

# RADYR CHAIN



Number 248

Free to every home in Radyr and Morganstown

June 2020

## What did you do in the Great Pandemic grandma?

It is far too early to say what effect the Pandemic will have on our Society. One thing is clear, that while some things will return to “normal”, it will cause major changes in others, some for the better. Will it go down in the annals of history with the Norman Conquest, the Black Death, or the two World Wars? Only time will tell.



One thing I think that we will all be grateful for is the way that it has brought our communities together. While we are “socially isolating” most of us will have got to know a number of new people and got to know relative strangers very well. We are also more likely to start a conversation with total strangers, all this can't be anything but beneficial to our community.

The kindness of people has been accentuated. Strangers shopping for others. Phoning the lonely. The group of ladies who have been sewing headbands for nurses so that the strings on the face masks do not cut into their ears. A simple solution to a problem much appreciated by nurses, we are told. We understand that a group based in Pentyrch has been producing face visors and it is re-assuring that groups have got together to keep the Food Banks open. These are only a few examples



of the positive impact of the virus. We have been blessed with particularly lovely weather during the lockdown after one of the wettest periods on record. The fine weather after a mild winter meant that the spring flowers and trees have been particularly lovely. We can't remember such a spectacular display of spring flowers including blue bells and dog daisies. We include a photograph of the entry into Radyr from the Llantrisant Road. This hedge was only been ripped out by the developers in the last year or so

*...continued on page 5*

**This edition of The Chain is being produced only electronically. If you know of people who don't have a computer why not print out a copy and give it to them.**

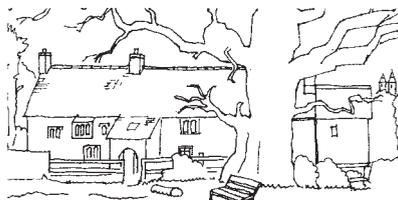
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# Foodbanks

We all know how much food growing children can consume and this has been a particular problem to our poorest families during the Covid lockdown. While some children normally have breakfast clubs and free lunches they have been eating at home for the past few months. Even if children do go back to school for a few weeks before the holidays there is still the six weeks of summer holiday to look forward to, something some families look forward to with dread. Such families depend on Food Banks.

There are several ways to contribute to Food Banks.

1. Our vicar - while the church is locked and the usual Food bank collection is suspended - is collecting food and distributing it via the schools in the parish in consultation with the head teachers. This food is distributed locally. Vicki has a box on the doorstep of the Rectory where your gifts can be left.

2. Because the Methodist Church's collections have been suspended temporarily, Ruth Diment - a member of the Methodist church - has been collecting food for the Cardiff Food Bank. Ruth was overwhelmed with gifts when she announced that she would do it in May - see the photographs attached. Ruth will collect again in June. She will leave a box on her doorstep at 30 Pentwyn between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Thursday 4th June, Friday 5th June, Saturday 6th June and Sunday 7th June. She will then arrange to transport the food to Danescourt car park where it will be handed over to the Food Bank transport. It will take several cars to take it to Danescourt if the May response is anything to go by.

Tinned and dry foods are particularly welcome and anything



with a longish sell by date.

3. There are several ways you can make a financial donation direct to

Cardiff's Food Bank, for more information go to the Cardiff Food Bank website.

## Directory Updates...

**SELF ISOLATION:** If you find you need to self isolate and need help with shopping or collecting medicines etc. the COMMUNITY project is up and running to help you.

E-mail [Community-Help@radyr.org.uk](mailto:Community-Help@radyr.org.uk) or phone 07513 187 930.

**WASTE COLLECTION:** Collection of waste has been changed. The next collection of black bins is on Monday 8th June. It will then be fortnightly. Food waste caddies will now be collected every week as will green recycling bags. Glass should still be placed in the green bags for the time being - the County Council is hoping to reinstate the blue glass bins shortly.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER ONE OFF COLLECTION OF GREEN GARDEN WASTE BINS ON SATURDAY 6th JUNE.**

Both Besemer Close and Lamby Way Collection Centres are now open. YOU NEED TO BOOK A SLOT at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/recycling-centres](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/recycling-centres).

The Council have also reinstated the collection of large and bulky items.

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.

**Receiving Editor** - Jeff Davison, 3 James Place, Treforest, Pontypridd CF37 1SQ

**E-Mail address** - [Chain@radyr.org.uk](mailto:Chain@radyr.org.uk)

**Advertising** - Linda Turner, 19 Sycamore Tree Close, Radyr. 2084 3562

**E-Mail address** - [ltturner4@btinternet.com](mailto:ltturner4@btinternet.com)

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

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

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# Coronavirus in R&M

## A personal view by Nick Hawkins.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. Please forgive that Dickensian reference but it seems to me to summarise my thoughts since we started 'lock down'. I have lived in Radyr for 42 years and witnessed some interesting times – Radyr & Morganstown completely cut off by snow in February 1982 springs to mind – but there have also been floods and major road closures and other events which have caused much disruption to our way of living. But, in all cases, the Community has pulled together to help one another.

To my eyes, Covid-19 has proven yet again that we are a caring community. Right from the outset of 'the emergency' people have stepped up to the mark to get things organised. To name a few names, Alastair Garman suggested straight away that we needed to get organised – he even envisaged having to set up a triage tent outside the Medical Centre – but the main results of his endeavours was the early issue of 'volunteer postcards' (which were produced by the Community Council) and the eventual setting up of a volunteer network (CommUNITY) to provide help where needed. I have been told that over 100 volunteers were recruited, but they have had little to do – people simply formed local networks of neighbours and friends. Rev'd Vicki Burrows has been active ringing all the people she knows to check if they are OK and organise assistance if required. This fills a vital hole in the organisation as some people do not like to ask for help. The schools have been involved in collecting food for people and families who have 'fallen through the net' of Government and Council support, and also keeping the schoolchildren active. An R&M Association member, Ade Currie of Party Wales, organised Disney characters to go round the streets to entertain the children (and adults). The Chemist and the Co-op in Station Road have continued trading and given an excellent service in

difficult circumstances (although I am appalled to have found out that some customers have behaved badly). The R&M Association's website, Facebook and Twitter accounts have never been busier. There were (suitably distanced) celebrations of VE75, and neighbours have come out to clap the NHS at 8pm on Thursdays. In short, there have been a lot of positives.

Inevitably, there has been sadness. Radyr friends have died with the virus – fortunately few in number and the ones I know contracted it in hospital and not in Radyr. Others will have sadder tales to tell. The R&M Association had to cancel the May Festival, which would have both provided a lot of pleasure for many and raised funds for Tenovus Cancer Care. It may be possible to run some Festival events later but that will depend on a lot more freedom of movement. Not everyone has had fun 'self isolating', particularly if accommodation is small and there is no garden; loneliness can be devastating. On top of that, much needed holidays will have been cancelled, and even money lost. And some may be worried about their jobs. Local businesses have been hit although some have started to trade again in a limited way. When will we be able to have a professional haircut? It would be terrible to hear that any one of our businesses has had to close because of financial problems. We do not have that many.

But, to end on a positive note, the sun has shone, those with gardens have had an amazing opportunity to make them look nice, neighbours have actually spoken to neighbours for the first time, DIY has come to the fore, and everyone has worked out how to use Zoom and Skype. On top of that, the number of amusing stories and videos that have been circulating via email and WhatsApp etc has been amazing. Undoubtedly there will have been pockets of problems and difficulty but, in the main, the R&M Community has done well. I have no idea when it will all end, or even how things will have changed when it does, but I am proud to live in this community.

## What did you do in the Great Pandemic grandma?

...from front cover

and yet it has been colonised by dog daisies, thousands of them in flower at the same time.

We are lucky in Radyr and Morganstown to have so many good walks. Many of us have taken the opportunity to discover the extent and the beauty of the golf course. The greenkeepers are to be congratulated on the way they kept the course in such immaculate condition with a reduced staff. One of the signs of coming out of lockdown is that golf has restarted and we need to keep to the footpath and look out for golfballs, once again.

It has been lovely to see the childrens' art displayed in many windows and to discover painted stones and "doorways" into trees in our various wooded areas. Finally we are particularly grateful to Ade Currie for bringing around our streets many, much loved, cartoon characters to brighten all our days not only those of the children.

## Shopping...

Our local shops are open to give us their usual excellent service. One or two things you mightn't know;

1. Cichetti's do a takeaway and delivery service both lunchtime and in the evening. They also do take away coffee. Phone 029 2084 8773
2. The Golf Club are doing takeaways. Their famous Sunday Carvery, Curries and other specialities on Wednesdays and Fish and Chips both lunch time and on Friday evening. Friday Fish and Chips are supplied hot the others are supplied cold for you to warm. Phone Christine Davies on 07874215219 or catering@radyrgolf.co.uk
3. Slice opens on Saturdays from 9-12 for coffee, cakes and pre-ordered baguettes. Phone 029 2084 2544

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# Visit from St. Philbert

Our friends from St Philbert should have visited us for the last weekend in May, unfortunately we had to cancel this visit once the Corona Virus started to affect us.

No doubt our friends from St. Philbert will make the visit in 2021 and we will recommence our biennial visits. Anyone wishing to join the Twinning - we would be particularly happy to see families with children joining - should contact the joint Chair of the R&M Twining Fellowship, Maggie Roberts on 20842995.

The virus also hit them in France but they seem to be coming out of their lock down sooner than we are. Alain, the Chair of the Twinning Committee in St. Philbert sent us the following message.

*I'm glad to hear from you, and I'm glad everything's okay.*

*For us, the lockdown has been over for a week. We are in a green zone where there is not too much risk. But it is always necessary to respect the distances between people and if possible to wear a mask in the shops. It is also mandatory in buses, trains, trams.*

*Life is back to its former form. The children and grandchildren came to lunch yesterday and everything is fine.*

*We only went out to buy food for two months so we didn't meet anyone. There was the phone and the videos but only with close friends and family. The streets were completely empty, nobody, no car. It's very strange. Today, the beaches are reopened and people can walk around. The shops too, but you only get a few people at a time and there's a long line on the sidewalks.*

*All plans for outings and holidays have been cancelled. We just hope that in August we can leave for a few days if the restaurants and guests reopen.*

*Right now it's hard to get together and talk about the future. I only have André and Marie Liete on the phone and we hope that next year it will be possible to visit you and maybe with more people.*

*Keep taking care of yourself.*

*Alain*



*Members of the Twinning with their French opposite numbers visiting Nantes. The elephant moved and we were allowed a ride in its hoda. Many people will remember the huge spider paraded through the streets of Liverpool when it became the City of Culture. The spider was made by this company in Nantes.*

## Remembering

*Although the Chain only does obituaries in exceptional circumstances we felt that in the current circumstances, when only ten people are allowed at a funeral service, readers might like to know of the deaths of some well known figures in the two villages.*

**JEFFREY DAVIES.** It seemed strange not to give Jeff the name by which he was known to all. Jeff and his wife Christine lived in Tŷ Mynydd Close. Jeff was treasurer of The Chain for many years and also laid out the front pages when it was a considerably more difficult undertaking than it is today. A bank manager by profession, he was also an active Scouter and treasurer of the Scouts locally for many years. Jeff was the lighting man of choice for both The Radyr Parish Music Group and the Radyr Drama Society for more years than most people can remember. He continued with the RPMG for several years after his wife, Christine, gave up as Musical Director. He was also an active member of Christ

Church. He is survived by Christine who is in a home in Lakeside.

**JOHN SCOTT.** was another well known figure around Radyr. John, of Woodfield Avenue, was a Radyr Woods Warden from its inception and also helped with the putting up of the large Christmas tress around the two villages for many years. He was married to Daphne, who ran the clothes shop in the village and had been a model at one time. Sadly Daphne predeceased John.

**AUDREY SKIDMORE.** Audrey had lived in the flats at the corner of Dan y Bryn Avenue for more years than most people can remember. Audrey was a well known and well loved figure around Radyr. She lived to the ripe old age of 93 and died in a home in Lakeside.

*We extend our sympathies to the families and to the families of others whose deaths we haven't heard of and hope that we will have the opportunity to say a proper farewell to them all, once the lockdown is over.*



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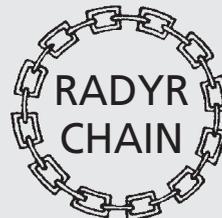


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## “We’ll Meet Again” - With Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale and Bro Radio

As the Coronavirus lockdown continues, local charity, Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale, has teamed up with Bro Radio to raise awareness that sadly isolation can already be the norm for some older people.

The radio station has launched the “We’ll Meet Again” campaign for listeners to get in touch and share a message for an older person in their lives that they are currently unable to be with due to the virus restrictions. These touching messages will be played out by the station for the recipients to hear. However, the charity is also keen to stress that not all older people are fortunate enough to have family and friends and that’s why the work of Age Connects is so vital, even more so now.

Nona Hexter, who runs the charity’s Senior Health Shop on Holton Road in Barry shares: “For so many years we have been here for older people to pop in for information, advice and have a cuppa and chat with their friends and us too. It is tough not being able to be there in person for all of the vulnerable older people that we know but staff and volunteers are ensuring we are still here at the end of the phone, helping with shopping and in any way we can within safety guidelines. The feedback from people I have spoken to is that they are so relieved and thankful to hear from us still and this is truly humbling. Family members who may not live locally are also sharing their gratitude with us for being here for their loved ones while they can’t be.”

Karen Steele from Age Connects explains: “As older people, their friends and family members continue to self-isolate, the number of vulnerable older people needing our support has risen immensely. In the first seven weeks of



Our limited resources are now focused on maintaining telephone contact with the hundreds of older people on our database identified as most vulnerable to offer support with shopping and keeping in touch. If you or an organisation you work for want to show support for our ongoing charity work at this time, then please make a donation and help us reach out to as many as possible in need during this unsettling time to make sure they stay safe and well.

lockdown, we received 3,200 incoming calls for information, advice and support and in almost all cases we have managed to provide support or signpost people onwards. This is in addition to the 1,000 calls we have made to check on older people on our database who we were already supporting. Since the lockdown started, we have arranged 360 new shops and prescription pickups”.

The charity is urging the general public and local businesses to “help us help” to keep older people safe, well and reassured at this difficult time by making a donation to support its work at grass roots level where it is making a vital difference.

A donation of just £5 will help the charity make reassuring telephone calls. £10 will help support staff and volunteers get shopping for vulnerable older people. Any donation will help ensure that when it is possible to do so, the Age Connects Senior Health Shop on Holton Road can reopen and offer the fantastic services it has done for so many years for many more years to come.

If you are an older person needing support at this time or know of someone who does please call: 07507 416 875.

To make a much-needed donation please visit [ageconnectscardiff.org.uk](http://ageconnectscardiff.org.uk) or call Karen on 02920 683 604 or 07584 346 015.

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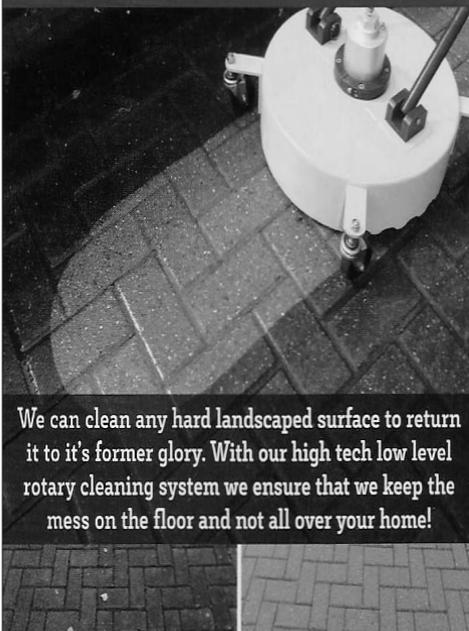
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# Radyr Cricket Club

The 2020 season will be remembered for a very long time by the members and friends of RCC, though unfortunately not for all the right reasons. This, they will say, was the year of the great flood, when the Taff broke its banks and deposited up to four feet of water on the outfield and just as progress in alleviation was in sight, Covid 19 appeared with all its horrors and cricket was cancelled.

Whilst that might be true the members of the club, following social distancing rules and avoiding the pavilion, are endeavouring to repair the damage caused by Storm Dennis and preparing for the return of recreational cricket. The last few months have been difficult, no-one can deny that, but thanks to a number of dedicated individuals, taking their exercise at the club, certain tasks have been completed. A huge amount of silt had already been removed from the square and outfield and this was followed, due to the dry weather, by tonnes of sand. In the next few weeks, when hopefully the lockdown will be eased, attention will turn to the net facility, the boundary fences, the advertising hoardings and the outfield of both grounds. However bizarrely, given that it was water that caused the club's travails in the first place, what is needed now, more than anything, is rain. No-one could have imagined that being said in February.

The prospect of any return to the field of play is at present some way off: the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB), following Government guidelines, say there will be no cricket, either professional or recreational, until July 1st, at the earliest. Whilst it is likely that some international cricket will start on or around that date, probably in empty sterilised stadiums, any other form of the game will have to wait a few weeks more. At Radyr it is possible that there will be no cricket at all in 2020, though the club, working closely with Cricket Wales and the various leagues, are hoping to avoid that disaster scenario. The ECB have recently said that junior cricket might be prioritised to avoid losing a generation of youngsters completely to the game.



*The pavilion extension under construction*

So whilst no cricket is taking place on the field it doesn't mean that RCC is silent: far from it. Using the players What's App group, which in normal circumstances would be used to exchange information, there has emerged a plethora of "gallows humour" between the players, all of it clean and most of it incredibly funny. There is contact with other clubs and it is a comfort, to realise that RCC is not alone. Also every Tuesday evening there is a sports quiz, organised by a different person every week, where all the participants knowledge, or lack of it, is tested to the full. It is expected that when this whole thing is over and everybody can get together again, that the grand daddy of all quizzes will be held in the pavilion.

As those of you who have read the articles on RCC in previous editions of the Chain, or walked through the ground will know, the club has been engaged in building an extension to the pavilion. This has, shall we say, proved challenging due to the issues mentioned above, though throughout it all the club's members have persevered and progress has been made, especially in the last few weeks. The roof is now on, the renderer is about to start, the scaffolding will then be removed and the internal works can be completed.

So a new finished facility is likely to be available in a few months time but the question is, will the cricketers be able to use it?

Throughout all the problems that the club has faced this year there have been a number of organisations who have always been there. The ECB and the Community Council have gone above and beyond what could be expected and the cricket club will always remember their kindness. The Cardiff 1910 Trust and Admiral Insurance have provided funds and the club's landlord, the Plymouth Estate, have also been very helpful. There have been so many individuals who have given money as well as all of the club's sponsors, who themselves have been struggling: to all of them, the club says thank you.

So far, 2020 has been tough, but with the pavilion extension and flood alleviation works moving in the right direction, the wonderful camaraderie of the What's App group and the hope that cricket will be played sooner rather than later, RCC has shown there is life amongst the gloom and the light at the end of this particular tunnel might be starting to get a tad brighter.

Christopher Hitchings  
Radyr Cricket Club - Chairman

## From The Rectory



*Dear reader,*

I guess you would say that clergy have a professional interest in death and dying, grief and the journey towards living with the heart aching loss of loved ones. Since a child I've had a heartfelt concern for all who are learning to live with loss. As a little girl I first came face to face with death when a body of a middle aged woman was washed up on the beach whilst we were on holiday. In junior school another Vicki in my school year died in a car accident. As a teenager I watched my father weep silent tears when the last of his holocaust surviving relatives died. As a young woman the first love of my life died of a brain tumour. Now as a priest I am acquainted with grief far too often and yet I cherish my funeral ministry for it is a time when clergy have both the privilege and the responsibility to make a difference. Like you, over the years, I have lost loved ones and when this happens I fall apart just like you. Faith is not grief insurance. I cherish the story of Lazarus, the friend of Jesus, whose death produces the shortest sentence in the bible: "Jesus wept". Since the Covid-19 lockdown I have spoken with many who are weeping not just for their recent losses but for those whom they lost years ago. To be isolated, shielding and alone has played havoc with the mental health of many of us.

How have you coped during these past few weeks? I have moaned about the endless round of family cooking and education at home whilst juggling my parish work and learning how to conduct Sunday services on YouTube! Yet I realise how lucky I am when I speak with those who live alone and feel the absence of any human contact.

I am writing to you on Ascension Day, the day the friends of Jesus finally realised he'd been taken from their sight forever. A few days later when they gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Shavuot (The Feast of Weeks, the grain harvest, that ends the fifty days after Passover) which became the festival we refer to as Pentecost it was as if a "wind from heaven swept through them" along with an overwhelming and burning sense that they were being equipped to continue his work. Not so long ago our nation remembered this day and called it Whitsun. Christians would gather to re the coming of the Holy Spirit, that is the spirit of kindness, compassion, truthfulness and forgiveness, into hearts and minds.

Sometimes it feels like a lifetime before the fog of grief lifts. Today, as I pegged out the family washing - sock after sock, T-shirt after T-shirt I felt the gentle breeze and heard the birds singing and remembered the moment I heard the birds for the first time after mother died and knew I could live the life she lived with gratitude but without her.

Even in the midst of our many and varied Covid-19 losses the birds have sung.. We have seen or been a part of numerous acts of kindness as our community has pulled together to make this world a better place. Our neighbours have become our friends and we realise our friends are our most valued treasures. We have discovered what we can live with and what we cannot live without. We have applauded those who risk their lives by working on the frontline and perhaps for the first time we

have said a "thank you" for those things we once took for granted. Captain Tom Moore a centenarian war veteran has inspired us all. We have felt the spirit of kindness sweeping through our nation and maybe glimpsed a little bit of heaven here.

If you are struggling with grief or loneliness and need a listening ear please do call me in confidence. Jesus was criticised for hanging out with sinful women, tax collectors and those who liked to party, The Vicar of Radyr is here for all who live in Radyr, Morganstown and Danescourt and not just for the religious!

Wishing you many blessings,  
Vicki

PS. "thank you" to all who are filling the red collecting outside The Rectory door with non perishable food and toiletries for local families in need - your generosity is much appreciated.

**The Rectory  
Rectory Close  
Radyr CF15 8EW**

vicki.burrows@me.com  
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### **RADYR LAWN TENNIS CLUB**

At the time of writing the Courts and Clubhouse remain closed. However, in anticipation of a return to tennis before too long, the clay and tiger turf courts have been swept and the hard courts have been cleaned and repainted. In the meantime, keep an eye on our website at [www.radyrtennis.co.uk](http://www.radyrtennis.co.uk) to check the latest position.

Our contact email address is [info@radyrtennis.co.uk](mailto:info@radyrtennis.co.uk) for any enquiries.

Lynda Goodwin  
Chairman

# Merched y Wawr,

## Bro Radur

Dathlu Gwyl Dewi

Llwyddodd Merched y Wawr, Bro Radur i ddathlu Gwyl Dewi yng nghwmni Gwenno Dafydd sydd wedi ymgyrchu mor galed i sicrhau dathliadau gwyl ein nawddsant ar draws y wlad. Bu'n trefnu 'parêds', sicrhau fod baneri yn cael eu dylunio a bu'n cyfansoddi anthem arbennig, sef, 'Canwch y Clychau i Dewi'.

Ym Mangor y ganwyd Gwenno ond yn Sir Benfro y cafodd ei magwraeth ac yn amlwg fod yr ardal honno yn agos at ei chalon. Mae hi'n berson amryddawn iawn ac yn disgrifio'i hun fel darlithwraig, perfformwraig, sgwenwraig ac anogydd arweinyddiaeth a siarad cyhoeddus. Mae pob dydd yn dod â phrofiadau gwahanol iddi o safbwynt gwaith – actio weithiau, gwaith teledu, comedi, ymddangos ar raglen 'Gwesty Aduniad', cyflenwi mewn ysgolion neu gymryd rhan mewn theatr mewn addysg.

Gwenno fu'n gyfrifol o eiriau'r anthem ddwyieithog i ddathlu Gwyl Dewi a'i ffrind, Heulwen Thomas yn cyfansoddi'r dôn. Cafodd y gân ei lansio yn y Cynulliad yn ystod Chwefror 2008. Mae CD o'r gân wedi mynd i ysgolion a chaiff y disgyblion eu hannog i'w dysgu. Mae Gwenno yn ceisio ysbrydoli unigolion i ddylunio baneri sirol er mwyn cael eu defnyddio mewn gorymdeithiau. Bu'r artistiaid tecstil Eirian Short ac Audrey Walker yn ddiwyd yn dylunio baner Sir Benfro sydd wedi cael cartref yn yr Eglwys Gadeiriol yn Nhŷ Ddewi a'i defnyddio yn y gadeirlan yn ogystal â pharêd Sir Benfro.

Roedd yr orymdaith gyntaf i ddathlu Gwyl Dewi yng Nghaerdydd yn 2004. Wrth gwrs mae cymaint o drefni wedi dilyn yr esiampl erbyn hyn ac y mae tua 25 o barêds led led Cymru gyda

llawer mwy yn cymryd rhan ynddynt. Pa ffordd well o ddathlu ein hunaniaeth a gwyl ein nawddsant?

## CHAIN COOKERY CORNER

### Cheddar Cheese Bake

Serves 4

A quick and easy pasta dish

- 350g (12oz) dried short pasta (penne, rigatoni etc.)
- 50g (2oz) butter
- 40g (1½oz) plain flour
- 500ml (just under 1 pt) milk
- 1 teaspn. Dijon mustard
- 100g. (4oz) rocket leaves, roughly chopped
- 250g (9oz) strong cheddar grated
- 2 x 120g tins tuna, drained
- 1 x 200g tin sweetcorn, drained
- 3 Tabspn fresh breadcrumbs

#### Oven 180C/160C/Gas 4

Cook the pasta according to directions,

but reduce time by 1 min.

Drain, but reserve 3 Tabspns cooking liquid

Melt butter in large pan

Add flour, slowly whisk in milk

Stir all the time and bring to boil

Once thickened, remove from heat

Add mustard, rocket + cheese

Reserve a large handful of cheese

Add to pan pasta+pasta water, tuna + sweetcorn

Season well and taste

Tip into ovenproof dish

Sprinkle over remaining cheese+breadcrumbs

Bake in preheated oven for 10 mins

until bubbling and golden brown.

A.M.P.

# Morganstown News

## Trouble in the Lesser Garth Woods.

Over the lockdown walking in the Lesser Garth Woods has become increasingly popular, you can walk up from behind the Ty Nant Inn and cut around the quarry edge to the woods on the Pentyrch and Gwaelod side. There is a very special viewing platform on the quarry edge where you can look down into the quarry and down the valley to the Bristol Channel the islands of Flatholm and Steepholm and you can usually see to the Somerset coast.

There has always been a problem with motor cycle scramblers using these paths but the problem has become worse with the lockdown. Several distressing incidents have been reported. A dog walker from Pentyrch's dog was hit by a motor bike. A resident, who took the number of a van from which scramble bikes were being unloaded in the lay-by in front of the allotments, was spat at and a possible case of assault is pending. A disturbing feature of this is that the police reported that the van was registered in Swansea, are the paths around the Lesser Garth becoming better known among the scrambling fraternity? On another occasion the police sent up the helicopter, so seriously are they taking the matter.

Another incident, apparently not associated, took place over the Spring Bank holiday weekend. A mountain biker from Radyr cycled into a wire stretched across one of the paths at a height of about five feet. . By the time he had returned from A&E with the police, his injuries had needed several stitches, the wire had been taken down and they suspect that those who had placed the wire had been watching the incident.

Footpaths come under the jurisdiction of the County Council and our County Councillor and the County's footpaths officer, with the support of the Community Council, are looking into the matter to see what can be done to improve matters. In the meantime cyclists and walkers are asked to be particularly careful in the Lesser Garth woods.

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## Cyngor Cymuned Radur a Threforgan

### Community Council News

I hope that Chain readers are keeping well - and that the precautions to combat the Coronavirus outbreak have kept you safe.

For its part, the Community Council has continued to operate the best it can - but with the lockdown in place, we have had to limit our activities. To this end, our clerks have continued to work (but from their homes); the Old Church Rooms remains closed - and council meetings were postponed temporarily.

At the time of writing, however, we will in the very near future begin operating in accordance with new, emergency regulations, which will enable us to meet (via Zoom) and to restore accountability to the entire council. We look forward to doing so.

We have remained in touch with Cardiff Council about a number of issues, including **road safety**. As with many other issues, the Coronavirus outbreak may lead to delays.

The latest news with regard to the **three new zebra crossings** (near Heol Syr Lewis, Ty Mynydd Close and Rectory Close) is that the scheme is currently at the tender stage, with an extended tender period to allow for the lockdown and the impact this has had on the Contractors and their suppliers. We understand that the tenders will be evaluated at the end of June, following which Cardiff Council hopes to have a construction programme agreed with the successful tenderer by the end of July. At present, construction works are anticipated to start in the late summer.

Our **Road Safety Working Group** (chaired by Cllr Webster) met on 20 May - and work will begin again in relation the group's agenda of road safety, active travel and place-making. This includes the need to

improve the **Station Road** area - a matter explored in our recent consultation with residents who live there (<https://www.radyrandmorganstown.org/news/station-road-area-survey-report>).

In order to make progress with this issue, Cllr Rod McKerlich has asked Cardiff Council to undertake an **appraisal of traffic flows** and car parking in the area, which would encompass Station Road, Kings Road, Kings Avenue, Radyr Station, Windsor Crescent and De Clare Drive. He has emphasised to Cardiff that this is an important shopping area, as the current emergency makes clear - and that nothing should be done to undermine the businesses who operate there (and, in fact, that they should be supported by making Station Road safer and more attractive).

He has also emphasised that there are other issues affecting the area, including access to Radyr Station, the access needs of nearly 800 properties at the Sidings, car parking and the increased numbers of cyclists, pedestrians and joggers. We await Cardiff's response.

In the meantime, Cardiff Council is addressing the need to review the layout of the city's shopping areas, to make them safer during the coronavirus crisis (<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/cardiff-roads-busy-shopping-areas-18219254>). Again, Cllr McKerlich has been in touch with Cardiff Council about this - and would like to see them consider Station Road as part of that work.

We continue to await news from Cardiff Council with regard to an innovative scheme to combat **HGV traffic** passing through Radyr and Morganstown - as well as news with regard to the proposed closure of **Golf Club Lane** - and the refurbishment of the **Drovers Way** playground. In addition, our proposed meeting with the owner of **Bethel Chapel** has been

postponed - again, because of the Coronavirus outbreak.

We continue to work to rebuild the wall between **Pentwyn Park** and the adjoining flats, following work to improve drainage of the footpath. We have a number of legal niceties to resolve.

Readers will be delighted to know that **Cllr Rod McKerlich** will serve as Cardiff's next Lord Mayor. Cllr McKerlich is the Chair of our Finance Committee and a long-standing member of the Community Council, having served as Council Chair on several occasions. We are sure that residents will agree that this is an honour which Cllr McKerlich thoroughly deserves. Rod will be an excellent ambassador for Wales' Capital City - and will win us many new friends at home and abroad. Congratulations, Cllr McKerlich!

A Welsh language version of this report is available on our website (under 'Our work' / 'The Chair's Blog').



Cllr Huw Onllwyn Jones  
Chair - Radyr and Morganstown  
Community Council  
May 2020

We congratulate our County Councillor Rod McKerlich and Mrs Sue McKerlich on becoming the next Lord and Lady Mayoress of Cardiff.

They should have been installed in May but that has been delayed, because of the lockdown, probably until the autumn.

When they do take up office they will remain in post until May 2022.

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# News from Radyr and Morganstown WI

Well, when I returned from an extended holiday in March, I never expected that the world would be changed beyond recognition. During the first three months of the year, our Vice Present, Babs Hanson, very ably led our meetings, assisted by our small committee.

At our January meeting, members were treated to a fascinating talk by retired Consultant Radiologist, Dr Colin Davies, who took us through "3 Centuries of Imaging". Our February speaker had to cancel with only a few days' notice so Judy Billington, our Registration Officer, stepped in and told her story about the amazing coincidence that had occurred when she discovered that her mother, who had died when she was a small child and living in England, had been a Welsh speaking midwife, practising in Swansea. Judy, in the meantime and before she found this out, had married a Welshman and learnt Welsh herself to be able to bring her children up in the language, little knowing that she herself was Welsh. She had gone on to explore her family history in greater depth with the help of our WI Genealogy Group.

The floods in February caused the annual St David's Day walk along the Taff Trail to be cancelled. Walkers traditionally walk from Cardiff Bay to Morganstown Village Hall, with alternative joining points along the way, where Treforgan WI puts on a delicious welcome lunch. Even though the walk had to be cancelled due to safety concerns, some members walked through Radyr village and the lunch took place as usual, a lovely social occasion.

On the theme of St David's Day, as in previous years since 2000, the winners of the Bard Competition at the two primary schools' Eisteddfods were presented with a

cup by members of the WI. The Radyr Primary School winner was Lili Thomas, who was presented with the cup by Babs Hanson and Judy Billington. The Bryn Deri Primary School winner was Austin Dickinson, whose cup was presented by Enid Brooker and Judith Jones.

Our March meeting, held on 9th March, was a talk about the Wales Air Ambulance by Catrin Hall and members were very interested to discover how the organisation worked.

Also planned for March, it was the turn of Tongwynlais and Taffs Well WI to hold a Social Link Group event this year. An "Evening of Swing Music" was due to be held on 19th March with tickets bought and diaries noted. However, like many other subsequent events, this was cancelled due to the Coronavirus.

Sadly, our March meeting was the last time members were able to get together with meetings cancelled for the foreseeable future. One of the main events in the Radyr calendar is the Radyr Festival for which it was the turn of Radyr WI to host the afternoon tea this year. Usually it is a busy time with members making all manner of delicious cakes and organising helpers. Another casualty of the Coronavirus.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Audrey Skidmore in April. Audrey was a long-time member of our WI, holding the office of President from 1983 to 1986. Even though she had been unable to attend the monthly WI meetings for some time, she remained a full member up until this year and took a keen interest in our activities.

Our Annual Meeting in May was of course cancelled. This is when the election of a President and other officers takes place each year. It therefore means that the present officers remain in post for the foreseeable future.

In the spirit of WI, many members have been busy making items for NHS staff. One member had already made over 100 headbands

with buttons for NHS staff to loop their masks over as they can be uncomfortable around ears. She had run out of materials so an email was sent to all members asking for more. She had a tremendous response with donations of buttons, elastic and fabric and has now made hundreds of headbands distributed to local hospitals and those farther afield. Others are making scrubs, bags for clothes to go in and face masks.

It is difficult to say when we might resume our meetings and activities, we have a full year of speakers arranged and are taking it month by month. In the meantime, communication with members continues by email and phone. We wish everyone a safe and sunny summer.

GJ

## VE DAY

Poppies lie where they fought,  
To show that fighting is our last resort.

I was a pretty poppy sitting on the ground  
I wasn't heard, I didn't make a sound.  
I had no purpose, nothing to do,  
Unless I was lucky enough to be on a shoe.

The war was like a big, hungry dog,  
Who wanted to reach a lovely log.  
Suddenly everything went quiet,  
The last gun went out,  
I couldn't scream, I couldn't shout.

The sun cried, knowing the war might be done,  
We could be happy, we could have fun.  
This drastic war would be over, we could be free,  
We were right, Germany raised the white flag and surrendered,  
It was safe for you and me.

The bells rang out to mark the end,  
But another horrific war could be round the bend.  
But let's focus on the positives, let's be cheerful,  
There are less reasons to be fearful.

While everyone danced in the street,  
We observed the mess in the boiling heat.  
Although the clouds were like candy floss,  
And the wind played a tune about Germany's loss.

We couldn't rest,  
Not without knowing what was going to happen next.  
Not knowing if the the Germans would come back,  
And if so, what would be the effects?

I symbolise the reliving end of the war,  
Hopefully there won't be any more.  
Now I live on someone's shirt,  
It's much better than being in the dirt.

Now I lay in a wardrobe every single day,  
It's better than watching those gastley guns pass the time away.  
My life is great with lots to do,  
But I don't understand this coronavirus, I mean what's the big issue?

Poppies still lie where they fought,  
To show that fighting is our last resort.

Chloe Sanders

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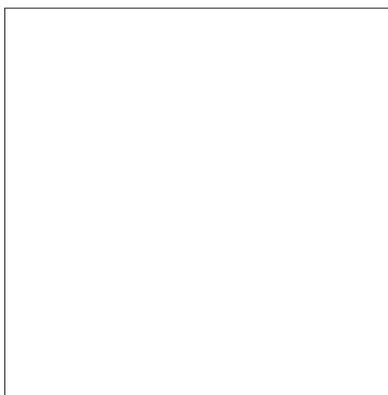
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# News from our Primary Schools

The cancellation of the Festival was a great disappointment to our two Primary Schools, they carried on as well as they could under lockdown and within Government guidelines. Many of the themes of this year's Festival competitions were to do with war and VE Day.

Bryn Deri put many of their winning entries on the gates of the school.

Here is one of the winning poems from year 6 pupil Gwen Fishpool at Radyr Primary School. The runner up is printed on page 17.

## Since the day my Father left me

Since the day my Father left me,  
Since the day it all began,  
The world had been turned upside-down  
for every living man,  
The war went on forever,  
There wasn't any hope,  
Until the heavenly 8th of May I no longer  
had to cope.

The Nazis had surrendered and our  
kingdom was no longer suffering,  
Outside in the streets I could hear the  
people bustling,  
The government had announced there  
would be a national holiday, in years to  
come we would remember it as the  
glorious 8th of May.

My Mother was delighted when she heard  
the breaking news and all my other siblings  
no longer had the blues,  
And then the thought occurred of Father  
finally returning, and the sadness that was  
in my stomach no longer was churning.

The next day was filled with jubilation and  
joy all over Europe for every girl and boy,  
The streets were erupting with fanfare and  
fun and people frolicking in the  
burning sun,

Bonfires were lit and smoke filled the air,  
The dancing flames prancing everywhere.  
Tables were laid with everyone's rations to  
celebrate this blessed occasion,  
Musical instruments roamed the streets as  
they played their melodious tune, And the  
dancing and congas kept on going  
throughout the afternoon.

Even as the sun was beginning to set no  
one was getting tired just yet,  
The partying went on all day and all night  
even as the cold was beginning to bite,  
Drunk with joy the people sang as they  
swam in fountains and climbed street  
lamps,  
Reds, blues and whites covered the  
country as we waved our flag extremely  
proudly,

Double decker buses ruled London and  
there wasn't a sound of a single gun.  
Trucks with soldiers drove slowly as the  
men screamed merrily,  
But through the hectic crowd,  
I saw my Father tall and proud,  
With just a glimpse of my face he flew over  
for the biggest embrace,  
He smelled like warmth and mud,  
With just the tiniest hint of blood.  
This was the day my Father found me,  
This was the day it came to an end,  
The world had been turned upside-down  
but was finally on the mend.

Gwen Fishpool

# Bryn Deri V E Day competitions

## Winners of the Literary Competition:

Austin Dickinson, Matthew Collins,  
Charlotte Eswood, Harry Morgan,  
Lyla Whiffin and Ruth Bennetts.

## Winners of the Art Competition.

Luke O'Neil, Evan Cobley, Lily-Jane  
Thomas, Flynn Lamby, Ava Gardener  
and Edward Thomas.



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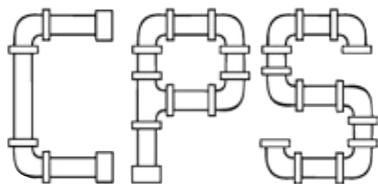
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# Radyr Primary and the VE day celebrations



Radyr Primary Key Stage2 have been busy, despite the lockdown, taking part in a series of different VE day themed literacy festival competitions. It has been lovely to see the pupils engaged with celebrations and sharing personal stories, both from family members

from 75 years ago, and also more recently to celebrate the end of WWII. Festival entries ranged throughout the year groups but the competition winners, who will win book tokens arranged by Radyr and Morganstown council, were as follows:

In year 3 pupils were asked to write a WWII themed poem. Pupils discussed different elements of the war ranging from VE day to the horrors of the trenches. The winners were Maisie Relihan and Hennessy O'Hare.

*continued on next page...*



**"FOR THOSE WHO  
GAVE SO MUCH...  
WE THANK YOU!"**



celebrations from 1945. There was some superb empathy skills shown throughout the year group but the winners were Noah Baldwin and Zachary Roberts, who both wrote from the perspective of a family member who were able to share their memories of the world war. Year 5 had a similar task to year 4,

with the focus being a diary entry from the VE Day celebrations using the focus of a survivor from the time who spoke about his job as a paper boy. The two winners in Year 5 were James Feehan and Elin Russill. Year 6 also wrote poetry and were able to build on the skills they showed off when writing their

pieces for the Eisteddfod, with some superb examples of repetition, imagery and personification really standing out. The two winners were Chloe Sanders and Gwen Fishpool, with her poem titled 'Since the day my father left me'.



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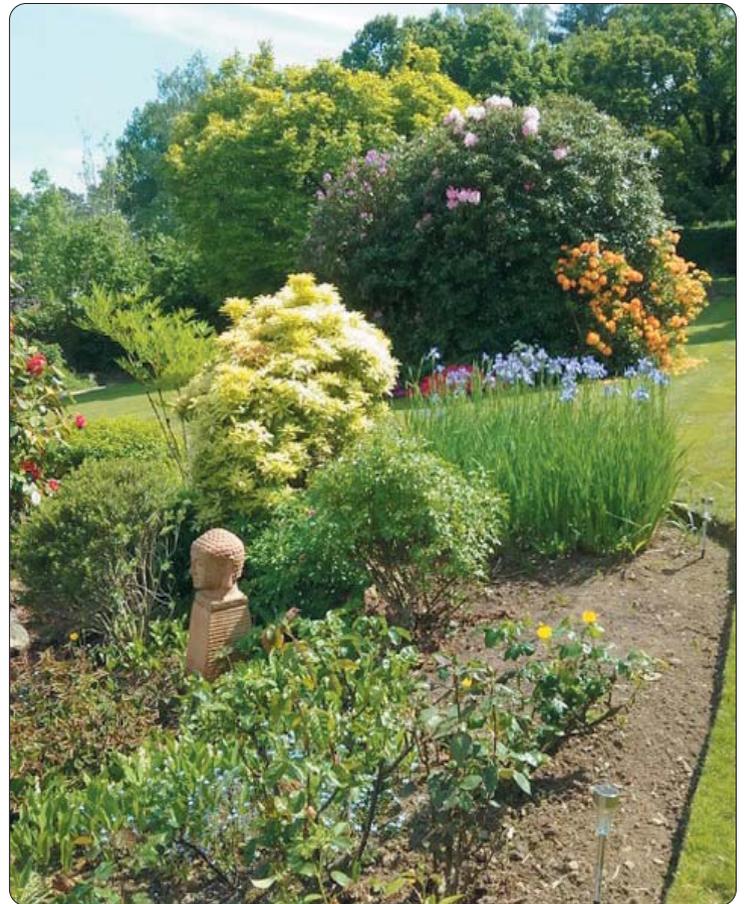
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# The Arrival of Summer

Some of you will have noticed that the hanging baskets have gone up in Station Road a sign of summer and of the return to some kind of normality. We are grateful to the Community Council for putting up the baskets and for keeping the grass in our public areas cut.

We are also grateful to the volunteers who fill and maintain the planters around the two villages. Here is the one in Windsor Road gardens.





## Festival Gardens

We may have lost our opportunity to visit some of the most spectacular gardens in Radyr this year. The BBC resorted to a look back over the last ten years of the Chelsea Flower Show, but at least we can show you photographs of some of the gardens as they were on Sunday the 10th of May, the open day. We're happy to report that they were all looking at their best.

Here are photographs of four of the gardens, Rosanne and Nick Holmes and Vicky and Richard Welsh in Park Road, Gill Evans in Ty Mynydd Close and Antonia Wigley in Windsor Road.

