

Have Your Say About the Website...

The 'new' Radyr & Morganstown website has been running for the past eighteen months and every issue of the Chain carries its address at the bottom of every page. Pat yourself on the back if you've noticed it!

We're always making improvements to what the site offers and trying to ensure that it meets the needs of the community as effectively as possible. Of course, if you don't use a computer at home this may not interest you ... but there's always the library (this was written before they closed it for a while!).

As part of our policy of continuous improvement – as every organisation seems to say these days – we are keen to have your feedback on the website. A short questionnaire has been delivered to every home and may be returned to any of the following addresses:

In Park Road: Old Church Rooms
In the station car park: Radyr Workshops
In Springfield Gardens: X-Cell Hairdressing
In Radyr Village: Veg Vendor or Vintage Gem

In most cases you may use the letterboxes outside business hours, so please return it if you can.

If you can go online, you will find the questionnaire at <http://www.radyr.org.uk/10698>
All we ask you to do is to 'copy and paste' it into an email and send us a response.

If you have a smart phone you can use it to scan the QR code which you can see below and this will take you to your own special page on the site. Do try it and let us know how you get on.

Thanks and Seasonal Greetings from the Radyr Web Team!

A Memorable Occasion...

On 23rd June, I was privileged to be invited to the opening of the new facilities at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama.

I have been associated with the College for many years and have seen how it has developed. In 1999 everyone thought how wonderful it was when the Castle Mews was redeveloped and became the Anthony Hopkins Centre – that in itself was impressive – giving more practice



rooms for both Music & Drama students. However, I find it almost impossible to find words to express my admiration for what has now been achieved, the impact it had, not only on my but on others who attended was unbelievable.

The entrance and reception area, with the glass wall backdrop exposing a magnificent view of Bute Park, the Richard Burton Theatre is excellent, but seeing the Dora Stoutzker Concert Hall, together with experiencing its superb acoustics, quite took my breath away.

It was so difficult to imagine how the appearance of the College would change and now, to see the project come to fruition is something one could only have dreamt of being attainable.

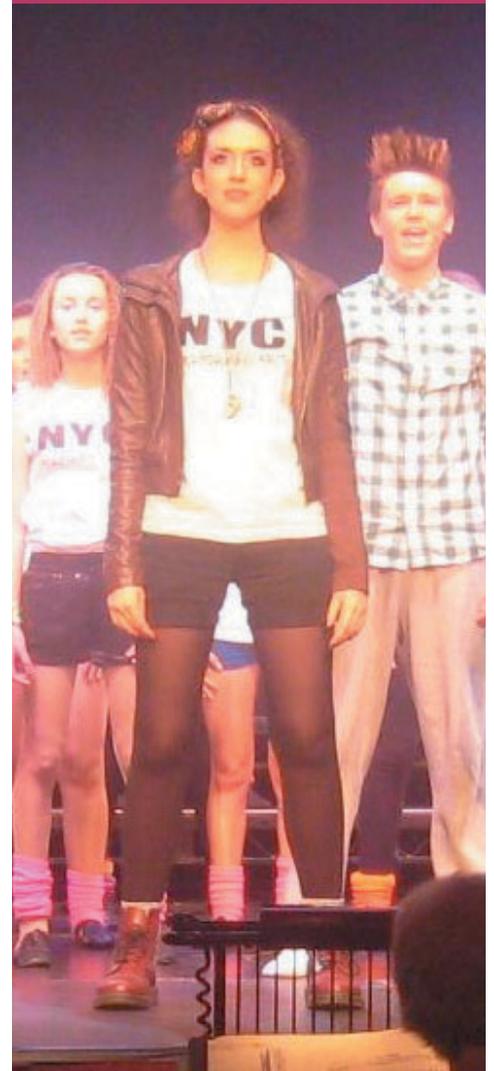
This was such a wonderful occasion and one I shall never forget.

The Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama is a true icon of excellence in our Welsh Capital of Cardiff and something of which we should be very proud and I think congratulations should be given to all concerned on a wonderful achievement.

Marcia Watts

Marcia is Editor of the Friends Newsletter. Anyone wishing to know about events at the College may contact Marcia at www.rwcmd.ac.uk

BUSY NOVEMBER



November 2011 will be a month that Radyr Comprehensive Sixth Former Laura Green will not forget in a hurry.

At the beginning of the month she played the lead part of Serena in the school's production of the musical *Fame* at the Muni in Pontypridd. By the end of the month she had taken on another lead part, this time in the Radyr Drama Society's production of *Sailor Beware* at Morganstown Village Hall.

Laura played the part of Daphne Pink, the man-hunting bridesmaid in this classic comedy. "It's quite cool to be playing a lead in a modern musical one week and playing a 1950's comedy the next" said Laura.

Laura joined the Drama Society in September as part of her Welsh Baccalaureate course and within weeks found herself taking over one of the lead roles when the original Daphne had to drop out because of illness.

RADYR CHAIN

Free to every home in Radyr and Morganstown

Number 197

December 2011

We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and good fortune throughout the coming year



www.frontrowgraphics.co.uk

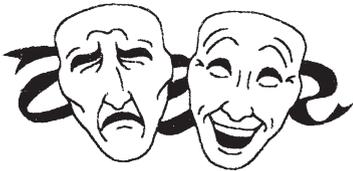


Halloween Party Fun at Radyr Library...

It has been a long time in the planning, but Radyr Library has finally closed for refurbishment. Jen and Bryony, along with two other members of staff spent a day and a half packing up around 250 boxes of books and by Friday lunchtime, the library was clear. It was great to be part of packing up the library, but it was a hard job with aching limbs and bruises to prove it!

The plans for the library are looking great and we have been told that we will be keeping a nice sized children's area too, which we are very pleased about. We will be having much needed repairs to the floor and roof, as well as a new fire alarm system and the electricity meter will be moved back into the building. *continued on page 7*

COMING EVENTS



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

November

- 29 PACT Old Church Rooms - All welcome to discuss police and community matters of concern. 7.00pm

December

- 3 Radyr Primary Christmas Fayre. Everybody is welcome to join us at our Christmas Fayre. Fun for all the family including raffle, tombola, face painting, secret Santa, books, toys and lots of games. Don't forget to visit Santa and pick up your magic Reindeer food. Seasonal refreshments available. We look forward to seeing you! 10.30am
- 3 Twinning Fellowship Christmas Dance At Radyr Golf Club....further details to follow 7.00pm
- 7 Conservative Coffee Morning Coffee Morning at 20 Fisher Hill Way by kind permission of Mrs Liz Davies; Tickets £2 from Sue McKerlich (20842764) or Louise Rigby or pay at the door 10.30am
- 12 Radyr & Morganstown WI, Old Church Rooms Christmas Quiz and Social Evening. Come and join in the festive spirit. 7.30pm
- 14 Rail Correspondence & Travel Society. Old Church Rooms. Peter Skelton "Railways past and present". all welcome. Visitors £2 incl coffee. 7.30pm

January

- 5 PACT Meeting at 7pm in the Old Church Rooms. all welcome 7.00pm
- 9 Radyr & Morganstown WI. Old Church Rooms 7.30pm
- 10 Imaging 2000. Wild life of the World - Dr Paul Bowden. Old Church rooms - all welcome. 7.30pm
- 11 Rail Correspondence & Travel Society. Old Church Rooms. AGM + speaker Nigel Wassell "Around branch lines of Wales and the Marches" All welcome. Visitors £2 incl coffee. 7.30pm
- 11 Radyr, Morganstown & District Gardening Club. New Church Rooms, Heol Isaf. "A Gallop Through Garden History" - An illustrated talk by Sheena Crossley. A look at garden development from the earliest recorded gardens through to today's modern designs as typified by Chelsea. Meeting open to Members and Non-members, all are welcome. For further information please contact Richard Gregory tel:02920842084 7.30pm
- 21 Radyr Parish Music Group. Grab your partners and come on down to our annual Barn Dance with master caller Goronwy Jones. Light supper will be served. All

welcome. Morganstown Village Hall. Tickets from Martin Coysh on 20842954.7.30pm

28 Friends of Radyr Woods Working party. (weather permitting) contact John Scott 20842772. Meet by Taff Terrace entrance to the Woods. 9.00am

AGE CONCERN JOURNEYS PROJECT TO LAUNCH ON FRIDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER WITH RADYR COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Following its success in the recent People's Millions competition, the Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Journeys Project is now ready for its launch. The project will link Cardiff High Schools to local care homes to interview residents about their life stories and experiences. During this intergenerational project the residents' stories will be captured and recorded on to an audio CD, Life Books will then be produced by Age Concern for each care home resident taking part. The launch of the project begins on Friday, 18th November when Radyr High School will receive the first training workshop.

The students of Radyr High School have already been introduced to the residents of Ty Hafod Care Centre in Radyr and Danesbrook House in Danescourt. Commenting on their interaction, Angela Jones who is co-ordinating the project said "The residents taking part have been very welcoming towards the students, with some even preparing a number of photos and literature they had already about their lives. The Journeys Project will enable residents of care homes to become more engaged within their community. The schools and homes participating are keen to continue links even after the project has been completed. In some circumstances older people in care homes can receive few visitors and they can feel isolated from the

community in which they live. The Journeys Project will widen participation and enhance community ties through a greater understanding between the generations".

Age Concern has been thrilled with the response from high schools and care homes wanting to participate in the project. This is a true living history project from which both students and residents will gain a huge amount of satisfaction and enjoyment.

N.B. Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale Awareness Week is taking place throughout the week of the 14-18 November, 2011. Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan is an independent local charity that has been providing services for older people since 1974. A local and independently run charity which reaches out to older people in the region, many of whom live alone, are physically frail and live below the poverty line.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE PARISH OF RADYR

At Christ Church Radyr

Sunday, 18th December:

6:00pm - Nine lessons and carols, with the choir

Christmas Eve, Sat 24 December

6:00pm - Nativity play and carols, with the Sunday School

11:00pm - The First Eucharist of Christmas: 'Midnight Mass'

Christmas Day, Sun 25 December

8:00am - Holy Eucharist
11:00am - Family Eucharist - bring a toy ... bring a friend!

At St. John's Danescourt

Sunday, 18th December

9:15am - Family Eucharist & Nativity play

6:00pm - Carols round the Crib - a service for all ages

Christmas Eve, Sat 24th December
9:00pm - First Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day, Sun 25th December
9:15am - Family Eucharist

Visit us on the web:

www.parish.radyr.org.uk

Contact the Rector,

Canon Jenny Wigley:

rector@radyr.org.uk 029 2084 2417

Letters, articles, reports and other contributions are invited and should be submitted by January 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.

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RADYR LIBRARY

...from front cover

Along with this we will be having a community area, public toilets and (our favourite) a staff room AND kitchen! Hooray!

Although we understand the inconvenience of the library being closed for six months, we hope that the finished library will all be worth it. If you have any outstanding books that you wish to return, you are welcome to drop them into any Cardiff public library, the closest being either Fairwater (2078 5583) or Whitchurch (2062 8951). Radyr Library staff are being posted to various libraries, so if you're passing, pop in and say hello! Jen and Anne are in Fairwater, Bryony is in Ely and Hannah is in Llandaff North.

For the younger members of the library, please check the Cardiff libraries website for up-to-date Storytime sessions for under 5's. Fairwater's session is currently running on a Wednesday morning at 10:00am (term time only). But we advise you to give us a quick ring before to check that it's on.



Jen, Anne, Bryony and Hannah xxx

A minibus has been organised to run between Radyr and Fairwater libraries once a week on a Wednesday morning. The bus will pick up from outside Radyr Library at 10.45am and then leave Fairwater at 12.30pm. Please note that this service is for elderly and disabled borrowers only and places MUST be pre-booked by phoning Fairwater Library on 2078 5583.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support of Radyr Library. Together, we have raised a great amount of money for charity over the years and our events have always been well attended. Our most recent children's Halloween party was attended by almost thirty children, making pumpkins and spiders and eating severed fingers and crunchy bones! Well done to Mali and Menna who won the fancy dress competition as a witch (with a big scary rat!) and Spider Princess. We hope the children enjoyed the party as much as we did!

We would like to wish you all the best, a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we'll see you in May(ish!).



REMEMBRANCE DAY 13th NOVEMBER, 2011.

On Remembrance Day a large crowd had gathered in Heol Isaf to witness the Act of Remembrance. The march on from Station Road was led by the City of Cardiff (Melingriffith) Band and the procession from Christ Church was led by Mrs. Marion Drake DL. The Prayers at the Cenotaph were given by the Rector, The Reverend Jenny Wigley assisted by the Assistant Curate, the Reverend Christine Colton and representatives of the Methodist and Roman Catholic churches of the parish of Radyr and Morganstown. The first wreath was laid on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen by Lieutenant Colonel Guy Clarke, TD, OBE, DL., a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of South Glamorgan. He was followed by County Councillor Rod McKerlich and representatives of the Community Council, Community Association, the churches of the parish, military services, veterans and local organisations. In all, twenty seven wreaths were laid under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel David Suthers, ERD, TD.

Three of the wreaths were laid by returning sons of Radyr and Morganstown, former pupils of Radyr Comprehensive School and former members of Radyr Scouts. Colonel Huw Williams, OBE, recently returned from Command of the 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment in Afghanistan, laid the Army wreath and Mr. Rob Ridgway laid the Royal Engineers' wreath, whilst his brother, Paul, laid the Royal Marine Commando's wreath. The "two minutes silence" was observed at Eleven o'clock and that part of the service was closed with the singing of the National Anthems led by the City of Cardiff (Melingriffith) Band.

There followed a church service in Christ Church which was conducted by the Rector and the Assistant Curate. The Reverend Sue McIvor, Minister of the Radyr Methodist Church preached. The City of Cardiff (Melingriffith) Band led the march past the Cenotaph of veterans, Air Training Corps cadets, scouts, guides, cubs, brownies, beavers and St. John Ambulance cadets. The salute was taken by Lieutenant Colonel Guy Clarke.

At the end of the parade, the Community Council generously provided refreshments at the Radyr Tennis Club for all those who had taken part. The Chairman of the Community Council, Mr. Tyrone Davies, spoke to thank everyone for their support of Remembrance Day. Colonel Clarke read a letter from Her Majesty the Queen in reply to our letter of Loyal Greetings that had been sent to her from the village. Roy Scott.



UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROD McKERLICH

The new floodlit all-weather hockey and football pitch opened at Radyr Comprehensive in early November; it is already being extensively used by school pupils and in the evenings, by local clubs. This facility was built at an approximate cost of £500K from various council funds and it was much needed in this area. In addition to the big expected improvement in our school hockey standards, our thriving youth football teams will be able to train throughout the winter without being disrupted by frost or rain.

By now, Radyr Library has closed for six months for its major refurbishment. During closure, library users can visit other local libraries to borrow and return books. There will be a weekly free return bus service each Wednesday morning, taking those who need transport to Fairwater Library; to book in advance for

a place on the bus, please phone VEST on 2078 5583.

The various changes in refuse collection are now settling down after a lengthy period of teething problems. While the library is closed, refuse bags may be obtained from Martins in Station Road or P'Zazz in Caer Craig. If any resident is still having problems with collection, please contact me.

My wife and I attended the Radyr Comprehensive production of FAME and it was a joy with superb singing, acting and wonderful choreography. We have a lot of talent in this community and the run of school concerts at this time of year gives evidence that the production line of talent is working well.

Each month I circulate a detailed newsletter on the local website and by email to those who request a copy. If anyone wants to be added to the circulation, let me know.

Rod McKerlich
Tel. 2084 3106
Email: rmckerlich@cardiff.gov.uk

particularly at the bottom of Maes-yr-Awel, the Council has been unable to establish such additional safety measures. The same can be said regarding the provision of a pavement in this particular area.

One of the most emotive issues raised by members of the community is the lack of police in our area. In terms of population and the financial contribution that this area makes, the policing is regarded as woeful. Indeed, at one time this year, the community was without our local bobby as he was seconded to duty in London. In addition, our PLSO was on maternal leave which meant that the community was without our policing force for four days. This stage of affairs is unacceptable and complaints have been sent to the relevant authority.

One of the most recent important developments has been the monthly publication of a report by our very hard working and most able Councillor Rod McKerlich. His monthly report can be found on the following website www.radyr.org.uk It illustrates the tremendous efforts that Rod has made and continues to make on behalf of the community. I am sure that readers will join me in thanking Rod for his dedicated service and efforts on our behalf.

What of the future? There is no doubt that the issues raised earlier will continue to be raised and addressed. To some extent, a number of the solutions to these problems are in the hands of the community in terms of parental responsibilities and lobbying for an increase in appropriate services and in particular, an increase in police presence.

The other major issue will be the discussion regarding the Cardiff Local Development Plan. This plan indicates that over 600 houses will be built along both sides of the road between Danescourt and Rhydlafar. At the last open meeting in Radyr, these draft plans were presented. What was conspicuous by their absence was the apparent lack of appropriate facilities to contain the services requirements of an obvious increase in population, for example, schools, medical and dental primary care and the associated infrastructure. I would urge all residents to be aware of these future developments and where appropriate, act together as a community. Finally, I would ask that more residents attend the PACT Meetings in the future, to take up the mantle of responsibility so that the community can continue to be a safe and successful environment.

R.S. VAUGHAN
Chairman

PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY TRUST – PACT

As we come to the end of the year, I thought that I would write an update regarding the main issues that have been in the forefront of the discussions.

Although PACT represents both Radyr and Morganstown, it is disappointing that the average attendance at each meeting is around twenty residents. Furthermore, it is apposite to record that any new attendee usually comes to register complaint which is discouraging.

This last sentence leads me on to what have been the main topics that have been raised during the last twelve months. The major complaints by far, have been the disturbances caused by the younger members of the community, both male and female. These disturbances are usually, but not always, associated with alcohol. The current legislation regarding the purchase of alcohol by those under 18 years of age is well known and is monitored very regularly by the appropriate Council representatives. Their conclusions, following several visits, are that the local stores are complying with the law. Such conclusions, of course, begs the questions as to where the alcohol is obtained. It would appear that those over 18 purchase alcohol for those under 18. There is also evidence that some parents supply alcohol to their offspring. The local constabulary have asked me to point out that both these avenues are against the law. In addition, such purchases could lead to the prosecution of the perpetrators. More serious, however, is

that those under eighteen could be cautioned and occasionally prosecuted, particularly if they break the law or cause damage whilst inebriated. Should a subsequent prosecution be successful, it could affect their future prospects as it must be declared. The same could be said if an ASBO is issued. In the current climate where university places and obtaining employment can be competitive, such outcomes may be of considerable disadvantage.

The other main issue is car parking around the centre of Radyr. Some cars are left all day and cause difficulties for others, particularly the more senior residents, who need to visit the local stores to purchase essentials and to gain access to other vital services such as the Post Office or the bank. Furthermore, daily access to the railway station can be compromised. I am informed that officials representing the Council are now visiting this area quite regularly and are able to issue parking tickets as appropriate.

Traffic throughout our district is considerable and can vary from light to heavy vehicles, travelling at various speeds. The calming and speed cameras are able to assist in the reduction of these speeds but nevertheless, this is not always a deterrent. The reduction of traffic speed is very important as there are two schools on both sides of Heol Isaf and speeding cars can be dangerous, particularly at the school start and finishing times. Despite many requests for additional crossings,

ESSENTIAL REPAIRS & RENOVATION TO CHRIST CHURCH, RADYR

Christ Church cost about £2,000. to build in 1904. What would it cost now? Well, in excess of £1m. we would guess. We have to undertake work on both churches in the parish as advised in our most recent Quinquennial report. Our surveyors have costed the work at some £63,000; by far the larger part of that sum is needed to be spent on Christ Church. Looked at one way that is a lot of money, but looked at another way it is a trivial amount compared with the present day rebuild cost of our two churches and our treasurer points out that to delay fixing things now invites the possibility of horrendous costs in the future.

Most of the problems we need to fix concern keeping water out of the fabric of the buildings. We are all too aware of what happens when water gets into a building. First there is wet rot and if that is not treated, dry rot can follow quickly. If that spreads, treatment is dramatic (stripping of plaster, replacement of major timbers etc.) and the costs exorbitant in buildings of this age. If we do not act now we could easily see the repair costs go up tenfold in a few years. So our 'stitch in time' philosophy is by far the best approach. We may not have the active support of the major grant givers but we have the opportunity to secure the future of our churches – both for the Parish and for the wider Community – for the next fifty years or more.

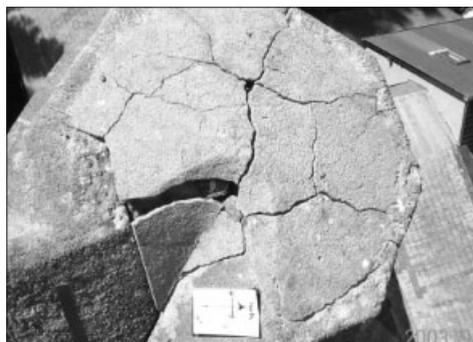
Christ Church is a building which is used not just by its regular worshippers and for baptisms, weddings and funerals but which welcomes the wider community for Remembrance Sunday, the Civic Service and events during the Radyr Festival. We work closely with both primary schools and invite classes in several times a year. We make the church available for fundraising events for Danybryn and other local charities. The Schoolrooms are booked up most days and evenings of the week by local residents and organisations and therefore we aim to set the building at the heart of the community.

We are exceedingly fortunate in this Parish, to have this excellent building in reasonably good repair. It has been maintained well over the years, but we do have a problem. The church is a Grade 2* listed building, which is impressive but does not excite the soul of the administrators as much as a Grade

1 listing! Additionally, the Church is not 'at substantial risk' right now. If either of these factors were otherwise we might have been successful in obtaining grants from the main funders for the essential work now required. Even with aggressive and innovative fundraising and some small grants, we still have a shortfall of approximately £23,000. Sunday, 30th October was set as a Parish Gift Day and we have written to all those on our Electoral Roll which resulted in raising around £7,000.

You may notice scaffolding being erected over the following weeks as we feel we cannot afford to delay any more with the onset of winter. This does not mean we have raised all the monies required and are appealing to the people of the Parish to help us to preserve our building for the future; it is our Community's inheritance and that of future generations, as well as a landmark in the heart of our community. Any donations will help towards the final costs and you can give by contacting the Rector, Rev. Cannon Jenny Wigley (Tel: 2084 2417 rector@radyr.org.uk) or either of the Churchwardens: Dave Xerri (Tel: 2084 2668 dave@xxerri.fsnet.co.uk) or Sandra Birdsall (Tel: 2084 2098 sandra.birdsall@btinternet.com)

Dave Xerri
Churchwarden, Christ Church



Personal Account: Welsh Students Success in the States



Ben Annear

On the 18th of May 2011 I found out that I had been selected to become a delegate, as part of the Ottenheimer International Youth Exchange Project, to spend 4 and half weeks in Arkansas and a further 4 days in Washington DC. The Ottenheimer Youth Exchange Project selects and provides two students from different countries every year with a scholarship to travel to America and stay with Rotarians (members of the Rotary organisation comprised of business and professional leaders). The Rotary of Little Rock Club 99 is made up of approximately 400 members, male and female, presided over by club president Bob Birch.



Sailing on Greers Ferry Lake

My life so far, to some, would already seem fast paced. I am 21 years old and recently graduated from the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff with a degree in psychology. I am now continuing my education and have undertaken an MSc in Forensic Psychology. I have also had many other different adventures, including being an activity instructor abroad in countries including Greece, Majorca and France, and have also appeared on a TV gameshow known as '101 Ways to Leave a Gameshow', set in

RADYR SATURDAY THEATRE SCHOOL FOR YOUNGSTERS

Award winning Shine Creative Arts is coming to Radyr in 2012. Shine Creative Arts, a Cardiff based Drama, Dance and Music business is starting a new Saturday Theatre School at Radyr Comprehensive School. The Radyr School will teach acting, dancing and singing to children aged 4-17 years old. Not only will youngsters learn new skills and develop their talent with experienced tutors, they will work towards a fantastic show every Summer. Hannah Williams, the Principle of the Shine Theatre School says "I am very excited to announce that, by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Limited, the Radyr School will be presenting Disney's Aladdin jr. The MTI Broadway Junior collections are adaptations of classic musicals specifically designed for young performers. Being part of a large production of such a popular Broadway show is a wonderful opportunity for any budding star and I am very much looking forward to casting local talented children in Aladdin jr".

The new Radyr Saturday School will meet in the Drama Studio of Radyr Comprehensive from 10-1 for children aged 7-11 and the "Shine Mini Stars" aged 4-7 will meet from 10-12. The School launches in the New Year on Saturday, 14th January.

Shine Creative Arts was established in 2009 by Hannah Williams. Just two years on from the first Shine Creative Arts After School Drama classes being launched, there are now approximately 150 students attending classes at various

locations in Cardiff ... and counting! In that time Shine Creative Arts has been awarded the February 2011 "They're the Business" Award from the South Wales Echo and Park Inn Hotel, in addition to being nominated by clients and parents for "Best New Activity for Children" in the UK wide What's On 4 Awards 2011. Hannah says "I am passionate about seeing young people shine through Drama, Dance and Music. Every session is designed to inspire, educate and create in a positive environment that encourages fun and working together. I know from my own experience that the creative arts develop confidence, self awareness and team work skills in children. Even the shyest of children can really blossom. The fantastic feedback that I get from children and parents is extremely rewarding, as the mission of Shine Creative Arts has always been to see children of all ages and abilities shine like stars".

Hannah Williams also states "I pride Shine Creative Arts on being affordable and inclusive. As such, I do not believe that you will find great quality Theatre Education for less in Cardiff". The cost of a Half Term (based on six weeks) with the Theatre School will be just £90. We will only start charging per Half Term following the February Half Term. During January the cost will be just £12. per week paid per three hour session for 7-17 year olds and just £8. for 4-7 year olds. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn Dance, Acting and Singing and the cast of Aladdin will be announced during the February Half Term. Every student that enrolls is guaranteed a part in Disney's Aladdin jr.

For more information please contact shine info@shinecreativearts.co.uk or see www.shinecreativearts.co.uk

Everybody in Radyr Scout Group would like to say a big thank you to all the residents of Radyr who helped swell our Tesco and Sainsbury's voucher tally, by posting them through the boxes in The Library, Pughs and Martins. Thanks also to the shop keepers for giving up a bit of space for our post boxes. All the products we managed to "buy" have arrived and will soon be put to good use. "What did we get?" you ask

We got
coloured paper a cricket set
coloured card a hockey set
crepe paper a set of hockey goals
pom poms 2 rounders bats
eye stickers 5 litres of PVA glue
airflow balls -12 24 glue sticks

a bucket of tennis balls (at the time of writing we have not managed to get the lid off!! hopefully by the time this is printed we will have.)
a sack to put footballs in, a set of playground balls.

and a few other bits and pieces but that's the main, so now you know why we wish to say thank you. and to look forward to more vouchers in 2012.

Regards - David Bird AKA Tuesday Akela

YOUR PARKING COULD COST A CHILD'S LIFE

To the Radyr Community,

We are writing to inform you of the concerns we have about parking outside Radyr Primary School. It has been an ongoing problem for a while and we feel something needs to be done about it before it's too late.

The problem occurs outside Radyr Primary School where cars park on the zig zag lines that are outside the school gates and also on the double yellow lines on Park Road. We think this must be stopped immediately as it is a danger to the public and children's safety.

We are sure that you would agree that it is extremely dangerous and if cars are parked on zig zag and double yellow lines, you could put a child's life at risk because cars driving along Park Road cannot see the zebra crossing.

We would like you to take note that, it is against the law to park on a zig zag line; as rule 242 of the high way code states, 'you must not leave your vehicle in a dangerous position or where it causes unnecessary obstructions of the road'. Many cars that park outside our school are breaking this law. It is also a similar offence to park on double yellow lines.

We have several reasons for arguing this point of view, our first reason is that you could injure a child or collide with another car. Furthermore, punishments may be handed out like a fine or the worst case scenario, it could cost a child's life so you should ask yourself is it really worth it?

However, some people who park outside the school gates on the zig zag lines may argue that it is easier to park closer to the school, especially if you are running late but we would like you to remember that this is not legal; however it is legal to walk to school. I hope this letter will make people think sensibly about parking around schools.

Yours faithfully,
George and Catrin
(Year 5 pupils, Radyr Primary)



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

In November we celebrated 25 years of service to the community by the Wardens of Radyr Woods. Supported by Radyr & Morganstown Community Council, the Wardens have maintained the 12 acres of woodland, paths, fences and ponds in their own time. They have been funded only by grants for equipment and helped groups of Scouts and other young people working towards qualifications like the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The event also celebrated the generous sale of part of the woodland to R&MCC by the Earl of Plymouth for a nominal £100. We are delighted to be bringing this final part of the woodland into public ownership which will ensure that this much-used and much-loved place will be protected for the community.



Wardens in the Woods



Birthday cake acknowledging the Wardens' many Teddy Bears' Picnics run for local children



Jim Goodwin, Chairman of the Wardens explaining the group's history.



Lunch catered by Cllr Sue Philpott

Remembrance Day was well attended, as always in our community. It was a pleasure, as always, to see so many young people there in the unusually warm sunshine. Cllr David Suthers, the only Veteran now on the Community Council, called the laying of the wreaths.

We are looking forward to this year's Christmas Tree lighting on December 8. The Community Council and the RMA organise this event together. This year, R&MCC has contributed a thousand pounds towards the cost of new lights for Station Road as well as providing, as always, the three community trees.

Planning for next year's Jubilee is under way and we will let you know what events will take place as soon as we can. We hope that they will include a concert with fireworks and a lighted beacon.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to a busy 2012.
Helena Fox - Clerk to R&MCC



Radyr & Morganstown Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Radur a Threforgan

A FUND TO SUPPORT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN POST-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND TRAINING?

The Community Council would like your views on an idea to give financial support to local young people. In R&M, many go from school to college, university and apprenticeships. We all know how expensive the courses and equipment can be. The suggestion is that a fund, a Community Chest, is built up from local donations which can be paid out to help with initial costs such as text books, tools and other equipment.

The Community Chest would need to look at both raising money and then distributing it. The Community Council itself cannot give grants to individuals but could support the fund with its administrative costs. A properly constituted charity would be needed to carry out the Community Chest's business.

Cowbridge has a scheme like this which gives £450. to each young person who applies and meets the scheme's criteria. They were in the fortunate position of starting with large capital investments. One charity was set up to manage the money raised from the sale of a community property and another to manage the money raised from the sale of a piece of land. The interest earned is distributed and there is no need for any fundraising. An R&M fund would need to build up a considerable sum of money before it was able to make any payments.

If you think that this is a good idea and would be willing to support the project by remembering such a charity in your Will, by making a donation or by becoming a trustee or fundraiser, the Community Council would be grateful if you could let us know using :

Phone: 2084 2213 Email : clerk@radyr.org.uk Website: Soapbox : please feel free to make a comment.

If you support the idea and have any expertise in this sort of project and would like to be involved, we would also very much like to hear from you.

Helena Fox - Clerk to R&MCC

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

People tell me that I'm kind and helpful, but sometimes I'm beginning to think that I'm a bit of a soft touch. I couldn't meet my friend the other day as my daughter had borrowed my car to get to work, as she had taken her own car to the garage to be serviced. I also often lend money to my son towards the end of each month as he seems to run out of money at least a week before pay-day. If I'm honest, sometimes he doesn't always pay me back in full although he always gives me something. I don't want to see them struggle but I'm just beginning to feel slightly resentful.

As I read your letter, a part of me is beginning to feel glad that you are feeling a touch of resentment – it shows that you are ready to change! It's wonderful that you want to help others and I hope that you will continue to do so. However, both of your children are now adults and with your support and encouragement, they will be able to make their own decisions and live with the consequences. A technique I use is called monkey management. I see a problem or a challenge as a monkey sitting on my shoulder. I have about six of my own and other people have quite a few too. However, I don't want to take any monkeys from anyone else, so I see how I can advise and support my friends without taking their monkeys. For example, your daughter's monkey was how to get to work when her car was being serviced. Your advice might have included public transport, car sharing or even using a garage that was close to work or that offered a courtesy car. You haven't refused to help her; you are just not taking her monkey so that your daughter learns to manage her own monkey.

Similarly, your son's monkey is not being able to manage his money. Before he asks again – before the monkey climbs from his shoulder on to yours – perhaps think of ways that you could support him? It might be helping him to plan his spending on a weekly basis, or look at where he can make some savings, such as taking sandwiches to work instead of buying lunch every day. Ultimately, he may have to 'go without' things during the last week of the next month or two until he gets the hang of it, but that will be his responsibility and also his greatest learning!

As you learn to manage your own monkeys and to support others but not take their monkeys, it will give you far more time to enjoy yourself with your friends and your

children. At the same time, they will learn some valuable life skills too!

My life is just so busy! I'm already rushing around and at the moment I have to get Christmas presents for so many people, on top of everything else. I feel I should visit friends that I haven't seen for ages and I've got to decorate the spare room before we have visitors to stay. I've been meaning to clear the garage out for the past six months but there never seems to be enough time. Help!

Whew – I feel exhausted just reading your letter! Whilst it can feel as though life is going at a hundred miles an hour, sometimes just by changing the words and phrases we use can start to slow things down a little. One of the common pressures comes from the words in our heads – the culprits are usually 'Should, Must, Shouldn't, Got to, Have to, Ought' and so on. If you were to change some of the phrases to 'Choose to, Want to, Would like to, Would prefer not to' it takes some of the pressure off and allows you to associate with how you really feel about some of the tasks.

If you 'should' visit friends, then it feels more like a chore or obligation. It is possible that once you've visited them, you might even feel a bit angry that you were the one making the effort? However, if you **want** to see your friends, it becomes more of a pleasure when you meet up. As there is no rule that says we 'Have to' see everyone before Christmas, sometimes it's nice to 'Choose to' see them after Christmas when things often feel a bit quieter.

I have a saying that any sentence with a 'Should' in it should be ignored! I can then take a step back and see how else I could process the thought with less effort. Finally, it sounds as though the task to clear your garage is such a big job that the thought of it is causing you to feel stressed. Perhaps make a positive decision to 'choose to' spend just one hour starting a corner of it on a specific day. Often tackling a large job in small chunks makes it more manageable. You might find that it takes on a momentum of its own and each hour that you chose to spend doing it can create a wonderful feeling of satisfaction. It's always good to build in a reward or two as well, especially when you achieve something that you've been putting off for so long"

CHAIN COOKERY CORNER

Pork Dijonnaise

Quick and tasty – serves 2

10-12oz (300-400g) pork tenderloin
4oz (100g) button mushrooms
2-3oz (50-75g) butter
8-10 fl.oz fresh whipping cream
Good splash brandy
1/2 glass dry white wine
3-4tsp Dijon mustard
30-40 soft green peppercorns (optional)
Salt and ground black pepper

Slice pork tenderloin into half inch (1cm) slices
Slice mushrooms
Heat frying pan – ideally one with heavy base
Melt butter, increase heat and when foaming, place pork in pan
After 30 seconds turn over to lightly brown
Turn the heat down, remove pork from pan and keep warm
Add mushrooms to pan and lightly fry. If all butter is absorbed, add more
Add peppercorns and brandy
Increase heat, brandy should flame, add wine and seasoning
Turn heat down
Pour in cream, increase heat for cream to boil
Reduce heat and add Dijon mustard
The sauce is now ready so tip in pork plus juices
Taste and adjust seasoning
Serve on warm plate with a sprig of parsley and chosen vegetables

A.M.P.

MANY THANKS FROM CARDIFF WEST ROTARY CLUB



Following on from our first year when we raised nearly £8,000. from various charitable causes, including £2,300 for victims of the Japanese Tsunami, collected during various events, we have been delighted at the generous responses to our continued fundraising efforts. In the last six months we have collected £600. for famine relief in the Horn of Africa, found three beds for Dyfrig House Hostel for the Homeless, raised £145. for various Rotary charities and presented Radyr Guides with a cheque for £75.

Most recently in November, we raised £100. for **End Polio Now**, which is Rotary's ongoing project, launched in 1985 and hopefully entering the final stretch towards Polio eradication. Our fun quiz raised almost £500. for Rotary charities and we hope for continued fundraising successes in the future.

During November and early December we have been going door-to-door collecting food for the Cardiff Food Bank and toys and toiletries for Women's Aid. Cardiff Food Bank provides an emergency service giving food to families and individuals who are temporarily unable to buy their own. Last year they provided 25 tonnes of food to 1500 people. Women's Aid provides support to women and children in domestic abuse situations. **We thank everyone who donated to us.** We would especially

like to thank Mrs. Thomas of Windsor Avenue for her generous donation of toys.

Over the last few months we have had many interesting visitors come to talk to the club on subjects including wildlife, crime, the history of Punch and Judy and teaching in Uganda. In October, Dewi Griffiths and Ben Annear came to tell us of their visit to the US. We nominated Dewi and he was subsequently selected, with Ben, for an all-expense paid trip to visit the Little Rock, Arkansas Rotary Club. During their five week visit they stayed with various Rotary members and also travelled to Graceland and Washington DC, receiving a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Our first social event in the New Year will be a **Murder Mystery evening on 20th January.** Please look out for our flyers containing further information. And once again, we will be holding a St. David's Concert which will hopefully be as great a success as last year. If you would like to attend a club evening or for more information about our Club, contact David Warrell on 2056 2531 or visit our website www.cardiffwestrotaryclub.wordpress.com

WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT SCHOOL TO GET A JOB?

Last time I wrote about going in to town with your friends. That's great ... if you've got the money. But if you haven't you need to earn it and that's where the problem starts.

Well ... that's harder than it looks. You could do thousands of chores and earn £1. at home whilst watching your seventeen year old brother spend one Saturday working in town – not even a whole week ... and get £50.

So what's a younger teenager going to do? He/she can't get a Saturday job as there are health and safety rules that employers have to stick to. He/she can't carry on doing pointless chores that earn as much as a bag of sweets because you'll never earn enough. He can't go begging his dad for a fortune that lasts a day (well unless it's for the train cost).

You could go door-to-door asking to wash cars or mow lawns, which is a good thing if it's not raining! You could also start your own business going to grandparents and friends and selling them cakes (that's what I'm doing), but that got me thinking so why can't we have a Saturday job? I think it's because of health and safety as some 'bright spark' might go and injure or kill himself. But why not employ children who want to work?

The scouts and your parents are always trying to get you to be mature and make your own money. But it's virtually impossible. Be realistic. How are you going to hurt yourself with a plate trying to be a waiter or cooking? It's not like the fridge would squash you or someone will care if you get a splinter in the wooden table!

So adults and business people – why not try and employ some cheap children who need the experience for their next job and their own money to spend.

Matthew Walker

Ed. Note: Matthew's cakes are delicious!



The members of the Rotaract

Argentina. The other delegate selected to travel to America alongside me was Dewi Griffiths, a Cardiff local.

Our journey to America began on August 7th, departing from Cardiff and leaving the typical British weather behind us. The journey to Arkansas took 21 hours and upon arrival we were immediately greeted with the warm hospitality of the first family that we were staying with.

During our time in Arkansas we had a plethora of activities to keep us occupied, including: visiting the Arkansas historical museum, visiting marketing agencies, having a tour of the Heifer International Centre and ranch, baseball games, American football matches, a tour of the Skippy Peanut Butter factory, visiting the Big Dam Bridge, sailing, Little Rock High School, staying on a farm in Salem for 2 days, visiting the Clinton Library, and water sports on hot springs lake (water skiing and tubing). We met important representatives of the state including the governor, Beebe and congressman Tim Griffin. We also visited Memphis for 2 days, toured Elvis'



Ben surrounded by horses at McCullough Farm, Salem

mansion and tried the world renowned peanut butter and banana sandwich – the Elvis sandwich. As well as visiting many different places, we also spent time volunteering and spent half a day at the Arkansas food bank allocating and arranging the stock ready to supply to deprived areas. Not only did we spend time with members of the Rotary but we also spend time with members of

Rotaract. Rotaract were the youth equivalent of Rotary and were aged between 18 to 30 years. The greatest thanks we owe is given to Frank Plafcan, a previous president of the Little Rock Rotary club, who was responsible for arranging everything that we experienced while in America.

There were many differences between Arkansas culture and that of the United Kingdom. Some of the main differences were the approaches to business in Arkansas. Rather than businesses being regarded as being quite ruthless and cut-throat, they seemed to work in alliance to one another, and companies collectively worked with the key aim of bringing further economy to Arkansas. The people of Arkansas were also extremely friendly. Even people in the street were always giving pleasant greetings as they walked by, however they probably wished they hadn't when they ended up in a 20 minute conversation, oblivious that they had just said hi to the most talkative person ever to leave Wales.

We left Arkansas on September 7th, and travelled to Washington DC. Upon arrival we experienced weather comparable to that of the rain in a tropical rainforest. But our spirits were not dampened for long, the weather brightened up the next day and we spent our time visiting interesting monuments. It was arranged for us to visit and tour the White House and the Capital Building which were both incredible sights with a great deal of American history and we also sat in the gallery at the House of Representatives.

Other monuments that we visited included the new Martin Luther King monument that was supposed to have been dedicated on August 28th but had to be postponed due to hurricane Irene and the spontaneous earthquake that took Washington by surprise. The effects of the earthquake were also evident as the Washington Monument had to be closed due to visible cracks weakening the stability of the obelisk. We were also able to see indisputably the most important document in American history; The Declaration of Independence stored and on view to the public at the Archives of the United States of America.

The time I spent in America was a journey that has provided me with many lasting memories, and, as is obvious to tell, it really was an opportunity of a lifetime. I believe that a person's character is defined by their experiences through their lifetime, and this wonderful experience has shown me (through meeting people, seeing their lives and what they have accomplished) what people can do if they work together and persevere to accomplish their ambitions.

My thanks go out to all those who supported me, the Rotary club of Landaff, the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, the Rotary of Little Rock club 99 and everyone else who supported Dewi and I to experience this, the opportunity of a lifetime. Now on to the 2012 London Marathon...

Ben Annear

**Radyr & Morganstown Community Council
R. & M. Association invite you to the**

Lighting of the Christmas Trees and Station Road Lights

Thursday 8th December
Carols, Lanterns and Candle Lit Parade
6.30pm at Morganstown Granny Park
Bryn Deri School Choir

6.30pm at Lychgate, Radyr Sidings
Radyr Primary School Choir

7.30pm at Windsor Gardens
Father Christmas Sleigh
Stalls in Station Road
Barbecue and Mulled Wine

7.45pm Station Road Lights & Trees
and Santa

See the Christmas Window Dressing Competition, Craft stalls and demos.
Late night shopping. Food and drink available

RADYR & MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

Did you attend the R&M Association meeting on Monday, 7th November? If not, you missed a treat. The Association's President, Rhodri Morgan, gave an outline of his life in Radyr and the influences on him during his stay in the village. He talked of his passion for politics and of the people who inspired him to get the ultimate position of First Minister of Wales, from which he had recently retired. He is spending his retirement enjoying reading, gardening, wood carving and even contemplating learning the piano – something he said he regretted paying sufficient attention to when a child in Radyr. If you want to read more about what he said, then look at the Minutes of the meeting which can be found on the Association's pages on the R&M website.

Incidentally, Professor Ron Eccles will be talking about his work at the Common Cold Unit at our next meeting on 6th February, 2012. Look out for details. All are welcome to attend.

By the time you read this, the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on Thursday, 8th December will be behind us. We hope it went well as this is an event which promises to build and build. If you attended, please let us have some feedback.

We are now busy forming up the shape of next year's Festival (theme 'King Arthur at Camelot') which, incidentally, will be David Cargill's 25th Festival – that deserves recognition. To date, there are 36 events in the schedule (including a Gala Dinner at the Golf Club to celebrate the 25th anniversary); that will almost certainly grow. We are also working with the Community Council on their plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We have offered to move the popular 'Concert in the Parc' event from the Festival to the Jubilee weekend and re-time it so it ends with the firework display already being planned by the Community Council. Should be a fun day.

Although there is still a ban in existence on the Motte, it is hoped that the fencing around it will be taken

down soon. There will be a need to remove a few more trees from the site and it is hoped that some of these can be made into benches. The old Morganstown Rugby Club will then be put up for long term lease, with the proviso that whoever takes it on will provide an interpretation centre for the Motte and the Lower Taff Valley.

We are still concerned about PACT Meetings. The last Radyr Chain listed the 'next meeting' as 8th November, but it did not take place then. It was moved to 29th November and at the time of writing, we do hope it will take place then. It is, quite frankly, difficult to take these meetings seriously if, for whatever reason, the dates cannot be set and adhered to. Members of the Association Executive generally attend the meeting, partly to hear what is

going on and partly to 'support the institution', so to speak. But our feeling is that they should either be taken seriously and do proper business, or they should be abandoned. We would be sad if the latter happened.

Finally, the R&M Executive would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very happy forthcoming Festive Season and a successful New Year.

If you would like to become a member of the R&M Association (there is no charge for membership and you will receive our regular two-monthly Newsletter), or would like to hear more about Association activities, contact the Secretary, Nick Hawkins (2084 2561 or rma@radyr.org.uk) or have a look at our web pages on www.radyr.org.uk



Free Shuttle Bus

Free return travel between Radyr Library and Fairwater Library for elderly and disabled customers. Every Wednesday during the Radyr Library refurbishment.

- Outbound: Bus leaves Radyr Library at 10.45am
- Return: Bus leaves Fairwater Library at 12.30pm

Places must be booked in advance. To book your free place, please telephone 029 2078 5583.

Service provided by VEST in partnership with Cardiff Libraries

<http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/libraries>
<http://www.vestcardiff.talktalk.net/>

Proud to Deliver

