jointly funded by the Bridges into Work 2 and Working Skills for Adults 2 programmes, Community Enterprise was developed to stimulate enterprise in the heart of local communities.

The role is embedded within the Council's Employability Team and has the advantage of being able to call on support from a wide range of employability schemes such as Communities for Work and Communities for Work Plus, Nurture, Equip, Thrive (NET) and more.

Community Enterprise Officer Elliott Evans said: "The idea of the video originated from a conversation where we were looking at ways of promoting community enterprise through social media.

"We came up the idea of an animation-

type promotional video which would very simply highlight the support available to anyone wanting to start their own business.

"By using animation, we felt that this took away the stigma that business and enterprise is a little scary and intimidating and only certain people can start their own business. Anyone can be an entrepreneur!"

The video was designed and produced by one of the project's own success stories. Sarah Leanne Hicks started her own business, Merthyr Media, with support from

the team and MTEC.

Merthyr Media operates from the Redhouse and provides a complete media service for start-ups and established businesses website design, photography, video production and branding and advertising.

Elliott is available to discuss your business ideas and help support you on your journey to creating a successful enterprise. Please contact him via email elliott.evans@merthyr.gov.uk or tel 07923 241356.



Demolition marks start of new chapter for Taff and Crescent Street residents

The demolition of two rows of houses in Merthyr Vale marks the end of a carefully managed process to relocate residents from a dangerously flood-prone area to new homes, many of which are in a multi-million-pound regeneration project.

Taff Street and Crescent Street, which were built on a floodplain in around 1900 and have suffered recurring flooding during the past 20 years, are being demolished over a three-month period.

Residents moved out of the two streets over the course of three years from 2016, and work has been ongoing ever since to comply with ecology and biosecurity measures such as protecting roosting bats and repositioning soil contaminated with Japanese Knotweed, which will now be treated through a three-year spraying programme.

While 23 families with housing association tenancies moved into purpose built homes in Aberfan when they were completed in 2017, a number of the remaining residents have recently moved to the £25 million Ymyl Yr Afon housing development that

has been built as part of a large-scale regeneration programme, supported by Welsh Government on the site of the former Merthyr Vale Colliery.

The project created 110 homes for open-market sale and 43 affordable houses and apartments owned by Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association.

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Public Protection, Cllr Geraint Thomas, said: "Taff Street and Crescent Street were built on a flood plain. Natural Resources Wales highlighted the area as one without significant flood defence measures and it has seriously flooded on a number of occasions. The houses posed a risk to health and life, being damp outside and in.

"We wanted to keep as much of the community - the families and neighbours - together as possible, so they were given the first opportunity to move into the new homes. All the children are still able to attend Aberfan Primary School."

Karen Courts, Chief Executive at Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association (MTHA), said: "While the communities at Taff and Crescent Streets were

established communities, the health and well-being of residents and our tenants was our first priority.

"We were delighted when the first community project and the homes built for 23 families in 2017 was recognised with several awards. Many of the remaining families moved away or found their own alternative accommodation but we were thrilled to welcome the last of our Taff and Crescent families to their new, purpose-built homes at Ymyl Yr Afon."

One of the residents of the new homes, MTHA tenant Ruth Williams said: "We have been happy in our temporary home but couldn't wait to move home to Merthyr Vale. Now we are back, and I love it.

"The new house is lovely and I was able to choose the carpet, laminate flooring and the blinds. It's nice to be back where I have family and friends' support, which I've found a lifesaver during lockdown."

New properties at Ymyl Yr Afon



Merthyr Tydfil businesses to be supported to diversify into outdoors

Merthyr Tydfil town centre could soon be looking very different, with al fresco dining and drinking playing a prominent role alongside the usual shopping experience.

As well as making it as safe as possible to visit, MTCBC is now allocating Welsh Government grants to businesses who want to offer food and drink outdoors

The COVID-19 Grant for Outdoor Equipment is a £5.3m scheme aimed at helping town centres recover from Coronavirus and will make available funding of up to £10,000 to support licensed premises that want to diversify as a result of the pandemic restrictions.

"Welsh Government announced that pubs, bars, cafés and restaurants were able to reopen outdoors from 13 July," said Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Public Protection Cllr Geraint Thomas. "Venues are able to open in spaces they own and have licences for, as long as Coronavirus cases continue to fall.

"We know that town centres are facing

huge challenges in the light of Covid-19, but this kind of support will hopefully help them not only survive but thrive," he added.

"The Welsh weather is famously inclement, but the grants will allow premises to install coverings such as awnings, canopies and umbrellas to protect customers. We hope that those that have the space will apply and help create Merthyr's own little pavement café society!"

The Outdoor Equipment scheme will pay for outdoor equipment including: awnings, tables and chairs, heating, screening, bollards, planters, small green infrastructure schemes, electricity supply and lighting, and the temporary use of vacant buildings and establishment of local markets.

It will support up to 80 % of the overall cost of projects, of up to £10,000. Higher levels of funding will be considered in exceptional circumstances.



Storm Dennis Update



Some of the damaged caused by Storm Dennis in Merthyr Tydfil



In February 2020 Storm Dennis hit the UK with devastating effects for many. In Merthyr Tydfil over 200 properties were flooded and in the early hours of 16 February, an emergency situation was declared. Our emergency control room was set up at the civic centre and rest centres were activated at Merthyr Tydfil and Aberfan leisure centres. Officers and Councillors were also deployed to those areas worst affected to help with the substantial clean-up operation.

In the subsequent days and weeks, financial support was offered by the local authority by way of a £500 Local Authority Hardship Scheme grant and Council Tax relief, and The Welsh Government Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) was made available to those affected.

We also offered practical help to those that needed it, including extra waste collections, free bulky item collections, advice on insurance claims and help with grant applications.

In May we wrote to flooded property owners with information on how to recover and how to prepare for the worst-case scenario of it happening again.

With the easing of Welsh lockdown restrictions enabling us to resume a more normal operation, we now wanted to update you on the progress of our recovery works as well our plans for the future.

As a result of Storm Dennis a total of 47 repair schemes have been identified in Merthyr Tydfil, worth over £8.6m.

Due to the scale of the works we have devised a three-year completion plan split into three phases, which have been prioritised based on the risk of future flooding:

- Phase 1 is currently underway with 5 schemes already completed and another 14 due to start in the next few weeks;
- Phase 2 will take place in 2021;
- Phase 3 will take place in 2022.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has inevitably meant that some of these plans have been delayed, however our officers are now working hard to complete as many schemes as possible before the winter months.

The recovery works vary in future:

- Culvert repairs
- Reinstatement of river embankments
- Installation of trash screens and flood monitors to various culverts
- Increasing the capacity of watercourses
- Scour protection of bridges
- Stabilisation work to landslide areas

Troedyrhiw

The village of Troedyrhiw suffered extensive flooding

during the storms so MTCBC appointed a specialist consultant to carry out flood modelling, that centred around the Plymouth Feeder, to determine the cause.

The analysis of the Plymouth Feeder indicated that flooding of Troedyrhiw occurred due to record high levels in the River Taff, which caused water to back up into the feeder. The feeder could not contain the volume of water during this one in a 200-year event and the water eventually overtopped the feeder embankment. The River Taff was therefore a significant driver in contributing to flooding in this area during Storm Dennis.

To the east of the village lies a 100-year-old culvert of stone construction, which we are proposing to replace along its entire length, and consultants Capita have been appointed to carry out the design and progress the scheme. The new culvert will be designed with additional capacity to accommodate climate change and to ensure it will be able to contain heavy rainfall from any future storms.

Landslides

Eight landslides occurred during the storms, all of which are complex in nature, so we have a specialist geotechnical company assessing each one to provide recommendations on the remedial work. Whilst the landslides were not related to any coal tip, we have also been

working with the Coal Authority, who have provided assistance in inspecting almost 60 tips. The majority of the tip inspection reports indicate that only minor work is required to a small number of tips.

We've written directly to all

those residents and business owners worst affected by the flooding, but we've also set up dedicated web pages where we'll post our most up-to-date information on the ongoing works and plans for the future: merthyr.gov.uk/stormrecovery

Did you know?

Storm Dennis[a] was a European windstorm which, in February 2020, became one of the most intense extratropical cyclones ever recorded, reaching a minimum central pressure of 920 millibars (27.17 inches of mercury).



HWRC Winter Opening hours

A reminder that your local Household Waste & Recycling Centres will change over to their winter operating hours as of Sunday 1st November.

The sites in Dowlais and Aberfan will be open from 9.00am to 4.30pm, with the last admittance at 4.20pm.

We would like to thank the public for their patience and help during the lockdown period.

A thank you also to the crews, Wardens and our Household Waste and Recycling Centre staff who all played their part to stay safe, keep the public safe and ensure that the waste service provision continued for residents during these difficult times.

Re-use Shop

We are delighted to announce that we'll be opening a new Re-use shop in Pentrebach.

The shop will provide an outlet for residents to purchase re-useable items at affordable prices, which otherwise would have been recycled or gone to energy from waste facility.

It will also significantly increase the opportunity to re-use items deposited at the two Household Waste and Recycling Centres,

At the time of print the opening date hasn't been finalised, so please keep an eye out on our website and social media for further information coming soon!



CARDBOARD RECYCLING

The collection vehicle opening has a limit on the size of cardboard that can be put into it, so please ensure that you follow the advice below when putting card out for collection:

Trolley boxes – All card should be placed in the correct trolley box container. Large pieces of card should be cut up and placed within that container.

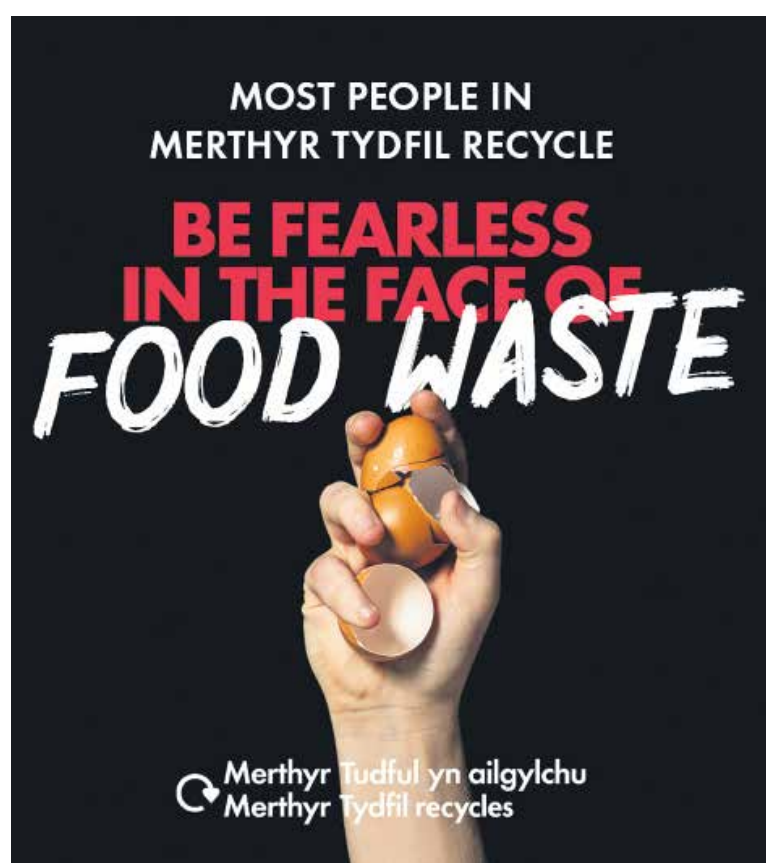
Recycling Box – Large pieces of card should be cut up and placed within the box. Where possible try to place glass bottles and jars on top of the card so that it is easily identifiable to our crews when sorting at the kerbside.

Thank you.



GLASS RECYCLING

Please keep your glass separate from your card by placing it on top of the card or into a separate box.



MTCBC calls on residents to Be Mighty, Recycle. And let's get Wales to number one!

Wales may be a small country, but when it comes to recycling, we punch way above our weight. We're already the third best recyclers in the world, and now MTCBC is backing the Wales-wide movement to make us first.

Over the past decade, recycling in Merthyr Tydfil has soared. We're now recycling almost 65% of our waste, up from just 34.43% in 2010. But if we're to help Wales reach the coveted top slot we need to do even more, as Cllr David Hughes, explains:

"Recycling is now the norm in Merthyr Tydfil and most of us recycle every week. We're recycling our fruit and vegetable peelings, eggshells, tea bags and plate scrapings in our food caddies; recycling from every room in the home and recycling those tricky items such as empty aerosols.

"We should be proud of our recycling efforts, but we must keep up our

good work. Let's continue recycling everything we can from all around the home and help get Wales to number one."

To learn more about the mighty movement visit www.walesrecycles.org.uk, look out for the ads on TV, on buses and billboards and social media across Wales or join the conversation using the hashtag #mightyrecyclers

Mighty tips to get Wales to number one

- Recycling our food waste is one of the easiest ways to give our recycling rate a big boost. Put any food waste – however small the amount – in your food waste caddy to ensure it gets collected every week

- Recycling doesn't stop at the kitchen door – remember to recycle from other rooms too. You'd be amazed just how much bathroom waste such as empty shampoo, conditioner, hand

soap and shower gel bottles can be recycled

- Most people know that water bottles, cans, and paper and card can be recycled, but don't forget that you can also recycle more unusual items such as empty aerosols. And if you're not sure what you can and can't recycle visit <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/resident/bins-and-recycling/>

- Squash cans, pots, tubs and trays to save space in your recycling bag, bin, box or caddy. And give them a quick rinse before recycling them – there's no need to use running water, a quick swill in the washing up bowl will do

- If Wales is going to get to number one, we all have to play our part. That means spreading the mighty movement word on social media by sharing your recycling pics and tips using the #mightyrecyclers hashtag



Furniture retailer weathers Covid-19 storm

Merthyr Tydfil furniture dealer Chris Bourne's family business has not only managed to survive the challenge from Coronavirus, it's also been able to emerge from it looking stronger than before.

The company moved from its previous location at St Tydfil Shopping Centre's indoor market to much larger premises on Pant Industrial Estate, invested in increased stock and topped up furloughed staff wages to

100%.

Chris was able to do this with the help of a £10,000 Welsh Government Covid-19 Non-domestic rates (NDR) grant and in July, the new warehouse was officially opened by Council Leader Cllr Kevin O'Neill.

Chris, 29, was originally employed as a sub-contractor on the railways. "After years of working away and awkward shift patterns, I wanted a change and to spend more time at

home with the family, so decided to go out on my own," he said. "I saved some money and went for it."

He and fiancé Shannon started the business in 2018 and currently employ three other members of staff. "They were furloughed during the lockdown and are now back in to work."

"The NDR grant helped us advance payments to staff and we were able to keep them topped up to 100% wages, not to impact their and

their families' lives during such an uncertain time."

Bourne Home Furniture is a family business in every sense of the word, with Chris's graphic designer brother Adam working on the company website and sister Kelly helping out by advertising products on social media platforms.

"Since we started the business nearly two years ago, we've had continued support from Merthyr Council in different forms and from different departments," said Chris.

Leader Cllr Kevin O'Neill officially opens Bourne Home Furniture





Early Help Hub

Helping families access the right support at the right time.

Are you a family in the Merthyr Tydfil area and have children aged 0-18 years?

Do you know where to turn for help?

Would you like to find out more about organisations who may be able to offer support with areas such as:

- Housing
- Finance
- Education
- Health and Wellbeing
- Parenting
- Community Activities

Do you want to know what services are available in your local area?

If so, the Early Help Hub can help support you and your family
We provide advice, information and support

For more information, please contact
Early Help Hub, Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8AN
Tel: 01685 725000
Email: EarlyHelp.Hub@merthyr.gov.uk

Owl rescued thanks to quick work by residents and staff

Residents, Council and Wellbeing Merthyr staff sprang into action last July when a Tawny Owl was spotted caught up in fishing line on the island in Cyfarthfa Park Lake. After walkers Andrea and Nigel Hulbert noticed the owl, whose wing was caught in the wire, they managed to get hold of grounds staff who quickly scrambled a rescue boat and sailed to the island in a bid to save the distressed young bird.

It was freed from the line and taken promptly to the Medivet surgery in Georgetown where, after being checked by one of the vets, it was placed in the kennels to rest.

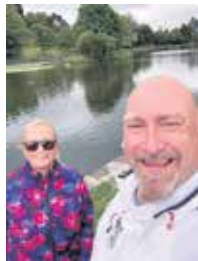
Andrea and Nigel tried to get hold of the RSPCA, but on receiving no answer, put a post on Facebook asking for help. Litter picker Colin Lewis alerted Head Gardner Julian Burns, groundsman Darren Williams and labourer Pete Mason. Ian Woolston and Matthew Felton of Wellbeing Merthyr arranged access to the boat and Julian and Pete made their rescue.

Cllr Geraint Thomas said: "Merthyr Tydfil Angling Association members work hard to try to protect the environment and wildlife at Cyfarthfa Lake and were also quickly at the scene of what was an unfortunate and

rare incident.

"Anglers, however, must be mindful about the safe disposal of fishing lines. My thanks go out to our own and the Merthyr Leisure Trust's staff for their quick response in saving this poor bird's life."

"Thanks first and foremost to our vigilant residents Andrea and Nigel Hulbert for reporting the incident and waiting around for two hours to make sure the owl was taken to safety. We have the kindest people living in Merthyr Tydfil."





Gwysneeth Mabwysiadu
Cenedlaethol

National Adoption Service



Alaw

Gweinyddes feithrin a mabwysiadwr
Nursery worker and adopter

So many people in Merthyr Tydfil have what it takes to be a great adoptive parent and Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Adoption want to hear from you.

Talk to VVCadoption and #BecomeTheParentOnlyYouCouldBe.

adopt4vvc.org - 0800 023 064

Rabart looks to the future following Coronavirus lull

One of the UK's most successful decorating supplies companies is among the 1,000-plus local businesses supported through the Coronavirus pandemic by the Council.

Rabart Decorators' Merchants employs 15 members of staff at its Pant Industrial Estate head office, but also has more than 50 other staff at its eight other stores across South Wales and the West Country.

Commercial Services Director, Andrew Bush said all the stores were forced to shut for a period of time, which had a huge impact on turnover,

with sales being around 40 to 50% down as compared to last year's figures.

Andrew said "while the company had continued to deliver materials, it was crucial to reopen the stores - particularly the Merthyr Tydfil branch, which had a designer retail area where customers could sit and browse through interior design magazines, colour cards, wallpaper books and try sample pots in store."

Rabart secured a Welsh Government Business Rates Grant of £25,000, which Andrew says prevented the business

from having to lay off any staff.

"Merthyr Council were fantastic in as far as the speed with which the money came through," he said. "Hats off to the council - there was no messing around - we had it in the bank within days."

Andrew admitted to being concerned about the future, but said he was also positive. "Every business is worried," he added. "There's a lot of uncertainty out there. But I'm a positive person. We'll have to diversify and change and do things differently to make sure that we do survive."

Help us to safeguard our communities from abuse and neglect

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board is asking everyone in Merthyr Tydfil - family, friends, neighbours, postal workers, delivery drivers - to act as eyes and ears for our children, young people and vulnerable adults and to alert their local safeguarding team on 01685 725000 or the police if they believe that anyone is being neglected, experiencing abuse, or is at risk of harm.

To contact social care services outside office hours, at weekends and bank holidays, contact the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Emergency Duty Team on 01443 743665.

If you suspect a person is at immediate risk of harm call 999 and speak to the Police.

For further information on safeguarding issues, please visit www.ctmsb.co.uk



**Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Bwrdd Diogelu
Safeguarding Board**





Police and Crime Commissioner secures more than £500,000 for Merthyr Tydfil 'Project Penderyn'

The South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner has been successful in securing more than half a million pounds for Merthyr Tydfil from the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund.

The £25 million fund was launched in January to enable bids from Police and Crime Commissioners across England and Wales to fund initiatives aimed at tackling crime and preventing acquisitive crime and other offences that have a real impact on the community.

The Commissioner and his team worked closely with MTCBC to identify things which would make a real difference to the town, helping both the police and council

officers to increase public confidence and encouraging activity in the town centre.

A range of measures are being taken forward by Community Safety Partnership Inspector Mike Ruddall, who is leading the implementation phase of the project. They include a CCTV upgrade, improved street lighting, the installation of alley gates and a property marking scheme for local residents.

Welcoming the announcement, Police and Crime Commissioner Alun Michael said: "This is a fantastic boost for Merthyr Tydfil and wonderful news for the area. We have been awarded a total of £513,410 which will be invested in

the installation of alley gates, improved street lighting and CCTV provision as well as new signage. We will also be enhancing community engagement with community clean-up days and information leafleting to residents and local businesses."

MTCBC Leader, Cllr Kevin O'Neill said: "This is fantastic news for the Community Safety Partnership and the residents of Merthyr Tydfil. We've listened to the concerns of our residents and have sought funding to enable us to put robust infrastructure in place, making Merthyr Tydfil a safer place to live and visit."

Chief Inspector Naomi Drew, Insp Mike Ruddall, Sgt McCutcheon, Crime Reduction Tactical Advisors Joy Nicholls and Michelle Farmer.



'Renaissance' project continues to restore Merthyr Tydfil's historic Pontmorlais

A £2.1m programme to restore some of Merthyr Tydfil's most historic buildings, while also providing jobs and training in building skills for local people, has seen the completion of its latest project.

The Victorian era Vulcan Inn now looks more like it did in the 1800s after the restoration of early decorative features which were lost when alterations were carried out in recent years, thanks to the Pontmorlais Townscape Heritage Quarter, Continuing the Renaissance project.

The public house has undergone a £215,600 facelift with matchfunding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) towards investment from the Council.

"This project is preserving the unique landscape character of the oldest and most architecturally impressive part of the town centre, protecting or reintroducing the features that make each building special," said Cllr Geraint Thomas.

"It involves sympathetic restoration using traditional methods and materials of surviving examples of the town centre's earliest stages of urban development."

Over the past decade, a total £5m has been invested in the area and seen the restoration of 16 buildings including the Grade II listed St David's Hall, Redhouse Cymru and Canolfan Soar. Typically, work includes reinstatement

of traditional shopfronts, timber sash windows, traditional renders, natural slate roof coverings, cast iron rainwater goods and chimneys.

The Vulcan Inn is thought to be early Victorian, as it appears on the 1850s Tithe map of the area - although there is a building with a similar footprint shown on an 1836 OS map, so parts of the existing building could be even older.

The refurbishment work was carried out by local construction company Murphy & Sons. A partnership project between the Council and The Wales National Roof Training Group to provide training in traditional building skills saw three of the company's employees complete a leadworking course.



Before



After

HM Government

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