

SIALENS DDARLLEN YR HAF 2016
SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2016

DARLLEN MAWR *Dineidus*
THE BIG Friendly READ

**Radyr Library Events
and storytimes
Digwyddiadau
Llyfregell Radur**

**see page 11
for details
of events**

Darlanau Illustrations: © Quentin Blake, 2016

CARDIFF CAERDYDD

CYNGOR LLYFRAU CYMRU
WELSH BOOKS COUNCIL

ROALD DAHL 100 THE READING AGENCY

Booking for events is essential and places are limited. To book a place, please contact Radyr library on 20780996
radyrlibrary@cardiff.gov.uk

Dim ond hyn a hyn o leoedd sydd ar gael a rhaid cadw eich lle ar ue cyfer. I gadw eich lle, cysylltwch â Llyfregell Radur ar 20780996

Dont forget, if you complete your reading challenge you will receive a medal and certificate in school and an ice cream voucher from Joe's ice cream

Cofiwch, os byddwch yn cwblhau eich her darllen, byddwch yn cael medal a thystysgrif yn yr ysgol a thaleb hufen ia gan joe's ice cream



Congratulations to the Community Association and the Community Council for organising and funding fifteen delightful hanging baskets in Station Road. Best yet!.

Summer Cub Camp at Pendine!

Thirty six Cub Scouts from the Tuesday and Thursday pack, together with their Leaders, and adult helpers, attended the Summer Cub Camp this year at Pendine Outdoors Centre from Saturday 28th May to Tuesday 31st May. What a fabulous time! Where do I start? We were welcomed by glorious sunshine on Saturday morning, which stayed with us for the whole weekend and really made the camp it a resounding success. Thirty six excited cubs in pristine cub uniform arrived at 11am and were soon busying themselves, putting up the tents, shooing away their parents and handing over the all important cake donations which would become part of the traditional evenings' gathering around the camp fire. Soon, the hungry cubs settled down on the site to eat their packed lunches and have a well earned rest. Our activities for the weekend included coasteering, kayaking at a local lake and the use of the climbing wall / zip wire at the centre, and we soon found ourselves

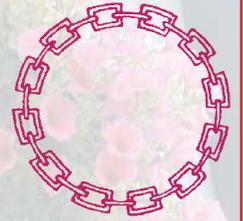


divided into groups and off we went to be kitted-out into our gear, be it a wet suit, hard hat or harness. The activities were run by the trained staff of Pendine Outdoors Centre, so the leaders and adult helpers could sit back, join in and just worry about who had or hadn't applied enough sun cream that morning! The coasteers shuffled down to the beach and were shown the various species of life in the

rock pools. The sea conditions were perfect and the cubs were able to wade through deeper rock pools and allowed to jump in. Other groups waded in a train-like formation behind their respective leaders to discover and explore various strange-looking caves and coves. Those who went kayaking were in for a treat. After a safety briefing, the cubs were off in their pairs and were soon manoeuvring

continued on page 5

RADYR CHAIN



Number 225

Free to every home in Radyr and Morganstown

August 2016



David Cargill and Allan Cook meeting HRH The Duchess of Cornwall.

'Nick Treharne Photography'.

Happy 100th Birthday The Amazing Mr. Dahl

The actual date of the centenary falls on September 13th 2016, which has been designated Roald Dahl Day. Look out for numerous events about this time.

On Wednesday 6th July, two members of the Radyr Festival Committee, Chairman David Cargill and Allan Cook who organised the Dahl events at the 2016 Festival, were presented to HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, patron of the Roald Dahl 100 celebrations, at the Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay. The event was organised by The Welsh Government.

The blue plaque commemorating Roald Dahl's connection with Radyr can now be seen on Ty Mynydd Lodge, next to the Scout Hut on Heol Isaf. Thanks to the Community Council who sponsored the plaque. The Community Association have produced a three page leaflet - The

Roald Dahl Trail -which can be used as a self guided tour around the numerous places in Radyr and Llandaff that have a connection with Roald's early life. The leaflet can be found in various places around the village and in the Old Church Rooms.

The History Society have organised a guided walk of the Roald Dahl Trail on Sunday 11th September starting at St John's Church, Danescourt at 2.30 p.m. The walk is about two miles, will last about two hours and is free.

The opening of Radyr Weir Hydroelectric Plant

Tuesday 26th of July saw the official opening of the hydroelectric plant at Radyr Weir. The ceremony was performed by Councillor Ramesh Patel, Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability, in the presence of several local Councillors

and Craig Williams MP for Cardiff North.

Councillor Patel said "As you know I am very proud of this major development which is expected to annually generate enough electricity for 550 houses in Cardiff."

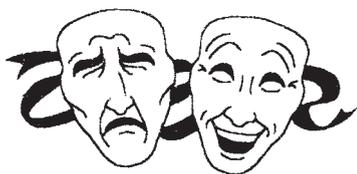
Unfortunately, after two weeks without rain there was barely enough water flowing over the weir to show the power that the two huge turbines, ten metres long and four metres wide, will generate. Once the very recent scar has time to heal the whole project will disappear into its surroundings.

My one concern is that the architect has decided to clad the turbine house in blue/grey slate. Radyr weir is

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COMING EVENTS



N.B. Details of all coming events can be found in the Diary section of the website www.Radyr.org.uk

Tue 16 Aug 19:00 P.A.C.T. Old Church Rooms - Come and meet your local police and Community Councillor to discuss local issues - All welcome

Fri 2 Sept 19:30 RPMG - First Rehearsal for Gondoliers. First rehearsal for our upcoming production of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Gondoliers'.

Newcomers welcome. New Schoolrooms, Christ Church. See our website for more details. rpmgweb.weebly.com

Wed 14 Sept 19:00 RCTS :The Railway Society Somerset and Dorset Railway : The End of the Line 1965 to 1966. OCR - details Peter Fortune 2084 3090

Wed 14 Sept 19:30 Radyr, Morganstown & District Gardening Club "HERBS" an illustrated talk by Sheena Crossley New School Rooms, Christ Church, Heol Isaf. Meetings are open to all, visitors and new members welcomed. Details - Richard Gregory 029 20842084

Mon 19 Sept 19:30 RMA GENERAL MEETING. Jason Mohammed will be talking about his time in broadcasting at the R&M Association meeting in the Old Church Rooms. Come along to hear what is happening in your community. All Welcome. Contact 2084 2561 or rma@radyr.org.uk for further details.

Wed 12 Oct 19:00 RCTS - The Railway Society. A 1960s Journey around the M25 with my Father's Slides, OCR Details - Peter Fortune 2084 3090

Wed 12 Oct 19:30 Radyr, Morganstown & District Gardening Club. "A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A FRUIT FARM" an illustrated talk by Scott Lewis. New School Rooms, Christ Church, Heol Isaf. Meetings are open to all, visitors and new members welcomed. Details - Richard Gregory 029 20842084

Wed 12 Oct 10:30 Tenovus Coffee Morning Coffee Morning at Radyr Golf Club Tickets £2 . Please ring 20843108 Cakes, plants, tombola, raffles, etc All welcome

NSPCC

2016 marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the NSPCC's Childline by Esther Rantzen. During that time more than 13,000 volunteers have been there to take calls from the four million children who have called the Helpline to discuss their fears and problems. A lot has changed and now more than two thirds of children who contact the NSPCC do so online. Last year the website had 3.2 million visits. It takes ten times as long to respond to someone who contacts the website online as it would on the phone. That means that only three out of four calls can be answered. In the absence of government support the NSPCC is constantly seeking funding in order to update systems and technology, recruit and train more volunteers and introduce email-only teams.

We rely on people like Radyr resident Paul Kyte who grew a beard over four months and by way of a "sponsored shave", raised the magnificent sum of £2,890.50., which he shared between the NSPCC and Prostate Cancer and for which we are extremely grateful.

Times have changed and the problems children encounter today have changed too. NSPCC wants to be there for every child who seeks their help, but this can only be achieved with the generosity and support of people like Paul. If you are interested in helping us to achieve these goals, please ring 029 2084 2478.



RADYR PARISH MUSIC GROUP

At the Annual General Meeting of the Group on the 30th June a successful year was reported on. The finances allowed us to donate £500. to the Festival Charity, Velindre and other donations are also being decided.

The new committee was appointed with Douglas Hogg as the Chair and a busy year ahead is planned.

The next production, as already announced, will be Gilbert & Sullivan's 'The Gondoliers' to be staged at the usual venue, Bishop of Llandaff High School. The dates for your diaries are Wednesday, 22nd to Saturday, 25th February, 2017. This year we have a new Musical Director, Charlotte (Charlie) Rennie and a new Producer, Linda Cleak, who are both very enthusiastic about working with us - we are looking forward to an exciting production.

Rehearsals for 'Gondoliers' begin on Fridays from 2nd September onwards at Christchurch Schoolrooms starting at 7.30pm. We look forward to welcoming new singers and auditions for principal parts in the show will take place on Wednesdays, 7th and 14th September at the Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr again from 7.30pm. There are lots of Principal parts to chose from and further details about the group and the auditions are available from our Secretary, Judith Jones on music@radyr.org.uk

Our popular social events calendar is almost completed and the Group hopes to be greeting new members for the 2016/17 season. If you love singing and would like to belong to a friendly village group, please come along to our first rehearsal on 2nd September. You will be very welcome. If you would like further information or are new to Radyr, please look up our details on our website at rpmgweb.weebly.com or contact music@radyr.org.uk

Douglas Hogg - Chair

Letters, articles, reports and other contributions are invited and should be submitted by September 15th. Submissions may be subject to editing at the Editor's discretion. The views expressed in the Radyr Chain are not necessarily those of the Editors.

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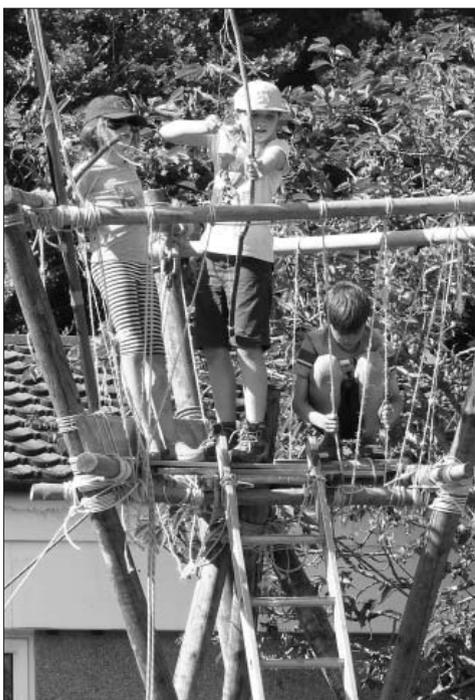
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Hon. Treasurer - Ellis Jenkins, (to whom donations may be sent; they will be gratefully acknowledged) 62 Windsor Avenue, Radyr, CF15 8BY

Distribution - Chris Wills, 1 Llwyn Drysgol, Radyr. 2084 2197

Summer Cub Camp at Pendine! ... from back cover

themselves around the lake with their paddles. For some, it was a breeze and for others, it was more a case of trial and error! The activities got more daring as time went on. The bravest of the group were challenged to stand up in the kayak, balancing on the central crossbar whilst attempting to paddle with the oars, and the session culminated with a game of 'how many cubs can you fit into one kayak before it capsizes!' Needless to say, we all looked like bog monsters covered in mud and pondweed by the end, Including Rikki which the cubs found very amusing. How we were allowed back into the minibus at the end of it, I'll never know! The other group of fearless adrenaline junkies were challenged by ascending the vertical scale of the climbing wall to be followed by the exhilarating (if not terrifying) descent of the zip wire. As early evening approached, Akela, busy in his outdoor industrial kitchen, complete with gazebo, was preparing to feed the hungry troops, after which, we trundled down to the beach to play games or make sand art or sculptures. The evening ended huddled around the fire pit, hot chocolate in one hand and cake in the other. In true cub tradition, no gathering around the hugely entertaining campfire songs led by both Raksha and Mathew, and by 10pm, 36 exhausted cubs were safely tucked in to their tents, and sound asleep within no time.



Sunday was a carousel of cub activities at the centre. Our biggest cub Mang, continued his tower masterpiece from the previous day which he was constructing from wood and rope braided on site by Raksha with the occasional offer of help from a curious passing cub. Raksha set up her nameplate crafting station, which involved an array of impressive metal tools, which could be used to imprint all sorts of different patterns onto a block of wood before a final coat of varnish. Most cubs wrote their names whilst some others created some lovely messages for mum and Dad.

Mesusa & Chris led a session whereby cubs were able to craft bows and arrows out of wood. Complete with knife in hand and under a watchful supervisory eye, the cubs were hard at work, delighted with their newly handcrafted weapon. Target practice, here we come!

Rama & Mathew were teaching the cubs how to start a fire using twigs and flint. It was a sight to behold with two or three cubs huddled around their respective piles of sticks clad with swimming goggles to stop the smoke from stinging their eyes, determined to succeed not only for the 'man make fire' triumph, but to ensure that those giant marshmallows came their way! Bear Grills would be proud!

Meanwhile, Mowgli and Liz's cubs were experimenting with eggs in the fire pit that caused no end of giggles. The task was to crack an egg onto a hot stone over the fire pit in the hope that it would cook. Needless to say,

there were successes amongst some occasional messy failures!

When Mang's sculptural, yet functional and practical masterpiece was complete, each cub had the opportunity to climb to the top complete with newly handcrafted bow and arrow, and fire them at the unsuspecting tethered balloons below. With the wind blowing in the wrong direction, this was no mean feat! There were several other activities that followed, including an orienteering treasure hunt and the all-important tying of various knots. With such an eventful and busy day, the night ended once more around the campfire with hot chocolate and cake and the singing continued to reach new heights.

Monday saw the close of the Camp and the cubs left in not so pristine condition. Overall, every Cub Scout attending had a fantastic time. New friendships were formed, new skills learnt through all the various fun activities and the cubs went home having had a wonderful experience filled with new adventures. Thank you from all the parents and cubs to all the leaders and adult helpers for dedicating so much time, energy and preparation, **before** and **during** the Camp in making Pendine the memorable success that it was – THANK YOU ALL! !

Julie Thorne (Adult Helper)

World War One October Events

After a very successful three day event in the summer of 2016 which included an exhibition of WW1 memorabilia, which has been described as 'One of the best events of its kind', the World War One Committee have organised another three day event between the 13th and 15th October of this year. The events will bring to a close the first part of the Commemoration of the Great War.

Thursday, 13th October. The History Society and the WW1 Committee will show the film of the Somme organised by the Imperial War Museum. The film can be seen at the Old Church Rooms at 7.30pm. Entry is free.

Friday, 14th October, Old Church Rooms at 12.30pm. In 1919 the then Parish Council organised a meal to celebrate the return of residents of the two villages from the War. The programme showed the food and entertainment provided. Luckily we still have a copy of that programme and the WW1 Committee will reproduce this event at a lunch on Friday, 14th October. Similar food will be served and children from the two local primary schools will sing a selection of the songs popular at that time. Some tickets for this event will be available free to present to residents of the two villages. If you

are interested, please contact the Clerk to the Community Council on 2084 2213 or email: clerk@radyr.org.uk

Saturday, 15th October, Christ Church, Radyr at 7.30pm. A concert given by the Radyr Choral Society, orchestra and guest artists under the baton of Peter Esswood. Entitled '**Death on the Hillside**', it is a concert of music and readings to commemorate World War One. It features both choral and instrumental works composed between 1914-18 including the music of George Butterworth, Sir Edward Elgar and Ralph Vaughan Williams. As a tribute, the evening will conclude with a performance of John Rutter's Requiem and Parry's Jerusalem.

Since January 2014, the RMCS has given many successful concerts in Christchurch Radyr and wish to thank members of the public for their support. Rehearsals have been underway for several months but if you sing and read music, have some choral experience and would enjoy being part of this occasion, please be in touch as you would be most welcome to become a member of your local choral society where people sing for enjoyment and make new friends within the community.

Tickets £5. from members of the Choral Society. Tickets will also be available from other outlets, so look out for posters with details.

THANK YOU

I am writing to express our gratitude to all the people who came to our aid when my husband collapsed whilst walking over the railway bridge on de Clare Drive. It was very frightening as it happened so quickly; he suddenly crumpled and fell face downwards onto the pavement. He seemed unresponsive. Several people driving past immediately stopped their cars and came to help. One woman rang for an ambulance, another woman who seemed to have first aid knowledge helped to turn him and make him comfortable. I was so glad of their help as I was in shock by the speed of his collapse and was feeling very anxious. A car driver coming from Radyr village stopped and said an ambulance was driving around the village looking for a casualty and she immediately drove back to the shops to alert them to where my husband was.

My husband was taken to the Heath Hospital where he is being well looked after. He can't remember a lot of what happened but wishes to thank all the people who went out of their way to help him.

We have only recently moved to the estate and I was very impressed with all the kindness shown by everyone who went out of their way to help us. It seems we have chosen a very good place to live, with a very caring community.

Mary & Meurig Davies



News from Radyr and Morganstown WI

JULY, 2016.

The last report was written in mid-May and when checking records of May meetings, I realize that I failed to cover some items. The May meetings consisted of our monthly WI business meeting, our resolutions and our annual meeting but these were preceded by the presentation of the Community Award which I am now, belatedly, including in this report. As people in Radyr know, it is customary for the WI to present our annual community award to a pupil at Radyr Comprehensive School who has contributed the most to his/her community. Our President welcomed Dr. Roe, Head of 6th Form, who explained that this year he was unable to single out an individual as all students had made an outstanding contribution by raising funds for two local charities as well as forming partnerships with a wide range of other charities, businesses and organisations for fundraising. The four students present at the meeting were community captains and the Year 12 group had raised over £10,000. since September, 2015. Dr. Roe explained how proud he was of his students. The trophy was presented and a cheque was offered to the school with the WI congratulations to the Year 12 students.

Another aspect of our Institute's life is our involvement with the Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes. This year our President and Secretary attended the Annual Federation Council meeting in the Princess Royal Theatre in Port Talbot. The guest speakers were of particular interest : Daphne Furneaux was a championship flower arranger who had exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show. She had first honed her skills as a WI member. She gave a lively presentation which included demonstrations of her art. She was followed by Emma Leek, the Managing Director of Leeks multi-million pound company which

includes ownership of the Vale Hotel and Leisure Club. The final guest speaker was John Benjamin of the Antiques Road Show. He is the gemmology expert and entertained the audience with the story of how he became involved with gems and of his experiences during his career.

However, the highlight of the day for Radyr was when our President collected certificates which had been awarded to Val Fox and Mary Pearce for winning the Glamorgan Federation Bridge Tournament. Mary and Val received their Certificates in our June meeting – congratulations, ladies!

In June, our speaker was Jan Jennings who gave a talk about the History of Hats. She illustrated this by showing us some from her extensive collection dating from Victorian times. The ones from the sixties and seventies brought back memories of the time when hats were de rigueur at weddings. They were essential wear at WI meetings in the fifties.

Monday, 11th July was the last meeting of the summer term. The speaker was Debra John and the title of her talk was "Edwardian Maid". Debra enacted the part of an "upstairs" maid i.e. one working towards promotion to the position of ladies maid or housekeeper. Wearing the mandatory high necked, ankle length black dress, she gave an insight into the "upstairs downstairs" life in a large Edwardian house where the separate lives of the staff were highlighted, including the misdemeanours of some of the footmen.

As usual on the last meeting of the summer term, the evening ended with a celebration. The Queen became 90 this year and records show that there were three members who celebrated 80th birthdays and two who had had 90th birthdays since January this year. One celebrated member has her 98th this year. Names are not being published in case anyone of these "birthday girls" is sensitive about revealing her age to the wider Radyr public! Each one received a birthday flower posy. There was also a beautiful birthday cake,

complete with candles, as well as nibbles and a glass of Prosecco. So the evening ended on a note of celebration. Our Institute membership spans a wide range of ages but the youthfulness and enthusiasm of our senior members I'm sure is partly due to company, friendships and interests expressed through WI membership.

The additional extra interests include book clubs, a walking group and genealogy and craft groups. Throughout the past year there have also been varied trips and visits, lunches and participation in Federation and link group events – many of which also include eating and drinking!

Our busy Institute is a regular contributor to charity and community events: presenting awards to schools, litter picking and participating in the Christmas Tree Lighting Festival and May Day teas at the Festival.

Even though no meeting takes place in August, a further visit to the Royal Gardens at Highgrove is planned for August.

The Autumn term resumes on Monday, 12th September in the Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr. Why not come and join us. For more information our email address is mail to:

radyrmorganstownwi@yahoo.com or contact our President, Enid Brooker on 029 2084 3412.

Meanwhile, have a good summer – let's hope it stops raining! L.J.H.



Winners of the WI County Bridge Competition

CHAIN COOKERY CORNER

CHICKEN WITH SOY, GINGER AND STAR ANISE EN PAPILLOT

(Cooked in paper parcels)

Serves 4. Very tasty, healthy and smells gorgeous when you open the parcel.

- 3 tbs olive oil
- 4 chicken breast filets
- 155g (6oz) carrots, julienned (cut into matchsticks)
- 1 large leek washed, trimmed and julienned
- 2cm (1") piece fresh ginger, peeled and julienned
- Good pinch dried chilli flakes
- 4 cloves garlic finely sliced
- 15g (good 1/2oz) butter
- 6 tbs light soy sauce
- 4 spring onions trimmed
- 8 tbs med sherry (Amontillado)
- 1 star anise, broken into 4 pieces

Preheat oven to 190c, Gas 5

Heat half oil in pan, brown chicken breasts on both sides. You want good colour but not cooked through. Remove, season and cool a little

Heat rest of oil, sauté carrot and leek (4 mins).

Add half ginger, chilli garlic and butter and cook for 2 minutes.

Add soy sauce, cook for 1 minute. Season.

Vegetables will have shrunk.

Carefully cut a slit in each chicken breast to create a packet. Stuff each chicken with some of the mixture.

Cut out 8 squares of greaseproof paper, baking parchment or foil 36x40cm (14x16")

Place together to make four double layered squares.

Set a chicken on each, add more vegetables.

Put a curled spring onion on top and remaining ginger.

Add to each package 2 tbs sherry, 1 tbs soy and piece star anise.

Bring 2 longer sides of parcel together, fold over to seal the edges to make a tent.

Seal each end by folding and tucking underneath.

Try not to let juices run out.

Place on baking sheet and bake for 20 minutes.

Transfer to plates and open at the table.

A.M.P.



A ROYAL 1981 CELEBRATION



The 1981 Royal Wedding provided a happy occasion for the community to join together and enjoy each others company. What started as an idea of the Scouts and Guides supporters developed into a week of entertainment.

No Gala could be complete without a Queen and thanks to the skills of the WI, under its president, Mrs Elizabeth Hopkins, an exciting contest evolved. Barry John crowned the Gala Queen, Alison Noon with her supporters Miss

Ruth Underwood, Fiona and Vanessa Williams.

A Gala parade through the village was headed by the Gala Queen's float, with coachman Meurig Jones. The Tennis Club represented Royal Wimbledon, whilst the WI looked back to an earlier Royal occasion. The Radyr Cubs portrayed a "Sporting Prince" which gained them a prize of £10.

The parade ended at the Comprehensive School with hundreds of young children

flocking to a Gala Sports. The evening was rounded off with a Gala Dance at the School where over 300 people attended.

Chairman of the Celebration Committee, Trevor Jones expressed his pleasure at the success of the event. Well done Mr Jones and your committee with Clls Suthers and Foley. Need we wait for another Royal occasion to bring our community so happily together again !

FILM CLUB

The Film Club will recommence on Thursday 22nd of September at 7.30 p.m. At the moment we don't know what film will be shown, look around the villages for posters and you will be able to find out on the Association Web site, Facebook etc.

Over the summer the R&M Association has been given a grant to buy new equipment which will be in use by September 22nd.

RADYR FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Venue: The New School Rooms, Heol Isaf, Radyr

Time: Tuesdays 12.15-2pm

Membership Fee: £20.00

Lunch: £6.50. *Talk only:* £2.00

Autumn Programme 2015

6th October Crime & Punishment
Norma Craggs & John Eynon

13th October Life in Thailand
John Richardson

20th October The Story & History of Flatholm - Peter Sampson

27th October Half Term

3rd November: Trip

10th November: Going! Going! Gone!
Yvonne Rees

17th November: Tails to Tales
Roy Gee

24th November: Day Trips Out
(Audio Visual) - Mike Sullivan

1st December: Cut to the Heart
Iris Owens

8th December: Christmas Party
Jan Price

Next Term begins on **12 January, 2016**

Telephone Number
2084 2461 or 20552610

A Personal Recollection...

One of the spin offs of the Roald Dahl celebration is that we discovered that our local dentist, Matthew White, actually met Roald Dahl. He introduces his story himself.

In 1965 Patricia Neal, Roald Dahl's wife, suffered a major stroke while filming John Ford's "Seven Women" which nearly killed her. She required brain surgery but was also pregnant and under the care of the celebrated obstetrician Dr Bill Hawkworth of the Radcliffe Infirmary Oxford, who delivered her a daughter Lucy Neal in August 1965 under difficult circumstances.

The Dahl's and the Hawkworth's became firm friends and Bill helped Roald to nurse Patricia back to health and recover her power of speech after her stroke. Their son, Theo, who was born in 1960, required surgery to repair damage sustained to his skull when a taxi ran over his pram in New York.

By the summer of 1967, after yet more surgery, Theo had missed a lot of schooling and interaction with other children. Roald was concerned and keen for Theo to mix with some boys of a similar age, Theo only had sisters. He was also considering sending Theo to the Dragon School in Oxford.

This is where I came in, because the Hawkworth's were very friendly with my family and I was a pupil at the Dragon School. So my mother received a phone call from Roald inviting me to Gypsy house.

In 1967 Roald Dahl was not a household name. He had only published a small number of books and was unfamiliar to most children including myself. His success as an author and script writer with Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and the James Bond film "You Only Live Twice" was yet to come.

So the scene is set for my short story entitled "Afternoon at Gypsy House".



Matthew White now and as he was in 1967

Afternoon at Gypsy House...

Looking back at summers gone, they often seem hotter and sunnier than maybe they really were and that year was no exception. When my mother received a phone call inviting me to Gypsy House with the Hawkworth family, I was content playing in the orchard of our new house near Oxford and was reluctant to leave. As we passed through and beyond Great Missenden the lanes became narrower and narrower. The old Austin campervan found every hill a struggle.

After what seemed a long time Mrs Hawkworth suddenly announced, "we are here at the Dahls". All I could see was a grand secluded house hidden behind huge hedges and a brightly painted gypsy caravan tucked away behind one of them. A kind and glamorous lady, Patricia Neal, who I knew to be a famous film star, greeted us.

I heard a hissing noise coming from behind a laurel hedge. "Psst! I'm Theo. We're teaming up. Follow me! Quick hide!" So I ducked beneath the hedge. I had joined the middle of a game; a sort of hide and seek.

At that moment there was a bellowing noise as a huge giant of a man charged past shouting, "got you!" He suddenly stopped and

turned and spoke softly. "Theo! Is this Matthew?" "Yes Dad!" Theo replied. "Pleased to meet you Mr Dahl!" I stuttered. "Do call me Roald!" and that began a wonderful, but brief friendship. Roald led the activities and I could feel myself drawn into a magical world brimming full of ideas involving giants, crocodiles, Twits and space rockets all woven into complicated games for us to play.

The girls and Roald started counting backwards from 50. It was time for Theo and I to make ourselves scarce. "Where shall we hide?" I murmured. "How about behind the beech hedge?" "No." said Theo. "They'll find us much too easily there." "What about that wooden hut over there?" I suggested. "No that's Dad's writing hut and it's completely out of bounds, but go on then I'll just pretend to Dad that I followed you in there." I gave the shabby wooden door a little tug and an amazing sight greeted me; an electric fire dangling on the ceiling stretched between wires and almost everywhere was a dreadful mess. It was filthy, with bits of paper and rubbish strewn all over the floor. There was a chair with a large hole in it and what about that old suitcase on the floor? A grubby old sleeping bag was under the desk. There was however one thing that was clean – a green writing board on the desk.

There was a lot of noise and

commotion outside the hut. It was Roald and the girls in pursuit. ...cont.
 "They must be in here, because we've searched the whole garden and kitchen garden. But they aren't allowed in here! If Dad finds out he'll be furious". Roald followed them in. Theo and I were under the desk by the filing cabinet. Roald was clearly annoyed and spoke in a loud voice, "Theo what are you doing here? You know it is absolutely out of bounds!" "I'm sorry Dad!" bleated Theo.
 "Matthew didn't know that no one is allowed in here and I sort of followed him in." The games were over now and Roald was cross.
 I was shown to a low, unfamiliar looking building behind the main house. It had large glass windows. Inside, to my amazement I saw a swimming pool. A heated swimming pool. Now I understood why my mother had mysteriously

packed my swimming trunks. Roald said "Theo can't join you in the pool. Doctors orders. He has a plate in his skull after an accident. The water was lovely and warm and we all splashed around for what seemed ages. Back into the changing room and it was time for tea. Afternoon tea with the Dahls. "Matthew come and sit by me , I want you to tell me all about the Dragon School" said Roald. He sat at the far end of the refectory table. I sat on Roald's left and Theo sat next to me. Patricia was at the end next to the kitchen.
 The room had a lovely comfortable feel to it. The long table was stacked with plates loaded with sandwiches with the corners cut off; ham, cheese, salmon and egg and cress, cakes, biscuits and a jug of orange squash.
 Roald quizzed me, asking all sorts

of questions about the Dragon School, but I was too distracted to give good account of myself. I didn't feel much like talking about school and anyway I was far too excited. Roald told us funny stories about his happy times at school in Cardiff.

The children were fascinated by two films I had never heard of, "You Only Live Twice" and "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang", Roald gaily talked about the plots, music and script, which he was writing.

It was soon time to say goodbye and I was sad to leave. We all climbed in to the old Austin and shouted a cheery goodbye as we trundled down the lane.

Thank you Roald and the Dahls for such a special day. I will never forget you.

Matthew White

HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS

Llancaiach Fawr.

Thursday 15th September. A visit to Llancaiach Fawr near Nelson. The house was built in the 1550's for the Pritchard family. Edward Pritchard fought on the Royalist side in the Civil War and Charles I is said to have visited on the 5th August 1645.

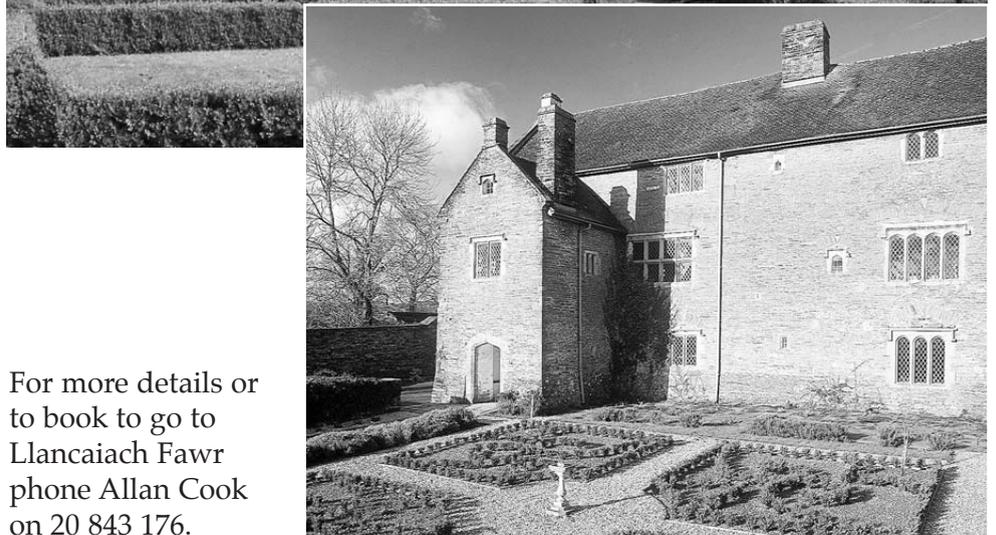
The house retains the feel of Charles's visit. Furniture, style of dress and even their greetings will be as they were in 1645.

We will be having lunch in the very 21st century restaurant before a tour of the house.

Any non History Society members are welcome to join us and transport can be arranged.

Thursday 13th October, Old Church Rooms at 7.30. A showing of the Imperial War Museum's film on the Somme. All are welcome.

Thursday 20th October, Old Church Rooms at 7.30. Lisa Tallis will give a talk on demonology, witchcraft and popular magic in 18th c Wales. All are welcome.



For more details or to book to go to Llancaiach Fawr phone Allan Cook on 20 843 176.

The Queen's 90th Birthday Patrons' Lunch



After a week or so of brilliant sunshine, the weather forecast was gloomy, but for June 12th, rain was particularly unwelcome. Ten thousand people were gathering in The Mall for The Patrons Lunch, part of the celebrations for the Queen's 90th Birthday.

Last year, the R & M Association was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and, as a result, this year, were allotted four places to attend the Patron's lunch.

David Cargill (Vice President of RMA) and Bob Roberts (Treasurer) were the ones elected to attend with their wives.

An early start got us to London for 10.00am where we joined one of the 4 lengthy queues to get into The Mall with airport style security x-ray and bag searches. In spite of the heavy rain, (thank goodness for the provided poncho's). Although we had a long wait for entry, the queue was incredibly good humoured and chatty. We discovered many people had paid £150. for their ticket.

Once inside, we were directed to our allocated table and seats and collected our very up market M & S picnic hampers. There were tents dispensing free teas & ice creams and licensed Bars which, of course,

were not free. We were seated in good time to see the parade, led by Military Bands followed by dancers, fitness groups, animal characters and the whole colourful parade took approximately an hour to pass us.

The rain at last stopped and members of the Royal Family walked down The Mall, chatting to the public as they went. Princes William and Harry were on the opposite side of the road from us but 'Kate' Duchess of Cambridge stopped to shake hands and talk to Maggie and Barbara.

Apparently Maggie was spotted on the television at this time. The Queen and Prince Phillip passed slowly down from the Palace, standing in their open-top car to a tumultuous welcome and reached the main platform where the formal speeches were given. The royal cars then drove back along the Mall to the Palace to cheers of the picnickers, followed once again by the whole parade.

The party broke up around 4.00p.m and I think everyone really enjoyed what was a really fun and once in a lifetime occasion.

RADYR, MORGANSTOWN & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

In June Garden Club members and friends visited the National Trust's Coughton Court and Gardens near Alcester in Warwickshire. Coughton Court is a Tudor house which is still lived in by the Throckmorton family whose history goes back to 1409 and has close connections with the "Gunpowder Plot". The house is set in extensive gardens including a walled garden, lake, knot garden, vegetable garden, orchard and bog garden. For us the highlight of the visit, which despite the earlier heavy rain, was the gem of the walled garden, in full bloom, interestingly planted with a wide range of roses and herbaceous plants; this was much admired and enthused over by us all. Somehow we managed to dodge the showers, probably whilst touring the house or sitting in the coffee shop and the day was enjoyed by everyone.

Our Programme Secretary has been working hard to put together an interesting and stimulating programme of talks for 2016/17, ranging from particular plants species, through gardens and parks to the trials, tribulations and satisfaction in organising the local NGS Open Gardens programme. Our winter programme will be published in the "Chain", on the Radyr website and village notice boards in due course.

We start again on 14th September when we welcome back Sheena Crossley who will be giving an illustrated talk on "Herbs".

Meetings are open to all and take place on the second Wednesday of each month from September to April (with the exception of December) with illustrated talks and demonstrations. Some speakers bring examples of the plants they talk about and others bring plants for sale.

Visitors and New Members will be made very welcome. We share an interest in gardens, plants and generally growing things. So come along – you will be very welcome.

All meetings (apart from visits) are at the New School Rooms, Heol Isaf starting at 7.30pm and are followed by refreshments.

Please see village notice boards and Radyr website (www.radyr.org.uk) for programme details and any changes or contact any committee member or our Chairman, Richard Gregory (029 2084 2084)

LIGHTHOUSE THEATRE
mewn cydweithrediad â/in association with
THEATR Y GRAND ABERTAW
GRAND THEATRE SWANSEA

SHIRLEY VALENTINE

BY/GAN WILLY RUSSELL



"A thrilling, cheer-raising piece of theatre."
— The Financial Times

"Absolutely smashing."
— The New York Post

THEATR Y GRAND ABERTAW
GRAND THEATRE
1897 1997

Noson Allan
Night Out

City and County of Swansea
Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Thinking of this year's rather poor summer - having said that we will instantly have a heat wave - it will be nice to look forward to some winter sun. That enterprising Swansea based Company, Lighthouse, will be bringing their production of Shirley Valentine to Morganstown Village Hall on Thursday 8th of December. Ideal for a pre-Christmas lift.

Wondering what has happened to her youth and feeling stagnant and in a rut, Shirley finds herself regularly alone and talking to the wall while preparing an evening meal of egg and chips for her emotionally distant husband. When her best friend wins a trip-for-two to Greece, she packs her bags, leaves a note on the cupboard door in the kitchen, and heads for a fortnight of rest and relaxation. In Greece, with just a little effort on

her part, she rediscovers everything she had been missing about her existence in the UK. She finds so much happiness, in fact, that when the vacation is over she decides not to return, ditching her friend at the airport and going back to the hotel where she'd been staying to ask for a job and to live a newly self-confident life in which she is at last true to herself.

Written by that prolific writer Willy Russell, Educating Rita, Blood Brothers, for his local theatre in Liverpool. Since then it has been turned into a successful film starring Pauline Collins. Perhaps we'll all need a trip to Greece by December. Tickets will be on sale from early September, in the meantime just put a large yellow sun in your diary next to December 8th.



Radyr Golf Club No Joining Fee for Ladies Offer

Radyr Golf Club is currently offering Ladies the chance to join without a joining fee*

If you are looking to join a new Club or are new to golf and would like to take up the game, please contact the Club Manager

Steve Dance on
029 2084 2408 option 1.

*Normal Fee £500.

TWO VACANCIES ON RADYR & MORGANSTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At its meeting on 15th September, R&MCC will co-opt two local residents to fill vacancies on the Council. The formal notice will be issued on 10th August and applications must be received by midnight on 31st August. Applications should include a brief CV, a description of any local interests or membership of local clubs or organisations and letters of support from two residents. Applicants will be invited to the meeting on 15th September to answer questions from current Councillors prior to a vote.

If any potential applicant wants information about the work of R&MCC or the time commitment, they should make contact by:-

e-mailing Radyr & Morganstown
Community Council
clerk@radyr.org.uk

or by phoning 2084 2213.

FOR SALE SMALL DOG CAGE (CRATE)

(77 x 49 x 53cm /
30 x 19 x 21 inches)
Purchased from Pets At Home Ltd.

New - never used.
Cost £60 for sale £15

Buyer collects - Radyr address
Tel: 07831 486878

Treforgan WI

What do pylons and birds have in common? Well the Treforgan WI outing to the Newport wetlands of course! Treforgan Ladies enjoyed an excellent day bird watching, with their very knowledgeable guide. There were plenty of birds to see and hear in the scenic landscape of the wetlands. And the pylons, well there were plenty of those too, of various shapes, but all arranged so as not to interfere with the wildlife.

In our June monthly meeting we heard of the inspiring work of the Salt Peter Trust in Uganda, working to enable communities to help themselves. July's meeting was a chance to join with neighbouring WIs and look back at Arthur's Shop in Taffs Well, the inspiration for open all hours. We did of course take the opportunity



to do this whilst enjoying delicious homemade cakes!

Treforgan WI meets at 1.15pm on the third Thursday of the month at Morganstown Village Hall. Visitors Welcome.

For more information, look us up on Facebook.

In August we will be hearing about the Royal Mint at LLantrisant.

The opening of Radyr Weir Hydroelectric Plant

...from front cover

probably built from the local red sandstone quarried less than a mile away. Radyr red sandstone was considered good enough to use in the building of Penarth docks. Stone is still quarried about a mile away from the weir. In a project that justifiably prides itself on its Green credentials why import slate, the nearest point at which it can be sourced is north Wales, at a cost both financial and environmental?

At the time of the ceremony a lone fisherman stood in the river less than fifty metres from the weir, a fitting tribute to the way the Taff has been regenerated in little more than a generation. The new fish pass, part of the project, will allow not only salmon but other species to traverse the weir.

Allan Cook.



The hydroelectric plant under construction earlier this year



At a Festival Wind Down meeting with members of the Association and representatives of many organisations in the village, a cheque was presented to the Chairman of Velindre Cancer Care, Rosemary Kennedy for £11,000. This represented funds accumulated within the village since Christmas including donations and proceeds from many of the Festival events. David Cargill highlighted the successes of the Festival, despite some of the events being affected by

inclement weather conditions. The support of Jonathan Davies, ex Welsh rugby and Connie Fisher made the Festival that bit more special. The theme, celebrating Roald Dahl centenary created colourful costumes for the parade and the production of lots of junk statues around the village. Again thanks were given to all the efforts of both individuals and organisations for their hard work, which was recognised by Rosemary in her response to the presentation.

Next year we will be supporting St John's Ambulance Wales, who have set up a regular weekly group in the village and have assisted in acquiring two defibrillators, one at Radyr Eye Care, the other at Radyr Golf Club. The next meeting of the Festival Committee will be held at the end of September – see events diary on the website – www.radyr.org.uk. All those who wish to help or have ideas for next year are very welcome.

PAM LUCAS (nee TOVEY)

I am looking for my old friend, Pam Lucas. This might not even be her surname any more. She was married to a policeman but I believe they got divorced many years ago. Pam was originally from Ebbw Vale, moved to Radyr probably thirty years plus ago and was a legal secretary in Cardiff.

Would desperately love to get in touch. I've tried the social media route with no success.

Can anyone help me please?

Thanks.

Liz Sutton (ex Tredegar)

[Note from Editor : We have Liz Sutton's address, should you need it]

The Ken Innes Cup



HELP REQUIRED
please for a sympathetic gardener to restore and maintain the borders of a small garden
Tel: 029 2084 2113

FOR SALE
Jaguar XJ6 one owner
Immaculate
50,000 miles
£2,500.00
Tel: 02920 209035

David Silver presenting Maggie Roberts with the Ken Innes Cup for her dedicated work during the 2016 Festival