

# SteelMatters

ISSUE 4  
May 2019

Your community magazine



The 450-tonne converter shell was lifted out of 'Oceanic' onto a low-loader and driven carefully on site

# ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO FOR STEEL PLANT INVESTMENT

As the steelmaking plant in Port Talbot starts an 18-month programme of investment projects, Steel Matters took some time out to speak to some of those involved.

Peter Jones is Works Manager for Steel and Slab. He said: "We have four major pieces of engineering work planned over the next 18 months.

"The first is the replacement of the Receiving Bay crane, which takes slab from the end of the three Continuous Casters which starts over the coming weeks. The next project will be to

replace Steelmaking Vessel 2 (or converter). While the converter shell has already been delivered ahead of original Brexit deadline, the actual replacement starts in June, and will last for around 60 days.

"The North Charger crane, which brings liquid iron to the converters, will be replaced around Christmas 2019,

and then a mammoth operation will take place early next year to essentially rebuild Caster 2 in a 100-day project.

"People should not forget that all of this work will take place while the rest of the plant is working, so there has been lots of planning taking place hand-in-hand with the operational teams.

"It's critical that Vessel 1 is maintained

well to support operations throughout. Similarly, the cranes throughout the area need to be reliable to maintain the flow of materials during the engineering work.

"It is a real challenge, but the teams are up for it."

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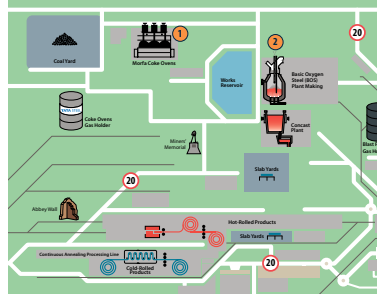
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# THE COLD TRUTH



More than 20 steelworkers braved a night on the streets to raise thousands of pounds for homelessness charities, as part of the Tata Steel sponsored 'Cold Truth' appeal in conjunction with Swansea Sound and the Wave.

The Tata Steel heroes raised more than £5,300 which will be split equally between the four worthy charities involved – Llamau, Matthew's House, Zac's Place and Trampoline-SaIute.

The team spent the week's leading up to the sleepout selling raffle tickets, collecting sponsorships, holding a cake sale, and even having a sponsored

head shave at Trostre, with the hope of raising as much money as possible.

The night of the sleepout came and the team was ready to sleep it rough at the Liberty Stadium car park, along with around 80 other participants from a variety of other businesses.

It quickly dawned on the team that although they had prepared for the cold, they were not prepared for a full night of rain.

Nia Singleton Community Liaison Manager said: "The rain was persistent all night and gave those involved a very sharp, if brief, experience of living life

outdoors.

"We're very proud of the money raised as a team and know it will be put to such good use in our local communities, helping those most in need."

"THERE WAS A GREAT TEAM SPIRIT THAT KEPT EVERYONE GOING ON A COLD WET EVENING. CREDIT TO THE FOUR CHARITIES WHO GIVE INCREDIBLE SUPPORT THE HOMELESS EVERY DAY."

Martin Brunnock, Site Director

"THE SLEEP OUT FOR ME WAS A REAL EYE-OPENER EVEN THOUGH WE HAD IT EASY WITH ACCESS TO AMENITIES. I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO COMPREHEND THE TRUE COLD, HUNGER AND FEAR THE HOMELESS FACE DAY IN DAY OUT."

Lloyd Crees, Procurement

"IT WAS A VERY THOUGHT PROVOKING NIGHT. I WASN'T PREPARED FOR HOW IT WAS GOING TO BE. BIG RESPECT TO ALL THOSE CHARITIES AND CHARITY WORKERS OUT THERE FOR WHAT THEY DO."

Joe Gallacher, Works Manager Trostre

"THE FOUR CHARITIES THAT WE WERE COLLECTING FOR DO AN FANTASTIC JOB HELPING SOME OF THE MOST VULNERABLE. THE SELFLESS DEDICATION OF THE CHARITY WORKERS WAS AMAZING TO SEE."

James Drake, Human Resources



"MYSELF AND LAVANA, ON BEHALF OF EG LEWIS, WERE DELIGHTED TO BECOME PART OF TEAM TATA STEEL FOR THE SLEEPOUT."

Ben Jenkins, EG Lewis

"IT WAS A VERY HUMBLING EXPERIENCE HELPING TO RAISE FUNDS AND AWARENESS FOR GREAT CAUSES."

Janine Stoneman, Human Resources



## All systems are go for steel plant investment

FROM PAGE 1 >

After months of planning, and a brief stop-off in Antwerp to collect the Bullgear, the new Steelplant Converter has now arrived at Port Talbot by ship.

The main part of the 450-tonne converter shell was lifted out of the "Oceanic" onto a low-loader and driven carefully on site, to be stored at the lay-down area next to the BOS gas holder.

Steel Matters spoke with some of the key players in the Steel and Slab Investment Programme to get the inside track on the planning involved, how some of the major challenges were overcome, the cutting-edge technology deployed and how even the enormous vessel itself wasn't immune to the impact of Brexit. **Look out for videos showing the big move and more on our Facebook page @tatasteeluk**

### The biggest load ever moved across site

Dave Murray, right, Project Manager, BOS Vessel Replacement Project, lifts the lid on some of the challenges of bringing the vessel onto site.



"Over time, converters lose their shape and get worn out. They normally last 20-25 years – our converters in the plant are 27 years old, so they're right at the end of their life.

"The vessel has been manufactured in Poland and is made up of three components – the converter vessel itself, which is in two pieces, and a large gearbox which rotates the vessel.

"It's been a really big challenge taking delivery of and transporting such large equipment – this is probably the biggest load that's ever been moved across the site at Port Talbot.

"Firstly, the lock is 100 years old, so we had to do a lot of work to check it was strong enough to take the load and also that the crane could safely lift the load off the ship.

"Then, the key challenge was getting equipment of this size across site. In some areas we had to take down lamp



The route the converter took across site was meticulously planned utilising the latest VR technology

posts and signs, and around 4,000 tonnes of materials has been used to rebuild roads. We also scanned the route and used virtual-reality (VR) technology to check the converter would fit under certain infrastructure, such as under the conveyors near the Sinter Plant.

"But it'll all be worth it in terms of the benefits delivered. The new converter gives us improved reliability and stability in the sale of our product to customers, so we can continue to deliver to them the product they need, at the quality they need – on time."

### We've had to think of everything

Lead Engineer Andrew Thomas, right, talks about some of the unique logistical hurdles that have been overcome.



"Making sure that a vessel of this size is manufactured to specification has been one of the big challenges for the team. We went over to the manufacturing facility in Gdansk on three or four occasions and came across a few things that weren't right.

"During one of our visits in December, we spotted that some of the geometry was incorrect. I think we spoil their Christmas because they had to work through the festive period to rectify the issue!

"The sheer size and scale of the equipment – it's the heaviest load that's

ever come into Port Talbot lock, with the heaviest component weighing 420 tonnes – presented the biggest challenges for us. Having calculated the load capacity of the lock, reinforced concrete strips were installed on the front edge of the lock, right up to the front outriggers for the crane.

"As well as the three main components on the ship, there are also around 40 lorries being shipped from Poland with ancillary parts.

"By far the toughest part of the installation, however, is having to work alongside a working converter. This requires a 60-day outage, where we'll have segregation in place to keep people working safely.

"We've had to think of everything – nobody knows the way Brexit will pan out, for example, so we pulled out all the stops to get the vessel in early.

"There have been plenty of challenges along the way, but they've all been overcome, the kit is here and we're in a good place. We're only a small team – there's 14 of us at the moment, although this will increase during the installation phase – and we're all very proud of what we've achieved with the project."

### Planning the route has taken some meticulous planning

Gareth Price, right, Converter 2 Project team, said: "The route from the ship to the drop off point would go through several works areas, so we've worked very closely with area owners to plan a safe route while minimising impact to

operations.

"One of the key areas of concern was getting the vessel under one of the conveyor belts which is in continual operation carrying raw materials to the Sinter Plant.

"The road under the conveyor is very tight, we would have had to lower the road level by two metres to fit, but decided to come off the main route and under another section of the conveyor which had more headroom.

"We strengthened what was rough ground and built a ramp to ensure the load could pass safely through what is a high production area."

"The team also used VR technology when planning the route to pinpoint areas of concern, even down to millimetres, as was the case with the removal of several lampposts and even a handrail on the route.

The route was in two stages, the first part from the ship to the laydown area near the gas holder area, ready for when the vessel project starts in June. The second part of the route is also problematic as the entrance to the BOS plant will be tight.

Gareth added: "The entrance to the BOS plant has even tighter margins than the conveyor belt route with just a 50-millimetre gap on either side of the entrance and a 60-millimetre gap at the top but again VR has again been utilised.

"I've met a lot of people from different sections of the route and the support and involvement I've had has been massive to help minimise disruption."

## DEAR NEIGHBOUR

### YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED

This is my first column for Steel Matters since taking on the role of site director and I am delighted to be given the honour of taking on this critical role for the UK steel industry.

I have worked in steel for many years and the passion, dedication and determination of the workforce in Port Talbot is my motivation to ensure that our industry survives and thrives, through this tough economic and political climate.

We are entering an exciting period of investment to ensure our assets are efficient and world class.

A converter vessel and three new cranes will be replaced at our steel plant over the next 18 months and we have just undergone an extensive life extension to our Blast Furnace 5 – read more on page 1 and 3.

I'm pleased to announce that we are launching a new community initiative 'Tea with Tata Steel' where you are invited to come along to local community venues across Port Talbot to meet with members of my team to discuss with them any environmental concerns you may have, recruitment queries or to find out more about our Community Partnerships Programme.

We will be announcing dates over the next few weeks, please keep an eye out across our social media channels for more information.

Environmental improvement work has been continuing in earnest and we will be investing many millions this year on environmental improvements across our site to see the breakdown and find out more about our plans please see pages 4 and 5 for a pull out guide.



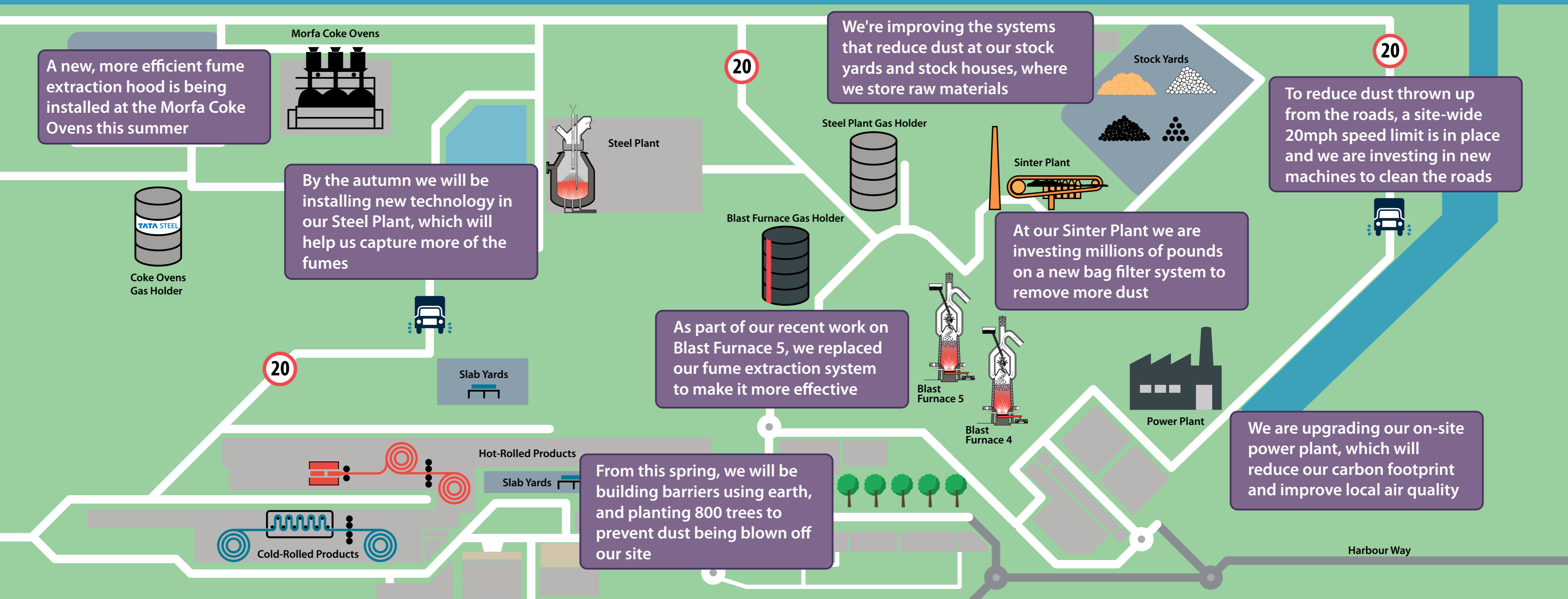
Martin



# IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT IN 2019

At Tata Steel, we strive to make life better for the communities we serve. We know if something happens on our site you can be affected by noise, dust, and emissions. We invest millions of pounds in environmental improvements every year. We're doing as much as we can in the short term and also planning for projects which need big investment and could take longer.

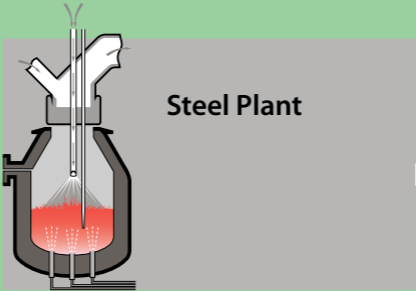
We will be giving you more information if something happens on site leading to noise or dust, what we're doing about it, and how you can get in touch. This includes launching a new, easier-to-use complaints form. Below are just some of the steps we're taking this year to improve our environmental performance:



A new, more efficient fume extraction hood is being installed at the Morfa Coke Ovens this summer



By the autumn we will be installing new technology in our Steel Plant, which will help us capture more of the fumes



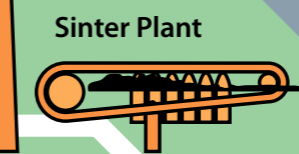
We're improving the systems that reduce dust at our stock yards and stock houses, where we store raw materials



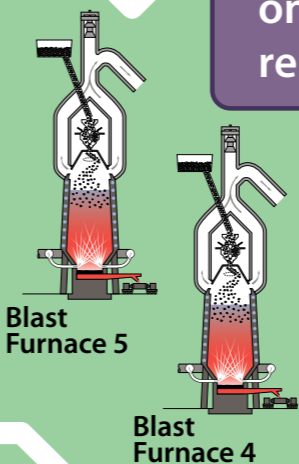
To reduce dust thrown up from the roads, a site-wide 20mph speed limit is in place and we are investing in new machines to clean the roads



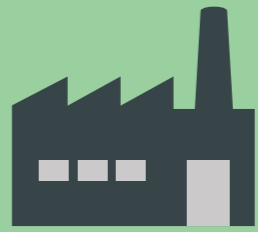
At our Sinter Plant we are investing millions of pounds on a new bag filter system to remove more dust



As part of our recent work on Blast Furnace 5, we replaced our fume extraction system to make it more effective



We are upgrading our on-site power plant, which will reduce our carbon footprint and improve local air quality



From this spring, we will be building barriers using earth, and planting 800 trees to prevent dust being blown off our site



You can contact the Community Support Line on 0800 138 6560 or visit [www.tatasteeleurope.com/complaints](http://www.tatasteeleurope.com/complaints)

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Safety has been the over-riding priority for all the work that has taken place

# A REMARKABLE RECOVERY FOR ON-SITE OPERATIONS

Port Talbot's Blast Furnace 5 was back up and running a little over 24 hours after a spillage of liquid iron brought operations to a sudden halt in the early hours of Friday 26 April.

Hours later BF4 followed suit. And on Sunday 28, in the afternoon, the first steel slab was cast following the outage.

It was an incredible story of resilience, ingenuity and dedication. Local engineering and operational teams worked day and night to recover the site of the incident to allow iron to again flow to the steelplant.

Hub Director Martin Brunnock said: "Our first thoughts are always with our

people. Two colleagues who were hurt in the incident are doing well and continue to recover at home with support from their families and the company. We are also continuing to offer support to others affected by the incident.

Global CEO TV Narendran and TSE CEO Hans Fischer have both been in

regular contact enquiring after the health of people in the area, and members of the Executive Committee have been to visit the site and meet local teams.

"Throughout, safety has been the over-riding priority for all the work that has taken place. Local teams have had ongoing support from the Health &

Safety Executive at each stage of the remediation work.

"This incident has shocked our industry and our community, but the messages of support from around the world have been overwhelming."

An investigation into the incident has started.

## Apprentices brush up on community support

Our higher apprentices have been hard at work during the past few months undertaking a number of projects in Taibach and Margam.

Jon Tossell, Infrastructure Site Services Manager, said: "It is important that we continue to support the community in every way possible as a business, and by helping improve the facilities within the area with the use of apprentices and labour at our disposal".

Activities included cleaning and repainting the railings outside Taibach Community Education Centre, painting of pitchside railings at Margam Youth Centre and the installation of shower and washroom facilities at Carmel Chapel, which will support the

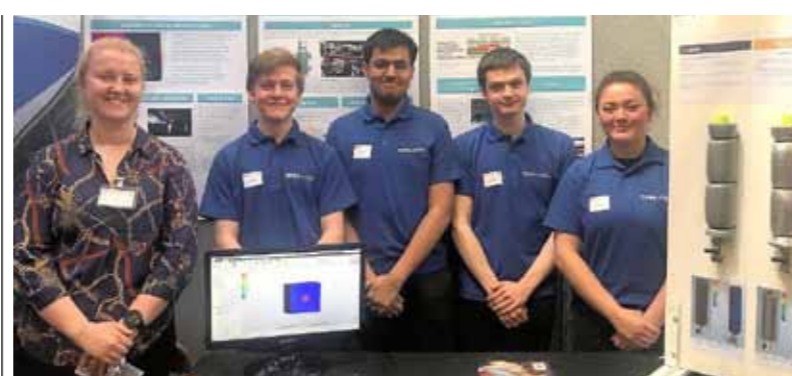


Higher apprentices have been hard at work on a number of community projects in Taibach and Margam

continued use of the building for Port Talbot's Foodbank.

Keep an eye on Tata Steel social

media channels for further updates on these and other projects over the coming weeks.



Bethany Carnegie, compliance engineer with her team Katherine Fung, Bilal Husain, Jack Spiller and Ioan Webber from St Joseph's RC comprehensive at the Big Bang fair

## Mentoring pays dividends

Over the last six months Tata Steel UK has supported and sponsored The Engineering Education Scheme Wales. EESW is an independent registered charity running schemes to inspire and motivate young people aged eight to 19 to choose careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Our engineers have been mentoring groups of AS-level students from three schools; St Josephs RC High School, Gower College Swansea and St Joseph's Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre.

The mentors helped the students deliver an outcome from a real-life

project they were set by the business.

One of the mentors, Bethany Carnegie, Compliance Engineer, said: "The last six months have been extremely interesting working with the students and their fresh ideas. I highly recommend mentoring to everyone if you have the opportunity and I'm excited to be mentoring again next year."

At the EESW Awards - Big Bang Fair South Wales, our mentoring groups won:

- Best Use of Mechanical Engineering Principles
- Best Overall Team Performance
- Big Bang South Wales Final



Anna Ryder-Richardson, Joanna Maal and Rouha Hussaina were speakers at Ysgol Cwm Brombil alongside Claire Scott of the Wave

# WOMEN OF STEEL

A lot has changed since women got the vote 101 years ago, but there are still obstacles to overcome for women in the workplace and especially for young women embarking on their working life - from decisions on what to do, to family and societal expectations and on what is appropriate for women.

The Women of Steel campaign, in conjunction with Swansea Sound and the Wave worked to tackle those stigmas and help young girls and women think again about what is possible.

Launched on International

Women's Day, a whole host of successful women from across south-west Wales, including Katherine Jenkins, Bethan Sayed AM and Non Evans MBE, got involved by helping to share their personal working life testimonials, advice and expertise across the Wave's online platform with some also taking part in a week of live school roadshows.

The roadshows visited Ysgol Cwm Brombil, St Joseph's RC Comprehensive and Ysgol Bro Dur in Port Talbot and the pupils enjoyed inspirational talks from women who are high ranking police officers, law



firm partners, senior engineers, to those working in entertainment and sport.

"It has been such a wonderful campaign," said Nia Singleton, Community Liaison Manager, UK. "It was inspirational and motivational

for the young girls across the school roadshows, but the online platform has also ensured the campaign has been open to women of all ages and at all stages in life. It has certainly helped to change perception of women in male dominated industries like ours. Our female engineers have helped break some of the stigmas associated with working in heavy industry, which has been great to witness at the roadshows."

Check out the special 'Women of Steel' section of the Wave website [www.thewave.co.uk](http://www.thewave.co.uk) to read more Women of Steel profiles.



Roadshows took place across five schools over one week



Politicians, media industry experts and engineers were among the women to give insights into their careers



Steelworks Santa Allan Evans and his helpers delivered a post-Christmas cash boost to the British Heart Foundation and Sandville Self Help Centre

## Steelworks Santa delivers charity boost

The British Heart Foundation and Sandville Self Help Centre in Porthcawl have been given a belated festive treat, thanks to a £3,184 donation from the Steelworks Santa to be shared between them.

Tax Advisor Allan Evans took on the role of Steelworks Santa following a request from colleagues for help with the employee children's Christmas parties in 2017 - and he's not looked back since!

The jolly chap has made appearances across South Wales, from Port Talbot to Matheron, taking part in pug-fests, school visits, tea rooms, carol concerts and pub visits, alongside his role as Pyle Garden Village's in-house Santa.

"It has been a rewarding, but very tiring job - I can attest to the fact that Santa does indeed work more than one evening a year," said Allan.

"This year has seen me working full-time as a tax advisor at Tata Steel alongside a number of other festive bookings - all in aid of charity."

Allan donated all his earnings from Pyle Garden Village, along with donations given to him from colleagues and the public, to the charities which are both close to his heart.

"The BHF is in memory of our work colleague, Alex Kalinik, who sadly passed away very suddenly last summer," he said. "Alex was such a vibrant character, he adored Christmas and I knew that I wanted to honour him with a donation."

"The Sandville has also played an important role in my family, supporting both of my parents as they got older. It is such a privilege to be able to donate this money to them."

A presentation evening was hosted at Pyle Garden Village with local dignitaries, Santa's helpers and representatives from BHF and Sandville on hand to receive their donations.

# HERITAGE CORNER

Each edition we take you for a trip down memory lane delving into our newspaper archives from over the last 50 years. This edition we are heading to Eglwys Nynudd and Neath Technical College from April 1976

Thanks to Janice Thomas (nee Cook) for sending in this wonderful picture of the site catering staff out for a colleagues birthday party at the Hollywood Inn, Gorseinon in 1976. Janice has kindly noted the people she remembers from the picture, can you help her fill in the blanks?

Back row: From left, Janice Cook, Betty Skinner, Hilda ?, Jane ?, Denise Kingdom, Jeff ?

Front row: From left, Lorraine Allen, John Lee, Doreen Lee, Linda Amphlett



Send in your heritage pictures and memories to us via email [community.committee@tatasteeleurope.com](mailto:community.committee@tatasteeleurope.com)



## Home and dry!

THE WELSH Youth Association under-21 championships at Eglwys Nynudd Reservoir, Port Talbot Works, was quite a triumph for Mike Richards (right) a member of the works' sailing section.

He romped home a "mile" in front of his nearest challenger, P. Rees, Mumbles, in the Laser class, and in doing so qualified to join the UK national squad now preparing for the world championships.

Winners of the GP's class were P. Simes and J. Hiez, Neyland, with C. Gorringe and J. Hiez, Barry, runners-up. They received their prizes from the section's Commodore, Sid Parry.

The next national event to be staged on the reservoir: is the Royal Yachting Association's ladies' meeting on June 22-24, followed by a sailing special for handicapped children, organised by the Spastics Society, on July 21.

## THEY'RE THE BEST!



Michael Curtis receives the Wicker Construction Trophy from Lord Gordon Parry.

HARDLY a year goes by that young people of Port Talbot Works do not figure high amongst the "best brains" of Neath Technical College.

Take the latest list of Kingdom, recipient of the Noel Jones award for the best student in HNC engineering, and Philip Marks, best student in HNC chemistry. The awards were



John Kingdom



Philip Marks

success. In it are three apprentices who have emerged top students in their particular field.

They are Michael Curtis, awarded the Wicker Construction Trophy for his outstanding work in advanced painting; John

presented by Lord Gordon Parry, chairman of Wales Tourist Board.



Schools take part in the Tata Steel Wizards league from across Port Talbot and Briton Ferry playing rugby and netball weekly

## Wizards League finals success!

From 18 schools down to four – the Tata Steel Wizards League rugby and netball finals were a hard-fought competition but Blaenbagan and Central primary were victorious in rugby and netball respectively.

The league has been running for nearly 10 years, and while getting the kids enjoying and participating in a team sport is vital to its success

the wider benefits from sport, including improving communication skills, learning to work as a team, understating the importance of participating and not always winning has been one of the outcomes we're most proud of.

Well done to all of the participating schools across Port Talbot and Briton Ferry – you're all winners!



## SteelMatters

### GET IN TOUCH

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Stay informed by signing up for our monthly electronic newsletter and for Port Talbot Works announcements [www.tatasteeleurope.com/en/sustainability/communities/newsletter](http://www.tatasteeleurope.com/en/sustainability/communities/newsletter)

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