

A CREATIVE arts project set up to help the homeless has been given a boost, thanks to a town council event.

Arts charity TAPE Community Music & Film works alongside a team from Rhyl's Dewi Sant Centre to enable the homeless to develop new creative talents and skills in filmmaking.

Its Street Homeless Creative project has been supported by Rhyl Town Council through its latest town event.

The council held two free film showings for residents with children tucking into popcorn during The Muppet Christmas Carol with Bing Crosby's White Christmas shown afterwards.

Tickets were given away free with the council purchasing them on behalf of residents. The funds from the tickets will be used by TAPE to support the next phase of their project which has seen the street's homeless creating a special film documenting their lives.

Rhyl Mayor Cllr Alan James said: "For many, Christmas is a time of good cheer and the giving of presents. For others, particularly those who find themselves homeless, it can be a difficult occasion.

"But homelessness is not a Christmas problem – it is a year-round issue and we have a responsibility to all who reside in Rhyl. Last year we saw what a difference the street creative project had made to the homeless and were moved and inspired by the film they had created.

"By hosting our free films we're not just given people in Rhyl an enjoyable time but we're able to support those less fortunate, supporting a project which enables them to learn new skills and tell their stories, fostering a sense of understanding and offering community support."

The project's work was shown to film-goers before the White Christmas showing.

TAPE Community Music & Film's Neil Dunsire said: "We hope this project has made a real difference to people who find themselves living on the streets and the wider community. It's the group's intention that the film will promote a better understanding of the homelessness situation in the region.

"It is too easy to forget that each person has a story and skills that we don't necessarily think about day-to-day when seeing people living on the streets.

"We're pleased that the town council's film screenings will be used as a platform to further develop this project and help those who need it most."

