

Police costs set to rise

HOUSEHOLDERS will have to pay more towards policing in the region from April.

New Dyfed-Powys police and crime commissioner Christopher Salmon proposed a 3.9 per cent rise in the amount it charges residents, which has now been backed by the area's police and crime panel.

Bills for the average band D property owner will rise from £198 to £206.

Mr Salmon said the hike was lower than in recent years — the equivalent of a 14.9p weekly increase for band D households.

"In proposing the council tax precept, I have sought to balance the needs of our police service with the demands on families across Dyfed-Powys," said Mr Salmon.

It takes the force budget to £98 million for 2013-14.

Internet speed upgrade

SUPERFAST fibre-optic broadband is speeding its way to Llanelli.

Though Llanelli doesn't feature as part of the first 14 areas to be developed under the Superfast Cymru programme, fibre optic broadband should be installed Wales-wide by 2015.

A BT spokesman said: "Llanelli is due to get fibre broadband as part of BT's normal commercial roll-out. It is scheduled to go live during the summer, but, of course, because of the engineering works involved, dates can slip."

BT aims to make high-speed broadband available to around 19,500 homes and businesses in Llanelli by the time the work is completed.

Blankets recalled

A RANGE of electric blankets have been recalled due to a fault that could cause them to overheat and catch fire.

Morphy Richards has issued a product recall notice on its Over Electric Blankets with the model number 75310 and 75312.

As a precautionary measure, the company has asked customers to stop using them immediately. Owners of the blankets should contact Morphy Richards on 01709 572570 or by e-mail at blankets@morphyrichards.co.uk

Giving dogs a second chance at a future worth wagging a tail at

■ Chris Carra meets one of the residents during his time volunteering at the Many Tears Animal Rescue centre in Cefneithin.

Carra in the community

Many Tears factfile

- Established: 2004
- Dogs currently waiting for homes at the centre: 100

THESE are just three of the many dogs Chris met at the centre who are still in need of a home:

Chance is a poor, confused dog who was dumped into the private porch of Sylvia's house.

He will need to be homed with a German Shepherd savvy owner, who can take time to teach this fellow to give his heart and trust, and that this time he won't be betrayed again.

He loves to run, but is very controlled with it and will keep checking back with you that he is doing it right.

He learns so quickly. His 'sit' is pretty much

Name: Chance
Breed: German Shepherd cross
Age: 3 years
Gender: Male

perfect and his response to name is great.

He is really active and loves to play with a ball, play tug or run with you.

We have seen a world of improvement in Chance, he is a special and loving dog.



many of the people currently working at Many Tears were paid staff, but started out as volunteers at the centre.

Sylvia told me: "We do not promise jobs, but when jobs do become available we obviously look at our volunteers first."

One fine example of a passionate volunteer turned paid staff is Peter White, who

told me: "I basically live to work here."

Peter, 36, who is originally from Stockport and was once a silver service waiter on the Orient Express, moved to Llanelli after various stints of volunteering with Many Tears.

As he walked me around the centre — pointing out the food room with massive drums of dog

biscuits and the laundry room, stacked with piles of colour-coded bedding — he told me how he had originally come to volunteer for a week, but quit his job and stayed with the centre for six months.

"I just fell in love with the place," he said. "I would much rather this kind of job. Every dog that comes through this

- Dogs currently waiting for homes in foster homes: 120
- Number of paid staff: 23

Name: Ollie
Breed: Springer spaniel cross pointer
Age: 1 year
Gender: Male

Ollie is in need of a very active home where someone would like to take him running or cycling to help wear him out.

He is a bright boy and will need mental stimulation as well as physical exercise.

He loves toys and would



love to go to dog training classes and learn about clicker training.

He is desperately lonely here in his kennel and is longing for someone to come and make him their special boy.

●For information on animals needing homes call the rescue centre between 10am and 4pm on 01269 843084 or visit www.manytearsrescue.org Toys and treats can be sent to Many Tears Animal Rescue, Cwmllogin House, Cefneithin, Llanelli, SA14 7HB.

place is a life that is saved. There are so many things about working here that you can't get anywhere else."

Peter's passion for the animals—like everyone I met at Many Tears — was instantly visible.

I headed back inside and helped to wash a poor ex-breeding spaniel who was

covered with ticks and fleas. She was understandably terrified, but docile and accepted whatever anyone would do to her.

After drying my hands I was handed a lead by Elke Stilgoe, who volunteers at the centre about once a week, and has done so for around four years.

The 45-year-old is originally from Germany but now lives in

Name: Trevis
Breed: Collie
Age: 2 years
Gender: Male

Trevis is a stunningly handsome collie. He has striking, unusual red and white colouring. He and his brother were unwanted farm dogs as the owner had too many dogs.

He is very loving and affectionate and jumps up gently for a cuddle. He is an intelligent boy who learns very quickly.

He loves to run free and chase birds on the open fields, and his recall is excellent.

Given plenty of exercise and training, he would be a lovely companion.



Llandeilo, and as we set off to walk two dogs, she gave me the ins and outs of volunteering.

"As volunteers we do the odd bit of grooming, cleaning kennels and even provide updates on how the dog is doing for the website," she explained.

"But the main thing volunteers are needed for is walking the dogs. On a sunny

day like this it gives the dogs a chance to have an extra walk."

She was quick to notice that I was struggling with Ollie — a one-year-old cross breed who was extremely excited to be out of his cage and was dragging me down the icy road.

Elke suggested we swapped dogs — I agreed and took control of Jessie, who had only been at

Charity's support thanks

OLDER people's charity WRVS have thanked volunteers for their commitment during the recent spell of snow in Llanelli.

WRVS head of operations for Wales Sally Rivers said: "Volunteers have been battling through the snow and ice to continue to deliver services to older people and check that they are safe, warm and well.

"Fear of slipping on icy paths and treacherous road conditions mean that older people often cannot get out and about and without our volunteers they may not see anyone else for days at a time.

She added: "I'd like to say a massive thank you to our volunteers across the region who have continued to deliver vital services like Meals on Wheels to the housebound, despite the bad weather.

"Many volunteers have gone beyond the call of duty and have carried on when other services have stopped."



■ Chris Carra Volunteering at the Many Tears Animal Rescue centre in Cefneithin.
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Yobs' mobile homes attack

VANDALS have caused thousands of pounds worth of damage at a Burry Port caravan park.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the attacks, which affected 13 caravans and took place some time overnight on January 17.

It is not yet known what, if anything, was stolen during the raids.

Shoreline caravan park manager Steve Bassett said: "They smashed up the caravans, getting in through the front doors.

"They made a bit of a mess and raided the storage sheds.

"But by the looks of it most of it is just vandalism — they've done a few grand's worth of damage."

He said the caravans were all privately-owned.

"We don't know the total of what's been taken. Some of the owners have been down but some of them are three to four hours away," said Mr Bassett.

He added that electric lights had been smashed, but some of the caravans still had their TVs.

"It's hard to pinpoint if they were stealing," he said.

● Contact police on 101.

Action on fish threat

ERADICATION of 'alien' fish from Llanelli lakes has entered its second stage.

The topmouth gudgeon, a non-native fish from Asia, is deemed to be a threat to native fish.

Environment Agency (EA) officers aimed to tackle the issue by adding a chemical known as piscicide to three Millennium Coastal Park lakes. It is toxic to fish, but harmless to humans, birds and other wildlife.

Previously the lakes were drained and native fish species rescued. Once the process is complete, the EA expects to have eradicated one of the three established colonies of top-mouth gudgeon in Wales.

Writer to share tips

A SIX-WEEK course with novelist, poet and BBC Radio Wales presenter Phil Carradice starts at Bethania Chapel vestry, Morfa, next week. WEA creative writing takes place from 2pm to 4pm on Wednesday, February 6. Call 01792 891679 or e-mail cazleucarum@tesco.net.