

MERTHYR EXPERSES

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Merthyr Tydfil



Your chance to 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
 MP's pardon for Penderyn's bid

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

ROMAN GRIFFITHS

Merthyr boys hit the stage at Glastonbury
 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.
 ■ Full story: Page 3



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

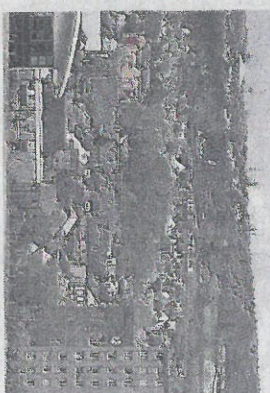
Fresh bid to boost health and wealth

Merthyr project aimed at improving health and fighting poverty

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COMMUNITIES in Merthyr Tydfil are taking part in a major 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 poverty.

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 will involve working closely with residents and community groups in areas such as Gurnos, Penyarden 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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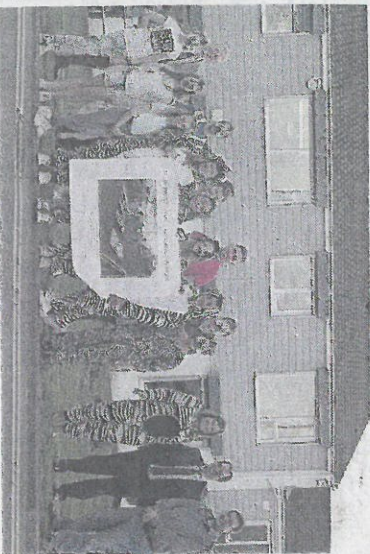
An aerial photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, showing a large stadium (Dolby Theatre) and surrounding urban development. The stadium is a large, modern building with a distinctive roof. The surrounding area is densely packed with buildings and infrastructure. The image is oriented horizontally on the page.

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communities in Merthyr Tydfil

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



Young people from the Gurnos in their zebra outfits

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

Jonathan Cox, lead organiser at Citizens Cymru Wales, spoke about the positive impact of partnerships, such as that with Cardiff University.

He said: "Cardiff University have sponsored the community 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 leaders.

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 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'

■ From page 1
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, 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, and includes a community choir, exhibitions 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."

The launch of the

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