

PENRHYS newsletter

Penrhys Newsletter

Summer / Autumn 2006

SUMMER FUN FOR ALL !

What's happening in Penrhys !

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Special points of interest:

- * Police and Community working together
- * Look for our Stars in the Valley
- * Looking for advice - pop in or contact Penrhys Partnership



Despite the atrocious weather, the Penrhys Village Festival was a resounding success. Rearranged at short notice, the event was held indoors at Canolfan Rhys Arts and Education Centre and the Penrhys RAOB Club, Penrhys.

The event kicked off at Canolfan Rhys Arts and Education Centre, with a range of community stalls and activities such as face



painting, bric-a-brac and guess the teddy, creating wax hands, henna art, soft play for young children, information and advice stands.

The fantastic Splott Brothers entertained the crowd with a hilarious comedy act with young people participating in the sketches.

An evening of music entertained the crowds at the Penrhys RAOB Club with the local young people, who have been practicing throughout the summer, becoming the Stars in the Valley. This was followed by local band, (One night only), Captain Kirk and the Clingons – with a guest appearances from X Factor participant – Jessica Jenkins and the legendary 'Ray – THE RAT-Williams', along with the

headline act 'DOLBIE' who concluded the night with contemporary music.

Event organisers from Penrhys Partnership said "we were very disappointed with the weather conditions, but the resilience of the support staff, volunteers from the community of Penrhys, international volunteers from all over the world and the Arts Council of Wales, among many other agencies that we work with throughout the year, made the event a success"



The Summer Play scheme supported by the Fframwaith Partnership was also a huge success, with children and young people accessing a range of activities during the two week programme. Based at Canolfan Rhys, four local people were trained and employed for the duration of the Scheme and learnt new skills in working with children.

Penrhys Environmental Action Team (PEAT)

The Penrhys Environmental Action Team (PEAT) continues to work to improve the Penrhys landscape.

The group are currently working in partnership with Groundwork Merthyr Rhondda Cynon Taf - Greencare, Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC and Environment Wales supporting residents of Heol Dyfed to develop a small community garden. The project is in its

early stages and over the winter further consultation and training will be undertaken. If you have any spare time and wish to volunteer in any environment project or would like to borrow any tools to improve your area, please contact Penrhys Partnership on 01443 755008.

There are **FREE** recycling bags available at the Penrhys Partnership Office.

There is a can/bottle recycling banks at the Car Park of the Y Ffynnon Centre and a Paper Re-cycling point in the yard at Penrhys Primary School

FURTHER INFORMATION ON RECYCLING -

01443 494700



The Penrhys Environmental Action Team is made up of various Departments within the Local Authority including Housing, Leisure, Highways, Street Cleansing, Groundwork Merthyr RCT.

The community is represented by **Penrhys Community Action Group** and

Penrhys Partnership - if you would like more information contact them on **730490** or **755008**.

PENRHYS COMMUNITY CENTRE - What's happening ?

PLEASE FIND BELOW A LETTER FROM PENRHYS COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP SENT TO OFFICERS AND COUNCILLORS OF RHONDDA CYNON TAFF CBC,

WE STILL AWAIT FURTHER INFORMATION

Dear Sir

As you are fully aware the Penrhys Community centre has been closed to the public since the 1st August 2006, due to the identification of asbestos in the building, along with seven schools identified in Rhondda Cynon Taf of having the same problem.

As of today, there has been no communication or dialogue with any individual or group in Penrhys as to the extent of the problem, the implications for the services that were offered and general disregard for the community of Penrhys, in keeping people informed.

We have recently received information that both the Books and Babies

Project and Genesis are unlikely to return to the Centre due to the uncertainty that prevails.

You will be aware that the Centre was only officially opened on 24th September 2004, with a difficult process of convincing the community to support the programme of demolishing the old Community Centre prior to that.

We are amazed that the asbestos issue was not identified prior to the refurbishment works that took place and that the assessment of the suitability of the building, which has since been described as a 'leaky portacabin'.

There have been numerous young people in particular, in the community who have accessed the gym, aerobics, boxing club and other facilities at the Centre, and now they have no local access to basic leisure facilities. We believe that the Penrhys Partnership have attempted to develop joint programmes to support the health and leisure at the Centre, including Open Days, Playschemes – which was

relocated this summer at one weeks notice, and support the general marketing of the Centre via community newsletters.

We therefore urge you to consider the information above and inform us of the latest situation and the future of the Centre.

Your urgent response would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Penrhys Community Action Group



SUMMER SKILLZ



Summer Skillz was the first of its kind to be run in the Rhondda Fach area.

Targeted at young people aged fourteen and over, the aim of the project was to improve confidence and self-esteem through learning opportunities designed around the needs of youth.

Young people were offered many courses some of which were recognised by formal qualifications such as First Aid and Food Hygiene.

Other workshops that were available included, Raising awareness of Sexual Health, Youth Gateway and Get Cooking.

The project was supported by Welsh Assembly Government Communities First Programme, Careers Wales, Youth Gateway Programme, CK One Training, Dinas Mines Rescue and Healthy Living Network.

The programme ran for three weeks during the summer and in

total forty people accessed the opportunity; many of whom have achieved several certificates. Congratulations to all those who took part and good luck for the future.

Next year, we will be looking to extend the programme further; If there is anything that you would like to see in the plan of activities let us know.

Penrhys Education and Training Programme

Autumn Programme

Monday

9.30am - 12.00pm Jewellery Making
6pm - 9pm Build your own P.C

Tuesday

1.30pm - 3pm Council Housing
Surgery

1.00pm - 3.00pm Get Cooking

Wednesday

1pm - 3pm Arts and Crafts

Thursday

1pm - 3pm Cookery on a budget
2pm - 3pm Citizens Advice
Surgery

If there are any courses that you would like see running at Penrhys Partnership, then please register your interest with Julie or Louise.



Walk your Way to Health Scheme

Do you feel unfit? Would like to go for a walk and make new friends? With support from the Local Health Board, we have developed a **Walk your Way to Health Scheme**. This will be launched on **Friday 27th October 2006, 9.30am leaving Penrhys Primary School**.

Parents whose children are aged between 7 - 11years are invited to come along and get involved with their children however, if you do not have children in this age bracket and are interested in joining the walk, everyone is welcome.

Each week thereafter, there will be other walks to get involved in, meet new people and improve your health.

If you are interested in taking on an active role within this scheme,

Volunteer Walk Leaders Training is on Tuesday 7th November 2006.

For further information please contact Penrhys Partnership.

PLAYWORK OPPORTUNITIES

During our Summer Playscheme, four local residents were successfully trained and gained paid employment as Play Workers with Penrhys Partnership.

Funded by the Fframwaith Partnership, the Playworkers, helped to support children in providing fun wide ranging activities at Canolfan Rhys Arts and Education Centre. Laura Ackerman - Play Worker said "I am more confident to try new things and the training has helped me access a College course. It's been great to give something back to the community, as I loved it when I was a kid."

Would you like to know more about a career in Play Work?, if so please

contact **Julie at Penrhys Partnership on 01443 755008**
julie@penrhyspartnership.co.uk



FFRAMWAITH

Working Together for a Healthier and Stronger People in Rhondda Cynon Taf
Cwmhellwng a gwrthdros ymhlith y Rhondda Cynon Taf

Stars in our Valley

"Stars in Our Valley" is a talent showcase, and is open to young people aged 8 - 25 living in the Rhondda Fach. There are opportunities for training in film-making, lighting, stage management and backstage work. Older residents can support young people as makeup artists, hairdressers, stage set designers and builders etc.

Some of the young people have already performed at the Penrhys

Festival in the Penrhys RAOB Club. Over the next few weeks, children and young people will be rehearsing for the Stars in Our Valley Showcase which will be held at:

**Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre
on Friday 3rd November -**

**Tickets are available from
Canolfan Rhys Arts and
Education Centre and cost
£2.00 - this includes transport.**

**Get your tickets early and
support the
'Stars in Our Valley'**



'The harder I try, the better I become.'



'Po fwyaf yr ymdrech y gorau bydda i.'

Ysgol Gynradd
PENRHYS
Primary School

Penrhys Primary School News

A visit from the **Rhondda Rockets Cheerleaders** ensured the children had a chance to experience a new get fit activity in July. Every child had the opportunity of shaking pom-poms and creating dance movements.

In addition to this activity the children were also given the opportunity to experience new sports during our health and fitness afternoon. Nadine from Porth County Comprehensive School ensured the children continued to perfect their dance routines.

The school is currently a participant in the Sports Council for Wales' **Physical Education and Sport in School Initiative (PESS)**. During June, the school's delivery of PE was reviewed by an ESTYN inspector. The feedback from the inspector was excellent. Thanks must go to our years 1 and 2 children who nearly made the inspector cry with their fantastic gymnastics. This term will see the children taking part in the 'Children's University Scheme'. Those children who attend after school clubs of football, netball or hockey will be given the opportunity to collect points. These points will be added up at the end of the term and sent off. Children who have enough points will be awarded certificates for their efforts. This is a new scheme and Penrhys Primary School will be one of the first schools in Wales to access these awards.

Julie Sheppard from RCT's **'Language and Play'** will be revisiting Penrhys in November to start this worthwhile pre school activity again.

The sessions will take place in Llanfair Church. The sessions are fun and the children will be given lots of goodies to take home.

As well as 'Language and Play', funding has been made available to the community from 'Children in Need Fund' to appoint a Pre School Worker, which will develop activities for pre-school children both in the community and at the school.

Another successful fundraising morning was held at the school in September. A coffee morning ensured funds could be raised for the **Macmillan Cancer Care Group and The Wear Pink Campaign**. Thanks must go to our generous community who always support our charity work. In December we will also be sending shoeboxes full of Christmas treats to children less fortunate than ourselves again. We will be asking the children to donate £1 to help fill these boxes.

Spectacle Theatre paid yet another visit to the school during October. This time years 5 and 6 were treated to a performance of 'Ghost in the Attic'. These visits are always looked forward to by the children as this brilliant theatre group always produces fantastic plays. Every age group has seen at least one of Spectacle's plays this year.

Years 5 and 6 took to the stage of the **Parc and Dare** once again last term. This time they were showing off their musical talent. The children performed a number of items played on recorders. They have been developing these new musical skills all year thanks to Rhondda Cynon Taff's music service. Once again our children represented the community of Penrhys brilliantly.

Miss Fisher - Head Teacher

Canolfan Rhys Arts and Education Centre

Future Events @ Canolfan Rhys.

Tuesday 31st of October 6-8pm
Happy Halloween night.
 Games, fun and fancy dress for all the family.

Wednesday 1st November. 6.30pm
Granny Vampire
 Come and see this wild and haunting performance presented by the Fantastic Moby Duck. It's unmissable.
Ticket's only £1.00 suitable for ages 8+ (Limited spaces so book quickly)
 Only performance in South Wales.

Friday 3rd November
Stars in our Valley
 @ Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre.
 Bus and Ticket £2.00
 Come and see our fantastic performers strut their stuff at this years event. It's bigger and better than ever before.

Thursday 30th November
Pudsey's Pyjama Party.
 Come and raise money for Children in Need dressed in your PJ's



Canolfan Rhys CREATIVE COMMUNITY Programme



Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Viva Drama 10 - 12noon	Viva Art 10-12pm	Nazareth House 10-12pm	Recording studio available for hire
Viva Dance 1 - 3pm		Viva Drama 1-3pm	
Pick + Mix 4 - 5-30 ages 5-10 yrs	Jazz up your Junk 4-5pm 8-14yrs	Art Attack Story telling 4 - 5pm 5-11yrs	
Dance 5.30-6.30pm ages 11-16yrs	Little Rockers Rock School 4-5pm 5-14yrs	Cartooning 5 - 6pm 11-16yrs	
Pick and Mix 6.30- 8.30 ages 11-14yrs		Dance / Storytelling workshops 6-7pm	CONTACT 01443 755580 for more information

PENRHYS REMEMBERED - YOUR HOME - YOUR FUTURE

In 1997, the community rallied around and marched to the Council Chambers in Clydach Vale, to earn a right to have a say on the future of the community.

The Penrhys Community Action Group was formed as a result and it continues to voice the concerns of residents on issues that effect them.

Every tenant has now received a formal consultation

document about the future of their homes.

A **PUBLIC MEETING** is arranged for **Tuesday 17th October at 1.30pm at Llanfair Uniting Church**, with the Director of Community Housing to share your questions on the Stock Transfer Proposal.

We therefore urge you to attend and consider the information provided and cast your vote.



Courtesy: Rhondda Leader - 7th August 1997

Llanfair Uniting Church

The use of our 'progress chart' the in café and other church activities resulted in 30 or so of our younger children coming with us on day trips to Cyfartha Castle, Merthyr Tydfil. We took two groups on two consecutive days to play in the park and swim in the pool there. Overall the trips were a success, but some of our more challenging friends made the second trip somewhat more eventful than the first!

Later on that same week, we took some of our teenagers to Snowdonia. We chose our lucky 9 senior school-age pupils from the progress chart too. We had an action-packed time with visits to the Electric Mountain (boring, said our



youngsters), the Slate Museum – both at Llanberis; the Sun Centre at Rhyl; Llandudno and Anglesea. In the evenings we were joined by Meried, a youth worker, now working for the Prebyterian Church. On the first evening we ran around the parachute chasing mice and trying to remember what colour clothes we were wearing (you had to be there!). The second evening, Meried had devised a quiz for us based on who wants to be a millionaire, but unfortunately, despite being on the winning team, I am no richer now than when I started – hey ho, such is life in the fast lane!

Ian too, devised a quiz for the remaining two nights, so we were kept fully occupied.

In due course, it was time for the adults to have their own trip to Carmarthen. Two groups went to stay at Trinity College, group one from Saturday to Tuesday, group two from Wednesday to Saturday and group 2a from Thursday. Both groups did their share of

sightseeing and enjoyed visits to Laughan (home, for a time, to Dylan Thomas and his family) and then to the church of Thomas Bevan and David Lloyd, the first two missionaries to Madagascar. We are all very grateful for the warm hospitality shown to us by Trinity College.

Shortly after our return from our various 'holidays' we had to say goodbye to Hanta and Gabrielle. We were sorry to see them go, because they are like family to all of us here. Of course, we realise that it is lovely for their own families to have them back – but we do miss them. Our loss is made a little easier though because we have since welcomed Nina and Lova, who have come to share the next year of their lives with us. We know that it must be a bewildering experience, but we hope that they will both enjoy their time here and benefit from living in this community.

Sian Collins - Minister

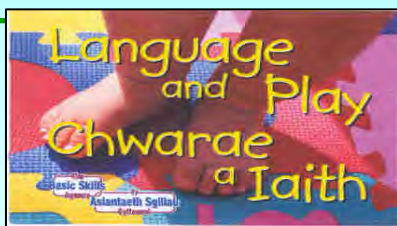
Useful Contact Numbers



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council Headquarters - General Enquiries	01443 424000
Environmental Services - FREE Recycling Bags available at Penrhys Partnership	01443 494700
Finance - Council Tax and Benefit Enquiries	01443 681081
Education Services	01443 744000
Housing Repairs	0845 3014141
Maerdy Housing Office - Porth Weekly Surgery at Penrhys - Tuesday 1.30pm - 3.00pm	01443 734000
Sheltered Housing	01443 222211
Community Care General Enquiries	01443 490400
Community Care - Rhondda	01443 431513
Meals on Wheels	01443 735437
Environmental Health / Pest Control	01443 442100
Consumer Direct	0845 4040506
Wastebusters (Flytipping)	01443 494847
Social Services Emergencies	01443 849944
Tylorstown Police Station - PACT Meeting every 3 months at Penrhys	01443 731192
Ton Pentre Police Station	01443 434222
Ferndale Police Station	01443 730520

Support Services



The Language and Play programme is a short programme for parents/carers and their young children aged 0 – 3 years of age.

The programme aims to share ideas and activities over six weeks to help you understand how important you are to your child's education.

A **NEW GROUP** will be starting in Llanfair Church after the October half term.

For more information please ring 01443 744255 or contact Penrhys Primary School or Llanfair Church

FRUIT & VEG 4U

You can now order low cost, quality fresh fruit and vegetables from Penrhys Partnership.

Orders must be made and paid by Tuesday of each week and collected on the Thursday. You can order any or all of the following:

Fruit Bag	£2.00
Veg Bag	£2.00
Salad Bag	£2.00
Stew Pack	£1.00
Sack of Pots	£5.50



P.A.C.T. means Partnerships and Communities Together.

This is a **new partnership** set up to prioritise local community safety issues. Issues identified in Penrhys include: Anti Social Behaviour, Off Road Vehicles, Substance Misuse.

There are quarterly meetings held in Penrhys, where you can speak to your local Police, Housing Officers and Councillors directly, to seek ways of tackling the issues.

LOOK OUT FOR THE NEXT MEETING



Partneriaeth Penrhys Partnership



PENRHYS newsletter



PENRHYS ON THE WEB

If you are looking for information on news, events and activities in Penrhys you can now search online at:

www.penrhys.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Early December 2006.

Santa Clause is coming to Town.

CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

Dick Whittington

Muni Arts Centre, Pontypridd

Thursday 21st December 2006.

Costs and Bookings can be made at Penrhys Partnership



Citizens Advice

the charity for your community

Free and Confidential Advice on a range of issues, covering: Welfare Benefits, Debt, Consumer advice, Housing Advice, Education, and Health Care advice.

We can also help people to appeal for benefits that have been refused, reviewed or taken away. We can also refer to legal advice if needed.

Thursday 2.00pm - 3.30pm
At Penrhys Partnership

REMEMBER

FREE Internet Access at Penrhys Partnership.

Monday - Thursday

9.30am - 3.30pm

DID YOU KNOW THAT LLANFAIR UNITING CHURCH will celebrate its 15th Birthday In February 2007



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