

Radyr Chain



Number 276

Free to every home in Radyr and Morganstown

Summer 2025



From the Editors

Croeso / Welcome to the summer edition of the Radyr Chain

This is our third edition as the still relatively new "Chain Gang." Our volunteer team has expanded to include two proof readers – thank you Sarah Middleton and Jackie Cornwell for your expert eyes.

What's been happening?

Since the Spring Chain was distributed before Easter, the annual Radyr and Morganstown Festival has taken place. Fantastic weather helped the wide range of events – especially those outdoors – and there are various articles about the Festival to read in this edition.

The chosen charity for the 2025 Festival was St John Ambulance Cymru and we understand that the money raised will support local activities, which is great, as the well known green uniforms of the volunteers are a welcome sight at every occasion.

The 80th anniversary of VE Day was marked with a Civic Service at Christ Church, attended by many local community representatives, the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, our MP, Member of the Senedd, Lord Mayor and Councillors. The flags at the War Memorial were raised as a mark of respect.

In June every year, charities thank their volunteers during Volunteers Week – so we would like to add our thanks to everyone in Radyr and Morganstown who gives their time to causes they care about – without you a whole range of services would simply grind to a halt.

What's coming up?

As we move into the summer season, some of us might have holiday plans. Others, especially students, parents, grandparents and teachers might be awaiting exam results. Good luck to all pupils for your results and future plans – why not send in an article to The Chain about your experience as a younger person – and / or your hopes for the future.

Talking of planning – The Chain Gang aim to produce one further Chain in 2025. Our copy deadline will be mid October for the Chain to be available from mid November. We anticipate producing further Chains in 2026 and deadlines for these will be shared in print and online – please see the website: www.radyr.org.uk – where you will find a range of useful information.

Ideas, feedback and any suggestions are always welcome

– please email chain@radyr.org.uk

Diolch / Thanks

Thanks to all our contributors and advertisers who support The Chain and as always to the amazing group of distributors and delivery volunteers who ensure that we all get our printed copy of The Chain – and if you prefer you can read online via www.radyr.org.uk.

Cover in context:

Radyr and Morganstown in bloom. At this time of year we are lucky to enjoy some spectacular colourful floral displays in our gardens and green spaces. Hydrangeas in the local area are particularly impressive, with a bright array of colours to be seen. As part of the Radyr and Morganstown festival earlier this spring, some fantastic local gardens were generously opened for visitors for more of the community to enjoy and at this time of year it's hard not to be wowed by the beautiful displays in nature.

Festival raises over £5,000 for St John Ambulance Cymru

By David Silver, Festival Chair

This year's festival has already raised over £5,000 for our charity of the year, St John Ambulance Cymru. We would like to thank all our volunteers who helped us with bars, bbqs and ticket sales. Without them we could not have a festival. However, we still do not have enough helpers, even though we have made many appeals to the community.

The Festival itself went very well.

Starting as normal with the Fete where there were performances from both local primary schools and we had more stalls than in previous years, in the first week there were three very successful and well attended events: our Wine and Cheese evening, Science with a pint, held this year in the OCR, and a lunchtime concert, performed by David Thomas,

to celebrate the new organ at Christ Church. Party in the Park took place on the middle Saturday in the grounds of Radyr Primary School with great performances from some very talented individuals and groups. Thanks go to the school for letting us use their grounds for both this event and the fete.

On the Sunday the pace dropped with a stroll around the Open Gardens. This year we had even more gardens opening and we would encourage other people to open their gardens in future years. With the plant stall in the Old Church Rooms this event alone raised over £1,500 for the charity.

A highlight of the second week was the Friday Jazz evening by Cube, always a well attended event. The Festival ended on Sunday evening with a charity concert in Christ Church by Côr Y Gleision.

Unfortunately, three events had to be cancelled this year due to low ticket sales, nevertheless we still managed to raise over £5,000 for the charity. St John Ambulance Cymru are our charity for the year, not just the festival, so we will be collecting for them throughout the year, including all the Christmas events

If you have ideas for events for next year, or are willing to help for a hour or two, please let us know at events@radyr.org.uk

Photos

See more of the photos from this year's events in the centre spread of this issue.

If you could become a regular photographer for the Chain to help us tell the story of local events then please get in touch.



Upcoming events

Thursday 3 July, 10:30

Probus Club of Cardiff West

SOLAR POWER - HARNESSING THE SUN. An illuminating talk by speaker Richard Morris at Radyr Golf Club.

See contact details on page 41

Saturday 12 July

Litterpicking

See full details on page 31

Monday 14 July

Radyr & Morganstown WI

Tonight we will be having our Summer Social Meeting at the Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr, CF15 8DG. We would be very pleased to see you and if you need any further information please email rmwi@radyr.org.uk

See full details on page 36

Tuesday 15 July, 19:30

St John Ambulance: Ask the Experts

Session at the OCR where you can ask the experts questions you've always wanted to about First Aid.

Book or get further information from Tricia.France@radyr.sjaw.org.uk

Thursday 17 July

Probus Club of Cardiff West

VISIT to THE SS GREAT BRITAIN & BRISTOL. The Probus men's club is going on another trip, along with some friends and family.

See contact details on page 41

Sunday 27 July 14:30

Lego Building Church

For people of all ages who like Lego. Meeting at Radyr Methodist Church on the last Sunday of every month at 2.30pm

Pizza and a story

Contact Rev. Judith for more info - RadyrMC@gmail.com

Tuesday 5 to

Thursday 7 August 11:00 -3:00

Urban Beach

Turning the car park at Radyr Methodist Church into a Blue Flag beach setting with play, crafts and snacks available.

Contact Rev. Judith for more info - RadyrMC@gmail.com

Thursday 7 August, 10:30

Probus Club of Cardiff West

AA HISTORY OF THE MOTOR CAR. An illustrated talk by renowned speaker Steve Abbott at Radyr Golf Club.

See contact details on page 41

Saturday 9 August

Litterpicking

See full details on page 31

Sunday 31 August 14:30

Lego Building Church

For people of all ages who like Lego. Meeting at Radyr Methodist Church on the last Sunday of every month at 2.30pm

Pizza and a story

Contact Rev. Judith for more info - RadyrMC@gmail.com

Thursday 4 September, 10:30

Probus Club of Cardiff West

THE DRUIDS OF THE GARTH and Edward Evan, & Iolo Morgannwg. An illustrated talk by James Stewart at Radyr Golf Club.

See contact details on page 41

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 October 2025).

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

Monday 8 September, 18:30

Radyr & Morganstown WI

Tonight, Chris Purkiss is giving us a talk titled "Broad's on Broadway". We meet at the Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr, CF15 8DG. We would be very pleased to see you and if you need any further information please email us at rmwi@radyr.org.uk

See full details on page 36

Saturday 13 September

Litterpicking

See full details on page 31

Tuesday 16 September, 19:30

Save a life September - CPR & AED Training

For Save a life September our local St John Ambulance Cymru Radyr Division will be running CPR and AED Training.

Book or get further information from Tricia.France@radyr.sjaw.org.uk

Sunday 28 September 14:30

Lego Building Church

For people of all ages who like Lego. Meeting at Radyr Methodist Church on the last Sunday of every month at 2.30pm

Pizza and a story

Contact Rev. Judith for more info - RadyrMC@gmail.com

Saturday 11 October

Litterpicking

See full details on page 31

Monday 13 October, 18:30

Radyr & Morganstown WI

Mark Elliot will be giving us a talk about DNA. We meet at the Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr, CF15 8DG. We would be very pleased to see you and if you need any further information please email us at rmwi@radyr.org.uk

Friday 17 October, 19:00

Radyr and Morganstown Friends of Tenovus 40th Anniversary Dinner

Celebrating 40 years of Fundraising by the Radyr and Morganstown Friends of Tenovus.

At Radyr Golf Club featuring Rupert Moon and Jamie Pugh.

Cost £25 for 2 course meal.

Tickets from Rosanne on 029 2040 1872

Tuesday 21 October, 19:30

Halloween games - Burns and Scalds. Stop Drop & Roll

Session at the OCR run by our local St John Ambulance Cymru Radyr unit.

Book or get further information from Tricia.France@radyr.sjaw.org.uk

Friday 24 October, 10:30

Radyr and Morganstown Friends of Tenovus Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning in aid of Tenovus Cancer Care at Radyr Golf Club. Cost £3

Tickets from Rosanne on 029 2040 1872

Sunday 26 October 14:30

Lego Building Church

For people of all ages who like Lego. Meeting at Radyr Methodist Church on the last Sunday of every month at 2.30pm

Pizza and a story

Contact Rev. Judith for more info - RadyrMC@gmail.com

Sunday 9 November, 10:45

Act of Remembrance

The Parade and service starts with an outside service at the War Memorial in Heol Isaf attended by local groups, the laying of wreaths and ending at 11:00 with the Last Post.

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There will then be a service in Christ Church starting around 11:10.

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Roadworks of interest

By Ian Thomas

Golf Course Lane

The bottom end of Golf Course Lane (nearest Llantrisant Road) has been closed since mid May and is expected to remain so until the middle of the Autumn. This is to allow contractors associated with the PlasDŵr developments to work across the lane without dealing with any traffic.

Whilst this lane has been closed to vehicles for over 4 years now it was regularly used by many as part of their walking routes.

Access between Bryn Derwen and Llantrisant Road is still possible on foot for those who are able to negotiate the public footpaths across the bottom of the Golf Course.

Fairwater

A 70-year-old culvert under St Fagans Road in Fairwater will be replaced this summer to ensure the water from the stream, which flows alongside Fairwater Road, can pass freely underneath the carriageway.

The water from the stream then passes through private land by the Fairwater public house, south along Cartwright Lane before being discharged into the River Ely.

To ensure the culvert can

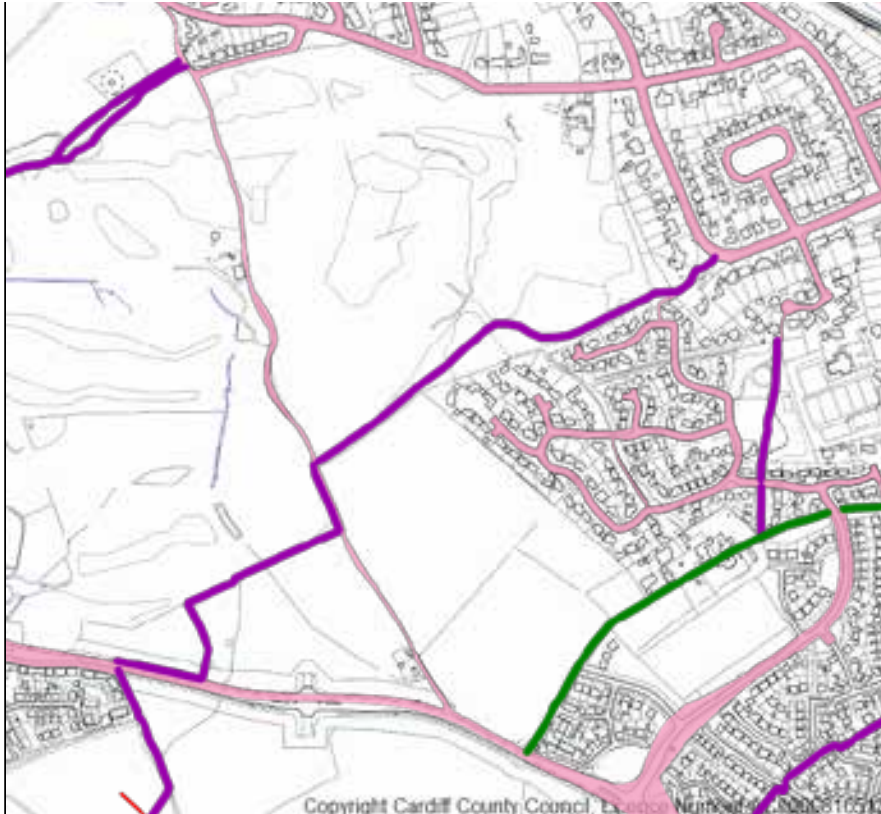
be replaced between July and September this year, on Wednesday (June 11th), lane closures were put in place on St Fagans Road between Cartwright Lane and Fairwater Road for five weeks so utilities can be diverted.


Once the utilities have been diverted, St Fagans Road at the junction with Cartwright Lane will close between July 25th and September 2nd so the culvert can be replaced.

Cllr Norma Mackie, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene & Environmental Services at Cardiff Council said: "This scheme involves essential work on the highway to ensure that water from the stream can be channelled under the

road. Due to the age of the structure, it must be replaced to ensure that it does not fail."

"Due to the possible disruption this work will cause, the culvert is being replaced during the summer holidays when there is less traffic on the highway network. A diversion route has been put in place for local residents to navigate around the works and we have also been working with bus companies to reduce the impact on their services. Those who do not live locally are advised to use main routes, such as the A48, Cowbridge Road West, Western Avenue and Llantrisant Road. We would like to thank residents for their patience while this essential work takes place."



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The importance of political engagement

By Megan O'Neill

Radyr, as well as everywhere else in Wales and the UK, must commit to political engagement.

The average turnout rate for 2024's general election was just 60%. This was the lowest figure since 2001 - furthermore, the last Senedd election of 2021's average was only 47%. It's more apparent than ever that we in Radyr need to become more politically engaged and to turn the tides on voter apathy, as without grassroots involvement in democracy, we have weaker representation in government and face a future of politicians disconnected from their constituents. If we want decisions that represent our feelings, we must provide our opinions, connect with those in office, and catalyze our community to advocate for the social issues they believe in.

This is not to advocate for any one type of political involvement, any one party, or any one ideology; any engagement is important, working directly with politicians or joining external groups. I have compiled a few methods below which may prove particularly effective and are ultimately rather simple and easy. We must support pluralism at all levels.

Voting

The obvious way in which to communicate with those in power and maintain a healthy democracy is by providing politicians with a clear mandate; the issue here perhaps lies with people seeing one vote as useless or not knowing how to register. It's a pretty simple process - just google instructions, keep an eye on your emails, and remember to use voter id. Just one vote can tip the balance in a referendum or election, so please don't feel that yours is useless!

Emailing a Councillor, MS or MP

Maintaining a healthy dialogue between constituents and our representatives is essential, even if nothing comes of requests or queries; we must not hesitate to remember that the people govern, not those in power, and politicians work for the masses. We should jump at any chance to ask an MP, for example, to vote a certain way in Parliament if there is a bill about to pass through it concerning an issue close to one's heart. For example, I recently emailed my MP to ask them to vote in favour of an amendment to a bill. Additionally, one could go out on a limb and ask your MS to visit your school or youth group, online or in-person.

son. MS Mark Drakeford, for example, has been a fantastic example of a politician with a strong connection to young people as he gave a Q&A session at Radyr Comprehensive in February. Emailing politicians is a great way to quickly and respectfully get a point across, and perhaps we don't utilize this tool as much as we should. As public servants, politicians shouldn't be seen as elite, unreachable figures - we should maintain a more open relationship with them and provide valuable bottom-up perspectives for them to consider. Professional email addresses are typically found online with guidance on how to address the subject.

Details of those who represent Radyr & Morganstown can be found in the Directory of the community website: <https://radyr.org.uk/section/local-representatives/>

Petitions

A rather direct manner of expressing your political beliefs, and one that perhaps gains more attention and appears to have more legitimacy should it get a high volume of signatures. The directions for creating a petition can be found online, courtesy of the UK government - local, regional or national issues can be raised in this method, depending on who the petition is directed to and who controls the subject

concerned. It's true that even with the guaranteed debate achieved with 10,000 signatures in the Senedd and the UK Parliament, the issue may not be enacted, but the very fact that you can raise awareness of an issue means that you could inspire further conversation around it either in government or in your community. They're easily created online if you read the guidelines to the process.

Volunteering with a charity

Political engagement doesn't have to relate to any one party. With summer approaching and young people having weeks of free time, this is the perfect opportunity to do something meaningful (not to mention it looks great on a CV or personal statement). It's easier than ever to get involved in meaningful causes, whatever those are to you - some include Pride Cymru, Cardiff Women's Aid, Cardiff Mind, or Cardiff Dogs Home.

Responding to government consultations

Perhaps this opportunity is lesser-known, but we can influence decisions being made at the highest levels if we take advantage of it. The UK government invites people to share their views on an issue to help inform decision-making in almost all policy areas - these can be found online. This is a great way to inform those

in power and have your say on what matters to you in the country. Take advantage of it!

Youth engagement

The above methods are of course also open to young people, as long as they are 18 and registered to vote in UK elections, or 16 for Senedd ones. However, these are more specific to young people, and in a time when young people, according to a report published in March 2025 by The Electoral Commission, are not very interested in UK politics, due to feeling as though politics doesn't affect their daily lives. However, the report also found that about 2/3 of young people believe that it's important to learn more about UK politics. Perhaps, in this case, the answer is to show young people what impact politics and their involvement in it can have on where they live, and to foster closer relationships between politicians and this demographic.

Joining a youth council or forum

Speaking from personal experience, youth councils are particularly effective and encouraging places which can awaken one to the impact that collective voices and action can have in democracy - Cardiff Youth Council is an incredible group to join either as someone already interested

in politics or for anyone who wants to learn more about political systems in the UK or make their voice heard when voting on agendas. Projects such as Rights Fest, which CYC was largely involved in, yielded their report on gender equality in Cardiff being presented to representatives from the public services board and Cardiff Council, reflecting the power young people have when they organize projects collectively.

Raise money for a charity in school

It's one of the most common (and fun) ways to fundraise and help a worthy cause, including some already listed. Joining a student council or becoming a House Captain can enable you to do this in all sorts of ways. Becoming part of systems like this whilst still in school can mean you learn how governments or councils work on a smaller scale, helping to inform you when you later come to vote and learn about politics.

Get out there!

All of which to say...get out there! Make your voice heard! Make use of the opportunities available! Our community can make a difference. An act as simple as volunteering on the weekends or sending an email to a politician on a whim encourages greater pluralism and means that a 'government by consent' thrives. If you have a spare hour or so, please regis-

ter to vote. If you have a spare weekend, volunteer with a charity or a party.

There is no democracy without strong engagement from the masses; even if you think that one vote or one petition doesn't matter amidst millions of UK citizens, please don't fall prey to the trap of political apathy, though it can be understandable in these times of the news's bleak tone and an increasingly complex world. Still, we must try, as seemingly tiny acts of grassroots involvement form the basis of any healthy democracy.

Megan is currently a student at Radyr Comprehensive 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.

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Defibrillators

By Allan Cook

Over the past few years a number of defibrillators have sprung up around Radyr and Morganstown. Do you know where they can be found and what to do if someone collapsed with a cardiac arrest and you were the nearest person? I certainly didn't.

What is a Defibrillator?

It is a medical device used to deliver an electric shock to the heart, typically to restore a normal heartbeat in cases of cardiac arrest.

Where can they be found?

There are defibrillators;

- Outside the Ty Nant Inn.
- Inside The Morganstown Village Hall.
- In a box in the hedge near the main entrance to Bryn Deri Primary School.
- Outside the Old Church Rooms.
- Outside Radyr Eye Care in Station Road.

One of our County Council-lors, Calum Davies, has kindly offered to give another defibrillator and we are looking for a suitable location around the Comprehensive School.

What can I do?

What should you do if someone has a cardiac arrest and you are the nearest person.

Phone 999 and ask for an ambulance. Say where you are. The operator will give you a code to get into the nearest box containing a defibrillator.

Make sure that the patient does not have a pulse and is not breathing. You should start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), pressing down hard on the chest 100 to 120 times a minute, continue until professional help arrives. Ideally there will be someone else near to you to fetch the defibrillator, remember to give them the entry code to the box.

Maps of Radyr and Morganstown

Thank you to the Community Council for their permission to reproduce the base map opposite on which we have marked the locations mentioned in this article.

Larger printed copies of this map (without the hearts) are available from the Community Council Office at the Old Church Rooms during their opening hours (10.00 - 16.00 Monday - Thursday).

Once you have the defibrillator it talks you through the process.

Are you still uncertain?

St John Ambulance have a very good short video on their website. You can opt out of a longish advertisement after a few seconds.

Radyr Branch of St John Ambulance are planning a number of short demonstrations to be held at the Old Church Rooms in the autumn. Look out for posters.

Remember that your prompt action could save a life. Know where the defibrillators are and be prepared to use one.

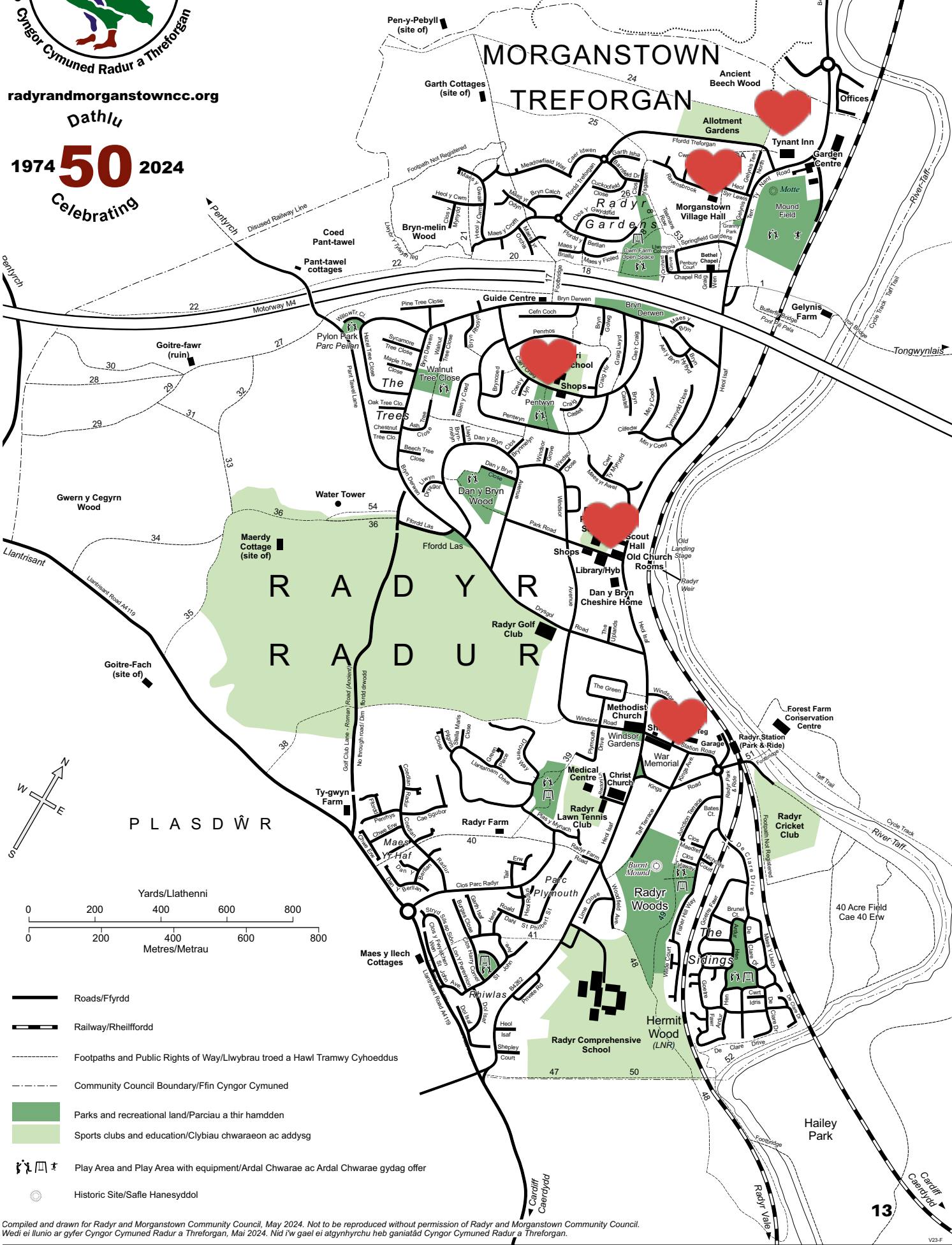


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Radyr's tiny treasures

By Sarah Middleton

Isn't it wonderful to spot wild orchids and exquisite butterflies around Radyr and Morganstown? My antennae were tuned in this Spring as I had an opportunity to learn more about the mind-boggling number of species (across Europe) from two botanical specialists. One of them, Dr Elizabeth Cooke, works for the charity Plantlife. You may have heard her on the national news in early June celebrating the return of the Lady's Slipper Orchid. It is growing wild in the UK for the first time in almost a century. She described it as 'the crowning glory of Britain's wild flowers - one of the rarest and most impressive'.

I met Dr Cooke on a week-long nature-lovers' tour in May. Although her work is based primarily in the UK, she co-led an amazing visit to the alpine landscape of the Vercors in France. I was fortunate to be part of this group. The day before leaving for the train journey from St Pancras to Lyon, I spoke with one of the Chain Gang hosting an Open Garden in Radyr. My excitement must have been infectious, as she asked me to share something of the French adventure upon my return.

Well, we saw Monkey Orchids, Military Orchids, Fly Orchids, Green-winged Orchids, Burnt Orchids, Early Purple Orchids, Elder-flowered Orchids, both of the pale yellow variety and magenta pink. We crept up close

to Dingy Skippers, Pearl-bordered Fritillary and, prince of butterflies, Scarce Swallowtail. We delighted in Trumpet Gentians, a gorgeous white Pasqueflower, Wild Tulips and more.... Marmots, Chamois, Griffon Vultures and Alpine Chough.

No doubt some readers will know of all these, but most were first sightings for me. And I've come back to a much deeper appreciation of the Common Spotted Orchid just a stone's throw from my home. Sixteen pale purple blooms are gracing the Radyr garden as I write.

The salutary nature of Dr Cooke's media message about the Lady's Slipper (we saw one in bud on the slopes of a French woodland) was that it came so near to extinction in the UK because people picked them. For this reason, the careful cultivating of the Plantlife

team meant keeping the location of this beautiful orchid secret. For the same reason, I'm reluctant to be precise about the Radyr whereabouts, even if 'ours' are of the Common Spotted variety.



I'm reliably told that this little butterfly, photographed in Radyr just before my expedition, is a Common Blue. Let's hope that they remain common for many years to come.





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As the new Chain Gang are getting to grips with how the Chain is put together we wish to clarify the options available to advertise in the Chain.

We are currently working on the basis of 3 editions per year in November, March and July.

There are 4 sizes of advert available for new advertisers:

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- Size D: £80

We are no longer able to accept larger adverts (e.g.half page) and the advertising team will confirm with current advertisers all size and price details to ensure consistency.

Advertisers are responsible for producing their own print-ready artwork for initial publication. If updates are required then revised print-ready artwork must be supplied by the copy deadline for each subsequent issue.

Advertising is currently invoiced on a per-issue basis in arrears and we hope to introduce an annual payment plan in the future.

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Community Council News

*Report from Julia Charles,
Chair of the Community Council
and Iona Shariff, Vice Chair*

The Community Council has had a bustling month, featuring key events such as the AGM, the RMA Fete, and the Civic Service, alongside exciting progress on various projects including the highly anticipated lift installation.

Let's bring you up to date.

It was at the AGM at the beginning of May that myself, Julia Charles, and Iona Shariff were voted in as Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Council respectively.

We are both very proud to lead the Community Council for the next year and we will work hard to ensure that we continue to maintain positive actions to keep our community proud. This moment marks a first-time historic milestone, with both the Chair and Vice Chair being female. The Council looks forward to celebrating this historical moment on International Women's Day, 8th March 2026.

The first weekend of May dawned with glorious sunshine and kept going through the whole of the festival. What a great first Saturday of the festival. The gorgeous weather brought out loads of people from our community and beyond to enjoy and support the activities. Great to see so many people supporting this event. Being present on the RMCC stall we were able to talk to many residents and everyone

was clearly looking forward to a great day and a great festival.

On the Sunday evening the ceremony took place for the raising of the flags for VE day, the service in the Church and the celebration afterwards. The poppies looked great on the gates of the Church and they really added value to the VE Day celebrations

The annual Civic Ceremony serves as a moment to recognise volunteering contributions to the community. Huge congratulations to all those involved in organising the event. The evening was a resounding success with an excellent turnout and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. It was truly a delightful occasion for all who attended. A sincere thank you to everyone who helped make it possible.

We do have some exciting news for the whole community regarding the Old Church Rooms. News which the Council is really proud of. A well-earned congratulations to the OCR board on successfully arranging the installation of the much-awaited lift in the main building and the upgrading of the toilet block. This achievement is a wonderful addition ensuring better accessibility to the first floor for those with mobility challenges. Thank you to everyone involved in arranging this work and also a huge thank you for the patience of those who used the OCR rooms during this construction. We really believe this will be beneficial to the services the



OCR can provide to the community

We look forward to working with the community on issues that are important to them. We are open to suggestions for improvement in the area and will deliver or assist where possible. Please make the Community Council aware if you need any assistance or would like to bring anything to our attention.

Further news and updates can be found on our RMCC website:

<https://radyrandmorganstowncc.org/>



Community Council News

*Report from Julia Charles,
Chair of the Community Council
and Iona Shariff, Vice Chair*

Congratulations to Radyr and Morganstown Community Council

To recognise the commitment in volunteering work that the community councillors carry out each year, we nominate one councillor to attend the Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party. This year, our nomination was awarded a place! Congratulations to Iona Shariff, who was fortunate enough to attend this prestigious occasion. The Garden Party was hosted by the Prince and Princess of Wales, William and Kate, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Prince Edward and Sophie, Princess Eugenie, and Zara Tindall. Attendees are only able to attend the event once in their lifetime.

While at the palace, Iona was able to mingle with the royals and had a pleasant chat with Zara Tindall, who thanked everyone for their hard work. Speaking after the garden party, Iona said: "I had an incredible time at Buckingham Palace; we were very lucky with the lovely weather and enjoyed the afternoon tea. We made memories that will last forever, it was a truly glorious occasion. To be in the pres-

ence of many inspirational people and to be in the same company alongside William and Kate made it a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It was beyond my wildest dreams that one day I would be recognised in such a Royal way at Buckingham Palace, and to share in the splendour of it all was very humbling. I have consistently endeavoured to unite the community, prioritising safety and creating a pleasant village environment. My background in commercial management has been instrumental in achieving these objectives."

Iona has worked on initiatives such as Road Safety, Windsor Gardens, Station Rd, and supporting the Cricket club. The community council continues to work behind the scenes to make Radyr and Morganstown a wonderful place for us all to live. The R&M Community Council are responsible for local green areas, local grants to support community services such as Radyr Rangers, Radyr Woods etc, supporting community initiatives, planning reviews, raising political issues and striving to keep up community solidarity. Thank you to all the volunteers at the R&M Community Council and well done to Iona, very well deserved. Keep up the good work!

Further news and updates can be found on our RMCC website:

<https://radyrandmorganstowncc.org/>



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

What we need to hear

For a few days after my press release about my time as Lord Mayor I couldn't resist looking to see if my comments had been picked up on social media or in the press. I found nothing, absolutely nothing.

Which was a shame because my message was that as your Lord Mayor I had found the experience life affirming. I had met so many incredible people who were doing their best to make a difference. It didn't really matter what event I went to, there were volunteers making things happen, there were people celebrating their culture, there were award ceremonies, such a range of awards, from Nurse of the Year to the Welsh Ethnic Minority Women's Awards.

Even had a photo shoot session at Cardiff Foodbank with Father Christmas (in blue) helping NOMO (a plant-based chocolate company) promote the fact that they had chosen to donate 8000 vegan friendly Christmas chocolates to the Foodbank because a national survey had determined that Cardiff is the friendliest city in England and Wales.

I was so proud to represent our friendly city and it was wonder-

ful to see so many people putting on community events to fund raise for charity, not least of all, our Radyr and Morganstown Association with their amazing Festival in May.

Things have been a bit tough recently and I have had to turn to the NHS for help. Wow! they have been amazing. Couldn't believe how quickly the ambulance came, and they were so kind. A&E were wonderful and finally the care that was given to my husband was given so willingly and lovingly. Thank you NHS.

The NHS may have many problems but its heart is still ticking loud and clear. Yes, there are things that need to be addressed but we still have a health care system that we can be proud of.

Pity, the press don't report the positives more often. These days they may even sell more papers and get more clicks on social media if they help us to realise the vast majority of us are decent, kind people doing our best to keep this world of ours a good place to be.

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

Parking petition

Thank you to everyone who signed my petition opposing Cardiff Council's plan to scrap free parking in its car parks—including those in Canton, Llandaff and Whitchurch. The Council has already conceded on the principle that no free parking will be damaging, suggesting the possibility of a free half hour. However, this does not go far enough and will still have a negative impact.

Station Road

Since my election I have pressed the Co-op to tidy the frontage of the former Spar on Station Road. Recent correspondence is encouraging: short-term fixes and longer-term improvements are on the way. I hope to have greater detail on these soon and remain committed to improving the appearance of Station Road.

Radyr Rangers

I was delighted to get a glimpse of a very busy football festival, the annual tournament held by Radyr Rangers,

bring to the community. I continue to work with the club towards their ambitions for new facilities.

Meetings

I have held numerous meetings this month, including with an education group, Cardiff Bus, and council officers, the latter regarding greater bus provision in Radyr & Morganstown. I was also pleased to meet with Julia Charles, the new Chair of the Community Council, to discuss our shared goals for the ward. I also held my latest surgery and will advertise my next one in the autumn.

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

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The Old Radyr Quarry

By Colin Johnson



Picture by kind permission of the Radyr & Morganstown Local History Society

Mention the Radyr Quarry, and most people living in R&M would think you were referring to the quarry that overlooks Morganstown – but for around 50 years until 1908 there was a

quite different quarry in Radyr. It produced a building stone, sold as “Radyr Stone” for commercial and domestic projects. This quarry was located below the area that is now occupied

by Danescourt and the comprehensive school. Close by was the track of what’s now called the City Line, and there was even signal box: “Radyr Quarry Junction”.

Radyr Stone was originally quarried for the construction of the Penarth docks, and carried there by rail. It was used for the Gorsedd stone circle at the 1899 National Eisteddfod, now in Cathays Park, and for a number of bridges on the Taff Vale Railway (notably the “Three Arches”) - but you don’t have to go that far to find some other examples of its use.

Date	Description
1858-60	Radyr stone extracted to build Penarth Docks (opened 1865)
1863	Three men killed and others injured in collapse of a gantry at the quarry
1867	St John’s Church (Danescourt) rebuilt with Radyr Stone cornerstones
1880	Radyr quarry nearly 400m long and 75m wide at its widest point
1881	Quarry master Wm Smith living at Riversdale House, Radyr Court Rd
1884	Photo (above) shows capping stones being loaded on to railway trucks
1884-5	Further use of Radyr stone at Penarth docks and Bute docks
1890	Explosion at the quarry smithy kills two men and injures another
1908	Closure of Radyr Quarry business

The technical bit



Radyr Stone is a ‘conglomerate’ - a sort of natural concrete made from a complicated mix that includes a red sandy base with limestone pebbles em-

bedded in it. It was laid down in desert conditions during the Triassic period (around 220 million years ago). The sandy material is softer than the limestone, so weathering causes the limestone pebbles to become more prominent (see opposite). Radyr Stone is quite a different rock from the one produced in the Taffs Well quarry; that’s a hard form of Dolomite suitable for road-stone.

The expert on the former Radyr Quarry is a Llandaff resident,

Michael Statham. The time-line above was compiled from information in his article “The History of Radyr Quarry and Radyr Stone”

This recent view is reproduced by kind permission of Rhian Kendall of the British Geological Survey.

SAFETY WARNING: Some remains of the quarry may still be visible from Radyr Woods, but old quarries can be dangerous places. Don’t be tempted go poking about there!



Porch at Ty Mynydd Lodge, built in the 1880s



Radyr Stone quoins at Ty Mynydd Lodge



Lychgate at Llandaff Cathedral



Garden wall with Radyr Stone capping, Station Road, Radyr c. 1893



Detail of weathered stone with limestone pebbles exposed, Station Road



Radyr stone capping to wall of Cliff Hill, Penarth



Junction Terrace, Radyr. Built for railway workers around 1864



Puzzle Picture: This Radyr Stone feature is to be found in Cardiff. What is it? And where is it? Answers on page 31.

Pictures by the author, Colin Johnson, except for the puzzle picture - which is reproduced by kind permission of Dr Ffion Reynolds

Photos from the Festival

With thanks to all the photographers who have shared their images with the Chain Gang for inclusion in this edition.

If you can volunteer to take photos at future events for reuse by the community then please get in touch.



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Ar noson hafaidd o Fai death Cangen Merched y Wawr at ei gilydd i wrando ar y Parchedig Gethin Russell Jones fel rhan o Wyl Radur. Testun ei sgwrs oedd hanes ei fam, Mair, a'i chyfnod ym Mharc Bletchley yn ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd. Ysgrifennodd Gethin lyfr am hanes ei fam cyn iddi farw, ond yn drist ni fu fyw yn ddigon hir i weld y llyfr gorffenedig, sef "My Secret Life in Hut Six"

Cymaint oedd athrylith Alan Turing a Gorden Welshman yn creu'r cyfrifiaduron cyn- taf llwyddwyd i orchfygu Enigma, ac ystyrir bod hynny wedi cwtdogi'r rhyfel o ddwy flynedd. Dim ond pan ben- derfynodd y Prif Weinidog Gordon Brown wobrwyo gweithwyr Bletchley Park am eu cyfraniad holl bwysig rhwng 1939 a 1945 teimlai Mair y gallau hi sôn am ei

gwaith.

Rydym yn ddyledus iddi hi a'i chyfoedion am eu gwaith a beth lwyddon nhw ei gyflawni drwy eu hymdre- chion dirgel. Ar ôl y cyfnod yn Bletchley, prif gamp Mair a'i gŵr oedd magu teulu o bump o blant.

Noson i'w chofio oedd hon, a rhoddwyd cymeradwyaeth gwresog i'n gwestai diddorol. Cafwyd paned ar y diwedd a chyfle i gymdeithasu.

Pluen yn ein cap fel cangen oedd derbyn tystysgrif am y cynnydd yn ein haeloda- eth eleni. Dathlwyd hyn yng nghyfarfod olaf y tymor, sef cinio yng Nghlwb Golff Ra- dur ym mis Mehefin.



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From Bryn Deri

Goodbye and Thank You Mrs Davies

By Elsa and George

At the end of this academic year, Bryn Deri's inspirational Headteacher, Mrs. Davies, is leaving Bryn Deri Primary School to enjoy a well earned retirement.

Mrs Davies has been teaching for 38 years, having taught in many different schools during her career including in Llandaff and Thornhill. Mrs Davies has been involved with the communities of Radyr and Morganstown since 2012 where she began as Bryn Deri's new Headteacher.

Mrs Davies has had a significant 13 years at Bryn Deri that has inspired many pupils and staff with her care and dedication. Mrs Davies

has achieved much in her time as a head teacher, including the NACE award, Cymraeg Campus, Sports Awards, Lego League victories and the Eco Platinum Flag. She has particularly enjoyed watching children express themselves on the stage through music and dance.

All the family of Bryn Deri will dearly miss their much-loved Headteacher with her kind and considerate nature and her amazing leadership. Mrs Davies has shared her wonderful sense of humour as well as her skills in gymnastics club and during residential trips that will resonate with the pupils for years to come.

Mrs Davies has shaped so many students lives in her years worked, and for that, the whole school thanks her for her compassion and devotion to the school.

Be Good, Be Kind, Stay Safe and have a great retirement!

We will miss you, Mrs. Davies!

Happy Retirement Mrs Clark

By Daisy and Ruth

At the end of the term, Mrs Clark, our Reception Class teacher, will be heading for retirement. Mrs Clark has been an inspirational teacher at Bryn Deri Primary school for all 23 years of her career, leading the



school in Health and Wellbeing.

In Reception class, Mrs Clark has helped the children she has taught to learn new skills, phonics, maths, art and also a love for animals. Popcorn, Fudge and Liquorice were Guinea Pigs that were important parts of Mrs Clark's Classroom.

Mrs Clark has a strong passion for netball and helping children to achieve success, guiding the school team and cheering while they take part in competitions.

Mrs Clark loves animals, with a strong love for dogs. She enjoys giving advice to staff and children about how to care for their own animals. She also volunteers for a local dog rescue shelter, giving her all to provide dogs with the love they deserve.

During her time at Bryn Deri she has made multiple friends who will never forget her smile that shines each day that passes. Staff at Bryn Deri Primary will forever be grateful for the support from Mrs Clark, especially her pottery lessons.

Have an extraordinary retirement and be ready for all the bewildering adventures that await you. We hope your dreams come true!



From Radyr Primary School

Article written by Year 6 pupils:
Oscar, Hari, Ted and Bobby.

We are sad to be writing this edition of the Radyr Report, coming to the end of our time in Radyr Primary. We have had lots of exciting times, culminating in a residential in Stackpole and lots of other events and activities to share with you all.

Stackpole

In year 6 we went to a place called Stackpole where we stayed for five days and four nights. On the first day we didn't have any activities so we walked around Stackpole to visit some of the sites. Then we went to various activities including walks, surfing, stand up paddleboarding, coasteering, bushcraft and many more in some stunning locations. We also went to the beach where Dobby died in Harry Potter.



Enrichment days

On Enrichment days we get to wear home clothes and do various activities such as gardening, photography, orienteering, spa days and cycling. On cycling you cycle around 12 miles down the bay and back and the view is amazing. In gardening you can cook and plant seeds and even keep some, as well as cooking some of our home grown produce such as aubergine outside. In health and wellbeing you relax and play lego, do yoga, make smoothies, you can have a massage and overall it is a relaxing day. In first aid you learn about health and safety and why it's important, you make posters and learn about the ways you could get hurt. In photography you get to walk along the Taff the whole day and take photos with the school ipad. At the end you have a competition and you announce the 3rd 2nd and 1st and the winner gets a prize. You also get to have ice cream (if you are lucky).

Finally you get to do Orienteering and you walk to try and find numbers. Our group got lost and we went a really long way so the other groups finished well before us. You also



get to go to the bird range to watch the birds.

Storey Arms

In year 5 we went on a residential trip for three days and two nights called Storey Arms. We did gorge walking, canoeing and caving and they were really fun. Some people were scared or claustrophobic because there were some really tight spaces but it was fantastic to challenge ourselves and support our classmates to overcome their fears.

Parliaments

Once you begin year 5 you get to be a part of one of seven pupil parliaments that you attend in school on Wednesday. The pupil parliaments affect our school by making it better and run events such as red nose day and soccer aid in which we raise money for



charities. Other parliaments are called Criw Cymraeg that host the Eisteddfod, charities that host all of the charity events. There is school improvement that work with the key competencies and help us learn about why we need them, there is eco that control the travel tracker, and rights

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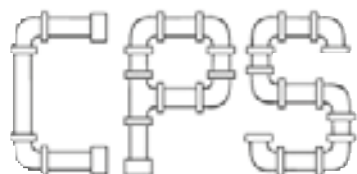
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MORTGAGE ADVISOR

Clair Bevan

Clair has been with Christchurch Mortgages since October 2021, and has 30 years experience in the financial industry both on and offshore. Clair is based in Cardiff, and will be open to working with clients remotely across the UK.

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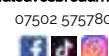


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Key Competencies

In our school we work hard to develop our key competencies that we are trying to learn by the time we finish year 6. The way to remember them is the 3 R's: resilience, resourceful, reflective then there are the 2c's: collaborative and curious and finally the 1 I which is independent. These all help in school, but they also help in everyday life like if you're curious about something you could find it out or if you are losing your business you're going to be resilient to keep it going.

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

News from your litter pickers

By Peter Fortune, Radyr & Morganstown Litter Pickers



Our recent work included a blitz by 20 of our members on Longwood Drive and the Taff Trail, jointly with the Keep Rhiwbina Tidy, which collected almost 100 bags. Much of the rubbish collected was beer and other drinks cans and takeaway food cartons. It's obviously a party location as well as an overnight stopover for long distance lorry drivers. Another blitz is planned for August.

We continue to collect 40-50 bags a month and recruit new members, thanks to the publicity which we get in The Chain. There are now 49 of us. Much of what we collect now is takeaway food and drink packaging thrown from vehicles which mirrors the findings from Keep Wales Tidy's recent Report. This emphasised that

the litter problem in Wales is getting worse largely because of the rise in takeaway food.

We have also focused on the lane behind the Station Road shops following requests from local residents and our two Councillors, one of whom has spoken to one of the shops. We will monitor the situation.

We have recently received a grant from the Community Council, for which we are most grateful. This will ensure we can continue our work for the next three years at least.

Please come along and join us. We can provide kit and hi-vis gilets and you will be insured. We also meet socially. We have group picks each month, meeting 10 am with refreshments afterwards, at Radyr Hub, as follows:

12 July
Morganstown Village Hall

9 August
Longwood Drive,
meet by Radyr Weir

13 September
Radyr Station Car Park

11 October
Radyr Hub, Station Road

Answer: Puzzle Picture

The stone on page 23 can be found outside James Howell's House and Folly on The Walk in Cardiff.

The folly is made of Radyrstone and is a replica of a Megalithic Burial Chamber contained within the Maes-y-Felin Cromlech (or Chambered Long Barrow) near St Lythans, South Glamorgan, which dates from the Neolithic period (C. 3000 B.C.)



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Review: Gaslight

By Allan Cook

Radyr Drama Society opened the May Festival with three well attended performances of Patrick Hamilton's *Gaslight*. Although written in the 1930's it is set in the late Victorian or Edwardian period.

Rightly described as a "psychological thriller," this spine chilling play exists on several levels. It involves Jack Manningham, a man with a past. As the play progresses we discover that he murdered an elderly inhabitant of the house for her jewellery, jewellery which he cannot find and which he searches for on a nightly basis.

This was a difficult play to

perform as two hours of playing time is taken up largely by three characters, Manningham, his wife Bella (whom he is trying to drive mad) and a Police Inspector. Three parts which demanded skilful playing: Melanie McLeod as the wife; Peter Stickler as the husband; and Jonathan Wheeler as the Police Inspector. All three played with consummate control, it would have been so easy to overplay these parts and make the play into a melodrama, something that the director Chris Locke, skilfully avoided.

Pauline Watson as the housekeeper and Helen Blundell as the sassy maid made up the cast with two delightfully nuanced performances.

The other star performer was the set and lighting. Cleverly designed by Dave Burgess, the heavy Victorian set with its gaslights gave the right atmosphere for this spine chilling thriller. Every time the gaslights on the set dimmed, you knew that Manningham was searching the distant reaches of the house and nearby houses, for the missing jewellery.

All the other departments contributed to the success of the play: excellent costumes by Sandra Geen, atmospheric sound and music by Tony Watson and period props by Nicky Webber. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.

British Legion Poppy Appeal

By Ian Ogden

The communities of Radyr, Morganstown and Danescourt have supported the Royal British Legion's 'Poppy Appeal' well for quite some years, and have raised a considerable sum to help meet the costs of the Legion's support services for armed services veterans.

The Appeal is run by local volunteer organisers in each area, who distribute the poppies and collecting cans to the various (often retail) outlets to sell poppies to the public, and individual volunteers to sell them to neighbours in their immediate residential area.

The current Local Organiser of the Appeal intends to stand down after this year's Appeal period, and so a successor organiser is sought to continue support for this worthy charitable cause in the future.

While not an onerous task, it does require the organiser to be able to dedicate short periods of time to manage the collection and distribution of Appeal resources in good time, relevant to the British Legion's annual Appeal timetable. These activities are carried out in conjunction with the well organised Appeal Area Co-ordinator at Royal British Legion, Whitchurch.

Anyone interested in assuming this important community role as Local Organiser for this worthwhile charity, for the



Radyr, Morganstown and Danescourt area from 2026 onwards, please contact Ian Ogden at i.ogden88@btinternet.com or mobile 07711 713 176

Act of Remembrance

Our traditional Act of Remembrance will take place at the War Memorial on Heol Isaf on Sunday 9 November starting promptly at 10:45.

All are welcome to join.

Morganstown & Radyr Allotments

By Peter Fortune

Many of you may be unaware our Community has its own allotment site, the Morganstown and Radyr Allotment Association off Ffordd Treforgan in Morganstown, next to the Ty Nant.

The earliest record we have of the Association is a tenancy agreement dated 2nd February 1909 with The Earl of Plymouth for approximately two acres. The annual rent was £4. An expansion was agreed in 1917 presumably a result of the First World War "Dig for Victory" campaign. The site was expanded and moved slightly when the new road was built as part of the Cwm Farm housing development in the Mid Nineties, and we now have a three acre site, with water supply, which is included in the rent.

We currently have 80 tenants, some of whom are experienced gardeners and have had plots for many years, some are inexperienced. We are a friendly bunch, and help is always readily available for new plot holders. Allotments as we know them today were first created in Wales as a result of the General Enclosure Act of 1845 that made provision for 'field gardens' to be used by the landless poor. There was a huge increase in allotments

during the two World Wars and by 1945 there were 1.5 million plots in Great Britain producing an estimated 1.3 million tons of food. The standard size of an allotment plot is 10 square perch, approximately 50 square metres, - which was enough to feed a family of four for a year, primarily from potatoes. Most of ours are smaller than this, however.

Since the COVID pandemic, there has been an increase in the demand for allotment plots and our waiting list has, in the past, extended to many years, although this has shown signs of slowing recently. Our annual rent is only £14 a year for our standard sized plot although there is a small joining fee. We are now happy to welcome new people to our waiting list with a real possibility that you could start growing next season.

As well as growing produce, there is a social element to having an allotment and our site has a wonderful, quiet aspect, backed by the beech woods on the slope of the Lesser Garth and with a full, often sunny, horizon. We regularly exchange seeds and seedlings and gardening equipment, extending on occasion to greenhouses or sheds.

If you would like to have an informal look around or are interested in joining the waiting list please get in touch with our Chairman: Derek Smith

on dh.pm.smith@btinternet.com or call on 029 2084 3025. Information on gardening experience and plot size would be welcome.

Calling all budding artists

Festive front cover for the Radyr Chain

We would love to have some drawings for the front cover of the festive Radyr Chain.

Please send in your drawings or paintings by 19 October.

This is an opportunity for people of all ages - children, young people, adults - if you want to let us know your age then please do - but not essential.

New Advice Line

New Advice Line for Older Carers in Wales

Are you an older person in Wales providing care for a loved one, friend, or neighbour? You're not alone - and Age Cymru is here to help.

Age Cymru has launched a brand-new, free and confidential telephone advice line specifically for older carers in Wales. Whether you're new to caring or have been doing it for years, Age Cymru understands that being a carer can be rewarding but also physically and emotionally demanding. That's why they're offering dedicated information and advice tailored to the needs of older carers.

The advice line is part of a joint project between Age Cymru and Carers Trust Wales, and is funded by Welsh Government.

You can contact the Older Carers Advice Line on **03300 564 365** to speak to a friendly adviser who understands your situation. They can help with a range of issues, including access to services, benefits, your rights as a carer and more.

For more information, visit: www.agecymru.wales/our-work/carers/

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Mae'r llinell gyngor yn rhan o brosiect ar y cyd rhwng Age Cymru ac Ymddiriedolaeth Gofalwyr Cymru, ac mae'n cael ei ariannu gan Lywodraeth Cymru.

Cysylltwch â Llinell Gyngor Gofalwyr Hŷn ar **03300 564 365** er mwyn siarad â chynghorwr cyfeillgar sy'n deall eich sefyllfa. Maen nhw'n medru helpu gydag amrywiaeth o broblemau, yn cynnwys mynediad at wasanaethau, budd-daliadau, eich hawliau fel gofalwr a mwy.



Os hoffech chi gael rhagor o wybodaeth, ewch i: <https://www.agecymru.cymru/ein-gwaith/gofalwyr/>

Are you getting your Chain?

The plan is for everyone living in Radyr and Morganstown to get a copy of the Radyr Chain which is delivered to over 3,000 houses by the many volunteers who support the community newspaper.

If you know of someone - or a few people in a street or road within the boundary of Radyr and Morganstown who do not receive a copy - please let us know.

Chain@radyr.org.uk

We do not want anyone to miss out on the Radyr Chain.

Local History Society

By Martin Coysh,
Secretary, Radyr & Morganstown
Local History Society

The committee of the R&M Local History Society is actively planning the new season. On Thursday 17th July a trip has been arranged to Duffryn Gardens near St Nicholas where a Senior Gardener will conduct a tour of the fascinating gardens and Arboretum. On Thursday 4th September we are planning a coach trip to Wells to visit the Cathedral and perhaps the Bishop's Palace. On Thursdays 23rd October, 20th November, 19th February (The AGM), 19th March & 16th April there will be regular meetings for which speakers covering a wide range of subjects are being arranged. They are likely to be held in Radyr Methodist Church. Then on Thursday 22nd January 2026 we are proposing to arrange a post-Christmas lunch.

If you would like to join our friendly society, please contact me.

Martin Coysh - Secretary

Tel: 029 2084 2400

Mobile: 07586 414 171

Email:
martincoysh@outlook.com

R&M WI

By Jane Woodward, President,
Radyr & Morganstown WI

Our WI meetings take place on the second Monday of the month at the Old Church Rooms, Radyr at 7.30pm. We have speakers on a variety of subjects. In April, Neil Davies talking about "Tales between two theatres" and recently, John Sheen gave us a very interesting and amusing talk "5 Boys and a Pasty".

Some of us recently went to Llanelli for the Welsh Federation's AGM where we had a talk from Steve Ormerod about River Pollution. We also had a talk from Mari Thomas who designs and makes jewellery.

We have several sub-groups including two reading groups and a gardening group which is very popular with 25 members. We also have a Meet up Monday in the Golf Club which

gives members a chance to have a social get together with refreshments and a chat. All these groups meet up monthly.

We have many excursions. Recently, we visited a member's garden for tea and a plant swap which was well attended. We also have coach trips which are further afield, lunches at local venues, as well as community events: the last one was at the Festival Fete where we had a tombola bottle stall which raised £120 for St. John Ambulance, this year's charity in Radyr & Morganstown.

Our contact details are shown on Radyr & Morganstown Community website and Facebook. Why don't you come and join us for a meeting, you will have a warm welcome.

<https://radyr.org.uk/clubs/radyr-wi/>



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Charity Golf Day 2025 - in aid of Radyr Comprehensive School

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Get ready to tee off at one of South Wales' most scenic courses while making a real difference in our community. Thursday 16th October 2025, sees our Charity Golf Day bring together golf lovers, local businesses, and community champions - all in support of Radyr Comprehensive School.

Whether you're a seasoned golfer or need to dust off your

clubs, join us for a fantastic day of friendly competition, amazing prizes, and good-hearted fun - all while raising vital funds for a cause that matters to us all.

What's Included:

- 18 holes at the beautiful Whitchurch Golf Club
- Team and individual prizes
- On-course competitions (longest drive, nearest the pin)
- Breakfast on arrival
- Post-game meal and awards ceremony
- Raffle & charity auction

Why We're Doing This

We have over 1440 pupils relying on us to make a difference to their future.

Proceeds from this fun, yet essential, charity day will go towards various needs such

as buying our own school mini bus to drive our pupils to competitions, or to developing the equipment across all subjects. Every swing, putt, and donation helps make a lasting impact on our students and community.

How to Get Involved

Enter a Team: Book your 4-ball now by emailing knights45@hwbcymru.net

Sponsor the Day: Get your brand seen while supporting a worthy cause.

Donate a Prize: Help boost our raffle or auction.

Spread the Word: Invite your friends and followers to take part.



Radyr Physical Education

The 2024/2025 rugby season has certainly been one to remember for Radyr Comprehensive students. A school with a proud rugby tradition is on the up once more, culminating in a spectacular final's day held at Cardiff Arms park on Wednesday 2nd April. The students have been working hard throughout the year during regular training sessions and inter school games put on by the physical education department aiming to develop pupils' fundamental skills and bring them together as part of a team.

All schools in Cardiff are given the opportunity to compete in the Cardiff schools cup and plate competitions throughout the school year, with finalists running out at the home of Cardiff rugby. To get one school side to a final is an achievement, but for four year groups to reach the finals is so pleasing and highlights the impact hub officer and now teacher Mr Mac Williams and Head of Physical Education Mr Nick Roberts have made over the last five years at the school.

Year 7, 8, 9 and 11 all reached the Plate finals with over twenty players involved in each squad, at a time when some teams are having difficulty fielding teams. The school are grateful to the local clubs which have put a huge amount of time and effort in to the development of rugby union in the area, supporting players progression from mini rugby into the junior section.

Comprehensive schools rely on these clubs so much and the foundation they create can then be built on for future players' progression at secondary school.



Radyr Comprehensive School Sponsorship Opportunities



Like all schools in our local area, Radyr Comprehensive School is facing a deficit budget this year. In order to raise much needed funds for our school community we are offering mutually beneficial sponsorship opportunities to local businesses.

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The Probus Club

By Barry Clarke
Probus Club of Cardiff West

The Probus Club of Cardiff West meets in Radyr and we are an unusual Probus Club, in that some of our members also belong to other Probus Clubs. This allows us to get ideas for our programme from a wide area (and means the other Probus clubs can also get ideas from us).

Our members tend to be from a variety of professional and business backgrounds too, including people who are academic and other people who are 'hands-on' - a great mixture.

In May we were given a talk about Medieval Glamorgan in which it was pointed out that (in terms of knowledge) some parts of Glamorgan in medieval times were far ahead of many other parts of Britain. I didn't learn about that when I was at school.

In a talk in June on the 'Bevin Boys', we were reminded that 10% of all UK World War II conscripts were sent by the government to go away to work in the coal mines, instead of the armed forces. This included boys straight from school, forces cadets, university students

and new graduates. It was a large shock for some.

On a recent visit to Hereford, we were given guided tours of the Cider Museum (with samples) and of the amazing Cathedral.

In a building next to the cathedral, is a medieval illustrated world map called Mappa Mundi on which we saw (to our surprise) somebody ski-ing.

It was a lovely day out.

Do you like what you read about us and the things we do? We are a men's Probus club that meets on the first Thursday morning of each month at Radyr Golf Club, as well as when we go away on trips (some being with wives and family).



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 community 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
07780 990 847, or

Mike Thomas on
029 2040 8056.

Next Chain – November 2025

Submissions for the Autumn edition (277) need to be with the Editorial Team by 19 October for a mid November 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

Radyr Methodist Church

By Rev. Judith Holliman
Minister at Radyr
Methodist Church



We have had a really busy season at RMC, we have continued to follow our vision to become as environmentally sustainable as possible. So far we have 'dashed from gas' by installing infrared panels throughout the building. These panels warm the person not the room so are more cost effective and ensure that no-one goes home cold from any event. This has enabled us to keep costs down and to cease paying the standing charge for gas. It has been hugely successful although not without teething issues. As it is run from an app if someone decides to

turn something off in the building it can prove rather frustrating for Phil our main man when it comes to heating.

We are now working towards the Autumn with the view to strengthen our roof in order to install solar panels. This will obviously lower costs further and also be far more eco-friendly and sustainable.



In approximately one hour the earth received enough energy from the sun to run the whole planet for a year. It does not involve drilling, transportation or further pollution. We feel that as stewards of God's world we can play our part in using the natural resources provided and not cause any more dam-

age to the earth.

We do hope that you have noticed our beautiful garden which we have developed from hard concrete using raised beds and pots of apple trees provided by Coed Caerdydd (thank you so much). We have really enjoyed seeing folk sit and chat while admiring the beautiful plants, Cath our super gardener has grown everything from seed.

We have continued to hold eco events, eco services and to show our commitment to this issue, our last eco fair saw tables full of plants for swapping, children's crafts using recycled goods and the amazing No Waste Living stall. We will be holding another fair in September to which everyone is most welcome just look for the poster on the corner of Windsor Road.

If you want any further information do feel free to get in touch RadyrMC@gmail.com



Contact details for lettings of the Church and Hall at Radyr Methodist Church have changed and are now:

- Dot Lee
- DotBookRMC@gmail.com
- 07398 579 975

Thanks go to Phil and Yvonne Gatley for the work they have done to look after hall users for over 5 years.

From the Crease

By Christopher Hitchings,
Chairman, Radyr Cricket Club

As I've said in many of my previous articles Radyr Cricket Club never stops improving: the latest example of this is the refurbishment of the toilets in the clubhouse. Courtesy of a £10K grant from Cricket Wales, the club was able to remove the originals, built with the pavilion in 1973, which were pretty Dickensian, extending the Women's and providing modern facilities throughout. I must confess the old version were a bit of an embarrassment and I often found myself cringing when visitors used the 'black hole.' Again Peter Sullivan and Nick O'Neil rose to the occasion and carried out the works seamlessly and they were finished before anyone knew they'd started. To Cricket Wales I say a big thank you and it is the latest in a line of projects they have helped fund: without them RCC would be a very different place.

The season is now about half way through and after a slow start the results are improving. With new captains in charge of the First and Second XIs, plus a number of new players it was probably unsurprising that these two sides would struggle early on. Slowly, but surely, improvements followed throughout the club and we have now seen our third league century of the season and one of our youngsters, Evan Lloyd, taking six wickets in an innings. As we often see, the Fourth XI have been trail blazers and as I write this, they sit top of their respective division: a sign of the

strength in depth at the club.

The Women, as has been the case over the years, have started strongly and it is wonderful to see the quality of cricket they produce. The club runs two 'hard ball' plus a number of 'soft ball' teams and all of them seem to win more than they lose. Already this season we've seen two members, Beth Gammon and Lydia Clements, make their debuts for the fledgling Glamorgan Women's side: a great honour for them and for the club. Also might I suggest you keep an eye out for a young lady, Mollie Richards, who is going to be a star. Her dedication to the sport she loves takes the breath away and I marvel at her talent when I see her in the nets every Saturday morning. Was it four years ago that she and another member of the club, Lydia Bell, were presented with club shirts for winning a competition run in this magazine? Where does time go.

On Saturday July 5th the club play host to a group of people of, shall I say diplomatically, advancing years, whose start in life was in Radyr and Morgantown and who have remained friends ever since. This will be their third visit to RCC and I'm delighted it seems to have become an annual event. Along with a few people at RCC, myself and some of the club's guests played football together many years ago. Led by my dear friend Leighton Jones (we got married on the same day but I'm pleased to say not to each other) the boys and girls of the village know how to party and they will be

loud, fun and I can't wait to invite them to the club for their summer gathering. It starts at 2.00pm and if you are a 'villager' of that generation please pop along, you won't be disappointed.

So as the old adage goes, 'all good things must come to an end' and for me it is my Chairmanship of this wonderful club. In January I informed the members that I would not be seeking the nomination for election at the AGM, as after 22 years at the helm it was time for someone younger to take up the reins. I look back at what has been achieved in this period and have a sense of contentment. On the field I remember the various trophies and promotions but I think the best was winning the Under 19 Welsh Cup, the only time, so far, that the club has won a national trophy. Off the field myself and some dedicated people have made the ground and all the facilities what it is today, they know who they are and I say a very big thank you.

This will probably be my last article in the Chain, writing about the club and the game I love and to all those people who have told me they enjoyed the read, thank you. I even feel happy about the chap who told me that they were rubbish: you find critics everywhere. Leading this great club has been the ultimate honour for a young lad seduced by the game from an early age and whose first memories of it date back to the 1960s. It has been a blast and to my successor, whoever they maybe and to everyone connected to RCC, I say thank you and good luck for the future.

A View from the Touchline

A Festival fiesta for Radyr Rangers FC

by Kath Denton,
Fixtures Secretary

The annual Radyr Rangers Football Festival was held on June 14th at Radyr Comprehensive, and what a great day it was. After some nervous moments with umbrellas being opened and then shut again, the sun came out; at 9:30am, kids from all over Cardiff filled the pitches, the games kicked off, and the fun began. The inevitable goals soon started hitting the back of the net, and yells of excitement echoed around the school grounds.

The festival isn't just about the football, though; it's a true community event which brings together people to not only have fun and watch the beautiful game, but to show their generosity in supporting a club that, for the past 25 years, has provided children and youths from Radyr and its surrounding areas with a healthy outlet for their energy and exuberance.

The festival welcomed teams from Cardiff and beyond, with teams coming from as far as Bwlth Wells to join in the fun. The competition was more friendly than fierce, but there was plenty of spirit, skill and sportsmanship on show on the pitches. A big shout out must go to our volunteer referees, many of whom were from the

older Radyr age group teams, for keeping everything under control and the games flowing nicely.

An exhibition match by the U5s and U6s at lunchtime showed just how much future talent there is in the club, as the minis displayed their skills to much cheering from the crowd.

There was plenty to do for those not on the pitch, too. Spectators and eager players made the most of the popular burger stall, which has a legendary reputation as the best of any footie festival in the Cardiff area. There were plenty of treats available as the clubs' families provided home-made cakes to accompany the sweets and drinks consumed by the 1,000 or so people who attended. Faces were painted, tattoos and coloured hairspray were applied, and giant stuffed unicorns from the soft toy stall made their way to new homes, leaving small children with delighted faces and their parents somewhat less enamoured! The tombola was incredibly popular, as were the penalty shoot-out and corn-hole games. There really was something for everyone as

our amazing community came together.

And on the subject of supporting the club, we couldn't host the festival and fund the club without the generosity of our sponsors. Persimmons Homes was our headline sponsor, donating a massive £2,500. Silver sponsors included Harding Evans Solicitors, MGY Estate Agents, and Brown & Brown Insurance Brokers. We had many other contributors and, as ever, the club is extremely grateful for your support.

The club is self-funded, with the festival being our main fundraising activity each year. Thanks to the fabulous success in attracting teams to the festival, combined with the generosity of the attendees, supporters and sponsors, we raised a record-breaking £16,500 to keep the club running for another season. This money is essential to purchase equipment, cover the costs of venues hire for training and matches, and provide new playing kits for the teams. The festival really is the lifeblood of the club.

The festival embodies team-



work, as the community and people involved with the club come together in a celebration of what makes our community truly special. Organising the festival started months before the actual day. Behind the scenes, the festival committee, coaches and volunteers got together to plan and prep for the day, doing everything from raising sponsorship, begging for raffle prizes and coordinating fixtures, to organising the stalls and outlining the day's running order. Thanks to Slice on Station Road for hosting our post-festival event, where everyone involved enjoyed a well-earned drink.

Our thanks go to everyone who played, volunteered, sponsored, or came along on the day. And a very big thank you to Councillor Helen Lloyd Jones, a huge supporter of the club, who attended and gave a speech, and to Radyr Comprehensive, which not only hosted the festival but also continues to support the club year after year.

We can't wait to do it all again next year!

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Advertising in the Chain

As the new Chain Gang are getting to grips with how the Chain is put together we wish to clarify the options available to advertise in the Chain.

We are currently working on the basis of 3 editions per year in November, March and July.

There are 4 sizes of advert available for new advertisers:

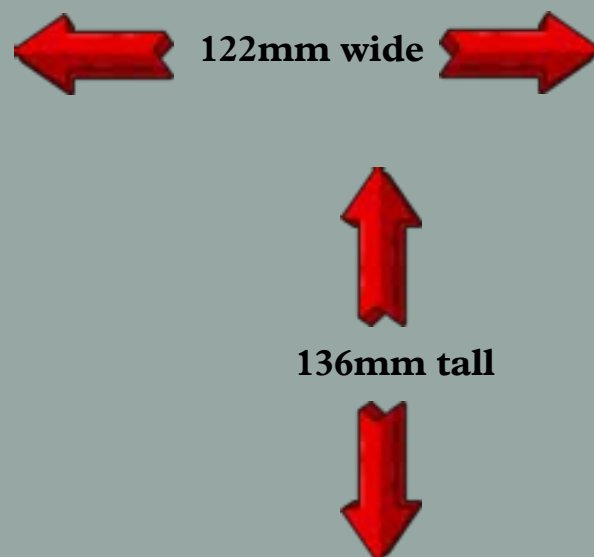
- Size A: £20
- Size B: £40
- Size C: £40
- Size D: £80

We are no longer able to accept larger adverts (e.g. half page) and the advertising team will confirm with current advertisers all size and price details to ensure consistency.

Advertisers are responsible for producing their own print-ready artwork for initial publication. If updates are required then revised print-ready artwork must be supplied by the copy deadline for each subsequent issue.

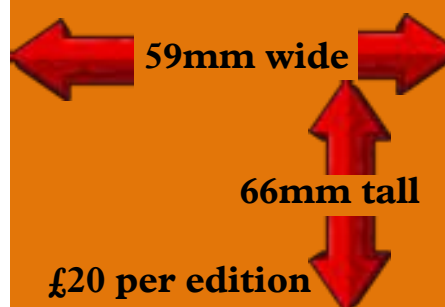
Advertising is currently invoiced on a per-issue basis in arrears and we hope to introduce an annual payment plan in the future.

Advert Size D



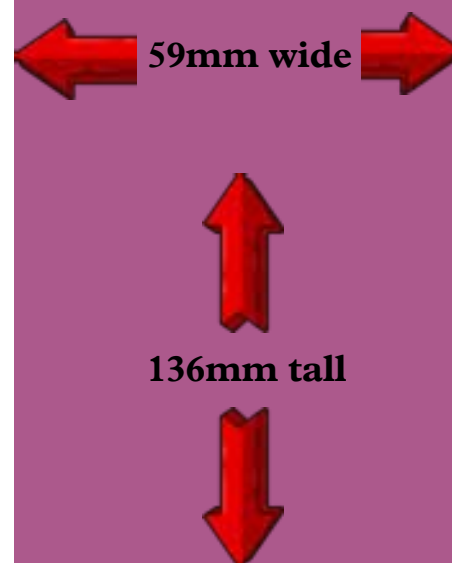
£80 per edition

Advert Size A



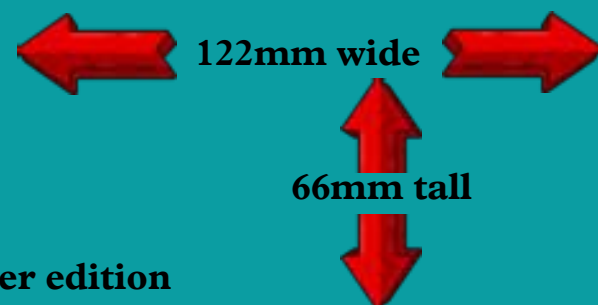
£20 per edition

Advert Size B



£40 per edition

Advert Size C



£40 per edition

Treforgan WI visit to Highgrove



By Anne Silver

Treforgan WI visit to Highgrove

On Friday 16th May 2025, twenty four members of Treforgan WI boarded a coach to visit one of King Charles's favourite homes "Highgrove".

We arrived just after 9.00 am in a sunny Tetbury and split into several small groups and headed for coffee, browsing the shops and some sightseeing. After a few hours we got back on the coach which took us a short distance to Highgrove where we were met by our tour guides, given a briefing of what not to do ie. No photographs to be taken, which was a shame as the gardens were beautiful. The tour took around one & a half hours. Well informed of the history of the house we headed to The Orchard Rooms for a lovely long lunch and refreshments before heading home to Radyr.

Treforgan WI meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:15pm in Morganstown Village Hall, where you will receive a warm welcome.

Insole Court: Cardiff's Hidden Gem

By Alison Fortune

Less than 15 minutes from Radyr and Morganstown is Cardiff's Hidden Gem : Insole Court. The Insole family story mirrors Cardiff's rise and decline during the Victorian and Edwardian eras. The Insoles were pioneering coal-shippers and mine-owners, with pits in Cymmer and Abertridwr, during the three generations of Welsh Steam Coal's dominance of world industry.

The family reached the height of its prosperity in the late 19th Century having acquired large land holdings, central to which was their home, the building of which was started in 1856 and survives in Llandaff, on Fairwater Road. In the 1880s the farmland surrounding the gardens was turned into an ornamental park. Between the wars the family died out and much of the land was taken by Cardiff Council to build Western Avenue.

The building fell into disrepair and the restoration and renewal

of Insole Court is the culmination of 30 years of community campaigning. The house (which has benefitted from a recent internal and external renovation thanks to Lottery and CADW funding) and gardens are now open and are managed by the Insole Court Trust.

In 2018, a new permanent exhibition for visitors opened on the first floor. 'This House is a Stage', is an immersive audio walk-through drama, where the stories of the abandoned rooms come to life through a mix of technology and drama to tell the story of the Insole family, their triumphs and their tragedies.

Insole Court also offers many public events such as concerts, lectures, film screenings, market days and heritage and garden tours. The rooms are available to hire and the house is a popular wedding venue. There is a gift shop, popular cafe - The Potting Shed - and a second hand bookshop - Butler's Books.

If you'd like to know more pop on down and chat to a member of staff or one of the more than one hundred volunteers, including many from Radyr and Morganstown, or visit <https://insolecourt.org>



Radyr Chain Issue 276 Summer Wordsearch

Summer trees in full leaf and flowers in bloom that you may spot around the local area are hidden in this wordsearch



- Oak
- Sycamore
- Delphinium
- Dahlia
- Buddleia
- Magnolia
- Cosmos
- Foxglove
- Buttercup
- Acer
- Wisteria
- Nigella
- Bramble
- Ash
- Daisy
- Hydrangea

This wordsearch has hidden some items that you might find on a summer trip to the seaside

- Sun
- Sea
- Sand
- Bucket
- Spade
- Towel
- Hat
- Rockpools
- Fishing Net
- Ice Cream
- Picnic
- Waves

