

# Alice in Wonderland



**A big thank you to the Radyr & Morganstown Association Festival Committee for all their hard work! During this years festival.** We as a family and group of friends had a fantastic time participating in the fun carnival parade 'Adventures of Alice in Wonderland'

I'm aware how much hard work, time and effort it costs to make this kind of event happen. Made possible by a few hard working, caring volunteers. All we have to do as a growing community of old and young is to receive it, turn up and enjoy, all because of a willing

few, life is breathed into this community. Isn't that wonderful!

I hope this fun family event now in its third year is able to continue in future festivals and that more family's, groups and schools decide to keep it alive. Showing their support with enthusiasm adults and children alike by participating in it, this will help to ensure it does continue. Create a mask, make and carry a banner, wear a costume, bang a drum, blow a whistle. There is something for every one its an opportunity for a whole community to work together whilst having and giving a lot of fun all at the same time.

Events like these cannot be sustained and will not happen in future years they'll simply die unless they are embraced whole heartily by all those they were intended for, the local community.

**Jane Morris**

**Well they didn't actually. They came altogether and can now be seen above the shops in Station Road, thanks to Cardiff Council who funded the project and, more especially, Keith John who designed, specified and personally painted every one of them.**

The project to get hanging baskets in Station Road has been a long time in coming and, although it was a knock-on from the original overall 'neighbourhood renewal' project, has been managed recently under the R&M Village Plan. Cardiff Council asked us if we would like hanging baskets. We said 'yes' and, because of the unique placement of the buildings in Station Road, they invited us to design our own brackets. "Did we have a local artist who could propose something", they asked, and we turned to Keith. Originally we thought we might have Roald Dahl characters (to fit in with that part of Radyr heritage) but Keith said he would like to design 15 'creatures from the Taff Trail', and that is what we have got.

The results are a delight and, in our view, as much a feature as the famous 'Animal Wall' in Cardiff Castle. We hope and expect it will put Radyr on the map and bring more people into Station Road. The shopkeepers think so too. At the last meeting of the Traders Association, the traders decided to congratulate Keith for his work. The acting chairman of the Association, Alan (Veg Vendor), and Matthew White (our local dentist) then presented Keith with baskets of goodies.

"Where are the flower baskets?" you may ask. Good question. Cardiff Council say they will be coming soon, but they cannot give us a date. We are certainly ready for them and an automatic watering system has even been installed on one side of Station Road to keep the flowers happy once they arrive. But, in the meantime, simply enjoy Keith's magnificent work every time you do some shopping.

## The Animals came in two by two



# RADYR CHAIN

Free to every home in Radyr and Morganstown



Number 194

June 2011

**A spectacular fireworks display to celebrate the Royal Wedding started our 24th Festival off with a bang.**

In the Festival Parade there were many Alices and her chums - the Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts (off with his head!), Tweedle dee, Tweedle dum, rabbits, cats and dormice. Children dressed in colourful costumes led by the City of Cardiff Melingriffith brass band, paraded to the Festival Fete where Jason Mohammad of BBC Wales (and Radyr) met all the characters and dancers. The Festival Queen Ffion Gardener and her attendants, Megan Goode and Saphia Briffet joined Jason

## FESTIVAL 2011 Off with a BANG!



to open the proceedings. The Dance Angels performed their Alice in Wonderland dance for a large crowd. Lower Park Road was closed for the day, having diverted the bus route for the day. The road was filled with stalls selling plants, jewellery, cakes, books and bric a brac. A large display was erected by the Radyr Scouts depicting Alice's tea party and this has stood on show during the two week Festival on the corner of Park Road for all to see! A big thanks to our village artist, Keith John for all his work on the display and the colouring competition.

The Festival offered something for everybody, many concerts, tea parties, guided walks, football, dog show, gymkhana, open garden, boules, bike ride, talks and of course maypole dancing. Most of the events have been well attended and the weather reasonably kind. However, the 60's on the patio ended up in the dining room of the Golf Club to shelter from heavy showers. Despite this everyone was able to enjoy a dance and listen to the professional group of musicians.

The Civic Service at Christchurch was addressed by Marion Drake giving a potted history of the setting up of Radyr and District Good Neighbours Scheme – our Festival Charity. They are a local group of volunteers helping senior

residents in our area to help reduce their isolation and to improve their quality of life, whilst living independently. Rob Parsons, Director of Care for the Family led the service emphasising the need for a caring community and becoming a more caring society. A good start to our Festival!

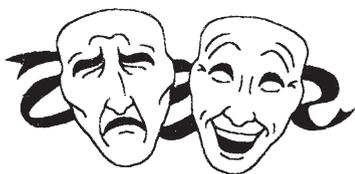
Radyr Rangers held their Football Festival in damp conditions but this did not put off the enthusiasm of the young footballers from all over Cardiff and district to enjoy the tournament.

**Festival donation to the Radyr and District  
Good Neighbour Scheme of £3500**



*Continued on page 5 with Fun Run,  
Raffle and Colouring competition winners*

## COMING EVENTS



N.B. Details of all coming events can be found in the Diary section of the website [www.Radyr.org.uk](http://www.Radyr.org.uk)

### JUNE

- 9-11 Radyr Drama Society Presents 'SUMMER END', A humorous "whodunit" by Eric Chappell (Author of Rising Damp and Duty Free). Morganstown Village Hall. Tickets £8 concessions £7 students £5. From Veg Vendor, Station Road, Radyr, Sheila Phillips 20842585 Allan Cook 20843176. 7.30pm
- 13 Radyr & Morganstown WI, Old Church Rooms. More wonderful things about bees - a talk by Professor Pickard. 7.30pm
- 14 PACT Meeting at 7pm in the Old Church Rooms. all welcome 7.00pm
- 14 Gnosis - Public Conferences for Self Knowledge. For those who are interested in Self knowledge and want to have access to a knowledge left by Ancient Solar Civilizations, learn techniques to develop their Inner Being on a personal, spiritual and universal level. Small donation suggested £3. For more information, please visit our website: [www.gnostic-institute.org/cardiff.htm](http://www.gnostic-institute.org/cardiff.htm) or call 02920 842342. Also on the 21st and 28th 7.30pm
- 23 R&MCC June Meeting. Radyr and Morganstown Community Council, June meeting. A meeting of the Council will be held in the Chain Room, Old Church Rooms. Members of the public are welcome to attend. 7.30pm

### JULY

- 3 Tenovus sponsored Walk and Strawberry Tea. Walk from Cardiff Castle to Christchurch, Radyr where Strawberry Tea will be served to all sponsored walkers. Tel. 20842096 for details and sponsor forms. Strawberry Tea tickets are available for non walkers please Tel. 20842887. All are welcome.
- 5 Gnosis - Public Conferences for Self Knowledge. [www.gnostic-institute.org/cardiff.htm](http://www.gnostic-institute.org/cardiff.htm) or call 02920 842342
- 7 VISIT TO HIGHCLERE. The R&M Local History Society will visit Highclere Castle near Hungerford in Hampshire, the location for the ITV series "Downton Abbey". Highclere is the most important Victorian house in the country and houses part of the Egyptian collection of Lord Caernarvon the co-discoverer of the Tomb of Tutankamun. Coach plus entry £22. For details phone Allan Cook 20843176. 8.45am
- 11 Radyr & Morganstown WI, Old Church Rooms. July in Bloom - a talk and demonstration by Rev. Kevin Davies 7.30pm

- 12 Gnosis - Public Conferences for Self Knowledge. [www.gnostic-institute.org/cardiff.htm](http://www.gnostic-institute.org/cardiff.htm) or call 02920 842342
- 19 Gnosis - Public Conferences for Self Knowledge. [www.gnostic-institute.org/cardiff.htm](http://www.gnostic-institute.org/cardiff.htm) or call 02920 842342
- 20 George Thomas Hospice Coffee Morning Tickets at £2 from members of committee or Pam Williams(20843080) 10.30am
- 26 Gnosis - Public Conferences for Self Knowledge. [www.gnostic-institute.org/cardiff.htm](http://www.gnostic-institute.org/cardiff.htm) or call 02920 842342
- 28 R&MCC July Meeting. Radyr and Morganstown Community Council, July meeting. A meeting of the Council will be held in the Chain Room, Old Church Rooms. Members of the public are welcome to attend. 7.30pm

## HUW THATCHER

Mary Phillips (formerly Thatcher) is planning an event to raise money in memory of her grandson, Huw Thatcher.

Huw was a talented and apparently fit fifteen year-old who died of a brain haemorrhage whilst captaining his football team during a match in Yorkshire.

All monies will go to the Disabilities Trust and the Daniel Yorath Foundation who support brain damaged young people.

A "Cuppa, Chat and Cake Stall" afternoon is to be held on Tuesday, 21st June from 2pm at 27 The Green, Radyr.

Tickets £2.00 in advance or at the door.

CONGRATULATIONS ... to Emma Lighthart of St. Martin's School, Caerphilly who won Radyr Fun Run (First Female).

Well Done, Emma  
Love Grandma and Grampy X

## RADYR & MORGANSTOWN WI

The Committee would like to thank all members who helped to manage, set up and staff the WI stalls for the festival fete. Thanks also to the members who provided such a tempting selection of homemade foods. Needless to say, the produce and cake stalls sold out first and took the most money. However, the craft, flowers, lucky dip and books also contributed greatly to the sum raised for 'The Good Neighbours'. We took £381. on the day and by selling a few remaining items at our May meeting and making a donation, we were able to reach the grand total of £400. It was a worthwhile and enjoyable morning. Thanks also go to all Radyr residents who supported the fete and purchased our goods.

Congratulations to the Festival Committee who, again, produced a varied programme of events to suit all ages, interests and tastes.

Now, as Radyr settles back into "Life after the Festival", Radyr and Morganstown WI look forward to our summer meetings. On 13th June, we have a return visit of Professor Pickard who will talk on "The Wonder of Bees" and on 11th July, we look forward to a presentation by the renowned flower arranger, The Rev. Kevin Davies. As usual, our ancillary groups continue their planned programmes.

For regularly updated information on events and meetings, visit our website or come along to a meeting as our guest.

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Letters, articles, reports and other contributions are invited and should be submitted by July 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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# Radyr & Morganstown ~ Festival 2011

Bank Holiday Monday brought out hundreds of runners in the annual Fun Run, won this year by Gareth Morgan and Charlotte Hogg. In the afternoon, the Festival Queen was crowned by Cllr David Silver and she was entertained by the Maypole dancers from Bryn Deri and folk dancers from Radyr Primary. This tradition goes back to 1986 when a group of adults first danced around the maypole. We hope that some of these veterans will celebrate the 25th anniversary of our village Festival next year by performing a similar dance! The Festival Queen, along with some of the dancers visited the newly opened wing at Dan y Bryn Cheshire Home and danced for the residents before they went off to the children's tea party in Morganstown. Meanwhile the audience from the Crowning Ceremony enjoyed tea and cakes prepared by the Treforgan WI.

Raymond Rivron's jazz group – 'Cube', kept an enthusiastic jazz loving audience happy in the Old Church Rooms toe tapping all night. Wednesday brought the first of the walks around our very own Radyr Woods – now partly owned by the community! Meanwhile a theatre was being set up in Morganstown Village Hall for the presentation by Fluellen of Uncle Vanja. This was very well performed the first on their tour around South Wales, although not too many laughs!

The Tenovus quiz, now in its 24th year was yet again won by the Community Council team against all the odds. We need to know more about what goes on in their monthly meetings. It is rumoured that they all have been on a compulsory trivia course! Pugh's Garden Centre hosted two events – a tea party and a "Taste of Wales". Their support throughout the whole period of our Festivals has been superb. Following the theme of the Festival – "The adventures of Alice" the Parish Music Group performed songs from the musicals and created a fantasy land experience.

Sunday was a particularly busy day with a 20/20 cricket match at Radyr Cricket Club, an open garden in Windsor Road, with proceeds being shared between the National Gardens Scheme and the Festival Charity. The Golf Club hosted the 60s music on the patio to a full house of both club members and the community. This event is always well

organised by Terry Fitzgerald and his team. In the evening another concert was held in Christ Church with the Cantemus Chamber Choir performing choral music of a very high standard. The choir was supported by our very own cello soloist, Simon Davison of the WNO orchestra. For those who attended this concert they must have been delighted with the pure harmony of this small choir.

I understand the curry at the Bombay Blue was hot! - A nice way to wind down after the mountain bike ride organised by Kieran Webster. There was a good turnout for the School Boules at Bryn Deri despite the inclement weather. Another concert on Wednesday with Jeremy Huw Williams singing a number of operatic arias was well attended and it's thanks to the members of the Methodist Church for their support for our Festival. The Charity – Good Neighbours entertained our Senior Citizens to a Mad Hatters Tea party in the Old Church Rooms with scrumptious sandwiches and fancy cakes - yum yum. Our local library hosted a number of story telling events and also offered the opportunity to trace one's ancestors

Whilst the youngsters got down to serious dice throwing in their Beetle Drive at the Guide Centre a large group of over 70 residents were assembling at the Radyr Station for the first of many walks around the village. Allan Cook and Cyril Williams have created a series of walks. The first "Industrial Radyr," is now available in a pamphlet which can be obtained from the library. Allan made strategic stops to explain the history of the iron works and the movement of goods down to Cardiff docks by canal, river and rail. A visit to the newly renovated water wheel at Melingriffith was the highlight of this walk. A treasure hunt devised by Campbell Smart was also available on line and from the library for those keen walkers and problem solvers.

Professor Bernard Knight gave a compelling talk about his life as an author of over 40 mystery books. He gave an insight into how he created the characters, established the plots and ensured that the endings were left open giving the opportunities for further story lines. He gave an outline of his negotiations with publishers and how the market has changed with the introduction of the internet and data

printing. His books have been translated in many languages and have been distributed around the world. His open question session was of particular interest with a maximum audience hanging on to his every word. A remarkable man, who has excelled in many fields - medicine, law, history and crime story telling. A truly memorable evening! Again its thanks to Allan Cook for his negotiations with the Academi and the Arts Council for Wales.

"The Mick Sullivan Show" took place on Friday at the Audio Visual evening with update photos of the current Festival and photos of Radyr's Royal kiss. Only those who were there will appreciate this! Adrian Hopkins was presented with the Imaging 2000 Plate for winning the Open Photographic Competition. It is hoped that some budding camera enthusiasts will come and join Imaging 2000 when it starts up again in September. All standards welcome!

The final weekend! Saturday brought out the horses for the Gymkhana – a cold and blustery day but most enjoyable. There was a variety of horses – large, small, black and brown but all good jumpers. This was followed by a spectacular Open Air Concert in Parc Radur. Bands from the schools and "Radio Ferrymen" entertained a large crowd picnicking in the superb surroundings of the park. Next year we have been promised a large tarmac area especially for the staging and an all year round ball play pitch. Thanks to Norman Grainger and his team for the staging, Chris St Leger for the electrical wizardry and the Tennis Club for the power. The children doing the conga to the 60's music was a sight for sore eyes! This event is a real winner! Thanks to Beverley Lewis for her organisational skills, in getting all the bands together.

The weather was still windy and cool for the Duck Race. I don't suppose they minded as they were tipped into the River Taff. It just helped to speed up the race. The Radyr Youth Centre members were busy preparing for their skateboard demo on Mound Field. The Morris Minor Rally cars were touring the village before driving to Lychgate Gardens to be judged. Twelve vintage motors parked up in a line for the interested spectators to inspect the engines, bodywork and of course their drivers – two dressed as police officers! The Victoria George Veale dancers started the Show with

three dances from their repertoire. In the meantime over 40 dogs patiently waited for their turn to be judged. Soon they were called for the "waggiest tail", "prettiest eyes" and competing for the many colourful rosettes. It is a big thank you to Val and Tom Allen who organise this event each year and generously contribute to the Festival Charity. The week was rounded off with the Songs of Praise ably led by Gareth Davison, the Cambrensis Brass Ensemble and Brian Evans on the organ. Radyr Primary School sang a number of songs including one they have written about bullying. I believe we all considered that this was so good that it should be professionally recorded for the benefit of other schools. The Association presented Mick Sullivan with the Ken Innis cup for his photographic endeavours throughout the Festival.

At the end of the Festival we have had a quick appraisal of the funds raised for the charity, "Good Neighbours Scheme" and expect that the sum raised will be £3500. A big thank you to all the organisations who have supported the Festival, those who donated to the many bucket collections, bought raffle tickets and attended the many events. It is also thanks to our sponsors and advertisers – R&M Community Council, Cardiff County Council, Arts Council of Wales, Radyr Library, Pugh's garden Centre, GE Healthcare, MGY, Apextaylor signs, The Veg Vendor and all our local shop keepers. Not forgetting our hard working committee, all who rolled their sleeves up to make this Festival such a success. However, the Festival relies on a whole host of volunteers who give their time freely and unstintingly. We need more Chris', Adrians, Bernards, Ralphs, Terrys, Ceris and Cliffs of this world to make it happen.

Next year's Charity will be the George Thomas Hospice and we hope that the community will give them the same support, and perhaps more, in 2012! We thank the hard working Festival Queen, her attendants and their chaperone Maggie Roberts and end with the words of Saphia and Megan.

*"I enjoyed being the Queen's attendant because I got to go to lots of events. I wanted to be an attendant so that I could help out in the community, shaking buckets to help raise money for the Good Neighbours Charity. I wanted to do my bit to help out. I had great fun going to many of the events but if I could pick my favourite it would be the Duck Dash. We had fun in the truck*

*alongside the river, although it was a very bumpy ride. We went down to the side of the river emptying the bags of yellow ducks. Overall I had a great time being the attendant and thanks to Maggie for chaperoning us during the Festival."*

**Saphia**

*"On a wet and windy February evening I dragged my mum to the auditions for the 2011 Festival Queen and her attendants. Imagine how special I felt when I was told that I would be one of the Queen's attendants. Next was a shopping trip to Cardiff with Sophia to buy our dresses.*

*On Saturday 30th April we took part in the Alice in Wonderland Parade. The three of us wore Alice aprons and sat in a lovely open topped car following the Mad Hatter. Off to the Fete to meet*

*Jason Mohammad. It was a great day!*

*On the Bank Holiday Monday we had the special occasion of the 'Crowning of the Festival Queen' and the local schools danced around the Maypole. It was a fun day and many of my friends were there! We went to Dan y Bryn Cheshire Home to meet the residents and the day ended with the Children's tea party at Morganstown.*

*The next two weeks followed a variety of activities. My favourites were the Senior Citizens Mad Hatter tea party, the Gymkhana and the Beetle Drive where I met many of my friends.*

*It was an amazing two weeks and I was honoured to be part of this very special event. It is thanks to Maggie and Julie for choosing me."*

**Megan**

**David Cargill** - Festival Chairman

### FUN RUN WINNERS

Girls Year 3,4	Boys Year 3,4
1st Jemma Lai (RP)	1st Sammy Peacock (RP)
2nd Cerys Jones (Pencae)	2nd Max Long (RP)
3rd Mia O'Connor (RP)	3rd Panos Karas (BD)
Girls Year 5,6	Boys Year 5,6
1st Ella Powell (RP)	1st Nicholas Lai (RP)
2nd Katie Long (RP)	2nd Oliver Jackson (RP)
3rd Rhian Jones	3rd Huw Wallace (RP)
Girls Year 7,8,9	Boys Year 7,8,9
1st Emma Lighthart	1st Rhys Gooch
2nd Katherine Steggles	2nd James Colley
3rd Rhiannon Long	3rd Matthew Lai
Girls 10,11,12,13	Boys 10,11,12,13
1st Clare Harwood	1st Jack Gooch
2nd Lucy Harvey	2nd Iona Phillips
3rd Katrina Davies	3rd George Chapelle
Adult Female	Adult Male
1st Charlotte Hogg	1st Gareth Morgan
2nd Lucy Hogg	2nd Grant Gibbon
3rd Joanne Lighthart	3rd Mick Tabor

### PRIZE DRAW RAFFLE WINNERS

1st Prize £200 - Harry West      2nd Prize Signed Rugby Ball – Chris Dale  
3rd Prize – Champagne – Terry Fitzgerald.

### OTHER WINNERS

N. Hale, M. Webb, A.Cooke, D. Moverley, A. Hughes, N. Holmes, T. Hawkins,  
R.Page, H.Davies, N.Piper, J. Jenkins, S. Davidson and J. Parry.  
These prizes have been distributed by members of the Association.

### COLOURING COMPETITION

RADYR PRIMARY SCHOOL	BRYN DERI PRIMARY SCHOOL
UNDER 7's	UNDER 7'S
1st Prize Melian Hachemi	1st Prize Effie Bordas
2nd Prize Will Jarman	2nd Prize Rebecca Kingsbury
3rd Prize Oria Davies	3rd Prize Isabelle Reynolds
HIGHLY COMMENDED - Jade Turner	
OVER 8'S	OVER 8'S
1st Prize Greer Hughes	1st Prize April Spertari
2nd Prize Jemma Lai	2nd Prize Joshua Thomas
3rd Prize Rose Marie Melhuish	3rd Prize Grace Morgan
HIGHLY COMMENDED	Sam Tonge and Annabelle Degrafe
FREEHAND DRAWING	Ella Jackson

# CARDIFF - TENBY 100 MILER



A team of fifteen cyclists from the Morganstown and Radyr area took part in the 'Carten 100', the Cardiff to Tenby 100 mile cycle ride on the 7th May, 2011. The team have raised almost £5,000. for the Velindre Cancer Centre in Cardiff. Over 300 cyclists took part in this ride with an estimated total of £30,000. raised for the Velindre charity. We would like to thank everyone for their support.

The nine team members photographed are: Back row L to R – Kevin Hull, Gordon Loxton, Nick Hughes, Phil Owen, Mike Dyer.

Front Row – Dave Welsh, Justin Robinson, Gareth Martin, Chris Latchford.

The following also took part – Dr. Alan Davies, Geraint Jones, Jonathan Grundy, Giles Peacock, Jamie O'Connor, Robin Shanahan.

Gordon Loxton.

and gave the club a fascinating talk on Australian plants illustrated with many excellent slides. At the AGM, Jane Parry stepped down as Chairman, a position she has held for the last few years and our thanks go to her for the work she has put in during this time.

Finally, thanks go to all those who donated plans and those who helped man the Plant Stand at the Festival Fete.

It is now back to gardening in earnest and coping with the vagaries (or perhaps that should be the perversities) of the British weather.

We will be meeting again in September. The programme for 2011-12 is currently being put together. As in past years all meetings will be at the New School Rooms, Heol Isaf on the second Wednesday of the month (September onwards) starting at 7.39pm and are followed by refreshments.

Please keep an eye on the Village notice boards and for those who are digitally minded, the Radyr website ([www.radyr.org.uk](http://www.radyr.org.uk)) for programme details.

## RADYR, MORGANSTOWN & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The second half of our 2010-11 meetings programme came to an end on Wednesday, 13th April. Prior to this, in January, February and March we had enjoyed three differing illustrated talks on Growing Cacti, Dyffryn Gardens and Veddw House Garden. Tony Jukes illustrated the main categories of Cacti and Succulents and explained the conditions required to grow these and ways in which they can be propagated. The talks in February and March discussed and illustrated the development of two very different gardens. Dyffryn Gardens is familiar to many of us and the Gardening Club has closely followed the restoration which has taken place

over recent years. We were pleased therefore to hear of the plans for the next stage of development. Veddw House Garden at Devauden near Chepstow is probably less familiar. This is a garden that has been developed by Anne Wareham and her husband, Charles Hawes, over the last twenty or so years. The talk outlined the thoughts behind each of the individual elements of the garden and was illustrated with a number of photographs many of which were taken by Charles Hawes, who is a professional garden photographer, known through his photographs for "Gardens of Wales".

Our programme came to an end in April with the AGM, followed by an illustrated talk by Mary Gillham. Mary Gillham, who is known to many of us through her books on local flora and contributions to Radyr Chain, is a botanist who has studied plant life in many parts of the world

### Open Weekend of the Clewer's garden at 6 Windsor Avenue, Radyr.

Our Garden winner of many prizes in 'Cardiff in Bloom', will be open for the weekend 16-17th July 2011.

On Saturday 16th July there will be a Garden Party. This will be held from 3-5pm in aid of Christchurch Parish Youth Work. Tickets £4 (including light tea) will be available at the Christchurch summer fete on 2nd July, or from Norman or Barbara Clewer Tel. 20313373.

On Sunday 17th July opening for the national Gardens Scheme (Yellow Book). The Garden will be open from 2-6pm in aid of NGS charities. Admission £3 (Including tea and cake) payable at the door.

## MAY 2011 REPORT

**Radyr Library Project:** For several months we have been seeking agreement on the best basis of replacing the existing library with a new one on the Park Road site. It is now decided that a refurbished and extended library will be developed towards the end of 2011 or in early 2012. There will be a display in the existing library but we attach a front view and plan of the proposed new library; it is envisaged that, in addition to creating more space, the new refurbishment will be well fitted-out to a high specification and it will be able to serve our communities effectively for many years and will give the staff much improved working conditions.

Building work will take about 6 months with probable completion in June to August of 2012; during this time when the library is closed we will hope to provide a mobile library combined with assistance to visit other local branch libraries where help is required.

Clearly this is not a major rebuild and it proved impossible to persuade the ruling coalition of Cardiff Council to fund a rebuild despite the efforts of your County Councillor, Community Council and R+M Association who worked together on your behalf. Indeed, even to secure this much needed new facility, it was necessary to relinquish the "community land" at the sidings. Taylor Wimpey, the main developer, insisted on their legal rights and refused to respect the spirit of the original agreement which allowed them to build and sell so many homes in the area.

We believe that residents will admire and enjoy this updated library and we look forward to seeing it completed as soon as possible

PS: since writing this I have seen the article written jointly by R+MCC and R+MA. They point out that this scheme has stalled since 2004 but I was only elected in 2008 and considerable progress has been made since then. I regret that the capital funding provided by Cardiff Council has reduced and I lobbied at all levels for its reinstatement; I also pressed Taylor Wimpey in 2008 to agree a change in the wording of the agreement for community land and no other local representatives (including R+MCC and R+MA) had thought to do this. The wording was clear and it was obvious to



Library 3D view West

me in 2008 that the land might be lost. I do not exonerate Taylor Wimpey from blame; they built and sold a large number of houses and have reneged on the land offered in exchange; legally their position is sound but morally it is reprehensible.

In conclusion, I suggest that we should look forward and celebrate a refurbished, extended library built on a site our community selected.

Each month I post a newsletter which gives a balanced account of my dealings with Cardiff Council on behalf of our communities. It is on the R+M website but I will gladly send an individual copy to anyone who requests this.

**All-Weather Pitch:** All necessary funds (nearly £500K) are in place and I await an up-to-date plan for completing the installation.

**Local Development Plan:** I cannot emphasise too strongly the risk that some 4000 houses may be built at the southern end of Heol Isaf. There is a meeting in Radyr Comp at 6pm on Monday, 6th June when the process will be explained; questions may be asked and the means of raising objections will be set out.

**Drysgol Road and Bryn Derwen:** The poor areas of roadway have been resurfaced which will please the innumerable residents who raised this with me.

**Disused Railway Bridge and Footpaths between Sidings and Llandaff:** The cost of repairing the bridge is estimated at £250K, but the funds to do this are nearly in place and we will go out to tender soon. I have applied for a special grant to resurface several paths in the area and early indications are hopeful. This will give access to Llandaff by foot or cycle to Sidings residents but it will also create

an excellent circular walk linking with the Taff Trail near Hailey Park. I have drawings which I will share with anyone who asks. The total project cost will come close to £500K if we do all the planned areas.

**Bryn Deri and Radyr Primary:** Bryn Deri will have a major staffroom extension and Radyr Primary has had constructed a number of outdoor teaching areas. The approximate cost is £130K and this follows £100K of projects completed last year using planning gain funds.

**Malfunctioning Speed Indicator Sign:** The only suggestion have received is to relocate this further north between Bryn Derwen and Morganstown on Heol Isaf to slow traffic going north towards Morganstown.

**Boot Camp:** People will have noticed signs advertising this to take place at Mound Field. I investigated this at the request of Radyr Rangers and found that it was completely unauthorised and the signs are fly posted.

**Gullies:** Recent heavy rain has made it evident that we have a number of blocked gullies which I have reported.

**Radyr Festival:** Sue and I have attended a large number of Festival events which have been well organised and most enjoyable. This reflects great credit on many people but David Cargill and Allan Cook in particular. I hope that Good Neighbours profited to a substantial extent.

**Grass Cutting of Cardiff Council owned land in our Ward:** I am seeing a senior officer to arrange a sensible basis for R+MCC to take over some grass cutting from the Council.

Cllr. Rod McKerlich  
19th May, 2011.

## RADYR LIBRARY

We now know the future of the library in Park Road. In the April 2010 edition of Radyr Chain (available on line on the Radyr website [www.radyr.org.uk](http://www.radyr.org.uk)) we reported that Cardiff Council had £600,000 in its capital budget which would be added to £400,000 planning gain (from the Sidings development) to finance a brand new and much bigger library. We asked you where the library should be built and you chose to have it remain in Park Road. We have effectively been waiting (not passively) to have plans approved. At a meeting on 9th May in County Hall we were eventually told what would be happening.

Cardiff Council have decided to refurbish the current library and not to build a new one. In essence, Cardiff Council have reallocated their capital budget for our library; what little money there is in Cardiff's overall library budget is to be spread thinly across a number of Cardiff communities. The planning gain money now stands at £457,000 and we have been fortunate in also gaining a Welsh Assembly Government grant of £120,000, which requires Cardiff Council to provide match funding of £12,000. Cardiff say that this £12,000 will be their minimum contribution but with £589,000 to spend, we find it hard to imagine that they will need to contribute more.

You might think that £589,000 would buy quite a sizeable building but such are the costs estimated by Cardiff Council that the proposal is only to refurbish the existing building and provide a new extension and entrance. Due to the provision of (agreed to be necessary) back room areas, the actual public space in the library will grow by about 17m<sup>2</sup>. The building will be gutted and will be refitted to what will undoubtedly be a high standard. We have been promised involvement with the planning of that refitting. There is no promise of extending the opening hours, although these will be reviewed. The library will be closed for approximately six months with a possible opening date of August 2012. A mobile library may be provided on alternate Fridays with Tongwynlais, although visits may be possible to sheltered housing.

We place on record our severe disappointment with this outcome. For many years, Radyr & Morganstown residents had been promised a new and bigger library for our increasing population. This was implicit in the

'Section 106' agreement signed in 2002 which designated the Community Plot in Radyr Sidings as the potential site. Although our community has grown significantly, Cardiff tell us now that our library is of sufficient size.

We did contemplate challenging this decision but timescales are against us. Deliberations by Cardiff Council have taken so long that, unless the current proposal is accepted, we risk losing all because both the Planning Gain and WAG monies will expire in 2012.

So, reluctantly, we have agreed in principle (we suggested some minor amendments) to the plans put forward by Cardiff Council. The refurbished library will undoubtedly be better than the present one, and we delight in that fact. But Radyr & Morganstown, who contribute vast sums to Cardiff Council via the Council Tax, find yet again that we get little back. We have also lost the Community Plot on Radyr Sidings, which Cardiff Council are returning to the developer. We had hoped that that area would have been the heart of the Sidings community but it will soon be covered with more houses. We do not blame Taylor Wimpey for the loss of that plot; they could have been more generous but they have acted as would any business. However, we do feel that the community of Radyr & Morganstown has been badly let down by Cardiff Council in view of the reallocation of the library budget and the loss of the Community Plot. We would have thought that Cardiff would have been able to renegotiate the planning gain agreement once they knew the plot would not be used for a new Library or Health Centre. Surely we deserve better than this.

**Radyr & Morganstown Community Council**  
**Radyr & Morganstown Association**

### DOES YOUR ORGANISATION OR GROUP REQUIRE A SPEAKER?

If so, please contact John Hunt  
029 2084 3654  
for further details regarding subjects etc.

## RADYR NURSERIES WANTED: TAKE PART IN PEDAL PUSH

The NSPCC is calling on nurseries in Radyr to take part in its annual Pedal Push.

Pedal Push is a mini bike ride for children under five. Children at nurseries, crèches and playgroups can take part by hopping on their bikes, trikes and scooters to raise funds for the NSPCC, making a real difference to children's lives across the UK.

Nurseries can also choose to raise funds for their own group or cause by keeping up to 25% of the money raised.

It's easy to organise and can be held between now and September. Nurseries will receive a special Pedal Push pack, including lots of activities and top tips to download.

NSPCC community fundraising manager, Jo Leonard said "Pedal Push is a fun and exciting way to get children on their bikes, trikes and scooters to make a difference for other children. The money raised will help the NSPCC to run services for children, young people and families like ChildLine and the NSPCC Helpline. None of these services would be possible without the continued generosity of donors, fundraisers and supporters".

If you are interested in organising your own Pedal Push, register now at [www.nspcc.org.uk/pedalpush](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/pedalpush) call 0800 101 996 or email [pedalpush@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:pedalpush@nspcc.org.uk) for more information.



## 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](mailto:clerk@radyr.org.uk)

Clerk/Clerc: Helena Fox

I am delighted to be able to tell you that the Community Council has agreed to buy part of Radyr Woods from Plymouth Estate. While most of the area we call Radyr Woods is owned by Cardiff Council, about a quarter of it (mostly the steeply wooded section) was owned by the Estate and had been leased to R&MCC for twenty five years. When the lease expired, we had hoped that Cardiff Council would buy the land so that this much-valued part of our community was under one ownership. However, Cardiff did not want to take on the woodland. The Radyr Woods Wardens had considered buying the land but the legal and insurance implications became too complex and expensive. So the next best way of protecting the land for the long term was for the Community Council to buy it. Fortunately, we have agreed to purchase the woodland for the nominal sum of £100.00 and hope to complete the legal process shortly.

The Radyr Woods Wardens celebrate 25 years of maintaining Radyr Woods in 2011 and during that time they have transformed it from an over-grown and neglected area into the lovely mix of open meadow and woodland that we see today. The paths, steps and boardwalks have all been put in and maintained by the Wardens using several thousands pounds of grants they have raised alongside annual support from R&MCC. If we could add up the thousands of voluntary hours they have given to the community it would be an impressive number. The community certainly owes them a debt of gratitude and we will be celebrating their achievement later this year.

Cardiff's Local Development Plan proposes significant growth for the coming decades; how much new housing that will lead to is yet to be determined. The Community Council is active on your behalf in responding to all the consultation phases of this lengthy process: the final document should be adopted in 2014 if all goes smoothly. It is possible, perhaps likely, that the fields either side of the Llantrisant Road and the land at Gelynis Farm will be developed. Cardiff's website gives considerable detail and I am always happy to answer questions, where I can.

**Helena Fox - Clerk**



### The weather summary - by John Trenchard

The rainfall shortage in the last two months of March and April over much of Britain has amounted to 75-125mm (3 to 6 inches), so a good deal of more rain is necessary before we can say that the drought is properly over.

The rainfall of March and April over England and Wales was exceptionally low, amounting to 39mm (1.54 inches) which is just a quarter of the normal amount. It was the driest March/April – indeed it was the driest pair of calendar months at any time of the year – since 1938.

April rainfall in Cardiff was 24.4mm (25.4mm = one inch). However, since 1990, it was drier in 2007 with only 21.3mm, whilst the combined March and April totals came to 54.3mm. Since 1990 the driest any two months was 68.7mm in March and April in 1990. Rainfall this year to 30th April has only been 321.9mm 80%.

So far this May to the 15th, Cardiff's rainfall has been 37.2mm. Reliable rainfall records over the British Isles only go back to 1860. Then George Symons with a great interest in the weather, produced the first edition of the book "British Rainfall", which contained the records from 168 observers. By the time of Symons's death in 1900 the network of observers had risen to 3500 in just forty years. Up to 1860 the rainfall records showed there was lack of uniformity in instrumentation, the siting of rain gauges and in the observational practice.

No doubt you noticed the rapid growth during April in the garden and allotments due to the 4C above average temperature. The daytime maximum temperature was 17.3C vs 4.5C, whilst the night time minimum air temperature was 9.3C vs 3.4C. However, in 2007 taking the average of the daytime maximum and night time minimum air temperature it was 4.7C above the average. April sunshine was 310.2 hours (136%) this year but 237.6 hours (154%) in 2007.

# *A Trip Down Memory Lane*



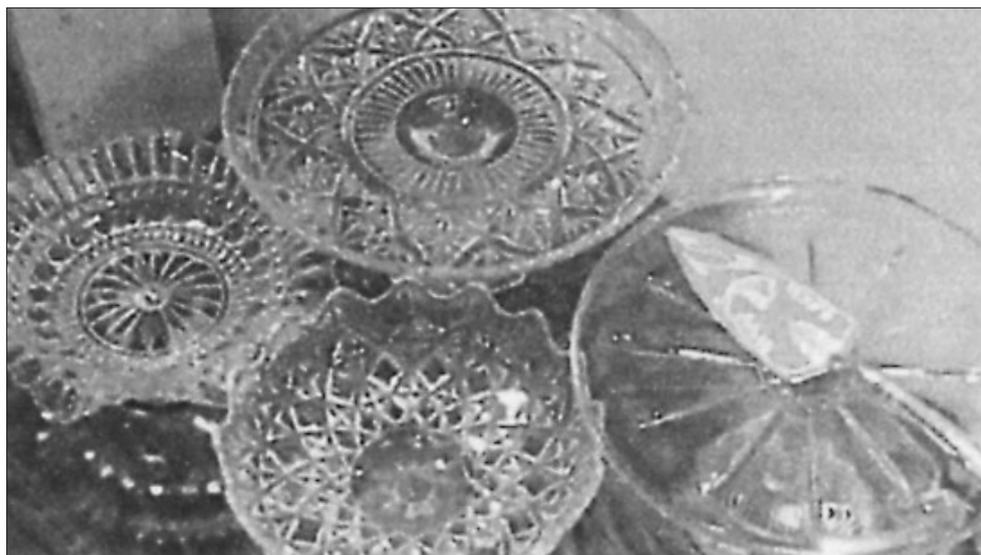
Gemma and Pat of Vintage Gem would like to say a big thank you to all the people of Radyr and Morganstown for making them feel very welcome in their new venture. Since opening on Good Friday they have received great support from the local community and the Traders on Station Road who have been just wonderful.



Vintage Gem was born from a passion for collecting vintage and unloved items to give them the chance to be re-loved. They travel all around the country hunting for things which they feel are special enough for the shop.

Vintage Gem is open Monday to Saturday 9am – 4pm and Pat and Gemma would be very happy for you to come in and have a look around the shop.

“We wanted to create a place which felt welcoming and familiar, just like going to your Nana’s house. And we love to see people’s reactions when they spot something from their childhood”.



Some of the items they have available are as follows: Dressers, Tables, an American Rocking Chair, 1930’s Dressing Table, Mirrors, China, Glassware, Blankets, Baskets, Books, Ornaments, Cake stands, Jelly moulds, Brooches, Necklaces, Fascinators, French soap, Gift cards, Keyrings and so much more.

Coming soon: Welsh Language Greeting Cards.

**Vintage Gem**  
**1b Station Road,**  
**Radyr, Cardiff**  
**CF15 8AA**

**Email – [vintagegem@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vintagegem@hotmail.co.uk)**  
**Tel. 029 2084 2337**

## **NOTICE**

We have had to change the venue of our next General Meeting on 6th June. We are following the form of meeting introduced in February by having a key speaker, this time our own Allan Cook, Chairman of the Local History Society. The topic will be ‘The Village that moved and moved’ – essentially the origins of Radyr and Morganstown.

The meeting was scheduled to be at the Old Church Rooms as usual, but Cardiff Council have set up an important consultation meeting concerning the Local Development Plan (which affects all of us) at 6pm on the same day in the Comprehensive School. We encourage all RMA members to attend the LDP meeting and our meeting will therefore be at the Comprehensive School starting immediately the first one finishes. If you just wish to attend the RMA Meeting, please come at 7.30pm.

We realise that this will mean a longish session for you but we will aim to keep our meeting short with not much more than Allan’s talk and a quick resume of the outcome of the May Festival.

This message will be repeated in the May Newsletter which we plan to issue soon. However, please note both meetings and the change of location in your diaries now.

**Nick Hawkins**  
Secretary  
The Radyr & Morganstown Association  
Tel. 029 2084 2561

# Just Ask Jane

[JustAskJane@orangehome.co.uk](mailto:JustAskJane@orangehome.co.uk)

Jane is an experienced Change Coach and any questions can be sent to her at [JustAskJane@Orangehome.co.uk](mailto:JustAskJane@Orangehome.co.uk) Jane will try and respond to all emails, but please include a comment as to whether you would agree for your question to be published

*I was good friends with someone for several years but a few months ago we began to bicker about trivial things every time we met and then eventually we had a full blown argument. Whilst I think I've accepted that the friendship is over, I get angry thinking about some of the things she had said to me during that time. I also keep worrying that I am going to bump into her as we both live locally. It's beginning to affect my enjoyment of just popping to the shops.*

I do sympathise. Friendships can be very precious and it can hurt when any relationship ends. However, it sounds as though you are still using your time and energy going over old ground and also thinking in a negative way about 'What if' ... you see her again. Perhaps you could change the scenario so when you picture yourself seeing her, imagine smiling, saying Hello and walking on. If you are a relatively assertive person, you may want to consider arranging to meet her and just talking about how you feel and also giving her the chance to tell you how she feels. If you already believe the friendship is over, then you have little to lose by trying to at least clear the air. Alternatively you may want to write her a letter, which you don't have to send, but at least by expressing some of the hurt and the tensions that you are still experiencing, you may be able to start to let go of these feelings. A technique which some clients find helpful is just to remember all the things that you enjoyed about the friendship and all the good qualities that you saw in her when you were friends. You then may be able to finally remember her with kindness and let go of the anger that you are still carrying. Your body doesn't know the difference between a thought and reality so by thinking pleasant thoughts you may at least have a better day!

*I always considered myself to be a confident person, but recently I have found it increasingly difficult to make a decision and I find myself dithering about the slightest thing. It's getting to the stage where I dread thinking about booking a holiday or buying new clothes as I know that I won't be able to decide what I want.*

Every day we are bombarded with messages about what to wear, what to eat and what the 'In' colour is for this season's fashions. It's hardly surprising that we question our own ability to make a decision any more! In fact, it's even been given a label - FOMO - Fear of Missing Out. Any decision you make means that you are closing the door on your options. Years ago, most of our options were restricted by little choice and limited budgets. Nowadays some people are experiencing the

stress of too much choice and have lost touch with what they actually want. You may want to try reframing your decisions so that they are for 'this time' only. For example, write down three holiday destinations and three options for the type of holiday you might like - perhaps sight-seeing, or relaxing, or an activity holiday. Tick your preferred choice for 'This Time' and only look at three web sites or Tourism companies to find one that is good enough. There are no guarantees for a perfect holiday (or perfect food, perfect outfit ...) yet we always learn something from our experiences. As you begin to feel more comfortable accepting a decision for 'this time' and allowing the outcome to be 'good enough', you will begin to experience more pleasure in your choices, rather than focusing on the options that you didn't choose. If you would like to email me, I can go through some further techniques with you to help you get back in touch with the real you and the ability to recognise what you really want!

*Just AskJane*

[JustAskJane@orangehome.co.uk](mailto:JustAskJane@orangehome.co.uk)

## ANDREW COX BARBERING

... is a new shop recently opened at 1 Station Road, Radyr. We offer professional, contemporary and traditional barbering techniques to men and children of all ages. We have two Barbers available with over twenty year's experience.

The Salon is open six days a week Monday - Saturday with late evenings on Tuesday and Thursday until 2:00pm.

Whilst in the salon you can enjoy free wi-fi connection to surf the web or send that all important email.

We also ask that customers take advantage of our free refreshments available.

We would like to thank our neighbouring businesses for their support with the opening of the new salon and hope that we are as much of an asset as they are.

## CHAIN COOKERY CORNER

### RHUBARB AND GINGER BEER JELLIES

**Refreshing, delicious and interesting - serves 6**

1lb (450g) rhubarb

1 heaped teaspn. freshly grated ginger

2oz (50g) golden caster sugar

1 (135g) pack orange jelly

2 (275g) bottles Fentimans ginger beer

1 (200ml) tub crème fraiche

Few pieces preserved ginger

Wash and chop rhubarb.

Place in medium pan with sugar and fresh ginger

Cover and cook over low heat

until poached and soft - 10-15 minutes

Allow to cool.

Break jelly into cubes and place into microwaveable measuring jug

Add 3 Tbs. water - heat on full power for one minute

When jelly has dissolved make up to 18fl oz (510ml) with ginger beer

Combine liquid mixture with cooked rhubarb

and pour into six glasses

Place in fridge to set

Top each one with spoon of crème fraiche

And a little chopped ginger

A.M.P.

## TREFORGAN WI

We had a great time at the 2011 Radyr Festival. Once again, our craft stall was 'hands on'. Threading beads, knitting, making pom poms, friendship bracelets and tassels was good fun for the children and those who taught them.

This year, Treforgan was also in charge of the teas served after the maypole dancing. It was a learning curve for those of us who had not been involved in catering for such large numbers before. However, the experts from within our group had us well organised and it all went smoothly with bountiful and delicious cakes. The profit we made of £184.50. was donated to the festival charity, the 'Good Neighbours' scheme. Our members are hoping to continue this theme in a practical way by volunteering to help with the work the 'Good Neighbours' do.

There will be a serious side to our May meeting as we consider and vote on a resolution to be put to the government for implementation. The subjects this year concern closure of public libraries and megafarms. But once this is dealt with, we will move swiftly on to try our hands at dry curling. Not hair styling but the Scottish sport involving a spherical stone and brushes but without the ice.

We are looking forward to an assortment of activities in the coming months including learning about shells and a physic garden, singing (for those who think they can't!), walking and enjoying a strawberry spectacular.

It should be pointed out that participation in all these events and happenings is not obligatory. If you prefer to join us for a chat, a cup of tea and a biscuit, you will be welcome.

Treforgan WI will be at Morganstown Village Hall at 1.30pm on 16th June and 18th August. For information about our July meeting or anything else you would like to know, contact Sue Smith on 029 2084 3920.

## GNOSTIC INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY – GNOSIS

Know Yourself, Self Realisation through Direct Experience

### The Gnostic Institute of Anthropology

The Gnostic Institute of Anthropology teaches the Gnostic Philosophy as it was practised by the ancient Gnostics. It has existed for many thousands of years but only recently in the 20th century been delivered and unveiled by V.M. Samael Aun Weor and V.M. Litelantes.

The Gnostic Institute of Anthropology is an international organization, established since the 1950's in South America, in the UK since the 1980's and in Wales since 2008.

The Gnostic Institute is an institution for men and women whose common interest is to study and practice the Gnostic Knowledge in the various fields of human activity: Science, Art, Philosophy, Mysticism, Psychology, Metaphysics.

The Gnostic Institute is a non-profit organisation, working for all people, regardless of social or cultural status, age, sex, race or belief.

### What is Gnosis?

Gnosis means knowledge, about the human and the cosmos. Knowledge is the most immeasurable wealth that we can possess, because it allows us to discover the wonderful treasure that one has within.

There is no better time spent than that dedicated to self-knowledge, since this is the only way to achieve inner harmony and this is priceless.

If we reflect sincerely, it is natural to conclude that without knowledge there can be no self-realization. Without self-realization, one is still a youth, without maturity, lacking in understanding of the true meaning of one's existence.

Gnosis is the original source of Knowledge, the Initiatic Wisdom, of the great Solar civilizations of antiquity. It is the essence of all

religions and spiritual traditions. We must distinguish between the "essence" and the "forms" of religious expression – religions forms expire over time, the essence always remains.

"The secret science of the Sufis and of the Whirling Dervishes is within Gnosis. The secret doctrine of Buddhism and of Daoism is within Gnosis. The sacred magic of the Norse is within Gnosis. The wisdom of Hermes, Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed and Quetzalcoatl, etc., is within Gnosis. Gnosis is the Doctrine of Christ". (V.M. Samael Aun Weor).

The Gnostic Institute provides special methods and systems for each person to self-realise their full potential. It is through the method of intimate self-observation, developing self-awareness that we are able to conduct a psychological inventory of what we have and what we lack. This is an important foundation of the practical work.

### Activities at the Institute

If you have interest in this Knowledge and are looking for a transformation in your life, we invite you to study methods to achieve the awakening of your consciousness.

### Public Conferences every Tuesday in June and July and 7.30pm

**Venue: Radyr, Cardiff**  
**Tel: 029 2084 2342**

**7th June** *The Human Machine*

**14th June** *Awakening of the Consciousness*

**21st June** *Return, Recurrence, Reincarnation*

**28th June** *Cause and Effect*

**5th July** *The Mysteries of Life and Death*

**12th July** *Parallel Universes*

**19th July** *Self Remembering and Self Observation*

**26th July** *Introduction to Meditation*

For further information please visit our website or call us:  
Web: [www.gnostic-institute.org/cardiff.htm](http://www.gnostic-institute.org/cardiff.htm)

## News from Radyr Library

The staff at Radyr Library are concerned that during the last few months there have been 6 incidents where children have been left unattended in the library and were still there at closing time. This has resulted in two members of staff having to remain in the building after it has shut until the children's parents arrived to collect them. Staff are not required to do this as it is not their responsibility to care for unaccompanied children. We'd like to remind all our customers that it is illegal for a child under the age of 8 to be left unsupervised in the library. If parents arrange to collect their children who are over the age of 8 from the library, they should make sure that they arrive before closing time.

The current opening hours for Radyr Library are:

Monday 10:00am to 1:00pm  
2:00pm to 6:00pm  
Tuesday 10:00am to 1:00pm  
2:00pm to 5:30pm  
Wednesday 10:00am to 1:00pm  
2:00pm to 5:30pm  
Thursday Closed  
Friday 2:00pm to 7:00pm Saturday  
10:00am to 1:00pm

Thank you all for your co-operation.

On a personal note..... I have worked at Radyr Library since October 1994 and have seen many changes of staff and customers during my very happy working life here. Radyr and Morganstown has been a wonderful place to work. The feeling of community is unsurpassed and I thank all of our customers for their friendship. So it is with a degree of sadness that I leave Radyr to move temporarily to Llandaff North Library. There will be diverse, new challenges to look forward to and new customers to meet. However I will be returning to work at Radyr Library

after its refurbishment and will look forward to being a part of the "Grand Re-opening". I wish you all good health and happiness. Anne

## NEWS FROM RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN WI

Our planned programme for 2011 is now well underway. Having survived the arctic temperatures in January and February we are now looking forward to our spring and summer activities. However, our early meetings this year were well attended in spite of the weather conditions.

Jane Breeze was our speaker on 10th January. Jane is a life coach and through her talk entitled "The Diamond Within", she explained how we could take control and improve the quality of our lives. This proved a very suitable topic for helping implement New Year's resolutions.

In February, we joined with the Radyr Association for the early part of the evening to hear a presentation given by Cardiff City Council. Councillor Margaret Jones introduced Tara King who is Head of the Department for waste disposal and re-cycling. Mrs. King gave a very informative talk about the current situation and outlined plans for improved services in the future. She answered varied and diverse questions from the audience who had obviously found her talk interesting. As a joint meeting it worked very well and we thank the Radyr Association for their invitation.

Moving on into Spring, the local primary schools held their St. David's Day celebrations and this year, the WI Millennium Cups for creative writing were won by Steffan Phillips in Radyr Primary and Aaron Dyer in Bryn Deri. The boys will receive their engraved cups in our March meeting. However, they were presented in the schools on St. David's Day by WI representatives.

2nd March was a beautiful day for the WI link groups walk from the Bay to Tongwynlais. This event was organised by Tongwynlais WI who also provided a very welcome lunch. A further link group activity will take place on 24th March, when Pontcanna WI will host an afternoon at Chapter Arts Centre.

Meanwhile, our specialist groups continue to flourish. The book groups are reading and discussing, the craft group is creating, the walkers are keeping fit and for those who like eating and socialising, a lunch event is being organised for April. Our latest group is a genealogy group led by Gaynor Leaf. Members of this group are currently engaged in "climbing their family trees".

As Spring continues, we are all looking forward to the events of April and May – not just the Royal Wedding but the Radyr Festival. This year, Radyr and Morganstown WI is breaking with

tradition. We will not be providing May Day teas at the crowning ceremony on Monday, 2nd May, but don't panic, Treforgan WI are going to be at the Methodist Church dispensing refreshments in our stead.

This year we are going to be part of the Festival Fete on Saturday, 30th April. In 2009, we held a very successful Spring Market to support the Dan-y-Bryn building project. On the strength of this, we are planning to hold a "market" within the festival fete. Stalls will include cakes, homemade produce, craft and flowers. Come and support the fete and purchase some R&M WI "goodies". In so doing you will be supporting the festival's named charity, the local Good Neighbours Scheme.

Should you wish to find out more about our WI, go to our updated website or pick up a 2011 Programme in Radyr Library. Alternatively, just come along to meeting as a guest.

See you in the Festival Fete – Saturday, 30th April at 1pm. L.J.H.

Contacts: Lesley Hall 2084 3630  
Val Convery 2020 6130  
valcon@sky.com



Aaron Dyer from Bryn Deri above and Steffan Phillips from Radyr Primary below



## MY FAIR LADY

A seemingly never ending winter, disturbing news from the Middle East, earthquakes, rising costs – we did not need these things as February came to an end. What we did need was an antidote to all this misery, and – by jove – we got it! Radyr Parish Music Group gave us “My Fair Lady”.

Colourful and lively from the start, this show did not disappoint us, maintaining a vigorous pace to the end.

Gill Evans directed with flair and imagination. The music was a delight with strong principals and chorus, thanks to Tessa Davies and her assistant Pauline Gutteridge. What a privilege, also to enjoy the expertise of Simon Davison (Welsh National Opera) as he conducted a well trained orchestra.

Very good choreography by Jane Clarke ensured that there was plenty of movement on stage, and clever use of cast members for scene changes provided smooth continuity.

We were thrilled by the lovely voice of Victoria Quigley (Elizabeth Doolittle). We shall watch her career with interest.

Brian Willis and Nick Hawkins gave strong performances as Professor Higgins and Colonel Pickering – a perfect foil for each other. Chris Dales (Alfred Doolittle) held the whole show together with vigorous acting and singing.

The “highlight” must surely have been the jolly romp through the audience with everyone joining in with the singing and clapping.

Anne-Marie Phillips was well cast with her convincing portrayal of Mrs. Higgins. Julian Dale played sensitively in his role as Freddy of the unrequited love, and Gill Davies gave us a wonderfully calm and un-flappable Mrs. Pearce as the only sane member of a somewhat crazy household!

And what of Sue Thomas and John Hopkins? They made an hysterically funny entrance as the Queen and Prince of Transylvania – a real little gem in the Ball scene.

The children performed well and with obvious enjoyment.

This was an excellent production, worthy of even greater audiences, and probably the best we have seen from Radyr Parish Music Group who go from strength to strength.

We came away humming the lovely tunes and feeling that “we could have danced all night”.

We eagerly await ‘Iolanthe’ which will be staged next February.

Ros Bray

## LUNCHTIME CONCERT

The second major musical event and this year’s lunchtime concert will be given by another Radyr resident, the international baritone Jeremy Huw Williams. When I spoke to Jeremy, he was on his way to Germany to sing opera in Stuttgart then on to Aberdeen for a concert followed by more opera at Edinburgh and Glasgow.

As well as singing in France, Belgium, Norway, Greece, Italy, the USA and Ireland, he appears extensively in Wales where he has sung Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*) and Escamillo (*Carmen*) for Welsh National Opera, as well as singing for Music Theatre Wales. He has given recitals at the Wigmore Hall and the Purcell Rooms in London. He sang at the opening concert at the Wales Millennium Centre and received the inaugural Sir Geraint Evans Award from the Welsh Music Guild, given to a person or persons who have made a significant contribution to Welsh music.

His programme will include Purcell songs, some of George Butterworth’s settings of A.E. Housman’s *The Shropshire Lad*, some rarely heard settings of Welsh folk songs by Haydn and arias from three of Mozart’s great operas, *Don Giovanni*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Magic Flute*.

Jeremy will be accompanied by Nigel Foster. Nigel was born in London and studied piano at the Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. His teachers were Roger Vignoles, Graham Johnson and Iain Burnside. At both the Academy and the Guildhall he won every prize and award available for piano accompaniment and has since been appointed an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. Nigel enjoys a busy schedule performing on the concert platform and is the founder, director and pianist of the London Song Festival, an annual event that promotes the song repertoire.

The lunchtime concert will be at Radyr Methodist Church at 12.45pm on Wednesday, 11th May. Tickets £7., £6. concessions, £3. students from the Festival Box Office.

## MURDER HE WROTE

This year’s literary event moves from the world of poetry to the world of murder. Professor Bernard Knight is best known for his medieval mysteries featuring “Crown John”, but more recently he has started on a new series based in the Wye Valley. Still technically historical, the series is based in 1955.

Forensic pathologist Dr. Richard Pryor uses his ‘golden handshake’ from Singapore to return to Wales to set up in private practice. The story, based partly on the author’s own past experience, carries the stamp of authenticity, as well as capturing the atmosphere of the fifties, when Britain was recovering from the effects of the Second World War.

After nearly fifty years as a writer, Professor Knight is still amazingly prolific. In 2010 he produced both a Crown John and a Richard Prior novel. He is the second longest-serving member of the Crime Writer’s Association and was for a number of years one of the judges for their Silver Dagger Award.

In another life he is both a doctor and a barrister. He was one of the Home Office’s most senior pathologists and he has been involved in hundreds of homicide cases, for both prosecution and defence, including Fred and Rosemary West, Mary Bell and Vatican banker Roberto Calvi.

It will be interesting to know why someone who must have been so abreast with current developments in forensic medicine, decided to write of periods before such scientific evidence existed.

Professor Knight will speak at the Old Church Rooms at 8pm on Thursday, 12th May. Tickets £5., £4. concessions, £2. students from the Festival Box Office.

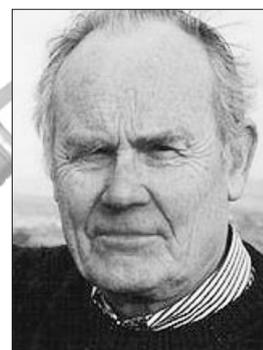
**Tickets can be obtained from the Festival Box Office, namely Veg Vendor, Station Road, Radyr, Allan Cook 2084 3176 or Nick Hawkins 2084 2561.**



Jeremy Huw Williams



Nigel Foster



Professor Bernard Knight



