

VALE OF GLAMORGAN  
BRO MORGANNWG

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Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU. Tel: (01446) 700111  
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# We're surfing up the charts

Just months after its launch, the council's new website has been judged as the third best local authority website in Wales. See page 4



# Vale Waves

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

The Vale of Glamorgan Council's Community Newspaper

Winter 2007 | Issue 18

## Fostering in the Vale



**F**ostering around 150 children over 19 years has been a 'very rewarding experience' for Llantwit Major couple Kay and David Griffiths.

Currently long-term carers for two girls aged 13 and three, both of whom have serious medical condi-

tions and severe learning disabilities, Kay and David say: "We have made many good friends over the years, shed lots of tears and shared much laughter."

They began their 'career' as carers in the Gwent valleys 30 years ago, and have three grown up sons.

They also adopted a little girl who had been with them from birth. Having overcome many medical hurdles, she is awaiting yet more surgery and will be 16 in December.

Kay's role – she is also chairperson of the Sunshine Club, a group based at the

Llantwit's Western Vale Integrated Children's Centre which supports foster carers and children with disabilities – was recently featured on ITV after she was nominated for a Pride in Britain award. Kay is currently playing a leading role in fundraising and organising the development of a sensory room at the centre.

Describing each caring role as a 'challenge,' the couple say: "With the support of the Vale fostering and adoption teams, we have successfully returned many children to their birth families as well as being part of the process to place children needing a new family with an adoptive family."

"Working with and for the children means that we also have to 'befriend' the families involved and promote and support contact between the children and their parents' siblings and often grandparents and, occasionally, pets."

The couple say fostering with the Vale has taken them down many paths and, over the years, "we have experienced many changes such as training and the introduction in 2002 of 'a payment for skills' for carers who stay at home full time to care for the children."

Monthly visits from a support social worker provides carers with the opportunity to air problems or concerns about the children or themselves, and the couple add: "In the past we have cared for many children with profound physical disabilities and severe learning difficulties and have felt very privileged to have played such an important part in their life. Caring for these children is very demanding and heart rend-

ing but the rewards are immense."

Carers come from a variety of different backgrounds and bring differing experiences and much diversity to the caring role, and David and Kay say: "We believe each member of our family is a richer person for having individually contributed to being a member of a 'foster family'. We hope our 'career' as carers will continue for many years."

The Vale council is very keen to recruit new foster carers, and all applicants are welcome.

Vale fostering team manager Scott Ruddock said: "David and Kay are really positive role models for our service, and have been fully committed to the role they play in the lives of the children with whom they have been involved."

Vale cabinet member for social care Cllr Stuart Egan said: "We have nothing but admiration for carers such as David and Kay. Foster carers make a huge difference to the lives of so many children and families."

"The Vale is very proud of the way it supports its carers and the service that those carers provide."

The Vale council is currently seeking to boost its number of foster carers to help make a difference to the lives of youngsters in the Vale. All applicants are welcome – see advert on page three.

To find out more about foster care, tel 029 2035 0952, email [fostercare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:fostercare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or visit the council website at [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/living/social\\_care/car\\_e/fostering1.aspx](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/living/social_care/car_e/fostering1.aspx)

## NewsStories



Porthkerry Country Park is undergoing a number of exciting new developments which includes the introduction of a Children's Nature Group.

See page 2



Free books proved to be just the ticket for summer holidaymakers using Cardiff International Airport. The books were handed out by Sandra Cooper and Claire Young, from the council's Rhoose library.

See page 3

The Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board (LHB) and the Vale of Glamorgan Council are asking local people to give their views on a new strategy for improving the health and well-being of local people.

See page 6

Turn to page five for a comprehensive guide to what's on in the Vale this Winter



## News in brief

### Summer in the park



Hundreds of children and adults celebrated the success of a range of school summer holiday events organised by the council's sports, arts and play development team.

Blessed with

marvellous weather, a free summer finale at Porthkerry Country Park included a series of activities, supervised by the playscheme team, for children, mums and dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles and friends.

Vale cabinet member for tourism and leisure Cllr Gwyn John praised the success of the summer activities programme. He said: "The team worked exceptionally hard to ensure everyone had a wonderful taster of the delights of sports, arts and play."

### Best kept Vale villages

The success of this year's Vale Best Kept Village competition has been recognised at a civic reception hosted by Vale Mayor Cllr Clive Williams.

Attending were representatives of winners Wenvoe, who were runners-up last year, Ystradowen, who had to settle for second spot after last year's success, third-placed Llanmaes and St Bride's Major Church in Wales Primary School, winners of the children's competition (aged six to 11) for the second successive year. Cogan Nursery School, Penarth, were winners of the under five section.

There was a special prize for Wick and Marcross Church in Wales School who have transformed a derelict area into a wildlife and learning park.

Established in 1953, the competition was sponsored this year by Lafarge Cement (Aberthaw), the Vale Council and town and community councils.

Cllr Williams said: "The wonderful efforts of so many Vale villages has once again created a sense of community spirit and pride."

### New pavilion



Council leader Cllr Margaret Alexander has officially opened a new £875,000 sports pavilion in Dinas Powys.

The complex at Parc Bryn y Don comprises the pavilion, including changing and referees' rooms, and a community room with a small kitchen and the popular skateboard park. The new facilities were designed, constructed and completed in consultation with the local community.

Cllr Alexander said: "This project will be of great benefit to local residents of all ages, and I would like to thank the local councillors and clubs for their support."

Phil Beaman, operational manager (parks and grounds maintenance), said: "The benefits of working with the local community and partners are clearly shown in this successful and high quality project."

# Exciting activities at park

**V**iewed by many as Barry's favourite hidden gem, Porthkerry Country Park is undergoing a number of exciting new developments.

The 250-acre council-owned park, with its pebble beach, rich deciduous woodlands and wide open meadows, has always been popular with dog walkers and family groups. But the ranger service is keen to encourage a whole new range of visitors.

With this in mind, one of the projects is the creation of two orienteering routes. One is designed for older children and energetic adults and explores the secret trails and valleys spreading inland from the

meadow, while the other, a wildlife trail, is aimed at primary school aged children.

Another exciting project is the formation of a new children's nature group, Porthkerry Wildlife Watch Group, which will be run in partnership with The Wildlife Trust. Its main aim is to increase children's understanding of their environment in fun and enjoyable ways.

Park ranger Mel Stewart said: "Children between the ages of eight and 12 are welcome to attend. There are lots of exciting activities planned for the forthcoming year including tree planting, putting out dormouse tubes, snake and butterfly surveys, beach art, nest box making and bat and moth walks."



Members of the new children's nature group, Porthkerry Wildlife Watch Group, which is being run in partnership with the The Wildlife Trust

The park has a huge variety of interesting wildlife, and the rangers, with the help of some new volunteer groups, have been busy looking after some of the more rare species and habitats. Bat boxes have been erected, several of which have been used this summer – a few by bats, but some by blue tits and wasps!

'Cliff Wood', a designated site of special scientific interest, is being managed to promote

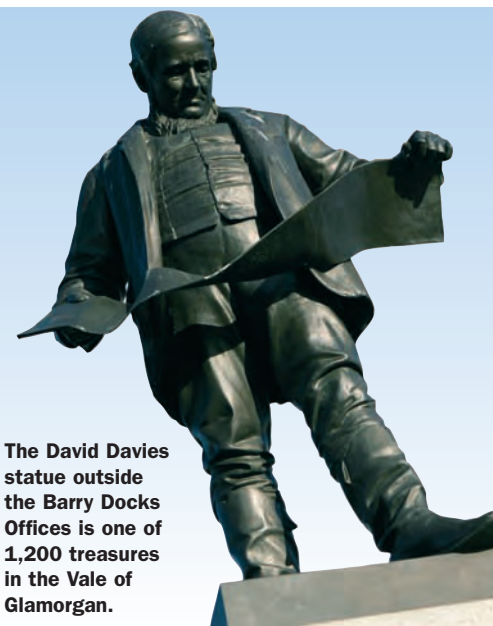
the growth of two rare plants – the beautiful woodland edge flower, Purple Gromwell, and a tree, which loves the mild climate on the south facing cliffs, the True Service Tree.

Mel added: "The park has lots of other projects in the pipeline including developing the education resources for schools, for example, a new pond dipping site and Forest School area."

The rangers, who are keen to

improve Porthkerry's many paths and trails and to produce some new walks and heritage leaflets, would love to hear from anyone with old photographs or interesting stories about the park's history.

For more information about the park, please contact the ranger service on 01446 733589 or email porthkerry@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



The David Davies statue outside the Barry Docks Offices is one of 1,200 treasures in the Vale of Glamorgan.

# Treasures to be found across the Vale

**Six years of research has uncovered a treasure chest in the Vale of Glamorgan.**

Described by cabinet member for planning and transportation Cllr Chris Williams as "unique in Wales," the Vale of Glamorgan County Treasures project lists some 1,200 buildings of architectural/historic merit, archaeological remains, buildings, structures and groups of buildings recognised as being of importance and designated parks and gardens.

The majority of buildings can be viewed from the roadside or other public land.

The work, which began in earnest some six years ago, has been undertaken with the help of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Cadw and has involved a team comprising council conservation officers, the Penarth Society and a number of community volunteers.

Cllr Williams said that an indication of the immense amount of work undertaken was that more

than 17,000 'potential treasures' were initially identified and assessed. He added: "Indeed, the scale of response far exceeded expectations and each potential entry had to be assessed in terms of merit, integrity and authenticity."

Each entry is accompanied by an exterior photograph and it is intended to make the document available to as wide an audience as possible. It will be placed on the council website, and a CD-Rom and hard copies will be available in county libraries.

# Steering lorry drivers clear of troublespots

**Heavy goods vehicle drivers who over-rely on satellite navigation (sat nav) aids are being steered clear of trouble in the Vale.**

In an attempt to deter lorry drivers, especially those from countries that speak or read little or no English, from using unsuitable routes, Mark Simpson, of the council's traffic section, designed a new warning sign that has been erected on the A48 at the junction to St Hilary, which had

particular problems.

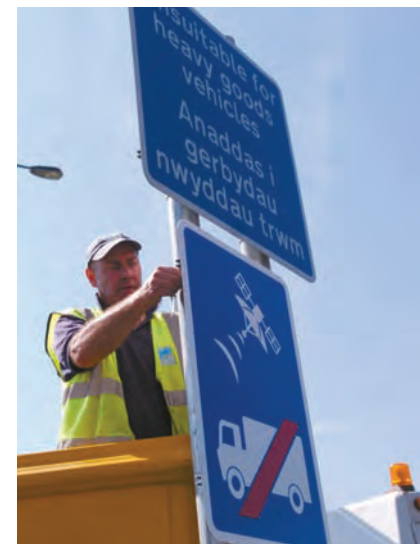
The sign has been approved by the Welsh Assembly for a trial period.

The council discovered that a number of drivers are using routes clearly signed as unsuitable for lorries and, continuing with their journey, find they cannot proceed. Manoeuvring becomes difficult and the vehicle eventually blocks the road, sometimes for a significant period of time.

Operational manager (engineering

design) Paul Gay said: "The increasing use of satellite navigation devices is a widespread problem, both locally and nationally. Large vehicles are using inappropriate routes through narrow lanes and country villages and causing damage to property."

If the signs prove successful – and they have generated a great deal of interest across the country – they could be used at other locations throughout Wales.





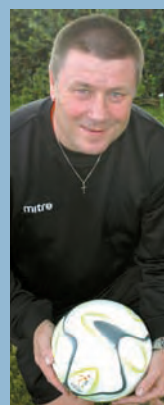
News in brief

Vale is best

People in the Vale of Glamorgan enjoy the best quality of life in Wales, with higher earnings, better schools and sunnier weather than the rest of the nation, according to research undertaken by Halifax Estate Agents.

They ranked the county Wales' best area in its quality of life index for 2007, based on a range of factors including life expectancy, weather, earnings, house prices, health, crime and education.

Football guru



Dave Bell, former professional player and experienced coach, is a new part-time football development officer with the council's sports development team.

Employed by the Football Association for Wales Trust, Dave will balance his time between the Trust, Bridgend council and the Vale and work with leagues, schools,

clubs and communities.

Cabinet member for tourism and leisure Cllr Gwyn John said: "Dave's knowledge and experience should certainly benefit our football community."

Dave said: "I view my role as inspiring others to achieve in this great sport."

For more information, call Dave on either 01446 704729 or 07743 464020, or visit the council website at [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment)

Top marks

The wide range of adult and community-based learning opportunities provided across the Vale effectively address the needs of local communities and provide good value for money, say independent inspectors.

The 10-day inspection by Estyn included all providers of adult learning, community development, basic skills, English for Speakers of Other Languages and Welsh for adults working under the umbrella of the Vale Learning Network (VLN) and who work in partnership with the council's lifelong learning service.

The report further refers to the strong and effective working relationships between staff at all levels, and praises the VLN for fostering a strong commitment to partnership working between a wide variety of agencies and organisations.

Cabinet member for education and training Cllr Nigel Gibbs said: "We are delighted that this report confirms the progress we have made in meeting the needs of learners across the Vale."

# Special 'mobile library' is a hit with travellers

Free books proved to be just the ticket for summer holidaymakers using Cardiff International Airport.

Handed out by Sandra Cooper and Claire Young, from the councils Rhoose library, the books giveaway, along with travel and language guides, form part of a new campaign to get more people to use their local libraries.

Vale principal librarian Chris Edwards said: "Everyone wants a couple of good books to relax with on the beach when they're on holiday but it can be expensive. We wanted to remind people that they don't have to part with their cash in order to get their hands on a good book."

"If you are a member of your local library, you can take out up to 10 items, including books, CDs and DVDs for three weeks - plenty to keep even the most avid reader happy on holiday. And it's not just about novels, libraries have

a full range of travel and language guides too."

And the airport's one-off 'mobile library' was a hit with travellers. Katie Adams, 17, said: "I think this is a really good idea. I'd never thought about joining the library but, when I saw all the great books they had, I decided to sign up. My mum and brother have also borrowed some travel guides for our holiday to Crete."

Peter Phillips, the airport's head of marketing and communication, said: "It was great to see people stocking up on books for their holidays on one of our busiest days of the year."

To join your local library, all you need is one item of personal identification showing your name and current address, such as a driver's licence, a recent utilities bill or bank account statement. Under 16s require the signature of a parent or legal guardian.



Rhoose librarian Sandra Cooper with holidaymakers Katie Adams, Cailey Jones and Rowan Adams at Cardiff International Airport.

## The Vale Fostering Service is currently recruiting new foster carers



### Why join the Vale?

- As a not for profit service, the focus will always stay on the needs of children
- We pay very generously for foster carers in the Vale and you can earn more with experience
- We also pay a retainer if you have no placements
- Two weeks paid leave a year plus low interest car loan
- Regular payments given for clothing and equipment
- Support available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- You'd be joining a council fostering service that receives positive inspections

Make the Difference  
Foster for the Vale



If you are interested in joining the Vale, contact us on:

Tel: 02920 350952

E-mail: [fostercare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:fostercare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

or visit: [valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/fostercare](http://valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/fostercare)

## Business club flourishing

Sponsored by the council, Business in Focus and HSBC, the Vale Business Club goes from strength to strength.

The club has recently celebrated its first anniversary, and local businesses are now taking advantage of the regular networking opportunities and specialist events that aim to help them flourish.

At its October meeting, members were given an insight into how to make the most of major sporting events like the Ryder Cup or the Olympics. The speakers were two of Wales' leading business specialists, Professor Brian Morgan, Director of the creative leadership and enterprise centre at UWIC's School of Management, and Rob Holt, of Ryder Cup Wales 2010, who passed on valuable tips on taking commercial advantage of major sporting events hosted in Wales.

The club's annual pre-Christmas get together will be held on 13 December at the West House Hotel, Llantwit Major, to which both members and non members are welcome; reserve your spot by contacting Paul Fergusson on the number below.

The following benefits are available for club members:

- discounted event charges

- dedicated website with business club directory of all members
  - electronic newsletter
  - extensive calendar of events and seminars on pertinent and 'of the moment' topics
  - discounts and linking opportunities with other businesses in the Vale
  - easy access to useful information including business support, grant availability and funding opportunities, and
  - speaking and promotional opportunities.
- Annual membership fees are:
- Individual - £50 plus VAT
  - Newly trading (under 12 months) - £30 plus VAT
  - Corporate (up to three named members) - £135 plus VAT.

All you need to do to join the club or to renew membership is contact Paul Fergusson on 029 2049 4411 or email [paulf@businessinfocus.co.uk](mailto:paulf@businessinfocus.co.uk)





### Newsinbrief

**21st birthday celebration**  
 The popular council leisure centre at Cowbridge has celebrated its 21st birthday.  
 The centre opened its doors to the public in September, 1986, and the "key of the door" celebrations coincided with the 10th anniversary of LifeStyle Health and Fitness activities at the popular gym.  
 The centre opens weekdays (7am-10pm), Saturdays (9am-6pm) and Sundays (9am-8pm), and it's estimated that at least 7,000 customers come through the doors monthly.  
 Assistant manager Simon Jones said: "People of all ages and abilities can have fun, meet new friends or improve their health. We have a hardworking team ready to help and a range of activities and clubs."  
 For more information, telephone (01446) 775533 or visit the website at [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisure-centres](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisure-centres).

**Youngsters at play**  
 A local community in Barry is leading the way in providing play opportunities for its youngsters.  
 Following initial support from Vale Council housing and play development officers and a 14-week pilot project, the Stratford Green Residents' Committee is now running its own Play Rangers scheme.  
 According to play development officer Joanne Jones "play is a great way to bring local people together"  
 Cabinet member for tourism and leisure Cllr Gwyn John said: "Hopefully, the great example set by the residents of Stratford Green will spark the interest of other areas in the Vale who the council can help to start their own Play Ranger schemes."  
 For more information about starting a Play Rangers project in your community, please contact Joanne Jones on (01446) 704809 or email [joajones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:joajones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

**New Deal opportunities**  
 The council's New Deal unit, based at the Holm View Centre, Barry, offers opportunities to unemployed and unwaged people to gain skills, qualifications and work experience in a variety of jobs.  
 Skills are developed on work placement with local employers (including retail, administration and catering) and/or within its own workshops (carpentry, bike maintenance and painting and decorating).  
 Anyone living in the Castleland, Court or Gibbonsdown wards in Barry and not in work at present could get onto this training without waiting the usual six months (under 25s) or 18 months (over 25s). Also, if individuals are over 25 and just need a short course (up to two weeks) to get back into work, help might also be available.  
 Training manager Pippa Jones says: "So why not give us a call on 01446 721974 or 709763? We are waiting for your call."  
 New Deal can also be accessed through the County Library at King Square, Barry.

# Our website surges up the charts!

**Just months after its launch, the council's new website has been judged as the third best local authority website in Wales.**  
 According to a league table produced by Sitemorse in September, the Vale's website ranking had also risen from 452nd to 63rd in the UK – an incredible rise of 389 places in just 12 months!

The impressive ranking rise has been down to a huge amount of effort and creativity from staff to introduce fresh new content and functions since the website's re-launch in December 2006. Along the way, various groups including school children, disabled users, Welsh speakers and novice website users, have been consulted on the site's appearance, performance and navigation  
 The website is becoming increasingly interactive, so as well as visiting the site to find out everything they need to know about the council and the Vale, local people can now take advantage of a host of easy-to-use online functions. These include applying

for a job with the council, paying Council Tax online and being able to find out the day of kerbside recycling and refuse collections.  
 It is also now possible to submit a planning application online, and you will soon be able to track the progress of planning applications and search back through a planning application database stretching back over 20 years!

Another imminent development involves trialling a 'voice-on-the-web' system called Readspeakr, which will make the Vale Council's website accessible for dyslexics, people with learning disabilities or low literacy level, people with English as a second language, and those with impaired vision – groups of people who are estimated to represent more than 20 per cent of the population in Europe.  
 Cllr Neil Moore, deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for finance, ICT and property, said: "I am delighted that our website is now ranked number three in Wales and 63rd in the UK. "Ultimately, we want



our website to be a 'one stop shop' for local people, and we are continuing to make the site more interactive. Our website means that our citizens and customers can access council information and services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year without having to leave their home."  
 Visit the council's website at [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk). If you have any queries about the content of the website, please email Angela Magee, website editor, at [amagee@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:amagee@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

## How to raise an issue for scrutiny

**The council's four Scrutiny Committees welcome suggestions for topics for consideration and will consider including issues put forward by members of the public.**  
 If you have an issue that you think would benefit from being considered by a Scrutiny Committee, please read the criteria below. If you then still think your issue is suitable for consideration, please contact Jeff Rees (01446 709413 or email [jerees@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:jerees@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)) or Karen Bowen (01446 709856 or email [kbowen@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:kbowen@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)). A suggestion form will be sent to you for completion.  
 Subjects that can be considered by Scrutiny must fulfil certain criteria. They

- must:
  - affect Vale of Glamorgan residents across more than one ward
  - relate to a service or issue in which the council has a significant stake
  - be an area where Scrutiny can add value
  - not have been reviewed, for example, through a previous Scrutiny review within the previous 12 months
  - not be related to an individual complaint
  - not dealt with by another committee (such as the Planning Committee)
- Topics must meet the above criteria and there should be a clear reason for carrying out a review. For example, an area where you think services could be improved or

there is a particular issue that needs to be investigated.  
 Topics must be specific; for example, a general issue such as crime could not be considered, but it might be possible to consider a specific aspect of crime.  
**What will happen next?**  
 All suggestions will be acknowledged and then circulated to the relevant Scrutiny Committee whose members will make a final decision. If accepted, the issue will be included as part of the Scrutiny work programme, usually in April of each year, and you will be informed of when it is to be discussed. If we are not able to take the issue to scrutiny, a letter of explanation will be sent to you.

## Meetings

All members of the public are invited to attend meetings of the Council which start at 6pm in the Civic Offices unless otherwise stated:

- Cabinet (2pm) – November 28, December 12 and 19, January 9 and 23, February 6 and 20 and March 5.
- Council – December 5 and February 13.
- Planning – December 13, January 17 and February 21.
- Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison – February 20.
- Community Liaison (7pm) – January 29.
- Licensing (10am) – January 15.

Scrutiny meetings start at 6pm and are generally held at the Civic Offices:

- Lifelong Learning – November 28, January 21 and February 18.
- Corporate Resources – December 4, January 22 and February 19.
- Community Wellbeing and Safety – November 26, January 14 and February 11.
- Economy and Environment – November 27, January 15 and February 12.



## What's On in the Vale this winter

### November

#### Thurs 22 – Moishe's Bagel, Barry Memorial Hall and Theatre

An evening of eastern European dance music, Middle Eastern rhythms and virtuoso performances from some of Scotland's finest musicians. For details, call 01446 738622, email [boxoffice@barrymemo.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@barrymemo.co.uk) or visit [www.memorialhalltheatre.co.uk](http://www.memorialhalltheatre.co.uk)

#### Fri 23 - Switch on of Vale of Glamorgan Council Christmas lights, King Square, Barry

Enjoy a free fun packed event (4-8pm) which includes the switching on of the Christmas lights by "Gavin and Stacey" star Joanna Page, live music and street entertainers. The evening closes with a fireworks display. Contact 01446 704736 for further details.

#### Fri 23 - Ballroom and popular sequence dance, The Paget Rooms, Penarth

Perfect your dance steps at this friendly social evening. Suitable for anyone who has mastered the basic ballroom steps or is familiar with a few popular sequence dances. Great dance floor and good atmosphere. Dress: smart or smart casual, no jeans, trainers or t-shirts. Bring your own drinks. Tickets: £4, available on the door. Contact Alan Taylor on 07890 707759.

#### Sat 24 – Farmers' Market, Penarth

Westbourne School from 10am to 1pm. Call 01656 729305 for details.

#### Sun 25 - Winter Concert by the Dinas Powys Orchestra, Dinas Powys Parish Hall

The programme will feature Adagio from Brahms' Violin Concerto, soloist Antony Tarlton, and the first two acts of Mozart's Marriage of Figaro with soloists and singers from the Chorus of the Welsh National Opera. Tickets cost £7 and include a charity donation as well as seasonal refreshments. For further information, call 02920 706288.

#### Fri 30 until 16 December - Light up the night at Dyffryn Gardens

Follow a spectacular trail through the illuminated arboretum every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night. There will also be a number of festive activities to enjoy on the last weekend. Wrap up warm, wear sturdy footwear and bring a torch. Call 029 2059 3328 for more details.



#### Fri 30 until 24 December - Penarth Christmas Festival

The yuletide season kicks off with the 'Lighting up Penarth' event at Windsor Road. The highlight of the evening's entertainment is the grand switch on at 6.15pm of the Christmas lights by the town mayor, accompanied by characters from Doctor Who and the Space Rangers.

### December

#### 1 Dec - 6 Jan - Christmas Show, Washington Gallery, Penarth

The annual Christmas Show displays a breadth of artistic talent from Wales and beyond. Ceramics, jewellery, crafts in metal and wood and design led giftware.

#### Sat 1 – Farmers' Market, Cowbridge

Arthur John's car park from 10am to 1pm. Call 01656 729305 for details.

#### Sun 2 – Llantwit Major Christmas Illuminations

This year's celebrations start at 2pm with a funfair in the Town Hall car park along with music and entertainment around the town. Later, Santa will be in his grotto and the lights will be switched on at 5pm. Call 01446 793707 for more information.

#### Sun 2 – Penarth Christmas Parade

A parade led by Father Christmas arriving in the original Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, plus Penarth Chamber's mascot, Giant Snowman, a marching band and much more! The fun starts from 1pm at West House, Stanwell Road.

#### Sun 2 – Continental Market, Penarth

A great chance to buy some gifts for Christmas. Authentic continental food and drink, clothes, crafts and jewellery will be on offer. The market runs from 7am to 7pm at Lower Glebe Street – Ludlow Lane.

#### Sun 2 and 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 Dec – Ticket to Santa in Panto Land, Barry Island Railway

The ever-popular Santa Specials will run with festive fare, special gifts and seasonal stories. This year's Ticket to Santa includes a one-hour adventure journey and a search for panto characters and panto props. Tickets: £7.50 each adult/child or £26 family (2+2), includes a present for children and mulled wine and mince pies for adults. The trains depart on the hour from 11am to 3pm. Booking is advisable. Please call 01446 748816 for details.

#### Wed 5 – Natural Health Market, Cowbridge Town Hall

From 10am to 1pm, the market will feature natural therapies and products, a café and juice bar, and therapy 'taster' sessions. Free entry. Call 01446 772522 for more information.

#### Wed 5 and Thurs 6 – A Christmas Entertainment, St Donats Arts Centre

Phoenix Players invite you to bring the whole family along to this humorous evening of performances, festive sketches and short plays to celebrate the Christmas season. The fun starts at 7.30pm. Call 01446 799100 for details.

#### Thurs 6 – Marie Curie 'Lights to Remember', Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth

Lighting up of the tree on which each light is sponsored either in memory of, or in honour of, a loved one. Call 029 2042 6068 to sponsor a light and find out more.

#### Thurs 6 to Sun 9 – 'Jack and The Beanstalk,' The Paget Rooms, Penarth

The classic pantomime, loved by children and adults alike. Shows at 7.30pm from Thurs to Sat, and matinee on Sat and Sun at 2.30pm. For details, call 029 2070 8668.

#### Fri 7 – Dickensian Fair, Dinas Powys Village Square

This atmospheric event from 6-9pm is sure to get you in the Christmas spirit. Craft and gift stalls, mulled wine, Santa's Grotto and Christmas carols played by the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band.

#### Fri 7 to Sun 9 – Christmas Tree Festival, St Augustine's Church, Penarth

Now in its seventh year, the festival has become an eagerly anticipated event. A gala concert kicks off the festival at 7.30pm on the Friday. See around 50 Christmas trees decorated by local schools, organisations and individuals. Come along and vote for your favourite while being entertained by music. Accompanied children can also join Santa for breakfast in the Parish Hall at 10am on Saturday and Sunday. For further information, visit [www.staugustineschurch.co.uk](http://www.staugustineschurch.co.uk) or call 029 2070 5898.

#### Sat 8 – Christmas Grotto, King Square, Barry

Meet Santa and his reindeers and enjoy the Christmas music.

The grotto will be open from 11am to 5pm. Admission costs £3 per child (admission price includes a present). For more information, please call 01446 704736.

#### Sat 8 - Robert Powell's 'A Victorian Celebration,' St Donats Arts Centre

A seasonal Victorian celebration that takes you to the far-flung corners of the British Empire, Lord Tennyson, Lewis Carroll, the Brownings, Rudyard Kipling, Thomas Hardy and Queen Victoria herself, before returning to the homely delights of Mrs Gaskell and Mrs Beeton! The evening will be packed full of poems, prose, letters and journals illuminated with music by Mendelssohn, Prince Albert, Handel, Liszt, Balfe, Telemann, Rimsky-Korsakoff, Scott Joplin, as well as traditional Christmas music. For details on how to book, visit [www.stdonats.com](http://www.stdonats.com)

#### Sun 9 – Father Christmas Shopping Trail, Penarth

A festive trail to find all those treasures you've been searching for. Visit [www.penarthchamber.com](http://www.penarthchamber.com) for more details.

#### Sun 9 – The Snowman, St Donats Arts Centre

An orchestral performance of Raymond Briggs' much-loved Christmas tale by The Welsh Sinfonia, narrated by Welsh soprano Sian Cothi. The show is a matinee performance at 3pm, an ideal treat for all the family. To book, visit [www.stdonats.com](http://www.stdonats.com)

#### Wed 12 – RNLI annual service of nine lessons and carols, Penarth

From 7pm at St Augustine's Church in Penarth, a service conducted by Dr Tony Edwards, accompanied by Caratia Singers Choir.

#### Sat 15 – Farmers' Market, Cowbridge

Arthur John's car park from 10am to 1pm. Call 01656 729305 for details.

#### Sun 16 – Fun festive transportation around Penarth

Take advantage of some festive transport to get you around Penarth as you go about your Christmas shopping. Visit [www.penarthchamber.com](http://www.penarthchamber.com) for more details of departure times and stops.

#### Wed 19 – Natural Health Market, Cowbridge Town Hall

From 10am to 1pm, the market will feature natural therapies and products, a café and juice bar, and therapy 'taster' sessions. Free entry. Call 01446 772522 for more information.

#### Fri 21 – Carols, Candles and Chestnuts, Penarth

From 6pm at the Bowling Pavilion, Belle Vue Park, all are welcome to enjoy a glass of mulled wine, carols and Christmas songs.

#### Fri 21 – Ballroom and Sequence Dance, The Paget Rooms, Penarth

All are welcome at this friendly social evening of dance floor fun. Tickets cost £4. For details, call 01443 238867 or 07890 707759.

#### Sat 22 to Mon 24 – Winter Wonderland, Penarth

Come and skate on Penarth's very own magical open-air ice rink at Westbourne School. Fun for all the family, whether you are an experienced skater or just a beginner. Entertainment and festive food will also be on offer. For more information and to pre-book your skating session, visit [www.penarthchamber.com](http://www.penarthchamber.com)

#### Sat 22 – Christmas Farmers' Market, Penarth

Get all your seasonal fare at Westbourne School, Victoria Road, from 10am to 1pm. A superb selection of local Welsh produce will be on offer. Call 01656 729305 for details.

#### Sun 23 – Christmas Farmers' Market, Cowbridge

Arthur John's car park from 10am to 1pm. Call 01656 729305 for details.

#### Fri 28 – Modern Jive Dance, The Paget Rooms, Penarth

South Wales Modern Jive extends a friendly welcome to all. Tickets cost £5. For details, visit [www.southwalesmodernjive.com](http://www.southwalesmodernjive.com) or call 07977 901562.

#### Mon 31 - Ballroom and Sequence Dance, The Paget Rooms, Penarth

All are welcome at this friendly social evening of dance floor fun. Tickets cost £4. For details, call 01443 238867 or 07890 707759.

### January

#### Thur 24 – "Face2Face" at County Library in Barry

Meet author Catrin Collier from 2pm. For more information, contact the library on 01446 422425.

Check out [www.visitthevale.com](http://www.visitthevale.com) for more ideas of things to do this winter.

## Guide to community venues

People helping to run community venues across the Vale are being invited to promote their premises in a new council guide.

Individuals can submit their free entry by completing a simple questionnaire available from late November in many local venues including libraries, leisure centres, community learning centres and the Civic Offices. The forms, which need to be returned by 11 January, 2008, will also be available on the council website at [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

All forms will be entered into a prize draw, with a chance of winning £100 worth of vouchers for a community venue.

The guide, which is being produced by a number of council departments, including the community enterprise service and Creative Rural Communities, will also include local authority venues such as leisure centres, educational buildings and libraries to show the impressive range of places available for hire for activities from children's parties to events, meetings, leisure activities and training.

The guide will be available in early spring so, if you help to run a community building, make sure your details are included.

For further information, please contact community enterprise officer Edwina Vaughan on 01446 733034 or email [evaughan@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:evaughan@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

## Holocaust Memorial Day

The council is arranging an exhibition to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in January.

An event will be held to mark the opening of the exhibition.

The council would like to invite local community groups and churches.

If your group is interested in attending please contact the Mayor's Office on 01446 422406 or email [calexander@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:calexander@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)



News in brief

Vote for the Ely Bridge



If you would like to see a foot and cycle bridge across the Ely River, linking Penarth and Cardiff Bay, log onto www.thepeoples50million.org.uk

Sustrans, the sustainable transport organisation, is aiming to win the Big Lottery Fund's 'The People's Millions,' with its Connect2 scheme.

Connect2 includes 79 UK-wide sustainable transport routes - including the Ely bridge. The prize is a whopping £50 million and the Ely bridge, now called Pont y Werin, would get a £1.5 million share. Sustrans is competing against three other schemes.

You can vote for Connect2 on the website from 26 November. There will also be a TV phone vote. At the beginning of December, ITV1 will run a series of programmes featuring the competing schemes. At the time of going to press, the Connect2 programme was scheduled for 4 December.

Outstanding exam results

Vale schools have once again produced outstanding GCSE and A level exam results.

A level pass rates improved on previous high levels. Although the number of pupils achieving an A grade was slightly down at 30.7 per cent, there was a 0.8 per cent increase (86.1 per cent) in pupils achieving A - C grades.

Overall, 99.2 per cent of all entries resulted in a pass which is the highest rate achieved within the Vale in the last six years.

Vale pupils performed equally well in the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) exams where, compared to last year, there was an increase of 1.1 per cent in those achieving an A grade and a 4.1 per cent increase those gaining A - C grades.

Vale schools also produced outstanding results at GCSE level. More than one in five exam entries achieved an A\* or A grade, whilst 66.5 per cent of all entries resulted in an A\*-C grade. The schools also managed to improve A\*-G grade passes (98.1 per cent).

The Vale figures continue to exceed the all-Wales percentages in the number of A/A\* grades and in the key A\* to C grades.

Cabinet member for education and lifelong learning Cllr Nigel Gibbs said: "Once again, Vale pupils and schools have shown the commitment and hard work necessary to achieve excellent results."

"On behalf of all members of the council, I wish to convey my congratulations to pupils and staff."

Living better, living longer

What the health, social care and well-being strategy means for you

The Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board (LHB) and the Vale of Glamorgan Council are asking local people to give their views on a new strategy for improving the health and well-being of local people.

Living Better, Living Longer is the draft Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan 2008-11, which aims to ensure that the Council and NHS services in the Vale of Glamorgan:
• Keep people fit and healthy
• Help people live independently in their own homes and
• Support people in the greatest need in a way, and at a time, which make the most positive difference to their lives.

The Vale of Glamorgan is generally a good place but there are some major health and well-being challenges facing the Vale of Glamorgan including:

- More than 50 per cent of adults in the Vale of Glamorgan are overweight or obese.

- Around 25 per cent of adults still smoke and younger people, especially teenage girls, continue to start smoking.

- We have an ageing population with a growing number of over 85s, many of whom will have significant health and social care needs.

We need to meet the needs of some groups better. Our priorities are:

- Children and Young People
• People with learning disabilities
• People with mental ill health
• People with cancer
• People with chronic conditions, for example, asthma, diabetes, heart disease

- Older people

- Some of our ideas include:
• Improving the lifestyles of younger people by lowering levels of childhood obesity, smoking and binge drinking.

- Ensuring services for people with learning disabilities and their carers are well planned.

- Providing the majority of care for people who need mental health support services in the community.

- Improving cancer services to put cancer survival rates in the Vale of Glamorgan in line with the top 25 per cent in Europe.

- Simplifying access to a broad range of home and/or community-based services for people with chronic conditions.

- Developing an 'extracare' housing scheme that provides services for older people with a range of social and healthcare needs at home.

Now we want to hear your views so that you can help shape your future health and social care services.

You can comment on the strategy by downloading a copy of Living Better, Living Longer from the Vale of Glamorgan LHB (www.valeofglamorganlhb.wales.nhs.uk) or the Vale of Glamorgan Council (www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)



websites or by writing to or phoning the Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy Co-ordinator, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Offices, Barry, CF63 4RT - 01446 704851. The document will tell you how you can give us your views. By working together, we can

make a real difference to the quality of life for many people in the Vale of Glamorgan. Be a part of it. Responses must be received by 24 December.

Awards for women

To celebrate International Women's Day, 2008, the council is to host a special awards event on 6 March for women living in the Vale.

From 20 November to 20 January 2008, application forms will be available to nominate women achievers across nine categories - young achiever, business, community, returning to work, sports volunteer, arts and culture, public sector and carer. This will culminate in an overall Vale Woman of the Year. The MC

will be Jason Mohammed from BBC Wales. Nomination forms will be available in all Vale libraries, leisure centres, adult community learning venues, the Civic Offices and the Barry Community Enterprise Centre. Alternatively, forms, along with further information, are available on the council website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

For further information, please contact Edwina Vaughan on 01446 733034 or email evaughan@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Opportunities for you

Whether you are 14 or 40 plus, the Vale Volunteer Bureau (VVB) has opportunities for you.

Available now are opportunities covering the fields of youth work (Vale), teaching and training (Penarth) drugs and addiction (Barry), disability and health (Llantwit Major), children and families (Barry), environment (Vale), sports (Vale), charity shops and retail (Cowbridge) and women's groups (Vale).

If nothing here catches your attention, remember the VVB has hundreds of other opportunities available now and they guarantee to find something to suit you.

There are endless benefits to volunteering. It can give you practical experience, enhance your CV and build your confi-

dence. You can gain new skills and be introduced to a new circle of friends. Volunteering can also be used to obtain references and add structure to your day. Never underestimate the power of volunteering.

Most organisations re-imburse out of pocket expenses which can cover travel and lunch. For those in receipt of welfare benefits, volunteering is also available.

The VVB offers a drop in and outreach service, where friendly staff will be happy to assist with any enquiries.

Contact the Vale Volunteer Bureau at 34 Holton Road, Barry CF63 4HD; tel 01446 421782, email info@vvb.org.uk or visit the website at www.vvb.org.uk

They're tops

Hundreds of Vale schoolchildren showed their passion for wildlife by entering a special poster competition organised by the councils ecology team and sponsored by RWE npower Aberthaw.

To mark Wales Biodiversity Week, pupils were invited to design posters around the theme of 'Wildlife in the Garden.' Three category winners

were: Infants, winner, Lucy Dee; runners-up, Hannah Currie and Dana Davies. Juniors, winner, Matthew Howells; runners-up, Bethan Gould and Ellie Williams. Senior, winner, Amy Virgill; runners-up, Ryan Latham and Luke O'Sullivan.

Prizes were presented by Vale Mayor Cllr Clive Williams, and Dr Mark Picton, from Aberthaw

Power Station. Cllr Williams said how important it was for today's generation to have a 'real impact on future conservation work.' If you would like further details about the councils 'Make Space for Wildlife' project - a guide to the creation of wildlife areas - please email ecology@vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk or call (01446) 704710.





# What's in your bin this Christmas?

**W**ith Christmas just around the corner, we will all create more rubbish - through eating, drinking and giving cards and presents. We also tend to clear out things like clothes and toys to make way for new.

Most of this rubbish will end up buried in the ground in a landfill site but it doesn't have to! Up to 85 per cent of what we throw away can be recycled, reused or composted so please make the most of your local recycling services. Visit [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) for details.

**Help us recycle more than a million! –**

Following the huge success of the schools' Christmas card recycling competition we ran last January, Vale pupils will again be competing to see who can collect the most cards for recycling.

Vale schools helped us to collect

912,913 cards in January 2007 and, with your support, we are hoping to collect over a million next year.

It's simple to take part; all schools in the Vale have been invited to enter and you can donate your cards to pupils attending those schools who register to take part. Details of these will be available on our website from 1 December 2007.

There are some great prizes up for grabs including a portable DVD player or an iPod for individual winners plus cash prizes for the primary and secondary schools who collect the most overall.

Clr Rob Curtis, cabinet member for visible services, visited the winning schools last year. He said: "Response to the competition was absolutely amazing and we were thrilled that our younger residents got so involved. It really helped to spread

the recycling message throughout the Vale and I hope everyone will join in this year and help us collect over a million cards."

If you do not want to enter the competition, you can still recycle your Christmas cards at Tesco, or W H Smith in the New Year; see in store for details. All cards collected for recycling will help the Woodland Trust, a national conservation charity, to plant trees.

**IMPORTANT:** Please do not put cards in with your paper or cardboard recycling as our contractor will not accept them. We can only collect what the contractor will accept and if you do mix cards in with your recycling this could result in the whole vehicle of recycling being rejected by the contractor and ending up in landfill.



Carianne Rogers, age 12, of Bryn Hafren School won the individual secondary school prize in 2007 by collecting a whopping 5,994 cards.

## Vale residents rise to the council's food waste challenge

Four Vale households took part in our food waste challenge which was featured in the last edition of Vale Waves with encouraging results.

With many of us throwing away between £250 and £400 of potentially edible food each year, the challenge encouraged all residents to take steps to reduce the amount they threw away.

Help was on hand for the volunteers from the council's waste management department in the form of advice on shopping, meal planning, recipes to use up leftovers and home composting.

The Yandall family of Barry took part. Mum Alison said: "There are four in our

household, including two young children and up to 50 per cent of our weekly rubbish was food waste. Since signing up for the challenge, we have made a few simple changes like trying to plan meals, using a shopping list and freezing food when we shop so we only use what we need and we have managed to reduce the amount we are throwing away which is great for the environment and is also saving us money."

With Christmas fast approaching, now is an ideal time to think about how much food we actually need to buy. Visit [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) for some top tips on reducing your food waste.



Grace, aged four, and her brother, Edward, two, feed any left over bread to the birds.

## Kerbside Christmas tree collection

Following the success of this year's scheme, we will again be collecting Christmas trees for recycling at the kerbside in the New Year.

If you would like your tree collected, simply

place it out with your rubbish on your normal collection day between 7 and 11 January. Please remove all decorations (we will only collect bare trees) and remember, this service is

for the collection of real trees only! Please note: Your tree will be collected later in the day, after we have finished collecting refuse, as we will be double-shifting the vehicles.

## Important changes to your refuse and recycling collections over Christmas

Due to the way Christmas and New Year fall this year, some refuse and recycling collections will change during the weeks beginning 24 & 31 December:

December		January	
Normal Collection	Revised collection	Normal Collection	Revised collection
Tues 25 Dec	Thurs 27 Dec	Tues 1 Jan	Weds 2 Jan
Weds 26 Dec	Fri 28 Dec	Weds 2 Jan	Thurs 3 Jan
Thurs 27 Dec	Sat 29 Dec	Thurs 3 Jan	Fri 4 Jan
Fri 28 Dec	Sun 30 Dec	Fri 4 Jan	Sat 5 Jan

## Christmas newsletter

Look out for your Christmas recycling guide which will be dropping through every letterbox in the Vale during December. This contains top tips on reducing and recycling your waste during the festive season.

For further information on recycling, please call 029 2067 3000, e-mail [visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or visit [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

**Fact - Vale residents produced an additional 350 tonnes of rubbish during the Christmas holidays last year. Much of this could have been recycled or composted.**

What's in your bin this Christmas?



### Household recycling centres - opening hours

Please note that our Household Waste Recycling Centres in Sully and Llandow will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Both sites are open 10am - 4pm everyday until Spring.



## News in brief

### Quiz trophy to Pendoylan



Pupils from Pendoylan were winners of the annual primary schools' road safety quiz.

Pupils from a Vale primary school have steered their way to success in an annual road safety quiz.

Organised by the Council's road safety team, the event for the area's primary schools was won for the first time by Pendoylan Church in Wales who beat Llansannor in the final.

The ever popular event for 10 and 11 year olds, which attracted 34 entries, was again sponsored by Barry-based Cabot Microelectronics whose operations manager Brian Davies said: "I was very impressed by their level of knowledge and passion for the subject."

Pendoylan received £200 and a magnificent glass trophy, with £100 for Llansannor, while each member of the two teams received £20 in gift vouchers plus commemorative plaques.

### Prestigious award

A scheme which is improving the quality of life, warmth and comfort of vulnerable people in the Vale has won a prestigious Directory of Social Change national award.

The inaugural Investing in Social Change award has been presented to Health Through Warmth (HTW), which is run in partnership by the utility company, npower, and the council.

The Directory of Social Change is the largest provider of information and training for the voluntary and community sectors.

Since the scheme's launch in the Vale in 2001, more than 800 community workers have been trained as support personnel. They have referred more than 1,300 vulnerable people for help in the form of appropriate heating and insulation measures to make their homes warmer and more comfortable.

Cllr Val Hartrey, cabinet member for legal and public protection, said: "I'm delighted that Health Through Warmth has won this prestigious award, especially as the awards were voted for by the charity sector and the general public."

For further information, please contact Sarah Powell, the Vale HTW co-ordinator, on (01446) 709847.

## Vale Waves

We want to hear your views.  
 Contact Vale Waves on  
 (01446) 709454  
 or email:

press@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

# Improving the Council



Barry's main shopping street, Holton Road, is undergoing a major transformation thanks to the council.

What are the council's aims for the coming year? How much did it achieve last year? The council publishes an improvement plan each year to answer these questions.

#### What is in the improvement plan?

The plan reports on the council's current and future performance and it sets out:

- the council's ideas for the future of the Vale of Glamorgan
- how the council will work to deliver those ideas?
- what the council is going to do to make those ideas a reality?
- how well the council is doing?
- the council's targets for future years

#### How does the council decide what sort of future for the Vale it is working towards?

The council worked with a long list of partners, including the health and education sectors, the police, the Environment Agency, the Welsh Assembly and private business, as well as Vale residents, to develop a 'Community Strategy'. The current strategy runs from 2003 until 2013. It's the strategy's jointly agreed ideas for the future of the Vale that the council is working to provide for the county.

#### What has the council done over the last year and what are the plans for next year?

The council provides a wide range of services that affect the lives of everyone living in the Vale. The improvement plan goes into great detail about what each service has achieved and what the council wants each service to achieve in the next

year. This is a sample of the information in the improvement plan:

- The council put the heart back into the Vale's main town, Barry (the largest town in Wales), with the refurbishment of the town hall, King Square and Central Park, and the opening of the first new county library in Wales for 10 years - the County Library at Barry. The town's main shopping street, Holton Road is now being refurbished.
- The Council's new contact centre is up and running and will soon be

- The council has launched a new website at [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) in an effort to make information about services easier to find. There are plans to further improve the site over the coming year. An official survey found the new site to be one of the best Welsh council websites.

- The council has collected most of the council tax owed to the county - 97.24% (better than the Welsh average collection rate of 96.59%). There is a similar success story for non-domestic rates with 98.79% collected compared to a Welsh average of 97.94%. Targets have been set to further improve collection rates next year.

- With the help of residents the council is improving the amount of municipal waste it reuses or recycles. In 2006/2007 the council achieved 22.49% compared to a Wales average of 17.91%. But there is still a lot to be done; the total percentage of Vale municipal waste that is compost-

ed or treated biologically in another way is only 7.14% compared to a Wales average of 9.73%. The council encourages residents to compost their garden waste or use the garden waste collection service.

- The council aims to reduce fly tipping, litter and dog fouling. In the last year 120 fixed penalty notices have been issued for littering and 1,123 warnings. Eleven fixed penalty notices have been issued for dog fouling and 670 warnings. The council clears 100% of fly tipping within five working days - only one other council in Wales also achieves this top standard.

- Local authorities in Wales have an average sickness absence level of 11.3 days per year. The Vale has reduced its average over the past year

to 12.7 and plans are in place to reduce this further.

#### Where can I see a copy of the improvement plan?

The plan is available on the council's website [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) and at council libraries in the Vale.

I have some comments about the plan - who should I contact?

The council's Leader, Councillor Margaret Alexander, would be happy to receive any comments about the plan. You can email her at [leader@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:leader@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or write to her at the Leader's Office, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU.



The Vale is one of just two Welsh councils who have a 100 per cent record in clearing fly tipping within five working days.

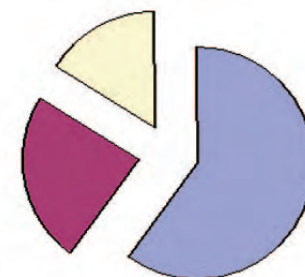
## Efficiency savings - cutting costs without cutting services

The council is working hard to make efficiency savings and we are succeeding. Last year savings of nearly £9 million were achieved - almost £3 million more than the target set by the Welsh Assembly Government.

#### What are efficiency savings?

Efficiency savings are made by managing the council's services more efficiently. They are not made by cutting services. The council has made large savings by improving the way it buys services and goods. It is now looking at how further savings can be made by buying jointly and sharing services with other public sector organisations.

### Where the Council's money comes from ....



- Revenue Support Grant - 60%
- Council Tax - 24%
- National Non-Domestic Rate Pool - 16%

### What the Council spends your money on...



- Education (including Libraries) - 48%
- Social Services - 25%
- Building and Vehicle Services - 11%
- Regulatory Services and Policy - 9%
- Planning, Transport, Economic Development and Leisure - 5%
- Housing and Council Tax Benefits - 2%

### Measuring Local Government Efficiency Gains -- Summary of WAG Return

Recurring Efficiency Gains	2005/06 £000	2006/07 £000	2007/08 £000	Total to 2009/10 £000
Smarter Procurement	530	319	321	2,270
Streamlining Support functions	386	350	722	2,558
Shaping Public Services	239	426	1,977	3,742
Making Better Use of Staff Time, Skills and Expertise	463	450	1,210	3,223
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>4,230</b>	<b>11,793</b>
<b>WAG Target</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>8,880</b>
<b>+/(-) WAG Target</b>	<b>(158)</b>	<b>(231)</b>	<b>2,454</b>	<b>2,913</b>