

Radyr Chain



Edition 278

Free to every home in Radyr and Morganstown

Spring 2026



From the Editors

A community of several parts

The Chain Gang is made up of a group of volunteers who are keen to support the production and distribution of the Radyr Chain.

There are several groups of people who volunteer and make the Radyr Chain possible.

There are Deliverers who cover the whole community putting the Chain through our letter boxes.

The Distributors collect boxes of the Chain and divide them amongst a group of Deliverers, plus Distributors often deliver the Chain as well.

The organising group includes various roles connected with the production and the Community Interest Company governance.

The Editorial Team collate all the content, adverts, graphics and photos to create the layout to send to the printers.

Other roles include Proof Readers, Treasurer, Advertising, Invoicing, Distribution, Online links and overall liaison.

We are keen to build in extra resilience to our group of volunteers, providing cover and support as part of succession planning and contingency if anyone is not able to help for any reason.

If you have any of these skills and would like to join the

Chain Gang, please email radyrchainsubmissions@gmail.com and one of the organising group will get back to you. Skills that would be helpful include: digital design, editing, proof reading, working with accounts and spreadsheets.

Next edition of the Chain

We plan to publish 3 editions of the Chain each year, in Spring (prior to the Radyr and Morganstown Festival), Summer (just before the school holidays), and Winter (in the lead up to the festive season).

The deadline for copy for the Summer edition will be Monday 15th June 2026.

Contributions

This edition of the Chain features some regular contributors and also some new ones. The Editorial Team were pleased to hear from one or two younger people who were keen to submit articles for the magazine. We hope people of all ages enjoy reading the Chain, find the adverts useful and have a go at the word search and join in any of the events listed in the upcoming events section.

If you would like to contribute something please get in touch via email at radyrchainsubmissions@gmail.com

Adverts and covering our costs

We are very grateful to the advertisers who support the Chain by taking out regular adverts.

As we all know, costs for most things are increasing and in order to cover our costs we are having to increase the cost of our adverts for future editions.

The revised costs and sizes can be seen on page 37. We do hope all our current advertisers will understand, still see their adverts as value for money, and continue to support the Chain.

Radyr and Morganstown Festival 2026

Spring is coming and so is our annual Festival.

Organised by the Radyr and Morganstown Association, the two week Festival has something for everyone and we are pleased that the Festival Programme and Raffle Tickets are enclosed with the Spring edition of the Chain. We are sure there will be some great photos and stories from the Festival that we look forward to reading about in the Summer edition of the Chain.

Sue Llewelyn would like to thank friends and neighbours for their support during the sad loss of her son, Jonathan. It was very much appreciated by the whole family.

Upcoming Events

Thursday 2nd April, 6pm

Maundy Thursday Soup and Service at Radyr Methodist Church

Thursday 2nd April, 7pm

Eucharist for Maundy Thursday at Christ Church, Radyr

Friday 3rd April (Good Friday)

10am: Good Friday Family Service at St John's Danescourt

11.30am: Good Friday Service followed by Hot Cross Buns at Radyr Methodist Church

2pm: Good Friday Liturgy at Christ Church, Radyr

Sunday 5th April (Easter)

8am: Easter Sunday service at Christ Church, Radyr

9.15am: Easter Sunday service at St John's Danescourt

10.30am: Easter Sunday All Age Service at Radyr Methodist Church

11am: Easter Sunday service at Christ Church, Radyr

Wednesday 8th April, 7.30pm

RCTS South Wales meeting: "Three Ways to Monmouth," by Ray Viney at Old Church Rooms, Radyr

Saturday 11th April, 10am

R&M Litter Pickers Meet at Radyr Station Car Park. Refreshments afterwards in Radyr Hub, Park Road

Sunday 12th April, 4pm

The choir of Christ Church and friends will be singing Choral Evensong in Llandaff Cathedral

Monday 13th April, 4.30pm

Neurodivergent friendly LEGO cafe at Radyr Hub. Free to attend.

Thursday 16th April, 10.30am

Radyr Methodist Church offers a space to share your grief, whether recent or longstanding, at Ty Nant, Morganstown

Saturday 25th April, 10am

R&M Litter Pickers Clean Up Longwood Drive

With Keep Rhiwbina Tidy. Meet at Radyr Weir.

Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th April

Radyr Drama Society presents Round and Round the Garden.

Performances each evening at 7.30pm in Morganstown Village Hall

Saturday 25th April, 10.30am

Cllr Helen Lloyd Jones surgery at Ty Nant, Morganstown

Sunday 3rd May, 10.30am

All Age Service at Radyr Methodist Church

Saturday 9th May, 10am

R&M Litter Pickers Meet at Radyr Hub, Park Road. Refreshments afterwards

in Radyr Hub

Wednesday 13th May, 7.30pm

RCTS South Wales meeting: "Against All Odds...Rebuilding the Welsh Highland Railway," by David Waldren at Old Church Rooms, Radyr

Thursday 21st May, 10.30am

Radyr Methodist Church offers a space to share your grief, whether recent or longstanding, at Ty Nant, Morganstown

Sunday 7th June, 10.30am

All Age Service at Radyr Methodist Church

Wednesday 10th June, 7.30pm

RCTS South Wales meeting: The Rowland Pittard Memorial Lecture at Old Church Rooms, Radyr

Saturday 13th June, 10am

R&M Litter Pickers Meet at Morganstown Village Hall. Refreshments afterwards in Radyr Hub, Park Road

Thursday 18th June, 10.30am

Radyr Methodist Church offers a space to share your grief, whether recent or longstanding, at Ty Nant, Morganstown

Saturday 20th June, 10.30am

Cllr Helen Lloyd Jones surgery at Cicchetti's, Radyr

Saturday 4th July, 11am

Family Fun Day at Christ Church, Radyr, 11am until 2pm

Easter Bunny

There's a rumour that an Easter Bunny will travel on the 63 or the 64 bus this Easter time.

There's talk of surprises too.

Keep an eye on the Community Council's web site for more details nearer to Easter.



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Environmental charity celebrates landmark 500th community event in Radyr



Cardiff Rivers Group achieved a major milestone in Radyr on 21st February this year with a fantastic turnout for their 500th event.

Since its founding in 2009, Cardiff Rivers Group (CRG) has brought together thousands of volunteers, local residents, schools, and partner organisations to tackle litter in and around the city's rivers. The litterpick around Radyr Weir and Longwood Drive saw the Cardiff Rivers Group team up with Radyr & Morganstown Litter Pickers and Keep Rhiwbina Tidy. In spite of the miserable weather, sixty one volunteers collected around 160 bags of litter and flytipping, and also half a tonne of larger items, including a sofa!

This milestone represents far more than just five hundred litter picks or habitat sessions

for Cardiff Rivers Group. It's five hundred opportunities for people to connect with their local environment, with each other, get out into nature and take positive action to make a difference to the city of Cardiff together.

The organisation credits its success to the dedication of its volunteers and supporters. Over 22,000 volunteering hours have been logged over the 500 events. Many participants have been involved since the group's earliest days, while new volunteers continue to join, reflecting growing public interest in environmental stewardship.

In total, Cardiff Rivers Group has collected 17,363 bags of rubbish, 838 car tyres, 419 traffic cones, 405 shopping trolleys, 229 bikes, 43 motor bikes, 5 boats and 3 cars!

They've also pulled a lot of Himalayan Balsam, and quite a few dead hedges.

We're expecting them to be back in Radyr later in the year so keep an eye out on their website, cardiffriversgroup.org.uk for more information.

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News from the Community Council

The Community Council has begun 2026 with continued momentum, building on the positive work from last year. Here is an update on what has been happening in Radyr and Morganstown.

Farewell and welcome

Last October we marked the retirement of one of our clerks, Julie Hopkins, after 15 years of service to the Council and community.

Julie is well known locally and has made a significant contribution through her professionalism, commitment and steady support. Her work has had a lasting impact and she will be greatly missed. We thank Julie sincerely for everything she has given and wish her every happiness in this new chapter.

In January we were pleased to welcome Samantha Rees as Assistant Clerk. We are delighted she has joined the team and look forward to working together in the months ahead.

Community Councillor vacancy

A vacancy has arisen for a Community Councillor in the Community of Radyr and Morganstown (Radyr South).

Anyone interested in applying is invited to visit our website for details.

New bus route

Our new bus services are now operating. The 63 route extends through to Pentyrch and the new 64 serves Morganstown.

These routes are an important addition, improving connectivity. However, their future depends on passenger numbers, and Cardiff Bus is monitoring usage carefully.

Even short or occasional journeys make a difference. If we want to retain these routes, we must use them — so please check the timetables and consider travelling by bus whenever possible.



Environment update

February is always a pleasure as snowdrops appear along Ffordd Las and in Hazel Tree Close. We have asked the County Council to consider renaming the green space in Hazel Tree/Willow Tree Close "Snowdrop Park" a more fitting name.

We will again be providing snowdrops "in the green" for pupils at our two primary schools to plant, continuing a tradition that encourages community pride.



The Christmas lights and trees were well received, particularly the new tree in Pentwyn Park, and planning is already underway for this year's display.

Ash dieback remains an ongoing challenge and affected trees must sometimes be removed to ensure safety. We are reviewing locations for additional benches, including one proposed for Pentwyn Park. Hanging baskets for Station Road have been ordered and will soon brighten the area.

One of the two-hourly bus services now runs to Pentyrch, an ideal starting point for a walk up the Garth. Our buses are not only for town journeys but also help connect us to the countryside.

International Women's Day

Sunday 8th March marked International Women's Day, celebrating the achievements of women worldwide and recognising the importance of advancing equality.

This year is particularly significant locally, as for the first time in the Community Council's history both the Chair and Vice Chair are women. Julia Charles and Iona Shariff were elected in 2025, an important milestone for our community.

(Date to be announced – watch this space!)

The Radyr & Morganstown COMMUNITY COUNCIL are **Relaunching Their FACEBOOK PAGE!**

We're looking to connect with:

- Local Businesses
- Community Groups
- Events & Organisations
- Residents

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- www.radyrandmorganstowncc.org/
- Follow our new page for updates!



L&G's latest research found that only 7% of Divorcees seek Financial Advice and while 50% of divorcing couples consider the value of the family home, only 13% take pensions into account when dividing assets. Additionally, 23% of couples actively waive their rights to the value of their pension.

Providing financial advice at an early stage, can play a crucial role in supporting divorcing couples and ensuring a fair and equitable division of finances.

✉ : andrew@wfs.wales
 🏠 : 11 Graig Lwyd, Radyr, Cardiff CF15 8BG
 ☎ : 07917457647

Councillor Helen Lloyd Jones



The budget

We are seeing the advantages of a Labour government in Westminster, at the Senedd and a Labour majority in Cardiff Council. Better funding is reaching the Council. There are no front-line cuts. Our Council Tax increase of 3.9% is the lowest in Wales and looks as if it is the lowest in England and Wales. There is going to be additional funding for schools, children and adult services.

Station Road

The Community Council has been trying to move things forward. We have recently heard that the Co-op intend to lease the space next to it for the next year or so and that we should see an improvement to the look of the street.

Zebra crossing by Radyr Medical Centre

Both councillors have been told that the zebra crossing

will be put right in this financial year. However the weather has been against us, and we have been advised the work would be delayed. I have already reminded the Council how dangerous the zebra crossing is, so I am hoping that it will indeed be put right very soon.

Flooding by Pughs Garden Centre

Definite improvement this winter. We need to keep the channels for Cwm Farm stream as clear as possible. Noticed nearly everything the Council did last year to improve the situation has been demolished by the water in the stream. We obviously need to clear the channels several times a year.

Litter picking

There is an active group of volunteer litter pickers. See the diary on page 3 for details.

Thank you too to all of you who pick up some litter every time you're out walking. Lots of us picking up a little does make a difference. Throwing litter out of the car doesn't fit the idyllic rural image of the area. If you enjoy living here because the place has a lovely feel about it, please don't throw rubbish or tuck it in the hedgerow or behind electricity boxes.

Snowdrop Park

The Penrhys Pilgrimage Way Project have shared the funding costs with Radyr and Morganstown Community

Council. As the weather improves, we'll see a gate going in with a disability-friendly access linking the Snowdrop Park with Pant Tawel. In the meantime, be aware that although Pant Tawel looks like an ancient country lane (which it is) traffic still does use it to get to the houses the other side of the motorway.

Retirement of Mr Andrew Williams, Headteacher

The school will miss Mr Williams when he retires. He has kept the tradition of academic excellence at Radyr Comprehensive School in place. There have also been developments to help children who don't find it that easy to learn and to make going to school an enjoyable experience. Best wishes Mr Williams from us all. We wish you a very happy retirement.

Drovers Way Light

I keep thinking we have solved the problem and then there is always something else to sort. We are much closer to having a light than we were. One day it will appear. In the meantime, please be aware the path forks and in the darkness, you may not spot there is a difference in levels between the path and the side. So please take care and consider taking a torch.

Councillor Calum Davies



Bus services

I am delighted that the new 64 service is up and running, seeing a significant increase in buses coming through Radyr & Morganstown. This was a campaign pledge that I'd been working on for three and a half years and I am delighted to see it has come to fruition. I am also grateful to others who played their part in this, and this is a victory for the whole ward as well as residents along the bus route who will also benefit from these services.

Budget

The Council has announced another inflation-busting Council Tax increase of 3.9%. This is despite raising it by more than inflation for several years. I will be voting against this rise and supporting an alternative budget from the Conservatives who, as always, have proposed a balanced budget with a considerably lower increase.

Since I was elected, I have never voted to increase

council tax by more than inflation, and I won't be changing my approach when voting on this Budget.

Additionally, whilst chairing a committee meeting on the Budget, I was alarmed to hear about the lack of financial planning in place for the Council to meet its lawful obligations regarding the Equality Act following the Supreme Court ruling last April for enforcing single-sex spaces, compliance with which local authorities across the land are stalling on. Following scrutiny from myself, it was confirmed that Cardiff Council is not compliant with the law.

Unannounced, wasteful roadworks

Last August, there was much consternation about the removal of 20mph road-markings on Heol Isaf despite it remaining the speed limit. This is, ironically, a direct legal consequence of the Welsh Labour Government's imposition of the new national default speed limit and meant resources were needlessly squandered on this exercise instead of filling potholes and fixing footpaths in the ward.

I expressed my displeasure at a full meeting of Cardiff Council and was very disappointed to hear this work has recommenced on Bryn Derwen with no prior notice provided to myself nor residents despite making it very clear at that meeting that

we should be forewarned. Very disappointed to see taxpayer money wasted in this way when we are crying out for potholes and pavements to be fixed. Meanwhile, I hope to have good news to report on mending the crossing outside Christ Church soon.

Festival help

The RMA are looking for volunteers to help out with this year's annual festival. Whether you can help out a little bit or a lot, they would be most grateful for any assistance with continuing to host this fixture in the community's calendar. To volunteer, please contact rmamembers@gmail.com

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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Shine Theatre School

by Hannah Williams

You will be receiving your Radyr Chain after Shine Theatre School's **sold out** production of Shrek Jr. the Musical in the professional Savoy Theatre, Tonyrefail. Our amazing members aged 4 to 18 have been rehearsing since September to present this ambitious musical production. This was our first time performing at the Savoy Theatre and we hope that we continue to have a brilliant relationship with this incredible venue for many years.



Giving 100% to our young people, with high standards hand in hand with kindness and inclusivity, is how we enable them to truly SHINE. Shrek Jr. is a musical full of an outstanding range of different characters which encouraged our performers to demonstrate their talents, comedy timing, dance ability and amazing vocals with their personal flair. From puppeteering to tap dancing MINI Stars, our members across all ages have been learning new skills and enhancing their musical theatre repertoire.

We also were exceptionally privileged to have a team of make up artists from Coleg y Cymoedd working with us to create awesome looks including prosthetics, wigs and essential fairytale sparkle!

If you'd like to see photos of the final result, find us on Facebook as "Shine Theatre School, Radyr" or Instagram, @shine_theatre_cardiff.

This summer term we are expanding and welcoming new members to join us after Easter, reinstating our pre covid age groups:

- MINI Stars: school years reception to 4
- Sunshine: school years 4 to 6
- Diamonds: school year 7 to 6th Form

We love welcoming new young people from Radyr and the surrounding areas, our current members represent over 15 different local schools!

So what's next for Shine Theatre School as we grow?

We always get excited about our summer showcases. The shorter summer term is consistently a super fast turnaround for a production but we can feature so many different musical theatre shows to provide more principal opportunities for our members to shine - including the potential to bring your own characters/show/song choice

to audition to potentially be added to the performance!

The 2026 theme is "sparkle and shine" featuring the song "Sparkle and Shine" from the Nativity plus other favourites such as "Be Our Guest" from Beauty and the Beast, "So Long Farewell" from The Sound of Music with scenes, dances and songs from Bugsy Malone, Oliver, A Chorus Line and more, not forgetting to include a dance for our MINI Stars to this year's K Pop hit, "Golden"!

The summer showcase is also the perfect time to preview elements from our next full musical production. In 2027 we will be performing not one but two amazing musicals. The MINI Stars and Sunshine groups will perform Disney's Aladdin Jr. in January 2027 and our Diamonds will perform Legally Blonde Jr. The Musical in March 2027. We can't wait for auditions in September for both productions.

In addition, as part of our future plans we have some new groups in the pipeline, a Disneyland Paris performance scheduled for summer 2028 and we will imminently be expanding our LAMDA examination provision to build on the excellent results that students have achieved.

We encourage everyone in school year 4 and above who is interested in auditioning for Sparkle and Shine, or any of our future musicals, to come to our Easter holiday workshop 2-6pm on Monday 30th March in Radyr Guide Centre so that we can work on acting skills, vocal exercises, new choreography and give audition tips to all attendees including a 1-on-1 chat with each about the upcoming performance slots.

Contact us at shinecreativearts@me.com to register your interest for Shine Theatre School classes.



Everest Base Camp Charity Trek



by Alun Barnes, Radyr resident

This April, a friend and I will be taking on the challenge of trekking to Everest Base Camp — no small feat for two old fellas in their 50s. We're doing it to raise money for two remarkable charities: CLIC Sargent (Young Lives vs Cancer) and the British Heart Foundation.

These causes mean a great deal to both of us. I want to help ensure parents can stay close to their children during the toughest moments of cancer treatment, while Chris is honouring his mum, who sadly passed away from heart failure at a young age. The funds raised will be split equally between both charities, supporting vital care, research and family support.

The trek itself is a tough one — around 130km over two weeks, climbing to 5,364m at Everest Base Camp and up to 5,555m at Kala Patthar. High altitude, thin air, and long days mean our training is already well

underway... and proving just how challenging this will be!

What's in it for your club or school?

To help boost our fundraising, I'd love to offer free talks to local schools, clubs or community groups about the trek, the training, and the charities we're supporting — in exchange for a donation. I'm also open to local sponsorship partnerships for businesses who'd like to support us.

We have a target of £5000 to meet so all support is appreciated. Every contribution, large or small, makes a real difference. And donors will get access to photos of our training struggles... followed by the spectacular views from Nepal!

You can find out more, and donate by emailing aluntbarnes@gmail.com.

Thank you for reading!

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Un o Ystumtuen ger Ponterwyd yw Ruth a thirwedd mynyddig gogledd Ceredigion a'i arfordir yn ysbrydoliaeth i'w gwaith. Tecstilïau oedd ei chariad cyntaf a chwiltiau lliwgar ei nain yn rhan annatod o'r cariad hwnnw. Dyna'i phwnc yn y coleg ond daeth tro ar fyd ar ôl teithio yn yr India a de-ddwyrain Asia i ymchwilio i liw a thecstilïau. Roedd wedi darganfod gwydr ac ers pum mlynedd ar hugain bellach dyna ei harbenigedd.

Mae gweld golau yn dod trwy wydr lliw yn rhoi gwefr iddi a cheisio dal y wefr honno a wna wrth lunio bowlenni a fasys lle mae'r lliwiau amrywiol yn ymdoddi'n naturiol i'w gilydd fel yn ein tirwedd. Ond tu cefn i'w chreadigaethau y mae wythnosau a misoedd o waith ymchwil i ddarganfod sut y mai gwydr twym yn ymestyn o dan ddylanwad disgyrchiant mewn odyr. Wrth greu y mae Ruth yn ymasio haenau o stibedi gwydr i greu un haen cyn ei dorri a'i sgleinio a'i sgwrio â thywod. Mae pob darn terfynol wedyn yn dal hanfod y tirlun a'i ysbrydolodd.

Gan gadw'i golwg a'r gynladwyedd mae Ruth yn sicrhau bod unrhyw wydr wast o'r broses yn cael ei ail-



ddefnyddio i greu darn arall.

Enillodd wobrau lu gan gynnwys un o wobrau y British Glass Biennale yn 2015 a'r People's Prize for Contemporary Glass. Y mae'n arddangos a gwerthu ei chreadigaethau yn siop Crefftau yn y Bae ac Oriol Makers Penylan.

'Rydym yn croesawu unrhyw siaradwr newydd Cymraeg i' n cyfarfod nos Fercher, Ebrill 1af am 7.30pm pan fydd gennym noson o adloniant. Croeso i bawb - dynion a merched!

Bydd cyfarfod mis Mai hefyd yn agored i bawb, gan ei fod yn rhan o Wyl Radur. Y siaradwr fydd Arwel Ellis Owen, a fu'n Olygydd Newyddion a Materion Cyfoes BBC Cymru a

hefyd yn Bennaeth Rhaglenni'r BBC yng Ngogledd Iwerddon. Edrychwn ymlaen at wrando ar ei sgwrs "O Valparaiso i Vladivostok" nos Fercher, Mai 6ed am 7.30 pm. Cynhelir y ddau gyfarfod yn Ysgoldy Eglwys Crist (New Church Rooms) Dewch yn llw!

Geirfa

- gwydr - glass
- ysbrydoliaeth - inspiration
- tirwedd - landscape
- arfordir - coastline
- chwiltiau lliwgar - colourful quilts
- ymchwilio - to research
- gwydr lliw - coloured glass
- gwobrau - awards
- arddangos - to exhibit

Replacement Local Development Plan update

Angela Gray, Chair of Radyr & Morganstown Local Development Group

We are now approaching the last stages of Cardiff Council's adoption of a new (Replacement) Local Development Plan, which is scheduled to run from 2021-2036.

The Radyr and Morganstown Local Development Group (RMLDG) has seen the final version of the plan, agreed by Cardiff Council and submitted to Welsh Government.

We are pleased to report that it is in line with all the discussions we had with Cardiff Council including a

rejection of proposals to allocate further land for development in north west Cardiff.

The next stage - an examination of the Plan by Welsh Government Inspectors in a series of hearings - has been scheduled to start on 9th June.

This will provide an opportunity for those who have objected to the Plan to present their arguments.

We know that developers wish to see further land allocated for housing in our ward and on our boundaries and the RMLDG will be attending the hearings to argue against this.

A Pre-Hearing Meeting is being held on 24 March and we shall know more then and will update our webpage accordingly: <https://radyr.org.uk/clubs/rmldgroup/>



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What it is like being a teenager in the local area

by Noah Richards

Do you remember your teenage years? Or are you a teenager yourself right now? Growing up in Radyr has a lot of positives for teenagers like myself and many others. For example, there is a strong community feel, plenty of local clubs such as Radyr Rangers football club and the cricket club. Growing up in such an amazing town can feel friendly and welcoming with events such as Christmas events and much more. This can really help young people and people who are older get a strong community feel and really love where they live. I know I do! Furthermore, studying at the

local schools such as Radyr Comprehensive School gives many opportunities. This is proven by the recent results by Radyr Comprehensive School (from 2023) which show 74% to 77% of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades (including English/Maths)

Moreover, being a teenager today has similarities with every era of teenagers! Both teenagers today and teenagers from 50 years ago have used music, fashion, and even slang to show their likes and their identity!

I asked my friend who lives in Radyr about how he feels about living in Radyr, and he

said that he loves how it is so quiet and how it is quite small yet still has such as amazing feel to it and really showed his appreciation for the town and how friendly the community is.

In summary, growing up in the local community can really support you in your teens with clubs, social clubs and much more, this can give young people a real sense of community and help them feel welcome in this amazing town.

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Radyr & Morganstown Local History Society

by Martin Coysh

Do you think history is just about dusty old Kings and Queens?

Well, we don't, so we have devised a full programme of speakers and visits to explore many aspects of life.

We usually meet monthly at 7:30pm, in Radyr Methodist Church, a warm and comfortable venue in the centre of our village. There, speakers deliver presentations on a wide range of subjects.

By the time you read this we will already have had our Annual General Meeting where Allan Cook will have

spoken on the 'Parish of Radyr'. Then in March, Keith Moger will have spoken on 'Hospital Administration'.

If anything in our programme interests you, please just come along, or better still, contact me so that I can keep you up to date with our events. Membership fees are nominal and you are very welcome to attend any of our meetings as a non-member. Our programme currently reads as follows:

On Thursday 16th April, Geoff Henderson will speak on laying the first transatlantic cable.

On Sunday 3rd May, there will

be a guided walk at Cathays Cemetery which will form part of the Radyr Festival.

On Thursday 11th June we hope to organise a trip to Llancaiach Fawr but this is dependent on them having reopened by then. Alternatively, we may go to Caerphilly Castle or Cyfarthfa Castle.

On Thursday 17th September we intend to organise a coach trip to Hereford Cathedral.

If any of this interest you, please contact me on martincoysh@outlook.com or 07586414171

R&M Litter Pickers

A dog poo crisis?

by Peter Fortune

If you find the recent photograph below of the litter bin at the end of Sycamore Tree Close acceptable then you have a different set of values than mine. This is not an isolated example either; on many occasions in the last few months a number of bins in Radyr have been overflowing with stinking bags of dog poo, for example next to the Guide Hall. Not pleasant for anyone.

Why do you do this? Could you take the bag to the next bin or maybe even take it home with you? Even worse, why do

some dog owners hang the bags of dog poo off branches of trees on Pant Tawel Lane, leave them in the field or hang them from the gate to the field? Is there a dog poo fairy that my mother didn't tell me about?

Thank you for using poo bags but please place them in a bin which isn't full or take them home. Thank you.

Your Litter Pickers continue to do other things as well as getting worked up about dog poo! Our more than 40 volunteers go out individually and we meet as a group once a month. Dates of our Group



Picks are in the Chain Diary section. We are a social group and meet after every pick in the Hub for tea and coffee (thank you Radyr Hub!) and have an annual dinner.

Come and join us, we provide all the necessary kit. Contact us on rmlitterpickers@gmail.com

R&M Litter Pickers is supported by Cardiff Council, Radyr & Morganstown Community Council and MGY Estate Agents



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St John Ambulance Cymru

Radyr Division



St John Ambulance Cymru is the first aid charity for Wales, supporting communities across the country since 1918. Our mission is to enable every community to learn first aid and healthcare skills.

We are extremely grateful to the Radyr and Morganstown Association, who selected St John Ambulance Cymru Radyr Division as their 2025 Charity of the Year for the Radyr and Morganstown Festival. Thanks to the incredible generosity of residents, supporters, and everyone who made the festival possible, the festival raised £5,873.63 for our charity. These funds will help St John Ambulance Cymru continue its vital, lifesaving work in the local community and throughout Wales.

Every year, St John volunteers provide medical cover at around 1,000 public events. These range from major occasions at the Principality

Stadium, such as Oasis concerts and Six Nations matches, to our cherished community events including the Concert in the Park which forms part of the Radyr and Morganstown festivities. This year is already shaping up to be another busy one as we continue to support events across Wales.

Our Radyr Division has also been active within the local community, delivering Community First Aid Awareness Courses. We recently visited the Radyr and Morganstown Women's Institute and held an open session at the Old Church Rooms as part of our organisation's Defibruary campaign, which ran throughout February to promote the lifesaving importance of CPR and defibrillator skills.

Across Wales, there are now more than 8,500 publicly

accessible defibrillators. Yet recent research shows that only 25% of people have been trained to use them, and they were used in just 8% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. Thanks to our volunteers, St John Ambulance Cymru has directly helped save four lives in 2025 through CPR and defibrillator use demonstrating the vital difference between a life saved and a life lost.

St John Ambulance Cymru is always looking for new volunteers. If you're seeking a new challenge or hoping to give something back to your community, why not join us? We offer youth programmes for ages 5-18, and adult volunteering from 18+. There are many ways to get involved: train as a first aider and support public events, assist our logistics and fundraising teams, or help mentor young people as they develop essential life skills.

If you would like to know more about St John Ambulance Cymru or if you are interested in joining the Radyr Division, which meets on Tuesday evenings at the Old Church Rooms please visit sjacymru.org.uk.



Change, uncertainty, stress

by Helen Lloyd Jones

I sit here at my computer and behind this window, I can see the BBC News page for today, Sunday 1st March St David's Day. It doesn't make for good reading.

What, I wonder, will the world be dealing with come the day you read this article. Will the war between America, Israel and Iran be over? Will there be a quasi-peace in the Middle East? How much will it have affected us?

I have forgotten the name of the surgeon at Neath General Hospital (and that will date me) who sorted out some of my problems. He was an Iranian. He was such a kind, intelligent man. Did he have family still in Iran? Will they be alright?

It changes, doesn't it when you know people? When you have friends in places all over the world, it doesn't take you long to work out that what the vast majority of us want is to be able to bring our children up in a world that is safe, we want to be able to feed them, to clothe them, to give them an education. We want to see them find a partner and if we were honest, most of us hope we will be blessed with grandchildren who can also be fed and clothed and grow up in safety.

I was at an Iftar this week. Muslims have a moveable month called Ramadan when they fast from dawn to dusk. Iftar is the meal they eat to break their fast. They were talking about

building communities and knowing their neighbours.

Knowing your neighbours, knowing your community resonates with me. As a child, I used to go selling raffle tickets to every house in the village. Many of them, I would simply knock on the back door, "Any one at home?" I'd call and gently push the door open and enter the kitchen. It was what we did. The village knew who I was and I knew who they were.

Speak to local Radyr and Morganstown residents in their eighties and they will tell you they knew nearly everyone.

But I write this knowing that someone has posted on social media inciting our teenagers to be violent with other teenagers in Cardiff. I know too that what can be done to make this attempt a damp squib has been done. I am full of admiration for all the professionals who are working together to keep our youngsters safe.

To all of you in our community who are bringing up children, do make sure your children understand the dangers of social media and help them to identify what is good and what is bad. Parents matter.

I was going to talk about change and the elections for the Senedd in May and how much respect I have for the candidates in the Labour party in our constituency. Cardiff is so vibrant compared with many other cities in Britain. Our Labour group has been

implementing good policies, that are future proofing our children's futures. Here we've seen the Drivers Way playground, the all-weather football pitch at Radyr Comp, reduction on flooding on our main road, and Cardiff Youth Services are now more engaged with our young people. And yippee! We've got an extra bus service. Hurray!

St David advocated we do the "little things", to keep the faith and to be joyful. One of the little things we can do, is know our neighbours and look out for them. Say "hello", ask them how they are, make happiness links. Keep building a safe community for us all.



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Radyr's Railway Society

Many of you will already know that Radyr has its own railway society - the South Wales Branch of the Railway Correspondence and Travel Society (RCTS). We meet on the second Wednesday evening of each month in the Old Church Rooms and our meetings include talks on every aspect of railways - modern and historic, steam, diesel and electric, home and abroad.

Recent talks have included The Rolling Stock Strategy of Transport for Wales - with details of our new trains here in Radyr, The History of the Barry Railway, A Selection of Images from Railways

in South Wales from 1960, The Inside Story of the Great Train Robbery and Images of Trains in North America.

We also organise outings and walks and our July meeting is always a Social Evening with a quiz and an opportunity to meet and chat to other fellow enthusiasts. Each meeting includes a break for tea and coffee, the price of which is included in the £3 entrance as well as an opportunity to buy a reasonably priced Kit Kat.

Our future meetings are in the diary on page 3, or contact our Secretary - phillip.stallard1@outlook.com Just come along, you'll be made very welcome.

Friends of Tenovus



TENOVUS is a charity raising funds for cancer care in Wales.

The Radyr and Morganstown Friends of TENOVUS celebrated their 40th anniversary of fundraising in October 2025, as seen in the photograph. It was a fantastic evening with entertainment provided by rugby legend Rupert Moon and Britain's

Got Talent star Jamie Pugh.

Upcoming fundraising events include the well established TENOVUS quiz held during the Radyr and Morganstown Festival.

Come along for a light hearted, fun filled evening and enjoy a quiz, raffle, bar and light refreshments.

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Tickets can be obtained via RMA Festival booking.

The next bag collection, at Radyr Guide Hall, takes place on Wednesday 20th May 2026 from noon to 2pm. This is a great reason and motivator for a Spring clear out. Fill bags with clothes, books, bric a brac and small electrical goods.

Friends of TENOVUS will be at the Festival Fete and would appreciate your support. Please come and say "hello" to us.

For further information about any aspect of Radyr and Morganstown Friends of TENOVUS, please contact Rosanne Holmes 02920 401872.

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Radyr and Morganstown Festival 2026

by David Silver, Chair of Festival Committee

This year's May Festival commences on Saturday 2nd May with the Festival Fete being held in the grounds of Radyr Primary School. As usual there will be a licensed bar and a BBQ. There will be performances by the local primary schools, maybe even maypole dancing. We will have a variety of stalls and anyone wanting one should contact Rich Wales on fete@rmfestival.org.uk.

Our charity this year is the City Hospice, based in the grounds of Whitchurch Hospital.

Before the festival gets going, there will be three performances of Alan Ayckbourn's "Round and Round the Garden" by the Radyr Drama Society at Morganstown Village Hall from 22nd -24th April.

This year, for the first time since 2018, we have an art exhibition by a variety of local artists in the Methodist Church between 2nd and 4th May. On Tuesday 5th May there will be a Gardener's Question Time to be held in Pugh's Garden Centre with all proceeds going to the charity.

During the first week of the Festival we also have our regular Festival Walk, Civic Service, Taster sessions at the Tennis Club, Story and Rhyme time in the Hub, Welsh Night, Wine and Cheese evening, Tenovus

Quiz and our Jazz Night.

The middle Saturday, the 9th, sees our regular and extremely popular Party in the Park starting at noon and going through to 6pm. This will feature a range of local bands and a performance from Sally's Angels and end with a set from the Radyrcals. There will be a licensed bar which will include Real Ale and a gin bar. The BBQ will be going all day to keep everyone's energy levels up.

On Sunday there will be a Gymanfa Ganu in Christ Church, the return of an event not held for several years.

In the second week we have more regular events, a Beetle Drive, a talk on the Barry Railway, a second Welsh Night, an Alzheimer's Society coffee morning, a Boozy Bards evening, a lunchtime concert in Christ Church and a Science with a Pint evening.

Saturday 16th May sees the Hub hosting two performances of Dinosaur Explorers by Louby Lou for the very young. It also marks the return of the Val Allen Dog Show and Family Games. On Sunday 17th we have the final event of the fortnight with a charity concert for the City Hospice performed by Cor Caerdydd.

We believe there is something for everyone in this programme with a mix of new and regular events. Tickets for all events will be available from our Box



Office at Michael Graham Young in Station Rd. and online from the Festival Website www.rmfestival.org.uk We will also be selling tickets at all main events.

A full Festival Programme is included in this edition of the Chain along with a book of raffle tickets. Please purchase these as all monies from the raffle go directly to the charity. Raffle tickets can be returned to the box office, to any of the RMA committee, Allan Cook, or to an organiser at any of the events. There will be more details of all events on the Festival Website www.rmfestival.org.uk.

We look forward to seeing you during the Festival. If you have any questions please contact us on info@rmfestival.org.uk.



Singing for City Hospice

Festival opening night concert



7.30pm on Saturday 2nd May at Christ Church, Radyr

Following their success performing at the Festival in previous years, Castell Coch Choral Society under the baton of Linda Morgan, Musical Director and highly regarded Accompanist John Wickett together with guest soloists will provide us with a memorable evening of classical/choral and popular music for the opening night of the Radyr and Morganstown Festival and our chosen charity City Hospice.

The bar will be open from 6.45pm, and interval refreshments will be available.

Tickets are £12 and available to be purchased from the MGY Festival Box Office or Sue Thomas (02920 310 894).



City Hospice

Based in the grounds of Whitchurch Hospital, City Hospice cares for patients across Cardiff, helping to manage symptoms whilst offering support to families.

City Hospice is not a bedded unit. Instead patients are cared for at home by their dedicated team of excellent professionals.

The services and care offered also include a vibrant day centre offering hydrotherapy and sensory rooms along with aromatherapy and support for bereaved relatives.

They work alongside Ty Hafan supporting young adults offering palliative care together with support for their families.



Probus Club of Cardiff West

By Barry Clarke

Like you, we're looking forward to enjoying this Spring.

And we're looking forward to the upcoming Probus day trips away too - the accompanying photo shows some of us on a recent trip to the SS Great Britain in Bristol.

A quick poll of our members suggested that most of them had not been told much about Welsh history when they were in school - how different to today, as the Welsh Government has mandated Welsh history as a school curriculum subject in Wales 3 years ago.

But, amongst what we've heard from the speakers, singers and performers who have come along to entertain us each month at our club, we've had some amazing stories and bits of Welsh history told to us at our Probus meetings recently.

One talk was about an unusual Glamorgan man called 'Iolo Morgannwg'. He (according to the BBC) was responsible for setting up the renowned Welsh "Gorsedd of the Bards".

But, the Gorsedd was established by him in Primrose Hill in London (instead of Wales) in 1792. Of course, the idea of having one was so liked in Wales that it has been adopted here with great enthusiasm (as anyone who goes to the National Eisteddfod will tell you).

Another of those talks was about the unusual Morgan



family who lived in Tredegar House near Newport. The family is described by the National Trust as 'Welsh, wealthy and wild,' and elsewhere it is said that another part of the family included the pirate Captain Sir Henry Morgan. Some say there was one Lady Morgan who was apparently brilliant at showing off Welsh culture for the delight of visitors from elsewhere, including team demonstrations of old and new traditional fun Welsh folk dances, and was believed to be partly responsible for a revival of folk dancing in South Wales. This was a family with many stories both true and otherwise.

Our programme is wonderfully varied, and it has to be for our enjoyment.

As we meet in the daytime, our members tend to be retired, or semi-retired, working from home, or are working part-time.

If you want to know what we're likely to be doing next, you can also find our updated programme on the Coming Events section of your Radyr

& Morganstown community website at <https://radyr.org.uk>, as well on the Events Summary shown on <https://radyr.org.uk/events-summary>

Our men's Radyr Probus club (which is formally called the "Probus Club of Cardiff West") welcomes new members and meets on the first Thursday morning of each month at Radyr Golf Club to hear entertaining speakers, as well as other times when we go away on trips (including those open to wives and family).

If you think you'd like to join our men's club, you are very welcome to come along to find out more.

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Thank you from the Alzheimer's Society



Together we have raised over £100,000 for the Alzheimer's Society.

In 2018 the Radyr and Morganstown festival committee selected the Alzheimer's Society as its chosen charity for the annual festival. One of the requirements was that the Society establish a local group that seeks to raise funds for those living with dementia. This challenge was accepted by the Society and an embryonic group was formed. That year £18,000 was donated to the society as a result of the various activities and events at the summer festival.

In practice we understand that over 30% of the population will eventually contract one of the many forms of dementia and we are therefore continually encouraged to seek funds that may address the impacts of the disease. It is often considered as a condition that affects older people, but we have individuals in our local community that were first diagnosed in their early 50's and sadly there

are other individuals who experience symptoms at an even younger age.

Roll the clock forward from 2018 to 2025 and the Radyr and Morganstown Alzheimer's fundraising group still exists and is now strengthened by new members, all dedicated to raising further funds for those living with memory loss in our communities and to fund much needed research to seek to find a cure for this challenging disease.

We have now raised over £100,000 which has been passed to the Alzheimer's Society. This has only been achieved by the considerable support of the community of Radyr and Morganstown in supporting our events. These have included concerts, beetle drives, coffee mornings, raffles, craft stalls, tombola's, bucket collections as well as support from the local schools, Tesco, Co-op and the Blakemore foundation.

This photo was taken at our recent coffee morning where the symbolic cheque for £100,000 was presented

to Charlie Sloper of the Alzheimer's Society.

We remain committed to developing our events programme and we are so grateful to those in the community who continue to support us. Our next activities will be a stall serving teas and coffees at the Festival Fete on 2nd May and a coffee morning in Radyr Golf Club at 10.30 on Thursday 14th May. Our 'crafters' are preparing for a stall at the Insole Court dog show in August and plans are underway for a Christmas coffee morning in November - further details in the next issue. In the meantime, we are always grateful for jewellery of any description - gold, silver or costume. Please drop any items in to Pat at 25 Drovers Way or Gaynor at 5 Bryncoed.

If this is a cause close to your heart and you would like to make a difference by helping us in our fundraising, please contact Mark (07713 684088) or Gaynor (07769 704247) or any of the committee.



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Christmas Panto Reviews



by Allan Cook

A Christmas Carol

At the end of November the Radyr Drama Society performed Dickens A CHRISTMAS CAROL in a version by Patrick Barlow.

Over the past few years the Drama Society has developed a liking for performing "epic" plays with casts of four and five. I particularly remember a hilarious Ben Hur with five actors and a supermarket trolley for a chariot.

This version of A Christmas Carol was in the same vein with a cast of five. A cast of five with four "Extras", many of whom had lines, and the Morganstown stage seemed more than adequately filled.

The adaptor, Patrick Barlow, tried to mix Dickens' horror story with comedy, not a mixture that always works. The comedy depended largely on the fact that "Tiny Tim" was the tallest actor on the stage and his attempts to be "tiny" including

allowed the director, Peter Stickler, to move the many scenes at a cracking pace.

We look forward to the Radyr Drama Society's production of Alan Ayckbourn's hilarious comedy Round and Round the Garden, which can be seen in Morganstown Village Hall between the 22nd and 24th of April.

walking on his knees; and a bed that was vertical.

The play was always at its best when Dickens was allowed to speak for himself and this brought out some excellent performances particularly Tony Allan as Scrooge and Phil Sage who performed a long list of parts including Tiny Tim. Jonathan Wheeler, Melanie McLeod and Kate Levy managed to jump from character to character with great success.

As usual the cast was supported by the excellent backstage crew. Set and lighting by Dave Burgess and sound by Tony Watson and Martin Blackburn

The Little Mermaid

In December the Community Council brought a professional production of Hans Christian Anderson's THE LITTLE MERMAID to Morganstown Village Hall. This was the first time I'd seen The Little Mermaid performed as a Panto, although it seemed a popular choice at many venues throughout the UK.

Once again a small cast worked their socks off to fill the stage with colour and life to the delight of the sell-out audience of more than a hundred. I am told that they will return in December 2026 with Peter Pan.



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Radyr Drama Society Spring Production

by Phil Sage, Director

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Set in the seemingly peaceful surroundings of a suburban garden, Ayckbourn’s characters orbit one another with wit, warmth

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By Alan Ayckbourn

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Radyr Primary School

As a school we would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Rod Mckerlich for his many years of service, both to our school as a governor as well as his work at Radyr Comprehensive.

Our governor meeting this term was the last meeting Rod will attend, as he moves away from the area. He has worked with the governing body of the school as chair of governors, chair of finance and in various different roles for over 20 years and his service, support and challenge have been invaluable to the school.

He has worked tirelessly to support the many pupils and their families who have attended Radyr Primary over the last 20 years.

It is testament to Rod's persistence that he was instrumental in enabling Radyr Primary to both open a nursery provision and move to a two form entry school in recent years which has benefitted many families in the community.

From everyone who has benefitted from your support across the years and as a school and community we thank you and wish you and Sue all the best for your move.

The following reports have been written by year 6 pupils about what they have done over the course of the last term.

Girls football tournament

By Emily H

In January, 9 girls from Year 5 and 6 went to Ocean Park to play in a 5 a side tournament. It was a really enjoyable day of football and after 6 hard games we won 5 games and drew one. As a result, we qualified for the next round in March. We are really looking forward to challenging ourselves again against some of the best teams from around Cardiff and the Vale.

Boys football

By Monty

In our school we are very lucky to have a football club. There is a boys and a girls football club. Last month, we had a tournament playing against other teams in the Cardiff area. We played 5 tough games and came first out of our group. We are now through to the next round in which we will be playing all the teams that qualified in the first round. It will be tough and challenging because all the teams play to a high standard. The next round is in March, and if we qualify, we go through to a next round, which will be three hours away from Radyr. I think we will do very well because we are a very resilient school and this will help both the girls and boys teams when the going gets tough. We are very grateful to our teacher volunteers who take their own time out of their evening to coach us. Diolch.

Boys rugby tag tournament

By Nate

In late January we played a rugby tag tournament at Cardiff Met sports facility. We played 5 games against 5 tough teams. We have a range of excellent players. Some are experienced players, players who hadn't played in years and some players who were entirely new to the game. All players played well and contributed. Our one team won all 5 games and the other won 4 games and drew 1. We were all delighted with the result but more importantly, we all enjoyed the experience.



Eisteddfod

By Monty

Each year in Radyr Primary school, we have an Eisteddfod that is action packed and always great fun. The Eisteddfod is a historic Welsh competition that has a tradition of celebrating the arts in Wales. Our Radyr Eisteddfod offers opportunities to compete in dancing, singing, craft, home tasks, art, writing

and in Year 6 we have an opportunity to write a poem and win the Charing of the Bard competition. We all love the Eisteddfod because it's fun and you get to compete in so many different competitions. It's also a great opportunity to learn new skills and push ourselves out of our comfort zone. The winner of the bard this year was Sophie Cottrell in green house. It was a double celebration for her as her house, Ty Gwyrdd, narrowly beat Ty Glas to win the overall Eisteddfod by 1 point.

Poet Laureate, Sion Owen

By Emily

In early January a poet called Sion Owen (Poet Laureate for children in Wales) came into year 6 to teach us how he writes poems. In year 6 we compete for the chair by writing a Welsh themed poem so he taught us some poem skills that came in handy. He was also very clever and came up with lots of fun things to do to help us write our poems. Everyone enjoyed the learning opportunity and had a great time! Our poems were all awesome. Mr Thomas had a difficult time judging them. As mentioned earlier, Sophie was the winner of the Bard competition. Llongyfarchiadau Sophie!

Cycling

By Nate

In early March both year 6 classes completed their cycling proficiency. We had an amazing experience and learnt lots of new skills to

help improve our cycling skills and keep us safe when cycling on the road. We now know how to indicate, brake correctly and cycle safely on the road. This was a great life skill to learn, and we all thoroughly enjoyed it!

The National Museum

By Emily

In January, all the pupils from year 6 went to the national museum in Cardiff as we wanted inspiration to create 3 new printed banners for our Eisteddfod houses.

There was an art workshop in the gallery which was very interesting as the person explained about each piece of art. It was also a very good learning experience as year 6 has been experimenting with various art forms this term. We learned a lot about different types of art that were popular that year and some art that could help and inspire us with our print ideas for a Welsh themed banner!



Footloose

By Emily

As part of our transition, children from Year 6 went up to Radyr Comprehensive school to watch Footloose with other feeder schools from around the area. The show was awesome and lasted about an hour and a half with an interval. Everyone really enjoyed it and had a great time, the actors were brilliant and it inspired a lot of the year 6 pupils to join drama when we go to comprehensive school or join in with the expressive arts production of Lion King this year. We can't wait.

Snowdrops

Our Eco Parliament went out around Radyr this week, planting snowdrops that I am sure you will see on Drysgol Road. The bulbs are donated from the community council and children love planting them to brighten our community and watch them grow. Keep your eyes peeled for first signs of growth.

Radyr Methodist Church: Water



by Rev. Judith Holliman

One of the groups that meets under the umbrella of Radyr Methodist Church is "And breathe..." This is a group of adults who are interested in talking about spirituality and how they find their own places of peace in nature.

We met recently to talk about water. We were beautifully led by Sarah who reminded us that a holy well was reputed to exist within Radyr Woods at some point from the 10th Century onwards. Sarah also told us of St Cadog, head of the Celtic church enclosure at Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan, in around 530 AD.

The story of St Cadog makes reference, along with other early writings, to the curative spring near St John's Church, Danescourt. This was known as a Holy Well, called Pistill y Goleu ('bright water spout'). In the last century, a spring site was identified approx. 600m. north of the church. It's now almost lost in the undergrowth but there does appear to be a place where the Taff could be forded. It's said this was also the site of the cell where a hermit settled.

This is the most favoured explanation for the early name of Radyr - Aradur - Oratorium (Latin) or House of Prayer (Source: 'Twixt Chain and Gorge', published by the New Horizons History Group in 1991, full text available on the Radyr & Morganstown Community website, radyr.org.uk).

We then had a very enjoyable half hour or so tasting different water including Cardiff tap water, Buxton Spring Water and Evian. It was interesting how different water appealed to different people.

We were fortunate that Rev Judith's husband Peter joined us to talk about why the water tasted differently and how long it takes to filter through the rocks on different sites.

We also discussed the problem of collecting rainfall when we are not sure what it has passed through, for example in Delhi that rain would be extremely unhealthy, we also talked about the speed in which the water in London passes through the whole system and back into the drinking water again.

It was good to share together, we always find ourselves learning something new and truly enjoy sharing our time together.



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Diary of a Conclave (part two)

by Rhodri Lewis

We get to the roof, and tumble out of the lift. On one side of the small studio the BBC News Channel is on air. Everything is calm, but on the other side of the camera, with a few short minutes to air, it is CHAOS!

People are running around, plugging wires into equipment. One member of the tech team pins a microphone to my lapel, then another rips it off and gets a different one.

At one point, Sam the cameraman, who like the rest of us is sweating at this point, hands me his phone and says "tell them 301!".

"301 what?", I say.

"JUST 301!" he shouts.

Someone in Cardiff answers the phone, I say the magic words, they say "thanks" and I hang up.

We get vision, then more panic - "Cardiff say they can't hear us!" It's 2 minutes to air, and we have nothing.

Then suddenly they can, all our problems fall away and we're on air.

We look happy and composed, but we are not. The beer I demolished after coming off air never tasted so good!

Before leaving for home the following day, I zip across Rome to see my Auntie Pauline, who's lived here for more than 60 years. I arrive at her apartment, press the bell, and I'm buzzed in. Pauline lives



on the first floor. She's sitting in an armchair, with "Doctor Zhivago" on the telly. There are hugs, there is joy, there is huge delight that one of her Welsh family has come to visit.

Pauline was born in Swansea and lived there until she went to Italy as a young woman. She was injured in an accident, taken to hospital, and ended up marrying the man who treated her, my late Uncle Alberto. She settled in Rome, raising their three daughters.

Vicky her daughter, comes in clutching a bottle of champagne. She stops in the doorway, her face falls, and she looks at me closely; "You're not one of those, um..." she leans in and whispers, as if about to ask something scandalous, "...non-drinkers, are you, darling?". I say I like a drink, she beams and the party continues.

Then the talking begins, where I realise once again, that while we Welsh are excellent talkers, the Italians definitely hold the gold medal. News of husbands,

wives, children whizzes past at a blinding pace!

Eventually we talk about the man who isn't there, Alberto. He was an eminent surgeon, and a Knight of the Holy See, honoured by the Church after serving as a personal doctor to the Pontiff for many years. She leans over and her hand clutches my wrist, "He saved Pope John Paul's LIFE, you know!", where I think she's referring to the assassination attempt in 1981.

We drink toasts to Alberto, to Italy, to Wales, to the new Pope and to family, and then it's time to go, back to the hotel, to the airport and home.

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

He attended the Papal Conclave in Rome last year and wrote a two-part diary for the Chain. Part one was printed in our last edition in December 2025.

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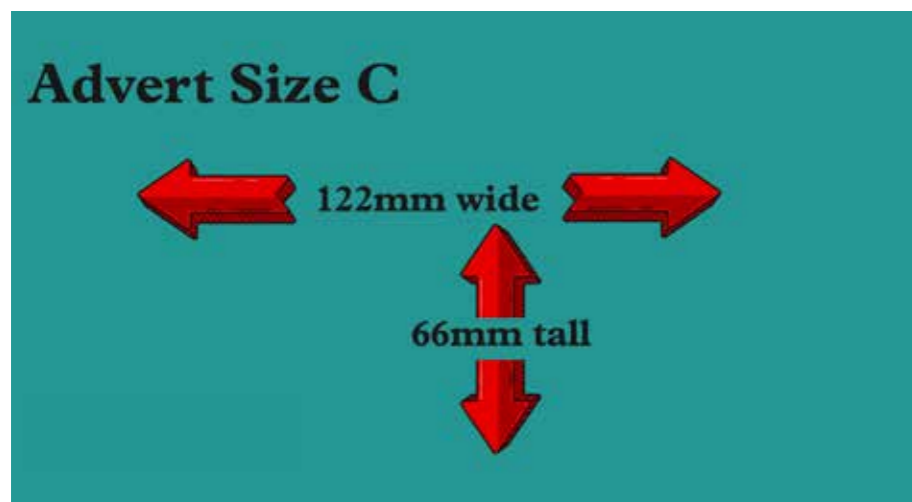
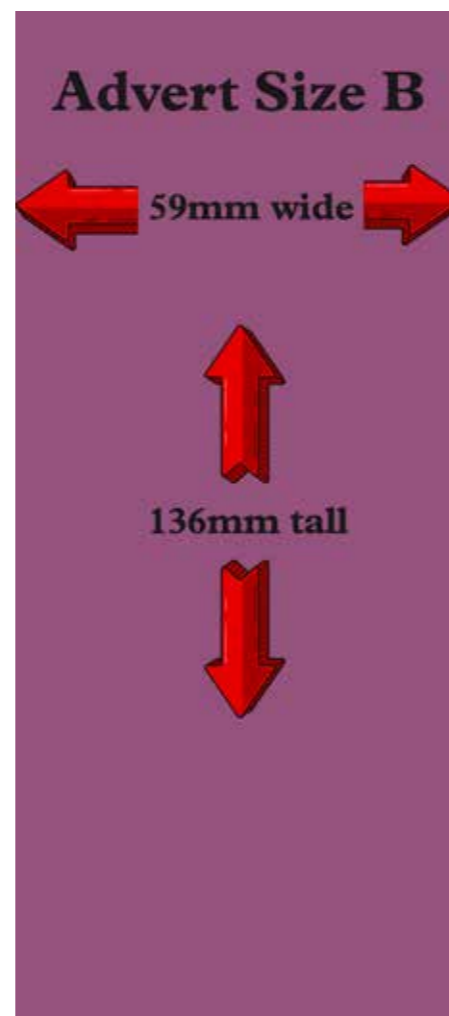
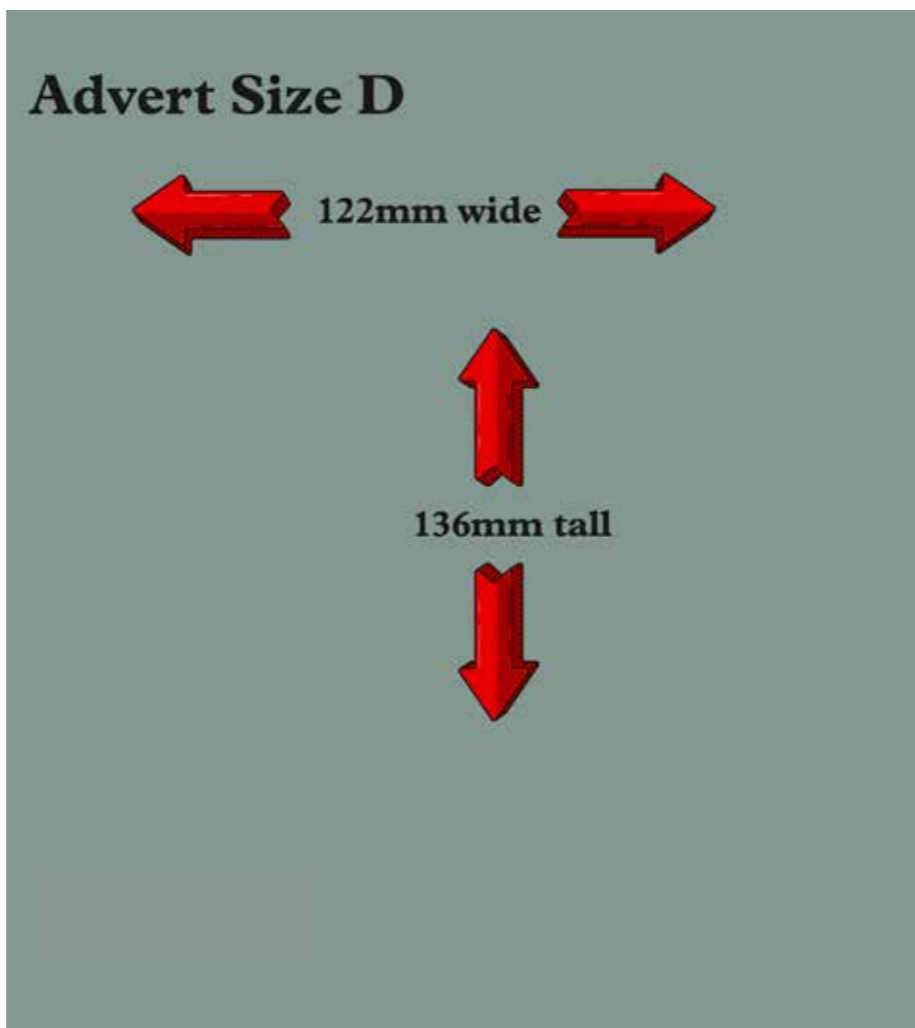
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Advertisers are responsible for producing their own printready artwork for initial publication. If updates are required then revised print-ready artwork must be supplied by the copy deadline for each subsequent issue.

Advertising is currently invoiced on a per-issue basis in arrears.



Radyr Rangers FC calls for volunteers to support our growing community club

With Radyr Rangers celebrating its 20th anniversary, it would be easy to simply look back and see quite how far the club has grown since fielding its first local youngsters at the Mound Field. However, the story of the club in recent times has been one of looking-forwards, with ambitions to continue to develop the provision of local grass-roots football for the community of Radyr & Morganstown.

Highlights from the past couple of years have included welcoming girls' teams to the Radyr Rangers fold, forging strong links with Radyr Comprehensive and the Football Association of Wales (FAW) to help deliver the marvellous 3G astroturf facility at the school, and our senior men going from strength to strength. And we are not resting on our laurels now; with more teams, more young players (nearly 500 players), and more community involvement than ever before, the Club relies on the dedication of local people willing to give a little of their time for a big community impact.

It is in this spirit that we are calling for more local volunteers to help support the entirely volunteer-run club in the next phase of its development. Volunteering with Radyr Rangers doesn't

require expert football knowledge or prior club experience - just plenty of enthusiasm, reliability, and a desire to help keep grassroots sport thriving for our local community.

Roles we'd love support with

Girls' Section Lead

This will be a key role focused on driving the development of our growing girls' section and supporting the current junior age group teams. It is a fantastic opportunity for someone passionate about girls football, and will help to shape the future of girls football both within our club and the local community.

The Mound Field Facilities & Pitch Manager

The Club have the opportunity to secure a preferential use agreement for the pitch area of the Mound field. We have also been working with Tfw, Cardiff Council and other parties to enhance facilities at the Mound in the near future. This includes exciting improvements to the changing rooms, fencing and storage. It would be wonderful to have someone to assist the Committee by coordinating the Club's input in this. Given the intent to take the preferential use agreement on the pitch, we will also need support in the procurement and operating equipment such as a

lawnmowing tractor and other grounds-keeping duties. So if you've mastered your lawn and are ready to take on the bigger challenge of keeping football pitches playable then we'd love to hear from you!

Why volunteer?

Grassroots sport thrives when communities get involved. Volunteering provides opportunities to:

- Support young people and encourage healthy lifestyles
- Build community connections and make the local area a great place to live
- Develop coaching or organisational skills
- Make a positive difference in local sport

Just an hour or two a week can have a lasting impact.

How to get involved

If you're interested in any of the roles, or if you'd simply like to find out more, the Club would love to hear from you. Volunteers make Radyr Rangers FC what it is, and your involvement could help shape the future of community football in our area.

If any of these roles spark your interest, or if you'd like to chat about what's involved, please get in touch at radyrrangerssecretary@outlook.com

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. We recently had a talk from Fauve Birch who was on the Sewing Bee programme. She brought



some of the clothes she made during the programme and attached is a photograph of Fauve with one of the dresses she made. It was a very good talk and we all enjoyed it.

We have several sub-groups, including two reading groups as well as a thriving Gardening Group which is growing in members. We also have a Meet up Monday at the Golf Club at the end of each month which give members a chance to have a social get together with refreshments and a chat. All these groups meet monthly.

Last year we visited many gardens including members gardens for plant swaps. We

also have coach trips which are further afield, lunches at local venues, as well as community events. In May, some of our members are going to the Malvern Spring Flower Show as well as visits to gardens.

In May, we will be having a stall at the Festival Fete and the charity for this year is City Hospice. We hope to see some of you there.

We have very interesting speakers coming to talk this year, so why don't you come and join us, our contact details are shown on the Radyr & Morganstown Community website and Facebook. You will have a warm welcome.

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speaking consistently of professionalism matched with compassion. Nervous patients describe being put at ease from the moment they walk in. Others recount lengthy implant journeys handled with patience, clarity and genuine care.

One patient called their experience "five-star from start to finish," praising both the clinical expertise and the kindness of the team. Another described their implant treatment as "life changing," restoring confidence as well as function. Parents have commented on the gentle support offered to anxious children, and many mention thoughtful follow-up calls that reinforce the feeling of being truly cared for.

When a local business receives national recognition, it's a moment the whole community can celebrate. That is certainly the case for the team at the South Wales Specialist Oral Surgery and Dental Implant Centre, who were recently named Best New Practice at the prestigious UK Private Dentistry Awards.

Since opening in 2023, this Cardiff-based specialist centre has built a reputation not only across South Wales, but increasingly on a national level, as a growing Centre of Excellence in oral healthcare.

A modern clinic with old-school values

Based at Ynysbridge Court, the practice is guided by three clear principles: Quality, Honesty and Service.

These values are not just part of the branding — they shape every patient interaction. The facilities are modern

and thoughtfully designed, with advanced imaging technology and purpose-built surgical suites, yet the atmosphere remains warm, calm and reassuring.

Led by Specialist Oral Surgeon and Clinical Director Mr Craig Mallorie, the multidisciplinary team includes oral surgeons, an oral medicine specialist, a maxillofacial surgeon and an award-winning restorative dental surgeon. Patients can be referred by their dentist or GP, or choose to attend directly. Services range from complex tooth extractions and dental implant rehabilitation to oral medicine, skin cancer removal and cosmetic eyelid enhancement procedures.

What patients say: care that changes lives

The strongest endorsement, however, comes from patients themselves. Google and website reviews

Rooted in community, known nationally

While the recognition is national, the heart of the practice remains firmly local. Families in Radyr and neighbouring communities now have access to specialist care of the highest standard, close to home.

As the Centre approaches its second anniversary, it stands as something we can all take pride in — proof that World-Class care, delivered with integrity and humanity, thrives right here in South Wales.



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Bryn Deri football teams shine on the big stage



The football season at Bryn Deri Primary School has been nothing short of extraordinary, with both the girls' and boys' teams achieving remarkable success and making the entire school community incredibly proud. As always, Bryn Deri celebrates every child who takes part in sport—win or lose—because stepping onto the pitch, showing courage, and giving your best truly makes you a champion in our eyes.

Girls' Team Crowned Cardiff Champions

Last term, our talented girls' football team competed in a highly competitive Cardiff-wide schools' tournament. Showing exceptional skill, determination, and teamwork, they powered

their way through the competition—winning the entire tournament without conceding a single goal!

Their victory now means they will shortly be receiving their official Cardiff City Football Club kits and will go on to represent Cardiff City in Swindon, competing in a national tournament against other regional winners from across the UK. This is an incredible achievement and a testament not only to their footballing ability but also to their bravery, sportsmanship, and resilience.

Boys' Team Triumph in a NailBiting Final

In January, the Bryn Deri boys' team took to the pitch in the Cardiff City tournament and delivered a performance that will be

remembered for years. After a series of strong matches—also without conceding a single goal—they reached a dramatic and tense final.

The championship match came down to penalties, keeping parents glued to the online tracker and staff watching with hearts in mouths. Showing incredible composure, the boys secured the victory and were crowned Cardiff champions.

Their success also means they will represent Cardiff City Football Club later in the year in England, competing against teams representing professional football clubs from across the country. A tremendous honour for our players and our school.

A True Community Effort

These impressive achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of the pupils, the support of families, and the commitment of school staff. Bryn Deri extends a heartfelt thank you to the many coaches who have helped nurture these young athletes, both in school and throughout local football communities.

We are especially grateful to coaches from:

- Radyr Rangers
- Gwaelod Rangers

- Cardiff Met
- Rhydfelin
- Cardiff Schools Football
- ...and the many other brilliant regional coaches and volunteers

Your expertise, encouragement, and passion have played a vital role in shaping these players.

The support from grassroots clubs through to regional development pathways shows what a powerful community effort this truly is.

Thank You to Our Amazing Parents

A very special thank you must also go to our dedicated parents, who have stood loyally on the sidelines in the 'glorious' Welsh weather—often cold, wet, windy, or all three at once!

Your cheers, encouragement, and unwavering support mean the world to the children and to the school. You are very much part of this success story.

Looking Ahead

As our girls prepare for their national tournament in Swindon, and our boys look forward to representing Cardiff City in England later this year, we hope all our young footballers feel as proud of themselves as the school feels of them.

At Bryn Deri, success is not only measured in trophies, goals, or results—but in effort, teamwork, resilience, and the joy of playing.



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Well done, Bryn Deri footballers—you are an inspiration to us all!



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Learning Without Limits

A view from the boundary

By Christopher Hitchings

Those with good memories will remember that my last Chain article was written on the day of the club's 2025 AGM, where I was about to stand down as Chairman after twenty two years in office. An emotional hour or so followed that evening as the items on the Agenda were ticked off one by one, until the moment came for me to hand over the responsibility of my beloved RCC to my successor. Strangely all I had to do at that point was stand up, move towards the members and join the back benches. The new Chairman then took my seat and concluded proceedings for another year. So who is the new man: well his name is Jonathan Wilson, a former First XI skipper, who has Radyr Cricket Club running through his veins and apart from a few years away at University has always lived in the village. I wish him well and no doubt he will do things his own way and take the club to the next level: he has already put his stamp on proceedings and long may that continue. Ironically my predecessor all those years ago was his father John, another stalwart of Radyr and the club.

One of Jon's first acts, which I was delighted to accept, was to ask me to continue writing these articles once every four months and ensure continuity: so here is the first effort of a new regime. I must confess I don't think there will be much change to my ramblings, which will please most of

my readers though probably horrify those who think they are rubbish and had been delighted at my anticipated disappearance. I can see my critics, waiting to pounce on me the next time our paths cross, so a low profile it is for me over the next few months.

In November, along with twelve other members, I attended the League Dinner where the Fourth XI enjoyed the evening as runners up of Division 9. It was great to see Steve Sanders, the skipper, receiving the trophy from the distinguished guest speaker, Chris Broad, who even though he was a Test opener of some repute, is only really known to the younger generation, as the father of Stuart, one of Test Cricket's all time great fast bowlers. As usual Radyr was one of the clubs with the highest numbers of attendees and it was disappointing that fewer than half of the League's clubs were represented. It must be soul destroying trying to organise such an event and getting very little support.

With Christmas having flown by the new year brought the first social of the year. Often badgered as the start of the season the club had its annual Golf Club Luncheon, where some sixty members enjoyed a splendid meal, some wonderful conviviality and a magnificent quiz organised and compèred by Martin Lamb. Resplendent in a bright blue sequinned jacket he looked every bit like a modern day Bruce Forsyth. Clearly Martin had put a huge

amount of effort into making his part of the proceedings a success and I know that everybody who took part enjoyed it enormously. The only downside was for yours truly, when the Hitchings team after getting almost a full house in round one and strutting around like peacocks on heat, saw the second virtually screaming 'nil point' in my face. This family team included a Chartered Surveyor, an Oxford Graduate, a Lawyer, a Pensions Expert and two Engineers and didn't really live up to the billing and the initial promise. I think next year that my motivational speech should be kept to less than an hour!!!!

One of the highest accolades that the club can award a member is to make them a Life Vice President This honour is restricted by the Constitution of the club to ten individuals and they must have gone beyond the norm on behalf of RCC. At the Golf Club Luncheon two new LVPs were announced. The first one was my dear friend Peter Scott: a member for a very long time, someone who had captained a number of the sides, filled various offices including Safe Guarding and is today the First XI scorer. A man who has the most distinctive style of batting I've ever seen (something to do with a Hoover I believe) but who fully deserves this accolade. I know he was thrilled to bits with this acknowledgment of his time and efforts at the club: an inspired choice by the President and the members of the Management Board.

The second one was me and I must confess I was choked and flattered to be invited. To have been Chairman was a great honour but to be a LVP of my village club is something really special. I will forever be eternally grateful for this award.

Finally a bit of a sad ending. As two people become LVPs we have to say goodbye to two others, with the passing of Mick Sullivan (below, left) and Tony Butlin (below, right). Both contributed so much to the club, in their different ways, that their names will be forever synonymous with RCC. Both came from over the border, with Mick originating from the East Midlands and Tony from Yorkshire but both made Cardiff their home. They had a great love of all types of sport, especially cricket and



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would be seen most Saturday afternoons supporting the club. It was deeply moving to see the numbers of members who attended their respective funerals. The two photographs show Mick on his mobility scooter and Tony, how he always liked to be, in his Radyr training kit.

So the run in to the season has begun and by the time of my next article it will be almost half way through. If you fancy a try at the great game of cricket, whoever you are don't hesitate to pop down the club. Along Station Road, underneath the railway and onto the end of the drive. There you will find a place of endless possibilities, new friends and great fun. You can also contact the club via the website on www.radyrcc.co.uk

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Signs of Spring Wordsearch

Find the signs that Spring is coming hidden in the grid below - these might be changes that happen to the days, animals, insects or plants that we start to see again, or signs that nature is bursting back to life.

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

- Dawn Chorus
- Frogspawn
- Leaves
- Equinox
- Warmer
- Lighter
- Daffodils
- Bluebells
- Nesting
- Wild Garlic
- Bees
- Swallows

