

Flood damage bill rises to thousands

IT WAS a week when the weather went berserk, with soaring temperatures, rainstorms, and floods. Now fire chiefs have also warned of the increased dangers of heath fires.
GEM staff report:

LOCAL BUSINESSES are still counting the cost of the heavy rain and flooding that hit the area last week.

Birds Garden Centre was badly affected, with the roof letting in water and causing damage to the delicatessen and chemical produce areas.

"The damage cost us around £2000, and there was a lot of mess to clean up," a spokesperson for the garden centre said. It did not, however, have to close down for repairs.

Off The Beeton Track had bigger problems. They had to close down on Wednesday night and for lunch the following day while drying out and flood repairs were undertaken. The owner, Ann Richardson, said: "I would like to thank fellow traders for rallying round."

Rags have had to pay out over £1000 for

repairs to their shop. "There were three or four inches of water in the shop, which ruined a carpet. "We also had to buy a humidifier to dry out the shop," the owner said.

The Town Hall had some problems as well. The kitchen and the lesser hall were flooded, but thanks to the brave efforts of Mr and Mrs Lane, who stayed after hours to sweep away water, the Maplewood floor of the lounge was saved. The museum escaped unscathed.

The Cowbridge Bookshop also had two inches of water covering the floor. The owner said - "We used duct boards for the customers to walk on. It was the miracle of Cowbridge!"

Other shops hit included Oops-a-Daisy, Roberts Sports and Jenny Wren.

At the height of the rainstorm last Wednesday, GEM staff had to contend with a power blackout on Press day, though it did not delay delivery of the newspaper.

The power cuts also affected homes across the Vale. Some areas, such as Peterson-Super-Ely, had no electricity throughout Wednesday night and were reconnected Thursday morning. A SWALEC spokesman said: "Our engineers were working through the night to correct the problems."

In Barry, the Knap Pool flooded and had to be closed, after the boating lake adjacent to it flooded and caused the pool itself to flood. It was hoped that the pool would reopen yesterday (Wednesday).

There were only "minimal" flight delays at Cardiff Wales Airport, with the longest delay

being one hour and 10 minutes on a flight to Belfast.



Close-up view of the floods, from the Hair Business, Cowbridge