

## MERTHYR TYDFIL CELEBRATES BUSINESS SUCCESS

Merthyr Tydfil celebrated the success of its local businesses and social enterprises in style as hundreds of businesses gathered during the gala evening hosted by BBC Wales Presenter Jason Mohammed at the conference centre of the brand New Orbit Business Centre.

Jason Mohammed praised the excellent range of exciting business and social enterprise nominations as the evening progressed towards the nail-biting awards ceremony stating 'Its great to see so many fantastic business examples contributing towards the development and regeneration of Merthyr'.

The awards ceremony, which was organised by the Merthyr Tydfil Enterprise Group, is itself a model of ambition and enterprise. The event is purely funded and developed from the generation of sponsorship and the sheer grit and determination of the Enterprise Group partners. Gareth Voyle, one of the event organisers said: 'The delivery of such an event does not fit on anyone's job description and there is no budget for us to work with. The energy, ambition and vision of the group make this flagship event such a success and a pleasure to be involved with'.

In total, over 30 businesses and social enterprises were nominated and invited to the gala evening. The winners included:

- Social Enterprise Excellence Award (Joint Winners) - Merthyr Tydfil Credit Union/  
Hafal Merthyr Tydfil

**Sponsor: Centre for Business, Taste of Enterprise Project**

- Young Entrepreneur 2009 – Graft Ltd

**Sponsor: Virtual Assistance**

- Most Innovative Business – Rhymney Brewery

**Sponsor: HOVIP (Heads of the Valleys Innovation Programme)**

- Customer Service Excellence Award – Royvon Dog Training School

**Sponsor: Merthyr Tydfil College Commercial Services**

- Business Environmental Award – Merthyr Industrial Services

**Sponsor: Groundwork Merthyr & Rhondda Cynon Taff**

- New Start Business Award – Wilson Knights

**Sponsor: Venture Wales, Merthyr Tydfil**

- JobMatch Merthyr Employer of the Year – Cwm Taf NHS Trust

**Supported: JobMatch Merthyr**

In addition to the above award categories, a special 'lifetime achievement award' was presented to Robert Jones for his years of work supporting local businesses. Robert, a former business owner and business advisor, was recognised for his years of excellent service as manager of Business Eye in the area. Robert was quite shocked to receive the award but expressed his delight and thanks for the honour.

The event was also a celebration of the great work undertaken by JobMatch Merthyr Tydfil in securing employment for local people with businesses in the area. To date, JobMatch Merthyr have secured employment for over 450 local people and the links forged with employers during the ceremony will no doubt see that figure soar and contribute to the development of the area.

Jeff Edwards, Leader of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council closed the event in congratulating all involved, both the organisers and the nominees. In the current economic climate, events such as the Merthyr Tydfil Business Awards shine a light on the positives, and focus on the excellent work undertaken by small businesses who are key drivers of the economy.

With a busy programme of events aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship, supporting local businesses and recognising success, Merthyr Tydfil is rapidly emerging as the place to do business; not bad for the smallest local authority area in the country!