

CHRISTMAS IN RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN



Traditionally the Community Council have erected two Christmas trees in the village to celebrate the festive season. This year in conjunction with the Association, three trees were erected, one at the Granny Park, Morganstown, the second at Windsor Gardens and the third at Lychgate Gardens, Radyr Sidings. Carol singing was organised at each of the trees with Bryn Deri School attending the lighting of the Morganstown tree, Radyr Primary School singing at Lychgate Gardens and both choirs with 400 village "choristers" singing around the tree in Windsor Gardens. The City of Cardiff (Melingriffith) training band provided the music prior to the lighting of the tree. The residents who attended were provided with food and drink, mulled wine and an opportunity to meet the shopkeepers in Station Road, who opened their doors to entertain and welcome new and old customers. The lights on eight Christmas trees above the

shops were lit making Station Road "very Christmassy".

A competition was held amongst the shopkeepers for the best dressed window display. Our very own artist, Keith John, made judgement of the dozen entries and placed White's Dental Surgery first, with Ener-chi second and Salon Nia in Park Road, third. There were nine highly commended awards.

Much to the delight of the children, Father Christmas arrived with his sack full of toys in an open top Audi. His reply to the question "Where was his sleigh?" he remarked "Times have moved on".

The shopkeepers all enjoyed the opportunity to meet their customers in a social environment and have stated that they believe it was a great success. It's thanks to the Radyr Methodist Church, who opened their doors for communal



use. The police turned out in force, all four officers, making sure that children and adults were safe in crossing the busy main road. Even then we had a few cars beeping their horns at people crossing!

Although all householders received a leaflet drop in November regarding this event, a number of people missed the opportunity to be there and wished they had! We have already had a meeting and have decided to repeat the event in 2011 with a further input of more lights and a possibility of closing Station Road for the evening. Watch this space!

DAC

MORE WINTER SCENES



RADYR CHAIN

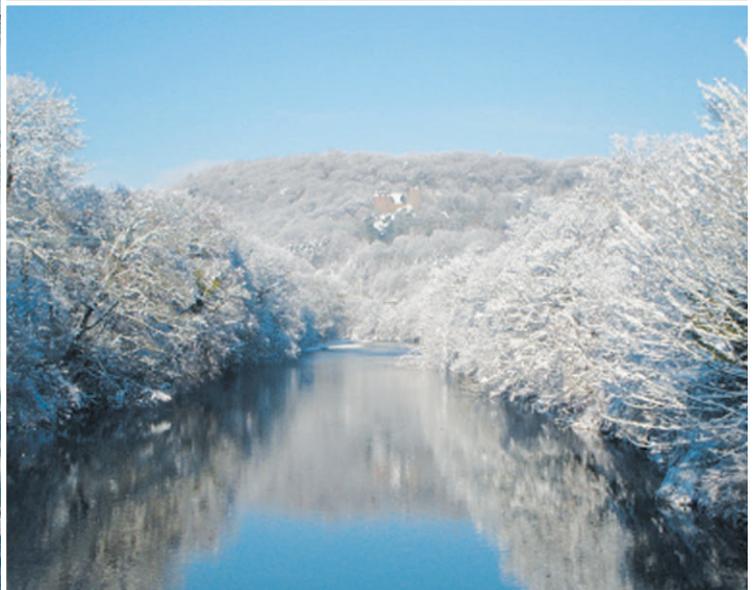
Free to every home in Radyr and Morganstown



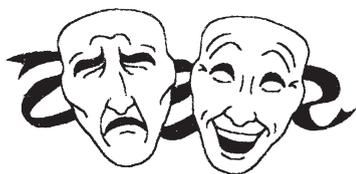
Number 192

February 2011

IMAGES OF RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN DURING THE BIG DECEMBER FREEZE



COMING EVENTS



N.B. Details of all coming events can be found in the Diary section of the website www.Radyr.org.uk

FEBRUARY

- 9 Radyr, Morganstown & District Gardening Club. AN UPDATE ON DYFFRYN GARDENS - a talk to be given by Head Gardener Alexandra Andrews. New School Rooms, Christ Church, Heol Isaf. Meetings are followed by refreshments. Further information see Village Notice Boards or contact Richard Gregory (029 20842084 or richardjgregory@btopenworld.com) 7.70pm
- 14 R&M Association General Meeting, OCR The first of our new format meetings. Come along to the Old Church Rooms in Park Road, Radyr to hear Councillor Margaret Jones and Tara King talk about Keeping R&M Tidy and learn about what is going on in our Community. All welcome. Note: this is a joint meeting with the R&M Women's Institute. 7.30pm
- 15 Festival Queen Auditions will be held to select the Festival Queen and her two attendants on at Radyr Guide Centre Bryn Derwen. This is open to all girls age 9 and over who live in the R & M Community Council area. Girls MUST be available to attend most functions throughout the Festival Fortnight which runs from Saturday 30th April until Sunday 15th May 2011. Further details from Maggie 2084 2995 or Julie 2084 2923. 6.30pm
- 17 Coffee Morning at Radyr Golf Club in aid of Danybryn. Raffle, Stalls etc. Tickets £2.00 at the door. 10.30am
- 23 Radyr Parish Music Group presents My Fair Lady. Lerner & Loewe's musical fable about a common flower girl transformed into a lady. Featuring a host of unforgettable songs and characters in a traditional staging. Bishop of Llandaff High School. Tickets available from Maggie 029 2084 2995 or Sue 029 2031 0894. 7.30pm
- 24 R&MCC Meeting, A meeting of the Council will be held in the Chain Room, Old Church Rooms. Members of the public are welcome to attend. 7:30pm

26 County Councillor Ward Surgery. I shall be in Radyr Library between 10am and 12 noon for any local resident to consult me on issues which concern them. I am also available on 20843106 or rmckerlich@cardiff.gov.uk Cllr Rod McKerlich 10.00am

MARCH

- 9 Radyr, Morganstown & District Gardening Club. Thoughts on the Design at Veddw House Garden - talk to be given by Anne Wareham. New School Rooms, Christ Church, Heol Isaf. Meetings are followed by refreshments. For further information see Village Notice Boards or contact Richard Gregory (029 20842084 or richardjgregory@btopenworld.com) 7.30pm
- 11 Tenovus Beetle Drive. All are welcome Ticket enquiries 20843108. 7.30pm
- 14 W I Meeting Old Church Rooms - All members welcome 7.30pm
- 15 PACT Meeting at 7.00pm in the Old Church Rooms. all welcome 7.00pm
- 24 R&MCC March Meeting Radyr and Morganstown Community Council, March meeting. A meeting of the Council will be held in the Chain Room, Old Church Rooms. Members of the public are welcome to attend. 6.30pm

EDITORIAL



As we go to print the snow has vanished and the sun is shining, we take the opportunity to thank and congratulate our local postmen for their efforts to deliver mail during the worst of the weather, when conditions were horrendous.

It would be nice if the potholes in our roads were to vanish as quickly and completely as did the snow.

Letters, articles, reports and other contributions are invited and should be submitted by March 15th. Submissions may be subject to editing at the Editor's discretion. The views expressed in the Radyr Chain are not necessarily those of the Editors.

Editor - Mary & Robert Pearce, 1 Windsor Grove, Radyr. 2084 2615

E-Mail address - Chain@radyr.org.uk

What's On - Mary Pearce, 1 Windsor Grove, Radyr. 2084 2615

Advertising - Jerry Bray, 41 Hazel Tree Close, Radyr. 2084 3387

E-Mail address - jerrybraychain@tiscali.co.uk

Hon. Treasurer - Victor Evans, (to whom donations may be sent; they will be gratefully acknowledged) 3 Woodfield Avenue, Radyr CF15 8EF. 2041 2869

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

www.radyr.org.uk

The R&M website is getting busier and busier – so if you're not already using it, now's the time to join the trend! Many people visit the home page with its News, Noticeboard and Events listings which are continuously updated. Second in popularity is the Soapbox, for airing your views on local issues. For this you need to register on the site.

Registration is a simple no-risk process which opens the door to making your voice heard in the community – or simply allows you to enter the details of your local organisation's future events.

News – on the front page – is for short articles about things that have happened recently in R&M. We always include some pictures and one click on the article takes you to the full story and the picture gallery. All news items are archived, so you can look back to them.

Noticeboard – also on the front page – is for quick one-off announcements about something happening soon, or for information about how the council is coping with something unusual (the recent snow, for instance).

Coming Soon, in the right hand column, is a list of forthcoming events which fills up directly from the Events Calendar. Any registered user can go to the Calendar and fill in their event. It's very simple to do and here's an insider tip: if you put your event into the website calendar it automatically gets printed in the next issue of the Radyr Chain!

Soapbox is an active forum which currently attracts an average of one new posting per day and a new conversational thread every week. We're not sure that it's quite what everyone wants at the moment, however – so please look there and (when you've registered) give us your opinion on how it can serve the community best of all.

Action

Send the Web Team an email from the 'contact' button on the site to give us your views on how to keep improving the site submit an item for the News or Noticeboard or register to add an event to the Calendar post a contribution to the Soapbox

Snow Pictures of Radyr & Morganstown – The heaviest snow fell on our village in 2010 presenting an opportunity to take some wonderful photographs. A total of 120 photos were sent for publication to the village website of which 100 are shown on the "news" item.

salon nia

5 Park Road, Radyr, Cardiff. CF15 8DF
029 2084 4716
www.salonnia.co.uk

We are a boutique hair salon in the heart of Radyr and offer a luxury service to all our guests.

We offer the following services:
Unisex Hair Cutting and Colouring
Threading
Make Up
Nails

And introducing the must have celebrity brow treatment that anyone can have, HD Brows.

For a chance to win a HD Brow Treatment send an email to salonnia@btconnect.com with your name, address and telephone number.

Opening Hours

Tue & Wed 9-5pm
Thu 9-8pm
Fri 9-7pm
Sat 9-5pm

 **BROWS**
HIGH DEFINITION BROWS

 **WELLA**
PROFESSIONALS



A KICK IN THE BAUBLES

27th November, 2010.

For their November production RDS staged the Christmas-themed *A Kick in the Baubles* by northern playwright Gordon Steel. The title itself is suggestive of the subtlety of the piece and indeed there were plenty of opportunities for the cast to let its hair down.

The action centres on married couple Frank and Jean's preparations for and celebrations of Christmas, the one dreading it, the other eagerly looking forward to it, in a series of short scenes they are visited by Jean's snobbish sister and her husband, the neighbours from Hell, their estranged daughter Millie and her boyfriend by whom she is pregnant and their dim-witted niece Alex.

The curtain opened on Frank and Jean's sitting-room where all the action took place, as ever ably realised by Dave Burgess and his set crew which drew a deserved round of applause from the sizeable Saturday audience who had braved the unseasonably cold weather to attend.

The play's stereotypical characters called for bravura performances and the experienced cast did not disappoint. Roger Page gave us a splendid curmudgeon as Frank, complaining at every turn, helpless as the ghastly guests take over his house, but also, in his well executed asides to the audience, often the voice of common sense and someone who is clearly so moved by his daughter's plight, that he has used

his redundancy money to buy her a flat and laid plans to effect a reconciliation between her and her mother. Pauline Watson played his long-suffering wife Jean with a finely observed mix of exasperation and resignation. Martin Jeeves was very effective as Harry, Frank's materialistic brother-in-law, while Helen Windsor gave an excellent performance as his wife who, through the course of the play, succumbs to the effects of alcohol and crumbles when her superficial world is brought crashing down with the prospect of the failure of her husband's business. Mike Collins and Sarah Jones gave wonderfully over-the-top performances as the horrendous neighbours Gary and Julie; Bethan Cowan's measured delivery convincingly realised the stupid Alex; Emily Cade successfully brought out the independent spirit yet vulnerability of Millie, Frank and Jean's daughter; with Gareth Powell providing solid support as her boyfriend Darren.

Special mention must be made of sound engineer and special effects manager Tony Watson who made toys come to life, simulated a karaoke machine and other effects exactly on cue. Lighting too was efficiently set and operated by Geoff Davies and his team.

This was Dave Burgess' first production for RDS as producer. Despite the limitations of space, he created a suitably frenetic atmosphere throughout. The laughter from the audience attested to the success of the production.

Chris Dale

THE STAGE CENTRE

X BOX VERSUS XFACTOR

The Stage Centre performing arts school takes a light-hearted look at an alternative to Virtual Reality

Every week, children with an interest in performing meet at The Cathedral School to enjoy three hours of gadget-free time. The sight of a new recruit as their little calloused thumbs search in vain for the predictive texting buttons of a temporarily removed smart phone can be quite upsetting.

However, mild discomfort soon gives way to pleasure, as they, realise that singing for real with new friends is so much more rewarding than on Singstar for X Box. Furthermore, Street Dance for Wii doesn't even come close to learning a highenergy street dance routine. Over time and through extensive therapy (or 'drama' as we like to call it). students discover that they are able to conjure up original ideas and performances every bit as compelling as the virtual worlds imposed on them by Playstation.

However, what really matters is that all students fulfil their potential and learn how to present themselves in the best possible light, to their friends, peers and eventually the world.

The Stage Centre isn't just about singing, dancing and acting, we teach children life skills.

For further information visit
www.thestagecentre.co.uk
Or call 029 2021 8770

A TRIBUTE TO OLIVE SAMUEL

I felt very honoured to pay a tribute to Olive at the funeral service in Christchurch because Olive had been such an influence on me as a teenager, as well as a close friend and colleague of my mother's in setting up the Radyr and Morganstown Women's Institute in the mid-1950s.

She was 94 when she passed away and was playing badminton, her favourite chosen sport in later life, even in the last week of her life. Extraordinary! In the manner of her passing as much as in the way she lived her life, always to the full, Olive was and remains an inspiration to us all. She was one of those, of whom people would always say 'I don't know what she's on but whatever it is, I want a prescription for it from my doctor!' We have no choice about how we pass on but if we did have that choice we would all like to disappear from this world as she did, enjoying life right up until the last moment.

I first met her as a member of the Radyr Youth Club in the Church Rooms not quite sixty years ago. The Youth Club gradually became more and more of a Table Tennis Club as the 1950s went by and this is where Olive and Arthur came into their own. Olive had played top class table tennis before the war with Audrey Bates and Betty Gray and was friendly with H. Roy Evans, who was the Secretary of the International Table Tennis Federation and his wife Nancy, who ran the Welsh Table Tennis Federation and their daughter Shirley, who ran the Cardiff and District. Quite an influential family!

Actually there was a political angle to the dominance of the Evans family of Cardiff and their predominance in running the game of table tennis. It was Roy Evans who first went into Communist China to persuade the Chinese authorities to allow their players to compete in the World Championships. His ping-pong diplomacy was successful long before Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger thought of it.

For us in the Radyr Youth Club, especially those of us who were lucky enough to get into the team that played in the Cardiff and District League, we used to be fascinated by the thought of Chinese players competing against the top Europeans because they all played pen-holder grip, whereas we all played the conventional finger and thumb grip.

Whereas I suspect Arthur Samuel would

have been just as happy being under the bonnet of his beloved vintage Armstrong Siddeley, Olive was immensely proud of the fact we had got into the Cardiff and District, initially in the lowest division, Division 7. I think we won promotion in three successive years to get into Division 4 by the time our family moved from Cardiff. Playing for Radyr was certainly the highlight of my week. When we had home games in the Church Rooms, Olive would insist that visiting teams were treated regally as guests to our Club. We all took our turn to bring sandwiches and Olive made the tea and coffee. When some members of the team complained that not all the teams reciprocated the favour, Olive would state firmly that this did not matter. In our Youth Club, we were going to do things in the proper way.

The other special extra duty that Olive performed every week was to write up the outcome of the fixture in the Pontypridd & District Observer. I remember how much I swelled with pride when I first got a 'mention' in her weekly column. I even remember what she wrote, because I think it was the first time my name had ever appeared in print. She wrote 'Special mention must be made this week of Rhodri Morgan, who by his clever tactician play, defeated a much stronger hitting opponent'. Since the opponent I beat was a typist in the Moorwell Motors B team, I should have been gnashing my teenage teeth that I couldn't hit a ping-pong ball half as hard as a typist but I didn't see it that way. I was thrilled that I had got into the Pontypridd Observer.

As far as I know, Olive's youth club duties were unpaid. Married women quite often did not work in those days. My mother was a good example. She had spent five years overall in university qualifying to be a teacher and she had taught for only six years and then stopped after just six years in the job! By law, married women could not teach in the state sector. By the time the law changed in 1955, my mother had been out of teaching for twenty years. She had kept up by marking examination scripts for the Central Welsh Board, the predecessor of the WJEC. She thought about it for a long time and decided not to go back to the classroom. What should she do instead? That's where the idea of forming the Radyr & Morganstown WI came from.

According to my memory, my mother, my Aunt Enid Jones from 78 Heol Isaf and Olive were among the founder members. What started out with just

half a dozen members was a great success. The drama section as what excited my mother, although I do remember my brother and I did used to take the mickey out of my mother's impromptu rehearsals at home something rotten. I think my mother's decision not to go back to teaching was right because setting up the new branch of the WI offered so much to the village. The WI did for my mother and I think for Olive and all the others who got involved exactly what the Youth Club and the Table Tennis League team did for me. It enriched the life of Radyr and Morganstown, making the villages into real communities.

When I became the MP for Cardiff West and later on, the Assembly Member, I would call on Olive from time to time. Our conversations would follow a similar pattern of her asking after my mother's health. I never really had to ask after hers because it was never in any doubt. The alternative question of 'Are you still keeping up the badminton at Fairwater Leisure Centre?' was the right one to ask. The answer that she never missed a session got more and more amazing as the decades went by. If there is anyone, man or woman, anywhere in Britain who kept up the enjoyment of playing with a bat and ball, or a racquet and a shuttlecock as she did, I'd like to hear about it. In radiating the good health that comes with living a life full of the enjoyment of physical exercise and in her contribution to the community, we will not see her like again.

Rhodri Morgan.

CYLCH MEITHRIN RADUR A PHENTREPOETH

DIGWYDDIADU/ FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1 Mawrth/March

4 y.n : Dydd Gŵyl Dewi, Capel
Methodistiaid

4pm : St. David's Day Celebration,
Methodist Church

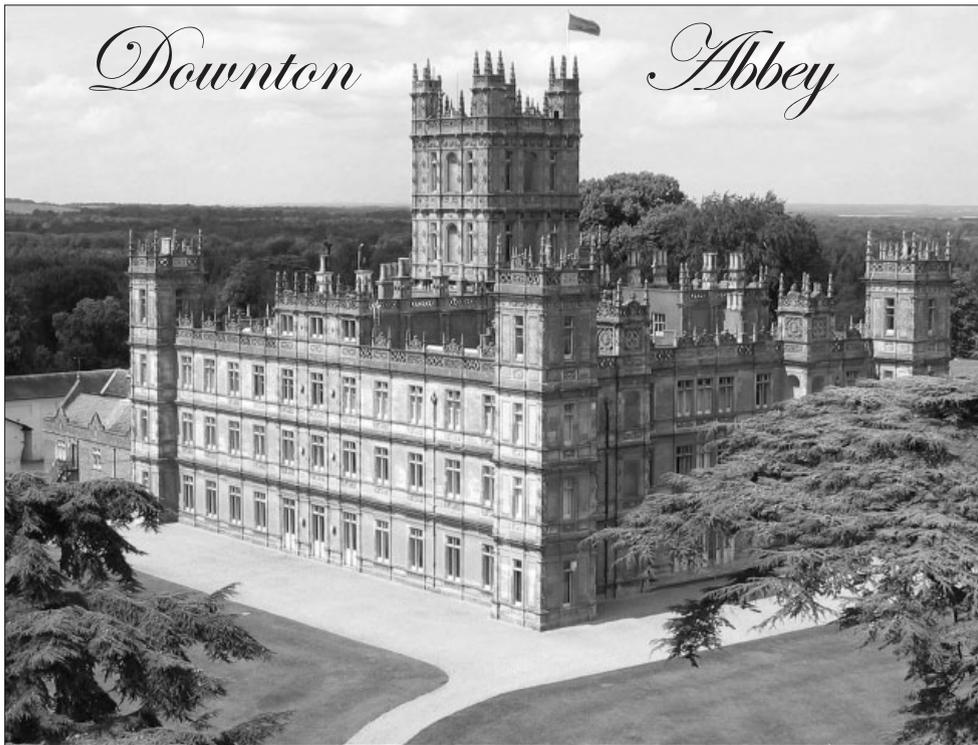
30 Mawrth/March

Bore Coffi Sul Y Mamau
Mother's Day Coffee Morning

16 Ebrill/April

Ffair Y Pasg, Neuaddau'r Hen
Eglwys

Easter Fete, Old Church Rooms



Many of our readers will have become avid viewers of ITV's excellent series Downton Abbey and I'm happy to report that a second series is in preparation and also that a third series is planned.

Downton Abbey is, of course, not a real house; it is filmed at the extensive Victorian home of the Earl and Countess of Caernarvon, Highclere



Castle near Hungerford in Hampshire. Highclere is said to be the finest Victorian residence in England.

The present house was created for the third Earl by the architect Sir Charles Barry, who was responsible for the rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament at about the same time as he rebuilt Highclere. Disraeli is said to have exclaimed "*How scenic! How scenic!*" on first seeing the rebuilt castle.

The Curse of Tutunkamun

It is the fifth Earl that is the most famous member of the family. The fifth Earl was Howard Carter's patron at the time of the discovery of the tomb of Tutunkamun. In fact having found the entrance, Carter had to bide his time for Lord Caernarvon to get to The Valley of the Kings before opening the tomb. It was in answer to Lord Caernarvon's question "What can you see?" that Carter is reputed to have replied "Wonderful things".

If anyone can be said to have been struck by "the Curse of Tutunkamun" it is this Lord Caernarvon. Soon after the discovery of the tomb he cut a



mosquito bite whilst shaving and died of blood poisoning.

Lord Caernarvon had built up an extensive collection of Egyptian antiquities at Highclere. It was such a fine collection that the family sold the greater part of it to the Metropolitan Museum in New York. In spite of this, Highclere still contains a fine museum of Egyptian antiquities from the fifth Earl's collection.

Monks' Garden

Highclere was one the Palace of the Bishops of Winchester and one of the many gardens is called The Monks' Garden after this fact. Highclere contains one thousand acres of parkland and gardens, the parkland landscaped by Lancelot "Capability" brown. The gardens contain a climbing rose wall, perennial borders and include a fine collection of penstemons, a lavender walk, a white garden, a secret garden and an arboretum.

Visit

The History Society has been lucky enough to be able to book a visit to Highclere on Thursday, 7th July. This is going to be a popular visit and they are negotiating for a brand new seventy seat coach. As usual non members will be able to join the visit if any spaces remain after the members have booked. For more information or to express an interest in joining the trip, please phone Allan Cook on 2084 3176.

Cylch Meithrin Radur a Phentrepoeth – Codi Arian - Adroddiad diwedd tymor.

Bore coffi Calan Gaeaf ddechreuodd gweithgareddau'r Hydref yn nhŷ Janine Roberts. Te a choffi, cacennau a chlonc, 'roedd yn gyfle da i gwrdd â ffrindiau hen a newydd. Fe ychwanegodd gwerthiant crefftau a danteithion gan aelodau'r Cylch at y coffrau hefyd.

Llwyddodd Rachel Hughes, aelod o'r Pwyllgor Codi Arian a'i gwr i gwblhau Hanner Marathon Caerdydd gan godi bron i £500 o arian nawdd i'r Cylch. Llongyfarchiadau mawr i'r ddau ohonoch.

Yn ystod wythnos gyntaf Tachwedd, fe gymrodd aelodau hen ac ifanc y Cylch ran mewn Wythnos Bobi gan werthu cacennau a bisgedi i ffrindiau a chydweithwyr. Llwyddwyd i godi £117.25. Fe fydd yr arian yma yn cael ei ddefnyddio i brynu offer i gegyn y Meithrin i sicrhau fod y plant gallu parhau a'r gwaith da! Diolch yn fawr i bawb gymerodd ran.

Uchafbwynt mis Tachwedd oedd y Noson i'r Merched gafodd ei chynnal yn Y Mochyn Du. Wedi pryd 3 chwr cafodd ocsiwn o eitemau gan fusnesau lleol a chyfeillion y Cylch eu gwerthu dan arweiniad Rhian Jardine a Bethan Mair Tame. Llwyddwyd i godi dros £900 i gyd ac r'un ni'n ddiolchgar i bawb am eu cefnogaeth.

Busnesau a gefnogodd y noson: Orchard Media and Events, Turnstile Music, Y Mochyn Du,

Siop Bysgota Gary Evans, Ysgol Ddawns Nicola Miles, Emyr Roberts (Dental Practice), Canolfan Arddio Pughs, S4C, Workout at Home (personal training), Salon Nia, Planet Gymnastics, Deli Gusto, Stadiwm y Milennium, Techniquet, Carols Crafts, Kathy Tame, Radyr Eye Care, Gleision Caerdydd, Spar, Co-op Pharmacy, Veg Vendor, Enerchi, Neuadd Dewi Sant, Absolute Photography, Catrin Finch.

Ein Ffair Nadolig ddaeth a'n tymor o godi arian i ben yn ystafelloedd yr Hen Eglwys. Roedd stondinau lu yn gwerthu amrywiaeth o eitemau – rhywbeth gobeithio at ddant pawb. Yr uchafbwynt i nifer o'r plant oedd y cyfle i gael cwrdd a thynnu llun â Sion Corn ond roedd cael y cyfle i droi ei llaw at grefftau a gemau hefyd wedi plesio. Tymor a hanner o godi arian ond wedi hoe'r Nadolig r'un ni'n edrych mlaen at ragor o godi arian yn y flwyddyn newydd.

Cylch Meithrin Radur a Phentrepoeth – Fundraising - End of Term Report

The Autumn fundraising calendar kicked off with the Nos Galan Gaeaf Coffee Morning hosted by Janine Roberts. Steaming hot cups of coffee or tea, accompanied by an assortment of delicious cakes, made for a very friendly and relaxing atmosphere. The event was a great chance to catch up with old acquaintances and to make new friends amongst the Meithrin community. The sale of handmade crafts and confectionery donated by Cylch members added more funds to the Cylch's coffers.

Fundraising committee member Rachel Hughes and her husband completed the Cardiff Half Marathon to raise funds for Cylch, obtaining over £500 pounds worth of sponsorship. A fantastic total, well done to you both!

During the first week of November, Cylch members took part in our first Bake Sale week, baking cakes and biscuits to sell to friends and colleagues. This raised over £110, which will be used to buy equipment for the Meithrin kitchen so the children can bake even more impressive cakes and biscuits. Many thanks to everyone who took part!

The highlight of the November fundraising calendar was surely the glamorous Ladies' Dinner and Auction held at the Mochyn Du. 24 ladies attending were treated to a delicious 3 course meal and as the drinks flowed, the atmosphere sparkled ahead of the main event: an auction of the many gifts and services donated by members and local businesses. The auction, compered with flair by Rhian Jardine and Bethan Mair Tame was at times raucous, and often hilarious. Items auctioned on the night included Only Men Aloud and Jools Holland concert tickets, a newspaper article autographed by Joe Calzaghe, Cardiff Blues tickets and Fitness at Home personal training sessions. When money raised through the sale of raffle tickets, branded merchandise and crafts was added, the grand total exceeded £900. We are extremely grateful to the many businesses and individuals that contributed to making the evening such a success.

Ladies' Dinner donors: Orchard Media and Events, Turnstile Music, Y Mochyn Du, Gary Evans Fishing Tackle Shop, Nicola Miles Dance School, Emyr

Roberts (Dental Practice), Pughs Garden Centre, Carol's Crafts, S4C, Workout at Home (personal training), Salon Nia, Planet Gymnastics, Deli Gusto, Millennium Stadium, Techniquet, Kathy Tame, Radyr Eye Care, Cardiff Blues, Spar, Co-op Pharmacy, Veg Vendor, Enerchi, St David's Hall, Absolute Photography, Catrin Finch.

We rounded off the year with the Cylch Meithrin Christmas Fair at the Old Church Rooms. With stalls ranging from home-made confectionery, cakes, decorations, cards, books, craft-making workshops and mince pie/snack bar, we hoped to provide something for everyone. The highlight for many little ones was the chance to visit Sion Corn's grotto for a photo with the man himself. Face painting and a chance to try their hand at festive games such as "guess the name of the reindeer" or "throwing presents into Sion Corn's sack" proved popular too. A fitting end to a full term of fundraising! We were left feeling exhausted but festive – ready for the Christmas break but looking forward more fundraising in the New Year.

Radha Nair-Roberts and
Rhian Fflur Jardine

RADYR & MORGANSTOWN FRIENDS OF TENOVUS

BEETLES, BARBERS & BITES EVENING

The first major fund raising event for 3011 will be a Beetle Drive which will be held at the Old Church Rooms on Friday, 11 March at 7pm.

The evening will commence with the Beetle Drive followed by a tasty supper served by the Committee and helpers. The Barber Shop Harmony Group will be the star attraction so we look forward to you supporting our Beetles, Barbers & Bites evening!

There will be a real Buzz and great fun to be had so do come along, enjoy yourselves and help raise funds for Tenovus.

Tickets priced £9. are available from Lucille – 2084 3108, or Betty – 2084 2096.

Alison Skidmore.

REMEMBRANCE DAY AND POPPY APPEAL, 2010



On Remembrance Sunday, 14th November, groups of Wreath Layers, Veterans, Air Training Corps Cadets, St. John Ambulance Cadets, Scouts, Cubs & Beavers and Guides, Brownies & Rainbows assembled in Station Road. At 10.30, they paraded to the War Memorial led by the City of Cardiff (Melingriffith) Brass Band and the Burma Star Standard where a large crowd had gathered to witness the Act of Remembrance. Prayers were led by the Rector, the Rev. Jenny Wigley, assisted by representatives of the Methodist, Baptist and Roman Catholic Church. Wreaths were laid under the direction of Lt. Col. David Suthers with Brig. R. Libbey (Deputy Lieutenant) laying the first one on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen. He was followed by Councillor Rod McKerlich, the Chairmen of the Community Council & Community Association, representatives of local churches, military services, veterans and local organisations. A total of thirty wreaths were laid with several organisations participating for the first time. The "Two Minute Silence" was observed at 11.00 and the Service at the Memorial closed with the singing of the National Anthems.

The parade then proceeded to a packed Christ Church for a service conducted by the Rector. This was followed by the parade reassembling

for a march past the Memorial with a salute taken by Brig. Libbey. After the parade the Community Council provided refreshments at the Tennis Club for those who had taken part. The Chairman of the Community Council, Mr. David Silver, thanked everyone for supporting the day. Brig. Libbey read out a letter from Her Majesty the Queen in reply to our letter of Loyal Greeting and he expressed his pleasure at seeing so many children and young people involved in the parade and also the warmth and community spirit evident in the village. Marion Drake (Deputy Lieutenant of South Glamorgan) presented a Poppy Brooch on behalf of the Royal British Legion to Mrs. Gayna Hodges in recognition of fifteen years of dedicated service to the Poppy Appeal in Creigiau.

The Royal British Legion is most grateful to the collectors who ensure that poppies are available, those who contribute and those who make generous donations to cover the cost of the wreaths that are laid each year. I am not yet able to give final figures of amounts collected in Radyr and Morganstown this year but to date, it is £1,035. from wreaths and I understand just over £3,000. for poppy sales.

Major (Retd.) Glyn Nash

CHAIN COOKERY CORNER

PEA, PARMESAN & CHIROZO SOUP

This simple soup is delicious, quick to make and the clever garnishes (optional) make it special. The recipe includes vegetable stock which can be the cooking liquid from any vegetable. Alternatively, you could use home-made chicken or gammon stock for extra flavour and nourishment. It serves 6.

1 tbs. Olive Oil
1 large onion – roughly chopped
750g (1lb 11oz) frozen peas
1.2 litres (2¹/₄ pints) hot stock

Garnish

40g. (1¹/₂ ounces) parmesan –
grated
75g (3oz) chorizo – finely chopped

In large pan heat the oil and gently fry onion for five minutes
Add peas and stock to onion
Heat through and simmer for five minutes

Take off heat and cool a little
Pour into blender and switch on until soup is smooth
Return to pan and taste
Add seasoning if needed

For garnish, sprinkle parmesan over a small, non-stick baking sheet and cook in oven 220C (200 fan) or Mark 7 for 5 minutes until golden and bubbling
Remove from oven, allowing to harden slightly

Use a spatula to lift cheese on to wire rack to cool
Fry the chorizo in small pan for 2-3 minutes.

To serve, place soup in warmed soup bowls

Break parmesan into shards
Garnish soup with parmesan and chorizo.

A.M.P.



RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S COLUMNS

Radyr & Morganstown Community Council, The Old Church Rooms, Park Rd., Radyr, Cardiff, CF15 8DF.
Tel: 029 2084 2213. E-Mail: clerk@radyr.org.uk
Clerk/Clerc: Helena Fox

Happy New Year! This year's Christmas celebrations went particularly well. R&MCC donated a third tree which was put up on the community plot at Radyr Sidings. Thanks to everyone who helped put up, light, decorate and take down the three trees. Although it was cold and snowy this did add to the atmosphere of our first R&M Christmas Fair in Station Road and Windsor Gardens. Congratulations to all who helped make it such a good event and to the more than 300 of you who braved the chill to come along. The RMA and R&MCC hope to be doing something bigger and better next Christmas.

We have a vacancy on the Community Council and since no one requested an election, we can now co-opt a new member. If you are interested in joining and would like to know what's involved, please contact me as above.

Having recovered from the unusual amount of snow and ice I am wondering what sort of information you would like to see on the website during difficult times such as snow or when roads are closed suddenly. I would be very interested to hear any ideas and you can contact me as above or see the thread on the website's Soapbox. The Soapbox is a fun and quick way to communicate with other local people so do have a look and consider joining in.

The Friends of Danybryn Woods have been working away when the weather allows and we had our first experience of coppicing in December, guided by Forest of Cardiff. We coppiced a lot of hazel to stimulate new growth next year and we are steadily taking out all the sycamore and most of the ash seedlings to encourage oak regeneration.

Recent changes in legislation have made community councils statutory partners and consultees with their unitary authorities and the Welsh Assembly Government. We hope shortly to be signing a Charter with Cardiff Council to formalize and improve communications between it and all six Cardiff community councils. The Charter is an element of the Proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure introduced to the National Assembly in July 2010 to develop and enlarge the role of community and town councils in Wales. With cutbacks in local government services, communities with community councils are in a better position than others to take on delivery or maintenance of standards of some services which might otherwise be lost.

Important dates for 2011:

March 3: Referendum on extending the law-making powers of the National Assembly for Wales.

March 27: Census 2011

May : Elections for the National Assembly

Helena Fox - Clerk



The weather summary - by John Trenchard

By early December there were several different forecasts for our coming winter but they varied a lot. Regarding a chilly November, in the last fifty years there has been two mild winters, two cold winters and three by weather that was simply average. So we have had a very cold December up to the 26th, then into the first sixteen days of January much less cold as temperatures nearly reached the average by the 16th January.

It was exceptionally cold across the UK in December. For Cardiff the coldest spell was from 25th November to 26th December with the day maximum temperature 1.5C (-6.6C), night time air minimum temperature -2.7C (-7.1C) and rainfall, including melted snow, 48.4mm (34%).

December's rainfall of 58.3mm (42%) was the third driest since 1989, whilst the lowest night time minimum air temperature was -8.0C on the 25th, but much lower than this in some other parts of the UK. My lowest daytime maximum temperature was -3.5C on the 7th. There were nine days with the daytime maximum temperatures below 0.0C. The Decembers for years 2008 and 2009, only 21 air frosts but 20 in 2010 and six days of lying snow at 0900 but 19 in 2010. The deepest snow cover I measure at 0900 over a grass surface away from the heated house was 21cm on the 18th, then 16cm on 19th and 14cm on 21st. Wind directions at 0900 were nil from the S or SW, 2 from the W but 25 from the NW, N, NE, E, hence this very cold December. Did you notice this sunny December when 169% of the average with 62.9 hours despite no sunshine on the last six days of December?

The reason why November became so much colder and persisted well into December was the position of the Atlantic jet stream and the establishment of high pressure over or near Greenland. However this pattern changed during the last week of December to a more normal winter pattern with low pressure to the west of the UK.

Radyr Scout Post 2010



This year's Christmas Scout Post was again a successful fund raiser for the group.

Can I thank the staff of the following local businesses for their efforts in selling scout post stamps.

Veg Vender, Station Road.

**Pugh's Garden Centre,
Morganstown.**

**Pzazz, Hair Designers, Castle
Court.**

Radyr Library, Park Road.

Thanks also to our Leaders, supporters, parents and the youngsters who helped sell stamps, sort and deliver post.

Scout Post is organised by the Cardiff and the Vale Scouts for the collection and delivery of Christmas greetings in the Cardiff and Vale area. The collection and delivery of post is organised by local area scouts and voluntary organisations in areas where there is no scout group.

During this years Scout Post week our team handled around 50,000 cards in the scout hall including three for Australia and one for Greece.

Finally I would like to thank the residents of Radyr and Morganstown for supporting their local scout group by purchasing stamps locally.

We look forward to your support again next year. JBT.

RADYR & MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION – INTO 2011

In the last edition of Radyr Chain we bravely wrote about the forthcoming Christmas celebrations before they had taken place. We should not have worried. Over 400 residents attended the lighting of the Christmas Trees in Radyr and Morganstown on 2nd December last year. It was a cold but successful event and there is a full report and pictures elsewhere in this edition of The Chain. We learned a lot about what works well and plan to do even better next Christmas, together with the Community Council. One of the spin-offs from the Christmas project was the start of a "Traders Forum" for the Station Road shops.

We do hope that will blossom in 2011 and improve village facilities.

A quick comment about refuse collection. We were most confused and annoyed at the apparent lack of co-ordination with collections in the recent period of snow. With bags and bins being left out for long periods, our Community ended up looking a real mess. We could have helped ourselves a bit more if everyone had followed the advice posted on the R&M website (and if your neighbour has not got internet access you can always tell them) but the fundamental problem was there were no collections for a long period. A poor show. Incidentally, a "thread" has been set up on the website (www.radyr.org.uk) soapbox asking for feedback on how the website operated during the snow. Please add your comments.

Whilst we are expressing concern, can we say we are worried about the library and the 'Community Plot' at the Sidings? Where is the planning application for the new library on the current Park Road site? Will funding still be found for this project? We sincerely hope we are not going to lose both the new library and the Community Plot.

We are now working hard on this year's R&M Festival, which will run from Saturday, 30th April to Sunday, 14th May. This year's charity is the local Good Neighbours scheme and the theme 'The Adventures of Alice'. All the usual elements will be there, including a concert by the chamber choir, Cantemus, and a performance of Chekov's Uncle Vanya by the ever-popular Fluellen. Full details will be in the Festival brochure which you will find in the April edition of The Chain as usual. We are delighted with the new windows and front door at the Old Church Rooms which have improved the look of the building and certainly proved their worth during the recent cold spell. We are very grateful to Cardiff Council for awarding us a grant to allow the work to be done.

Although this edition of The Chain may not reach you in time, we would like to mention our next meeting, on 14th February. This is the first of our new format meetings, with a key speaker and minimum boring reports. On this occasion Dr. Chris Partridge (Cardiff Tidy Towns Officer) will talk about 'Keeping R&M Tidy'. Whether or not you missed it, do come along to our AGM on 11th April when we traditionally have a short meeting to elect officers and offer a free drink to our members. (Note that we have just introduced a two-monthly newsletter to our members giving information and comment on local matters. If you would like to receive a copy, become a member. Membership is still free to all R&M residents).

Finally, the R&M Executive would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. If you would like to become a member of the R&M Association or would like to hear more about Association activities, contact the Secretary, Nick Hawkins (029 2084 2561 or rma@radyr.org.uk) or have a look at our web pages on www.radyr.org.uk

Just Ask Jane

JustAskJane@orangehome.co.uk

Jane is an experienced Change Coach and any questions can be sent to her at JustAskJane@Orangehome.co.uk Jane will try and respond to all emails, but please include a comment as to whether you would agree for your question to be published

For the past few months I've been looking for ideas about changing my living room. However, much of my furniture has been given to me by relatives and some of it has sentimental value. I want my home to look lighter, brighter and more up-to-date but I feel held back by coffee tables, lamps, pictures and ornaments some of which are more than fifty years old.

This is a common problem and therefore I would suggest you start by asking yourself the reason why each item was given to you. If for example it was at a time when you didn't have much money, then it may have been to help you until such a time that you were able to buy items to suit your own tastes. It therefore may be quite easy to begin to *Let Go* of these attachments as they have served their purpose.

If an item has sentimental value, take some time to look at each individual item and see what feelings come to the surface. If the item creates a positive feeling, you may want to keep it and perhaps find another use or location for it. If the feeling is more of frustration or feeling held back, then there may be other positive ways of accessing happy memories about the person who gave it to you, instead of holding on to something that is no longer giving you pleasure. I'm sure that you will find that

once you have taken the first step, it becomes easier to make the next decision.

Just Ask Jane

JustAskJane@orangehome.co.uk

I am trying to save money for a holiday yet each time I go shopping, I seem to spend money on things I don't particularly need. I just feel that I'm never going to have enough money to have a break in the sun!

Sometimes when a part of us is going in a different direction to what we really want, we need to ask what purpose that part is serving. Sometimes spending gives us a feeling of control or happiness, although it is short lived. Once you are able to identify the benefits or feelings that are attached to your spending, you may be able to find other more helpful ways of meeting this feel-good factor. Sometimes to break the habit, you may need to just delay the purchase for an hour or so and see if you still feel the same need to buy it. As you free yourself from this internal struggle, you can build in small rewards or treats each time you resist the temptation to spend. You will be amazed how different you will feel as you re-direct your energy in positive ways, such as saving up for your well-earned holiday!

Merched y Wawr Bro Radur

Yng Nghyfarfod Tachwedd cawsom gynghorion buddiol ar ofal ein croen. Bu Sioned Bryant yn dangos cyfrinachau mapio croen yr wyneb a defnyddio cynnyrch pur. Dathlwyd y Nadolig yng nghwmni aelodau dawnus Côr y Waun Ddfal.

Croesawyd 2011 gan Gwmni Dawns Werin Caerdydd. Diolch i Diane Bartholomew am drefnu noson hwyliog yn rhoi hanes traddodiadau y Cymry dros y Flwyddyn Newydd.



NSPCC COFFEE MORNING AT RADYR GOLF CLUB

The Radyr Committee of the NSPCC were delighted with the magnificent sum of £1,710. raised at their Christmas Coffee Morning.

Our grateful thanks go to Clive Davies for his extremely generous donation which was a major contribution to the total amount.

We would like to thank Chris Davies for the kind donation of a raffle prize of 'Sunday Lunch for Two' at the Golf Club. Our NSPCC events are always helped by 'Chris and the boys' and Paul's quiet organisation behind the scenes, which is much appreciated. Again, a thank you to the Golf Club for the use of the room.

We would also like to thank the Treorchy Knitting Centre for providing their skilfully knitted toys and clothes for sale. The group are sending out an appeal for wool. Even small amounts are welcome. Barbara Blunt, one of our committee members, has volunteered to co-ordinate the collection. She can be reached on 029 2084 3739.

It has been agreed that the money should go again to the very worthwhile 'Building a Brighter Future Appeal'. Donations to this fund have facilitated the building of the flagship 'Diane Englehardt House' in Cardiff. This centre provides a safe and inviting place for children and their families. Here, trained practitioners can provide therapy to counteract the effects of past physical and sexual abuse, as well as support and training aimed at preventing further abuse.

Finally, thank you to all those who attend our NSPCC events and always contribute so generously.

NEWS FROM RADYR LIBRARY

Firstly, we hope your Christmas and New Year celebrations were not marred by the snow. We apologise that we were unable to open the library for one day and for having to close early on a couple of occasions due to the snowy weather. We hope this did not inconvenience our customers too much. Our thanks go to Glyn for doing a marvellous job of clearing the snow and throughout the year for clearing litter from our grounds. He is one in a million!

Thanks also to Mr. Clewer who reads the Radyr Chain onto tape for customers with sight difficulties. Mr. Clewer volunteered his services many years ago and has enabled the Radyr Chain to reach a wider readership. If you would like to borrow the Radyr Chain on tape, please ask a member of staff.

We would like to thank our customers for the many gifts of chocolates and biscuits we received over the Christmas period. We were touched by peoples' generosity and have vowed to diet on 2011 (after we have eaten everything).

The Coffee Morning in aid of the NSPCC was well attended. Our thanks go to everyone who donated raffle and quiz prizes. Also, thanks to the ladies of Radyr and Morganstown WI for their attendance and generosity in assisting us raise £337.00 on the day. Your support was immeasurable.

The quiz prize of a three-course Sunday lunch for two was won by Mrs. Alison Fortune. Congratulations.

The children's colouring competition winners were:

Under 5yrs

1st Alex Tucker, 2nd Anwen Dubberley, Special prize Charlotte Tucker

5-9yrs

1st Mali Hurford, 2nd Ella Phillips, Special prize Jessica Fudge

Over 9yrs Seasonal Card making

1st Frances Holms, 2nd Rhiannon Dubberley, special prize Charlee Edwards

Well done everyone.

Why not join the library as your new year's resolution? (Bring along some identification and your library card will be created and active immediately). How about trying a new genre or author? Have you resolved to try a new craft or to do a bit of DIY? We may just have the book you need. Staff are happy to help you choose a suitable book or order one from another library for you.

The battery recycling bin has been very successful. We also accept stamps, ink cartridges and unwanted mobile phones. You may collect food waste bags and green recycling bags from the foyer. Occasionally we are able to secure a supply of dog waste bags. Please ring to check if these are available.

Looking ahead to the Radyr and Morganstown Festival, we plan to hold an introduction to Ancestry.com computer course to be taken by Mr. Gwyn Rees. Please ring us to book a place. There will be a special Rhyme time with Margaret and her guitar for pre school children. Please refer to the Radyr and Morganstown festival brochure.

The Radyr Readers will meet at 7.15pm on Friday, 11th February. The group meets in the Library every three months. If you would like to join in please contact the library for details of the next meeting and for the book list.

Our lost property now stands at three pairs of gloves, one knitted hat, one Radyr Comprehensive sports kit bag and a cuddly toy.

Thank you for your continued support.

Marlene, Anne and Hannah
Radyr Branch Library
Park Road, Radyr
Tel. 029 2084 2234

METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Raymond Pearce

Raymond died in his 90th year after a long illness on Armistice Sunday, 2010. He will be sadly missed by his wife Marjorie and the family.

Raymond was Minister of Conway Road and Radyr Methodist Churches from 1981 to 1987.

Some of the older members will member the loving and devoted service of Ray and Marjorie.

A.R.B.

Nye Watkins

The thanksgiving service for the life of Nye was conducted by Susan on Monday, 22nd November. The Church was packed with many colleagues and friends having travelled from a distance.

In the Minute Book of December 1969 is a record of the transfer of Nye and Eileen Watkins and Eli Luff from Ebbw Vale.

Nye with the then Post Office as a Telecommunication Engineer was involved in the training of staff from all over Wales.

Eli, Eileen's father, was senior steward at Radyr for a number of years.

Both Nye and Eileen were members of Radyr Choral Society for many years and after retirement, Nye was a keen member of Radyr Gardening Club.

Caravan holidays with Janet were a regular event.

Until only a few weeks ago, Nye, with Eileen and Janet, were regulars in morning worship and many of us have happy memories of Nye and extend our sympathy and love to Eileen, Janet and the family.

A.R.B.

Launch into 2011 with the NSPCC

The NSPCC is calling on daredevils in South Wales to do something out of the ordinary in 2011 and take part in a sponsored skydive to help raise funds for the children's charity.

Julie Richards, NSPCC's community fundraising manager for South Wales, said "Our national helplines - including Childline - protect children and young people across the UK, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In the last year we received 7183 calls to the South Wales, Swansea base. But we rely on ongoing public support to help us recruit and

train more Childline counsellors to answer more cries for help, so that we can be there whenever and wherever children need us.

"You can help the NSPCC continue its vital work in supporting children, young people and their families *and* shake off the January blues by taking part in one of our sponsored parachute jumps."

Solo or tandem jumps are available year-round and anyone over the age of 16 and in good health can jump from one of 20 different sites across the UK, including Swansea. No experience is necessary, and your training and jump are FREE if you raise a minimum

sponsorship of £395.

A charity skydive is ideal for individual thrill-seekers looking to test their nerve, or for groups of friends, family and even colleagues as a corporate team-building challenge. Everyone who signs up will receive full training from a qualified instructor, fundraising support, a range of fantastic materials and a certificate upon completion of the jump.

For more information on the types of jumps available or to register your interest now, contact the Wales NSPCC fundraising team on 0203 188 3688 or email walesappeals@nspcc.org.uk

CARDIFF WEST ROTARY CLUB

2010 was a great year for the new Cardiff West Rotary Club, based in Radyr. We organized a number of successful events including a fun quiz night, collection at Asda and we supported the Coopers Field fireworks display.

Our most recent event was a collection in the Radyr area for Cardiff Women's Aid. The staff at the centre were delighted and excited at the number of toys and toiletries delivered to them and they were grateful that all the items collected were in such excellent condition. Rotary and Cardiff Women's Aid would like to thank everyone who donated for their support.

2011 is set to be an even busier year for the club. We have a number of exciting events taking place which you may enjoy attending. Or if you would like to get involved and help plan and organize future events then why don't you become a new number? Details of how to join are below.

Some of the activities that are planned include:

1st March St. David's Day Concert

To be held at Christ Church in Radyr We are delighted that the renowned choir Con Voce has agreed to sing at this event. The choir was formed in 2007 and has twenty members, consisting of Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. In their short time together they have successfully toured Prague and Cornwall. They will shortly be giving concerts in West Wales, Kenilworth, Winchester and a major one at the Cardiff Millennium Centre.

Come and enjoy a feast of good music from musicals to classical. Tickets are just £5.00 each and available from Rotary Club Members, Scout Group Leaders or

ring 029 2055 3039. All proceeds to Radyr Scout Group and Rotary Charities.

13th March A Great Competition to Enter

Win a Trolley Dash

At ASDA in Leckwith Road Tickets are available from 15th February – 6th March, 2010. The draw will take place on 6th March and the winner will have two minutes to run around the ASDA store at 9.30am on 13th March to fill a trolley with as much as he/she can. All proceeds to go to Teenage Cancer Trust and Rotary Charities.

Tickets at £1. each from Rotary Club Members or ring 029 2055 3039

If you would like to find out more about Rotary why not come and join us on the 22nd February.

Visit us at any time between 6.30pm and 8.30pm to find out more about our Rotary Club. Men and women from all ages are welcome. Informal talks and presentations will be made and refreshments will be provided. No pressure will be put on any one to join, it will just be a fun and relaxed evening. If you are interested please contact David Warrell on 029 2056 2531 or email sec.cardiffwestrotary@gmail.com for details of the venue. We look forward to seeing you.

For more information about Rotary please visit our website www.cardiffwestrotaryclub.wordpress.com

Catherina Balls

THE SEAGUL GAME

By Tony Butlin

*The rain has ceased and dark
clouds gone leaving
Autumn sun to shine upon*

*The river in spate and filled with
dark and muddy
waters*

*White porcelain gravy boats
serenely passing by
with quickening speed they float,
seem fixed and
cannot fly*

*Above the misty spray that
warns them of cascading
waters falling over river weir*

*The turbulent mass of water
welcomes them but still
they have no fear*

*Before they plunge into the
roaring depths*

*They spread their wings like
white shrouds stripped
from bodies ready for their burial*

*They rise and bank to turn up
stream from whence
they came*

*Like children racing down a
slope they want to do it
all again*

*They dive and land, then float to
play once more*

@THE SEAGUL GAME@

MORGANSTOWN MOTTE

Interest in the future of Morganstown Motte continues to grow and it is hoped that access will be restored in the spring of 2011. Access is currently restricted because a fungal disease had been found on some of the rhododendrons that grew on the motte.

It is also hoped that a plan for the understanding of the motte and its future will be finalised during the year.

Dr. Amelia Pannett will give her talk on the motte – postponed from November – at 7.30pm on Thursday, 10th March at the Old Church Rooms.



Special News from Bryn Deri

Miss Diane Murphy has been a midday supervisor at Bryn Deri for 12 years. She has now taken early retirement so that she can give more time to her family. She has been a wonderful support for the children and staff, always smiling and showing such love and care for the children. We are very grateful to her for such commitment and dedication. Luckily she will still be coming back from time to time as a relief supervisor should one of the regulars be unable to attend. Staff, pupils, parent and governors appreciate all she has done and wish her well

Danybryn

The bad weather during December has delayed slightly the building work at Danybryn but we still anticipate the builders leaving the site in March. Everyone has now moved back into the main building and the portacabins have gone. In February the old block of bedrooms will disappear and a wheelchair accessible path to the wooded garden will be created.

On February 17th our annual fund raising coffee morning will be held at Radyr Golf club all are welcome tickets will be £2 at the door.

Removing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) mobility component from people living in residential care will have a huge and regressive impact on the independence of thousands of disabled people. The mobility component is designed to help meet

the extra costs many disabled people face in doing everyday things, such as going to the shops, visiting family and socialising with friends. For people who live in residential care it provides support to pay for things like a powered wheelchair, accessible taxis or a Motability car.

With their income taken to pay for their residential care, many people will be left with just the Personal Expenses Allowance (PEA), paid at £22.30 per week. Already this is insufficient to meet personal costs such as toiletries, clothes or mobile phone bills and for many meeting the costs of getting out and about independently will simply become impossible. For example, replacing a wheelchair battery could cost up to 6 weeks worth of an individual's PEA. For more information and how you can support our campaign against the removal of DLA please go to www.lcdisability.org/dla

Do you have any time to spare no matter how little? Come and volunteer to work with the residents of Danybryn or visit them in hospital. Any time no matter how short is valuable. We are keen to recruit drivers available to undertake regular trips during weekdays or short notice trips to the theatre etc.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested please contact me

Derek Bateman

*Leonard Cheshire Disability -
Danybryn*

Tel: 029 2084 2237/077 3832 9525

email: Derek.bateman@lcdisability.org

We were saddened to learn of the death of Connie Griffiths who was a founder member of the *Chain Gang*, a valued member of our community and friend of many.

An appreciation will appear in the next edition.