



## Thanks for your feedback

**Caerphilly County Borough Council has received a major vote of confidence from local people about the quality of the services we deliver.**

In June this year we carried out a wide scale 'Household Survey' asking residents for their views on a range of frontline services including social services, education, recycling, highways and community safety.



Taking everything into account, **82% of respondents were satisfied with the overall service provided by the council.** This has increased from 77% in 2011 and exceeds the council's own target for 2013 of 78%.

Cllr Harry Andrews, Leader of Caerphilly Council said, "These results are very positive and clearly show

that local people appreciate the services provided by our excellent workforce. Improvements have been made in many areas when compared with the results of the 2011 Household Survey and we will now build on this data to make further improvements."

Services generating high levels of satisfaction include refuse and recycling, parks and play areas, libraries, leisure, learning, local town centres, bus services and the council's newsletter called Newsline.

Dog fouling, litter/waste accumulation, the condition of pavements/walkways and thoroughfares, weeds and overgrowth were the biggest problems that respondents felt affected the appearance of their streets.

The total number of responses to the 2013 Household Survey was 2,280 and these were submitted through a mix of online and postal questionnaires. The results will be used by the authority to feed into its Corporate Improvement Plan. The data will also help determine priorities and shape services in the future.

**See page 2 for more results from the survey.**



# Positive Household Survey results



The key findings of the 2013 Household Survey include:

■ Taking everything into account, 82% of respondents were satisfied with the overall service provided by the Council. This has increased from 77% in 2011 and exceeds the Improvement Plan target for 2013 of 78%.



■ 82% of respondents were satisfied with their neighbourhood and 62% with their local town centre for shopping, an improvement from 2011.

■ There were high levels of satisfaction with leisure, learning and cultural activities, in particular, there was a significant increase in satisfaction with libraries and parks and play areas since 2011.



■ There has been an improvement since 2011 in the proportion of respondents who feel the quality of life in their neighbourhood and local town centre has got better during the last 12 months.



■ There were high levels of satisfaction with most aspects of the local bus service, with satisfaction with the state of bus stops/shelters showing a significant increase since 2011.



■ There are very high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of recycling & refuse services.



■ The vast majority of respondents agreed that Newsline is a useful source of news & information and they get it delivered regularly.



## Your Newsline

"Newsline is produced by the council to bring you all the latest news and information from across the county borough. We are keen to hear your views about the publication and we welcome any feedback. Please contact me if you have any queries about the information featured in Newsline and I will pass on your comments to the relevant department.

**Don't forget** – Audio and large print versions of Newsline are also available on request."

**Stephen Pugh - Editor** e-mail: [pughs@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:pughs@caerphilly.gov.uk) Post: Communications Unit, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7PG.

# CHALLENGING TIMES AHEAD

## A significant reduction in this year's budget allocation from Welsh Government means that councils across Wales are bracing themselves for tough times ahead.

Finance Minister Jane Hutt delivered her budget statement last month, announcing a 5.81% cut to local government as part of an overall efficiency drive. Caerphilly's settlement saw a 3% reduction for 2014/15 which equates to £14.5m in cuts next year (£28m over the next 3 years).



The Leader of Caerphilly council, Cllr Harry Andrews, is keen to ensure that local people are aware of the extent of the cuts and the serious impact they will have on council services. "It is important that residents understand the scale of the challenge facing us over the next few months as a result of UK Government's austerity measures," said Cllr Andrews. "We are going to have to make some very difficult and potentially unpopular decisions in the wake of this extremely tough budget announcement.

We will work hard to protect jobs and frontline services, but it is highly likely that we will need to cut a number of non-essential services in order to protect key budgets such as education and social services.



Councillors will consider a range of savings options over the next few weeks before agreeing the detailed budget early in the New Year.

The council is keen to find out residents' views about how the budget should be spent to help us identify priority services. You can let us know your views by completing a special budget survey on the council's website – visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)

## Smarter Cemeteries

**The council is keen to remind residents about its 'Lawn Policy', which aims to ensure that the appearance of graves in council - run cemeteries are consistent and appropriate.**

Following concerns from residents that unauthorised items such as solar lights, wind chimes, ornaments and fencing were being placed on some graves, over the last few years the council started to enforce its 'Lawn Policy.'

This approach saw opposition from families of loved ones buried at Bedwellty Cemetery over the way it managed the policy and agreed to review the approach. It was decided however, following this review, that the policy would continue to be applied in all council run cemeteries.

Inspections will shortly be taking place in Gelligaer cemetery, and if appropriate, letters will be sent to relatives in the new year, respectfully asking them to remove any unauthorised items that have been identified.

Cllr David Poole said, "We fully understand this is an extremely emotive issue, but we firmly believe that a cemetery should be a place of quiet reflection in well maintained, dignified surroundings."

## Caerphilly Library and Customer Service Centre

**The countdown has started to the opening of an impressive new Library and Customer Service Centre in the heart of Caerphilly town centre.**

The flagship building, located on Twyn Square, is already a key landmark in the town and will offer local people much more than just books. Residents will be able to access a range of services such as help with housing benefit applications, applying for disabled parking badges and reporting potholes etc.

"The Library is a shared facility with a new Customer Services Centre, which means residents will have access to a range of council services under one roof," said Cllr Rhiannon Passmore, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning. "We have made a significant investment in our library provision over recent years and this development is the latest in an impressive list of new facilities that have opened across the county borough in Bargoed, Risca, Newbridge, Aberbargoed and Abercarn."



The contemporary 3 storey building, offering 1,100sqm of public space, has been designed to fit in with its historic surroundings and the upper floor provides stunning views of Caerphilly Castle and the wider town centre.

### Some of the facilities on offer will include:

- A convenient self service option for books
- Cash desk for payment of council bills
- Free access to more than 40 PCs
- Choose from a range of 40,000 books
- An exciting children's library
- A separate teenage lounge
- Museum space featuring historic collections
- Reading and relaxation areas
- Meeting rooms and community facilities
- Free Wi-Fi

Caerphilly Library and Customer Service Centre is due to open in the first week of January. The existing Caerphilly Library closed on November 16th and the existing Caerphilly Cash Office will close on 3rd January.

For more information visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)



# Flagship centre nears completion

**The construction phase of Rhymney Integrated Health & Social Care Centre is almost complete and tenants are poised to move in over the next few weeks.**

The Centre will host health services from Aneurin Bevan Health Board and social care services provided by the council.

Services will include two GP surgeries, a dental practice, an optician, 12 in-patient beds in the Redwood Suite, 'Oaklands,' - the Council's Day Opportunities Centre, and a community pharmacy. Outpatient clinics will also be relocated to the Centre saving travel time for patients.

The centre will also provide a base for District Nurses, School Nurses, Health Visitors, a Community Mental Health Team, the Older People's Assessment team and the Children's Services team. This

innovative approach will bring these teams together for the first time allowing a truly integrated approach to Health and Social Care.

The local community have been involved since the start of the development and have taken part in activities from deciding on the location of the Centre to voting on its name.

Aneurin Bevan Health Board's Chairman, David Jenkins said "We are all very excited about this development. To have a range of services in one setting gives a very firm foundation for the future delivery of health and social care services."

Cllr Robin Woodyatt, Cabinet Member for Social Services said, "Work has progressed at quite a pace on this fantastic new facility, which will help enhance the capacity of existing community services and bring together a number of health and social care teams under one roof."

## Putting Families First

**Safeguarding children and young people is continuously at the forefront of the council's agenda, with several projects working under the Families First Programme supporting children, young people and their families.**



Families First is an innovative, Welsh Government funded, programme which aims to support families in the county borough who live in, or are at risk of living in, poverty. The programme addresses the difficulties and challenges facing children, young people and their families through the development of effective multi-agency support and partnership working, and focuses on prevention and early intervention.

The Team Around the Family (TAF) model is one of the projects under the Families First Programme which recognises that each family is different and needs to be looked at as a whole; what affects one member of the family will impact other people in the family.

The TAF approach sees partners working together, helping families that demonstrate emerging needs through periods of difficulty in order to reach a better outcome for the whole family. The team involved in this process will often include professionals from a number of agencies, community support services and extended family who support children, young people and their families with issues such as substance misuse; anti-social behaviour; parenting support and ill health.

Cllr Robin Woodyatt, Cabinet Member for Social Services, "Safeguarding children and young people is of the upmost importance to the council and we understand that working with parents, carers and the families of these children is the best way to ensure they are protected."

**Visit the Families First Programme webpage for more information [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)**



# Cash up for grabs to improve local communities

**Community groups based in the Caerphilly county borough can apply for capital grants of up to £5,000 from the Community Improvement Fund.**

Caerphilly County Borough Council has set aside £50,000 per year, over a five year period, to provide grants to support community groups in delivering local projects and initiatives.

The Community Improvement Fund will support projects that directly contribute towards the council's aim of transforming homes, lives and communities and to one or more of the following Communities First priorities: developing prosperous communities, learning communities and healthier communities.

There are a wide range of projects that could be supported through the Community Improvement Fund. Projects could include, for example:

- Improving the appearance of estates
- Community gardening initiatives
- Play areas
- Activities that bring communities together

The fund has been set up as part of the council's Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) programme, which will see around £200 million spent over the next six years improving the homes of council tenants throughout the county borough. To apply or for more information please contact Owain Morgan on **01443 805588** or by emailing: [morgao@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:morgao@caerphilly.gov.uk)



# A Christmas cracker of events!



**The festive season is fast approaching, and the council is once again offering a magnificent Christmas events programme this year.**

Kick-starting the festivities on **Saturday 30th November** and **Sunday 1st December** is the **Blackwood Christmas Market**. There will be plenty to see and do, including market stalls, animal displays, carol singing, Santa's grotto and donkeys as well as street entertainment and craft activities for all the family.



During the second week of December, the fun will continue with the annual **Caerphilly Medieval Christmas Fayre** on **Saturday 7th** and **Sunday 8th December** in Caerphilly town centre. Food and craft stalls will line the high street and castle walls, with over 120 quality traders displaying their wares.



On **Saturday 7th December, Bargoed** will also be joining in the celebrations. The **Christmas Market** will feature funfair rides, food and craft stalls, children's crafts, street theatre and lots more exciting activities.



The popular **Bargoed Ice Skating Rink** will return to St Gwladys Car Park for a nine day stint from **Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th December**. Enjoy ice skating sessions for just £3 per person.

**Risca** will host its **Christmas Market** in Tredegar Park on **Saturday 14th December**, with lots going on around the park including its annual lantern parade.



To round the festivities off is the annual **River of Light Lantern Parade** in **Caerphilly** on **Thursday 19th December** at 6.30pm starting at Caerphilly railway station park and ride. See the streets come to life as hundreds of lanterns cascade through Caerphilly town centre, accompanied by samba drumming, dancing, costumed performers and lots more.

**River of Light lantern making workshops** will take place at Caerphilly Leisure Centre on 30th November/1st December, 7th/8th December and 14th/15th December.

For a full list of festive events taking place across the county borough, or for further information, visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas) or call **029 20 88 00 11**

## Christmas Discount scheme returns

**The popular Unique Places Christmas Discount Card scheme will return again this festive season after a successful launch last year.**

The scheme, run by the Council's Town Centre Management Team from December 7th - 24th, offers a great incentive to shoppers to spend locally in independent stores and national chains in town centres across Caerphilly county borough. For retailers in the county borough's managed towns of Caerphilly, Blackwood, Bargoed, Risca and Ystrad Mynach, the initiative offers a valuable opportunity to entice local customers with some great offers and provides marketing support.



This year shoppers will be able to access a Unique Places website which holds an electronic version of the discount card along with a list of special offers in each town centre.

Cllr Ken James, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development said, "I am very pleased that following the success of last year's launch, The Unique Places Christmas Discount Card will be returning. This scheme not only enables our residents to get the best value but importantly it supports our local and independent retailers." Participating retailers will display a star poster in their window advertising their inclusion in the scheme.

Shoppers can access the discount card online or pick up a card from several locations including participating retailers, Customer First Centres, libraries and Council-run tourist attractions.

**For further details please contact the Town Centre Management Team on 01443 866213/ 01443 866393 or visit [www.uniqueplacesoffer.co.uk](http://www.uniqueplacesoffer.co.uk)**

### Town Centres - Unique Places



# DON'T BE A NOISY NEIGHBOUR

**'Be a good neighbour and please keep the noise down' – that's the appeal from the Council in a bid to tackle noisy neighbours.**

Noisy neighbours can cause a nuisance to those who live around them. The Council is able to take action against residents who make excessive noise and ignore warnings to control the volume coming from their property.

If the problems persist the Council's Environmental Health officers are able to visit properties making unacceptable noise to investigate, serve a formal notice, prosecute, seize and even destroy the offending items. Noisy neighbours could also be landed with a fine of up to £5,000.

Last year the Council's Environmental Health department received a total of 1,100 noise complaints relating to private domestic properties, and over half of these complaints related to loud music.

Earlier this year a Caerphilly resident was fined over £1,000 for causing a noise nuisance by watching their TV at an excessively high volume so that the TV could be clearly heard in the neighbouring property.



In Fleur-de-Lis stereo equipment was seized from a one bedroom flat, and the offending items have now been destroyed or recycled.

Cllr David Poole, Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure Services, said, "There is a misconception that music can be played at any level up until 11pm, but this is simply not the case. There are no set times at which excessive noise is acceptable. Loud amplified music can be just as much a problem in the middle of the afternoon as it can in the middle of the night.

"People are often surprised that the Council is able to use a warrant to seize noise amplification equipment like TVs, stereos, speakers, DVD players and games consoles if they are causing a noise nuisance. These items could be lost forever if a destruction order is granted by magistrates.

"Our intention is not to prevent all noise, and we understand that now and again people wish to have a party or celebrate, but please keep noise levels low so as not to negatively impact on neighbouring properties."

*Head of Public Protection Rob Hartshorn and Cllr David Poole, Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure Services, help destroy speakers at the centre of a noise nuisance case.*

**If you would like to make a complaint about noise nuisance please call 01443 866544 or visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk) for more information.**

## Old Bicycles Recycled

**An innovative scheme to restore bikes for the local community, involving young people undertaking community reparation with the local Youth Offending Service has pedalled off the starting blocks.**

The 'Bike Shed' project is funded by the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership and run by Caerphilly's Youth Offending Service in partnership with Gwent Police.

The aim of the project is for young people to use community reparation hours to repair and recycle donated old bicycles, which will then be given to deserving families & victims of crime identified via social services, the Youth Offending Service or Gwent Police.

Cllr Robin Woodyatt, Cabinet Member for Social Services said, "This project is a great example of how partnership working and reparation can really benefit the community."

The Youth Offending Service is currently seeking donations of old bicycles which can be utilised for the Bike Shed project. Please call **01495 235625** for further information.

## 'Croeso' to new Welsh medium school

**The new 'Y Gwindy' Cwm Rhymini campus in Caerphilly opened its doors last month & pupils are settling in well in their new surroundings.**

The state of the art school, developed on the former St Ilan site, is set to expand the county borough's Welsh medium education provision to the Caerphilly basin area.

In September the first intake of 85 Year 7 pupils from Ysgol Ifor Bach, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Y Castell

and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili began their secondary education at the new campus. Students from other Welsh primary schools in the county borough will continue to study at the original Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini site in Fleur de Llys.

Cllr Rhianon Passmore,

Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, added, "It is an exciting time for these pupils who are benefiting from this fantastic new development. It's great to see an old, disused school converted into a vibrant educational facility that will transform Welsh medium education in our county borough."

It is hoped that works to the St Ilan development will be completed by September 2015, when it will cater for the educational needs of children aged 3-16, in a first class campus including a new £10.5 million leisure centre for the school and the wider community to benefit from.

Provision for 900 secondary school places will be formed through the development, alongside the relocation of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili onto the site. There will also be the opportunity to offer additional post-16 education, with the existing Fleur de Lys site becoming the main 16-19 campus.



# Support & Advice for local tenants

**The council's Tenancy Support Officers (TSO) operate across the Caerphilly county borough providing valuable support and advice to council tenants.**

The team of 4 TSOs are on hand to help local people understand the impact of new legislation such as the Welfare Reform Act and under occupancy charges. They also provide advice and guidance about benefits and other housing-related issues.

Over the last few months they have visited over 1,200 tenants in their homes and are making a big difference reassuring and supporting local people.

"There is nothing more rewarding than knowing you've helped make a difference and a positive contribution towards a tenant's life" said TSO Sherell McLaughlan. "We are finding that there is a lot of confusion and concern about the various changes to the benefit



system so it's important that we get the chance to have a chat with tenants and help answer their questions."

Kathryn and Ida are mother and daughter living in the Rhymney area and are both council tenants. Kathryn had fallen into arrears due to under occupancy, but with help from the TSOs she has been able to get back on track and is now accessing benefits she was unaware she could claim.

Kathryn said, "Before getting help from Tenancy Support I was under a lot of stress and would lie awake worrying about how I was going to pay my bills. Thankfully everything has now been sorted and I can stay in my home. I feel like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders, and I've been telling everyone who is struggling to make ends meet to give the team a call."

Ida, Kathryn's mum, has been living in her home for over 20 years, but due to the under occupancy charge, she can no longer afford to stay there. She has also received help from the TSOs.

"I don't mind moving as I know that a family can benefit from living here in this bigger space," said Ida. "The TSOs have helped me get better deals on my gas and electricity, and helped me fill out the forms to get Water Assist. This means I now have the money to pay the under occupancy charge so am not worrying about arrears building up that I can't afford to pay. I am hoping to move to a smaller property soon."



**The support provided by the Tenancy Support Officers include:**

- Help understanding the under occupancy charge and other welfare changes.
- Help whether you want to move or stay in your property.
- Help with signing up for 'Home Swapper' mutual exchange scheme and registering on the council's transfer list.
- Help with identifying additional benefits you may be eligible for.
- Help with applications for Discretionary Housing Payment.
- Help filling out forms.
- Referrals to Job Centre Plus for additional support.
- Guidance on energy saving and other measures you may be eligible for including Warmer Homes Discounts and Water Assist.
- Arrange appointments for debt and money advice with Citizens Advice Bureaux.
- Help in accessing food banks.

**For more information call 01495 235600**

**For Council tenants text RENTHELP to 81400**

**For non council tenants text HOUSUPPORT to 81400**

## Anniversary event for Ty Clyd

**An Assessment Bed Service based at the council's Ty Clyd Residential Home in Bargoed has recently celebrated its first anniversary.**

The service provides older people and vulnerable adults, who have had a period of illness, long stay in hospital, a breakdown of care or difficulties at home, with the opportunity to regain their independence and rebuild their confidence, with the ultimate aim of being able to return to their homes.

Residents and staff at the home held a celebratory event recently, in recognition of a successful first year of the Assessment Bed Service. The event follows a recent visit to the facility by Welsh Government Minister, Lesley Griffiths, who commented on how impressed she was with the services provided.

As part of the Assessment Bed Service, professionals work with users to assess their needs and come to a joint decision as to whether a return to home is possible, or if a package of care or residential accommodation would be more suitable. Assessment beds can be accessed for a period as short as a few days, up to six weeks.

Cllr Robin Woodyatt said, "The Ty Clyd Assessment Bed Service is a fantastic facility, which works with service users to ensure they receive a tailored service that offers the skills or care they need. We have had some extremely positive outcomes for residents who have accessed this service at Ty Clyd, who have benefitted enormously from the support on offer to develop their skills and confidence. I am sure that the dedication of the staff at Ty Clyd will help ensure the service will continue to go from strength to strength."

**For further details about the Assessment Bed Service, please call 0808 100 2500 or visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)**





## Operation Santa

Help make Christmas special for over 600 children.

Please pledge a gift by 30th November and deliver to one of our collection centres by 4th December.

Operation Santa works in partnership with Llamau, Action for Children, Home-Start and Gofal Cymru.

Collection Centres

- Barclays Bank, Ystrad Mynach
- Lloyds TSB Bank, Rhymney
- Risea Family Centre, Risea
- Visit Caerphilly Centre, Caerphilly
- Customer First, Blackwood
- Customer First, Pontlefen
- Harper and Wallis, Estate Agent, Hanbury Road, Bargoed

Pledge Hotline: 01443 866577  
or email: [operationsanta@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:operationsanta@caerphilly.gov.uk)

## Useful Numbers Rhifau Defnyddiol

<b>MAIN SWITCHBOARD</b> PRIF SWITSWRDD ☎ 01443 815588	<b>Children's Social Services</b> Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i Blant ☎ 0808 100 1727
<b>Minicom Minicom</b> ☎ 01443 873626	<b>Consumer Advice</b> Cyngor i Defnyddwyr ☎ 01495 235111
<b>Emergency number for all services:</b> Rhif argyfwng ar gyfer pob gwasanaeth: ☎ 01443 875500 (Out of hours only - Allan o Oriau yn unig)	<b>Council Tax Enquiries</b> Ymholiadau Treth y Cyngor ☎ 01443 863002
<b>Adults' Social Services</b> Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol i Oedolion ☎ 0808 100 2500	<b>Furniture Recycling</b> Ailgylchu Dodrefn ☎ 01685 846830
<b>StreetPride BalchderStryd</b> ☎ 01443 866566	<b>Housing &amp; Council Tax Benefits</b> Budd-daliadau Tai/Treth y Cyngor New Claims: Rawiau Newydd: 01443 866567 Existing Claimants: Rawiau Presennol: 01443 864099

## Christmas Refuse & Recycling Collections

### Casgliadau Ailgylchu a Sbwriel y Nadolig

<b>Normal collection Day</b> Diwrnod casglu arferol	<b>Revised Collection Day</b> Diwrnod Casglu Diwygiedig
<b>December Rhagfyr</b>	
■ Mon 23rd ○ Llun 23ain	■ Normal collection ○ Casgliad arferol
■ Tues 24th ○ Maw 24ain	■ Normal collection ○ Casgliad arferol
■ Wed 25th ○ Mer 23ain	■ Thurs 26th ○ Iau 26ain
■ Thurs 26th ○ Iau 26ain	■ Fri 27th ○ Gwe 27ain
■ Fri 27th ○ Gwe 27ain	■ Sat 28th ○ Sad 28ain
■ Mon 30th ○ Llun 30ain	■ Normal collection ○ Casgliad arferol
■ Tues 31st ○ Maw 31ain	■ Normal collection ○ Casgliad arferol

<b>January Ionawr</b>
■ Wed 1st ○ Mer 1af
■ Thurs 2nd ○ Iau 2il
■ Thurs 2nd ○ Iau 2il
■ Fri 3rd ○ Gwe 3ydd
■ Thurs 2nd ○ Iau 2il
■ Frid 3rd ○ Gwe 3ydd
■ Sat 4th ○ Sad 4ydd

Your local Civic Amenity sites will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. Public Conveniences will also be closed on these days.

Bydd eich safleoedd Mwynder Dinesig lleol ar gau ar Ddydd Nadolig, Gŵyl San Steffan a Dydd Calan. Bydd cyfleusterau cyhoeddus hefyd ar gau ar y diwrnodau hyn.



# What's ON / Digwyddiadau

[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/events](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/events) • [www.caerffili.gov.uk/digwyddiadau](http://www.caerffili.gov.uk/digwyddiadau)

Sign up to receive regular information about local events by e-mailing: [events@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:events@caerphilly.gov.uk) • Cofrestrwch i dderbyn gwybodaeth reolaidd am ddigwyddiadau lleol drwy e-bostio: [digwyddiadau@caerffili.gov.uk](mailto:digwyddiadau@caerffili.gov.uk)

**Christmas Yule Tide Logs** • Digwyddiadu Boncyffion Nadolig  
30/11 & 1/12 - 10am - 4pm  
Cwmrcarn Forest Visitor Centre • Canolfan Ymwelwyr Coedwig Cwmrcarn

Create your own Yuletide log using natural woodland materials & some added Christmas sparkle. A fantastic Christmas decoration. Charge: £3 per child. Booking required (5 sessions per day).  
Crëwch eich boncyff Nadolig eich hunan o ddeunyddiau naturiol ag ychydig o befrïad y Nadolig. Addurn Nadolig benderigedig. Cost: £3 y plentyn. Mae angen cadw lle (5 sesiwn y dydd).  
01495 272001

**Stute Comedy Night** • Noson Gomedi y Stiwt  
6/12 - 8pm

**Blackwood Miner's Institute** • Sefydliad y Glowyr Coed Duon  
This great value night features three top comedians touring the UK circuit. Join the comedy e-list at [www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com](http://www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com) or follow us on Facebook to hear the latest line-ups as soon as they're announced.  
**BOOK EARLY - EVERY MONTH IS A SELL-OUT!**  
TICKETS: £8.00 In Advance/ £11.00 On The Door.  
Mae'r noson 'werth eich arian' hon yn rhoi lle amlwg i dri o'r comedwyr gorau sydd yn perfformio o gwmpas y DU. Gallwch fod ar y e-restr gomedi ar [www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com](http://www.blackwoodminersinstitute.com) neu ein dilyn ni ar Facebook i glywed pwy fydd yn perfformio cyn gynted ag y cânt eu cyhoeddi.  
CADWCH LE MEWN DIGON O AMSER - MAE POB TOCYN YN CAEL EI WERTHU BOB MIS!  
TOCYNNAU: £8.00 O flaen llaw/ £11.00 Ar y Drws.  
01495 227206

**A Christmas Cracker!** • Cracer Nadolig!  
7/12 - 10am - 4pm  
The Winding House • Y Tŷ Weindio

Explore Christmas through the ages with this day of festive fun! Ymchwilwch i'r Nadolig trwy'r oesoedd yn y diwrnod hwn, fydd yn llawn hwyl yr wyf!  
01443 822666

**Festive Flights of Fancy** • Adloniant Arbennig yr Wyl  
12 & 19/12 - 6.30pm; 7pm; 7.30pm; 8pm  
Llancaich Fawr Manor • Maenordy Llancaich Fawr

Magical and enchanting family sketches Afterwards you will be entertained with magic and puppetry in the Visitors Centre over mulled wine and mince pies (available to buy) and there will be craft activities for the children. Booking required.  
Dramâu bychain hudol a swynol i'r teulu. Wedyn, byddwch yn cael eich diddanu gan hud a ledrieth a phypedwaith yn y Ganolfan Ymwelwyr dros win poeth sbeslyd a thartenni Nadolig (ar gael i'w prynu) a bydd gweithgareddau crefft i'r plant. Mae angen cadw lle.  
01443 412248



**Search For Santa** • Chwiliwch am Siôn Corn  
12/12 - 6pm - 7.30pm

**Sirhowy Valley Country Park** • Parc Gwledig Cwm Sirhywy  
You'll need your torch for this exciting night time wander through the woods, looking for clues as we search for Santa. Charge - £3.50 per Child and £ 1:50 for Adults. (This includes hot chocolate, mince pies for the Adults & selection boxes for the Children). Tickets available from Blackwood Miners Institute. Booking ends on 22 November.  
Byddwch angen tortsh ar gyfer y daith gerdded ganol nos gyffrous hon trwy'r goedwig, gan chwilio am gliwiau wrth i ni droio ffeindio Siôn Corn. Pris - £3:50 y Plentyn a £ 1:50 i Oedolion. (Mae hyn yn cynnwys siocled poeth, tarten Nadolig i'r Oedolion a boc o siocledi i'r Plant). Tocynnau ar gael o Sefydliad y Glowyr Coed Duon. Rhaid cadw lle cyn 22 Tachwedd.  
01495 235219

**Yule Tide Logs** • Boncyffion Nadolig  
14/12 - 10.30am - 1pm  
Parc Cwm Darran • Parc Cwm Darran

Yule love making Yule Tide logs! Have a go at creating festive decorations using natural materials. Charge: £2 for the logs. Booking Required.  
Byddwch wrth eich bodd yn gwneud Boncyffion Nadolig! Rhowch gynnig ar greu addurniadau'r Nadolig trwy ddefnyddio deunyddiau naturiol. Cost: £2 am y boncyffion. Mae angen cadw lle.  
01443 875557



**Tudor Treats** • Pethau Cywrair Tuduraidd  
14 & 21/12 - 10 - 4pm  
Llancaich Fawr Manor • Maenordy Llancaich Fawr

The servants are busy preparing for Christmas. As guests of the Colonel visitors are invited to join in the festivities and make traditional candles, soap balls and pomanders to take home and give as gifts.  
Mae hi'n 1645 ac mae'r gweision yn brysur yn paratoi at y Nadolig. Fel gwesteion y Cymol, bydd ymwelwyr yn cael eu gwahodd i ymuno yn y miri trwy wneud canhwyllau traddodiadol, peli sebon a pherberlenni y gallwch fynd â nhw adref i'w rhoi yn anrhegion.  
01443 412248

**River of Light Lantern Workshops** • Gweithdai Llusernau Afon yr Oleuni  
30/11, 1/12, 7/12, 8/12, 14/12, 15/12 - 10am - 5pm  
Caerphilly Leisure Centre • Canolfan Hamdden Caerffili

Let your creative side take over and show off your artistic skills by making your very own lantern ready for the big parade on the 19th December. The activity is suitable for all ages offering some free family fun. Free Event.  
Gadewch i'ch ochr creadigol deymasu a dangos eich doniau artistig trwy wneud eich llusern eich hun yn barod ar gyfer yr orymdaith fawr ar 19eg Rhagfyr. Mae'r gweithgaredd hwn yn ddad i bobl a phlant o bob oed a bydd yn cynnig hwyl i'r teulu am ddim. Digwyddiad Am Ddim.  
[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas)  
02920 880011



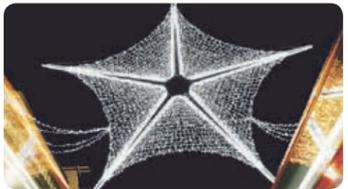
**River of Light Parade** • Gorymdaith Afon yr Oleuni  
19/12 - 6.30pm  
Caerphilly Town Centre • Canol Tref Caerffili

See the streets come to life as hundreds of lanterns cascade through Caerphilly Town Centre accompanied by thunderous samba drumming, dancing, costumed performers and giant sculptures. The spectacular event will come to a magnificent close with a fireworks display above the skies of Caerphilly Castle. Starts at 6:30pm from Caerphilly railway station park and ride. Free Event.  
Dewch i weld y strydoedd yn dod yn fyw wrth i'w gannoedd o lusernau raeodru trwy ganol tref Caerffili i gyfeiliant drymio samba, dawnsio, perfformwyr mewn gwisgoedd, a cherfluniau cawraidd. Bydd y digwyddiad ysblennydd hwn yn dod i ddiwedd glogod gydag arddangosfa dan gwyllt uwch ben Castell Caerffili. Yn dechrau am 6:30pm o safle 'Parcio a Theithio' Gorsaf Drenau Caerffili. Digwyddiad Am Ddim.  
[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas)  
02920 880011



**Indoor Christmas Market** • Marchnad Nadolig Dan Do  
23 & 24 /11 - 10am - 4pm  
Cwmrcarn Forest Drive • Coedwig Cwmrcarn

Kick start your Christmas shopping at Cwmrcarn Forest Drive Visitor centre! This popular market returns to the warmth and comfort of indoors! There are lots of stalls selling unique handmade gifts and foods, at reasonable prices! Free Event.  
Rhowch hwb ymlaen i'ch siopa Nadolig yng Nghanolfan Ymwelwyr Coedwig Cwmrcarn! Mae'r farchnad boblogaidd yn dychwelyd i gynhesrwydd a chysur o dan do! Bydd llawer o stondinau yn gwerthu anrhegion unigryw wedi'u gwneud â llaw, a bydd, am brisiau rhesymol! Digwyddiad Am Ddim.  
01495 272001



**Ystrad Mynach Fayre and Xmas Lights Switch On** • Ffair Ystrad Mynach a Chynnau Goleuadau'r Nadolig  
23/11 - 11am-5pm  
Ystrad Mynach Town Centre • Canol Tref Ystrad Mynach

Enjoy crafts and jewellery stall with live choirs, jazz bands and much more. Free Event.  
Mwynhewch stondinau crefft a gemwaith gyda chorau byw, bandiau jazz a llawer mwy. Digwyddiad Am Ddim.

**Blackwood Christmas Market** • Marchnad Nadolig Coed Duon  
30/11 & 1/12  
9am-5pm & 10am - 4pm  
Blackwood Town Centre • Canol Tref Coed Duon

Blackwood Christmas Market is now entering its fourth year with the last three years proving to be a great success. The high street will be filled with food & craft stalls, funfair rides, animal displays, street entertainment, Santa's grotto and donkey's as well as street entertainment. Free Event.  
Dyma bedwaredd flwyddyn Marchnad Nadolig Coed Duon ac mae'r tair blynedd diwethaf wedi bod yn llwyddiant ysgubol. Bydd y stryd fawr yn cael ei llenwi â stondinau bwyrdd a cheffr, reidiau ffair hwyl, arddangosfeydd anifeiliaid, adloniant stryd, a synnod, a hyd yn oed ogof Siôn Corn. Digwyddiad Am Ddim.  
[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas)  
02920 880011



**Bargoed Christmas Market** • Marchnad Nadolig Bargod  
7/12 - 10am - 4pm  
Bargoed Town Centre • Canol Tref Bargod

Located throughout Bargoed High Street, the event will host over 20 traders, a Santa's grotto, traditional Punch & Judy show, children's activities including pottery workshops and some great street theatre. Free Event.  
Wedi'i leoli ar hyd Stryd Fawr Bargod, bydd y digwyddiad yn cynnwys dros 20 o fasnachwyr, ogof Siôn Corn, sioe Pwntsh a Siwan draddodiadol, gweithgareddau i blant gan gynnwys gweithdai crochenwaith a theatr stryd fendigedig. Digwyddiad Am Ddim.  
[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas)  
02920 880011

**Caerphilly Medieval Christmas Fayre** • Ffair Nadolig y Canol Oesoedd Caerffili  
7-8/12 - 9am-5pm & 10am-4pm  
Caerphilly Town Centre • Canol Tref Caerffili

The Caerphilly Medieval Christmas Fayre is now entering its ninth year with last year's event proving to be extremely popular with residents & visitors alike. Caerphilly returns to its days of old with an electric mix of medieval entertainment, food and drink and an abundance of stalls selling unusual Christmas gifts such as medieval replica, traditional crafts, jewellery and Christmas decorations. So experience the sights, sounds and smells of a town and castle preparing for Christmas. Entry into the castle is at a fee, although much of the entertainment around the town is free.

Mae Ffair Nadolig y Canol Oesoedd Caerffili ar drothwy ei nawfed flwyddyn, gyda digwyddiad llynedd yn profi ei hunan i fod yn boblogaidd dros ben gyda thrigolion ac ymwelwyr fel ei gilydd. Mae Caerffili yn dychwelyd i'w hen ddyddiau gyda chymysgedd trydanol o adloniant canoloesol, bwyrdd a diod, a digonedd a stondinau yn gwerthu anrhegion fel atgynhyrchiadau canoloesol, crefftau traddodiadol, gemwaith ac addurniadau Nadolig. Felly, dewch i brofi golygon, synau ac arogleuon tref a chastell yn paratoi at y Nadolig. Mae ffi i'w thalu i gael mynediad i'r Castell, ond mae llawer o'r adloniant o gwmpas y dref am ddim.  
[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas)  
02920 880011

**Risca Christmas Market & Lantern Parade** • Marchnad Nadolig a Gorymdaith Lusernau Rhisga  
14/12 - 1pm-6pm  
Risca Town Centre • Canol Tref Rhisga

Come along and enjoy the Risca Christmas Market and Lantern Parade and pick up some unique Christmas presents for family and friends! Free event.  
Dewch i fwynhau Marchnad Nadolig a Gorymdaith Lusernau Rhisga, a phrynwch anrhegion Nadolig unigryw i'ch teulu a'ch ffrindiau! Digwyddiad Am Ddim.  
[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/christmas)  
02920 880011

**Community Market** • Marchnad Gymunedol  
14/12 - 9am  
White Rose Information Centre • Canolfan Wybodaeth y Rhosyn Gwyn

Come along to the heart of New Tredegar to the thriving heart of the community at the White Rose Information & Resource Centre. There will be market stalls, craft stalls, car-boot & tabletop sale items, hot food & snacks, beer Tent and entertainment. Free Event.  
Dewch i ganol Tredegar Newydd, i galon ffyniannus y gymuned yng Nghanolfan Wybodaeth ac Adnoddau'r Rhosyn Gwyn. Bydd stondinau marchnad, stondinau crefft, eitemau arwerthiant cist car a phen bwrdd, bwyrdd poeth a byrbrydau, pabell gwrw ac adloniant. Digwyddiad Am Ddim.  
Helen Courquin - 01443 878090

## PROTECTING YOU

The council's Public Protection team aims to ensure that the county borough is a healthy, safe and fair place for people to live, work & visit. One of the team's key tasks is to expose and bring before the courts those individuals and businesses we discover acting illegally.

Below are examples of recent prosecutions:

## EICH DIOGELU CHI

Nod tîm Diogelu'r Cyhoedd y cyngor yw sicrhau bod y fwrdeistref sirol yn lle iach, diogel a theg i bobl fyw a gweithio ynddo ac ymweld ag ef. Un o brif dascgâu'r tîm yw datgelu'r gwir am yr unigolion a'r busnesau hynny sy'n gweithredu'n anghyfreithlon, a'u dwyn gerbron y llys.

Isod ceir enghreifftiau o erlyniadau diweddar:

**Trading Standards prosecutions**  
Erlyniadau'n ymwneud â safonau masnach

Defendant	Offence	Court Decision
Mark Davis trading as Valley Dampproofing and Plastering of Bargoed.	Carried out damp proofing which was not to professional standard. Failure to give consumer cancellation rights. 4th October 2013 at Newport Magistrates Court.	12 Month Community Order, to include 10 days on Substance Misuse Programme, 200 hours unpaid work, £500 costs to the Local Authority and £60 victim surcharge. Fraud Act 2006. Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.
Anthony Allen Moses Of Aberdare.	Carried out damp proofing which was not to professional standard. 4th October 2013 at Newport Magistrates Court.	£600 fine, £1124.75 costs to the Local Authority and £60 victim surcharge. Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

**Environmental Health prosecutions**  
Erlyniadau'n ymwneud ag iechyd yr amgylchedd

Defendant	Offence	Court Decision
Miss Janice Thomas. Fair View, Risca.	Discarding Litter (Cigarette End) At Risca High Street.	£120 fine, £120 costs, £20 Victim surcharge. Environmental Protection Act 1990 - Sections 87 and 88.
Mr Bledar Shehu. George Street, Argoed.	Discarding Litter (Cigarette End) from a vehicle on Pontygwindy Road, Caerphilly.	£75 fine, £120 costs, £15 Victim surcharge. Environmental Protection Act 1990 - Sections 87 and 88.
Craig Crook of Broadmead, Pontllanfraith.	Illegally tattooing people at his home address. The case was heard at Caerphilly Magistrates Court on 5th September 2013.	Ordered to pay a fine of £450, together with £900 in costs and a £20 victim surcharge. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

To view the full list, visit [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/prosecutions](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/prosecutions)  
Prosecution results are provided for a limited period to promote the openness of the council's actions to local residents. Information provided must not be reused in any form without the agreement of CCBC.

**Gellir gweld y rhestr yn llawn ar [www.caerffili.gov.uk/erlyniadau](http://www.caerffili.gov.uk/erlyniadau)**  
Caiff canlyniadau erlyniadau eu dangos am gyfnod cyfyngedig i ddangos i drigolion lleol bod y llys yn gweithredu mewn modd agored. Ni ddylid aildefnyddio gwybodaeth mewn unrhyw fodd heb ganiatâd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili.

## Bin there, done that!

The council and Gwent Police are keen to offer residents the following simple advice on helping to ensure wheelie bins, food caddies and recycling boxes are appropriately marked and securely stored:

- Mark all bins with the property number and postcode using permanent marker, paint or weatherproof stickers.
- Make a note of the serial number of the bin. This is stamped into the plastic. It could help trace the bin if it is inadvertently taken into a neighbour's property.
- If possible, store bins/boxes/caddies in a secure area of the property when they are not out for collection.
- Return bins/boxes/caddies back onto your property as soon as possible after collection.

Bins can be repaired, and do not necessarily need to be replaced if damaged. To report discarded bins for pick up, or to request a repair to your bin, please call 01443 866 533.