

**Winter  
2020**

# In Caerau



Produced and delivered free by Invest Local Caerau

See inside for what has been happening in Caerau in 2020.

If you want to find out more about how Invest Local Caerau is spending the £1 million from the Big Lottery look on Facebook @ **Invest Local Caerau**.

You can also message the page with your ideas

## Message from Chair of ILC Steering Group

2020 has been a very difficult period particularly with the onset of the coronavirus Covid 19 pandemic.

Invest Local Caerau during this strange time, and in consultation with the residents and local organisations has tried to support everyone to the best of its ability, and shall continue to do so.

On behalf of all the members of Invest Local Caerau I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !

Phil John



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## Invest Local Caerau Support during the Pandemic

2020 has been a very different and difficult year for everyone. Members of Invest Local Caerau had to meet virtually using the Zoom app to discuss ways that they could support the community and local organisations at this challenging time. As well as providing the financial support that was agreed in the 2nd Driving Change Plan, a number of other projects have been supported since April:

1. £4,000 was awarded to three organisations CDT, Bridgend Foodbank and Maesteg Special Families who provided help with the distribution of food throughout Caerau.
2. Noddfa was given £3,335 to produce their activity packs for Primary School Children, which were provided free to children residing in Caerau, along with the purchase of a number of Worrysaurus books which can be borrowed by parents from Noddfa Kids and Community Project, Caerau Road.
3. Flyers were produced and delivered by members to every household, providing information about the local services and the help available for vulnerable people.
4. Bulk purchasing of PPE which will be provided free of charge to local organisations, on request, when required to continue serving the community.
5. Providing some "Christmas Cheer" to every school child living or being educated in Caerau, by purchasing selection boxes which will be distributed with the help of the schools.

## Support paying your Energy Bills



Members of ILC were very concerned that many people may experience difficulties with their energy bills this winter, and have produced a handy information guide signposting the help that is available. This guide is included with this newsletter, and contains information on government grant schemes, such as the Warm Home Discount Scheme, and advice on grants that can help you pay off your energy debts.

Charitable trusts like you to show that you have received debt advice before you apply. Debt advice can help you manage your debts and increase your chances of making a successful application.

Llynfi Valley Credit Union can provide this advice. Please contact Caerau Credit Union at 177, Caerau Rd, Caerau - 01656 451610 or e mail [trudy.caerau@outlook.com](mailto:trudy.caerau@outlook.com) to arrange an appointment.

This advice is FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. It is open to all residents of Caerau, you do not need to be a member of the Credit Union.



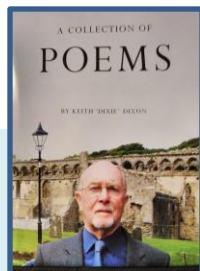


We've been working with the WABA on a regular basis to try and get the Boxing club back up and running. Hopefully with the measures that are being put in place we will be back up and running after Xmas! As you are aware we have got to make sure that all members from Caerau Boxing Club and the Community stay safe during these tough times. With so many changes taken place it was not possible or safe to open the boxing club up this year. Fingers crossed we will be in a better situation for 2021.

The Boxing club will be unable to proceed with any Pad work Sparring and all members will have to use their own equipment like gloves skipping ropes etc.

Not forgetting we will be limited to capacity due to the two metre rule.

**Look on our Caerau Dragons Facebook page for more information.**



## Caerau Men's Shed



Caerau Men shed are enjoying meetings once again, observing government rulings, at the New Headquarters at Dyffryn Chapel, Bedw St, Caerau. We have even picked up another 10 members over the Covid period which takes us now to 40 members.

One of our members, 87 year old Keith Dixon, well known for his humorous poems, has had many of these published in a book, with the help of the Shed.



We have been very busy at our new workshop and a new roof has been fitted to the outer buildings. A new venture of selling real Christmas trees, from this new site, was very successful with over 150 trees sold.

We have recently started playing walking football at Nanty RFC Barn every Wednesday at 6pm.

There are many projects that we are involved in to keep us busy, which will benefit the whole community. We have teamed up with Dyffryn Chapel and Special Families Maesteg to work together for the benefit of those in most need in the community this Christmas.

No calendar this year but we will be back for 2021.

We would like to thank Special Families, ILC, Pontycymer Shed, the Lottery and Dwr Cymru, along with Dyffryn Chapel for their continuing support.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to everyone from Caerau Men Shed**

**Caerau Men Shed helping in the fight against isolation and loneliness**

Gypo Davies Chairman CMS



## Nantyffyllon Community Club Project

The field project was well underway when unfortunately the weather changed 2 or 3 days to soon in order to complete and get the grass seed sown. The plan is for the contractor to return to site for a week (weather permitting) in March to complete, we were that close to completion!

The work that has been done to date includes: the site of the old clubhouse has had engineeringly back fill; drainage put in at 5 metre centres (original plan was 10 metre, but we wanted to ensure appropriate drainage); a 100mm gravel carpet has been laid on top of the drainage along with 50mm of agricultural sand; top soil has been spread all over site and laser levelled.

All that remains is for surface slit drainage to be fitted which links to the underground drainage system, this is the main method to remove surface water efficiently (2/3 days' work).

Grass needs to be sown in March/April when it will germinate, and we should be able to play on it in September, Covid permitting

Invest Local Caerau have provided £40k towards this project. The contractor has been paid £130k and there is £12k outstanding which will be paid on completion.

In terms of the Barn, obviously revenue has been decimated in 2020. We have not had the use of the barn from March until November. We are up and running now and most groups who used the facility prior to lockdown have returned, which is very encouraging

Even when the club has had to close due to Welsh Government Covid rules for hospitality, the barn will still be available and we will try to keep this revenue stream flowing.





# Wishing you a very Merry Christmas

FROM ALL at  
**Caerau Christmas Celebrations**



Sponsored by  
INVEST Local Caerau & Maesteg TOWN COUNCIL



The members of Caerau Christmas Celebrations group were able to provide a tree for Caerau Square this year in spite of not being able to carry out their usual fundraising events due to Covid, thanks to the generous support of Invest Local Caerau and Maesteg Town Council.

Unfortunately due to current Welsh Government rules on social distancing they were not able to invite the public to a community event to accompany the lighting of the tree this year, but were pleased that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Maesteg were able to join a few members of the committee at the square when the tree was first lit up.

They would like the residents of Caerau to see the tree as a symbol of hope that things will eventually return to normal in 2021.



## Caerau Friendly Dementia Group

Our volunteers continue to contact as many members as possible on a weekly basis.

We offer emotional support and if they have any pressing problems, advice on what to do and who to contact.

These calls are very much appreciated by our members, as for many we are the only people they talk to.

All members and carers will receive a Christmas Hamper which includes a pack of Christmas food and drink.

Including in the pack will be a Christmas Newsletter of articles, photos, quiz etc for Christmas.

## Caerau Development Trust

Due to Covid 19, sadly, CDT do not have any events planned for Christmas this year, but our Cafe and Community shop is still open from Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm.

Our Community Shop is providing low cost fruit and veg packs, stew packs, flowers, a variety of tins, tea bags, hygiene and cleaning products etc.

Our Sunday lunch service is still continuing with the option of takeaway or delivery. The prices are £2.50 for a dinner and £1 for a desert with an extra cost of £1 if delivered. We provide 2 different meats every week so if anyone would like to place an order for that week we ask if they could contact us on 01656 810225 by each Saturday the latest.

We will be doing Christmas dinner and desert on Christmas day this year, for takeaway only, with a small charge of £3 each to cover costs. Please contact us for details.

Our Solar Panel and Led lighting, which was paid for by ILC, has all been completed and is up and running. This has been a great help for us, as it is saving us over £600 every quarterly, which is an extra support for us to be able to keep our Centre open allowing us to continue to provide our services to the community.



**CHRISTMAS  
AT ST CYNFELYN'S CHURCH**

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
MIDNIGHT MASS**

**11.30 PM**

Social distancing measures in place  
masks **MUST** be worn  
we can **ONLY** seat 60 so come early!!

## LLYNFI VALLEY CREDIT UNION

It is thanks to Invest Local Caerau that the Credit union in Caerau has been able to keep providing financial services to the people of Caerau.

ILC has given us funding for staff and running costs, which without we would have found it very difficult to continue to give access to low costs loans and safe savings. It has also given funding to refurbish the Credit Union office, so we can store important documents safely and securely.

Also, during this period of great uncertainty Invest Local Caerau has provided additional funding, so we can employ an extra member of staff to help.

Throughout this pandemic, and before, Invest Local Caerau has recognized the need for the Credit Union in Caerau and has always supported it.

In this year Invest Local Caerau has awarded Caerau Credit Union a total of £28,374.00

## Bethel Chapel

A great deal of work has been going on behind the scenes at Bethel Chapel, as we have made preparations to welcome Community Furniture Aid into part of the chapel building. Covid-19 has inevitably slowed things down but we hope that their arrival will happen very soon. Community Furniture Aid is a registered charity which accepts donations of second-hand furniture which their volunteers can recondition and provide at low cost to families who are being rehoused. Having a base in Caerau will help them increase the amount of work they can do in Caerau and the Llynfi Valley. We are extremely grateful for the generous funding provided by ILC which has enabled us to renovate parts of the building and its exterior in preparation for this project.

### Could YOU be a volunteer?

Community Furniture Aid is very dependent upon volunteers to help out with collecting furniture, sorting and delivering it, and repairing any minor damage. They would love to hear from you if you would like to become part of their team in Caerau because the Bethel Branch will be a totally new undertaking for them. CFA will give you all the training you need. For further information, please contact the minister of Bethel Chapel, Rev. Dr. Ian Morris on 01792 882 38 or by e-mail to [revdrian@btconnect.com](mailto:revdrian@btconnect.com)



## Remembrance Sunday at Caerau Square

Due to the Covid 19 coronavirus pandemic the normal Remembrance Sunday service at St. Cynfelin's Church, Caerau was unable to take place this year.

Although with consultation with Welsh Government and the Church in Wales regarding appropriate social distancing procedures, a phased down shortened service and commendations did take place at the Caerau War Memorial at 11am on Sunday 8th November 2020.

The guidance allowed for 30 people to be in attendance with socially distancing being imposed and attendees wearing appropriate face coverings.

The short service of remembrance was led by the vicar of Caerau. Rev. Beverly Reaney and the British 'Union Jack' Standard was held by Mr. David Newman an ex-serviceman with Royal Air Force.

In total 18 wreaths were laid on behalf of organisations and individuals.

On Armistice Day, the 11th November 2020, at 11am there were a small group of people who attended at the Caerau War Memorial, again within social distance guidelines to allow for short prayers and the period of two minute silence to remember all who had been lost during all conflicts.

**'We Will Remember Them'**



## Caerau Environmental Project - CEP

A group of very enthusiastic people who live in and are all passionate about Caerau have formed a group called Caerau Environmental Project- CEP for short. The group has identified the need to enhance the look and appearance of the village and surrounding areas of Caerau and are in the process of developing and engaging in a programme of activities that shall 'brighten up' the village through a series of environmental projects.

The group is in its infancy but have created a constitution and are also engaged in consultations and input into other 'local' initiatives such as a proposed 'Skyline Caerau' programme, and Keep Britain Tidy. They are also addressing external funding opportunities that shall allow them to pursue and drive their aims and objectives forward.

If you are interested or wish to become a member of this group please feel free to make contact via the secretary - Jennifer John on 01656 730280 or by email [jen4phil4ever@talktalk.net](mailto:jen4phil4ever@talktalk.net)

## Funding Support for Local Groups by Alex Bowen, Funding Support Worker, ILC

I have been really busy during the pandemic in Caerau, working hard to help key local community groups make applications for funding which enabled them to give people the help they needed to survive this difficult time.

I helped CDT in gaining ICF funding for a much-needed refrigerated van that they used for emergency food collections for more food for the village as the demand for their community food service increased massively. I also helped them to make successful applications to gain funding from BAVO's Food Poverty grant scheme for emergency food and petrol, as well as a Community Lottery fund application to employ 2 part time workers for the centre and cafe to help them be more resilient for the future. I worked with the Tai Chi Wellbeing group in making a successful bid for a Transformation Fund grant for project and development costs for their wellbeing sessions for local people, and supported both them and St Cynfelin's Church to make successful applications in to the Afan Llynfi Renewable Community Fund for project costs and capital equipment

During this challenging time I have also been supporting other groups and individuals, working with the ILC committee and offering support to people on the phone. If you would like to meet me to talk about your project or group, I am here to offer funding support and advice, to help you develop your funding bids, find the right funds for your project, and help you develop your fundraising skills, for the future of the Caerau.

Contact me on: 07719 523842 or email me at: [alexbowen@bavo.org.uk](mailto:alexbowen@bavo.org.uk)