Report by Allan Cook, Chair of the Radyr and Morganstown History Society.

Treforgan v Pentrepoeth.

1. Much as I'd like to give you an easy answer to this problem there is no easy one and any final decision will be a political one to a greater or lesser extent, because of the way that Morganstown, like many similarly named communities Tylerstown, Wattstown, grew up.
2. The parish of Radyr/Radir has existed since soon after the Norman conquest of Glamorgan in the 1090's. It has always been known as Radyr/Radir, or other variants of spelling, but the few small settlements – rarely more than four or five houses before Morganstown - have had differing names. Administratively it has been Radyr/Radir Parish until the last decade of the 19th c. It was administered by a parish council and run by the churchwardens who were elected annually.
3. Between about 1750 and 1850 three communities grew up within half a mile of the Ty Nant Inn.

(a) Gilynis, Cilynys, Kilynys. Based around the Tudor Farmhouse, by 1800 this was at least three living units and a mill had been added soon after the closure of the medieval corn mill at Melin Griffith. This was an important centre at the time of the building of the Glamorganshire Canal and the Taff Vale Railway. It was probably larger than the other settlement in the parish, Groeswen, at the junction of Heol Isaf and Llantrisant Road.

(b) Pentyrch Forge. Although over the border in Pentyrch parish, some residents of the settlement seem to have used St John's Church Radyr/Radir rather than Pentyrch's church. This grew up around the Pentyrch Iron Works which had been reopened in the mid 1700's. There are several entries with Pentyrch Forge or Pentyrch Works in the Radyr Registers for the 1800's. I think that this could be the village known as Pentre-poeth, but can find no proof except for its proximity to two blast furnances – Pentre-poeth the hot village.

(c) Morganstown. This grew up on land free from the Plymouth Estate. It is clear from the Williams/McCallister archive that the village was started by Morgan Williams soon after he inherited Tyn y Berllan in the 1780's. This would be consistent with an entry of houses at Tyn y Berllan in the first Census of 1801. The Williams/McCallister family continued to build in Morganstown until the early 20th c century. That is why I am 99% certain that Morganstown refers to Morgan Williams.

This settlement has been known by a variety of names, none of them official or recognised. Ty'n y Berllan, Pentre, Pentre-poeth, Pentrepoeth, Treforgan, Morganstown, Pentyrch Halt. See later notes.

By the late 1800's Morganstown was the commonly accepted name, although Pentrepoeth is recorded twice in the Parish Registers in the last decade of the 19th c.

4. Official Status. It is difficult to assess what constitutes Official Status. The Churchwarden's accounts for Radyr/Radir end before Morganstown comes into being. We have Census enumerator's records, Parish Registers, Trade Directories, the evidence of gravestones in Bethel cemetery. Do any of these count as official records?

5. Morganstown did not formally gain official status until the 1890's when the parish Council, previously run by the church wardens, became a civil body. It is at, or soon after, this time that the Radir Parish Council became the Radyr and Morganstown Parish Council, to be followed by the Radyr and Morganstown Community Council.

6. Radyr a Threforgan, as the Welsh name for the Council, does not exist formally until the end of the 20th century.

I spoke to Karen Whitecross, the clerk before last and she has allowed me to quote her;

(a) She remembers creating the Welsh name for the Community Council around the year 2000 Radyr a Threforgan.

(b) She remembers speaking to both the City Council and the Welsh Assembly Government who both advised that as the name Morganstown was the current one that Treforgan was the best solution.

7. Following discussions with Cllr. Huw O. Jones – who argues that Pentrepoeth is the norm and that we would be changing the name by introducing Treforgan; I cannot find a point at which Pentrepoeth became the accepted form by Cardiff County Council. It does not seem to have been agreed by the full Council.

It cannot have existed before the 1970's. Prior to the 1970's Radyr and Morganstown was part of Cardiff Rural District Council and our M. P. was the member for Barry.

8. It was clear from a discussion with officials from The Language Commissioners Office in October that they use one Dictionary as their "Bible". On their website they recommend Elwyn Davies' Restr o Enwau Lleoedd/ A Gazetteer of Welsh Place-names, 3rd Edition published in 1967. Although I am not conversant with this volume, I would not normally consider using it as a major source, as techniques and knowledge of local history have progressed so much in the last fifty years. In the same way and although I wrote large sections of it, I would hesitate to recommend " 'Twixt Chain and Gorge" which I now consider badly out of date.

I prefer to use Hywel Wyn Owen and Richard Morgan's excellent volume "Dictionary of the Place Names of Wales" published in 2007. But even this

gives only half a page to Morganstown.

9. I believe that Gazetteers in general depend too heavily on the Records of Births and Deaths, created by the Parish Church. These are the only record I know of which mention Pentre-poeth, Pentrepoeth. These raise numerous questions.

(a) Civil Registration started in 1834 soon after the first mention of the settlement at "Morganstown". Were the nonconformists of Morganstown registering births and deaths with the local parish church? By the Religious census of 1851 Bethel, Morganstown claimed a regular congregation of 150.

(b) Owen and Morgan say "The identity of the Morgan in question is uncertain." I would say from reading the Williams/McCallister archive- not made available to previous researchers - that it is 99% certain.

(c) Owen and Morgan say "Pentre-poeth (poeth "hot") probably in the sense of one built on land cleared by burning or in an area notable for industrial activity".

There are several communities close to Morganstown which more deserve the name "hot". Morganstown was never anything other than a residential settlement.

(a) Pentyrch Forge – from the proximity to the two blast furnaces.

(b) Gwaelod y Garth, here Malkin records a coal seam being on fire for several decades in the early 1800's and where a field name still gives you Cae poeth.

(c) Taffs Wells, where the hot spring could have given you poeth as in Bristol's Hotwells.

(d) Nor does the suggestion that it was "land cleared by burning" hold water. Morganstown was built among the pastures and orchards of Tyn y Berllan. See the 1840 Tithe Map. There would have been no need to burn woodland to create the settlement.

10. All the references I can find to Pentre-poeth, Pentrepoeth come from the Church registers where the curates, Evan Jones and David Jones could have been more used to the formal Welsh of the 1588 translation of the Bible. I'm grateful to Dr. Dylan Foster Evans for pointing out that locally Pentrepoeth would have been known as Pentra Poth.

11. I can find no map references to either Pentre-poeth, Pentrepoeth, or Treforgan.

12. I can find no reference in Trade Directories to anything but Morganstown, see Worrall's Directory 1875.

13. When the Taff Vale Railway opened a station between Gilynys, Pentyrch Forge and Morganstown/Tyn y Berllan in the 1840's they called it Pentyrch Halt.

14. None of the grave stones in Bethel Chapel, which was moved to Morganstown from Ffordd Las in the late 1830's, as recorded by the Glamorgan History Society, mention either Treforgan or Pentre-poeth. It

is Morganstown from the first, dated 1841.

15.   In the 1980's Mrs Christine Curry and I did a large number of interviews with some of the older residents, some of whose memories went back to the period before the First World War. No reference was made to Treforgan or Pentrepoeth, it was only Morganstown.

16.   May I draw your attention to one sentence on the Commissioner for Language's web-site.

"PEDANTIC OR REVIVED ANTIQUARIAN FORMS ...SHOULD BE AVOIDED."

Conclusion.

(a) Morganstown did not gain any kind of official status until the 1890's.

(b) Treforgan did not gain any kind of official status until the end of the 20th century.

(c) Pentre-poeth, Pentrepoeth has never had any official status and might not even refer to the village we know as Morganstown.

(d) I cannot find a point at which Cardiff City Council started to use Pentrepoeth and this is the reason for the the discrepancy in the signage at the two ends of the villages.

Parish Records.

.

Parish Registers. Burials from 1725

1826	Pentyrch Forge x 2
1840	Pentyrch Works
1849	Pentre
1851	Pentre-poeth x 2
1852	Pentre-poeth
1853	Treforgan
1856	Treforgan
1856	Pentyrch Station
1856-7	Pentrepoeth
	Pentyrch Works

1859	Pentrepoeth x 2
1860	Pentrepoeth
1866	Pentrepoeth
1869	Pentrepoeth
1870	Walnut Tree Bridge Taff Vale Station.
1871	Pentyrch Works.
1878	Morganstown
1879	Pentrepoeth

Thereafter Morganstown.

Old Mill Morganstown 1901

Marriage Registers tend not to give place names.

Parish Registers. Baptisms from 1725.

1816	Pentyrch Forge
1820	Ty yn y Berllan this parish.
1826	Kilynys
1839	Ty y Berllan
1842	Near Tyn y Nant
1844	Pentre x 4
1846	Pentre x 3
1848	Pentre x 2
1849	Pentre x 3 Occupations, Forgeman, Fireman. Obviously

to do with the Pentyrch or Melingriffith Ironworks.

David Jones (curate) to 1854 seems to have used Pentre-poeth.
Evans Jones (curate) from 1855 seems to have used Pentrepoeth.

1855	Pentrepoeth
1856	Pentyrch Station (Lime Burner mentioned.)
1857	Treforgan
1859	Ty'n Berllan
1859	Pentrepoeth
1860	Pentrepoeth
1861	Pentrepoeth

1863   Alfred Lear Pointsman on Railway -Drysgol
1863   Pentyrch Station – engine driver
1864   Groeswen - coachman.
1868   Melingelynis – haulier
1870   Pentrepoeth – puddler, hammerman, fireman.

From now on all references are to Morganstown, except for two reversions in 1889 and 1890 which mention Pentrepoeth.

1899 Old Mill Radyr.
Note of brickyards at Waterhall.
1901 Mention of Station Road, Radyr.

Records of Bethel Morganstown.
The Glamorgan History Society recorded the gravestones in Bethel Morganstown. Some of the early ones are unreadable. The earliest readable gravestone is Evan John in 1847. All Bethel stones say Bethel Calvinistic Methodist, Morganstown. No mention of Treforgan or Pentre-poeth.

Census returns.
No mention of Treforgan or Pentre-poeth in the Census returns.

1801 Census   Tyn y Berllan
1841 Census   Tyn y Berllan
1851 Census   Tyn y Berllan
1861 Census missing
1871 Census   Morganstown Cottages and Morganstown, Pentyrch Station.

1881 Census onwards Morganstown

1841 Census Tyn y Berllan David Lewis Iron miner

1841 Robert Miles General Shopkeeper, Tyn y Nant.

1841 and 1851 Edward Coslett Groeswen, blacksmith

1851 Census Tyn y Berllan Abraham Williams shoemaker

1881 Mary Welsh, Toll House, toll house keeper.

Worrall's Directory of South Wales, 1875

RADYR is a parish 1 ~ miles from Llandaff, and 3~ from Cardiff, in the hundred of Miskin. The Taff vale and Penarth railways intersect the parish. The living of the church is a vicarage, in the gift of the representatives of the Earl of Plymouth. Morgans. town is the only village in the parish which contains a Calvinistic Methodist chapel, and at Tyn-y-nant is a school. Population in 1861, 472; and in 1871,422.