

Radyr Chain



Edition 277

Free to every home in Radyr and Morganstown

Winter 2025



From the Editors

Croeso / Welcome to the winter edition of the Radyr Chain

This edition marks our first full year as the new editorial team. We set out to ensure a smooth transition from the former Chain Gang whilst maintaining at least three editions through the year and with this one we've now achieved that.

Through the year we're reminded that producing a valuable resource for the community really relies on the whole community, and we're incredibly fortunate that Radyr and Morganstown is full of so many different groups, societies and events that all take time to contribute to the Chain.

Christmas events

The Radyr and Morganstown Association have again put together a series of Christmas events with Christmas tree lightings across Morganstown, Radyr and The Sidings as well as the ever popular Santa sleigh tour. All of the details are within this edition, and we have our fingers crossed

Our cover drawings

Thank you to pupils from Radyr Primary School for submitting excellent drawings and designs for the cover of this edition. You can see more of them on page 20.

for better weather this year.

Our community churches also have a full calendar of events over the festive period, and Morganstown Village Hall is playing host to A Christmas Carol and The Little Mermaid, so lots to look forward to!

Weekly events in the community

With each new edition we continue to try and highlight the widest possible range of what is happening in our community.

We publish a diary of upcoming events that includes many local societies and groups, but we would also really like to include a weekly calendar of all of the events that happen each week across our many community spaces.

If you run or attend an event - such as a yoga class, toddler group or fitness session - we'd love to hear from you so that we can include it in future editions to showcase everything our community has to offer.

50 years of the Community Council

This year marks 50 years since the Radyr and Morganstown Community Council was first established. The occasion was commemorated with the building of a new stone

seat in Radyr Woods (see back cover). They currently have vacancies for new councillors. If you think you'd like to be involved, details can be found on page 8.

Radyr swimming pool

The pool at Radyr Comprehensive is also 50 years old and unfortunately its age is showing. Without investment the pool is at risk of closing which would be a huge loss to the community where so many children learn to swim from all three of our schools, as well as baby and toddler groups.



There is currently an active petition to ask Cardiff Council for help. If you would like to support this, the online petition can be found by scanning the QR code above. The deadline is Tuesday 18th November.

Merry Christmas

On behalf of the whole editorial team and wider Chain Gang, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. The Radyr Chain wouldn't be what it is without your support, and we look forward to continuing producing the Chain through 2026.

As always, if you'd like to get involved or otherwise have any feedback or questions, you can email us at chain@radyr.org.uk.

Christmas lights across Radyr and Morganstown

By Richard Wales
Chair of the Radyr and Morganstown Association (RMA)

The Christmas Lights across Radyr and Morganstown event will be held on Friday 5th December 2025.

Starting at 6pm in Granny Park in Morganstown, pupils from Gwaelod y Garth will be singing. Then at 6.15pm Radyr Comp invite you to sing with them in the Sidings before the tree there is also lit.

There will be singing of carols around the large tree in Windsor Gardens (opposite Station Road) with Bryn Deri and Radyr Primary Schools getting everyone going. Santa will arrive and,

alongside the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, will lead a countdown to light the large tree in Windsor Gardens at 7pm.

Santa will then stop in his sleigh on Station Road near the Co-op for those large and small to say hello to him.

Also from around 6:30pm, we will be ready in Station Road with stalls selling all sorts of goodies - crafts, gifts, jewellery and much more. Our usual burgers, hot dogs and mulled wine will be available at the RMA stalls. Most of the shops will also be open and joining in the fun, including Cicchetti, Slice, and The Radyr Tap, so you will be able to do some shopping and even stay for a meal.



St John Ambulance Cymru will finish their year as the RMA's chosen charity with a stall and be collecting with buckets during the evening. Please give generously.

Do come along and enjoy the festivities. It is a lovely way to start the Christmas Season and entrance is free.



Turning on the Christmas lights
First Friday in December from 18.30
See <https://radyr.org.uk/Christmas> for full details

Upcoming Events

Monday 17th November, 10am

Coed Caerdydd tree planting events in our community.

10am at Morganstown park and then 12.30pm at Fisher Hill Way park.

Free tickets available here: <https://tinyurl.com/rm-trees>

Monday 17th November, 5.30pm

Councillor Calum Davies residents surgery at Old Church Rooms, 5.30pm to 7pm.

Saturday 22nd November, 10.30am

Charities Fair at Radyr Methodist Church.

Saturday 22nd November, 12pm

Christmas Fayre at Christ Church, Radyr from 12pm until 3pm.

Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th November

Radyr Drama Society presents "A Christmas Carol" at Morganstown Village Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets £12 available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/radyrdrama

Thursday 27th November

Christmas Shopping Event at Bryn Deri Primary. 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Winter Shopping Event at Radyr Primary, 6pm to 8pm.

Saturday 29th November, 10am

Radyr Lawn Tennis Club Christmas Fayre and Santa's Grotto charity event at the Tennis Club from 10am until 2pm. Entry is free, but donations welcomed.

Saturday 29th November, 10.45am

Councillor Helen Lloyd Jones residents surgery at the Ty Nant pub.

Thursday 4th December

Probus Club of Cardiff West: BEES - NATURES HELPERS. A Christmas talk on bee keeping by Tim Wright, at Radyr Golf Club at 10.30am.

Friday 5th December, 2pm

Christmas Singalong with Goldies at New School Rooms. Entry £3 charity donation including refreshments. Christmas jumpers encouraged!

Friday 5th December from 6pm

Christmas lights switch-on events across the community.

- Granny Park, Morganstown at 6pm
- Radyr Sidings at 6.15pm
- Windsor Gardens at 7pm

The Station Road stalls, with food and drink will be open from 6.30pm.

Wednesday 10th December

Radyr & Morganstown Litter Pickers Group Pick. Meet at Morganstown Village Hall at 10am. Refreshments

afterwards in Radyr Hub.

Friday 12th December

Santa's tour of Radyr and Morganstown. Full details of his route and timings can be found on page 24.

Wednesday 17th December

R&M Community Council presents "The Little Mermaid" at Morganstown Village Hall, 6pm. Tickets £2 available from MGY, Station Road.

Thursday 18th December

Sally's Angels Radyr are performing their Christmas concert at The Old Church Rooms at 7pm

Sunday 21st December

Family Christmas Nativity service at Radyr Methodist Church, 10:30am

Empty Chair Service at Radyr Methodist Church, 5pm. For those who will feel the loss of a friend or family member at their table this season.

Wednesday 24th December

Christingle service at Radyr Methodist Church, 5pm.

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day family service at Radyr Methodist Church, 10.30am.

Thursday 8th January

Probus Club of Cardiff West: SAVING OUR RESERVOIRS. An illustrated talk about this fight is being given by Richard Cowie at Radyr Golf Club at 10.30am.

Saturday 10th January, 10am

Radyr & Morganstown Litter Pickers Group Pick. Meet at Station Car Park at 10am. Refreshments afterwards in Radyr Hub.

Saturday 10th January, 10.45am

Councillor Helen Lloyd Jones residents surgery at Cicchetti's on Station Road.

Thursday 5th February

Probus Club of Cardiff West: THE MORGANS OF TREDEGAR HOUSE. Tales of the knights & lords of Tredegar House given by historian Roger James at Radyr Golf Club at 10.30am

Saturday 14th February

Radyr & Morganstown Litter Pickers Group Pick. Meet at Radyr Hub, Park Road at 10am. Refreshments afterwards in Radyr Hub.

Thursday 5th March

Probus Club of Cardiff West: USING HISTORY IN CREATIVE WRITING. A talk by author Jimmy Stokes at Radyr Golf Club at 10.30am.

Saturday 14th March

Radyr & Morganstown Litter Pickers Group Pick. Meet at Morganstown Village Hall at 10am. Refreshments afterwards in Radyr Hub.

Monday 13th April

A hustings event at The Old Church Rooms at 7.30pm for the Caerdydd Penarth constituency ahead of the Senedd Elections.

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News from the Community Council

It has been a good few months for the community and the Council, and there have been some exciting events since the last issue and some great plans for the next few months. We'd love to share our news and updates with you all so here is a taster of what is happening soon.

Congratulations to The Old Church Rooms team who have been very busy this year installing a wonderful new lift to make the 1st floor accessible. Such a great achievement for all involved. If you know anyone who would like to rent out rooms please spread the word, a new online booking system on our website, radyrandmorganstowncc.org, makes it very easy and quick!

The Council is gathering feedback on the rooms and facilities from regular users. Please forward your comments to clerk@radyr.wales to help us improve the service, we look forward to hearing from you.

Wonderful work continues by our councillors in the environment with delightful hanging baskets, new signs in Radyr Woods, litter picking and continuous support for maintenance of woodland. We also like to thank the Radyr Wood Wardens for their fantastic work. They're always welcoming new volunteers, so get in touch with the clerks if you'd like to join their friendly and fun working parties.

Planning update: The community council have objected to a pre-planning consultation of a telecoms mast in De Clare Drive. The Council has suggested a more suitable location.

Our councillors in finance have also been hard at work. This financial year a sum of £18,000 has been reserved for grants with over £4,000 already being awarded. For example, we provided small sums of money to enhance our primary schools' music extra-curricular activities and helped the local comprehensive set up a Business Enterprise scheme and install a community garden. Of course, we also award an annual grant to the Radyr and Morganstown Association to help them run their annual fete.

Please see the grants section of our website should you wish to apply for grants.

A defibrillator has been installed on the outside of the Old Church Rooms. A



big thank you to St Johns Cymru for donating the cabinet. Our community gratitude goes out to you.

Cardiff Bus Service No.63: Use it or lose it!

As a Community Council, we have been in regular contact with Cardiff Bus to discuss how we can improve the service for everyone in the area. It is important to us to ensure that this service continues to serve the residents of Radyr & Morganstown, and the surrounding areas effectively.

However, the message we have received is loud and clear. If we don't use the bus, the service is at risk of being lost. It is therefore essential that we all support the service



by using it as often as possible. If the bus use increases, we have the potential to add further services.

The bus is a vital service for many in our community, especially for older residents or those who are unable to travel far to reach services or shops in Cardiff or Morganstown. For many in the older generation, the hills and steep streets in the area make walking long distances particularly challenging, making the bus an essential lifeline. Losing this service would mean losing an important link for many people.

So, whenever you are able, use the bus even for short or occasional journeys and in addition tell your friends! By doing so you are helping the community to keep a service that is essential to keep our community alive.

Meetings with Cardiff Council and Cardiff Bus are on-going, please help us to help you.

Station Road Improvement Project

The Community Council continues to make steady progress on the long-awaited improvements to Station Road, the heart of our village and home to many valued shops and businesses. We have been in regular contact with Cardiff Council, and we are pleased to report that both Huw Thomas (Leader of Cardiff Council) and Simon Gilbert (Head of Planning) have expressed their full support for improving this vital area.

In the meantime, we would like to remind everyone how important it is to support our local businesses. Every purchase you make locally helps sustain the unique character and community spirit of our village. Without our support, we risk losing these businesses that play such a vital role in village life.

Together, we can make Station Road a place we're all proud of, a centre that serves the whole community, now and for years to come.

Co-op update

In September members of the Community Council met with representatives of the Co-op. The Co-op intend to expand into the old Spar and make a considerably larger store in the long term, four or five years down the line.

In the meantime, they are planning to do some work which will improve the look of the corner plot and allow them to use the old Spar as a store. This means the roller blinds will be taken away, the metal trolleys will be stored inside and the whole corner plot improved. This is planned to happen in the next six to twelve months. Internally further improvements are planned in the next three to four years.

Christmas Wreath Making Workshops

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Community Council vacancies

We Need You!

Are you passionate about your community? Do you have ideas, energy and a "let's get things done" attitude? We're looking for dynamic, motivated and community-minded people to join our Community Council.

If you're someone who:

- Likes to make a difference
- Enjoys working with others to improve local life
- Is organised, efficient and ready to get involved

...then we'd love to hear from you!

Be part of shaping the future of our villages — from improving local facilities and supporting events, to protecting green spaces and helping our community thrive. No previous council experience is needed, just enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

Get involved. Have your say. Help make a difference.

Because together, we can make our community an even better place to live.

Please send your CV and covering letter explaining how you have been involved in community initiatives or initiatives you would like to be involved in to clerk@radyr.wales



Our Senedd is changing

By Ian Thomas, Organiser of Radyr Hustings

From May 2026, the Senedd will have 96 Members, up from the current number of 60.

Since it was set up 25 years ago, the Senedd has had the same number of Members although its powers have grown significantly. It can now make laws and raise taxes – decisions which affect the lives of every single person in Wales. Having more Members will give the Senedd greater ability to look at and challenge the Welsh Government's plans and spending on important issues like hospitals, schools, and transport.

This will give your community a stronger voice in these decisions.

Having 96 Members will also bring the Senedd in line with other countries of a similar size to Wales, like Scotland which has 129 Members and Northern Ireland which has 90. This will mean stronger representation for you, your family and your community.

If you're aged 16 or over and live in Wales, you can vote in the 2026 Senedd Election which is being held on Thursday 7 May.

Wales will be divided into 16 areas for the 2026 election. Radyr & Morganstown will be in the new "Caerdydd Penarth" constituency. Each constituency will have six seats in the Senedd.

Seats are allocated based on



the share of votes each party or independent candidate gets. The new system means that your vote is more likely to help divide the overall result, because seats in the Senedd will be allocated based on the total share of the vote.

The change will make your vote stronger than ever.

Political parties will prepare a list of up to eight candidates for each constituency. Independent candidates can also stand for election.

On election day you will be given a ballot paper and will have one vote for the party or independent candidate you want to represent you in the Senedd. Your ballot paper will show the full list of candidates in your constituency, so you can see who is standing for each party.

If a party wins enough votes, they will win one or more seats in the Senedd. So, if a party wins three seats in our constituency, the top three people on their list will

be elected to those seats.

Who can I vote for?

Candidates are currently being chosen by their political parties and will be confirmed by 10th April 2026.

Hustings

The RMA will be hosting a hustings event at the Old Church Rooms on Monday 13th April 2026 starting at 7.30pm. This will be a non-selective hustings where each party appearing on the ballot paper will be invited to send a representative to answer the questions that are important to Radyr and Morganstown residents.

Whilst the questions will be pre-selected and asked on your behalf by our moderator, we want you to submit your questions for consideration to:

hustings@radyr.org.uk



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Councillor Helen Lloyd Jones



the Community Council Iona Shariff, I met officers from Natural Resources Wales to discuss the way forward. We are keen to see the recent wall remain and to have some protection for the riverbanks against river erosion. Alex was there to ascertain what exactly is required from National Grid who also have an interest in preventing the riverbank eroding, as there are electricity cables going across the river just downriver from the Cricket Club.

Green bin collections over the Winter

As a community, we all seemed to want a green bin collection through the winter. Lots of you sent me emails. It was helpful as it showed how much we needed the green bin collection. I wrote about green bins to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for waste collection and did a lot of lobbying last year.

Cardiff Council announced the resumption of fortnightly garden waste collections will now be year-round with a pause for two weeks over Christmas to redirect resources and manage the increased amount of recycling.

Radyr Cricket Club

On 26th September, with our MP Alex Barros-Curtis, Chris Hitchings, Peter Sullivan from the Cricket Club and the Vice Chair of

due to us, they will look at what they can do to improve the bus service we have in Radyr and Morganstown. We have a meeting scheduled for 7th November by which time hopefully we will see some good news.

Flooding under the M4 bridge

It is too early to celebrate but we have had some torrential rain in September and there has been no sign of even a respectable size puddle under the bridge. Cardiff Council did work on the drainage in the area during the summer. Hopefully our flooding there may have been sorted. Although as we all realise, the area will likely need work every year to stay clear.

Flooding by Pughs Garden Centre

Still a puddle but not deep and not across the road. So an improvement. Hope someone will sweep the leaves that have started to fall on the edge of the pavement onto the drains. Will be asking the Council if they can do a leaf sweep.

Section 106 funding and buses

Together with members of the Community Council I attended a meeting in mid-July about the Section 106 funding available for Radyr and Morganstown. Section 106 funding is money the developers have to pass to a Council for use in the areas they are developing to create amenities. We have had quite a lot of building in Radyr and Morganstown, so we do have some Section 106 funding due to us. Some of it is already ear-marked but some may be available to help us improve things in our area.

I received an email confirming the figures last week and am hoping we can steer some of that funding to improve our bus service Bus Priority 1 which is one of the biggest problems we have.

Now that they are aware of the Section 106 funding

Councillor Calum Davies



stop buying private property to house them in Cardiff. The British Government's approach only serves to further choke the housing supply available for people in Cardiff, including the 9,000 households on the local housing waiting list, and encourage small boat crossings.

Disappointingly, all other parties - including Reform UK - failed to back us, with only the Conservatives voting to protect Cardiff from the failures of higher levels of government. Other parties are, of course, free to disagree with us, but it was a shock to hear so many pretend there was no problem at all with this issue.

Meeting on buses

I was pleased to attend a meeting alongside Community Councillors with officers at Cardiff Council regarding our joint efforts to improve bus services in the ward. We have been firm and clear in our conviction that Section 106 funds from developments in our area should go towards service improvements in our area, and we believe there is scope for this to help with public transport in Radyr & Morganstown.

Roadworks

Earlier this year, I was pleased to see some resurfacing works on Heol Isaf near Station Road. I informed the Council that while this was welcome, this was only part of the job, with the section including the

pedestrian crossing outside Christ Church in desperate need of remediation. I was later informed that this was added to the programme of works for this autumn. However, the Council has now announced this will be postponed until the next financial year due to financial constraints. This is disappointing to say the least, not only because of the dire state of the road here, but due to the number of common sense moneysaving measures Labour cabinet members have rejected.

Senedd election

I am very pleased to announce that I've been selected by the local Conservative party to head its list for the Senedd in our new constituency consisting of Cardiff West, South, and Penarth. Voters will cast one vote next May under a reformed system, that will deliver six Members of the Senedd, from a variety of parties, for each constituency. You may see me knocking doors over the coming months as I spread the message. Should you have any interest in helping with the campaign or any questions about what I am standing for, you can contact me via my social media channels or at campaign@cardiffconservatives.org

Migrant hotels

I brought a motion to Cardiff Council for debate, calling on the Council to inform the Home Office that it should cease housing illegal immigrants in hotels (which they don't always tell the Council they are doing!) and

County Councillor updates

Regular updates from our County Councillors are made available every month on the community website at radyr.org.uk

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Updates from Radyr Primary School

by Florence, Abeeha, Jack, Isla and Mila (Year 6 pupils)

Cymraeg

In Radyr Primary School we love teaching Welsh to everyone. In our assemblies we have a certificate, called Siardwr Cymraeg yr Wythnos for outstanding pupils who have shown amazing Welsh throughout the week! This celebrates our Welsh language.

We are also celebrating 'Shwmae Day'. We are going to enjoy listening to Welsh music, play games and wear the colours red, green and white to school. We are also going to find out about famous Welsh people and listen to stories in Welsh and about Wales.

Here's an interesting fact for you - did you know that in Patagonia people speak Welsh? How amazing is that. We really love to learn about our heritage because it makes us proud of where we come from and we are very proud to be Welsh!

Enrichment Day

Every term in Radyr Primary School we have an Enrichment Day. Some of the events you can take part in for year 1 are Forest fun (cooking in the forest school fire), being healthy (eating healthy food and doing exercise) and looking after school.

The year 2's take part in photography, our community (litter picking and going on a trip to the park), and caring for birds (going up to forest school and making bird feeders).

Year 3 and year 4 are entrepreneurs (baking and selling delicious cakes

and biscuits, knitting, gardening, performing arts and animation). Now getting into year 5 and year 6, you start going out of school more! Some of the events you do in year 5 and year 6 are the bike ride to Cardiff Bay, photography on the Taff Trail and orienteering in Forest Fawr.

Enrichment day is fantastic because there's lots of activities and it gives us the opportunity to try lots of new

things. We are also very lucky because we have people from our community who are experts and come to share their skills with us, like Alex Gooch who helps us bake our tasty cakes. We also enjoy going to the Tennis Club and reading with the wonderful staff at Radyr library.

Halloween disco!

Our School has a Halloween disco every year this year it is on 22nd October 2025. Staff and parents come to help, and Mckenzie Richards do an absolutely awesome disco!

There are rooms and spots to get your nails painted and there is also a chill room, to get away from the music. We all have a brilliant time and it is loads of fun. In our school discos you don't have to wear your school uniform, so we're looking forward to all the scary Halloween fancy dress!

If you have a child looking to start school in September then please have a look at our flyer for an open day we are running on 13th November. Come and have a look at our amazing school.

Radyr Chain Spring 2026 Edition

If you'd like to contribute to the Spring edition of the Radyr Chain, due to be delivered just before Easter, please share your contributions with us by Wednesday 4th March.



A letter from Radyr Rainbows

Please can you help us? We are all Rainbows who love to meet in Radyr Guide Centre on a Monday or Friday. We have lots and lots of fun learning new skills, getting messy, exploring and having adventures, laughing and meeting new friends. But we are sad because we could have even more fun if we had more adult volunteers to help at our meetings, more of our friends would be able to join in the fun too.

Minnie & Tia, our leaders, work really hard to plan and prepare lots of exciting things for us to do. If you could help us, we think you would enjoy yourself while helping us gain confidence and have lots more fun.

There's lots more information about volunteering with Girlguiding on the website and if you want to help just fill in the online form and you'll be put in touch with a local volunteer who can chat to you about helping us.

Thank you.

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Bryn Deri Primary School Harvest Celebrations

The Bryn Deri Primary School community came together to celebrate the season of Harvest with generosity, creativity, and community spirit. This year's celebrations were a wonderful reminder of the importance of sharing and giving back to those in need.

A generous community effort

Families, pupils, and staff joined forces to support the Cardiff Foodbank, donating over an incredible 198 kilograms of food. The collection included a wide range of essential items, all of which will help support local families during the coming months.

Year 1's wonderful assembly

Year 1 pupils delighted parents and grandparents with a heartwarming Harvest assembly. The children sang beautifully and shared thoughtful messages about the meaning of Harvest and why it is such an important time for communities to come together. The pupils spoke clearly, entertaining everyone with some amazing Harvest-themed jokes, filling the hall with laughter and smiles. Their performance reflected both their learning and their




appreciation for the values of gratitude, joy, and generosity.

The Harvest celebrations at Bryn Deri Primary School highlighted the power of community and the joy of giving. Through song, laughter, learning, and acts of kindness, pupils and

families demonstrated how small contributions can make a big difference.

This year's Harvest celebrations were a shining example of how kindness, teamwork, and gratitude continue to thrive at Bryn Deri Primary School.





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Thursday 27th November 2025
Bryn Deri Primary School, Radyr
18:30 - 21:00

An adults only event

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Weeds 26th, Thurs 27 & Fri 28th November 2025
MORGANSTOWN VILLAGE HALL
CURTAIN 7:30PM

The production of A Christmas Carol is presented by arrangement with Emerald Theatre in fulfilment of a grant from the Arts Council of Wales.

Christmas foodbank collections

Donations may be left at the following locations on Saturday 6th December between 10am and noon:

- Radyr Methodist Church, Windsor Road, Radyr
- 20 Walnut Tree Close, Radyr
- 30 Pentwyn, Radyr
- 13 Heol Roald Dahl, Radyr

Donations will also be accepted at Radyr Methodist Church from 9.30 am on Sunday 7th December and at the morning service at 10.30 am. All are welcome.

As we went to print, the most needed items were as follows:

- Tinned fruit
- Tinned fish
- Long-life milk
- Mayonnaise and tomato sauce
- Snacks (e.g. crisps, cereal bars, etc)
- Sponge puddings
- Squash
- Sweets and chocolate
- Washing powder and washing up liquid
- Deodorant and shampoo

They have plenty of nappies and pasta.

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.

If you have a query or would like your donation collected please ring 07925 090672.



Radyr and Morganstown W.I.

by Linda Turner

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. We recently had Chris Purkiss, who is a singer and sang songs from musicals over the decades which was a very enjoyable evening.

We have several sub-groups, including two Reading Groups, and a thriving Gardening Group which is growing in members and has visited many gardens in the local area including members gardens for plant swaps.

We recently went to a WI meeting in Barry where there were two speakers, one was a representative from Brecon Beacons Mountain Rescue

and the other was Jason Mohammad. Both gave very interesting talks and we even had our photographs taken and attached is a photograph of our members with Jason.

Over the year, we have many excursions and by the time you're reading this we will have visited Westonbirt to see the trees with their autumn leaves. We also have a Meet Up Monday every 4th Monday of the month at Radyr Golf Club for tea/coffee and a chat.

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



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Merched y Wawr Bro Radur

Wedi diwrnod llwydaidd a gwlyb, does dim gwell i godi'r galon na noson yng nghwmnï hen ffrindiau ac ychydig o ganu hwyliog. A dyna'n union a ddigwyddodd ar nos Fercher, 10th Medi, pan ddaeth y gangen ynghyd i ddechrau gweithgareddau'r tymor newydd. Mei Gwynedd a'r Gerddorfa Ukulele oedd yr arlwy ac am arlwy gwych a gafwyd. Cyflwynodd Mei Gwynedd y caneuon yn ei ffordd hwyliog gartrefol ac ymunodd merched y gangen gyda'r gerddorfa i ganu rhai o hoff ganeuon y genedl. Cafwyd caneuon gan Dafydd Iwan, Delwyn Sion, Wil Morgan, Ar Log a'r Hennessys, Tony ac Aloma a'r diweddar ddihafal Dewi Pws. 'Joi Byw' gan Delwyn Sion oedd un o'r caneuon ac yn wir fe gafodd y gangen awr a mwy o 'joi' yng ngwmnï'r gerddorfa. "Noson i anghofio'n trafterthion a phroblemau'r byd", oedd sylw un o'r aelodau am y wledd a gafwyd. Mae'r gwybodusion yn dweud bod canu yn lles i'r enaid ac fe brofwyd hynny ar ein noson agoriadol.

Mae croeso i unrhyw ferch ymuno â ni. Rydym yn cyfarfod fel arfer ar nos Fercher cyntaf y mis yn Ysgoldy Newydd Eglwys Crist, Radur am 7.30pm. Trefnwyd rhaglen amrywiol ar gyfer y tymor newydd a chyfleon i gymdeithasu dros bryd o fwyd. Ddechrau Tachwedd bydd Wyn Jones yn dod atom i'n cyfarwyddo ar sut i osgoi sgamiau yn yr oes ddigidol hon.

Beth am ymuno â ni?

Geirfa

- Godi'r galon: raise one's spirits
- Gweithgareddau: activities
- Y gerddorfa: the orchestra
- Arlwy: entertainment
- Hwyllog: lively
- Trafterthion: troubles
- Amrywiol: varied
- Cymdeithasu: socialising
- Osgoi sgamiau: avoid scams
- Oes ddigidol: digital age



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The Radyr Chain cover

Could you design the next one?

For each edition of The Radyr Chain we ask you to submit drawings, photographs or sketches that could form part (or all) of our front cover. There's a lot of creativity around our community and we think the cover of the Radyr Chain is a great way to showcase more of this.

For this edition students at Radyr Primary School spent an afternoon designing how the cover might look if they were in charge. Whilst we picked

one of these to use for this edition, we wanted to show off all the entries here. I'm sure you'll agree they're all brilliant!

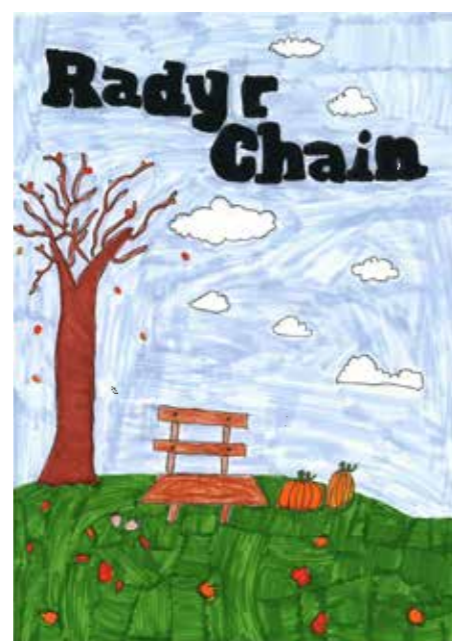
Since this editorial team took over the Chain we have been keen to ensure each edition has something for all ages and is something that everyone feels they can contribute to. This is also why we often include games and colouring.

Our next edition will be delivered right around Easter

and a few weeks before the Radyr and Morganstown Festival. We would love to see your ideas for the front cover for this one too.

You can share your drawings and photographs with us by email at chain@radyr.org.uk before our deadline for the next edition on Wednesday 4th March 2026.

We can't wait to see what you come up with!



radyr.org.uk: Your community website

By Ian Thomas, Leader of the RMA Web Team

<https://radyr.org.uk> is your community website. It exists as an independent space to share good news about what is happening across our local community.

Directory

We have a directory which lists local groups and local businesses of interest. Anyone wishing to be added to the directory (or update their entry) can do so by completing a short form for the Web Team to consider.

Clubs

Our website runs on a distributed publishing model with many local groups having an individual officer with access to directly update the information about their group's

activities and to publish events in the Calendar (which then pull through to the diary in the next edition of the Chain too! See pages 4 and 5). It is a resource to our community groups to save each group from having to create their own online presence.

Contact

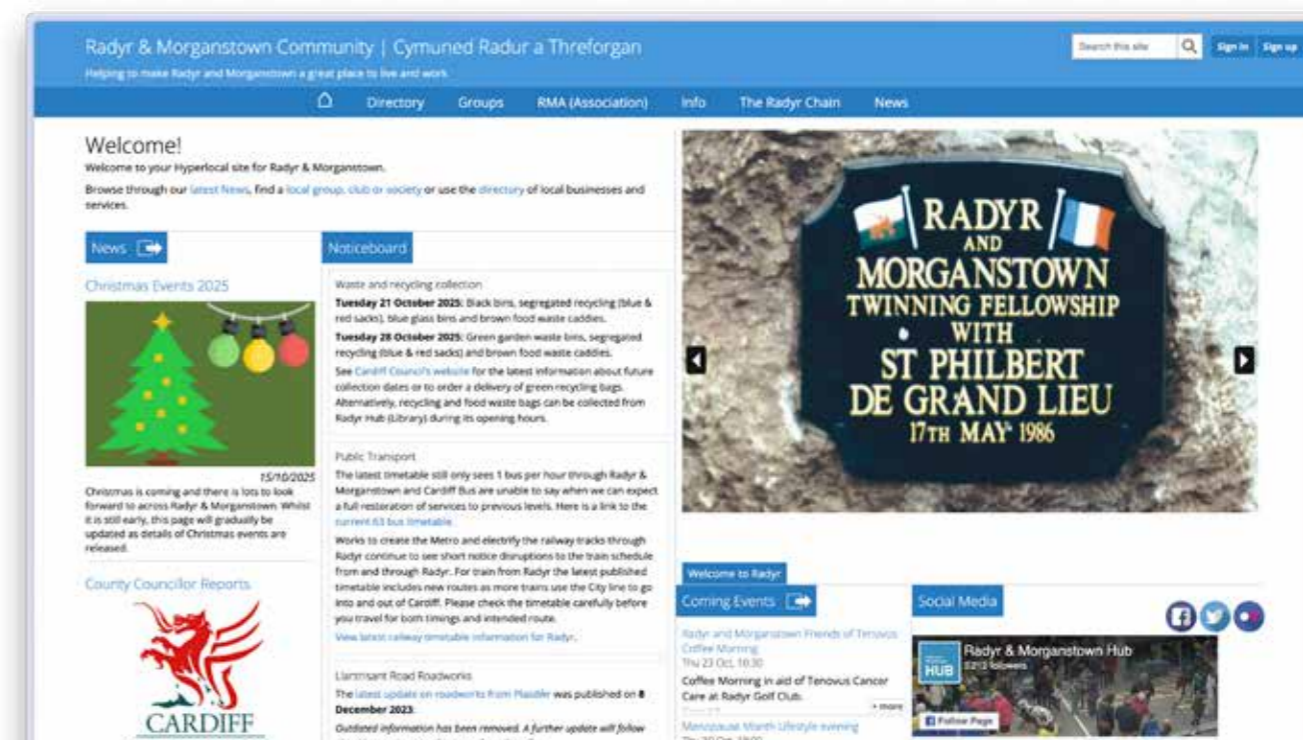
The Web Team act as a pool of expertise both in supporting group editors with using the website editing tools and maintaining the technical aspects of our online presence. Dealing with matters of compliance, security and accessibility as well as ensuring a consistent look and feel to our online presence. We also curate the stories that appear on the homepage and manage the RMA's Social Media profiles on Facebook, X and Instagram - which again can be used by local groups

to publicise their activities both through event promotion and sharing stories about good things they have done.

However, the Web Team can only publish the things we know about. We need you, the community of Radyr, to use the website for it to maintain its value.

If you have a local story to tell online or feel like you could help by joining the RMA Web Team please get in touch with us by e-mail:

web-team@radyr.org.uk



Friends of Tenovus



On Tuesday 15th July, members of Radyr and Morganstown Friends of Tenovus got dressed up to go to the Parkgate Hotel in Westgate Street. The reason for this night out was to attend the Nominations evening of Tenovus Cancer Care. This is an annual event that the Charity hold to recognise people and groups within

the volunteer section of the charity. This year, a special one for the group on our 40th anniversary of fund raising, we had been nominated in one category out of seven awarded on the evening. There were four or five nominations in each category, so there was strong competition, none more so in our one which was the group category

and last to be awarded.

We did not have high expectations as we had been here before and not won, so imagine our surprise and delight when Radyr and Morganstown FOT were announced as the winners for 2025 and we were handed a lovely glass trophy.

The evening was very enjoyable from start to finish especially for two founder members Betty Fitzgerald and Marilyn Vaughan who were invited to a pre presentation drinks reception.

By the time this comes out we will have celebrated our 40th anniversary at Radyr Golf Club and held our annual coffee morning at the same venue. However our bi-annual bag collection will be taking place on Thursday November 13th at Radyr Guide Centre from 11am until 1pm. We will accept most items except furniture or large electricals.

Did you spot the postbox?

Cardiff Hongkongers Community Interest Company put a very eye-catching display on the postbox on Station Road in October.

The Hongkongers started in 2023 with the aim of connecting people from Hong Kong who have settled in Cardiff and South Wales.

Reading the information about the range of activities on offer and also marking the Mid Autumn Festival when the moon is at its brightest

shows how important a sense of community is - whether you have lived in Radyr and Morganstown for a long time - or if you have recently moved here.



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Santa's tour of Radyr and Morganstown

Santa will be visiting Radyr and Morganstown in his sleigh once again on Friday 12th December 2025.

This year he will start in Parc Radur around 5:30pm and make his way via Heol Isaf and the Sidings to Lougher Gardens, Castle View and then via Main Road Morganstown to Radyr Gardens and finally to Ravensbrook and the Morganstown Village Hall, hopefully by 8:30pm.

An interactive map can be seen on the community website at radyr.org.uk/christmas

Thank you to the Radyr & Morganstown Community Council for arranging Santa's visit and the Lewis Richards Community Sleigh for helping Santa travel safely around our streets.

Donations

As Santa travels around his elves will be collecting money for the RMA's chosen charity for 2025, St John Ambulance Cymru.

Please give generously either in their buckets or online using the QR code below.



Timings

All times are approximate.

5.30pm

Drovers Way, Llantarnam Drive, Plas y Mynach

5.45pm

Clos Parc Radur, Heol Rufus, Heol Roald Dahl, Clos Harry Corner, St. John Avenue (passing the end of Lon y Pererinion)

6.00pm

Llantrisant Road, Heol Isaf

6.20pm

The War Memorial

6.25pm

The Sidings

6.50pm

Station Road

7.00pm

Windsor Road, Windsor Avenue, Dan-y-Bryn Ave, Bryn Derwen, Hazel Tree Close, Bryn Derwen, Cae'r Graig, Pentwyn, Cae'r Graig, Bryn Derwen

7.45pm

Main Road (Morganstown), Ty Nant Inn, Ffordd Treforgan, Meadowfield Way, Maes y Gwair, Maes y Crofft

8.15pm

Ravensbrook

8.30pm

Morganstown Village Hall



St John
Cymru - Wales

Radyr Chain Issue 277 Winter Wordsearch

Can you find all the winter clues hidden in this wordsearch?

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | W | J | G | K | H | B | H | Y | Z | Z | F | A | Y |
| L | R | D | E | A | O | A | S | D | J | G | Q | N | T |
| A | E | E | N | C | T | U | D | C | D | S | X | V | P |
| N | A | C | R | V | C | B | Q | Y | A | S | A | V | J |
| K | T | E | E | J | H | L | O | B | H | R | C | N | P |
| E | H | M | F | A | O | E | K | P | V | C | F | T | T |
| T | S | B | R | N | C | S | C | L | I | G | H | T | S |
| S | L | E | O | U | O | G | L | O | V | E | S | Q | Z |
| E | E | R | S | A | L | T | R | X | L | S | T | M | T |
| C | D | J | T | R | A | D | P | T | K | D | X | B | N |
| K | G | P | O | Y | T | H | A | T | N | A | H | F | X |
| P | I | X | H | H | E | S | N | O | W | M | A | N | Q |
| W | N | X | W | P | F | I | R | E | P | L | A | C | E |
| Z | G | G | C | H | R | I | S | T | M | A | S | D | X |

- Frost
- Sledging
- Hot Chocolate
- December
- Lights
- Scarf
- Blankets
- January
- Fireplace
- Hat
- Wreath
- Gloves
- Baubles
- Christmas
- Snowman



Radyr Chain Christmas Colouring Activity

When you have finished your wordsearch on the back of this page, colour in these decorations and then carefully cut them out (or ask a grown-up to help you). You could attach a string and hang them on your Christmas Tree or in your window! One has been left blank for you to create your own design



Talking rubbish!

Radyr and Morganstown litter pickers

by Peter Fortune

As well as trying to keep Radyr & Morganstown litter free, we have also spent some time recently on the Taff Trail and Longwood Drive, which is a popular walking route for many of us. We have collected over 125 bags of rubbish from there, jointly with Keep Rhiwbina Tidy and Cardiff Rivers Group, who also cleaned up the banks of the Taff. The image shows Marilyn and Chris Wills with the depressing amounts of metal collected in October.



Since we started four years ago we have collected almost 3,000 bags of rubbish, most of this is take away food items and bottles and cans.

We have also reported 18 incidents of fly tipping to Cardiff Council, via their app. It is easy to do and anyone can report this; go to the Cardiff Gov App, choose "Report It" and scroll down to select fly tipping. Try to take a photograph to upload.

You can also use this App to report a litter bin which needs emptying.

We meet every month - second Saturday of the month - the dates are in the events section of The Chain. We were joined recently by the Chair of RMCC as Julia reports in the Community Council section, as well as by one of our County Councillors Calum Davies.

rmlitterpickers@gmail.com or call Peter on 07963 439903.

Radyr and Morganstown Litter Pickers is supported by Radyr & Morganstown Community Council, Cardiff Council, Keep Wales Tidy, Cardiff Council and MGY Estate Agents.

Can you help us? Please! We need another member for our group to help us operate. Time cost is less than one hour per month. Please contact



Sally's Angels:

where community and music come together in perfect harmony

In a world that's increasingly fast-paced and fragmented, finding connection and joy in something as simple and profound as singing can be a true lifeline. That's exactly what Sally's Angels, a thriving network of community choirs, offers: a warm, welcoming space where everyone, regardless of ability or experience, can rediscover the sheer joy of song.

Founded by classically trained singer and music teacher Sally Davies, Sally's Angels is more than just a choir. It's a vibrant community built on the belief that music belongs to everyone.

With no auditions and an open-door policy for all voice types and experience levels, Sally's Angels has quickly grown into a beloved musical family, with groups now singing weekly in Radyr, Pontyclun, Bassaleg, and Risca.

Forget everything you thought you knew about choirs. Sally's Angels takes a fresh, friendly approach. Songs are mostly learned by ear and through repetition, and while sheet music is available to take home, it's absolutely



fine if you can't read a note. Rehearsal tracks and videos make practising at home a breeze—and the learning curve surprisingly fun.

A former music teacher who studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Sally's career has always been rooted in the transformational power of singing. After founding Simply Singers in 2018, her vision for inclusive community choirs took flight—and Sally's Angels was born.

Today, she's joined by a growing team of passionate musicians, including Laura Davidson, a secondary school music teacher who now leads the Radyr branch. Laura brings bags of enthusiasm to her Thursday evening rehearsals and has been performing alongside Sally since the early days.

"Every rehearsal is full of laughter and lightness," Laura says. "It's about music, yes - but it's also about joy, connection, and support."

It's not just about the music

What makes Sally's Angels truly special is its sense of togetherness. Beyond the weekly rehearsals, our choir gathers for a variety of social events, from coffee mornings and meals out to charity pub quizzes and even musical pub crawls. It's a support network, a creative outlet, and a lot of fun. Whether you come along for the music, the community, or just to try something new, one thing is certain: you'll leave smiling.

Sally's Angels Radyr meet Thursdays at 6.15pm in The Old Church Rooms, Radyr.



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Radyr and Morganstown Festival events 2026

by David Silver, Festival Chair

The Festival Committee have already been busy preparing the schedule of events for the 2026 Festival.

We are pleased to be supporting City Hospice as the RMA's chosen charity for 2026 and you will see buckets for this charity across the Festival fortnight which runs from Saturday 2nd May to Sunday 17th May 2026.

The theme for the 2026 Festival is "Caring for the Community" which fits perfectly with the work the City Hospice does.



All dates and events are currently provisional, but we share them now to start holding spaces in your diary. We are also hoping to see a return of the Dog Show, possibly a Gardeners Question Time, another show at the Hub for our youngest residents and events at both the Cricket and Tennis Club open to all. We are also looking for the return of a Cymanfa Ganu, something that has not been held for a number of years.

To run the Festival we always need volunteers. If you have some free time, no matter how little, and would be willing to help with any events, even

setting up or packing away afterwards, please let me know. Without volunteers none of our events could take place.

If you have something you would like to add to the programme or feel your business could sponsor a part of the Festival then please email info@rmfestival.org.uk



Provisional festival event dates

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Saturday 2nd May | Sunday 10th May |
| Festival Fete | Open Gardens |
| Opening Concert organised by the Rotary Club | Cymanfa Ganu |
| Sunday 3rd May | Wednesday 13th May |
| History Society Festival Walk | Guides Event |
| Civic Service and Reception | Thursday 14th May |
| Monday 4th May | Boozy Bards |
| Tennis Club Open Day | Friday 15th May |
| Wednesday 6th May | Science with a Pint |
| Wine and Cheese Night | Saturday 16th May |
| Welsh Night | Show for Youngsters |
| Thursday 7th May | Dog Show |
| Alzheimer's Coffee morning | Sunday 17th May |
| Tenovus Quiz | Closing Concert for City Hospice |
| Friday 8th May | |
| Jazz Night | |
| Saturday 9th May | |
| Party in the Park | |



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An Open Gardens appeal for 2026

by Gill Evans

After a long, hot Summer, Autumn is slowly drizzling into Winter. Gardeners, however, are already turning their thoughts to Spring, preparing for longer days and warmer weather.

With Spring, for a few, come tasks of preparation for The Radyr and Morganstown Festival 2026. The Open Gardens and Plant Stall is one of the most popular events and certainly raises a considerable amount for the festival charity, which next year will be The City Hospice.

However, we are in the unhappy position of not having enough gardens to take part in the event next year. We are hoping, with this appeal, that some of you gardeners out there might be able to join us and share the pleasure you have in your garden with some very appreciative visitors.

New gardens with fresh ideas make our event so enjoyable and sustainable. Our gardens are our own personal space whatever their size or shape; they are our own creation, which makes every garden unique in so many ways.



There are so many lovely gardens in Radyr and Morganstown. We would be delighted if you could join us and open your garden on Sunday 10th May 2026 between 10.30am. and 4pm. Refreshments and our plant stall will be in The Old Church Rooms as usual.

Just pick up your phone; call me on 07881 206745.

Notes from the allotments

by Peter Fortune

Well, we all know what a lovely, warm and dry summer it has been. And all us gardeners were praying for rain. We must say, however, that it has been a good cropping year on the allotments and the apple trees were laden. Courgettes and runner beans have been prolific although this has now been shown up in our water bill, for we have a water supply on site!

Now it is time to clean up our plots and gardens, remove the weeds and dig the soil over to prepare for the frosts of winter. Some of us cover the ground with membrane which keeps the heat in, and stifles weed growth; many will add manure

to the ground and then cover it. On the other hand there are those who argue to leave them open to the elements.

Either way, it is very important to nourish your soil with a layer of organic material if you can't get manure. Or if you are very ambitious sow green manure; seeds are available in Pugh's if you can get past the fabulous Christmas display.

Clear up any fallen leaves and either leave them on the ground so that they mulch in over the winter or bag them up with a small amount of water in a black plastic bag with a few holes punched in.

Some are planting winter crops from seed or potatoes

for Christmas. Japanese onion sets are a favourite to plant now and they will produce crops in the Spring.

Give your tools and furniture a good clean and repair any fencing, clean your greenhouse, and ensure your compost bins are cleared out for continuous use. Also wash plant pots thoroughly to remove any risk of infection.

Morganstown and Radyr Allotments are on Ffordd Treforgan, just past the Ty Nant. If you would like a plot please contact Derek Smith, our Chairman on dh.pm. smith@btinternet.com

“How will you manage over Christmas?”

by Helen Lloyd Jones

There's often an expectation that Christmas will be magical, but for some of us Christmas can be heart-wrenchingly hard.

My Christmas memories are woven around a village community where nearly every family I knew would have grown-up children returning for the holiday. They would all come to Midnight Mass and there was so much happiness, love and togetherness. It was a warm, fuzzy feeling that was better than the presents Father Christmas had brought.

It was everything. The flowers in the church: they weren't just at the altar, they were everywhere. The font, the lectern, the pulpit, the Sunday School area and even some on the wrought iron that separated the nave from the chancel. And flowers is the wrong word. The dashes of red everywhere were from the holly trees on the way to Havard's farm. There were silver coins of dried Honesty and then there was the ivy and greenery. And there were candles. Real live candles. Fat, chubby white candles and thin, elegant red candles with flames that flickered and everyone looked happy.

And we sang carols, and it didn't matter that most of us were out of tune.

My Christmases haven't worked out the way I dreamed when I was young. Life doesn't always go to plan. But there's always been Midnight Mass and the lights and the decorations and the singing and families you know and it will sustain me this year too.

We don't often discuss faith these days but faith is something most people seek. If you scratch the surface of most religions there is a recognition that life is hard, that there are sacrifices, and that death is inevitable.

But there is also joy and happiness and love and days of celebration and fun. We now know that when people get together to sing it raises their levels of oxytocin, which is also known as the cuddle chemical. Cwtches are good for us.

There is also the miracle of being able to experience the beauty of this world. We are so lucky here, we have such wonderful views of Castell Coch, of the Garth and walks alongside the Taff and the Glamorgan Canal.

When you walk beside the river and see the sunlight sparkling on the water, you just know that there is hope. Hope is often represented as an anchor, a symbol of strength and support and something that holds things steady in troubled times. Hope tells us to believe that all will be well.



There have always been periods when things have been very uncertain and troubled. But somehow, we have muddled through and reached more stable, more balanced periods, and it hasn't always been as bad as we thought. Turns out that exquisite jewellery has been found that dates to the Dark Ages. Really? Yes, perhaps it wasn't so dark after all.

What makes us special in Radyr and Morganstown is that we are still very close to that time when we were very much a village. When we did know nearly everybody. When we did say "Good morning" as we passed people in the streets and maybe stop to discuss the weather. We still have that magic, but we need to keep practising it. Young and old.

It's love that makes Christmas special, it's the story of a baby, who comes into the world to love us all.

Let's hold on to our old ways and let's continue to give our children a loving, stable upbringing so they have the values that we know make life worth living.

Happy Christmas to you all.

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Advent and Christmas at Christ Church Radyr

and St John's Danescourt in the Garth Ministry Area

by Rev. Mary Evans

We are very much looking forward to our preparations for Advent: the season of the church's year in which we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming, and of course Christmas itself. The shops are filling with decorations, music and potential presents, and it's lovely to see our children practising nativity plays and concerts. We may be making plans to visit or welcome family and looking forward to spending time together.

Our first event is the 'Getting Ready for Christmas' fete in Christ Church on Saturday 22nd November, 12 - 3pm, with stalls, refreshments and activities for all the family.

In addition to our usual Sunday services with Children's Clubs in St John's at 9.15am and Christ Church at 11am, we're also looking forward to a number of extra services in both churches.

On Advent Sunday, 30th November at 7pm there will be a service of 'Darkness to Light' with candles, when we anticipate Christ the Light of the World with music and readings for Advent.

In St John's Church, the family Nativity or Crib Service is on Friday 19th December at 6pm. Children are encouraged to come dressed as a person or animal from the nativity story, to take part in the retelling of the story of Jesus' birth. In Christ Church, the Crib Service is on Christmas Eve at 5pm. Again, please come dressed up! These are always very popular so do come in good time!

The service of Lessons and Carols is at Christ Church on Sunday 21st December at 6pm, hearing the Christmas story through familiar readings, and carols and anthems led by our choir.

Our traditional First Eucharist of Christmas follows on Christmas Eve at 9pm in St John's and 11pm in Christ Church. On Christmas morning, services in Christ Church are at 8am and 11am, and in St John's at 9.15am.

On 28th December, the Sunday after Christmas, there will be a single service for the Garth Ministry Area in Christ Church at 11am.

At the same time, sometimes we can feel ourselves overwhelmed by all the preparations needing to be done, and extra activities to attend and take part in and people to meet. Being almost 'required' to be Christmassy can feel too much, especially if it's actually a challenging time for us personally.

With that in mind, there'll be a new service this year in Christ Church called 'Quiet Christmas' which will be just that - a calm and reflective time of worship with candles, gentle music and readings, separate from the jollity and excitement associated with the traditional services. This will be Monday 15th December at 7pm, lasting about 45 minutes.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to any or all of our services across Advent and Christmas. Please do get in touch with me at maryevans@cinw.org.uk if I can help.



Updates from Radyr Methodist Church

by Rev. Judith Holliman

Urban Beach

Well I expect many of you will have noticed that during the week of 4th August this year we at RMC closed our car park in order to construct a huge sandpit with over five tonnes of sand, built several pagodas, purchased many ice creams and then welcomed many folk to come and share with us.

The idea for this came from one of our members, Laura, who thought our space would work for such an event and indeed it did. Over the three days that we were open over 250 adults and children came along. Sand-castles were constructed ... and destroyed, faces were painted, hot dogs were consumed in their hundreds, craft was completed with all sorts of different masterpieces produced, bubbles were blown and we had an absolutely amazing time.

It was such a joy to have dozens of conversations over the week with parents, carers and grandparents and to hear and see how much the children enjoyed themselves. We are really fortunate here at Radyr Methodist Church to have so many able-bodied folk who helped us to both put out and remove so much sand and then to man the different stalls and areas, over fifty of our members



were involved in some way to make this possible.

On the Sunday after the Urban Beach we had a BBQ for the church family all cooked by our South African families who are kind enough to "Braai" for us during the summer. Our young folk then took part in a sand castle

competition which produced some epic structures.

We were really delighted with all the feedback we received that has encouraged us to start planning to bring the beach back next year so watch this space - or more appropriately our car park!



Our solar project

Over the last few years at Radyr Methodist Church we have been working extremely hard to reduce our carbon footprint and to access the technology available to be more eco-friendly and future proofed.

To that end we have changed our heating from gas to infrared heating which has enabled us to 'dash from gas' and to be disconnected from the gas supply completely. Of course this was only going to make eco-sense if we then stopped pulling electricity from the main grid to operate our new heaters.

This has only been possible due to the vision and work of key church members who have believed enough, worked enough and persisted enough to get this work done. We have been really grateful to receive grants from both Cardiff Circuit of the Methodist Church and also Wales Cymru District of the Methodist Church.

We have been fortunate to hold several Eco services. Over the last year most recently, our Harvest Service saw Kevin Thatcher a marine biologist share with us the joy of what species can be found in our coastal areas and advice on



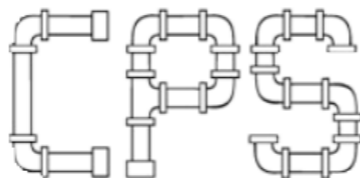
I am delighted to say that over the last month we have had solar panels installed across the front roof of the church, they are already working and filling our batteries and will enable us to be as off grid as possible. Several of our members have been so impressed that they have had solar panels installed on their own homes.

how to care for them, in what we buy, when we want to eat fish and where from.

We are delighted that we have already been awarded a silver eco award and are actively working towards our gold. We are really keen to care for God's world and play our part in taking care of it.

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Diary of a Conclave (part one)

by Rhodri Lewis

It's Wednesday 7th May. Bethan the presenter, Sam the camera guy and I arrive at the Vatican, where the Conclave is about to begin. There are TV crews and journalists everywhere. It is bonkers!

At lunchtime, a few cardinals take their chance to escape before they're locked in, and are surrounded by journalists as they cross the piazza. The cardinals aren't surprised; they know the rules of the game, and it's probably fair to say they're enjoying their brief star status as pope-makers.

In the afternoon, a diplomatic incident. I meet a guest, Ann Ellis, who has lived in Rome for years, at a restaurant. When I ask for a cappuccino, the waitress gives me a really dirty look, and refuses. Then I remember Italians only have that in the morning, so I switch to orange juice. She accepts, and retreats into the building, muttering...

Later we expect the white smoke while we're on air, and Bethan is facing away from the Vatican, so asks me to signal to her if it happens while the programme is on. I get out my notebook, and write GWYN (white) in block caps on one piece of paper and DU (black) on the other. Who says the BBC wastes money?

The next day at just after 6 in the evening, I am close to the square when a man next to me gasps, and points at the huge TV screens; "Fumo bianco!", he cries. And sure



enough, there is definitely white smoke coming out of the Sistine Chapel chimney.

I am live on the radio within minutes, while it's pandemonium around me.

The piazza fills in minutes; the police say there are 40,000 here, but it feels like everyone in Rome has come.

A short time later, the window onto the balcony opens, and everyone knows the words that are coming: "Habemus Papam!". A few minutes later we see Pope Leo XIV for the first time as Pontiff. The piazza erupts. He speaks - a message of peace, of love and of building bridges.

Now it's time to get back to work, but twenty minutes before air, we're in the square and our tech gives up. Sam phones his mates on the temporary BBC studio on the balcony of a nearby convent, and asks if there's any chance they've got a spare slot for us. They say they do, so we try to rush across the square, as best we can through the crazy crowds.

We finally get to the convent, and press the button for the lift, but nothing happens. Minutes pass.

10 minutes to air now and we are nowhere. The producer in Cardiff calls, understandably frantic and asks why he can't see us.

Missing our slot at the top of the programme on the day of the election is nothing but a Grade 1 disaster. We might as well not have come at all.

The lift arrives. We squeeze in. The lift moves. But only very, very slowly.

Rhodri Lewis is BBC Wales Political Correspondent and part of the incredible network of Radyr Chain delivery volunteers.

He attended the Papal Conclave in Rome earlier this year and has written a two-part diary for the Chain. Part two will feature in our Spring edition.

Adventure, Teamwork, and Muddy Boots

What Radyr Cubs have been up to over recent months

by Liz Merrifield

If you've ever strolled past Radyr Scout Hall on a Thursday evening and heard bursts of laughter, energetic instructions, and the occasional enthusiastic howl, chances are you've passed by our thriving local Cub Scout group. Every week, dedicated young adventurers aged 8 to 10 come together to learn new skills, make friends, and take part in the kind of outdoor fun that memories are made of. We've had a fantastic year so far doing lots of activities.



tackled backwood cooking over open fires, navigation skills and team games. We all had a fantastic time (leaders too), and eagerly look forward to Frostbite camp in February 2026.



Cub camp

In September our Cubs embarked on cub camp at the Jubilee Fields in Peterston-Super-Ely. Many of our Cubs haven't spent the night under canvas before, and so fuelled with a packed agenda, plenty of sweet treats and enthusiasm they took on a fantastic adventure. Unfazed by the yellow weather warning, they

Taking care of our local community

Our Cubs are proud to give back to their community, most recently through a local litter-picking activity as part of the Keep Wales Tidy initiative. Armed with gloves, pickers, and trusty red bin bags, the group helped clean Longwood Drive and the Taff Trail, learning valuable lessons about responsibility and the environment in the process. Their efforts earned a heartfelt "thank you" from local residents - and a few surprised dog walkers! Extending our thanks also to the team at Radyr Library

and Tongwynlais Community Council for the vital equipment on this occasion.

Countryside capers

No Cub Scout experience would be complete without embracing the great Welsh countryside. Our group often heads out on muddy walks, exploring footpaths, discovering wildlife, and learning how to navigate with maps and compasses. Yes, there are wellies stuck in bogs and plenty of mucky trousers, but these walks are highlights, providing incredible opportunities to explore our local surroundings around the Garth, Forest Farm, and Morganstown woods.

Can you help us?

We have some fantastic activities planned for our young adventurers this Autumn including Forest Farm night nature walks, learning about aviation, first aid and the Remembrance service in November.

All these amazing activities rely on a committed team of adult volunteers. Right now, our group is in real need of more helpers and leaders. Whether you can give a few hours a month or commit more regularly, every bit helps. No previous experience is necessary - just

a willingness to get involved and a sense of fun. Full training and support are provided.

Helping with Cubs is a rewarding way to spend time outdoors, give back to your community, and share in the joy and growth of young people discovering their potential.

If you're interested in learning more, please contact gsl@radyrscouts.org.uk

The Cubs would love to welcome you to the team!



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Cardiff Nantes Exchange

by *Catrin Redknapp and Allan Cook*

Place Foch, Nantes, early Saturday morning in late September. As the city slowly prepares for another busy weekend, gentle chatter and fond farewells fill one corner of the square. After a week of fascinating visits and convivial gatherings in the company of our friends in Nantes, the Cardiff participants of the Association for the Cardiff Nantes Exchange are heading home. As the luggage is stacked neatly in the coach for the return journey, we're heartened by the prospect of meeting again in 2026.

As many readers of the Radyr Chain are doubtless aware, the city of Cardiff is twinned with Nantes, capital of the Pays de la Loire region in western France. The twinning of the two cities goes back to 1964. A number of formal and informal links have developed over the years. Adult linguistic exchanges began in 1981, with the aim of providing opportunities for participants to improve their language skills in French and English. The visits to Cardiff and Nantes are key features of the twinning between the two cities.

The enjoyment of developing links with France is, of course, familiar to many Radyr and Morganstown residents. Over the years the Radyr and Morganstown Twinning Association led to lasting friendship with families in Saint Philbert de Grand Lieu, some 27 kilometres south of

Nantes. The official closure of the Association in 2024 marked the end of a fellowship that began in 1986. Although the formal exchanges have come to an end, it is pleasing that links with friends in St Philbert are being maintained, and plans are already under way for a small group of Radyr and Morganstown residents to visit St Philbert in 2026.

Whilst the long-established links with St Philbert may no longer provide the opportunities they were once able to offer, getting involved in the Cardiff Nantes exchange could be an ideal way of forging new friendships, and maintaining or reviving your French language skills. The arrangements for the exchange broadly follow the same format each year. A group of about 25 people from Nantes travel to Cardiff by coach and ferry. During their week-long stay with their hosts in Cardiff they get

an insight into everyday life in the city, and a programme of visits to local places of interest is arranged for them, with the hosts encouraged to join where they can. The same arrangements are put in place when the Cardiff participants travel to France: travelling by coach and ferry to Nantes, staying with hosts across the city, and travelling together to visit places of interest in the area. Participants of all language levels are welcome, and are encouraged to put their skills to use - speaking French in France and English when in Cardiff.

This year our friends from Nantes visited Cardiff for a week in June, and welcomed us to Nantes in mid-September. They had put together a varied programme of excursions that catered both for those participants that have been visiting Nantes for a number of years and also those who have joined the Association



Art installation by Willem de Haan, Place Royale, Nantes

more recently. Following a visit to the Château des Ducs de Bretagne, a guided walk taking in some of the city's key landmarks provided a fascinating insight into the historical events that have shaped its development. We ventured further afield to the picturesque village of La Gacilly, with its museum tracing the development of the Yves Rocher cosmetics brand and a splendid open-air photography festival. Another excursion took us to Angers, where we were guided through the narrow streets of the historic quarter and the Hôpital Saint-Jean, that houses a series of ten tapestries, Le Chant du Monde, designed by the twentieth-century artist Jean Lurçat. During our visit to Saint-Nazaire, between the Loire estuary and the Atlantic Ocean, we learned about the town's maritime, industrial and military heritage. Venturing down into the Espadon, the first French submarine to dive beneath the Arctic ice field, was a memorable conclusion to a fascinating day.

The week also provided an opportunity for quieter and more leisurely time with our hosts, exploring some of the less familiar corners of Nantes and relaxing over a meal. Together with the formality of the welcome reception at the Mairie, and the elegant venue of the festive dinner, these moments as well were an affirmation of the value that linguistic exchanges can bring.

The Association is always keen to welcome new members, and we would be delighted to extend that welcome to former members of the

Radyr and Morganstown-St Philbert twinning - or indeed to any other Radyr and Morganstown residents with an interest in developing links with France, French culture and the French language.

We very much hope that these opportunities will be of interest to you and your families and friends. Information about the Cardiff Nantes Exchange can be found at: cardiff-nantes.org

The dates for the 2026 Exchange are: Nantes in Cardiff 11th - 18th April; Cardiff in Nantes 6th - 13th June.

Please do get in touch (07939 241372) if you have any questions, or if you wish to get involved. We shall look forward to hearing from you.

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A View From the Touchline



Radyr Rangers FC launch dedicated girls' teams

by Kath Denton, Fixtures Secretary

It's an exciting time at Radyr Rangers, as the club has taken a significant step to develop its football provision for local children by welcoming Cardiff Wanderers girls to join under the Radyr Rangers badge, with the result that we can now offer dedicated girls' teams.

It is an historic milestone for the club; we've held the ambition to expand our offering to field boys' and girls' teams, as well as mixed junior teams, and so we are proud that our plans have borne fruit.

It is great news for girls across Radyr & Morganstown and the surrounding areas, as the club can offer fantastic local training facilities as well as great coaching and playing opportunities. The growing enthusiasm for the

levels. It was a thrill to welcome back perhaps the most famous Radyr Rangers female alumna in October, as Welsh international defender, Ella Powell, paid our girls a visit. Ella was a member of the Cymru squad for the 2025 Women's Euros with 15 Welsh caps and counting! Returning to her old stomping ground at Radyr Comprehensive, Ella spent time with our three girls' teams, giving both the girls and the coaches some top footballing tips and inspiration.



We believe football is a game for everyone. By providing local coaching and playing opportunities, Radyr Rangers are helping to nurture the next generation of female footballers and break outdated stereotypes so everyone can see that football is a space where girls belong.

So, if you have a daughter who wants to join a welcoming club, develop her footie skills, build confidence and friendships, then get in touch for details of a taster session

women's game is plain to see, with the landmark success of the Cymru women's team qualifying for their first major tournament this summer only fuelling greater interest.

Radyr Rangers are now proud to offer three age groups for girls: U8s, U12s, and U15s, and are actively looking to expand further as the number of enquiries keeps growing. If you're interested in becoming a coach for a girls' team and joining our club, we'd love to hear from you. Please email us radyrrangerssecretary@outlook.com.

We've always had a number of girls playing in our mixed junior age groups, and can boast some seriously talented girls playing in the black & white of Radyr Rangers, representing themselves and the club at county and international

The club comes of age

Aside from the work to make our teams a success on the pitch, the other big news is that Radyr Rangers FC is 25 this year! To mark the milestone, we have given the club badge an updated flourish and we couldn't miss the opportunity to celebrate this anniversary in style. We hosted a black-tie dinner, featuring none other than Welsh goalkeeping legend Neville Southall as our after-dinner guest speaker. 'Big Nev' is arguably Wales' greatest ever goalie, earning 92 caps for Wales during a career in which he was touted as the greatest goalkeeper in the world during the late-80's, and so it was a tremendous pleasure to have him join us. He was accompanied on the night by another fantastic Welsh footballer close to Radyr hearts, as local boy Tom Lockyer joined the fun. Tom captained Luton during their rise to the Premier League a couple of seasons ago, and has been capped 16 times by Wales. Tom is the other local star to have been honoured by the FAW with murals of him & Ella Powell representing Cymru at the entrance to the new 3G pitch at Radyr Comprehensive.

As we celebrated our brilliant club and the joy of bringing the beautiful game to the children of our community for the past 25 years, we are already looking to the future. Here's to the next quarter of a century of Radyr Rangers FC.

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 Learning Without Limits

A View From the Boundary

by Christopher Hitchings,
Chairman of Radyr Cricket Club

Those of you who studiously read my last article would now be wondering why it is that, despite my assertion that it would be my last, I am still here. My ego would like it to be due to public demand and the thought that you can't do without my witticisms three times a year. Unfortunately it's a tad more prosaic than that and is due solely to the RCC AGM and this article's deadline being on the same day. So as I write this I'm Chairman, but when you read it I'm yesterday's man: a version I suppose of now you see me, now you don't. So finally, I promise, my last article.

I can't deny that the last few weeks of the season have been very emotional as I've said bon voyage to the players as Chairman for the last time (promise). Now it doesn't mean I will disappear from their sight, far from it. In fact I intend to be as visible around the club as I ever was and continue dispatching my form of justice by umpiring on the second ground. Now to some that will be welcome but to those who seek the succour of an LBW decision from yours truly this news might be a dagger through their heart: I am and probably always will be a not outer: once a batter always a batter.

My final official appearance before the AGM was at the club's Awards Evening which took place a week after the league season finished. The marquee was resplendent

and covered from head to foot in trophies, pendants, medals, cups and caps.

The day began with games on both grounds: on the main the Under 15s took on the Women's First XI, whilst on the second ground an inter club game with players from all six of the league teams. Amazingly the former was as exciting as anything witnessed throughout the whole season, with the latter getting a bit spiky at times. A brilliant few hours that showcased why RCC is such a great place to play the wonderful game.



Then after a wash and brush up the evening began. The bar opened, the barbecue was fired up and for those who wanted something a tad more exotic, Cegin Half & Half provided a feast of delight.

As for the awards the club started with the Juniors, and the outfield in front of the marquee was littered with the youngsters and their parents, waiting patiently to see who had won the various trophies. The beaming faces on those young cricketers as

their names were read out was a joy to behold. These memories will be with them for the rest of their lives.

We then had an hiatus for a few minutes as people were extracted from the bar and the Seniors got under way. The great thing about this part of the evening was that of the six 'Saturday' awards, three were for members who joined this year: it shows that the club is still attracting good cricketers.

For my retirement, the club gave me the most wonderful gift, a huge framed collection of a shirt, my club number

of '56' made up of small photographs and a time line of achievements during my period in office. It now adorns a wall, a very large wall, in my house and the photograph shows it in all its glory.

The league season finished on the Bank Holiday Saturday and unfortunately was a damp squib, with the day wiped out by rain. During the week the forecast was bad and regrettably it wasn't wrong. Right on cue the rain began and it didn't stop:

only two games survived in the whole of south Wales.

This lack of cricket confirmed that all the Saturday sides ended in mid table with one exception and as has often been the case this is the Fourth XI, who finished runners up in Division 9. A wonderful effort by a team made up largely of talented youngsters, with a few old heads thrown in and captained superbly by Steve Sanders. I know he is already looking forward to next year's challenge in the higher division.

I should now mention another dinner which took place earlier this year, that was purely

for Radyr cricketers. It was the First XI Captains Dinner which has been taking place for over twenty years and throughout all this time has been brilliantly organised by the club's Patron, Paul Kyte. A former captain himself, this man of Aberavon, who is now Radyr through and through, is the club's greatest supporter and a constant figure around the ground. The conviviality of the evening he has created plus the absurd quiz has meant it is something not to be missed and hopefully it will continue for many years to come. The second photograph shows those in attendance.



It has been the greatest privilege of my life to lead the cricket club in the village of my birth. RCC is a remarkable institution which seems to attract some of the most wonderful human beings and makes it more than just a sports club.

I am often struck by all the letters, emails and texts I receive from former members all over the world who still call RCC home. It is the friendliest of places and I know that for the rest of my days there will only be one place for me on Saturday afternoons in the summer.

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New stone seat in Radyr Woods

To commemorate fifty years since the establishment of Radyr and Morganstown Community Council, a new stone seat has been built in Radyr Woods.

The circular seat was built by local dry stone waller and member of the Guild of Master Craftsmen, Richard Staniforth, over a month this summer.

The seat is a dry stone construction built using Blue Pennant stone. The stone was originally quarried north of Neath.

The stone seat is located in the ancient woodland of Radyr Woods close to the site of an Iron Age foundry. It is situated close to the Pilgrims Way which is reflected by

the twelve seats (for the apostles) within the circle.

“It was a really exciting and enjoyable experience designing and building the seat in Radyr Woods. All of the many local people who visited the site, young and old, were universally

enthusiastic. I imagine it as a meeting place, even a picnic site”, Richard said.

“I think it’s a great way to permanently commemorate fifty years of Radyr and Morganstown Community Council as a practical space for the public to enjoy.”



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Dydd Gwener 5 Rhagfyr 2025
Friday 5 December 2025

- Carols around the large tree in Windsor Gardens (opposite Station Road, Radyr) from 18.30
- Arrival of Santa in Station Road at 19.00

The usual selection of stalls, the RMA BBQ for hotdogs and burgers, freshly brewed mulled wine, hot chocolate.

Santa will also be stopping in his sleigh for the little ones (and big ones) to say hello.

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