



Dr. TIM JENKINS RETIRES

After many years of General Practice in Radyr, Dr Tim Jenkins retired this summer.

Tim worked as a GP in Radyr from 1972, having started work in the then new Health Centre. He saw many changes in Radyr through his working life, with the expansion in population and also changes in medicine and the way General Practice has developed.

He worked hard to ensure the development of premises fit for the provision of healthcare in the 21st century, and it was fitting that he spent his last few years in practice at the new medical centre.

We all wish Dr Jenkins well in his retirement.

BEAVER ACTIVITY

It may be winter now, but at Radyr Beavers we don't let the dark nights stop us from having fun. You may have seen us out and about in Radyr practising our map reading skills or on our wellie walk. We have also been cooking healthy meals and practising pioneering skills with Skip and some friendly scouts!

Since September we have been busy working towards the Welsh Beaver Scout Award. This is an award open to all Beavers in Wales and aims to raise the Beaver Scouts' awareness of their Welsh heritage. As well as enjoying our usual Outdoor and Adventure activities, we have to complete challenges taken from a further six elements - Environment, Arts, Awareness, Wales and of course Fun and Friends. So far this term we have joined with other Beavers from the Afon district in a

fun day at Tredegar House and attended a Friendship Challenge afternoon in Canton. As a colony we decorated some plant pots and planted them with bulbs to flower when the weather turns warmer. A small group of Beavers, the Rhino lodge, visited Dan y Bryn and presented the residents with some

decorated pots to brighten up their new extension. We were very surprised that Elvis was visiting that night too!

And as for the spring, well who knows what exciting adventures that will bring? Watch this space...

Timone
Vicki Westwell



RADYR CHAIN

Free to every home in Radyr and Morganstown



Number 185

December 2009



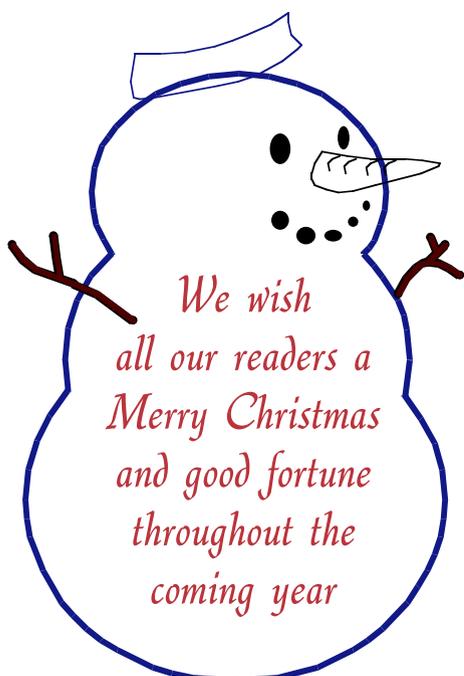
Hannah Coakley appointed as Youth Advisor to Trustees of UNICEF UK

Hannah Coakley, (18, from Radyr) has been selected as one of two Youth Advisors to the Board of Trustees of UNICEF UK following an application and interview process. This is the first time that young people have sat on the board and played such an influential role in the organisation.

Hannah, who attended Howell's School, Llandaff and is now in her first year studying Medicine has been involved with UNICEF since 2006, holding the position of a Youth

Champion for the UK. She has advised and consulted on the involvement of young people in the organisation. Hannah has also travelled to Jamaica to see the impact of HIV/AIDS on young people on a youth field trip and was selected to attend the Junior version of the G8 Summit, the J8, in Japan in 2008.

In support of the cause, Hannah has helped organise and deliver peer education workshops across the UK and has spoken at high profile events including the Manchester United Gala Dinner and the Private Equity Investors Awards at the Victoria and Albert Museum. There is little doubt that we shall be hearing more of her!



COMING EVENTS



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

DECEMBER

- 5 Twinning Fellowship Christmas Dinner Dance, Radyr Golf Club. Dancing to Cube. Contact Maggie Roberts 2084 2995 Tickets £25.00 each 7:30 pm
- 7 Radyr and Morganstown Women's Institute. Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr. Our Programme tells us that this will be a "Christmas Celebration" organised by the Committee. We have no more information at this time. 7:30 pm
- 9 Radyr and Morganstown Conservatives, 50 Heol Isaf, Radyr CF15 8DY courtesy of Mr and Mrs M.Rigby. Tickets £2 from Lorna Clarke, Louise Rigby, Committee members or Sue McKerlich (20842764) 10:45 am
- 12 The City of Cardiff (Melingriffith) Brass Band present a Concert to celebrate Christmas with Radyr Primary School Choir. Morganstown Village Hall on Saturday 12th December at 7pm Tickets £6.00 each from Colin Evans 2084 2381 or Maggie Roberts 2084 2995 7:00 pm
- 14 Dan y Bryn Capital Appeal Christmas Dinner. Chloe Foston Entertains at Radyr Golf Club. Tickets at £30 from Christine Moore at Dan y Bryn. Make up a table of 8 with your friends. 7:00 pm
- 17 Treforgan W.I. Morganstown Village Hall. Treasures in the attic! John Hatcher. Find out more about your family heirlooms. Bring your treasures and curios. Discover their history and value. Contact Sue 20843920 1:15 pm
- 18 Radyr Library Christmas Coffee Morning in aid of N.S.P.C.C., Radyr Library Park Road Free entry. Everyone welcome. Christmas coffee morning in aid of N.S.P.C.C. Try out ancestry.com, start your own family tree. Learn how to scrapbook your family photos.R & M W.I. craft stall,cakes stall, raffle. Christmas quiz sheets for sale from 1st Dec. Teas, coffees and cakes free. 10:30 am

JANUARY

- 13 Radyr, Morganstown & District Gardening Club. New School Rooms, Christ Church. "Fascinating Fungi" with Linda Nottage. For more information contact Richard Gregory: richardjgregory@btopenworld.com or tel 02920842084. New members always welcome. 7:30 pm

FEBRUARY

- 2 Radyr & Morganstown Association Festival Queen and attendants Auditions.

- Radyr Guide Hall Bryn Derwen at 6pm
For more details please contact Maggie Roberts 2084 2995 or Julie Davies 2084 2923. We are looking for three little girls who will be available to attend most of the events throughout the 2 week Festival. This will take place from Friday 30th April until Sunday 16th May. 6:00 pm
- 10 Radyr, Morganstown & District Gardening Club. New School Rooms, Christ Church. "Winter Interest in the Garden" with Kevin Thomas. For more information contact Richard Gregory: richardjgregory@btopenworld.com or tel 02920842084. New members always welcome. 7:30 pm
- 17 to Sat 20 Radyr Parish Music Group presents their 2010 production of La Belle Helene by Jacques Offenbach. A colourful and tuneful spectacular! Bishop of Llandaff High School. Tickets will go on sale in January 2010. Call Maggie Roberts on 029 2084 2995 or Sue Thomas on 029 2031 0894. 7:30 pm

EDITORIAL



As we approach Christmas and the end of the year we must thank all the volunteer members of the Chain Gang who give of their time to deliver the Radyr Chain to every house in Radyr and Morganstown. Thank you all - without you the Chain would not happen.

We must also thank our printers, Jeff and Hildegard, for their unstinting help and willingness to accommodate our sometimes bizarre approach to the various problems that arise.

Dr Jenkins, for many years the senior Practitioner at Radyr Health Clinic, has now retired and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and good fortune throughout the coming year.

On a recent visit to London Steve and I saw this small, thought-provoking Holocaust Memorial tied to a tree:-

"Even the grandest and most elaborate of atrocities begins with no more than a single cruel thought."

St Mary's Church Gardens, Islington.
Carol Geen

Letters, articles, reports and other contributions are invited and should be submitted by January 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.

Editor - Mary & Robert Pearce, 1 Windsor Grove, Radyr. 2084 2615

E-Mail address - Chain@radyr.org.uk

What's On - Mary Pearce, 1 Windsor Grove, Radyr. 2084 2615

Advertising - Jerry Bray, 41 Hazel Tree Close, Radyr. 2084 3387

E-Mail address - jerrybraychain@tiscali.co.uk

Hon. Treasurer - Victor Evans, (to whom donations may be sent; they will be gratefully acknowledged) 3 Woodfield Avenue, Radyr CF15 8EF. 2041 2869

Distribution - Carol & Steve Geen, 87 Pentwyn, Radyr CF15 8RE. 2084 4080

Auditions for Festival Queen and Attendants

at the Guide Hall
Tuesday 2nd February
at 6pm
Girls of 9 years and over

Must reside in the Radyr & Morganstown area and be available throughout the Festival which will run from 30th April to 16th May

Maggie Roberts
on behalf of the Radyr & Morganstown Association

Parish of Radyr Christmas services

At Christ Church
Sunday December 20th
6:00pm

9 lessons & carols

Christmas Eve
Thursday Dec 24th

6:00pm

Crib service & nativity play

11:00pm

'Midnight Mass'

Christmas Day
Friday Dec 25th

8:00am

Holy Eucharist

11:00am

Family Eucharist

At St John's Danescourt
Christmas Eve
Thursday Dec 24th

9:00pm

First Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day
Friday Dec 25th

9:15am

Family Eucharist

Further details on the Web:
www.parish.radyr.org.uk or
email: rector@radyr.org.uk

THE PARISH OF RADYR BUILDING FUND

If you were in or around Christ Church last year, you may have noticed a cloth 'brick wall' and an invitation to 'buy a brick' for the 'Tower Appeal Fund'. That was a very successful appeal and, with money recently received from a concert in Christ Church sponsored by the Radyr & Morganstown Eisteddfod Committee, the fund now stands at just under £9500. The concert, incidentally, was a delight and we were most grateful to Iona Jones and the Cowbridge Male Voice Choir for performing; it raised £1312.

This article is, though, headed 'Building Fund'. We would like to tell you why the Parish needs to widen the scope of the appeal.

Christ Church was first used for services in 1904, when the nave was completed. The tower was completed in 1910, so is just about to celebrate its centenary. However, the Parish church of St John the Baptist in Danescourt dates back to at least 1250. So we have two churches, one comparatively young and one very old (but substantially altered by the Victorians).

Both churches are in need of repair, and some items are fairly urgent. We need to spend around £80,000, which is quite a lot of money. But we do need to spend it now. If we delay, the fabric risks deteriorating quickly. Most concerns are with water getting into the buildings. If this is allowed to continue, wet rot and dry rot are often not far behind. The cost of repairs will then go through the roof (pun only partially intended).

So, what is wrong?

AT CHRIST CHURCH

Water is getting into the tower, notably through the pinnacles which sit at the four corners. It would appear that the pinnacles were never completed when built – they were probably meant to be finished with four small steeples. Consequently, they were not capped with solid stone, just left with a rubble core with lead on the top. Over the years, most of the lead has gone and (sadly) been replaced with cement, which is now breaking down. We need to finish the pinnacles properly (but probably not put steeples in place) by capping them with stone. In addition, some water is getting past the lead flashing on the edge of the roof at the top of the tower. It needs to be cut out and replaced.

We need to improve safety when inside the tower – when working on the bells or raising/lowering the flag. Working at heights requires proper scaffolding, which is expensive. The work on the tower (including a few other items) is likely to cost around £25,000.

We also need to repair the guttering and down pipes. Have a look around the building – you will see rust in all the seams and some sections have collapsed entirely. Water is already starting to run down the outside of the church and it will get into the end of the roof beams. This is not a matter of re-painting. All the gutters and down pipes need to be taken down and properly refurbished or replaced. It will cost around £16,000.

On top of the above main items, work is required on the roofs and gulleys; some of the window guards need replacing; and we want to repaint the external metal work. In total, a further £21,000.

AT ST JOHNS

We are pleased to say that the list of repairs at St Johns is not so lengthy. Again, the gutters and down pipes need attention for the same reason as in Christ Church. That will cost around £12,000. Work is required on some of the stone corbels supporting the gutters and to the stone around the belfry; lead flashings also need attention. A further £6,000.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP

We believe that both churches are more than centres of worship; they are centres of our communities. Many will love them for their architecture (both are listed) and for the numerous community events that take place within. All the money donated in earlier 'Tower Appeals' will be spent on the tower itself but, as explained above, we need to raise far more across our two churches. That is why we have established the wider 'Building Fund'. Fortunately, we have got off to a good start. On 28th October, Rhiannon Birdsall and Tomos Xerri got together with extremely talented young friends and put on another excellent concert in Christ Church. They raised £320. The recent raffle at the 'Getting Ready for Christmas' event (again in Christ Church) raised over £500.

If you would like to contribute to the Building Fund (or even sponsor a window guard or something), please speak to the Rector or any of the churchwardens or sub-wardens. Also, do look out for more specific events. With your help we can put both churches in good order for the 21st Century.

If you would like more information on any of the problems with the churches, do get in touch with Nick Hawkins, Chairman, Parish of Radyr Building Committee (2084 2561) or any of the church or sub-wardens. There are pictures on display in both churches illustrating some of the problems

LETTER FROM CARDIFF BUS

Cardiff Bus is pleased to announce that following a request from your local councillor – Rod McKerlich – from 4th October, the last Sunday 62 from Cardiff – which leaves the bus station at 11.00pm has been extended to Radyr Estate and Ynys Bridge.

From the same date, you may have noticed that many services in the city centre have changed the way in which they serve the city centre to operate around the "bus box".

At the moment there are no plans for the Radyr services to do this, but we are looking at the possibility of some journeys on arrival in the city centre diverting via Hayes Bridge Road to serve John Lewis and the expanded St Davids Centre. This will depend on there being room at one of the bus stops in this area.

In the meantime, passengers can use the FreeB shuttle service from stand D1A in the bus station to travel free to the east of the city centre

Additionally changes in the bus station may mean the Radyr services leave from a different place in the bus station early in the New Year.

Peter Heath - Commercial Manager,
Cardiff Bus

Christmas Greetings

Connie and David Griffiths send sincere Christmas greetings to their many friends in Radyr and Morganstown. May the New Year bring you happiness, peace and contentment.

Our highlight for 2009 was the celebration of our Golden Wedding last July with our immediate family in London. Fifteen of us stayed together at an hotel on the bank of the Thames opposite the Houses of Parliament.

We thoroughly enjoyed a performance of Billy Elliott on Saturday evening followed on the Sunday by lunch in Covent Garden. Evensong at St. Martins in the Fields brought our memorable weekend to a fitting close.

TREFORGAN WI

Being a member of this group is a continuing source of new experiences and information. Our most recent meetings have told us of the aims and achievements of Samaritans and how knitting yarn is produced from a sheep's fleece. Extra-curricular activities have included an area bridge tournament (Sally Thomas and Jane Rees from Treforgan were the winners!), curling without ice, lunches at the Tynant and learning about the Welsh daffodils at the forefront for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. We have been in a 'photo-shoot' with Anna Surrige, Radyr's own Climate Change Champion, to encourage the wearing of an extra comfy woolly instead of turning up the heating in winter. If you need help or just company to encourage you to produce hand knitted comfy woollies, come to our recently formed craft group. Separate from but under the auspices of Treforgan WI, the intention is to attempt a variety of skills but so far, we are all knitting. In the group are those who don't know how to hold needles and experts available for friendly advice - a mix guaranteed to make for laughter and avoid embarrassment. Our November meeting will involve treasures of Wales and, on December 17th, valuations of our personal treasures by Mr John Hatcher. We have our AGM and a celebration of our first birthday on 12th January 2010. Then we get back into the swing of things on 18th February - learning about living with Queen Victoria - with a packed programme for the rest of the year. There will be a warm welcome for you at the craft group:- Friday 4th December, Friday 8th January, Friday 5th February any time between 9am and 12noon in the back room of Morganstown Village Hall. And also, of course, at every WI meeting - the next on Thursday 17th December at 1.15pm in Morganstown Village Hall.

If you would like to know more, contact Sue on 029 2084 3920 or sue@billandsue.co.uk

Cylch Meithrin Radur a Phentrepoeth

Mae plant, athrawon a rhieni Cylch Meithrin Radur a Phentrepoeth yn mwynhau tymor prysur iawn. Ymysg y gweithgareddau rhwng nawr â'r Nadolig mae pryd o fwyd ac ocsiwn i'r mamau yn nhafarn Gwaelod y Garth, 19.11.09, Ffair Nadolig yn Ystafelloedd yr Hen Eglwys, Radur, 11.12.09 (adeg Ti a Fi) a chyngerdd Nadolig ar fore ola'r tymor 17.12.09.

Mae'r Cylch yn cyfarfod yn Ystafelloedd yr Hen Eglwys, Heol y Parc, Radur o ddydd Llun i ddydd Iau ac mae Ti a Fi yno ar fore Gwener rhwng 9.15 a 10.45. Croeso cynnes i bawb. Am fwy o fanylion ffoniwch Nia ar 029 2056 5784

Pupils, teachers and parents at Cylch Meithrin Radur a Phentrepoeth (The Welsh Medium Nursery Group) have had a busy term. Amongst the activities between now and Christmas are a meal and an auction for the mums in The Gwaelod Y Garth, 19.11.09, a Christmas Fair in The Old Church Rooms, Radyr (during Ti a Fi time) and a Christmas concert on the last morning of term 17.12.09.

Cylch Meithrin is held at The Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr from Monday to Thursday and the Ti a Fi group for parents and pre-school children is held there every Friday between 9.15 and 10.45. A warm welcome to everyone. For more details phone Nia on 029 2056 5784

'Education without Frontiers' as sixteen nations meet at Cardiff School

Radyr Comprehensive School has played host to Principals and teachers from sixteen of its twenty one European partner schools. Pictured here are delegates from Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden with their Cardiff hosts, Steve Fowler and Paul Rebane of Radyr Comprehensive School.

'Education without Frontiers' is thought to be the largest such network of schools in Europe. It exists to bring a real international dimension to the studies and experience of its students. Its declared aims are to foster cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, enhance the curriculum experience of students and raise their levels of achievement and to further improve the quality of teaching and learning across the network. Radyr Comprehensive School is the sole United Kingdom member.

During the four day conference, plans were made for the work of the partnership for the next two years. These will include dozens of international exchanges, visits, masterclasses and videoconferences for students and conferences and study visits for teachers as well as further meetings in Luxembourg and Greece of the students and teachers from the whole network. The focus will be on three important curriculum areas - modern foreign languages, natural sciences and social sciences.

Delegates also had an opportunity to experience something of Cardiff and of Welsh culture. As well as experiencing a Welsh Banquet at Cardiff Castle, they toured the city and spent time in the city centre and Cardiff Bay.

As the group has grown in size and complexity, a new steering groups has had to be formed. Delegates elected Steve Fowler, headteacher of Radyr Comprehensive School as the first President of the network and Hans Vanhulle, principal of Heilige Maagdcollège in Belgium as the first vice president.



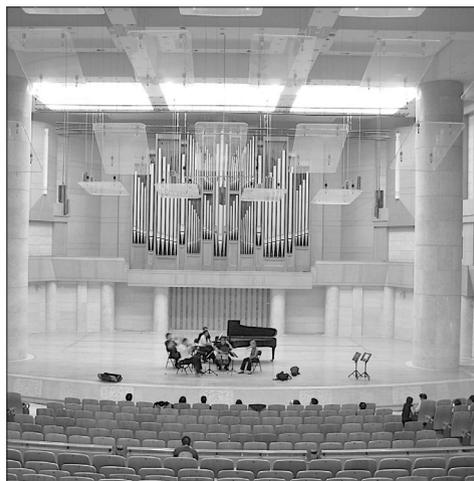
Howell's School Senior Choir to sing in Beijing

Forty members of the Howell's School Llandaff Senior Choir are practising hard to perform in one of the world's greatest concert halls during the forthcoming school tour in China - the prestigious Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing. The choir members are all 15-18 years old and are looking forward to the experience of a lifetime. As well as singing in the Forbidden City, they will be visiting the School of Excellence in Beijing for a master class on Chinese music and will later be taking part in a concert with Chinese pupils and staff from the school. During the stay in China, the girls will also enjoy a full programme of sightseeing visits, which includes the Great Wall and the Terracotta Army at Xi'an.

This will not be the Senior Choir's first performance in public. They have enjoyed successes in competitions and have performed with many eminent artists including the BBC Singers, the London Adventist Chorale, Crispian Steele Perkins, Karl Jenkins, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Aled Jones, the King's Singers, Owain Arwel Hughes, Sir James and Lady Galway, Sir Willard White and Hayley Westenra. The choir regularly appears on television and in 2007 produced a well-reviewed CD, Let's Celebrate Christmas, in conjunction with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

The school's Deputy Principal, Mrs Michelle Gosney, who along with five other members of the teaching staff will be accompanying the group, said, "This will be a tremendous opportunity for us all to experience a culture which is so different from our own and help us to extend our global links."

For more information, please click on www.britishcouncil.org/china-arts-music-howell.htm



GARDENING CLUB PROGRAMME

2010

Venue : New School Rooms, Christ Church, Heol Isaf, Radyr
Time : 7.30pm

Wednesday, 13th January, 2010
"Fascinating Fungi"

Linda Nottage

Wednesday, 10th February, 2010
"Winter Interest in the Garden"

Kevin Thomas

Wednesday, 10th March, 2010

"Roses" - Ivor Mace

Wednesday, 14th April, 2010
Annual General Meeting

To be followed by

"Britain in Bloom" - Jim Goodwin

Annual Membership
£8.00. Visitors £1.50.

Evenings commence at 7.30pm and are followed by refreshments

Please check Village Notice Boards or Radyr Web Site (www.radyr.org.uk) for changes to venue or programme.

STATION ROAD
RADYR

SPAR 

PHONE
2084 2437

JEFF, JANET, STEPHEN AND STAFF
WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

WE ARE HERE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE
OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD
WITH MANY SPECIAL OFFERS

COME AND CHECK OUT OUR OFF-LICENCE PRICES
THIS CHRISTMAS

OPENING TIMES FOR THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Christmas Eve - 8am to 8.30pm
Christmas Day - CLOSED
Boxing Day - 9.30am to 1.30pm

New Years Eve - 8am to 8pm
New Years Day - CLOSED

PP
Pay
Point

News from Radyr and Morganstown Women's Institute

It's the time of year when we are all thinking about Christmas cards and writing letters to inform our friends about the year's activities and to do that we must reflect on the past twelve months whilst also looking forward to what 2010 may bring. Similarly, at Radyr and Morganstown Women's Institute we look back on yet another enjoyable and fulfilling programme with our final three meetings seeming to hasten us toward the year's end.

As with any organisation there have been highs and lows. Sadly on several occasions this year our meetings have been preceded by a minute's silence for those members and ex-members who have passed away. They have all contributed to the success of our Institute and will be sadly missed by us and all those who knew them in our neighbourhood. On the plus side our proudest achievement this year was undoubtedly the Spring Market, kindly opened by the First Minister, Mr Rhodri Morgan. Thanks to the considerable efforts of our members and the attendance of over 300 adults and children, we raised the very healthy sum of £2300 towards the refurbishment of the Dan y Bryn Cheshire Home. This figure was way over our original target and an admirable reflection of the community's regard for this worthwhile local charity. Our continuing contribution to the community was evident soon after when a willing team of volunteers yet again supplied May Day Teas for the Radyr Festival.

Our book clubs continue to flourish as does the walking group that also takes part in the local Federation walks throughout the region. A new venture mentioned in the last edition of Radyr Chain is the very popular craft group which meets on the last Saturday of the month. Inspired and led by Mary Thompson, whose wealth of experience and brilliant ideas have motivated many of our members to take up their sewing needles again to produce a selection of Christmas themed items. We are delighted that this enterprise will continue in the New Year with guest lecturers booked to maintain the impetus and with an invitation to members of the newly established Treforgan Institute to join in the fun. Indeed it is a national trend for new and existing W I Institutes to attract younger members who wish to learn craft skills from those of our more senior ladies who were themselves taught at their own mother's knees. What goes around comes around, as they say. Incidentally, participants will be manning a craft stall at

the Radyr Library Christmas Coffee Morning on Friday, 18th December from 10.30am with all proceeds going to the NSPCC. Entry plus tea, coffee and cakes is free.

Returning to the recent past, our October birthday party was again held in Radyr Golf Club and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present. The format was slightly different in that dinner was served as a buffet but no less delicious for that. It may well be that next year will see a different approach but we will have to wait and see what suggestions are made. We then arrived at our Annual Meeting in November where reports from our committee officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) were presented to the members, followed by elections to the committee. Under the auspices of Mrs Janet Jones, our W I Advisor, three new members were elected and welcomed to the committee – Roseanne Holmes, Anne Rees and Pat Williams. Linda Willis, our Treasurer, Marion Rees our Registration Secretary, Chris Dale our Catering Officer and Sara Rogers are standing down as committee members but their hard work during their time in office has been much appreciated. In December, our final gathering before Christmas, it is again one of those surprise meetings, listed on the programme as a "Christmas Celebration." If past experience is any guide, we are assured of an entertaining evening, no doubt assisted by something liquid to sustain us.

Overall then a good year for Radyr and Morganstown Women's Institute with an active, buoyant membership maintaining the tenets of W I formalities (yes, we do sing Jerusalem before each meeting – rather well too) but spreading our wings where required to suit the demands of our increasing membership. To be static is not an option! In fact the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) has just announced that the organisation will start the next decade with a newly designed logo. Locally and as always, our committee works diligently on our behalf to provide us with a full programme of events and activities to ensure we are never bored. Our thanks are due them all and those who give support on an ad hoc basis throughout the year.

On a personal note, I am relinquishing my post as reporter on W I matters for The Radyr Chain and wish to thank everyone for their encouragement and kind words during the last six years. I now pass on this assignment to someone else who will be responsible for keeping you up to date with our activities. In the meantime the R & M Diary at www.radyr.org.uk will soon provide details of the 2010 programme.

Wishing everyone a Joyful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

SHEILA ADAM.



KINGS ARMS

PADRIG JONES

Former chef/patron of
LE GALLOIS restaurant
Has taken the helm at
THE KINGS ARMS

Food served:
Tuesday to Saturday
12.00pm - 2.30pm
6.00pm - 9.00pm
Sunday Lunch
12.00pm - 4pm

CHURCH ROAD, PENTYRCH
02920 890202

Radyr & Morganstown Friends of Tenovus

At Radyr & Morganstown Friends of Tenovus AGM held recently Betty Fitzgerald stood down as chairman. Betty has served as an excellent ambassador and chairman for many years and will continue as secretary.

In September new chairman, Rosanne Holmes, held a very successful coffee morning at her home. Over £450 was raised and grateful thanks go to local residents and friends who continue to support the fundraising events of Tenovus. All monies raised help Tenovus to further their research and to offer much needed support to cancer patients and their families.

Should anyone be interested in joining the Friends of Tenovus then please contact Rosanne on 20401872.



Artist impression of Danybryn and new development

DANYBRYN CAPITAL APPEAL ENGINEERING EMPOWERMENT & ENGAGEMENT

As you will be aware Danybryn is undergoing major building works, the Edwardian house has been a Leonard Cheshire Disability home since the 1960's. The house and 1970's residential extensions are old and dilapidated and no longer commensurate with modern standards expected in our new homes.

Leonard Cheshire Disability have dedicated £4m of the total £4.4m from its voluntary income to undergo a major redevelopment of Danybryn, to rebuild the individual rooms, provide en-suite and upgrade all communal areas.

The building work has started in earnest, phase one of three is nearly complete with completion of phase three due in 2011 and 16 of our residents due to move in January 09

We are short of £400K! We have the money to build the new home but we need to fundraise to raise the money for the assistive technologies that will give our residents more independence and choice.

The new Danybryn hopes to maximise the opportunities for residents to be as independent as possible. 99% of our residents rely on wheelchairs for their mobility and at the present time 50% use powered chairs while 50% have manual wheel chairs, the majority attendant operated, with a small proportion self propelled, many have limited upper bodied movement. There is high staffing to resident ratio due to the complex needs of the residents.

To give the Danybryn residents more independence and choice we want to fit the new home with as much assistive technologies as possible, such as environmental controls, curtain openers, automatic door opening electronics – they will be capable of being opened whenever approached by a person irrespective of whether in a powered or manual wheelchair or

walking. These doors openers when combined with a variety of different methods of controls will allow our residents to close and open the doors to their own room when they choose. We all need privacy and our own sense of place to give us independence and choice.

Each mechanism costs £1850 and we would like 74! This shows the level of fundraising we need to achieve in order to provide the technologies that will make a huge difference to the quality of life of all our residents.

Leonard Cheshire Disability recognises the massive contribution that Radyr residents have made to Danybryn over the years, and long may that continue. In deed the £4m voluntary income that is providing the building costs has been raised by dedicated volunteers and supporters of Leonard Cheshire Disability from across the UK over many years. We have an excellent funding committee made up of, mainly, local people to support the appeal, with David Cargill providing excellent guidance and support as the Chairman.

We have raised a total of £36K to date with many applications to local and national trusts pending. We have already had a large amount of support from local people to date; Pugh's Tynant Farm shop recently provided us with fantastic array of food (free) for our Danybryn Barbeque, the beef burgers we excellent!- one of many complimentary comments from people who attended. Cube and the Minnesingers provided free entertainment and we raised nearly £1000. Radyr Comprehensive School have very kindly offered to run an art competition to design a Christmas card for sale towards the appeal. Bryn Deri Primary School has signed up to our Readability programme, where children raise money for the appeal as well as helping with their reading skills. We have had many offers of support to numerous to mention, but all at Danybryn wish to take this opportunity of thanking all of those that have supported to date and to welcome any

further offers of support that people are willing to give.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Christine Moore, Fundraiser, Danybryn, email; christine.moore@lchdisability, 07827996020, all donations will go direct to the Danybryn appeal.

Radyr Slimming World is on the move!

Local Slimming World Consultants Emma Reed and Tina Church are thrilled to announce that the Radyr Slimming World Groups have a new home! As of January 4th their weekly groups will be held at Morganstown Village Hall, on Mondays at 6.30pm and Fridays at 9.30am.

With the largest and most advanced Slimming Organisation in the UK behind them, they are confident they can help anyone achieve their weight loss goals. They are excited to welcome people and introduce them to Food Optimising, fantastic Group support and much more that happens in their weekly groups.

Emma says "As a slimmer myself I know how hard it can be and I couldn't have lost my weight without my Consultant and my group. Sharing recipes and other ideas, and overcoming disappointments as well as celebrating success was all part of the journey, so there is lots of support, encouragement and fun at our Slimming World groups."

To find out more please contact Emma 07525 714230 or Tina 029 2056 1550.



RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S COLUMNS

Radyr & Morganstown Community Council, The Old Church Rooms, Park Rd., Radyr, Cardiff, CF15 8DF.
Tel: 029 2084 2213. E-Mail: clerk@radyr.org.uk
Clerk/Clerc: Helena Fox

In September, we were very sad to learn that Cllr Alf Butler had died and our condolences went out to Janette and their daughters. Alf had been a councillor for some sixteen months and been active in the community for very much longer than that. Alf was one of the few councillors to die in office and we attended his memorial service at the Methodist Church. Alf's engineering talent was put to great use when he helped work out how to install the new film screen which is stored under the stage floor in the Old Church Rooms. Alf lived close to the new flats being built on Drysgol Road. He had been active in opposing that development and it is a true credit to his decency and niceness that he became friendly with the builders on the site who held their own one minute's silence for him. I shall miss his smiling enthusiasm and willingness to help.

Those of you living near or walking through Danybryn Woods will see the devastation left by last summer's storms and the subsequent sad felling by Cardiff Council of a noble and ancient but dangerously rotten beech. We are updating our management plan for the woodlands to deal with the aftermath and will be making the most of the opportunities to plant new trees and encourage natural regeneration. We will be putting together a working party for the tasks that the community can carry out and if you would like to be involved, please contact me.

In a previous article I mentioned the proposed development of the International Business Park at J33 of the M4. We had considered holding a community meeting if there was enough public interest but there was no demand for one. I will, however, keep you informed of any news through the Chain or on the website.

The Village Plan has now been written, its projects defined and their ownership established. The document will go to press soon and will also be available online.

We have one vacancy on the Council and will shortly have a second because we have been granted a twelfth community councillor. If you have any interest in applying please contact me. Anyone living in Radyr or Morganstown can apply in any of the wards. The Community Council is an elected body serving the three wards of Radyr South, Radyr North and Morganstown.

By the time you read this the Christmas trees will be up and we hope that you enjoying them again this year. Happy Christmas and a Happy 2010!

Helena Fox – Clerk



The weather summary - by John Trenchard

Although our weather is noted for its many variations it does seem some patterns do emerge. From a book by Ron Lobeck published in 1989 it says that a much more detailed analysis of weather data gathered over more than 50 years, showed that at certain times during the year, there was a much greater chance of certain weather patterns prevailing than at other times. From these results various conclusions can be drawn for each month of the year. However this analysis was for the south of England. Unfortunately there is no guarantee that any year will follow this pattern, which makes for an interesting life at least.

For September a dry, settled and often warm spell during 1st to 16th September can be expected. This year there was the long dry spell from the 7th to 21st with only 0.1 mm rainfall>

For October a dry, settled and often warm spell is likely 16th to 20th. This year the dry spell was from 12th to 18th with only 0.1mm rainfall.

This year our October rainfall came to 100.1 mm (71%) with 19 rain days and was the fourth wettest month of the year. St Luke's day is October 18th and a fine warm spell around that time is referred to as St Luke's little summer. In the USA such a settled spell is known as an 'Indian summer'.

For November there is the prospect of a dry and settled spell from the 15th to 20th. However this year on the 14th, the forecast charts only offer the prospect of a mostly dry and settled spell from the 18th to 23rd but only for the southern half of the British Isles.

Rainfall this year up to 31st October amounts to 951.9mm (94%) compared with 1218.7mm (121%) last year. (101.6mm = 4 inches).



RADYR SCOUTING NEWS

Contacts

Beavers (Simba) 2084 4463

Cubs (Akela) 07952 470414

Scouts (Skip) 2084 2757

Summer Scout Camp July 2009

On Wednesday 22nd July, 21 scouts and their leaders set off from the scout hall for their summer camp. We were going to Huish Woods, a scout campsite set in 40 acres of mixed woodland on an eastern spur of the Blackdown hills near Taunton.

As the Beaver Scout Leader, I was a little apprehensive about embarking on a scout camp and leaving the security of the scout hall and my normal 6-8 year olds!! But I needn't have worried. Once on the minibus I enjoyed great companionship, good humour and a real sense of belonging. Thanks Callum for the conversation and questions, they made the journey fly by!

It didn't take long to strike camp. Once we arrived, Sue and the leader's organisational skills and everyone's hard work soon had our home for the next 5 days set.

The days were packed full of action and passed by so quickly. Activities included a 6-mile hike and orienteering challenges, archery lessons, and the amazing zip wire challenge. We also ate ice cream on Minehead beach in between the cooked breakfasts, chilli and curry. Not forgetting the campfire activities, the game of giant football and mega bubble making wands. The toasted marshmallows. The extremely inspiring orbe and ultimately the putting together of a superbly engineered 7' catapult! The list is endless!

Throughout the week, each scout participated in their own way and contributed to such a successful camp. Each scout met his or her own personal challenges whether it be going on the zip wire or cooking meat, or even participating in a wide game and conquering their fear of the dark.

I was amazed at the determination of the scouts and the tremendous team spirit in each of the patrols, which is highly commendable when young people get so much bad press.



On our final night at our closing ceremony, we stood around our fantastic flagpole with our camp flag flying (designed by Elin). This ceremony was one with mixed emotions, with Lewis and Benjamin being invested, and Elin, Keiran, Mari and Owen receiving camp awards. It was also a sad ceremony as this was the final ceremony for the founding leader Juan (Skip) and Sue Delpert, this was our last opportunity to say thank you to them both and goodbye, but rumour has it they may be persuaded to come to camp (hooray)!!. They have decided to hang up their kneckers after investing many years of dedication and enthusiasm into the Radyr Scout Troop. We have been really lucky to have such a unique leader as Juan.

However, as one door closes another one opens as we are very lucky to have 3 fantastic Scout leaders. Our new 'Skip' is to be David Baker, supported by Colin Berry and Mark Richards. Scouting in Radyr starts a new and exciting chapter!

On the way home, although a little tired and maybe a little dirty, we talked about the 'best' bits and 'worse' bits of camp. Best bits - shouts of zip wire, wide game, walking, cooking, campfires and catapults. Making Kites, flying kites and chasing kites! Worse bits? The bus fell silent!

When I returned home surprisingly relaxed, I reflected on the new experiences the scouts and I had gained. They have emphasised some old and new elements of scouting, all of which have provided our children with an array of new and exciting opportunities which they are extremely fortunate to be able to experience.

I'm looking forward to next year's camp already! - **Simba**

1st Radyr Cubs – Hike and Camp at Creigiau Scout Hall 17-18 October 2009

The older (more sensible!) Radyr cubs were invited to put their map reading skills to the test, with a special hike and overnight stay at Creigiau Scout Hall on 17-18 October. The group of 11 cubs and five leaders set out from the Radyr Scout Hall on a glorious autumnal Saturday afternoon with a six mile hike ahead. Cubs took turns to map read and led the group on a walk taking in the Taff trail through Radyr and Morganstown, then onto Taffs Well and Pentyrch before climbing the Garth. As the hours ticked by enthusiasm for walking waned and complains of tired feet were heard. Descending the Garth eventually led us to our destination of Creigiau Scout Hall.

Spirits were lifted when the tired and hungry cubs were met by a children's birthday party just finishing in the hall. The cubs made short work of helping to clear up leftover sandwiches and cakes, in preparation for dinner cooked over an open fire. By this time darkness had descended and gas lamps were moved to a clearing in the woods behind the Scout Hall.

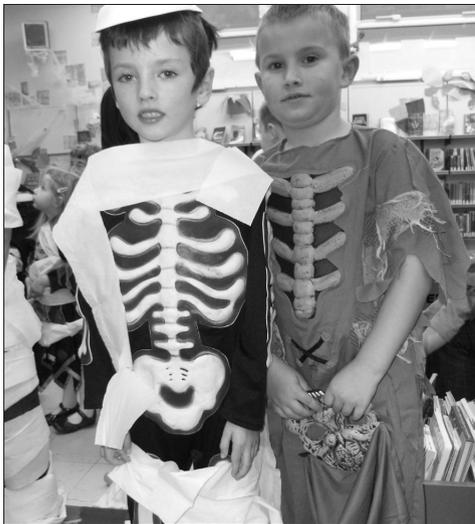
The cubs split into four groups, each with the task of lighting and building a fire on which to boil their pasta and tomato sauce. There is something truly magical about being ten years old and cooking over an open fire. All the cubs thought that pasta cooked over an open fire tasted much better than their parent's kitchen efforts. Meanwhile the leaders tucked into Akela's fire-cooked curry feast. Happily for the cubs washing and clearing up was out of the question at that late hour and had to be left till the morning.

Back in the Hall the cubs got into sleeping bags, had pillow fights and eventually settled down to sleep, awakening far too early before sunrise. Whilst the cubs were quite handy at building fires their early morning clearing and washing-up skills were decidedly dodgy, but with much moaning and groaning the job was finally done. Cooked breakfast and CocoPops followed, and the Cubs were happy again. Much fun was had testing Mang's rope bridge, before parents arrived to collect their tired Cubs. As is always the case on Cub camp, a good time was had by all and happy memories were taken away (and the odd smelly sock left behind!)

NEWS FROM RADYR LIBRARY

We held a Halloween party last Friday (30th October) in the library. Around thirty children turned up in fancy dress to make crafts of skeletons and spider webs. Congratulations to Daniel McKerlich, and Menna Roberts who won the fancy dress competition. Matthew Dubberley and Joshua Cavan won the game of "wrap the mummy", where one child had to wrap their partner in toilet roll!! The children enjoyed some snacks which included sausages with blood (tomato) sauce and jelly with creepy crawlies (sweets). The evening finished with the children going on a treasure hunt to find a skeleton hidden within the bookshelves. Their prize was a goody bag to take home.

We would like to announce two new arrivals to Radyr library, no not the two new staff members, but our new pets! We have recently adopted two giant African land snails who are happily munching through the contents of Anne's fridge! We are holding a competition at the moment for children to name the snails and the winning suggestions will win a prize.



Future Events

We will be holding a coffee morning on Friday 18th December from 10:30am. We will be selling craft and donated items produced by Radyr and Morganstown WI, holding a raffle, having speakers on crafts and scrapbooking, giving support to those wanting to use ancestry.com to look into family history, and providing teas, coffees and cakes. Cafe Latina Latina will be donating a prize to the raffle and has kindly offered to give everyone that attends the coffee morning a money off voucher. As well as this, we will be selling a Christmas quiz from 1st December. All proceeds from the coffee morning, the quiz and donations will be forwarded to the NSPCC.

There will be a language and play Christmas event for pre-school children on Wednesday 16th December from 11am, where the children can make some reindeer food for Rudolph and some Christmas crafts.

Children are welcome to attend our craft and story session on Tuesday 22nd December at 11am where the children can make a craft for Christmas. Please contact the library to put your name down if you would like your child to attend.

Look out for our craft table with various different crafts to make throughout December.

Radyr library will be providing a post box for all letters to Santa. He has promised to write back to every child who writes to him. He would like to know all about the child and loves receiving pictures too! As we are collecting for the NSPCC this year, we would be grateful for a donation for this service, (closing date for letters is the 15th December).

We would like to inform readers that we have lots of services to offer at the library. It's free to join; we just need one form of identification. We have DVDs to rent for a small charge plus free access to the internet. We have a constant supply of recycling and food caddy bags available. We also have a new innovative pilot scheme to source books from the South East Wales region. This service is free of charge.

As Christmas draws near, we would like to let you know our opening times over Christmas and the new year:

Monday 21st December: 10-1 2-6
 Tuesday 22nd December: 10-1 2-5:30
 Wednesday 23rd December:
 10-1 2-5:30
 Thursday 24th December - CLOSED
 Friday 25th December - CLOSED
 Saturday 26th December - CLOSED
 Sunday 27th December - CLOSED
 Monday 28th December - CLOSED
 Tuesday 29th December: 10-1 2-5:30
 Wednesday 30th December:
 10-1 2-5:30
 Thursday 31st December - CLOSED
 Friday 1st January - CLOSED
 Saturday 2nd January: usual hours

Please feel free to come and join us for a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie on our last day of opening before Christmas, Wednesday 23rd December, and don't forget to visit the libraries for your Christmas cookery and craft books, or just something to curl up in front of the fire with!

*We wish you a merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year,
 Anne, Jen and Hannah*



CHRISTMAS DINNER

AT
RADYR GOLF CLUB
14TH DECEMBER



**Leonard
Cheshire
Disability**

In aid of
Danybryn
Chloe Foston
Entertains
£30 per ticket

From 7.00pm
 Tickets available:
 Christine Moore
 07827996020
 02920 842237
christine.moore@lchdisability.org



**RADYR GOLF
CLUB
DRYSGOL ROAD
RADYR
CARDIFF
CF15 8BS**



PLEASE
JOIN US

SERIOUS PLANT DISEASE DISCOVERED IN MORGANSTOWN

County Councillor Rod McKerlich has issued the following statement at the request of the Council parks Department. Rod comments that this was discovered very recently and the Council is consulting with all local interests to eradicate this disease as quickly as possible. The disease is not harmful to people.

Cardiff Council has discovered an outbreak of *Phytophthora Ramorum* at the Mound Field Motte site in Morganstown and will now be working to destroy the infected vegetation. *Phytophthora Ramorum* - known as Sudden Oak Death - is a fungal infection and has been found on rhododendron in the small woodland area around the motte. DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) has been informed and under its instructions the Council now has to remove and destroy all affected vegetation to limit the chance of the disease spreading.

Phytophthora spores spread through water, including airborne droplets which can be carried on animals, and through infected water in soil. The Mound Field site is extremely waterlogged and there are no footpaths. The area will now need to be fenced off before any works take place to ensure that there is no public access to the infected area. All vegetation will then need to be removed from around the mound and burnt in accordance with the destruction notice issued by FERA (the Food and Environment Research Agency), an agency of DEFRA. As the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, consent has been obtained from Cadw for this work to begin.

A second fenced off area in the north western corner of the field will need to be created for the burning to take place. Due to this area being close to an adult-sized football pitch, use of this pitch will be suspended while the burning operations are in progress until at least the end of the year, subject to ground conditions. This burning is also expected to take until at least the end of 2009.

The fencing will need to be retained on the main site to exclude public access until it has been declared free of the disease, which could take between three and five years.

The infection was detected when the rhododendrons on the site were routinely tested as part of the process of preparing the Conservation Management Plan for the Mound field Motte site in early November. This outbreak does not appear to be linked to a similar recent infection at Parc Cefn Onn.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER – PACT

As I approach the end of my second year as chairman of PACT I would like to set out what has happened over the last year. The issues that I would like to bring to your attention are varied and are in no particular order.

The one issue that is discussed at every meeting concerns cars. The main problems are related to parking at the station, the shops, the schools and of late, on the road opposite Dan-y-Bryn, cars partially block the pavement and cause difficulties to pedestrians and, in particular, to those with pushchairs. Whereas appropriate parking on the road is not illegal, parking on the pavement anywhere in our neighbourhood is certainly illegal. Residents who are affected should contact the police. There has been considerable correspondence regarding parking on the roads around the shops and the station. There has been a survey of traffic in these areas but the response from the relevant authorities stated 'that additional parking restrictions in these areas cannot be justified'. In addition, they recommend that any complaints should be addressed to the 'Police and their Traffic Wardens'. It is sad to relate that the police do not have enough personnel on the ground to cover these areas. Furthermore, as our main policeman, P C Paul Tebbett now covers R&M, Gwaelod - Garth, Pentyrch, Creigiau and St Fagans as a Beat Manager, it is obvious that the police presence is much diluted. On the other hand, our PCSO, Torri Millar works extremely hard, is very approachable and is frequently seen around our community, Torri is directly in touch with the schools and, in particular, with the teenage fraternity. There has been an addition to the team of youth workers with P C Julia Smith being appointed as the School Liaison Officer.

This brings me to the next issue.. There was a fear that the new Skate Park would be the centre of unsocial behaviour. I am delighted to report that these fears have not been realized. However, the problems seemed to have moved to NWGA area. Essentially, the unruly behaviour has been fuelled by alcohol which is not uncommon in those under 18 years of age. A survey by the Trading Standards of the local shops has indicated that they are conforming with the laws relating to purchasers who are under 18 years of age. What has emerged is that alcohol is being purchased by persons over 18 and

subsequently redistributed. This is illegal and the perpetrators could face prosecution.

For one reason or another, ASBO's are still being issued to young offenders. This should concern both these young people and their parents as they can in certain circumstances affect their future prospects. On a very sad note, members were distressed on hearing of the injuries inflicted on Alex Hughes and pass on their support for the family and their hope for a speedy recovery. In addition, the village too is helping to raise additional funds to help with his care.

There has been a decrease in burglary and general crime this last year but an increase in antisocial behaviour and autocrime. Yet again, the thefts from cars are associated with items being left in full view and cars left unlocked. Prevention is self evident.

The residents of our areas will be pleased to read that the Neighbour Hood Watch scheme has been resurrected and driven by Mr David Cargill. Any member who wishes to join and /or contribute please contact Mr Cargill. It is also a specific item in each PACT meeting.

Councillor Rod McKerlich continues to work very hard on our behalf both locally and at Cardiff City Council. There are many local problems which need addressing as well as the wider scenario such as, for example, the proposed development at Junction 33 which was the subject of an article in the last issue of the Radyr Chain. It appears that this development is currently in abeyance. Concern has also been voiced regarding the G E Health Care proposals at the old Amersham site. Residents will be pleased to learn that discussions are proceeding with the main concern quite naturally, being the safety of our community. Finally, I am sure that the members of PACT would like to thank Councillor Rod McKerlich for his sterling work on behalf of the community. I am also most grateful for the considerable assistance of Mrs Catherine Mangles, the South Wales Police Front Line Support Officer.

Ralph Vaughan – Chairman

The dates of the P A C T Meetings in 2010 are as follows; 14th January, 2nd March, 15th April, 25th May, 8th July, 26th August, 30th September, 28th October, and the 8th of December.

The meetings are usually held in the Old Church Rooms commencing at 18.30hrs.

Tea with the Lord Mayor of Cardiff at the Mansion House

by Paul Ernill
(Resident of Danybryn)

On October 21st, Martin Williams, Ian Jones and I were escorted by one of the overseas volunteers, Mani and staff from Danybryn Leonard Cheshire Home to the Mansion House for tea with Councillor Brian Griffiths Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of Cardiff and The Lady Mayoress.

We were met and greeted with glasses of orange juice, entertained in the parlour with tales of previous Lord Mayors and a history of the beautiful art works on display throughout. It was a unique opportunity to see the interior furniture, silverware and the mayoral regalia. The symbolism of the robes was explained to us with humour and enthusiasm by David Clay from the Protocol Office.

We moved into the dining room and were provided with well-filled sandwiches and cake and plenty of tea and coffee, and invited on a guided tour of the rest of the building. We were not able to get up stairs due to the lack of a lift, but they explained that there were plans in the offing to install a lift; this will be exciting for us to see the upstairs of this lovely building. The disabled access otherwise was excellent.

The afternoon culminated in a group photograph, with Ian Jones in his 'Cardiff City' football shirt was given front row seating!

Radyr library Coffee Morning at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, 18 December – crafts and raffle. Proceeds to NSPCC.



What will make you GO RED next February?

February is National Heart Month, - the time of year when the British Heart Foundation (BHF), as the nation's heart charity, asks

people to think about their heart health and that of their loved ones, and to take steps to improve it. We also ask everyone to **Go Red for Heart** - in other words to do something with a red theme to raise funds to support of our vital, pioneering & caring work.

So don't be surprised if you see people sky diving top to toe in red, or wearing red pyjamas to school. It's all in aid of the British Heart Foundation Cymru and we'd love you to join in.

What will you do?

You can do anything you like. Challenge your office to a wear red day - the boldest outfit wins! Bake red cakes, paint your face red, dress up, dress down, walk, collect, run, swim, knit, dance The only rule is that you must have fun.

To order your free fundraising kit go to bhf.org.uk/red or call 0845 241 0976

To find out more about how you can get involved, please contact your local Fundraising Volunteer Manager:

Glenda Meakin

Tel: 029 2089 0148 Mob: 07718 638158

Email: meaking@bhf.org.uk

RECIPE CORNER

Apricot Cake – Ailsa Bracegirdle

4 oz soft margarine
4 oz soft brown sugar
2 eggs
Almond essence (? teaspoon)
Tin of apricot halves in juice (15 oz/425 gr)
7 oz self-raising flour
8 oz currants/sultanas/raisins
Flaked almonds to decorate (optional)

1. cream fat and sugar, beat in eggs and essence
2. drain apricots (keep some juice) – chop apricots
3. toss chopped apricots in flour. Add the rest of the mixture and the fruit.
4. grease and line a deep 10" square tin (or similar size)
5. bake at 325f/170°C or gas number 3 for 1 – 1.5 hours (check after 1 hour)
6. prick top of cake with a fork and spoon over reserved juice.
7. leave to cool for 15 minutes then remove from tin.
Can be frozen.

Here for you



Kevin Brennan MP

In

Cardiff West



Rhodri Morgan AM

Your Cardiff West Labour representatives are working hard for you all year round. If you have an issue you would like to discuss with either Kevin Brennan MP or Rhodri Morgan AM then you can;

**attend their surgery, held on Saturdays at
Ely Library on Grand Avenue from
10.00 to 12.30
(ring 029 2022 3207 for details)**

Email them at brennank@parliament.uk or
rhodri.morgan@wales.gov.uk

Write to them at **Transport House, 1 Cathedral Road, Riverside, Cardiff, CF119SD**

www.kevinbrennan.co.uk

Printed and promoted on behalf of Cardiff West Constituency office by Amanda Platt
all at Transport House, 1 Cathedral Road, Riverside, Cardiff, CF11 9SD

Report on matters of local concern

A number of local residents have spoken to me about various issues which touch our communities and I believe that it will help if I set out the current situation. I will be brief but I will gladly give more information to anyone who contacts me and I give contact details at the end of this piece.

Waterhall Site: this is a large area of farmland owned by the Plymouth Estate and the draft Local Development Plan of Cardiff Council precluded it being developed in the currency of the plan which is to 2021. The owner has set out a case to develop this land situated at the south end of Heol Isaf and with scope for some 4000 homes. Cardiff Council is standing by the plan but judgment on the soundness of the plan will be made by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Welsh Assembly. I believe that Cardiff Council would be obliged to draw up a completely fresh plan if the Inspector does not support the central strategy of minimal building on green field sites. I realise that there has been a great deal of scaremongering on this issue.

Motte and Bailey: we have commissioned a report on this Norman fortification situated at Mound Field, Morganstown since about the middle of the 12th century. Plans are at an early stage but we would like to make this a feature of the area with appropriate signage. As an initial step to reinstatement a great deal of clearance will be necessary and we will have to work very closely with Cadw in setting out a project plan to carry out and finance the programme.

Speed Indicators on Heol Isaf: I am assured that these are more accurate than car speedometers and that they do help to improve driving behaviour. They contain data loggers so we will have access to reliable information on the extent of anti-social speeding at this dangerous spot.

Adoption of Roads: most of the roads in Parc Radur, Radyr Gardens and down by the sidings have not been adopted by the Council and are a long way from being adopted. I have been pursuing this for over a year but it is a tangled tale and our communities are not alone in facing this problem. I expect to have a great deal more information on this matter quite soon and will hold a meeting of concerned residents at that time if this is wanted.

Planning Gain: our local schools have each received new facilities from this

money and I am pressing to have the remaining funds spent to benefit our communities.

Play Park at Radyr Woods: this has not yet been adopted by the Council and the developer is responsible for repair. I have asked that this should be done soon and the park should then be adopted

Parking and road safety ; there are a number of problem areas, exacerbated by building work at Drysgol Road and Cheshire Home, New double yellow lines will be in place at the junction of Kings Avenue and Kings Road which will assist this area without being a complete solution.

I will be holding surgeries at Radyr Library on Saturday mornings as advertised in a number of locations and I can be contacted on 20843106 or at rmckerlich@cardiff.gov.uk

Cllr Rod McKerlich

FAMILIES NEED FATHERS

"If I had one wish for you, it would be that you will have loved ones around you this Christmas. Sadly I know there will be many of you on your own. Some of you, although on your own will receive phone calls from your family or Skype calls where you'll see your nearest and dearest at the other end of a web cam.

But there will be others, who have been caught up in the tragedy of a broken relationship who have not been able to see their children for many years. It is the hardest thing I find about working with parents, usually dads but sometimes mums who are being prevented from seeing their children by their ex-partner when they are absolutely no risk to the child at all; what do you wish them at Christmas time knowing they will be in an empty house or even worse in a bed-sit with only photographs to remind them of the children they love?

For the last three years I have been doing what I can for a charity called Families Need Fathers. We have thought of re-branding it to Both Parents Matter but we are recognised now and the truth is that around 95% of the parents we help are dads.

The statistics are appalling. Within two years of a parental separation 60% of the fathers have lost touch with their children. Recent figures quote one in three children experiencing a family breakup. So roughly one in four children are not seeing their father. The research is even more frightening. There are always exceptions to every rule but a child who has not had both parents involved in their upbringing is far more likely to truant, to have behavioural

problems, to experiment with drugs, to end up in gaol and to commit suicide.

It doesn't take a genius to work out that it would be better for all of us if dads were encouraged to stay in touch with their children and if every dad who wanted to stay in touch was allowed contact with his children. Yes, there are bad dads but as we have seen only too vividly this year, there are bad mums out there too. What our charity does is support any parent who is going through the nightmare of not seeing their child.

If you know a parent or a grandparent who wishes they could see their child or grandchildren, tell them about Families Need Fathers. We have a National Helpline on 0300 0300 363 Monday to Friday between 6pm and 10pm and a web site at www.fnf.org.uk There is a branch meeting in Cardiff the first Tuesday every month at the BBC Social Club Llandaff at 7.30pm.

February 20th and 21st (not an International weekend!) we are running a course to help people interested in supporting litigants in person in the courts. These people are called McKenzie friends. If anybody would like to train as a McKenzie friend do get in touch with us. You can e-mail me at penlan@keme.co.uk

The good news is that if we are able to help a parent in the early stages of a separation, the parent usually does end up with meaningful contact. Even the more intractable cases can sometimes have good results. And nothing in this world is a better Christmas present than the text I had from a dad "Daughter waved both arms. She kissed and hugged me. She said she'd missed me. She's so excited. Tears in my eyes. Happy"

Have faith this Christmas time, miracles do happen. Pob bendith. Nadolig Llawen."

Richard's wife, Ann, and I would like to give our thanks to the people who looked after him last Wednesday, 27 October, when he collapsed in Station Road, especially to the two workmen who 'phoned for an ambulance and stayed with him, and to Janet from the Spar who supported his head with her fleece jacket and the dentist who supplied an oxygen cylinder.

Sadly, Richard died suddenly in the University Hospital after another collapse on Monday morning and we are now awaiting the results of the post-mortem.

I moved here two years ago to be near my son and his family and I have found so much kindness.

Thank you all, Louise Davies 3.11.09