

RADYR CHAIN



Number 253

Free to every home in Radyr and Morganstown

April 2021



Brightening up the village

Over the period of lockdown many individuals and groups have done their best to raise a smile for those visiting the shops in the village. Halloween and Divali were particularly successful as was Christmas. Since Christmas we have had Valentine's Day and St David's Day. We thank all those groups and individuals who do their best to brighten our lives.

The photographs show a Valentines Day heart left anonymously in Windsor Gardens and the Welsh lady puppets in the Methodist Church, one of a series of tableau the Methodist Church have organised.



Remembering Lockdown

Tuesday 23rd March was the first anniversary of the Covid Lockdown. A minutes silence was held at 12 noon to remember all those we have lost over the past year and to thank all those who've made life possible from the overworked doctors and nurses to the drivers and postmen who kept delivering to us throughout the pandemic. Not forgetting our excellent bin men. It is planned to make this an annual event.

The picture shows our County Councillor and Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Rod McKerlich at Windsor Gardens with a heart of daffodils to mark the day. The symbol of the day is a yellow heart. The heart was put up by The Little Flower Den Florists, without being asked. We are so lucky to have such excellent shopkeepers in the village.





Dear Friend,

I am writing to you ahead of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter enclosing a Palm Cross, some information about our services in Holy Week, an Order of Service for Maundy Thursday and an Easter card.

Although some churches have reopened we have taken the difficult decision to remain closed on Sundays for a few more weeks. We recognise that this is hard for those who do not have digital technology or enjoy on line worship but we believe this sacrifice is for the common good. This perhaps will be our final Lenten discipline, to give up our spiritual life in church for the safety and well-being of others.

I do hope that, if you can, you will join our services during Holy Week I am delighted that some of our services are being shared across our Ministry Area as has been our practise in the past. As usual do join with some bread and wine for Sunday Zoom services, and have your cross with you on Palm Sunday. I have enclosed an order of service for the Agape Meal Gareth will lead on Maundy Thursday - do have a read and prepare some food ahead of joining Zoom.

Palm Sunday 28th March 2021

Eucharist/ Agape 10.30am
Zoom link Meeting ID 214 843 1624
Password Radyr2019

Monday in Holy Week 7pm

Evening Prayer –
led by Rev'd Zoe King
Zoom link Meeting ID 681 018 9434
Password palm

Tuesday in Holy Week 7pm

Evening Prayer –
led by Rev'd Michael John
Evening Prayer 7pm
Zoom link Meeting ID 817 7998 2502
Password 151796

Wednesday in Holy Week 7pm

Tenebrae – led by Colin Finney
A service of readings, Taize chants, silence with a focus on the gradual extinguishing of candles until only one, a symbol of the light of Jesus, remains
Recorded in St Mary's and available on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjHKcmoIvD9K41P7AuENrSw>

Maundy Thursday 7pm

An Agape Meal – led by Rev'd Gareth Rayner-Williams
Zoom link Meeting ID 214 843 1624
Password Radyr2019

Good Friday

Led by Rev'd Belinda Huxtable
Seven Moments
A service of readings and reflections
Recorded in Christ Church available on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjHKcmoIvD9K41P7AuENrSw>

Easter Sunday 4TH April

Eucharist/ Agape 10.30am
Zoom link Meeting ID 214 843 1624
Password Radyr2019

Wishing you every blessing this Holy Week and Easter

Vicki Burrows

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Remembering

Over Easter a plaque will go up on the Scout Headquarters to remember the work Jeff Davies did for the Radyr Scouts over a long period.

Jeff did much else in the two villages. For many years he laid out Radyr Chain in the days before computers, when the work had to be done with a pencil and ruler. He also lit dozens of productions for the Radyr Parish Music Group and the Radyr Drama Society.

Many of us remember Jeff lighting the last production of the Music Group in Morganstown Village Hall in February 2020. He was one of the first victims of Covid in Wales and had died by early April.

Because of current regulations no ceremony will be possible at the Scout Hut at Easter. Hopefully by the time we get to the autumn Festival in September, a Civic Service will be possible and we will be able to remember those we have lost during these difficult times.

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of
COLLEEN JENKINS
who had taken over as Treasurer of the *Radyr Chain* following the death of her husband Ellis, less than a year ago.
A full tribute will follow in the next edition.

THE JUNE EDITION OF THE CHAIN WILL GO TO PRESS PROMPTLY ON THE 15th OF MAY.
WE CANNOT GUARANTEE TO INCLUDE ITEMS THAT ARRIVE AFTER THAT DATE

Letters, articles, reports and other contributions are invited and should be submitted by May 15th. Submissions may be subject to editing at the Editor's discretion.

All advertisements are accepted in good faith and The Radyr Chain is not responsible for information contained therein.

The views expressed in the Radyr Chain are not necessarily those of the Editors.

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Goodbye to Radyr Stables

The stables at Ty Gwyn Farm have been empty for some months, Val Allen tells the Chain that they are soon to be demolished, this will be another loss to our environment. Happily the farm cottage is to remain and Val will not lose her home. Val gave us some of the history of her family in Radyr. Before she married Tom Allen, Val was a Povey.

“Grampy Povey was a haulage contractor turned farmer who moved to Radyr Court in 1912, at the time everything was done by horse. Grampy lived and breathed horses, he firmly believed that lorries would never catch on or replace them.”

Radyr Court land went down to the river and across into Llandaff North. “Moving the cows from one side of the river to the other was an experience. Now cows are not stupid they just pretend to be. The theory was lead the bull and the cows will follow. Well our cows did not wish to know that. We had to walk them through Llandaff North. The cows were intent on investigating the many roads off Station Road.

Getting over the canal bridge was a nightmare, the cows did not like the bridge. There was a huge scorch mark on the bridge caused by an incendiary bomb and our cows started to jump around to avoid it. Once we’d passed the tank traps things started to calm down as the cows knew where they were going.

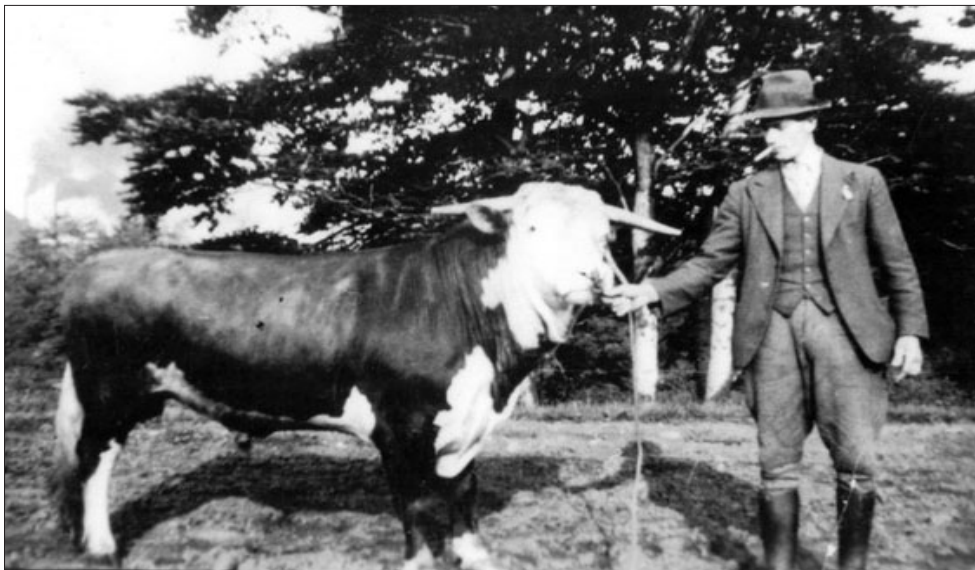
We had to make sure that the gate to the allotments was shut or they would have been in there like a shot eating everything in sight.

Now cows are not toilet trained, they tend to go whenever the need strikes. As we went through Llandaff North the street was empty, everyone was in their own or someone else’s front garden with the gates shut tight. The exception was one little man with a bucket and shovel. He followed us whenever we treated Llandaff North to a stamped, to give his roses a treat. He must have had the most perfumed garden for miles.

Val tells how the Poveys moved to Ty Gwyn farm just before the Second World War and tells stories of families moving out of Cardiff to Ty Gwyn fields to sleep in makeshift tents to be clear of the bombs. She also tells how lorries were driven out of Cardiff to avoid the bombs.

During the War, Ty Gwyn was a dairy farm and the stables were used for the cattle. Although during the war the cattle were not allowed to be kept in at night in case of a direct hit. Surprisingly Ty Gwyn had a herd of twenty milking cows and Val tells with love of the Jersey herd they had.

We’ll miss Val walking Ty Gwyn land each day and retrieving bucketfuls of golf balls that had strayed from the course but she’s always good for a chat to remind us of what Radyr used to be like.



Val's father with a prize bull.

The Gelynis Bridge

Many objections have been registered both from official bodies and individuals to the proposed bridge over the railway line at Gelynis. Objections have been made by our County Councillor Rod McKerlich, the R&M Community Council, the Morganstown Residents Association, the R&M Association and numerous individuals.

Whilst most people accept that an alternative to a level crossing is necessary if the number of trains per hour at peaks times is doubled, (who knows what will be true of a post Covid world?) many are concerned about the scale of the bridge.

Why is a two lane road needed to replace the single track currently in use to Gelynis farm? Why do the few vehicles needing to access Gelynis have to come from Morganstown, could they not use Iron Bridge Road and the old Iron Bridge? Is a two lane bridge not an invitation to future developers? Is a gradient of 1 in 12.5 not too steep? It is proposed that the present footpath be diverted across the new bridge. TfW say they will only retain as much land as they need for operational reasons. What they haven’t said is whether they will need to retain any of the land in Morganstown and if so how they will access it?

In the meantime Transport for Wales (TfW) had done an extensive ecological and historical assessments. While some of their historical conclusions are dubious, it is unlikely that present day Morganstown was ever known as Pentre Poeth, the ecological survey is first class. The number and range of species of bats is unbelievable. Did you know that there is a likelihood of dormice in the area? Badger and otters are also mentioned as well as amphibians.

As compensation for the disruption TfW are proposing to plant native woodland on the embankments leading to the bridge, native hedgerows around the perimeter, species rich grassland, wetland species in the wetter areas and plants for pollinators as a food source for foraging bats. Five bat boxes and five dormice boxes will be erected in the woodland to the west of the Taff.

This all sounds admirable and we congratulate the ecologists on an excellent report. (It can be read on the Cardiff County Council planning portal, follow links to the planning application for the bridge at Gelynis Farm.) The crunch will come in March 2022. Will they be strong willed enough to tell TfW that they cannot do something because of nesting birds or roosting bats? (See letter on letters page)

From The Rectory



Dear all,

The kidnap of a woman on the streets of London and her tragic murder seems to have touched the hearts of our nation. But is Cressida Dick really to blame for the despicable behaviour of one man? Women are clamouring for protection and newspaper headlines read, "Teach boys respect"

Consider me old fashioned, or if you must a religious nutter, but I still admire both Mary Whitehouse and Victoria Gillick for their willingness to speak truth to power in their day. Many of you will remember Mary Whitehouse speaking out against permissiveness, promiscuity, bad language, child pornography, sex and violence in popular culture, media and family life. Victoria Gillick, a mother of five sons and five daughters fought through The High Court and The Court of Appeal to overturn the right of a child under 16 to obtain contraception without parental consent. Both women were mocked and ridiculed for their conservative views. Today, we often say, "hindsight is a wonderful thing!"

As a mother of five sons and two daughters I do not depend on schools to teach my children to respect the opposite sex. The first place these things are learned is at home. I do not expect schools to offer PHSE in place of the teaching and example we offer at home where the mantra has always been, "sex is for life-long, stable and committed relationships". I do not expect a school to be the first to teach my

child that violence against another is unacceptable; that lesson began here when our children were toddlers. Our schools share with us in setting the next generation's moral compass in a world where youngsters view violent and pornographic images at the touch of their fingertips and some believe or fear that sex and violence are inextricable.

So why am I writing about such things before Easter? Because in three short years of ministry Jesus challenged the social norms of his day where the rules made by powerful rulers and the religious of his day, all of whom were men, discriminated against women along with the weakest in society. Jesus challenged the power that men exerted over women and children. He challenged their lack of equality in relationships and community life and time again through his preaching, teaching and example he gave a voice to women and the weakest in society where they had none.

Jesus was murdered because in speaking out he threatened the power the rulers and the religious loved to exercise. His counter cultural words brought healing to individuals and to community life at a time when it was perfectly acceptable to imagine that being male, healthy and wealthy entitled you to exclude or discriminate against others. Jesus faced a death as violent as any uttering words of forgiveness as he hung in agony on a cross. When he was dead and buried many thought that was the end of the story. But weeks, months, years, decades, centuries later people said, "He is risen!" What did they mean? When bread was broken and shared with the hungry, when the hurting were healed, when the unloved and excluded were treasured and when they saw violence defeated through the power of love some dared to believe they had seen him.

Surely, this is resurrection.

Wishing you joy and peace at Easter

Vicki

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Following our fantastic Food Bank collection in February, (when we filled the Food Bank van), members of Radyr Methodist are now focusing on yet another collection 8th-11th April from 9am-5pm. Boxes will be placed outside the following addresses:

30, Pentwyn, Radyr and 17, St Philbert Street, Park Plymouth.

The Food Bank have requested a few items they are short of: coffee, long life fruit juices, sponge puddings and toiletries, (particularly shower gels, soap, deodorants, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

All the usual items are most welcome: long life milk, tins of fish, meat, rice pudding, vegetables, cereals, biscuits, tea, etc.

As this will coincide with the Easter Holidays it would be lovely to send some treats for the children!

Alternatively if you wish to send a monetary donation, please place in an envelope marked (Food Bank,) and pop through the letterbox.

Thanking you all once again for your support.

Ruth & Mike Diment.



Radyr Cricket Club

Following a long winter, that seemed at times as if it might never end, I'm glad to say that the cricket season is about to burst into life. The first games at Radyr will be friendlies on the Saturdays of April 17th and 24th, before the league programme begins on May 1st.

Thereafter every Saturday there will be two games at the ground, until well into September. This however is only part of the story, as running five league sides means that thirty three Radyr cricketers will be playing away from home every week: the new Fifth XI making Pontcanna their base.

On Sundays, the Ladies fixtures begin on May 23rd, there will be the traditional friendlies, whilst the club has entered two senior cup competitions, including the Welsh Cup. There are going to be busy times at Radyr with the two grounds, often occupied, on both days of the weekend. Later in the season the Under 19s, the current Wales champions, will begin the defence of their trophy. Then on Friday July 23rd, RCC will be playing the MCC, the world's most famous club, a game that had to be re-arranged from last year. All of these fixtures will bring different challenges and surely whet the appetite of every club member and supporter.

This season will see a couple of firsts. The University of South Wales will make Radyr its home for both its men and women's sides, with their British University & Colleges Sport cup matches played on Wednesday afternoons in the early months of the season. It is an exciting development and will I'm sure bring great benefits to both parties. Also, maybe a sign of the times, the First XI will play their games in coloured clothing. A new design has been agreed, as shown in the photograph and includes the main shirt sponsors,



Michael Graham Young, CGI and U Design. One wonders how long it will be before the rest of the club, both young and old, follow suit?

Talking of the young brings me onto the Junior Section who this year will return

with a full compliment of matches. The club anticipates that there will refresher sessions for the Under 9s, 11s, 13s and 15s later this month, with the usual season starting on Monday April 26th. New players of all ages are welcome and any information can be found by emailing the Junior Secretary, Emma Clegg, on peteemarch@hotmail.co.uk.

The 2021 training schedule for the Junior Section will be as follows:

Mondays - 6.30-8.00pm - Under 13s (school years 7&8) and Under 15s (school years 9&10).

Tuesdays - 6.30-8.00pm - Under 11s (school years 5&6).

Fridays - 5.00-5.45pm - All Stars (reception, school years 1&2).

Fridays - 6.00-7.00pm - Dynamos (school years 3&4), mixed and girls only session available.

For more information and to book places for All Stars and Dynamos, please visit the following links. All Stars <https://www.ECB.co.U.K./play/all-stars> and/or Dynamos <https://www.ECB.co.U.K./play/dynamoscricket>

Junior matches are scheduled to start from early May and will run into August. Teams have been entered into the Cardiff & Vale Junior League and the ECB Welsh Cup competitions, where the club will get the chance to play clubs from across South Wales. The club's commitment to girl's cricket is demonstrated once again, as Radyr are the only Cardiff based club to have entered sides in the prestigious Under 13 & Under 15 Lady Taverner's competitions: the former play Abergavenny South Wales Falcons at home on Friday April 30th, whilst the latter travel to Briton Ferry. Also an exciting piece of news is that the club will have three senior Wales women players, plus a number of the First XI, joining the junior coaching team this summer and they will undoubtedly bring a wealth of knowledge to help the youngsters.

With the season now just a few days away, one thing that has struck me recently is the kindness of the club's sponsors and supporters. In the last month, donations have been received from the ECB, the Community Council, Admiral Insurance and the club's solicitors Rees Wood Terry: in addition to our three shirt sponsors mentioned above. Their funds will help the club to buy, amongst other things, new covers for the main ground, a mobile scoreboard for the new Fifth XI and Junior section and contribute towards the cost of the previously mentioned coloured kit. Also a new electronic scoreboard and three sets of stumps have been purchased, courtesy of funding, donated by two members.

The club is eternally grateful for these wonderful gestures whether from corporate or individual sources.

New sponsors/advertisers are always welcome and as can be seen from the varied type of companies mentioned above, the club is clearly a highly marketable organisation. Not only does it portray the highest ideals of sportsmanship, it has an age and gender profile welcomed by most advertisers. Throughout the season the ground plays host to the playing members, their friends, family, club supporters, Radyr residents and cricketing visitors of all ages. However, whilst these numbers on their own are impressive, they pale into insignificance alongside those who use two of the club's boundaries, the Taff Trail (700K) and the Valleys railway (3.5m). As can be seen the ground is ideally located and offers many marketing possibilities and anybody interested in some form of advertising should contact me on christopherhitchings@btinternet.com to discuss opportunities.

Whilst the winter did on occasion feel like "Groundhog Day", those charged with maintaining and improving the facilities at the club didn't stop. The main task, the pavilion extension, has now been completed, which is a wonderful achievement, given everything that nature and the Pandemic threw at the club. Then last month the "players patio", as can be seen in the second photograph



and the final phase of fencing were finished and the feel of the ground changed, probably, for ever. With the fencing now in situ, the playing area will, for the first time ever, be completely enclosed, enabling the grounds team to prepare even better surfaces. Remarkably, for this time of the year, both grounds look magnificent and are a credit to those who give their time so freely. After the twelve months everyone has endured, the thought of life returning to normality is intoxicating indeed, and hopefully the cricket played at Radyr will lift the spirits of all the club's members and visitors who will be made most welcome.

Please follow the club on www.radyrcc.co.uk or on Twitter @radyrcc

Christopher Hitchings - Radyr Cricket Club Chairman.



Cyngor Cymuned Radur a Threforgan

Spring is springing! The daffodils are putting on a great show - and more and more of us are getting vaccinated!

And maybe, by the time I write my next article, we will be back in town doing some serious shopping!

As ever, your Community Council has been busy.

We objected to **Transport for Wales'** (TfW) proposal to build a road bridge near Gelynis Farm (to replace the level crossing) on the grounds that the scale and specification of the bridge as proposed would be excessive given the nature of the site and the existing use of the crossing by pedestrians and a limited number of vehicles.

We suggested that further consideration be given to the alternative option of a small, low cost bridge over the River Taff linking to Iron Bridge Road for the limited number of vehicles that require access to Gelynis Farm and other facilities near the farm, accompanied by a footbridge over the railway line suitable for pedestrians and cyclists.

We also asked that restrictions be put in place on the use of the lane from Ty Nant Road as this lane is unsuitable for heavy traffic - and that measures be put in place to monitor, protect and restore the ecology of the site both during and after any construction works.

The matter is now in the hands of Cardiff Council's planning department.

At the same time, we have attended meetings with TfW and the **Radyr Rangers** to discuss the design of a new clubhouse for the football club. This will be needed when TfW demolishes the Rangers' existing facility in order to build a temporary road to enable its electrification team to access the railway line. We are pressing hard for the clubhouse to be suitable for 'wider community use' - with a room suitable for events such as meetings and children's parties.

In the meantime TfW has started working at night to clear vegetation adjacent to the **City Line**. This will be noisy work which, unfortunately, is bound to disturb those living near the

track.

More environmental destruction is taking place along Llantrisant Road, where Redrow has removed more of our lovely **hedgerows** to make way for wider roads, bus lanes and traffic lights (which will replace the Parc Radur roundabout). We were told by Redrow that that the steep embankment on the access road to Parc Radur will be flattened in order to build the new junction; that they will mitigate hedgerow and tree loss with new planting - and that the ornithologist they employed saw no nesting birds during removal of hedges and trees. Even so, our rural character is changing dramatically - which will make a lot of us quite sad.

In the meantime, you can see Redrow's plans for their **next phase of housing** (alongside the Parc Radur access road), here: <https://tinyurl.com/emj2k3hs>

We also face the development by Cardiff Council of a replacement **Local Development Plan**. That could include more housing to the west of Pant Tawel Lane, around the north of the golf course. We will be studying the proposals, with the help of some excellent local planning experts, to prepare a response which focuses on the impact on Radyr and Morganstown. We will be seeking to ensure maximum community benefit and minimum disruption to our lives.

We will be meeting Cardiff Council's Transport Department after Easter to discuss further improvements to **road safety** in our community - including improving the Station Road area (which we consulted on just before the pandemic).

We have awarded a £10,000 grant to the team at Christ Church to establish a **Good Neighbour's Scheme** for Radyr and Morganstown - which will provide a range of services and support for our vulnerable residents. We think that this is an exciting and excellent idea - and we look forward to working with Revd Vicki Burrows as the work develops. Cllr Vina Patel will represent the Community Council on the project's working group - and we know that her skills, enthusiasm

and experience will be a valuable addition to the team.

We have awarded **Radyr Cricket Club** a £2,000 grant towards the cost of covers for their cricket pitch. We hope they have a good season!

We have introduced a new charging scheme for the **Old Church Rooms**. This consists of a new flat rate for all users. This will be £6 per hour from September, rising to £8 per hour from April 2021. This will lead to lower fees for many groups - as well as for those wanting to hire the hall for private parties.

We are also planning a range of improvements to the building and its facilities. Unfortunately, the roof is leaking - and a recent surveyor report indicates that the **old bell tower** is the cause of the problem. We're going to have to spend a significant sum of money to take it down, alter the roof and, possibly, rebuild the tower.

We will be meeting Cardiff Council in the near future to discuss possible improvements to **Windsor Gardens**. What would you like to see there? Let us know!

And finally, we are about to prepare a **plan** to guide our work over the next few years. What would you like to see happening in Radyr and Morganstown?! Again, let us know!

Stay safe - and take care!



Cllr Huw Onllwyn Jones
*Chair - Radyr and Morganstown
Community Council
March 2021*

NB: A Welsh language version of this report is available on our website (under 'Our work' / 'The Chair's Blog').

Radyr & Morganstown Festival 2021

As previously announced, we are holding a mini-Festival in May between 1st and 9th with online events and competitions. At this time we are still planning some of the events and with lockdown, self-isolation etc, we can't be absolutely certain that events will not change. Full details can always be found on the Festival Website www.rmfestival.org.uk That is also where you can find details of how to register for each of the events. Whilst the talks, demonstration and bingo are free, as usual, we would encourage everyone to make a contribution to our charity for the year, Tenovus Cancer Care

The current programme includes:

Saturday/Sunday 1st and 2nd May: Family Treasure Trail. Anytime you like

Help Find the Hidden Treasure!

Welcome again explorers, we have a challenge and we think you are just the right people for it! We hope your exploring skills are in tip-top shape as you will need them for our second self-guided challenge. Captain Radmor has returned to the area after his last visit in September and has again decided to share some of his treasure—but only with the best explorers! He has set a trail and series of clues to find. Find the answers and maybe you'll receive the treasure!

The route will start and finish outside the Methodist Church by Windsor Gardens. The full route takes approx 2 hours and is about 2.5 miles. The trail can be split across both days and does not need to be undertaken in one session.

Details of how to play, a trail map and an answer sheet can be downloaded from our website www.rmfestival.org.uk/treasure-trail

Monday 3rd May: An evening talk by Saverio Florimonte. (Cicchetti) on Wine



Saverio was born in a middle class provincial family in southern Italy. His father was a farmer and his mother was an academic. He remembers his father coming back from work religiously on the chime of one o'clock for his lunch and drinking red plonk from the family cellar. When he was 3 or 4 years old his father would always put some wine on his lips and this was the beginning of his affinity to the drink of Bacchus! He remembers how his sibling and he would often help his Papa' to crush and press grapes for making their wine! Aged 19, he met a French girl from Nancy. Being a true Italian he left the family and followed Monique to France, where he also fell in love with food and wine and started work in restaurants. He stated to know the difference between a "pinard" and a fine wine (they even bought a bottle of Chateau Petrus (pommerol)! what a exciting day! He can still taste it.

His work took them to Brussels working at a prestigious hotel where he was assistant sommelier and started learning seriously about wine. After a good few years in Brussels, came to the UK and was working in hotels as restaurant manager where he had the great honour of serving the Queen Mother, Pavarotti and many others.

1982 he came to Cardiff as a partner in a Italian Restaurant "Fontana di Trevi, and started representing a

Italian wine agency for Wales. As his love for wine continued to grow he took wine courses and made visits to many wine cellars. After the sudden death of his wife, he moved to Talbot Green to buy the Trattoria, followed few years later by the Trattoria in Pontypridd, Zia Nina in Bridgend and Cicchetti in Radyr.

He says he is honoured to live in this beautiful country, Wales

Tuesday 4th May: Cookery demonstration. The demonstration will be presented by author and broadcaster Lisa Fearn, who runs the Pumpkin Patch kitchen, garden and



cookery school near Carmarthen. Her theme will be cooking with seasonal vegetables and making chocolate cake.



Wednesday 5th May: Talk by Chris Dale. The Roman Ships of Lake Nemi: A Tale of Found and Lost." Known since at least the 15th century, two huge Roman ships lying submerged at the bottom of Lake Nemi in Italy, defied all attempts to raise them for almost five hundred years. Finally, in 1928, on the orders of Benito Mussolini, one of the most remarkable archaeological operations ever undertaken was begun to recover the ships from the lake. Eventually they were brought on shore and put on display, only to be destroyed during the Second World War. Just some of their metal fittings survive.

This illustrated talk tells the story of the ships, from antiquity to the present day, taking in Egyptian gods



and pharaohs, mad Roman emperors, eccentric explorers, early attempts at underwater archaeology, success, disaster, and 21st-century conspiracy theories. It's quite a story!

Thursday 6th May: Tenovus Quiz.

Following on from their successful online quiz in September and as part of the virtual Festival, Radyr and Morganstown Friends of Tenovus will be holding another virtual quiz on Thursday May 6th from 7.30 pm. Teams of up to 8 persons can be entered by contacting the committee on fotradyr@gmail.com or phoning Rosanne Holmes on 02920401872. The cost will be £5 per person entered. For any further information contact Rosanne.

Friday 7th May: Bingo online.

Friday Night in the R&M Festival is Bingo Night! Come and give Online Bingo a go.

If you prefer to mark on a tablet, copy out your bingo card or print them in advance, we've got you covered. Bingo tickets will be sent out by email in advance so that you can have your dabber at the ready when our Zoom call starts at 19.30.

Don't worry if you're not a seasoned bingo pro – we want this to be a night to get everyone together, young and old. Our callers will walk everyone through the game with a little humour as we wait for you to call "Line" or "House".

There is no charge for attendance but we will be collecting donations for Tenovus Cancer Care, our Festival

Charity. This means we are limited on the prizes we can offer so I'm afraid it will have to be the glory of the virtual cuddly toy, imaginary trip to Vegas or virtual speedboat.

For further details about our Bingo Night and to register to receive your Bingo tickets go to <https://RMFestival.org.uk/bingo>

Sun 9th May: Open Gardens.
10.30am – 4.00pm *(if allowed under COVID restrictions in place at that time)*

You are invited to visit any or all of the gardens at :-

Gill Evans, 2, Ty Mynydd Close.

Antonia Wigley, 21, Windsor Road.

Pat & Trevor Jones, 4, Bryn Hyfryd
Rosanne and Nick Holmes, 11, Park Road.

Richard & Vicky Wales, 13, Park Road.

Tickets - £5 can be bought and any of the gardens.

Any Questions? Contact Gill on 07881 206745

Further details, including a map of garden locations is available from <https://RMFestival.org.uk/open-gardens>

Our Online Competitions:

Photographic competition:

The theme will be "Animals in Radyr and Morganstown" This will include pets, wild animals and visiting birds in the village.

There will be three categories;

A. Under 10 years old

B. Over 11 and under 18 years old

C. Adults over 18.

Good quality Images should be sent by email to – photos@radyr.org.uk stating the relevant category.

Members of Imaging 2000 will judge the competition and a prize will be provided for each of the three categories. Judging will include presentation, quality image and photo capture, as appropriate for each category. Entries need to be in by May 1st and may be exhibited around R&M and online.

Colouring and drawing competition:

Animal life in Radyr and Morganstown

Category A Up to 7 years old
colouring prepared drawing and freehand artwork

Category B Over 8 years old

colouring prepared drawing and freehand artwork

For colouring, blank drawings will be made available through Bryn Deri and Radyr Primary schools or provide a freehand drawing on the topic. Completed drawings can be returned to the school.

For children not at the local primary schools, the templates can be downloaded and printed from our website at

www.rmfestival.org.uk/competitions

They can be returned to the Library There will be prizes for each group. Entries need to be submitted by May 5th.

I hope to see a lot of you on Zoom at the various events.

SEPTEMBER FESTIVAL

We are planning to hold a larger Festival in September between 11th and 26th where we hope enough restrictions will have been removed so that we can hold both outdoor and indoor events.

Some of the events currently being considered include:

A Summer Show which could include produce/crafts/cakes etc. Start growing your vegetables now or practice your cooking;

Concert in the Parc;

Fete;

Civic Service;

Dog Show;

A number of concerts;

A cookery or book reading event;

Festival film;

A sponsored Tenovus Walk;

Trail run;

We are also looking at the possibility of having a Food Festival;

Tenovus Cancer Care will continue to be our community charity until the Festival ends on 26th September when Headway will then be adopted by the RMA for the 2021-22 year in time for the Christmas Light switch on.

David Silver

Chair Radyr and Morganstown Association and Chair of the Festival Committee

Farewell to Dr Lucy Dolman

It is with great sadness that I am writing to you to announce the departure of one of our valued GP Partners, Dr Lucy Dolman.

Since Dr Dolman joined Radyr Medical Centre as GP Registrar then GP Partner, she has become a valuable and well respected member of the team. We will miss her charm, professionalism, empathy and strength. We respect Dr Dolman's decision for leaving and wish her all the best for her future endeavours.

Dr Dolman's last working day with us will be Friday 30th April 2021.

On behalf of everyone at Radyr Medical Centre, we wish Dr Lucy Dolman good luck for the future and bid her a happy farewell.

Dr. Dolman says:

"In 2008, I was posted to Radyr as their first GP Registrar (fully qualified doctor, but trainee GP). I remember driving up to the surgery on my first day and being excited to be working in such a nice area of the city, and in such a posh building. The 12 months flew past, and I really loved the being part of the community team and getting to know patients. It was a real apprenticeship.

Returning to the surgery permanently a few years later felt as though I was coming home.

Over the last 10 years, I have felt privileged to help with your health. I have really loved the continuity of caring for the same population, getting to know families and travelling with you through good and bad times.

I am so grateful to lots of you for helping me with Cardiff University student teaching. The medical students have unanimously given excellent feedback. Having the opportunity to talk to you and (pre-COVID) visiting you at home in educationally fantastic, and so much more memorable than any textbook learning. Thank you too for those who guided me with the setup of our excellent local Macmillan Cancer Wellbeing project.

So I would like to say thank you for making me so welcome in your community, being patient with my often late-running surgeries and for trusting me to be your doctor. I will always remember my time working in your lovely village with great fondness."

The role of Macmillan Cancer Wellbeing Coordinator



Radyr Medical Centre, Macmillan Cancer Support and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board have collaborated in commissioning the role of Macmillan Cancer Wellbeing Coordinator, which is a wonderful example of our investment in the health of our community. Jane Breeze is available to provide telephone calls to patients who have been diagnosed with or who are living with cancer, to provide support to them and family members/carers.

This service is available to all patients registered with Radyr Medical Centre, Whitchurch, Bishops Road, Llandaff, Danescourt, Llandaff North, Fairwater and Danescourt surgeries.

Your GP can refer you to this service, or you can self-refer by contacting Jane on the email below.

The role of the Wellbeing Coordinator is to provide advice on a range of NON-MEDICAL topics, and to signpost the person to relevant resources. This includes health and wellbeing programmes, support groups, learning and social opportunities such as singing groups or art groups, many of which are still available via zoom. You could also be signposted towards practical support such as welfare advice and money management, or you might prefer the emotional support available through a supportive telephone conversation.

Jane will be able to guide you through the options that might work best for you, to see if you feel comfortable with on-line support, or whether you just want more social interaction with local groups as these become available. She can discuss ways in which you might want to take more care of yourself such as light exercise or complimentary therapies and can link you up with specialists for practical advice on topics such as welfare benefits, or preparing to return to work.

Jane is available on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and can be contacted at jane.breeze@wales.nhs.uk

CHAIN COOKERY CORNER

Herbed Chicken with Olives, Artichokes and Roast Potatoes

Easy and tasty and cooked in one
roasting tin

Serves 4

- 800g(1 1/2lb) Charlotte potatoes, halved
- 1 red onion, cut into eighths
- 8 vine tomatoes, halved
- 1 lemon, cut into eighths
- 8 chicken thighs and drumsticks
- 1 x 280g. jar artichokes in oil (drained) keep oil
- 2 teaspns. sea salt
- ground black pepper
- 4 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 6 sprigs fresh thyme or flat teaspn. dried
- 1 x 340g. jar pitted black olives (drained)
- 1/2 lemon, zest and juice
- 20g. (1oz) parsley, chopped

Heat oven 200C, 180C fan, Gas 6

Tip potatoes, onion, tomatoes, chicken + lemon into roasting tin in one layer.

Pour over oil from artichokes and mix well.

Add salt + pepper + herbs

Roast 1 hour

Meanwhile mix artichokes + olives + lemon zest + juice + parsley

Tip these into roasting tin for last 15mins

Allow chicken to rest for 10 mins before serving hot..

A.M.P.

census 2021

A look at Radyr & Morganstown over 160 years

The Census has been taken routinely once every 10 years since 1861, with only one break in 1941 due to the Second World War. Whilst there have been some questions that have remained very similar since its inception, the breadth of data that is now collected gives a much clearer picture of who we are as a community. Whilst all of the data is collected and processed securely, with measures to ensure that no small group of individuals can be identified by the data released, this is the best snapshot we get of what is happening in our community. The data is routinely used by all levels of government when determining the levels of services and support our community needs and can also be used by charities as evidence when seeking to access funding.

The Parish of Radyr can be found on that first census record from 1861 but the questions asked don't give much detail.

Inhabited Homes 89

Population 479

An average of 5.4 persons per household

2011 data

Since that first Census the same physical area of "The Parish of Radyr" now classified as W04000856 has grown considerably.

Usual resident population - 6,417

Average age - 40

Dwellings - 2,636

Average of 2.4 persons per household

Although 21% of these households are single person occupancy

Looking a little closer at who our neighbours are:

Country of birth:

7% from outside the UK

22% born in England

When looking at the nature of the work done by Residents in 2011:

74% of the adult population (age 16+) are considered economically active

48% of the adult population are in Professional occupations or are

considered a Manager, Director or Senior Official

Our areas of expertise are quite varied. The highest reported categories are:

16% in Education

15% in Human health and social work activities

but reported roles cover a wide range of the possible industry areas.

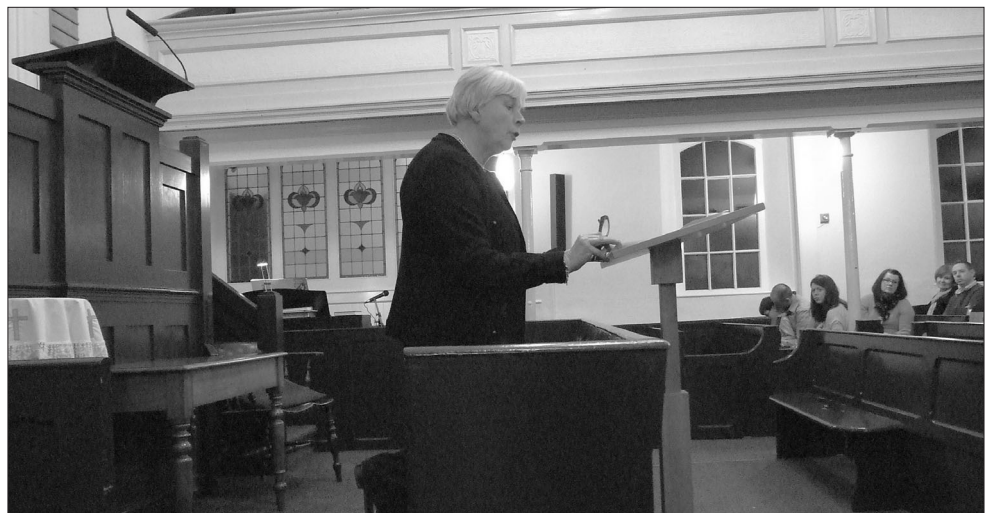
2021 Census

2021 is another Census year and it is our opportunity to record the nature of our lives in Radyr & Morganstown. It not only helps government to make decisions it also provides a snapshot of how our community is evolving and changing over time.

If you haven't already, please submit your Census return promptly as Census Day was Sunday 21 March 2021. You can fill it in online using the unique code that should have come through the mail. If you have any difficulty completing the Census then help is available. Further details can be found at www.census.gov.uk

It will take about a year to fully process the data but we look forward to seeing the results of the 2021 Census and how the makeup of our area has changed in the last 10 years.

Elen Hafina Lewis



It was with great sadness that The Chain heard of the death of Elen from Windsor Road.

Un o blant Rhosgadfan, Sir Gaernarfon, oedd Elin. Rhaid i chi fynd i Rosgadfan i weld tre Caernarfon, traeth y Foryd ac Ynys Mon yn eu holl ogiant.

Codwyd mewn tyddyn, chwarelwr oedd ei thad. Roedd bywyd yn galed ond cafodd fagwraeth gyfoethog yn y gymdeithas, y Capel ac ar yr aelwyd, ac yna dysgodd ei chariad at yr iaeth.

Aeth i ysgol y Pentre, Ysgol Ramadeg Caernarfon a Coleg Normal Bangor, ac yno cwrddodd a John Lewis o'r Tymbl. Roedd John yn dipyn o foi ar y meysydd chwarae, ac roedd wedi bod yn y fyddin yn barod.

Aeth John i Lundain i ddysgu a dilynodd Elin o. Mi briodon nhw y Llundain a chafwyd dau fab, Gareth a David. Erbyn hyn roedd John wedi symud i Cheltenham ond roedd Cymru'n galw.

Dysgodd Elen yn Ysgol Bryntaf ar y Parade ag Ysgol Gyfun Radur. Hyd yn oed ar ol ymddeol aeth Elen ymlaen i ddysgu.

Roedd gan Elen lawer o ddiddordebau; Merched y Wawr, y W.I. Sefydliad y Merched, Radyr Parish Music Group, Cylch Cinio, Probus a gwersi Eidaleg. Roedd Capel Bethlehem, Gwaelod y Garth a'r Cwrdd Merched yn annwyl iawn iddi. Roedd yn hoffi perfformio, yn cogyddess arbennig ac yn dwli ar ddillad.

Ni wnaeth y pandemic erchyll yma tawelu Elin. Roedd ei bywyd yn amrywiol a lliwgar fel cwilt. Darnau bach wedi ei rhoi at eu gilydd i greu cyfanwaith diddorol.

Marian Evans.

Letters to the Editor...



Letters for publication in the *Chain* are accepted in good faith and their content does not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors.

To The Editor, Radyr Chain.

DESTRUCTION OF HABITAT

Dear Editor,

The last day of February turned out to be a beautiful sunny and warm day. I walked down Ffordd Las (Golf Club Lane) to the Llantrisant Road and turned right to Rhydlafar. I was conscious of birds flying in and out of the hedges with nesting material in their beaks, particularly around Ty Gwyn Farm. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that the hedge had been torn out on the following day, March 1st. by Redrow.

I believed that hedges were protected from the first of March. The legislation does state, " No removal of hedgerows, trees, scrub, or shrubs between 1st March and the 15th August inclusive unless otherwise approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority." Had Redrow behaved illegally or had they been given permission? I spoke to our County Councillor who spoke to the Planning Office. He confirmed that Redrow had been given permission by the Planning Office.

In the meantime I contacted the RSPB who suggested that I report the matter to the Rural Crime Division, I did so and am still waiting for a reply. I contacted the Planning Office and an Amanda Sutcliffe told me that they had given permission because Redrow's ecologist had searched the hedge, down to a fingertip search, on the morning of March 1st, and had found nothing. I was about to recommend a good optician to the ecologist when I realised that this is another example of poorly drafted law. It has a loophole through which Redrow had driven a coach and horses.

There can be very few ecologists prepared to tell their employer, the Company that pays their mortgage and puts food on the table in front of their children, that they cannot continue work for another five or so months. The law is expecting too much. In the meantime Redrow continues to rip out hedges on the Llantrisant Road, nesting birds or no. Environmental Legislation needs to be given some teeth.

Yours sincerely, Allan Cook.

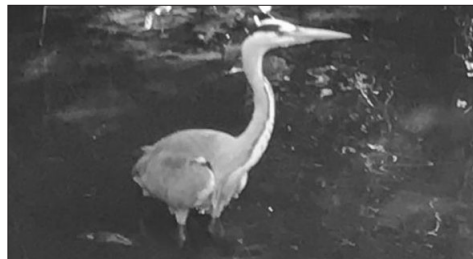
Dear Editor

I write as one of the many residents who are actively opposing the monstrous combination of major developments that will rip through the heart of our village and destroy our valuable green spaces, much-loved natural habitat and treasured historical settings.

The mega impact of this 'multi-combo' of developments, all condensed at the same time, on one neighbourhood is going to be, quite frankly, intolerable.

The hundreds of people who use the path to the Taff trail may not notice the full extent of the eco-system around the Mound, Nant stream and our grazing fields by the Taff. In addition to ravine woodland, we are visited by Otters, Kingfishers and Herons; and we have resident badgers, foxes, tawny owls, game birds, crows and jays, nesting doves and other more common birds, as well as frogs, toads, and protected species such as the dormouse. We know this, from residents' daily observations and TfW's own ecology report.

Think about it... many of you will have



already seen the devastation wrought by Welsh Water's Morgan Sindall major sewerage works. These have already destroyed grazing and sports fields in Morganstown and Tongwynlais. The works vehicles and HGVs have taken over the private lane and pedestrian right of way to and from the Taff through Gelynis Farm, squeezing the many children, young people, mums, older people against the railings, as they push past walkers and cyclists alike.

This is just the sign of things to come – just a taster. Regardless of impact and with no consideration of community wellbeing, Transport for Wales now plan 5 further major work projects day

and night and in one big hit: 1. driving a new haul road through Pugh's Garden Centre impacting their business and customers and along the Mound alongside the only strategic skatepark in the area drawing children on their bikes from all surrounding villages from Gwaelod, Taffs Well, Tongwynlais and Radyr to Morganstown. 2. They will build a compound on our playing fields and green spaces to service their night time rail works for the next few years. 3. They plan a 2nd compound, in the adjacent grazing field. 4 Finally they plan a totally over-scaled, inappropriate road and bridge finishing their destruction of what remains of our special environment. And Yes, 5. There is the electrification/upgrading of the rail network something we do welcome. In total, 5 conflated major works projects night and day, in one hit.

Believe it or not, this is not a letter of complaint! No, it is to thank all those who have rallied to the cause, and given their own precious time to review all the detailed documents and consider the impact of what is proposed.

There were 103 detailed planning documents prepared over the last 2 years by professional consultants and lodged on the Cardiff Council planning portal (21/00235/MJR).

In just under 3 weeks, Kieran Webster pulled together a compliant petition with over 100 signatories and there have been over 45 important individual objections and comments.

Those objectors have ranged from our AM, Mark Drakeford, our County Councillor Rod McKerlich, Our Community Council, to the owners of Gelynis Farm who are sadly to be ousted from their long-standing family home and the many people who care about this community and environment, live here and use the PROW. Every view matters.

Readers of the February edition of The Chain will have seen, a number of residents vociferously articulating the many reasons why TfW's multiple plans will have a far reaching and detrimental impact on our homes; wildlife; retail outlets; roads and lanes. We have a long uphill way to go. On that journey, we have already discovered there is so much that is so wrong ... and we have only just begun.

So, this is just to say thank you all for your backing so far.

Andi Morris, Vine Cottage, for the Morganstown Village Residents' Group

How will you vote at the Senedd and PCC elections in May?

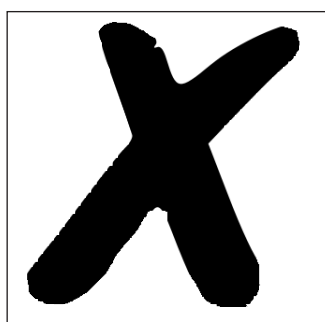


The Electoral Commission

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT

Elections 2021

Make your Mark



Thursday 6 May 2021 will be election day for the Welsh Parliament (commonly known as the Senedd) and for our Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

Whilst, in our democracy, all elections are special – there is a particular significance to this election as we see an extension to the voter franchise which allows those aged 16 & 17 and all qualifying foreign citizens able to vote in the Senedd elections for the first time.

Of course there is always a but – BUT in order to vote in May's elections, it is important to make sure that you have registered to vote. If you are not registered by **Monday 19 April 2021** then you won't be able to vote. Each person has to register individually. If you have not yet registered, it is quick and easy to register either online or by post.

<https://gov.uk/register-to-vote>

Deciding who to vote for

Hearing from your candidates and deciding who to vote for may also look different for this election. Whatever the current restrictions

look like between now and polling day, we can expect less knocks on our door and more online engagement from our candidates for these elections.

For free impartial information about who is standing in our area why not visit <https://WhoCanIVoteFor.co.uk> which is run by Democracy Club – a group which aims to provide accurate, non-partisan information on every election and candidate across the UK.

The Radyr & Morganstown Association (RMA) are also organising an online hustings event where your questions will be put to the candidates for the Senedd election. Parties standing in the Senedd Election for Constituency and/or Regional seats that cover Radyr & Morganstown have all been invited to send a representative to answer your questions at this event.

Send your questions through in advance to Hustings@radyr.org.uk and then tune in to watch the candidates live on **Monday 19 April 2021 at 19.30** or watch again afterwards at <https://radyr.org.uk/hustings>

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£4 PER BAG

FREE DELIVERY

RING

029 2021 2159

Inn of the Sixth Happiness

As Chair of the local History Society I often get requests to help with family history research. Inevitably I learn more than the information I can give.

I was recently asked about a David Hopkins Davies born at Cwm Farm, Morganstown on the 11th Feb 1901, a week after the funeral of Queen Victoria. He went on to become a clergyman and a missionary. He worked in China for many years as the Superintendent for the World famous missionary Gladys Aylwood.

I must admit that most of what I know about Gladys Aylwood comes from the film based on her life *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness* starring Ingrid Bergman, much of which was filmed in Snowdonia. As a child growing up in Bangor north Wales in the 1950s I remember coach loads of Chinese people being shipped in from Liverpool each day to work as extras on the film.

I wonder if David Hopkins Davies appears in the film?
Allan Cook.

Letters to the Editor...



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Dear Sir

We seem to have some locals who have no regard for our countryside and cast their rubbish in the little park at the bottom of Ironbridge Rd. There is a picnic table and waste bin provided but they throw cans and glass bottles randomly.

I attach a picture taken this morning.

Any ideas how we can tackle this problem?

Yours faithfully

Peter Simpson, Ravensbrook
Morganstown



The Editor Radyr Chain

Dear Sir

When a 20mph speed limit throughout Radyr was being considered some time ago, I wrote a letter which you kindly published, where in essence I supported such a limit on the 'side roads' of the village but *not* on the B4262 - Main Road/Heol Isaf.

I suggested that a more sensible solution would be to retain the 30mph limit but to have a temporary 20mph limit in the vicinity of the two schools during the times when children would be travelling to and from the schools. I cited how such systems are used in Germany to great effect.

Nevertheless, our elected representatives have seen fit to impose a 20mph limit between Pugh's Garden Centre and the A4119. All to great effect. (Make up your own mind up what that is!).

Now when I drive through the village at 20mph with a clear road behind me, it is not unusual for there to be a queue of up to a dozen vehicles behind me as I leave Main Road to go home. 'Tail-gating' is frequent and impatient drivers dangerously overtaking not uncommon.

The criteria for the prosecution of speeding offences used to be: the speed limit, plus 10 percent (which is the legal amount by which a speedometer is allowed to be inaccurate) plus 2mph. So in a 30mph area, that would equate to 35mph. That is now longer the case! A family member received a ticket for 34mph which would indicate that once past the the 10 percent mark, prosecutions begin.

After a period of 'truce' the Camera vans will soon reappear and no doubt the pickings will be rich.

So any of the '20's Plenty' brigade who travel at 23mph will be liable to be prosecuted - *be careful what you (have) wish(ed) for!*

Kind regards

Name and address supplied

Dear Editor

Two points if I may. I have no wish to defend the Royal Mail decision to close the Gwaelod sorting office but I fear you have misled your readership about getting to the Llanishen sorting office by train. There is no Maes Glas station - it is Ty Glas, a station which is served by the City Line trains from Radyr to Coryton. So there is no need to change trains en route. Currently there is an hourly service but no doubt the pre pandemic half hourly service will be reintroduced in due course.

Secondly, I assume the February Chain went to press before the introduction of the 20mph speed limit throughout Radyr and Morganstown.

Otherwise how could you not mention it and the fact that the vast majority of drivers take no notice of it whether they are driving s Heol Isaf or Bryn Derwen? What is the point of having it in the first place if its not going to be rigourously enforced?

Yours

Noel Thompson

Reply from the Editor:

We apologise we thought that the station in the Maes Glas industrial estate had the same name. We still haven't had any information from the Royal Mail although I believe that the Chair of the Community Council has had an official statement that they don't intend to reopen the Gwaelod Depot. The point I was trying to make was that it is difficult to get to the Maes Glas Estate office unless you have a car, only one train an hour is direct, for all other trains you'd need to change.

Re the 20 m.p.h limit, this came into force in November and we carried the fact in the December edition. We will remind readers from time to time. The February edition contained a lot of other road information including the HGV Gateway and the closing of Ffordd Las.

Merched y Wawr Bro Radur

Cawsom noson ddifyr iawn yng nghwmni Haf Weighton yr artist tecstilau ddechrau mis Chwefror. Bu'n sôn am y cyfnod dreuliodd hi yn teithio yn Asia ac Awstralia cyn gwneud ei chartref yn Llundain. Mae ganddi ddiddordeb mewn pensaernïaeth ac mae hi'n defnyddio paent, print a phwythau i greu darluniau cywrain o adeiladau.

Ers iddi ddychwelyd i Gymru, mae hi wedi bod yn hynod o brysur. Bu'n rhan o brosiect Ysgolion Creadigol, a bu'n arwain prosiect ar Hunaniaeth yn Ysgol Gynradd Pencoed. Cafodd gwaith y plant ei arddangos yn Oriol Saatchi, Llundain, un o orielau mwyaf adnabyddus y byd. Bu hefyd yn creu darnau ar thema Oes y Celtiaid gyda phlant Ysgol y Berllan Deg, a bu'n cynnal gweithdy gydag oedolion yn ymateb i waith Rembrandt ar gais yr Amgueddfa Genedlaethol.

Mae Haf ei hun wedi creu darnau comisiwn cain a lliwgar, fel y darlun o Ysbyty Rookwood ar achlysur dathlu canmlwyddiant yr adeilad, a hefyd darn yn cofnodi hanes ysbyty a thref Y Barri.

Edrychwn ymlaen yn fawr at gael y cyfle i weld gwaith Haf, artist hynod o ddawnus a chreadigol, pan fydd orielau yn ail-agor.

Ein siaradwr Gwyl Dewi oedd Jon



Gower, awdur toreithiog yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a llais cyfarwydd ar y radio. Bu'n trafod y dylanwadau a greodd yr awydd ynddo yn ifanc iawn i fod yn llenor, sef ei dadcu, a fyddai'n rhoi arian iddo i brynu llyfrau; llyfrgell y Pwll, Llanelli a'i gyflwynodd i lyfrau ffeithiol a'r clasuron, yn enwedig ei arwr, Dickens, a hefyd ei deithiau tramor, yng Ngogledd a De America.

Yn Saesneg y dechreuodd lenyddu, ond mae e wedi ysgrifennu'n helaeth yn Gymraeg hefyd, gan ennill cystadleuaeth y Stori Fer yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn 2010 a gwobr Llyfr y Flwyddyn yn 2012 am y nofel "Y Storiwr".

Treuliom awr ddifyr iawn yn ei gwmi wrth rannu yn y profiadau sy'n treiddio trwy ei wa

Nature Notes

Spring has sprung despite what the ecologists at Redrow and TfW might think. Not only do we have Redrow tearing out hedges on the Llantrisant Road but we hear horror stories of Transport for Wales using chain saws to cut down trees at four o'clock in the morning near to houses. Three weeks after the Law banning such activities came into force. Not very Neighbourhood friendly TfW.

We thank Adrian Hopkins for the three photographs to the right, all taken in Radyr quite recently. They show from top left a nuthatch, a coal tit and a jay.

