FOUNTE

NOW OPEN

MERTHYR



Merthyr Tydfil band Pretty Vicious play on the BBC Introducing stage at the 2015 Glastonbury music festival

at Glastonbury hit the stage Merthyr boys

Merthyr Tydill

You Can't Beat Our PORTIONS

PRETTY Vicious were in a field of their own when they made a memorable headline appearance at the Glastonbury Festival at the weekend.

More than 150,000 music fans packed out Worthy Farm in Somerset to witness performances from some of the biggest names in music including Pyramid Stage headliners Florence and the Machine, Kanye West and The Who.

And several thousand of those rock 'n' roll aficionados were in attendance to witness the Merthyr band, who recently supported Manic Street Preachers in front of a sold-out 10,000 crowd at Cardiff Castle, play a memorable show headlining the BBC Introducing stage on Saturday evening.



quiz Carwyn

FIRST Minister of Wales
Carwyn Jones is coming to
Merthyr later this month
taking questions from
residents on a number of
topics as part of Carwyn
Connect events.

Full story: Page 3

Merthyr Tydfil

Penderyn' bid MP pardon for

ROWAN GRIFFITHS

AN MP is backing a campaign for a judicial pardon to be granted to Dic Penderyn, who was hanged following the Merthyr Rising of 1831.

Dic Penderyn was hanged after being convicted of stabbing a soldier during the protest

riot 184 years ago.

Full story: Page 18



Merthyr project aimed at improving health and fighting poverty

COMMUNITIES in Merthyr Tydfil are taking part in a major new project to tackle poverty.

new project to tackle poverty.

The Strong Communities, Healthier People project is a two-year programme in collaboration with Cardiff University aimed at boosting health, prosperity and wellbeing.

The university will be working with local communities in a bid to improve people's health and wellbeing and fight pov-

erty.

North Merthyr is one of the Welsh Government's Communities First areas - identified as some of the most economically disadvantaged communities across Wales - and the project

TOM EDEN

will involve working closely with residents and community groups in areas such as Gurnos, Penydarren and Dowlais.

Dr Eva Elliott, from Cardiff University's School of Social Sciences, is leading the programme in Merthyr, which will launch today (Thursday) at Dowlais Engine House.

She explained: "The Strong Communities, Healthier People project is part of broad-ranging research, looking at using Continued on page 5



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nations: Hotel — Fri 23rd Oct 4 days £189 p.p. ecation on Albert Road.

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sions including The Norfolk Broads. B.B.E. only £169 p.p. New luxury coaches.

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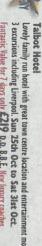
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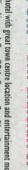
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A number of partnership projects with young people have made a real difference to their

munity projects have a positive impact in the lo-THE Gurnos Zebras have been hailed as an excellent example of how com-

Young people from the Forsythia Youth Project, nicknamedthe Gurnos Zethras, took part in a youth leadership programme run by Cardiff University and Citizens Cymru Wales to explore important issues in their community and bring about change. Geraldine Maddison, the leader at Forsythia Youth Project, said: "It's a fantastic example of how community groups can empower young people whose voices would never have otherwise been

"It is unbelievable to

TOM EDEN

see the young people involved with this grow in confidence and develop so many skills.

"Ultimately, things like this are about empowering people to think about their community and to make changes through the right channels.

"It allows the young people to get to the forefront of issues that affect them, and the fantastic support from groups in the community can help people feel like they are able to change their community for the better.

The young people will the confidence of the support from groups in the community for the better.

munity for the better.

The young people will be meeting with Merthyr Council leader Brendan Toomey this week to

speak about implementing the changes, which include better lighting on the path beside Prince Charles Hospital, a zebra crossing on the Heads of the Valleys road opposite the hospital, and the closure of a subway under the same road.

Coun Toomey said: "The Forsythia Youth Project has done fantastic work to positively engage with the community to get positive outcomes.

"I am looking forward to meeting with them to listen to the issues affecting them and particularly hope to improve the processes in place to ensure their voice and the views of the community are heard."

Cable damage causes power cut

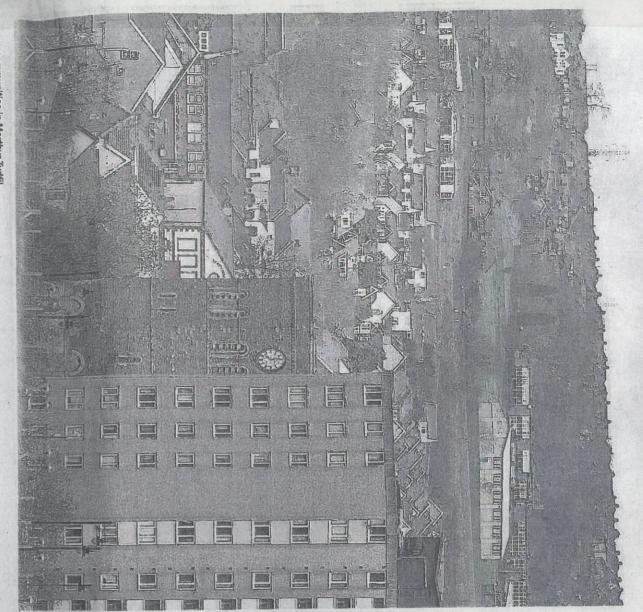
NEARLY 1,000 homes in Merthyr Tydfil were with-out electricity for an hour yesterday when a contrac-tor hit an underground

A spokesperson for network operator West-ern Power Distribution said the cable had been

working on the former
B&Q site in Cyfarthfa Retail Park, close to building
d work for a new Marks and
Spencer store.
The power was cut off
to 958 homes at around
2.15pm and although
WPD anticipated rerout-

to the affected houses by 5pm, they managed this within just an hour of the incident being reported.

If you think you still have a problem with your supply, you can call Karen Welsh of WPD on 01633 628119.



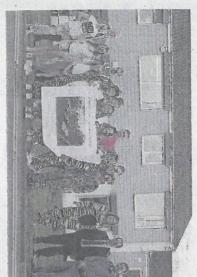
ies in Merthyr Tydfil

munity First and Cardiff University project launch on Merthyr, Coun Toomey is said: "I am gaining a better understanding of the work happening and finding out about the really good, positive engagement taking place."

f The group previously organised an action night, in which participants from Bishop Hedley School and Forsythia Youth Project met senior police and logal politicians.

The dignitaries were

The dignitaries were taken on a tour of the area



Young people from the Gurnos in their zebra outfits

and shown a subway lit-tered with broken glass and drug paraphernalia, a poorly-lit path used by young people and the dangers of a busy local

ganiser at Citizens Cymru ganiser at Citizens Cymru wales, spoke about the Gurnos Zebras and the ositive impact of partnerships, such as that with Cardiff University.

He said: "Cardiff University.

He said: "Cardiff University organisation training for young people, to develop their community leadership.
"People have looked at issues, especially those around safety, listened to the community and found constructive ways to make that change happen."

Caitlin Matthews, 12, of Forsythia Youth Project, is one of the campaign lead-

y ers.

She said: "This is the first time I have spoken up in public. I took this step because we are trying to improve safety on a path that my friends and I use every day."

South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Alun Michael was one of those who took part.

He said: "At a time when we hear so many negative things about young people, it is good to see young people, it is good to see young people from Forsythia Youth Project and Bishop Hedley School taking responsibility for identifying problems and coming up with solutions. They are an inspiration."

'Using culture to tackle poverty

culture to tackle poverty and about giving communities the resources to improve the lives of people in Merthyr.

"It's broad-ranging research, working with Community First - the Welsh Assembly's flagship anti-poverty programme. This will be a real partnership, in which we will listen to what those communities want and work with them."

In her academic field, In her academic field, Dr Elliott has specialised in research about "social determinants" - the factors in society that affect people's wellbeing and their life chances.

She added: "Part of our

aim is to ensure cultural industries, such as museums, libraries and arts, are available for everyone. We are also looking to find ways that cultural industries can contribute to communities such as Merthyr.

"We've already done a lot of research in Merthyr Tydfil and ran engagement projects that address poverty in a number of ways, and have been involved in training young people from community groups.

"Engaging with communities is about improving life chances, and that is why I've been so passionate about doing this work."

scheme runs from 2-8pm and includes a community choir, exhibitions and films from young people, a pop-up museum and a community on with Citizens Wales

Cymru.

There will also be a showcase of some of the projects that have already taken place, including last month's art exhibition at the Redhouse in Merthyr.

Young people from Forsythia Youth and Bishop Hedley School will talk about how they have learned about community leadership and raised safety issues with senior politicians and colice.

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