



Louis Fisher, Cowbridge 43 years in business

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FEATURE



The Vale Forge: 'Success is moving

A HALLMARK of the success achieved by the Louis Fisher DIY and Garden Centre at the Vale Forge, Cowbridge, is its ability to move with the times, and adapt to changes in the Vale economy. Another vital ingredient in The Vale Forge success story is the extensive building and craftsmanship background of the owner, Mr Louis Fisher.

Glyn Spencer, who had followed his father Gillard into the trade.

Louis bought the land in 1965 - not long after the Forge had closed. He has made it into a thriving and diverse business - housing not only his own DIY firm, but also Xantippe Design, Inside Out Car Valeting and Car Wash and Welsh Smoked Products.

and to continue the success story.

doubt a prosperous future in the dedicated hands of Louis and Robert Fisher.

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The story began in 1870 when a wheelwright shop, stables and forge were built to serve the Old Cowbridge Brewery. The Vale Forge was a hive of activity, then as now, providing for a thriving demand, which at that time was the servicing of brewery drays and their horses.

The last blacksmith was Albert Newton and the last wheelwright, Glyn Spencer, who had followed his father Gillard into the trade.

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Louis Fisher was brought up in Sigginstone, educated at Ysgol Llanilltud Fawr and Bridgend Technical College, and began work as an apprentice carpenter and joiner. After war service, he pursued the building trade. However, as Vale land prices increased, it became less commercially viable to work as a builder and Louis instead chose to diversify.

He examined the market and moved into the DIY sector, after earmarking the 'do it yourself' sector for expansion.

Louis Fisher DIY and Garden Centre, supplies both to trade and business customers, always keeping abreast of the changing Vale economy.

Robert Fisher, Louis' youngest son served his own 18-month 'apprenticeship' on a world tour after gaining a BA honours degree in public administration.

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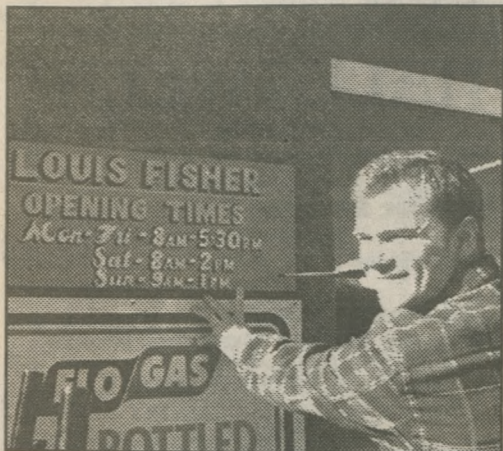


Louis Fisher

43 years in business



with the times'



Traders in The Vale Forge: Clockwise: Robert Fisher of Louis Fisher DIY; The Tamarind Cafe run by Ann and Pete; Wynne Jones of Inside-Out Car Valet and Car Wash; Sara Llewellyn of Xantippe Design and David Bethan, of Patrick Daniels Welsh Smoked Products

