

Radyr Chain



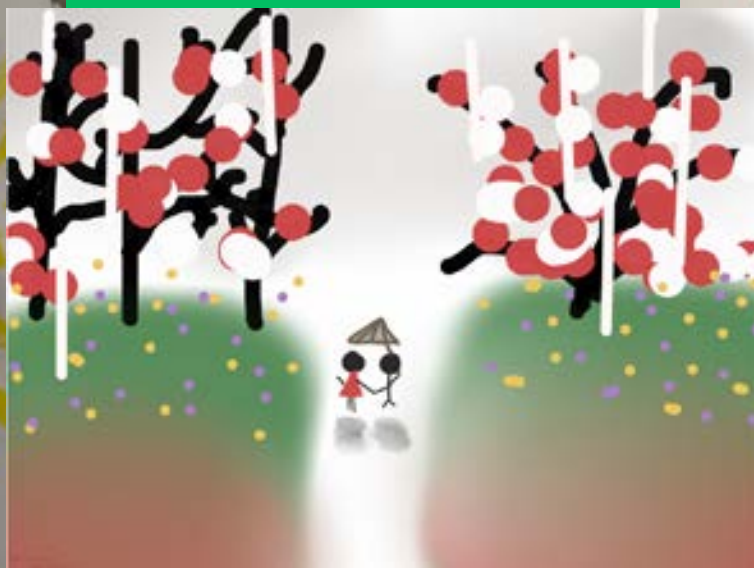
Number 275

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March 2025



Welcome to Spring



From the Editors

Croeso / Welcome to the spring edition of the Radyr Chain

As a new group of volunteers working together for the first time last autumn to produce the November edition, we have been thrilled with the overwhelmingly positive response to edition 274.

None of this would be possible without excellent contributions from across the Radyr and Morganstown community, the great support of many advertisers, plus the very organised and committed group of distributors and delivery volunteers who ensure that The Chain gets to every letter box.

We learnt a lot last autumn and hope to build on our experience with this edition.

The word search was well received, so you will find this again on page 21. The competition for younger people to submit a spring theme drawing for the front cover sparked interest and we are grateful to the schools, Brownies and others who promoted the competition. Congratulations to Ayla, Abigail, Joseph, Joshua, Trisha and Will whose work features on the cover - we thought all your work deserved to be shown.

Editorial guidelines have been developed which we hope will help everyone who sends in items for The Chain as well as the Editorial Board in making decisions about the content and layout of the newspaper. When these are

finalised they will be available on the website and to be sent to anyone who requests them.

The handover of The Chain from the group of people who had run it for so many years is a work in progress. The Chain is set up as an Unincorporated Association with charitable purposes and we are following best practice and taking advice to ensure that we do this in the right way and will share more information in future editions - yes that's right.....future editions.

As the group of volunteers who met in September 2024, we agreed to try and produce two editions of The Chain, one in November and one in March. We have since agreed that we would like to produce further editions during 2025. We inherited a well-run process of six editions a year. As most of the new volunteers are working full or part-time, we are able to produce three or four editions a year. The best scheduling seems to have two main anchor dates - the Festival Fortnight every May and Christmas. When thinking about future dates for 2025, the Editorial Board are proposing to produce an edition in July and November. As we develop our systems and ways of working it is possible that we might be able to publish more frequently. Another consideration is the size of the newspaper. The Novem-

ber edition was a bumper one and this one is also full of content and adverts - as well as the welcome inclusion of the Festival Programme. If we produced more frequently, the editions would likely be slimmer, however, every edition requires a lot of work and that is why we thought we would settle on three editions for our first full year.

Other news is that we have had a positive response from advertisers, especially to the full colour production. As we want to maintain a good balance of articles and adverts, we have made the decision to set a maximum size for any new advertisers at 1/4 of a page costing £80.00. We are giving careful consideration to the inclusion of QR codes - or not. There are a few in this edition and this is under review.

The Radyr Chain aims to include diverse items of local interest from everyone in the community, sharing information, celebrating good news, flagging up issues and highlighting upcoming events.

Therefore in this edition we are really pleased to be able to include the programme for the Radyr and Morganstown Festival. For those who are new to the area, the Festival is organised by the Radyr and Morganstown Association, it has been running successfully for many years and the 2025 programme

features a varied range of activities aimed to bring the community together during the first two weeks of May.

During the Festival fortnight the 80th Anniversary of VE Day will take place on 8th May. Many communities across Wales, the UK and Europe will seek to mark this event. You might be planning something with your family or neighbours - if you have a story to tell about this, why not consider sharing it for the next edition of The Chain which we aim to publish in the summer. One of our contributors in this edition has chosen a theme with connections to World War Two through her article on Auschwitz. This contributor is a student at Radyr Comprehensive School and we are pleased to receive ideas for content from people of all ages across the community.

We welcome any feedback about this edition, ideas for the future and especially contact from anyone who has digital and design skills or time available to be involved in the varied tasks that we have found are associated with maintaining and developing The Chain as the valued community resource that it is. Best wishes - the Chain Gang

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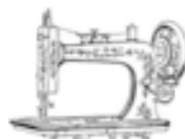
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Upcoming events

Thursday 3 April, 10:30

Probus Club of Cardiff West

AGM - Find out what different trips are being organised this year. Coffee and tea at the start, plus lunch afterwards are all available. If you think you might like to join our Probus men's club, you are welcome to come along too. For more info please phone Geoff Foot on 07780 990 847.

Saturday 12 April

Litterpicking

See full details on page 25

Saturday 12 April

Cardiff Foodbank Collection

See full details on page 20

Sunday 20 April

Easter Day

Special Services at Christ Church, Radyr and across the Garth Ministry Area for Holy Week and Easter can be seen on the website or in the article on page 30

<https://GarthMA.wales/Easter>

Radyr Methodist Church will also be holding Easter Services including a morning worship on Easter Day at 10:30

<https://radyr.org.uk/methodist>

Wednesday 30 April
to Friday 1 May

Radyr Drama Society presents "Gaslight"

An intense psychological thriller. The play centres on a

relationship marred by emotional abuse and deception in the claustrophobic setting of a Victorian townhouse harbouring a deadly secret. As the play progresses, the criminal conspiracy which is behind this, is gradually exposed, thanks to the efforts of a dogged police detective.

<https://radyr.org.uk/clubs/drama/>

Thursday 1 May, 10:30

Probus Club of Cardiff West

YOUR GENES & YOU.

A thought provoking illustrated talk being given by geneticist Rhian Morgan at the Radyr Golf Club. Coffee & tea at the start, plus lunch afterwards are all available. If you think you might like to join our men's Probus club, you are welcome to come along to find out more. Further info can also be had by phoning Geoff Foot on 07780 990 847, or Mike Thomas on 029 2040 8056

Saturday 3 May to
Sunday 18 May

Radyr & Morganstown Festival 2025

A fortnight of events for the whole community.

Full details in the Festival Leaflet included with this edition of the Chain.

<https://RMFestival.org.uk>

Saturday 10 May

Litterpicking

See full details on page 25

Thursday 5 June, 10:30

Probus Club of Cardiff West

For new Nursery and YOUR MOTIVATION.

An illustrated talk being given by speaker Phil Evans at the Radyr Golf Club. Coffee & tea at the start, plus lunch afterwards are all available. If you think you might like to join our men's Probus club, you are very welcome to come along to find out more. Further info can also be had by phoning Geoff Foot on 07780 990 847, or Mike Thomas on 029 2040 8056

Tuesday 10 June

Watch your Back!

Sun protection and Hydration session by St John Ambulance Cymru.

See article on page 9

Saturday 14 June

Litterpicking

See full details on page 25

Tuesday 15 July

Ask the Experts

A session by our St John Ambulance group open to all.

See article on page 9

Future Dates

If you would like your event to feature in a future edition of the Chain please ensure it is listed on the Community Website before the publication deadline (15 June 2025).

<https://radyr.org.uk/events>



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On diversity, compassion and equality

By Megan O'Neill

This year marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz - Birkenau, and an end to the genocide committed by the Nazis in the Holocaust. Although Holocaust Memorial Day passed on the 27th of January, the momentous occasion of 80 years having passed must stand as a reminder of the lessons the world learnt in 1945 all year round, for us in Radyr and Morganstown and around the globe.

Aside from the array of touching official commemorations of the anniversary in January, from charities, governments (notably our own Senedd in Cardiff Bay) and a plethora of other organizations, the importance of remembering the Holocaust and its estimated 6 million victims must remain with us in this community in our everyday lives, as our Radyr and Morganstown area must be a representation of wider reflection and resolution to honour this tragedy and oppose prejudice.

Over the last few years, I have had the privilege of hearing Holocaust survivor testimonies, visiting Auschwitz - Birkenau and Sachsenhausen former concentration camps, and visiting the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin. The immeasurably moving stories of Eva Clarke BEM and Paul Svest BEM provided a far more profound understanding of the ter-

rible acts of war they lived through and also displayed the incredible perseverance of hope and courage which managed to emerge from this brutal period of history.

One central lesson that the Lessons from Auschwitz project that the Holocaust Memorial Trust teaches is the importance of not generalizing the Jewish experience of the Second World War. The terrible scale of the 6 million figure should be commemorated without ignoring the individual Jewish communities and families murdered in Europe, and raising awareness of the Roma and Sinti people persecuted, as well as all other targets of Nazism: gay men, transgender people, political prisoners, members of the clergy who spoke out against National Socialism, and disabled people. These demographics must not be forgotten as we mark 80 years since the horrors inflicted on them.

To appreciate the diversity and unique nature of pre-war communities and families, researching specific case studies is a useful tool, and I cannot urge Radyr and Morganstown residents to research survivor testimonies strongly enough. We must strive to remember that we are all a global community, regardless of faith, nationality or any other factors, and remember that all that separates us here from war is an accident of birth, both in a time and country in which

democracy lives. Utilising resources from the Holocaust Educational Trust, Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial Day charity or any other reliable historical sources can mark an attempt made by all of us in the community to pursue a better understanding of the Holocaust and continue being informed, proactive citizens.

The bravery and resilience of the survivors and victims of the Holocaust serve to remind us not only to commemorate an immense tragedy, but each day to embody the values fascists tried to destroy. Diversity, compassion, equality; principles of a free and fair world, which Wales must remain indicative of. Principles we all must continue to uphold and defend within our democracy. I urge you all to honour this anniversary by being a symbol of unity, protesting against discrimination and extremism, to carry forwards the resolution of 'never again'.

Megan is currently a student at Radyr High School and has been commissioned to draft articles on matters of local relevance for the Chain.

The Editorial Board are keen to see articles from local writers starting out their careers. If you would like to draft an editorial article for future issues then please get in touch.

Chain@radyr.org.uk

Cardiff's Replacement Local Development Plan

By Peter Fortune, R&M Local Development Group (RMLDG)

Cardiff's Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) has been approved by the Council and will now go out to consultation. It is excellent news for us all in Radyr and Morganstown.

The adoption of settlement boundaries being tightly drawn around the two communities (with the addition of the already approved Plas Dwr site) means that the two candidate sites which were being put forward by developers - Goetre Fawr (north of Llantrisant Road and west of the golf Course and Pant Tawel Lane) and Plas Dwr Uchaf (west of Crofft y Genau Road) have been dropped from the Plan. Even better, this land is now identified as "countryside to be enhanced and protected."

The proposed site at Radyr Station Car Park has also been dropped.

All undeveloped land north of the M4 (including all of Morganstown) is identified as a "Green Wedge" and no development will be permitted within this area. This includes the site at Cwm Farm, where the purpose of current land clearance activities is unclear.

However, further development is proposed at Creigiau where another 520 houses are proposed and this could have implications for health

care and education provision, with additional pressure on Radyr Comprehensive. Much of the additional land needed for the housing will be on brown field sites south of the City Centre where more than 4,700 units will be provided. You will have no doubt seen that many of these are currently under construction or have planning permission.

An interesting part of the Plan is the creation of a sustainable food system, requiring the provision of allotment space in all new large developments. This will also ensure that the allotments in Morganstown are secured from future development.

Both the Taffs Well and Ton Mawr Quarries are safeguarded from any development that would prevent their extraction and, in particular, an extension has been identified to Ton Mawr Quarry.

There are no new proposals to improve the transport in-

frastructure from North West Cardiff; all seems to depend on the improved train timetable under the Metro and better bus links with the railway. The proposed railway line from Fairwater to Creigiau is included with stations in Plas Dwr. Our view is that it is unlikely that any meaningful progress will be made on this before 2035 due to financial pressures.

We must remain vigilant, however. It is not clear why the above sites have been dropped. It is possible that developers will object to their removal and will seek to amend the Plan during the consultation period which will run from 18 February to 15 April.

After deposit with the Welsh Government, the Plan will be subject to a Public Enquiry later in 2025 and the development of these sites may arise then.



Consultation Process

Since this article was submitted the full Consultation on the "Deposit Plan" has been launched by Cardiff Council.

A meeting was organised by the Radyr & Morganstown Community Council and the RMLDG on Monday 10 March which was addressed by Simon Gilbert, Head of Planning for Cardiff Council.

Simon stressed the importance of people submitting comments, on any aspect of the plan - particularly those where we agree with decisions proposed.

The consultation closes on 15th April 2025.
<https://cardiffldp.consultation.ai>

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By Tricia France, Radyr Division, St John Ambulance Cymru

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Locally this includes Radyr Division, who meet every Tuesday at 7.30pm in The Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr, to learn and refresh first aid skills. The Radyr Division volunteer to teach in the community and provide first aid cover at events in the County.

The motto of the Order is "Pro Fide and Pro Utilitate Hominum" (For the Faith and in the Service of Humanity).

To join St John Ambulance Cymru as a volunteer please visit

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Calendar of Community Events 2025

- 25 February**
 Childrens CPR and AED Awareness
- 11 March**
 Falls - Implications and how to help yourself
- 13 May**
 Wellperson Night - Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar checks
- 10 June**
 Watch your Back! Sun protection and Hydration
- 15 July**
 'Ask the Experts'
- 16 September**
 Save a Life September - CPR & AED training
- 21 October**
 Halloween games - Burns and Scalds. Stop Drop & Roll
- 9 November**
 Open teaching session - ask us anything

All sessions will take place at The Old Church Rooms, Radyr from 7.30pm

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Tribute to Val Allen

By Helen Lloyd-Jones

"It's coming out in Easter. Well, maybe before. It's a late Easter this year. But it will definitely be out before the Festival."

Festival used to mean gymkhana and a dog show down in the Sidings, master-minded by Val Allen. She died this year and with her has gone so much of our history.

How do I capture Val for you? She did tell me how she was related to the Mathew family. And I believed her. The Mathew family go back to medieval times and were the Lords of Llandaff. Their first court, Radur Uchaf, was close to if not under the Sports Hall at Radyr Comprehensive. Maps in the 1940s show a building there and Val's brother David Povey told me there were two cottages side by side. They were what remained of the first court.

I often wonder if we did a Tardis job to Radyr Comp and took some of the pupils back in time, how they would find living in that medieval court. Would they realise how strategically well placed it was for a Norman Lord? If you peel away the houses on Heol Isaf and return the land to the Vile system of farming, you can stand outside the court and see up the Taff Valley for miles. Any marauding Welsh, what us? would be clearly visible as they advanced down the valley.

The Mathew family upgraded themselves to Radyr Court in Danescourt where the Ladybird Day Nursery is today.

Much of Radyr was turned into a deer park. It was trendy at the time. The Vile system went. So much for giving each person a strip of land and allocating them so that everyone had a fair division of good and not so good land.

There are poems in praise of a Mistress Mathew. She was wonderful to all the pilgrims who came to Radyr Court on their first night of their pilgrimage to Our Lady of Penrhys.

I see Val putting out bird seed and fat balls for the birds and food down for the vixen and she transforms into Mistress Mathew. I see her making sure the pilgrims have food and bringing lotions out of her dispensary to ease chafed skin and other ailments.

With her high cheekbones and her chiselled features, her sparkling eyes, her ready smile and slim figure, even at her eightieth birthday Val was the most attractive woman in the room.

And the tales she told. She remembered Radyr and Morganstown when the farms were still farms. She would talk of Cwm Farm and of Gou-tre Fawr and the small holding in Radyr Woods, Radyr Lodge where they grew potatoes up the steep slope.

Generations of young horse riders attended Val's Pony Club. She used to say that if she had only helped save one child's life because they knew what to do, it would be worth the time and effort she put into making sure the sessions were fun and interesting.

We have lost a lady, a lady with standards, of kindness, of compassion and with a great sense of humour.

The next tranche of building will be next to Ty Gwyn where Val was born and where Val lived and died. The plans show a play area. We are asking for it to be Val's Park. It's the least we can do for an extraordinary woman.



Community Council News

Report from Allan Cook,
Chair of the Community Council

By the time this edition of The Chain arrives on your doormat work will be well advanced on the installation of a lift in the Old Church Rooms. The work started at the beginning of February and is scheduled to be completed within fourteen weeks. This will be a lift capable of carrying some of the larger wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

It will also involve the refurbishment of the toilets in that part of the building. To increase the number of toilets available and to reduce waiting times they will be unisex and some of the handwash basins will be in a communal area. Some of the toilets will have their own handwash basins and one or two will have mirrors.

The Old Church Rooms have three spaces for hire and they are heavily used. We currently have an online consultation to gauge views as to whether we need to add another meeting room and ways in which we can make the OCR more attractive for users. The consultation can be reached at www.radyrandmorganstowncc.org

Fake News

An ill-informed article in the Cardiffian has caused considerable concern regarding Windsor Gardens. We are looking to make improvements to Windsor Gardens but these are some way down the line and we can assure those concerned that any plans will go out for consultation

before they are progressed.

In the same way we are concerned about the future of Station Road. There are plans for retail outlets in the new Plasdwr development and we wish to ensure that our Station Road shops retain a competitive edge. We will be looking at possible "improvements" to Station Road, but again these will go out for consultation before any decisions are made.

We are also in discussion with the Co-op, whom we believe hold the lease on the old Spar, about the depressing prospect the old Spar creates at the entrance to Station Road.

Festival 2025

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Val Allen of Ty Gwyn Farm. Val was born in the parish to a farming family and worked very hard for the community. She will be sadly missed for the Gymkhana and Dog Show which she organised for the Festival over a long period.

Which brings us to the Festival. You should have received the Festival brochure with this edition of the Chain and it looks an exciting one with plenty of variety. Can we wish the Festival Committee good weather for the outdoor events and good attendance at all the events.

Danger Deep Mud

In the last edition we flagged up a concerning incident at



the Kingfisher pond in Radyr Woods. A gentleman's dog became stuck in the mud and when he tried to get it out, he himself became stuck. Three fire tenders were sent to the Woods to get him out.

The Radyr Woods Wardens have put up danger signs at the Kingfisher pond and the fencing has been increased. With the return of lighter evenings people are reminded of this danger.

This is a good time to thank the Radyr Woods Wardens for the excellent work they do in maintaining the Woods. They are a volunteer force and meet regularly. If you think that you might like to become part of the Wardens please e-mail the Assistant Clerk assistantclerk@radyr.wales



From Councillor Helen Lloyd Jones

This is an excerpt of my regular monthly report. To receive the report in full, please email me at Helen.LloydJones@cardiff.gov.uk

Buses and public transport

We all think we know that if we had a regular reliable bus service, we would start using it again. However, it is hard to advocate for more buses when we see empty buses go past.

However, there is a clear need for a link-up between the bus service and the railway. I still have the words of one of our residents ringing in my ears: "it hurts my knees going down to the station and my heart can't cope with walking up from the station". We need a regular service to the railway station.

Splitting it down into the smallest steps, we know that when the Community Council asked years ago for a link, the answer came back that it was impossible to turn the bus at the railway station. We know that is no longer the case, but it is important that TfW keep that space by the ticket office so that one day, (because it will happen) there will still be a turning point for buses.

Another of the problems we have is that it is cheaper to use the train from Radyr than Taffs Well so people from locations north of Taffs Well choose to drive to Radyr and then use the train. Can we work to get parity on fares between the two stations so there is no advantage driving on to Radyr?

Another suggestion to improve local services could be to have a shuttle bus, maybe minibus size going into Radyr Gardens in Morganstown and into the Sidings (with a stop at the station) and then going down to Danescourt where other buses can be caught. I worked with Cllr Davies on this idea, but we have heard nothing back.

Drovers Way

The lights have arrived in the alley way between Plymouth Drive and Drovers Way playground. We are looking to see if we can find funding for some more lights along the path. Parc Radur Management Company are leading the search.

The fields that belonged to Cwm Farm

This has upset the people who live close to the fields and others, dog walkers (that includes me), ramblers, residents in Morganstown. Despite all the Councillors in Pentyrch and Radyr and Morganstown doing their best, there are no laws that the Council can call on to stop the work that has been done which has destroyed a lot of habitats. I would very much like a meeting with the owner of the fields to find out whether he has done this work with the aim of improving the land agriculturally.

Youth clubs

Now the new maths block has been built at Radyr Comp, the Cardiff Youth Services CYS will start holding a Youth Club there on Fridays starting on 7th March. The Monday session at Radyr Hub will close after Feb 24th and the Thursday Session will continue to be held in the Radyr Hub. Huge thanks to the Community Council for the commitment they have shown to providing youth facilities in the ward.

Disclaimer

Whilst the Editorial Board are currently developing new Editorial Guidelines which we intend to publish in due course, we hope that all information provided is accurate and appropriately attributed.

Whilst we welcome all submissions, the Editorial Board withholds the right to select the most suitable content for each edition and to edit for accuracy and length where required.

Whilst seeking authoritative sources for all content, the Board cannot be held liable for any errors or omissions.

If you spot any errors or omissions, please do email Chain@radyr.org.uk so that we can look to improve our sources for future editions and/or look to provide updates to our online or future print editions where appropriate.

From Councillor Calum Davies

This is an excerpt of my regular monthly report. To receive the report in full, please email me at calum.davies@cardiff.gov.uk

Local Development Plan

I am very pleased that the next stage of the Replacement LDP has been released, revealing that none of the candidate sites in Radyr and Morganstown have been taken to the next stage.

This is a huge victory for the community and fulfils a major pledge I made during the election.

The three sites were totally inappropriate for development: Goitre Fawr marked our ward's only green space

and ignored the enormous progress that will be made at Plasdwr over the coming years; the rail station car park is a new and well-used amenity that reduces the need to drive into the city; and land north of the M4 is generally regarded as a green wedge for Cardiff.

I must commend the R&M Local Development Group for their hard and expert work as well as the Community Council for this victory. The Deposit Plan has gone out for consultation so please do engage with it.

Regular updates from your County Councillors can be found on the community website at: <https://radyr.org.uk/county-councillor/>

Drovers Way Park

I am pleased that the Council has now installed the lights along the path that links the park to Plymouth Drive. These were a much-needed addition in the community and I'm pleased they are finally in place. This will help residents with mobility and sight issues, and, hopefully, help people feel safer than before. I have been calling for this for a couple of years and am glad we now have what we need.

See the young stars of Shine Theatre School on stage soon!

By Hannah Williams

Shine Theatre school's production of Annie Jr. is just around the corner. A cast of over 40 children and young people aged 5 to 17 have been rehearsing this family favourite Musical since September and are looking forward to performing on stage for friends and family on 5th and 6th April.

Annie Jr. is a licensed production by MTI International and features all the well-known songs from the much-loved film and Broadway musical from a Hard Knock Life at Miss Hannigan's municipal orphanage to the luxury of NYC in Warbuck's Mansion. Don't wait until "Tomorrow" to follow Annie's adventure! Shine Theatre school is delighted that the cast of children from the local area includes representatives from over 10 different Cardiff primary and secondary schools. It really is the opportunity for young performers who love to act, dance and sing to shine on stage!

Tickets for Annie Jr., which is being performed at Bishop of Llandaff High School on 5th and 6th April, went on sale on 1st February and within minutes the first two rows of each show had sold out! It is amazing to know that there will be such a supportive audience to cheer on the cast. Tickets will still be available on the door for the Saturday 6pm and Sunday 2pm performance so we hope to see you there!

Due to the success of the re-launch of Shine Theatre school in Radyr, a new MINI STARS group for children aged 5-8 is starting at the Radyr Guide centre on Monday 3rd March. All children get a free trial before they commit to joining. Our current MINI STARS



who meet on Thursdays had a chance to share what they most love about Shine Theatre school including their favourite drama games and vocal warm-ups and created a lovely video to share on social media. You can find it on Instagram, [@shinecreativearts](https://www.instagram.com/shinecreativearts).

If your child wants to make new friends, learn new skills and perform on stage, Shine

is welcoming new members at the new MINI STARS group immediately and in Shine Theatre school Tuesdays 6-8pm at the Old Church Rooms from Tuesday 29th April 2025. All members will start rehearsing for a summer production, Pure Imagination, which will be performed at Bedwas Workmen's Hall on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th July 2025. Pure Imagination is a celebration of some of the best and most whimsical Musical Theatre for families with fantastic performance opportunities for our youngest to oldest members. Think Shrek, SIX, Madagascar, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, High School Musical, Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat, Wicked and more!

Do come and find us on our website www.shinetheatreschoolcardiff.co.uk to see some of our favourite rehearsal photos, memories from previous shows and see what Shine magic your young person can be inspired by.



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Cardiff Petanque Club

By John Tyrrell Secretary,
Cardiff Petanque Club

Looking for a new hobby? To find a sociable activity, to make some new friends and play one of the fastest growing sports in the UK, then look no further than the Cardiff Harlequins Pétanque Club based at the Whitchurch site of the Cardiff Harlequins Rugby Club.

The Harlequins Pétanque Club was formed in December 2023 by a group of friends who shared a love of the game of pétanque and wished to play in a friendly and welcoming environment. Pétanque, or boules, is a hugely popular game in Europe, particularly France. It is a very straightforward game where opposing players seek to have as many of their own boules, as opposed to their opponents, closest to the 'jack' at the end of each play.

The pistes (as the playing surfaces are known) that were located at the Harlequins Rugby Club had fallen into disrepair and lay dormant since COVID. They needed to be cleared, repaired and resurfaced to enable the new club to come into being and start actively playing.

The hard work necessary in this endeavour was carried out and completed by its own members, giving up their free time to ensure everything was perfect for the first season.

Everyone 'mucked in' doing what they could, using whatever skills they possessed in this common endeavour. There

were curses and moans, and aching muscles, but the task was completed in a remarkably short period of time. From commencement of work, the initial 'chuck in' (the first game) took place within a week.

Since the founding of the Club, it has continued to make rapid progress. At the beginning of 2024, membership to the Welsh Pétanque Association (WPA) was made and accepted, enabling those members who wished to develop their playing skills and pit themselves against other local pétanque Clubs the opportunity to do so. In the Spring, the Club entered three teams into the WPA National League on a competitive basis, playing against some of the best players in the country. We have certainly put the Harlequins on the map with some fine results achieved, with some of the players qualifying to represent Wales against the Home nations.

Of course, this element of the game is not for everyone. Many of our club members simply like to play boules with their new friends in a comfortable, relaxed environment that our various Club days during the week provide.

During the Summer of 2024 the club was delighted to be selected to host both the WPA National Mixed Singles and Mixed Doubles Competitions; and plans to work closely with the WPA are progressing to enable us to stage further competitions and establish the club in the wider world of Pétanque.

Any club is of course only as strong as its membership. The Harlequins are very keen to recruit new players to its club. Previous experience of playing is not required, it's a very easy game to pick up and the playing rules are relatively straight forward. Age is not a restriction, we have players of all ages including some in their eighties. An additional bonus if one is considering taking up the game, is that little is required in way of equipment, just a set of boules going forward. We are able to help newcomers with the opportunity to play with different sets before making a decision about buying. Compared to other sports such as golf and bowling, this is a very affordable pastime.

Come along and have a go, there are no obligations, and we look forward to meeting you.

Contact us

Email: harlequinspc@welshpetanque.org.uk

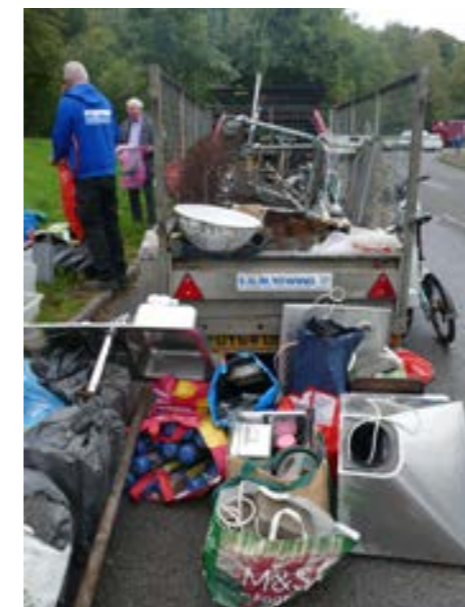
Facebook - Search for "[Cardiff harlequins pétanque club - Cwms Caerdydd](#)"

Tel: 07950 020 463
(Phil Freegard - Chair)

Cardiff Rivers Group: Making a difference since 2009

By Matthew Conroy

No-one walking along the Taff trail can fail to notice that the river carries quite a lot of litter. It's especially bad after heavy rain, such as Storm Bert, when a lot of rubbish is washed downstream.



The river banks are strewn with all kinds of detritus, from plastic bottles to shopping trolleys and tyres. Tree branches overhanging the water are festooned with plastic and sewer-rag.

Fortunately, there is a valiant bunch of volunteers who for 16 years have been dedicated to improving our waterways and their surroundings. Cardiff Rivers Group (CRG) often descend on the Taff at Radyr together with the Radyr and Morganstown Litter Pickers, bringing up to seventy willing folks to blitz both the river and Taff Trail of the accumulated detritus. Some of CRG's volunteers are specially trained to work safely in the water in



waders or even in their little boat to get at litter that is inaccessible from the shore.

As well as litter-picking, Cardiff Rivers Group volunteers also undertake habitat management. Under the direction of Cardiff Council's urban park rangers, they're frequently found cutting back reeds, removing self-set saplings or 'balsam bashing' - pulling up the invasive Himalayan Balsam.

CRG's previous visit to Radyr Weir was during the Big Cardiff Tidy last autumn when volunteers removed 56 bags of rubbish and loads of bulky



fly tipping from the area. Their services are in demand all along the city's river banks, but they're sure to be back to Radyr soon and anyone can get involved - there is more than enough litter for everyone! It's a great way to make a difference to our city, as well as being a perfect opportunity to get some exercise, meet people and socialise.

Keep an eye on the website cardiffriversgroup.org.uk or on CRG's social media platforms to check out what's going on.

Facebook: fb.com/cardiffrivers

Instagram: instagram.com/cardiffriversgroup/

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Merched y Wawr, Bro Radur

Gan Gwen Emyr

Eisteddfota

Ein gwestai ym mis Tachwedd oedd y Prifardd Aled Gwyn o'r Eglwys Newydd, un o Fois Parc Nest. Ar ôl astudio ym Mhrifysgol Cymru, aeth yn weinidog gyda'r Annibynwyr. Dechreuodd fel gweinidog ifanc yn Eglwys Henllan Amgoed ym mis Medi 1966. Gwasanaethodd hefyd fel cynghorydd sir dros Blaid Cymru. Daeth yn newyddiadurwr gyda



BBC Radio Cymru a chafodd brofiad hefyd o gyfieithu i'r Gorfforaeth. Yn 1995 enillodd y Goron yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru Bro Colwyn am bryddest am y profiad trist o golli wyres fach yn y teulu.

Un o uchelfannau'r sgwrs oedd yr hyn a ddywedodd ein gwŷr gwadd am yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ym Mhontypridd ym mis Awst eleni. Soniodd am y cysur a'r wefr a gafodd yn yr eisteddfod honno, ac esboniodd pa mor werthfawr oedd y gwahanol eisteddfodau iddo ef a'i frodyr ers pan oedd yn ifanc iawn.

Yng nghartref y teulu ger Castellnewydd Emlyn roedd

anghenion y fferm, Parc Nest, yn mynnu sylw a gwaith. Serch hynny, nid oedd angen perswadio'r brodyr i gefnogi eisteddfodau ymhell ac agos. Dechreuodd profiad Aled o eisteddfota yn ifanc, gyda'i frodyr Jim a John, wrth i'w mam eu tywys o eisteddfod i eisteddfod ar fws a thrên a 'pick-up'. I gloi, adroddodd un o'i ddarnau doniol, ac yn swm chwerthin a chymeradwyaeth y daeth y noson i ben.



gion sy'n para fel ewcalyptws, sgmia, ysgall, aeron, afalau ac orennau sych, heb anghofio sinamon a moch coed.

Wrth ateb ein cwestiynau am y broses o brynu, esboniodd mai o farchnad ym Mryste y daw'r blodau a'r planhigion, wedi iddyn nhw gael eu cludo mewn cratiau o'r Iseldiroedd. Eglurodd fod Brexit wedi gwneud y gwaith o gludo draw yn heriol. Ond o ran Blodau Tlws, mae prynu blodau yn parhau a'r gwaith yn cael ei werthfawrogi, yn arbennig adeg dathlu pen-blwydd neu briodas ac ar gyfer angladd.

Diolchwyd i Shân am noson ddifyr ac am ddod â chyflenwad o lyfrau'r Nadolig i ni eu prynu. Yna cawsom flas ar fwyta danteithion tymhorol a baratowyd gan aelodau'r pwyllgor.

Galeri 'TEN'

Oherwydd tywydd gaeafol, bu'n rhaid gohirio ein cyfarfod cyntaf y tymor hwn, felly ar nos Fercher 5 Chwefror, Cat Gardiner oedd ein gwestai cyntaf eleni.

Cyn-ddisgybl yn ysgol gynradd Bro Eirwg ac Ysgol Glantaf ydy Cat, a rhoddodd gip inni ar daith ddifyr ei gyrfa hyd yma. Wedi astudio Celf yn y Brifysgol yn Aberystwyth ac yna ennill gradd uwch mewn Curadu yng ngholeg Kingston, Llundain, dychwelodd i Gaerdydd.

Creu Torch Nadoligaidd

A hithau'n adeg brysur yng nghalendr Siop y Felin a Blodau Tlws, daeth Shân Roberts atom i'n tywys drwy'r pleser o greu torch Nadoligaidd. Pwysleisiodd y wedd naturiol a'r wedd gynnil, ac aeth drwy'r camau angenrheidiol. Er enghraifft, gorchuddio'r wifren â mwsogl llaith, a naddu mymryn ar risgl coeden Nadolig er mwyn ei chadw'n iraid. Yna ychwanegu planhi-

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Learning Without Limits

Radyr Chain 275 - March 2025

Wedi profiad o weithio yn oriel Martin Tinney, gwelodd fod cyfle i ddatblygu'r celfyddydau gweledol Cymreig. Felly, yn 2010, sefydlodd y galeri 'TEN', gyda deg artist y gallai hi eu hybu a'u cynrychioli. Bu'n rhaid defnyddio siopau gwag i ddechrau. Yna, am bedair blynedd, llwyddodd i



redeg ei horiel fechan ei hun yn 23 Windsor Place. Wedyn, yn 2016, fe lwyddodd ymhellach drwy droi ei chartref yn oriel ar gyfer arddangosfeydd.

Y cam nesaf oedd prynu ac adnewyddu'r Coach house oedd yn ffinio â gwaelod ei gardd, a throi hwnnw yn ofod golau a hwylus ar gyfer arddangosfeydd. Cyfeiriad galeri 'TEN' (Celf Gymreig Newydd) ydy 143 Donald Street, Caerdydd CF24 4TP, info@gallery-TEN.co.uk

Cafodd Cat Gardiner wrandawiaid astud a nifer o gwestiynau ar y diwedd. Diolchodd ein llywydd, Eirian Dafydd, iddi, a dymuno pob llwyddiant i oriel 'TEN' yn y dyfodol.

Cardiff Foodbank

By Mark Partridge, Foodbank Collection Coordinator for Radyr Methodist Church

Many thanks to members at Radyr Methodist Church and to the wider community in Radyr and Morganstown for your continuing generosity in supporting the Cardiff Foodbank. The photo displays the food and other items donated in the October collection last year.

During 2024 the collections resulted in 1030 kg of food being donated together with £350 in financial donations towards the foodbank's running costs. You may think that's a drop in the ocean, but it represents the equivalent of 4900 cans of beans and every donation is gratefully received and put to good use.

The next collection is on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th April. Please note the change to the collection points. Please deliver donations on Saturday 12 April to the following address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

- 20 Walnut Tree Close, Radyr CF15 8SX



Donations will also be accepted at the morning service for Palm Sunday at Radyr Methodist Church at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 13 April. All are welcome.

Most needed items (As of 04/11/2024)

- Cooking sauce in jars
- Tinned Custard
- Long-life juice
- Tinned Soup
- Sponge puddings
- Tinned fruit, meat, tomatoes and vegetables
- Washing powder

The foodbank has plenty of baked beans, cereal, nappies, pasta, squash.

Please check on their website before the collection date if you can to see the current list of most needed items.

<https://cardiff.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/donate-food>

The foodbank is unable to accept fresh, home-made or perishable food. Every donation, of whatever amount, is appreciated so please consider whether you can help.

Thank you so much.



Radyr Chain Issue 275 Spring Wordsearch

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| • Birdsong | • Crocus | • Blossom |
| • Easter | • Spring | • Daffodils |
| • Chick | • Buds | • Bunny |



A Brave New World at Bryn Deri Primary School

By Mrs Davies, Headteacher

This term our overarching theme at Bryn Deri Primary School is 'Our Wonderful World'. Each class will be exploring an aspect of the world in their new context for learning; from the Blue Abyss to the Polar regions and the great outdoors there is lots to see and lots to learn as we strive to always be a community Developing Happy Confident Caring Creative Children with a Positive Attitude to Life and Learning.

Year 3 presented their One World class assembly to which family and friends were invited. Thank you to everyone who supported this event on the day. It was wonderful to see the children dressed in the colour of their chosen national flag. We will also be celebrating culture and life in Wales. On 25th January we celebrated St Dwynwen's Day. Classes across the school recalled the story and celebrated the day in their own individual ways to keep the Welsh tradition alive in 2025. Whilst Year 5 pupils created their own mathematical artwork, Year 1 were busy baking some heart-inspired cakes— after all food is the way to anyone's heart! On that theme, we celebrate healthy eating with our healthy daily snacks and learning about balanced diets. As part of our Healthy Schools project, we are delighted to offer free parent and child cooking sessions at Bryn Deri in conjunction

with Cook Stars during March, we can't wait to see what our pupils cook up! This Lunar year is the year of the snake. Pupils in Nursery have been exploring some traditional celebrations and, of course, food to mark the New Year, too!

This year our Welsh Eisteddfod Theme is 'Roots' or 'Routes'. This will provide everyone with an opportunity to celebrate their history, their land and surroundings and what it means to be Welsh in a diverse Wales, through poetry and art. As in previous years we have set a whole school homework task for the half term holidays - a creative task with this year's Urdd Eisteddfod theme of 'Roots'. Entries could consist of: PowerPoint presentation, jewellery design, knitting, creating a Welsh themed game, a piece of pottery, 3d model, photograph(s), or making a new Welsh dance / song / rap / costume. The possibilities are endless! There will be points awarded to all participants and a class competition held for first, second and third places.

We're delighted to announce that Bryn Deri PTA has been chosen again as a cause for the Co-op community fund for the next year. The money we receive will be used to purchase outdoor play equipment. Please choose Bryn Deri PTA as your cause at <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/91879>. The more members we have, the more money the school will get. Last year



we raised over £2,800. Every month, 10 Co-op Members will win £500 for themselves and £5,000 for their chosen Local Community Fund cause - so we could be in with a chance of winning some extra money.

We have lots of events coming up this summer at Bryn Deri primary school and our pupils have residential trips to look forward to as well as our usual Sports Day in the summer. We are delighted that we will again be welcoming everyone from the community to a fun summer fete during the summer term plus the PTA will again be hosting a brilliant BBQ at our sports day. We are grateful to the PTA for continuing to raise funds for our school that enable the children to experience creative opportunities, not least finishing the wonderful renovation of our school library this year with a woodland theme chosen by pupils.

There are places available at Bryn Deri primary school. If you are interested, you can find a link to our beautiful new prospectus on the school website <https://www.brynderiprimaryschool.co.uk>

Events in Radyr Primary School in the build up to Christmas 2024

Article written by Year 6 pupils: Alyse, Naomi, Erin, Martha, Lyla and Lowri.

Christmas Fun Day:



On Christmas fun day we did a range of exciting activities, like getting to go to Santa's Grotto with the receptions, having hot chocolate and marshmallows in class, and playing on lots of inflatables in the hall. We were also able to watch Christmas movies in class while doing Christmas colouring as well. During the day we got to wear our bright, eye-catching Christmas jumpers which lit up our school. Everyone donated to the school, and we raised a whopping £1,285!! It's hard to think that we did all these activities



during one single day, but we did, and I'm sure that everyone enjoyed it as much as we did.

Christmas Movie Night:

Christmas Movie Night is something we do in Radyr Primary School to relax and have fun with all our classmates. Each class gets the opportunity to watch a Christmas movie. Both classes come together to vote for a film, and to ensure that it is fair we did a blind vote. Across the school was a variety of different movies. While watching the film, we got to have a cheeky slice of Domino's pizza, and a bag of popcorn.

Crucial Crew:

Year 6 got an opportunity to walk to Crucial Crew and get to learn about all safety things including, how to be safe around the beach, train tracks, allowing everyone to have their rights at home, and so much more. We went around different stalls seeing how to be safe and what to do when in danger by yourself. We all learnt many things and we were all grateful for that day. Shout out to Crucial Crew for making that experience so AMAZING!!

Mufasa:

It was the last day before Christmas and all of years 3, 4, 5 and 6 went on a bus trip to go and see the new movie, Mufasa. We got to bring some sweets and a drink for the thrilling movie we were about to go see. We were already so excited when we heard that we were the first ever to see it, but our heart skipped a beat when we walked in and the whole room was completely empty. At the end to get us in the Christmas mood we all sang 'The Twelve Days of Christmas!' It was the best experience we have ever had!! One of the year 4 pupils said "It was an entertaining film, I would definitely watch it again. I'd give it a 9.5 out of 10."

Football Tournament:



Both of our football teams have impressed us this term and we are all very proud of them. Years 5 and 6 entered a football tournament. This was a massive opportunity to show Cardiff what Radyr



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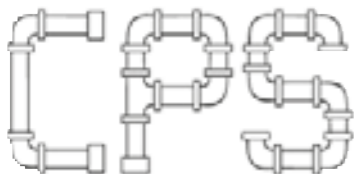


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10% of our litter is dropped by the Council

By Peter Fortune, Radyr & Morganstown Litter Pickers

is made of. Both of our teams went to Ocean Park Arena for a day of competition with ten-minute matches. The boys came second but we are very thrilled with the quality and effort they put in. As for the girls, what a success! Our football heroes couldn't have done better. They won all their games and are going through to the next round. Each of our teams had the best celebrations and experiences. We look forward to seeing how the girls will get on. Thank you to our teachers for all your kindness, and support.



Our members collect 45 bags of litter each month from our streets and parks and at least four of these bags contain litter left on the ground by the recycling teams each Tuesday. Seems silly, doesn't it? We have mentioned this to Council managers, but nothing changes. Either the bags or the trucks need re-designing - or both.

We have collected over 2,600 bags of litter since we started, and our 47 members have given more than 2,000 hours of time to helping to keep Radyr and Morganstown clean.

We meet on the second Saturday of each month for a group litter pick which normally includes at least 15 of us. On top of that many of us go out individually. We would love you to join us.

Kit is provided thanks to Radyr and Morganstown Community Council, Keep Wales Tidy and Cardiff Council. Please get in touch with us at rm-litterpickers@gmail.com or come along to a group pick. We meet at 10am and for refreshments afterwards.

Our next Group Picks are as follows:

- 12 April**
Radyr Hub Station Road
- 10 May**
Morganstown Village Hall
- 14 June**
Radyr Station Car Park
- 12 July**
Radyr Hub, Station Road



On better news MGY in Station Road have agreed to sponsor the R & M Litter Pickers once more and are giving us £80 towards our insurance costs! Many thanks to James and his team - shown below with some of our members. You can tell which they are as they are the younger ones!





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Review: A Bunch of Amateurs

November 2024 saw our local drama group perform A Bunch of Amateurs which was written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman.

It was originally written for the big screen and premiered in 2008 at that year's Royal Film Performance. It boasted a big name cast that included Burt Reynolds, Derek Jacobi, Imelda Staunton and Samantha Bond and was an immediate hit with H.M. The Queen, so much so that she asked for a further screening at Sandringham that Christmas.

It tells the story of washed-up Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steel, who hopes to re-ignite his waning career by accepting an invitation to play King Lear at Stratford. But he discovers on his arrival in England that he will not be performing with the RSC, but with the Stratford Players at Stratford St. John in Suffolk, who hope that Steel's presence in their production will help raise money to save the local theatre from being bulldozed for executive homes.

The play has threads of Shakespeare's "King Lear" running through it, but it is clearly character driven. The characters are clearly drawn, and you

may recognise some of them, but each person does represent the types of people that you can find in some groups - but not all I hasten to add!

This production, directed by Peter Stickler, was slick. The pace was good, the timings for the comic lines and action were perfect. The male lead of Jefferson Steele, was played by Jonathan Wheeler, sporting a dubious "rug". He kept the pace going and used pauses effectively. Alongside Jonathan, the female lead was played by Mel McLeod. She had the air of the "suffering in silence" / "The show must go on" director. Trying to soothe Hollywood egos along with overexcited members of her group.

The rest of the characters were made up of Nigel Dewsbury (played by Chris Locke), Denis Dobbins (played by Tony Allen) Lauren Bell, (played by Ceri Murphy) Jessica Steele (played by Hayley Wilkin) and Dorothy Nettle (played by Helen Blundell)

This bunch of amateurs (literally!) helped with comic timing and keeping the pace going. There were some excellent accents, characterisations, subtle underplaying which

added to hidden backstories (in particular Ceri Anderson's performance was incredibly sensitive to her back story)

Whilst I've highlighted the two leads, I have to stress that this was once again an incredible ensemble team. If there had been a weak link, the play would not have worked.

The audience enjoyed it immensely, picking up the wit before the line was given or laughing and applauding at the comic antics, in particular Tony Allen and his eyes!

The set was basic but served the purpose of multiple locations. The lighting and sound were both good.

If there is one small niggle, it would be that the scene changes were a bit long. I appreciate there were a lot of props and costume changes that needed to take place, but I would suggest that a dark blue light and not closing the tabs would have allowed the audience to watch some action, showing them the value of the backstage team, who in this case was Nicky Webber, Gill Evans, Andrew Huesch, Tony Watson and Dave Burgess, and how important the backstage crew actually are to a production.

One last note, even the director got in on the act with a small cameo - well done!

All in all, this was one play that highlighted the art and pain of amateur theatre and hopefully explained to the audience why Radyr Drama continue to perform plays of high standard.



Côr y Gleision

Côr y Gleision was formed in 2006 as part of the S4C series "Codi Canu", which aimed to encourage rugby supporters to bring traditional Welsh singing back onto the rugby terraces. Many members had never sung in a choir before, but found the experience so positive that, although "Codi Canu" ended in 2008, the choir continued to grow and develop. The choir now has more than 100 members.

The choir enjoys a varied calendar of events from singing on and off the pitch at the Arms Park for Cardiff Rugby's regional matches, at both men and women's WRU international rugby matches, to performing and competing at regional and national choral festivals, Eisteddfodau and choral competitions around the UK. Some of the most recent accolades include the choir coming 1st at the 2022 Bangor International Choral Festival in Northern Ireland, winning Choir of the Year at the Bourne-mouth Festival in 2023 and coming 3rd at the National Eisteddfod Choral competition last August in Pontypridd.

The choir sings a varied repertoire of classic and contemporary works in several languages. The choir also tours and has enjoyed memorable performances in Spain, Scotland, Belgium, France, Canada and Ireland.

The choir loves to give something back to the community once our costs have been recovered: the surplus from our last Christmas concert was in aid of Cardiff City Hospice and we now look forward to singing at Christ Church on Sunday 18th May ending this year's Radyr Festival in aid of St John Ambulance Cymru. It is hard to get one of our choristers Aled Treharne to perform with the choir due to his weekend voluntary involvement with St John Ambulance Cymru! Look out for him at the concert together with Christ Church and Côr Y Gleision chorister John Kiff.

Choir membership is open to all - we simply ask that you can hold a tune! For more information, please email member-shipcorygleision@gmail.com



R&M WI

By Jane Woodward, President,
Radyr & Morganstown WI



Our W.I. meetings take place on the 2nd Monday of the month at The Old Church Rooms at 7:30pm. We have speakers on a variety of subjects. At our first meeting of 2025 we had the Cardiff and Vale Trading Standards team answer all our questions on the latest scams and how to avoid being conned by rogue traders.

Our February meeting had a talk on women of Russia. At our March meeting we had St. John's Ambulance demonstrating the use of CPR using a defibrillator.

We have several sub-groups including two reading groups and a gardening group which is very popular with 25 members. We have started a "Meet Up Monday" at Radyr Golf Club where we meet up for coffee/tea and to socialise. All groups meet monthly.

We organise coach trips & arrange lunches at local venues. We also support our local community events by manning stalls at the May Festival and the switching on ceremony of the Christmas lights.

Our contact details are shown on Radyr & Morganstown Community website and Facebook. Come and join us for a meeting, you will have a warm welcome.

A joyous occasion

By Gwen Emyr

On 20 December 2024 Marcelle Davies was ninety years old, and the following day she celebrated in the company of family and friends. As we chatted, I understood that Marcelle's late husband Glyn Davies, paid for the first issue of the original Radyr Chain. Marcelle and Glyn came to live in the then new Castle View Estate in January 1970, and later moved to Windsor Road, Radyr.

Glyn Davies was Group Scout leader in the village for several years, and Marcelle ran jumble sales and bazaars to raise money for the Scout Group. She was Church Secretary for thirty years. After retiring as a French teacher in industry (at Dow Corning in Barry), Marcelle volunteered with several charities including Life for African mothers and BAWSO. Here she has kindly agreed to share some of her memories.

From Marcelle

I was born in 1934 in the commune of Boitsfort on the outskirts of Brussels, near the Forêt de Soignes that leads all the way to Waterloo. I lived a happy childhood with father, mother and two older sisters and my paternal grandmother ('Bonbonne' to me). My mother was English, born and brought up in London, and my father was a French-speaking Belgian. Bonbonne spoke Flemish. We three girls spoke all three languages, though educated in French.



It was a very happy childhood until the Second World War broke out when the Germans invaded their neighbouring countries. My family attempted to go to England to meet up with my mother's family. On the first day we reached Ostend, but whilst we waited for the boat, a German bombardment destroyed the port and the electricity supply. There would be no boat nor train to reach France. We spent the night in a cinema opened for the considerable number of refugees. Overnight my father had decided that we would walk to the next port, Calais, but when we reached a point in sight of it in France, we could see that Calais was on fire. So, we went on the road to the next port in Dunkirk.

Yet more walking, then sleeping on the road. We were tired and hungry. German planes were striking the civilians on the road and frightened us. After that long, long journey we were too late - the British forces were now retreating from France, and Dunkirk was under bombardment.

We were given refuge on a farm slightly inland for three weeks or so until, after travelling in the back of a German lorry, we were repatriated to Belgium.

I will not speak of the suffering we all endured in one way or another until Brussels was liberated in September 1944 by Welsh and Irish Guard regiments - our area by the Irish Guards.

I was ten years old in 1944 when we heard that the British forces had landed in France. People on the streets began to dance when this news arrived, but when I went to tell my mother I found her crying. She explained that so many young boys had lost their lives in order to help the people of Belgium. And, strangely enough, in Italy that day her youngest brother was killed in the battle of Monte Cassino.

Gradually life improved and my family was much helped by our friends from the Irish Guards. Six years later, in 1951, sadly my father died when he was 55 years old. It was then that my mother and I came to live in Cardiff with my sister Irene and her husband Eric Brace. Irene had married the soldier she loved - a Welshman from the Glasgow Highlanders.



Prior to 1951 I had spent holidays in Cardiff and had made friends there, so I adapted easily to my new life. I attended the Church of the Resurrection, Ely, and in 1956 I married my childhood friend, Glyn Davies.

We were happily married for over sixty years and were blessed to have three children: a daughter and two sons. All of my children were married at Christ Church, Radyr, by our family friend the Rev. Bill Barlow. Sadly, my husband died in 2017 of pancreatic cancer.

I live with my daughter Giselle and son-in-law David Warren, and am lucky to be looked after so well living in the Coach House of their house "Weir House". Also living in Radyr are my much-loved son Chris and my daughter-in-law Tee-na Davies. My younger son married a Polish girl and they live in Brussels. Simon and Justyna remain attached to his family and visit often.

With my friends in the Knit and Natter group at the Radyr Hub, I enjoy knitting and crochet, making baby blankets, hats, teddies, and related articles, and I remain a Soroptimist. That gives you a brief survey of my life aged ninety.



Easter across the Garth Ministry Area

The Garth Ministry Area, of which Christ Church, Radyr is a part, will be keeping Holy Week and Easter across our various churches. The Christian story of our salvation is played out as we journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Day with Jesus, seeing ourselves there with his disciples and followers, and allowing the events to speak to us as we each grow in our faith.

We are delighted to welcome as our guest preacher across the week the Rev'd Canon Dr Stephen Adams, Chaplain to the Senedd, former Vice-Principal of St Michael's Theological College and most recently Team Rector of Cowbridge, an experienced and wise preacher and friend to all our clergy here.

Palm Sunday (13 April)

Services will be as normal Sunday in all our churches. As we move into Holy Week, the services will be as follows:

Monday 14 April:

St David's Church, Groesfaen, 7pm

Tuesday 15 April:

St Michael & All Angels Church, Tongwynlais, 7pm

Wednesday 16 April:

St John's Church, Danescourt, 7pm



Maundy Thursday 17 April:

St Mary's Church in St Fagans, 7pm - Eucharist of the Last Supper

Good Friday 18 April:

10am: St John's Church, Danescourt, St Michael's Church, Tongwynlais and St Mary & St James Church, Taffs Well

11am: Capel Llanilltern and St Catwg's Church, Pentyrch

2pm: Christ Church, Radyr; St Mary's Church, St Fagans; and St David's Church, Groesfaen.

Holy Saturday 19 April:

St Catwg's Church, Pentyrch - Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter, 8pm

Easter Sunday 20 April:

Sunrise Service, St Mary's Church, St Fagans 5.15am!

All other Easter Sunday services will be as a normal Sunday.

Further ahead:

Sunday 4th May there will be an 8am Service at Christ Church, and then the only other service in the Ministry Area will be a Confirmation with Bishop Mary at Creigiau Church Hall.

Say hello to the "New Vicar"



My name is Mary Evans, and perhaps I can go on saying I'm the 'new vicar' of Christ Church Radyr and St John's Danescourt for a bit longer: it gives me the opportunity to introduce myself which is very welcome.

I grew up in eastern Canada but have now lived in the UK longer than I lived there, so my accent comes and goes a bit! I grew up going to church and have never left it, singing in the choir and serving from very young. I became a lay reader when I was in university, and studied music, as well as playing ice hockey. I came to the UK in 1999 for what was meant to be a gap year, but my plans quickly changed and I'm still here now. I'm sometimes asked if I would ever return to Canada but with three children here, I don't see it happening any time soon!

I've lived in Brighton, Oxford, and Weymouth, and settled in Swansea in 2007 where I began training for ordination through St Michael's College. I was ordained in Brecon in 2012 and served my curacy on the Gower in the Parish of Three Cliffs, which I enjoyed very much. My children were still very young, so I was non-stipendiary.

In 2015 we moved to north Wales, where I had care of Holy Spirit, Ewloe, a church in the Hawarden Benefice, itself going through a transition to a ministry area. My sons began singing in Chester Cathedral choir, which was the beginning of a happy association with the cathedral over several years.

I've had a break in ministry, and immediately before coming here I worked as a verger in Chester Cathedral. My chief responsibility was looking after its live-streamed worship on YouTube and providing on-screen texts to enable Sunday worship to be 'paperless'. I found worshipping online via Zoom and YouTube fascinating and I've changed the subject of my ongoing doctorate to study it more.

I interviewed to come here in January 2024 but with

various steps to take to return to ministry, and for my younger two children to finish the school year, we only moved to Cardiff at the end of August. They have begun at Bishop of Llandaff High School which they're enjoying, and my eldest is studying music at Royal Holloway.

You may have heard that the rectory in Radyr wasn't ready for us to move straight into, so we spent two months in a vicarage near Cathays. It meant a fair bit of driving to and fro but at half term we moved in properly, having been licensed to my new ministry on 12 September along with Revds Sandra, Edward and Ruth, which was a lovely occasion.

We've been made very warmly welcome in Christ Church and St John's Danescourt; my first Christmas as your vicar here was just brilliant and I'm looking forward to many more. There have already been memorable events such as our Pre-Christmas Fair, and Remembrance Sunday which so many community members participated in. I'm very much enjoying getting to know everyone as I settle, so please do say hello when you see me!

Next Chain – July 2025

Submissions for the Summer edition (276) need to be with the Editorial Team by 15 June for a late July publication date. We would really appreciate any early submissions or a conversation with anyone who has ideas for a submission and would like help to develop it. We are happy to take submission in English, Welsh or bilingually. Get in touch by email: chain@radyr.org.uk



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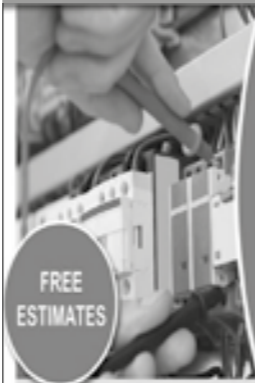
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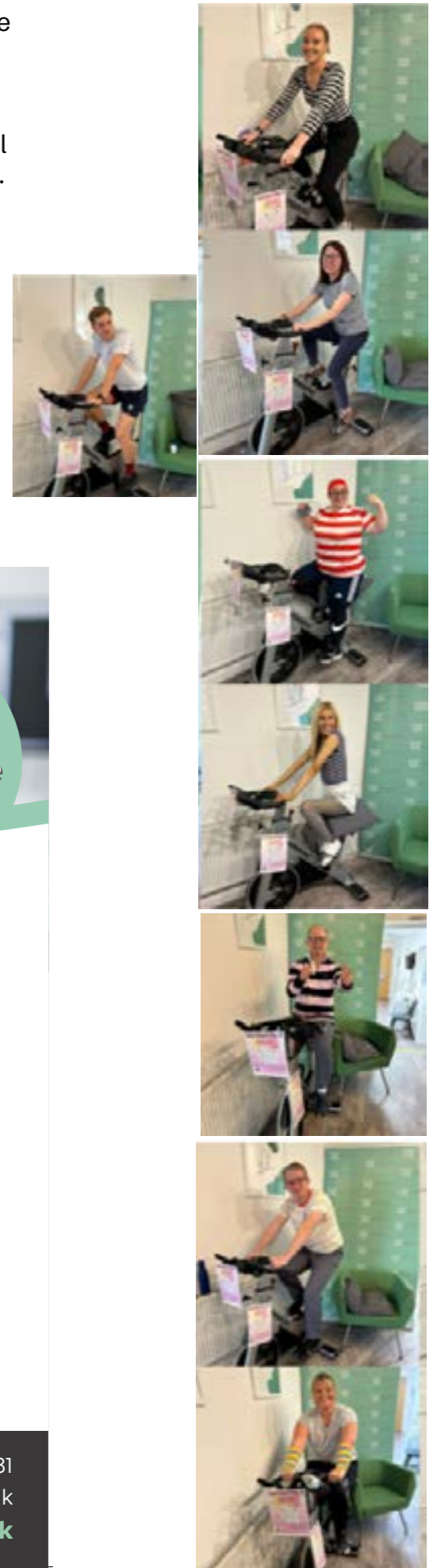
We took it in turns to pedal through the day, working up a sweat on an exercise bike to support vital cancer research.

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right here in Wales Over the past 10 years, Cancer Research Wales has funded over 60 projects, totalling £17.5 million, making a real difference in people's lives.

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Radyr Hub

By Peter Fortune

Books are wondrous things to me, and I have always loved libraries. They're open doors to a wide world. I was very fortunate where I lived as a youth as I had access to four well stocked libraries, which helped my studies enormously. We are very fortunate to have our own library in Radyr and Morganstown, Radyr Hub, which was opened by Glamorgan County Council in 1973 (see image) when there was considerable housing development here.

South Glamorgan took it over in 1974 and now the Hub is run by Cardiff Library Service with support from the Council's Wellbeing team.



Completely refurbished in 2012, Radyr Hub, managed by Karen (on left in image) with support from Becky, is open every day except Thursday and not only lends written and audio books but offers access to a range of Council and other services, including housing and schools, bus passes and blue badges. Suzanne (on the right) supports the team by organising community activities including a walking group, Knit and Natter, a Bridge Group, Welsh, French and Italian conversation and much more.

You will receive a warm welcome from the staff and the eight volunteers, who help the team and organise community groups and weekly story times. Computer access, printing, study areas and a scanning station for uploading housing benefits evidence are also available. There are community spaces with comfy seating and a cosy children's area, complete with book den. One feature, welcomed by many, is the ability to order books online and direct with the team.



The Council also delivers youth services from the Hub two evenings a week and provides period dignity products via the Hub and a service for identifying STIs.

The hub is open from 10am-1pm and 2pm-6pm on Monday, 10am-1pm and 2pm-5.30pm Tuesday and Wednesday, 2pm-7pm on Friday and 10am-1pm on Saturday. Please call in and find out more. You'll be surprised by what you find!

Radyr Hub, Park Road, Radyr, CF15 8DF
(We are located opposite Radyr primary school)

T: 029 2078 0996

E: RadyrHub@cardiff.gov.uk

What's on at Radyr Hub

All of our activities are free

Monday

10am - 12pm Knitting & Crochet Group

2pm - 4pm Bridge Club

5pm - 6pm Book Club (3rd Monday of the month)

6pm - 8.30pm Youth Club (11+, during term time)

Tuesday

10.30am - 1pm Quiz & Coffee

2pm - 3.15pm Italian Conversation

2pm - 3.30 pm Art Group

3.30pm - 5pm Lego Club

Wednesday

10am - 1pm Walking Group (Please check meeting point)

10.30am - 11.30am Story & Rhyme Time

11am - 12.30pm French Conversation

2pm - 3.15pm Welsh Conversation

2pm - 4pm Happy Hands Craft Group

3.45pm After School Tales

Thursday

3pm - 6pm Youth Club (11+ TERM TIME)

Saturday

10.30am - 12.30pm Lego Club

The Probus Club - What is it?

By Barry Clarke

Probus Club of Cardiff West

Probus Club of Cardiff West was born out of (but is separate from) the nearby wonderful Rotary clubs.

It was set up as a voluntary club for men who are retired or semi-retired from professional and business life to have friendly company of people like themselves.

Members can talk with each other and gain helpful knowledge from other members who have already gone through similar later life experiences, and this is very helpful



Radyr Tennis Club gets an update

Radyr Lawn Tennis Club has had an update. And thankfully for you, you don't have to fiddle with a tricky download or restart your laptop 25 times just to get the thing working - you can just turn up to our open day during the Radyr Festival.

We've updated two of our tennis courts from tarmac to Tiger Turf - which replicates the feel of grass and delivers

in life's ups and downs.

At the Probus Club's monthly meetings, the members are variously entertained by speakers, singers, actors, authors, raconteurs, and musicians. It makes a pleasurable oasis away from everyday life.

Coffee, tea and lunch are available to be enjoyed too.

The club meets on the first Thursday of the month at Radyr Golf Club and at other times of the year, as well as on trips to various places. Several times during the year mixed events are held, where wives, partners, and family are

invited along too. Trips have included the Big Pit, Llanerch Vineyard, Swansea Waterfront, and Chepstow Castle.

Our meetings vary. The speaker at the mixed December meeting was talking enthusiastically about songs to the contented audience, when she suddenly burst into song herself - waking everyone up! The audience realised they could join in too, and very soon favourite seasonal Christmas songs were being enjoyed by all.

So, what's next on our programme? If you want to know what we're likely to be doing, you can also find our updated programme on the events section of the Radyr & Morganstown website.

If you think you'd like to join this men's club, you are very welcome to come along to find out more. Further details can also be had by phoning Geoff Foot on 077809 90 847, or Mike Thomas on 029 2040 8056.

the full Wimbledon experience in the heart of Radyr. Rumours of our pickleball courts being the most popular pickle in Radyr (beating even the Branston Small Chunk, sold in Co-op) are true, so we're updating the pickleball courts to three bespoke courts.

Plus, there's our newly refurbished bar which presses the refresh button on its range of beers and lagers every month.

Come and say hello on our open day during Radyr & Morganstown Festival Fortnight.

We can't wait to see you all.

Building Church

By Rev'd Judith Holliman
Minister at Radyr
Methodist Church



When our son, James, was little, he broke his leg in two places and was put in a hip cast for some considerable time. This period of enforced inactivity led to his love for Lego. Over the years we had many Lego sets from the basic to the frankly overwhelming but his interest in building continued, he is now studying for a PhD in engineering, so it seems the Lego worked its magic!

When we came through the joys of covid here we wondered about using some of James' old Lego to start a

Building Church, but we did not have quite enough to make it work. So I put out an appeal for any spare Lego to our wonderful church members and we managed to accumulate enough to be able to provide a really good selection for our Lego Building Church.



We generally meet on the last Sunday of each month (but not in April) at 2:30pm in Radyr Methodist Church.

We have a theme, some obvious like the Nativity and some more nuanced. We have had the paralysed man lowered through the roof by his friends, Moses crossing the Red Sea and many other different Bible based stories.

The young folk and their parents really enjoy making



something to add to the story which we then tell using the builds that have been made. We also have a craft activity for those who like to colour. We then share pizza before tidy-up time. We have a varied attendance of church and non-church families and it's always a joy to hear how things are going with them.

Building Church, like Forest Church is a different way of exploring our understanding of God and our own spirituality in a more relaxed format than a church service and, as a pioneer minister, it is always good to find new ways of being church that fit with people's needs.

Feedback welcome

We hope you enjoy reading this edition, in full colour and available online at <https://radyr.org.uk/chain>

Our aim was to keep some things the same and introduce some new material. We are really pleased to have items written by and aimed at younger people as well as useful information and updates for the whole community. We are grateful to all our advertisers, who continue to be keen to support the Chain.

Any feedback about this edition would be welcome - please email chain@radyr.org.uk

From the Crease

By Christopher Hitchings,
Chairman, Radyr Cricket Club

When Storm Dennis hit the club in February 2020, we were assured that this was a once in forty years occurrence and therefore there was nothing to worry about until 2060. Unfortunately, no-one told Storm Bert that he was a tad early when he joined us last November and the club suffered another flood. Luckily it was not as bad as the previous tsunami, but nonetheless the damage was considerable. The photograph shows some of the fencing, erected following Dennis, smashed to smithereens and it will take until at least April for everything to be back in place. As usual, along with our insurers, the cricket authorities were brilliant and allied with Sport Wales they were able to help the club get over the worst. I suspect that with global warming exacerbating the situation, this might become a regular occurrence, and it will be necessary for the club to protect itself from ever more damaging floods.

In late January, the club held its first social event of 2025 with a luncheon attended by over 65 members of all ages. It was a brilliantly organised event with splendid food, great company and an excellent quiz. Hosted by the Golf Club, it was the opportunity to welcome RCC's new Honorary President, Rhys Lloyd. A brilliant cricketer and respected member for over ten years, Rhys kept us entranced with a witty speech full of anecdotes about his time with the club and the individuals he has met

along the way. Unfortunately for Rhys he has laid down a marker in the sand and people will now be expecting verbal fireworks every time he picks up the microphone.

A less pleasant occasion occurred a few weeks later when I, along with quite a few members of the club, attended the funeral of JC Jones. Colin was a Life Vice President, former Club Captain and Chairman who sadly passed away late in December. He was very well known in South Wales club cricketing circles as he was a very influential member of the Wanderers CC, a touring side who visited Essex every August Bank Holiday. The television personality, Phil Steele, who knew him well and who was a fellow tourist, spoke at the Wake about those times and the amazing ability Colin had to lead the touring party in song. He was a great club man and will be missed.

The season is now only a few weeks away and all the preparations are being finalized. The indoor nets on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at the Indoor School at Sophia Gardens are in full swing, the grounds are being prepared and all the players are looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead. The annual handbooks are at the printers and the changing rooms are being prepared for the fray: the 2025 season is upon us and I can't wait.

For those of you who fancy a go at the great game, now is the time to prepare yourselves. Boys, girls, men and women

are all welcome as there is a home for everyone at RCC: cricket is the most inclusive of games. If there are any juniors under the age of eleven, your parents/guardians should just go onto the ECB/Cricket Wales website and click on the 'All-Stars & Dynamos' page and pop in RCC. Last year we had two hundred children joining the fun, which made us the second largest club in Wales: we hope to do even better this year. For those between eleven and eighteen, who have played before, you should already have been contacted, whilst for those new to the game or who haven't had an email, please contact either Debbie Lamb on deblamb4@gmail.com or James Williamson, the lead coach, on jameswilliamson174@gmail.com and they will steer you in the right direction. Failing that just pop down the club one evening from late April onwards and you will find a warm welcome and be given all the details you need. For seniors, email me on christopherhitchings@btinternet.com or if the season has started join senior nets at the club on Wednesday evenings. Cricket is a wonderful game and RCC is the place to make life long friendships. Join us and I assure you, you won't be disappointed.



A View from the Touchline

By Peter Llewellyn,
Radyr Rangers Football Club

There has been considerable endeavour by those behind the scenes at the Club over the past couple of years, to evolve and enhance the club. While this may not always be visible to the players and parents connected to Radyr Rangers, the past few months have been hugely rewarding to see these efforts bear fruit for all to see; the clearest example coming with the unveiling of the fantastic new 3G astroturf pitch at Radyr Comp in October.

The pitch was delivered for the school through the Football Association of Wales (FAW) and Cardiff Council funding, which was successfully applied for with the support of Radyr Rangers. The Club worked in partnership with the school, allowing both to now enjoy the benefits of vastly improved sporting provision for the pupils, our players and the community. Many thanks must go Wyn Williams for his drive, determination and legal expertise, together with Gail Coombs from Radyr Comprehensive, and our current Chair, Rob Fancourt, for their energies in getting this over the line. A special thanks must also go to former Club Chair, Ben Robinson, who had laid the foundation for this with his efforts over the past few years. In footballing terms, while Wyn & Gail got the goals, Rob & Ben can definitely claim the assists on this one! The Club would also like to thank the Headmaster, Andrew Williams, and his school

leadership team & Governors for their vision in backing the project and assistance in delivering it. Finally, it also wouldn't have been possible without the support of the local Councillors, Helen Lloyd-Jones & Callum Davies, together with Steve Morris from Cardiff Council. A great team effort!

The new pitch is also a catalyst for the continued growth of the Club, bringing fun and football to a growing number of players across Radyr & Morganstown. Since the astroturf was opened, we have welcomed a Veterans' group to the Club, with over 40 players from the local area already involved, including a host of new faces (well, new 'old' faces!) joining up. And, from the start of next season, the next evolution of the Club's offering will be the introduction of a Girls' section. Plans for this are already well underway, and we hope to be welcoming our first Girls' teams in time for the new season in September. If you are interested in getting involved with the coaching and development of girls' football in Radyr then please get in touch with the club.

We are proud to say that



from our junior Development Squads through to the new Vets' group, Radyr Rangers now provides local football for players from 5 to 55!

While the action off the pitch has been keeping the committee and coaches busy, it's all in the name of presenting sporting opportunities on the pitch. It has been magnificent to watch the men's Senior side reach the quarter-finals of the South Wales FA Cup for the first time in the club's history. This was achieved in dramatic fashion after a penalty shoot-out victory over Caerphilly Athletic at the Mound in February, with Ciarhan Webb's side now facing Dinas Powys FC in the Quarters. After the shoot-out glory, the Cup dream is still alive and again illustrates how the Club is going from strength to strength across the age groups!

As our partnership with the school has blossomed, we're delighted that the new pitch at Radyr Comp will also be the shining centre-piece this year of the annual Radyr Rangers' Football Festival. The school will be the venue this year for what is always a marvellous day of football

and family fun, and it's all set for Saturday June 14th. We will welcome over 80 visiting sides of children aged 7-11, consisting of 500 players and their families as spectators, so we are expecting to host up to 1000 people on the big day!

The club has previously enjoyed tremendous support from local businesses taking out adverts in the Festival programme, which is given to all spectators; with teams and spectators travelling from across Cardiff and beyond, it's a brilliant opportunity to give your business local visibility while also demonstrating community spirit... what's not to love! If you have a business you wish to promote to visitors from across South Wales, then please get in touch via radyrfootballfestival2025@outlook.com.

We hope you can join us on Saturday June 14th to enjoy all the Festival action, as it promises to be a day of magnificent matches, spectacular skills, great goals, and plenty of smiles on the faces of the players and supporters.

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Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions!
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Pentyrch Bowling Club



Although the lawn green bowling season is over for another year, the club will continue its maintenance work and social activities during winter and spring. Our major future objectives are to provide a fantastic green for playing bowls and to upgrade our facilities so that we can attract more new members.

The club now has a new clubhouse and new toilets. The next task is to get new changing rooms for the 2025 season. This requires the club to fundraise through its social activities. Demolition of our old changing rooms is almost complete, and we will soon be ready, weather permitting, for the new rooms to be installed.

Our social calendar has seen us successfully hold our Christmas event, and, by the time this article is published we will have held our Winter Quiz. Our social activities are open to all, so we encourage you to support our endeavours by com-

ing along to the following:

Our 1st Coffee Mornings of 2025 will be held at the Pavilion on Friday 28th March at 10.30am, and Friday 25th April at 10.30am. £4 entry to include coffee, tea, savouries and cakes.

Entertainment Evening in Pentyrch Village Hall, 7pm on Friday May 9th. Tickets are just £10, including entertainment by singer, Deano Martini (The Man with the Hat and the Voice). Drinks and nibbles can be purchased.

Race Night in Pentyrch Rugby Club, 7.30pm on Friday August 1st. Tickets are £6 and include a sausage and chips supper. Vegetarian option available.

Further information on free coaching sessions (during the season), and tickets for these events are available from Paul Cooper (07811 188 690).



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40 years supporting Tenovus

By Rosanne Holmes

Radyr and Morganstown Friends of Tenovus will be celebrating 40 years of fund raising this year. It was set up in 1985 after a talk by someone from Tenovus office at a Radyr and Morganstown WI meeting. A number of ladies from the WI felt it would be a good Welsh organisation to have in the villages and so it has proved over the years. Most of those first pioneers have moved on, though some of those still with us do still give us their support. In fact, 2 members who joined early on are still fundraising on the committee to this day.

Over the years the fund raising has been very varied, consisting of concerts, coffee mornings, golf days, sponsored walks, garden visits and parties, fashion shows, beetle drives, cheese and wine evenings and many more.

We have been a long-term supporter of the Radyr and Morganstown Festival, with our quiz being a main feature for years. We also have had stalls at the fete and dog shows. We have been privileged to be the chosen charity 3 times. You will see us at the Festival again this year.

At our 30-year celebration, we totted up how much we as a charity from the two villages had raised and it came to £300,000, an amount we were very proud of. We hope that by the time we celebrate our 40th we might reach near to £400,000. We are planning to celebrate the event with a dinner at Radyr Golf club with a speaker, a Patron of Tenovus Cancer Care, in early October, so watch this space.

This year we also are planning a fashion show again with Samantha B in Morganstown Vil-



lage Hall in June and our annual coffee morning in October.

All this planning does take time and effort, and our committee is not increasing. So if you feel you want to join and help to reach this great amount of money, the members of the committee will welcome you with open arms. If so, you can get in touch through the Chain, or any committee member or myself on 029 2040 1872.

I would like to finish by thanking everyone who has supported us over all these years, we could not have done it without you.

Radyr &
Morganstown
**Festival
2025**

**Festival Programme and book of
Draw tickets inside this issue.**

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