



**VOLUNTARY ACTION  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
GWEITHREDU GWIRFODDOL  
MERTHYR TUDFUL**

# Annual Report

2008 | 2009



## Mission Statement

To support, represent and assist the development of high quality Third Sector organisations and volunteering in the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil.

## Vision Statement

- To be the centre of excellence in Merthyr Tydfil for the provision of services to organisations and individuals involved with the Third Sector and volunteering.
- To create a healthy civil society by helping to develop organisations to meet their needs, maximizing volunteering opportunities and sharing our mission with all external stakeholders.



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communities first cymunedau yn gyntaf



BUDDSODDWR | INVESTORS  
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

## Foreword by the Chair and Chief Officer

We are pleased to introduce the Annual Report for VAMT's twelfth year of operation.

The Annual Report summarises the activities of VAMT during the year and once again, attempts to demonstrate sometimes complex activities in a series of facts and figures. VAMT continues to rise to the challenge of meeting the service demands outlined in the Third Sector Infrastructure Partnership Agreement. During the year, the Welsh Assembly Government signed an extension to the agreement for a further five years which guarantees VAMT core funding from WAG until 2013.

The major local policy issue during the year was the launch of the new Merthyr Tydfil Compact by Dr Brian Gibbons, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government. We look forward to the development of the proposed Codes of Practice which seek to improve the profile of the sector and volunteering in the County Borough and to increase our ability to engage in policy and service developments on a par with our partner statutory organisations.

Some other highlights of the year are mentioned later in this report along with some photographs from those events.

The onset of recession in late 2008 was of great concern to the Third Sector. Experience has shown us that demand upon the sector increases but funding levels decrease; the exception

being European funding under the Convergence Programme. VAMT has been involved in several projects which we hope will come to fruition in the forthcoming year and be of considerable benefit to local third sector organisations.

On a very sad note, our colleague, Polly Kitzinger was critically injured in a car accident on 30th March and at the time of writing remains seriously ill in hospital. Our best wishes go to Polly, her family and friends.

We must, of course, take the opportunity to thank the main funders of VAMT for their continued support; namely the Welsh Assembly Government, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil Local Health Board. Also, thanks to Wales Council for Voluntary Action who administer several of the WAG funded schemes from which VAMT benefits.

Finally, our thanks to the staff and trustees for what has been another tremendous year of achievement.

**Brian Lewis**

*Chair*

**Ian Davy**

*Chief Officer*



*Ian Davy & Brian Lewis*

# Facts & Figures

No of enquiries re volunteering	<b>688</b>
No of potential volunteers interviewed	<b>161</b>
No referred to host organisations	<b>124</b>
No in volunteering placement	<b>110</b>
No of volunteering opportunities on website	<b>246</b>
No of enquiries from the website	<b>81</b>
New volunteering opportunities added	<b>25</b>
Volunteers given additional support in their placement	<b>50</b>
No of good practice requests dealt with	<b>72</b>
Millennium Volunteers recruited	<b>15</b>
Organisations helped to become Millennium Volunteers partners	<b>1</b>
Enquiries from young people re volunteering	<b>158</b>
Young people recruited as part of Russell Commission funded activities	<b>80</b>
Young people referred and placed with organisations	<b>48</b>
No of clients receiving volunteer befriending service (Evolve)	<b>33</b>
No of participants completing Expert Patients Programme	<b>34</b>
Carers Newsletter published and distributed	<b>2</b>
Information sheets downloaded from website or hard copies provided	<b>13,754</b>
Trustee information sheets distributed	<b>66</b>
Trustees advised	<b>23</b>
Trustee groups supported	<b>13</b>
Funding advice enquiries received	<b>180</b>
No of funding bids advised on that received funding	<b>52</b>
Amount of funding sought for groups	<b>£1,017,778</b>
Amount of funding gained for groups	<b>£506,187</b>
Visits to VAMT website	<b>42,816</b>
No of requests for advice and information	<b>3,487</b>
No of publications of <i>Inform</i>	<b>5</b>

Other information mailings	<b>338</b>
Equipment loaned	<b>19</b>
Meeting room hired	<b>224</b>
Training courses provided	<b>4</b>
Participants in training courses	<b>43</b>
Policy & consultation issues publicised	<b>22</b>
Policy consultations held	<b>13</b>
Responses made on behalf of sector to consultations	<b>6</b>
Third sector forums supported	<b>11</b>
Joint planning groups attended	<b>101</b>
Issues fed back to wider interests	<b>30</b>
Represented sector on strategic partnerships	<b>16</b>
New voluntary groups established	<b>2</b>
Projects developed for existing voluntary groups	<b>93</b>
Groups helped to plan strategies	<b>27</b>
Third sector organisations who are members of VAMT	<b>133</b>
Third sector organisations on database	<b>498</b>



# Some Highlights

- ▶ **Launch of the new tri-partite Merthyr Tydfil Compact** in July 2008 involving the NHS, local authority and local third sector. It was formally launched by Dr Brian Gibbons, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government and attended by 110 people. Subsequently the Compact Board has developed an Implementation Plan
- ▶ **Seminar on "Scrutiny"** in Feb 2009 which has helped to influence proposed changes in the local authority scrutiny arrangements which is anticipated will include third sector representation
- ▶ **Launch of "Merthyr Tydfil's Children and Young People – Our Future: a Manifesto for the Third Sector in Merthyr Tydfil"** by the Deputy Childrens Commissioner for Wales in May 2008 and attended by 130 people
- ▶ **"An Audience with the NHS"** event held with the Chief Executives of the local NHS Trust and the Local Health Board in April 2008 was attended by 35 people and very well received
- ▶ **Celebration of volunteering** with Dr Brian Gibbons awarding certificates to 105 volunteers in June 2008 during Volunteers Week. Dr Gibbons also awarded Millennium Volunteers Awards to 16 young people
- ▶ **Outstanding Volunteering Achievement Awards** to 12 people at a gala evening attended by 130 people in July 2008
- ▶ **Financial Inclusion Conference** in September 2008 attended by 65 people and led to the establishment of the Merthyr Tydfil Financial Inclusion Forum and a local action plan

- ▶ **Christmas Lantern Procession and Gymanfa Ganu** involving 150 Children from the 5 schools within the Town and Park Wards with around 300 parents and residents taking part in the evening of bilingual activities. Feedback on the event has been positive and the proposed suggestion is that it becomes an annual event.
- ▶ **Funding gained for a Community Art Project in Hong Kong Alley.** 29 people actively participated including pupils of Cyfarthfa High School. Pieces of art have been transferred to 'Art Boards' and have been mounted throughout the alleyway creating an interesting and enticing entrance into the town centre.
- ▶ **Supported the Vaynor Leisure Steering Group** which is made up of five local organisations who work in partnership with Merthyr Tydfil Council, the Heads of the Valleys Programme and the Sports Council for Wales. It has been successful in obtaining grant funding from a wide range of sources to support local leisure projects such as the upgrading of the pitch and changing rooms at the Black Patch, upgrading of locker rooms at the golf club, funding to support the community café and food co-operative, funding to support local leisure activities for children and young people as well as dance sessions for the over 50's
- ▶ **Volunteer "Meet and Greet" scheme launched** at Prince Charles Hospital with VAMT's assistance
- ▶ **Contributed to the Area Inspection of Adult Community Learning** by Estyn with good outcomes for the third sector

## The Merthyr Tydfil Compact launched in July 2008

▶ Left to right: Ian Davy, Brian Lewis, Margaret Foster, Cllr Jeff Edwards and Mayor Cllr Clive Jones and Dr Brian Gibbons.



▲ Brian Lewis signs the Compact agreement as Dr Gibbons, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government looks on.

## Merthyr Tydfil Children and Young People Manifesto Launch 2008



◀ Young dancers entertaining the audience at the Manifesto launch.

## Volunteering Awards Events 2008



◀ Mayor Clive Jones celebrates with volunteers as they receive their certificates.



▶ Welsh Rugby International lock Robert Sidoli is all smiles as he gives Young Citizenship of the Year Award to winner Luke Jones.

## Christmas Lantern Procession and Gymanfa Ganu

▶ Children walking through Merthyr town centre with homemade lanterns.



◀ The street fire eater entertains before the children get ready to sing.

## Hong Kong Alley brightens up Merthyr

▶ Councillor Jeff Edwards (far right) with the team behind the project.



## "Meet & Greet" Volunteer Scheme at Prince Charles Hospital

▶ The new volunteers outside the hospital in t-shirts and fleeces sponsored by VAMT's Health & Social Care Facilitator.



▲ Contributor 19 year old Jonathan Lewis from Ynysfach admires some of the art work.

# Audited Accounts

## Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

for the year ended 31 March 2009

	2009 Unrestricted £	2009 Designated £	2009 Restricted £	2009 Total £	6 month Period 2008 Total £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
<b>Incoming Resources from Generated Funds:</b>					
Rent & Accommodation income	46,731	-	-	46,731	23,247
Bank interest	7,198	-	-	7,198	7,254
Trading activities	6,261	-	-	6,261	3,704
<b>Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities:</b>					
Grant funding	172,986	-	695,082	868,068	439,813
Management Fees	42,082	-	-	42,082	16,060
Other Income	1,748	-	4,161	5,909	4,141
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>277,006</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>699,243</b>	<b>976,249</b>	<b>494,219</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Costs of Generating Funds	9,602	-	18,464	28,066	13,429
Charitable Activities	243,676	33,627	728,116	1,005,419	519,530
Governance Costs	16,839	-	6,006	22,845	12,370
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>270,117</b>	<b>33,627</b>	<b>752,586</b>	<b>1,056,330</b>	<b>545,329</b>
Net Income/(expenditure) for the year	6,889	(33,627)	(53,343)	(80,081)	(51,110)
Transfers between Funds	138	1,437	(1,575)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds	7,027	(32,190)	(54,918)	(80,081)	(51,110)
Funds brought forward	196,334	475,347	128,487	800,168	851,278
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>203,361</b>	<b>443,157</b>	<b>73,569</b>	<b>720,087</b>	<b>800,168</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

## Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2009

	2009 £	2008 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible Fixed Assets	481,446	512,836
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors and Prepayments	39,098	15,745
Cash at Bank and in hand	285,167	383,820
	324,265	399,565
<b>Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Creditors and Deferred Income	85,624	112,233
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>238,641</b>	<b>287,332</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>720,087</b>	<b>800,168</b>
<b>Funds</b>		
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>73,569</b>	<b>128,487</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
Designated Funds	443,157	475,347
Other Charitable Funds	203,361	196,334
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>720,087</b>	<b>800,168</b>

# Staff Members 2008/2009

## Board

1st April 2008 –  
31st March 2009

### Names of Directors

#### Brian Lewis

Chair

#### Eric Leslie

Vice Chair

#### Ann Lewis

Treasurer

#### John Meredith MBE

#### Susan Cousins

#### Dr Arthur Jones

#### Yvonne Wood

#### David Guard

#### Jenny Ludlow

#### Helen Thomas

co-opted

#### Alison Harris

Partnership Development Officer

#### Alyson King

Communities First Coordinator Trefechan

#### Carol Evans

Communities First Partnership Support Officer

#### Carol Hindley

Administration and Finance Manager

#### Caroline Jones

Expert Patients Programme Coordinator

#### Chris Gale

Mental Health Development Officer\*

#### Clair Houston

Communities First Development Officer – Town & Park

#### Derek Emanuel

ICT Technical Support Officer

#### Elaine James

Evolve Project Coordinator

#### Emina Redzepovic

Communications Officer (from January 2009)

#### Frances Barry

Evolve Project Support Officer/ Youth Volunteering Officer

#### Hilary Edwards

Development Services Manager

#### Ian Davy

Chief Officer

#### Jacky Spacey

Clerical Assistant (from August 2009)  
Communities First Development Officer – Town & Park (Maternity leave cover from Jan 2009)

#### Jo-ann Banner

Administrative Assistant – Town & Park Communities First Development Officer (Maternity leave cover from June 2009) – Town & Park Communities First

#### Karen Foley

Volunteering Officer

#### Laura Johnson

Administration and Finance Officer

#### Leanne Payne

Cleaner/Caretaker Trefechan

#### Louise Saunders

Development Support Officer – Trefechan Communities First

#### Michelle Powell

Communities First Coordinator – Town & Park

#### Nicola Davies

Clerical Assistant until June 2008  
Administrative Assistant – Town & Park Communities First (Maternity leave cover from July 2008)

#### Polly Kitzinger

Mental Health User Involvement Officer\*

#### Rhonda Braithwaite

Communities First Development Officer – Town & Park

#### Sally McIntyre

Community Development Officer – Trefechan Communities First

#### Samantha Turner

Communities First Partnership Support Officer

#### Sharon Richards

Health and Social Care Facilitator

#### Sonia Lloyd Williams

Carers Strategy Development Officer

#### Wendy Marshall

Volunteering Officer  
Communications Officer (until January 2008)

## Volunteer

#### David Lewis

# Member Organisations

Merthyr Tydfil St John Ambulance

Merthyr Tydfil Crossroads

Churches Together Merthyr Tydfil

Guest Keen Retired Members Group

Merthyr Tydfil Play Forum

Castle Park Residents' Association

Trefechan & Cefn Gardeners' Association

WEA (South Wales)

Calfaria Heolgerrig Baptist Church

Taff Bargoed Development Trust

Cefn Coed Community Centre

Penydarren Old Age Club

Galon Uchaf Residents' Board

Prince's Trust Cymru

Aberfan & Merthyr Vale Darby & Joan Club

Trefechan Pre-School

Hafal Merthyr

Safer Merthyr Tydfil

Tabernacle Chapel Treharris

Hope & Market Square United Church

The Salvation Army

Law yn Llaw

Home-Start Merthyr Tydfil

Merthyr Tydfil Institute For The Blind

Newlink Wales

Accessible Caring Transport

Ladies In Action

Georgetown Boys & Girls Club

Neighbourhood Watch Association Merthyr Tydfil

Guest Memorial Bowls Club

Merthyr Care & Repair

Ss Peter & Paul Church

Quakers Yard Community Association

Pant & Dowlais Boys & Girls Club

Trelewis OAP Welfare Committee

Merthyr Tydfil Talking Newspaper For The Visually Handicapped

Community Enterprise Wales Ltd

Heartbeat '95

Stay Young At Heart

Merthyr Tydfil Old People's Welfare Committee

Alzheimer's Society Merthyr Tydfil

Bedlinog & Trelewis Going For Green

Ynysowen Male Choir

Central Beacons Mountain Rescue Team

Vaynor Community Forum

All Saints Dowlais Community Hall

6th Merthyr Scouts

Dowlais & District Chrysanthemum Society

Merthyr Youth Inclusion Project (YIP)

Tros Gynnal

Breathe Easy – Merthyr Tydfil

SSAFA Forces Help

RNID Cymru

Gingerbread

Wales & West Housing Association

Age Concern Merthyr Tydfil

Jerusalem English Baptist Church

Missing Wales

Groundwork Merthyr & RCT

Abercanaid Youth Club

WRVS

Citizens Advice Bureau Merthyr Tydfil

Multiple Sclerosis Society

Aberfan & Merthyr Vale Churches Council

The Willow Centre

Troedyrhiw Community Partnership

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Beddlwynog

Merthyr Eyclights

New Horizons

St Mary & The Holy Innocents Church

Trelewis Playgroup

People Together Club

Dic Penderyn Society

Merthyr Tydfil Federation of Leisure Gardeners

Creative Vision

\*shared with Interlink RCT

Bedlinog & Trelewis Partnership Board	County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil Access Group	Shaw Trust Employment	Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Trust
Town Ward Welfare Committee	Cancer Aid Merthyr Tydfil	Penydarren Boys & Girls Club	Merthyr Tydfil Borough Credit Union Ltd
New Pathways	Gellideg Golden Age	British Heart Foundation	3G's First Responders
Merthyr Tydfil Retired Social Club	Tydfil Training Consortium Ltd	Dowlais Community Day Group	St John Cymru Wales
Drive Ltd	Age Concern Morgannwg	Merthyr Tydfil & District Osteoporosis Society	Georgetown Tenants Association
Wales Pre-School Playgroups Association	Canolfan A Menter Gymraeg Merthyr Tudful	Kevin Ryan Court Tenants Group	Cylch Meithrin Cefn Coed
Merthyr Tydfil Children's Contact Centre	Merthyr Museum & Heritage Group	Cylch Meithrin Aberfan	Bedlinog Senior Citizens Committee
U3A	High Street Baptist Church	Victim Support	Dowlais Community Development Forum
Merthyr Tydfil Angling Association	Gellideg Foundation Group	Rathbone Cymru	St John Ambulance
Merthyr Tydfil Lesbian Gay & Bisexual Group	Aberfan & Merthyr Vale Community Co-operative	RSPCA Glamorgan Branch	Craig-y-hendre Tenants & Residents Association
3Gs Development Trust	SNAP Cymru	Diabetes UK Merthyr Tydfil Branch	(M.E.S.I.G) ME Support in Glamorgan
Merthyr Valley Ramblers	Pentrebach Football Club	Adref Ltd	Barnardos
NSPCC Merthyr Branch	Toddlers @ Coed Y Dderwen	Merthyr Tydfil Indoor Bowls Club	Forsythia Youth Project
Merthyr Animal Welfare	Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales	Rhydyar West Regeneration Partnership	St Margaret's Spiritualist Church
The Churches' Counselling Service In Wales	New Gurnos Residents Board	The CATS Group	Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association
Visually Impaired Merthyr (VIM)	YWCA England & Wales	Gurnos After School Play Club	Macmillan Cancer Support – Merthyr Tydfil Committee
Mid Glamorgan Scouts	Barnardo's Cymru	Merthyr H.S Pigeon Club	Prince's Trust Cymru (Cardiff)
Treharris Regeneration Association	School Kids In Play	Green Horizons Merthyr Ltd	Merthyr Tydfil FC Supporters Society
Clybiau Plant Cymru Kid's Clubs	Trefechan Community Association	Elite Supported Employment Ltd	
Rhydyar Tennis Club	Welsh Guards Association	Aberfan Canoe Club	
The Stroke Association		MDF the Bipolar Organisation Cymru	
Dowlais Residents' Group			