

THREE VALLEYS COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER #1

October - December 2025



Partneriaeth Cymunedol
Rheilffyrdd Y Tri Chwm
Three Valleys Community
Rail Partnership

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter. If you have anything you'd like featured in future editions, we'd love to hear from you.

Follow Us:



3valleyscrp.wales
(coming soon)



Three Valleys Community
Rail Partnership



Three Valleys Community
Rail

Celebrating our
partnership launch in
Pontypridd in September.
We are now a member of
Community Rail Network,
next in our journey is to
become accredited



Upcoming Events from us and our members:

- Polar Express free craft and activity morning - Merthyr Library 13th December 10am-12pm
- Invest in your Wellbeing - Invest Local Ynysowen - Aberfan Community Centre 27th February 3pm-7pm. Discover practical strategies and local services that support wellbeing - from physical health, mental health, mindfulness and more! laura.brosnan-james@vamt.net
- Railway Memories - February 26th/27th VAMT, High Street, Pontmorlais. More details to follow. Come along and tell us about yours or your families railway memories, we'd love to see photos too.

Meet the Team:

Chair: Becky Lythgoe



Vice Chair: Karen Vowles



Community Rail Officer:

Verity Lewis



verity.lewis@vamt.net or info@3valleyscrp.wales



07553 147616



VOLUNTARY ACTION
MERTHYR TYDFIL
GWEITHREDU GWIRFODDOL
MERTHYR TUDFUL



THREE VALLEYS COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP NEWS:

Railway 200 at Brecon Mountain Railway:

In partnership with the Brecon Mountain Railway, Merthyr Tydfil Library, Merthyr County Borough Council and Transport for Wales, we hosted a special community event at the Brecon Mountain Railway as part of this year's 'Railway 200' celebrations.

The event brought together local organisations to share stories, learn about the area's industrial heritage and how rail continues to shape the valleys region.

Visitors to the railway, many of whom had travelled from Hampshire, Norfolk and the West Midlands, were greeted by stalls promoting the recently formed Three Valleys Community Rail Partnership, Cyfarthfa Castle, Merthyr Tydfil Tourism, Merthyr library and Transport for Wales.

Workshop tours were arranged that offered visitors the opportunity to look at how the railway's heritage locomotives and carriages are maintained.

Passengers on board the 2.30pm service to Torpantau were greeted by local historian Huw Williams, who shared fascinating stories about the history of the line, the landscape and the industrial legacy of the area.

The Brecon Mountain is a narrow-gauge tourist railway and extends through beautiful scenery for a distance of 5 miles from Pant station on the outskirts of Merthyr to Torpantau in the Bannau Brycheiniog / Brecon Beacons National Park.



Community Rail Conference - Nottingham

Becky and Verity took part in this year's Community Rail Conference, connecting with Welsh CRP colleagues and learning about projects being delivered around the UK.

Book Scaries with The Book Fairies South Wales:

Over 30 books were given out for free for Halloween for our #readingontherails project.



Spotlight

Each newsletter will have a spotlight on one of our partnership members. First up is **The Cyfarthfa Foundation:**



The Cyfarthfa Foundation is a charitable organisation championing the vision to transform Cyfarthfa Castle and Park at Merthyr Tydfil - a crucible of the industrial revolution - into a cultural centre and visitor attraction of international quality and an engine of social renewal. The Foundation is working in partnership with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council to realise the plans for an ambitious redevelopment of the castle.

In parallel the Cyfarthfa Foundation is undertaking significant engagement activities within the community to develop leisure and recreation opportunities and public forums that will drive engagement with the site, as well as provide opportunities for people to connect with Cyfarthfa's cultural and heritage assets, share feedback and ideas and have a direct voice in shaping its future.

In 2025 Cyfarthfa Castle has celebrated its bicentenary. The Foundation has collaborated with partners across Cyfarthfa Park and Merthyr Tydfil to deliver 'Cyfarthfa200' a campaign celebrating this milestone, with a year-long programme of events and activities including Easter and Halloween trails, a spectacular Christmas lights show, a mural in the town centre and the launch of the storytelling chair in Cyfarthfa Park. The Foundation has also co-ordinated Park and Community forums and undertaken a community consultation programme to bring together stakeholders and create channels for feedback, discussion and co-creation for the long-term vision for Cyfarthfa.

The 'Cyfarthfa200' campaign has successfully raised awareness of the Castle's 200th birthday and has been co-ordinated and delivered by the Cyfarthfa Foundation in partnership with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and has been part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

If you are interested in volunteering to support the work of the Cyfarthfa Foundation and to bring to life more fantastic events at Cyfarthfa in the coming years, please contact VAMT. To find out more about the Cyfarthfa Foundation visit cyfarthfafoundation.wales or find them on Facebook or Instagram @cyfarthfafoundation

