

Rhys Radio GOES LIVE!

During the month of September, Rhys Radio hit the Rhondda airwaves as Penrhys became the second of three centres of excellence for Community Radio in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The satellite studio in Penrhys broadcast across many communities in the Rhondda and the station was run by local volunteers and organisations who have undertaken training as presenters to run the temporary radio station. Volunteers were involved in presenting the shows, including local children and even the local Minister. A huge amount of work is involved in researching about what's on in the area, booking guests to appear, answering the phones for requests, dedications and quizzes and generally helping out.

The radio shows were of a very quality with many guests promoting their voluntary work in various communities, such as Friends of the Animals, Too Good too Waste, Rhondda Sea Cadets and much more, other guests included local Assembly member and Deputy Minister for Regeneration – Leighton Andrews and local MP Chris Bryant. Rhys Radio also welcomed a local reality TV star – Laura from Big Brother, who shared some gossip from the show.

Local Resident - Ann Derrick who volunteered at Rhys Radio comments *"this has been the best time of my life, the shows are fantastic and we have had a wonderful month. Rhys Radio has been enjoyed by all of Penrhys and we can't wait for it to come back next year"*

The finale to the one month show resulted in a four hour extravaganza and party where local people could drop in to see the station at work, meet the presenters and enjoy the finale.

Rhys Radio is part of the RCT Community Radio Project which, along with Radio CwmNi in Treherbert and Dapper FM in Penywaun. It follows the award of more than £270k funding from the Welsh Assembly Government's Communities @One programme to fund the project.

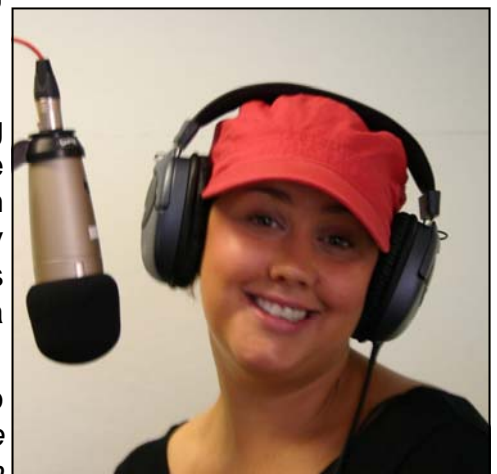
Communities @One aims to help people in Communities First areas make the most of new technology. The programme is jointly funded through the European Union's Objective 1 & 2 programme and the Welsh Assembly Government. Communities @One is administered by the Wales Co-Operative Centre

The initial one month temporary licence for the station has proved to be a huge success and we are eager to get another show early in 2008. If you enjoyed the show and would like to be involved or add your support to get the station back on air you can contact

us at Canolfan Rhys Arts and Education Centre, Heol Dyfed Penrhys, CF43 3PT or telephone 01443 755580.



Local residents volunteer at Rhys Radio



Laura from Big Brother 8 visits Rhys Radio

PENRHYS FESTIVAL - WHAT A SCORCHER !!!

The Annual Penrhys Festival kicked off the bank holiday weekend with a mix of family fun and live bands. On one of the hottest days of the Summer the outdoor event attracted hundreds of people. The multicultural theme really brightened up the day with a huge Chinese Dragon made by children of Penrhys leading the procession to the opening of the event. People were encouraged to dress in costumes from around the world and Kath Lewis kept cool with a traditional Indian dress.



A selection of traditional activities were on offer such as the rodeo bull from Mexico, bouncy castles, table top games and community stalls along with a range of workshops such as India Dance Wales who treated the crowd with traditional Indian dance workshops, with many joining in the routines.



Penrhys also hosted ten International Volunteers through an UNA Exchange programme; with the volunteers supporting the Penrhys Playscheme during the fortnight leading up to the event. Julie Edwards – Development Worker who organised the visit said that the “volunteers have arrived from around the world such as, South Korea, Vietnam, Italy, Germany, France and this event has made them feel at home with some involved in performing songs from their countries”

The event also welcomed the Mayor Jane Ward who helped promote the launch of Rhys Radio 87.7fm, which went live on 3rd September and covers much of the the Rhondda Fach and Fawr. Evening entertainment was performed on the Open air amphitheatre in Penrhys with live bands performing a mix of songs for the crowds. The event culminated in live band - 49 Giraffes playing a range of modern rock and pop songs whilst a huge firework display lit up the sky over the Rhondda Fawr behind them.

OPERA STAR COMES TO TYLORSTOWN

PENRHYS WIN THE OLYMPICS !



Enjoy the magnificent voice of
REBECCA EVANS
With
PENDYRUS MALE CHOIR

At
Rhondda Fach Sports Centre
Friday 9th May 2008

Ticket price **£10.00**
(which includes a souvenir programme)

Cash or cheques accepted.

Tickets on sale at
Penrhys Partnership Offices
Tuesday 4th December 1-2pm

For further information please contact
PRP Ltd, 10a Llewellyn Street, Pontygwaith, CF43 3LE
Tel: 01443 732549



During the Summer, Penrhys **WON** the first ever - Rhondda Fach Summer Olympics. Through hard work and determination - the children of Penrhys did their community proud. Well done to everyone in the team. We hope that we can retain the trophy in 2008. A big thank you to the Healthy Living Network who sponsored the event.

Courtney Davies accepts the trophy from Welsh Assembly Government - Deputy Minister for Regeneration - Leighton Andrews AM and Simon Reid from the Healthy Living Network.





Dragonsavers in Penrhys

gives local people a safe place to save and an affordable place to borrow money. Everyone pays in to a combined pot of money and if they want to, can apply to borrow from it as well.

There are four area offices and 35 **collection points** including the satellite point in the

Penrhys Partnership every Monday from 3.30pm – 5pm and Thursday from 11.00am – 12.00 noon.

All adult members pay £1 to join Dragonsavers and must pay in at

least £1 to start off their account. All adult members up to age 80 are covered by free insurance on their savings account which means that should they die, the person they have chosen will not only receive the money they have saved, but up to 100% of that again.

There is no membership fee for children, and no minimum deposit amount. Last year Dragonsavers paid 4.75% interest on all children's accounts. You can also pay Child Trust Fund Vouchers into Dragonsavers.

There is no administration fee on Dragonsavers loans. Loan interest is always charged at the same fixed amount. The typical rate is just 1% a month (12.68% APR) and only charged on the amount you have left

to pay. E.g. £500 paid weekly over 12 months

Weekly	Total	Total
£10.22	£31.16	£531.16

(Other amounts and payment options are available)

Dragonsavers can pay a dividend on savings if it has made enough money from its loans. If loans are not paid back this affects the dividend on savings and how much others can borrow.

For more information on opening a Dragonsavers account call us on 01443 777043 or call in at the next collection in Penrhys Partnership.

HEOL DYFED GARDEN PROJECT

A group of residents in Heol Dyfed have developed as a project group and have been working very hard for over a year in identifying their priorities in terms of developing the garden project in their street. The group started with a variety of concerns for their area, such as litter dumping, scramblers riding past, poor footpaths and nowhere to sit outside in the Summer months. The group has grown in confidence, skills and an eagerness to develop and maintain their local built environment in Penrhys. There are 15-20 regular members of the Friends of Heol Dyfed and they have been successful in securing funds for the project from Environment Wales, the local authority, People and Work Unit, and the ongoing support of Groundwork Merthyr RCT. They have been on trips to the Botanical Gardens of Wales and others and have undertaken various training to help them develop the project. The group are always looking for support in developing the garden and all are welcome to give a helping hand. For more information contact Alyson Johnson.



Llanfair Uniting Church

This month has seen the arrival of our two new volunteers from Madagascar: Dahny and Njara. They join, Peter, our volunteer from Hungary who arrived at the end of August.

Although they have only been here a few days they have been thrown in at the deep end as far as work goes; there is always plenty to be done here at Llanfair!

The projects have all been running well, especially the Café which has had a makeover recently; going from the usual white to very pale terracotta. We were recently rewarded for all our hard work in Café after the visit from the Health and Hygiene Inspectors, they were so impressed that

they have awarded us with a Bronze Award which is now proudly displayed in the café. The Boutique is now stocking warmer clothes for the colder weather; such as jumpers and coats, all of which are very reasonably priced.

During September we were all tuned into Rhys Radio which has proved to be extremely popular. Siân and Michael have built up quite a fan base through their lunchtime show but most of the shows were enjoyed by everyone in Café as it was on all day!

Newly opened is the Traidcraft shop which sells a variety of fair-trade food, snacks and drinks as well as gifts; just call in and ask in the café for a price list or ask

one of the volunteers to take you to the shop.

This photo shows our newest volunteers (they join Laura who has been with us since February). From left to right, Njara (Zara), Dahny (Danny) and Peter. They are standing in front of the sign made for



them by some of young friends in café. The sign reads, "Tonga Soa," which means "Welcome" in Malagas.

OVER THE RAINBOW PLAYGROUP



OVER THE RAINBOW PLAYGROUP

has been running since June 2007 and has proved to be very successful. Run by a qualified Nursery Nurse Melanie

Jones. , the Play Group is aimed at children of Pre-school age (0-4 years).

The Playgroup runs for 1 hr. 45 mins. for two afternoons per week

PLAYGROUP

Tuesday and Thursday

1:00pm to 2:45pm

During the sessions parents must stay with their children and you will be given the opportunity to get together and enjoy a fun, friendly environment for you and your child to play and learn.

There will be a variety of activities to ensure your child gets an all round development.

The Playgroup is also linked to Penrhys Primary School who will help with the transition of your child into School.

Melanie has now started the '**Link Up**' sessions for those children who will be soon starting school. '**Link Up**' aims to help children make their entry into school a little easier. These sessions will take place on

'LINK UP'

Tuesday and Thursday mornings

9:30am to 11:15am.

If you are interested in a having a fun time with your child, contact Melanie at Penrhys Primary School on 01443 730037 or Llanfair Uniting Church on 01443 732814.

The Pre-School Provision is supported by

Children in Need



COMPUTER SUPPORT AVAILABLE !!!

Struggling to keep up with computer technology, need to know what a BEBO is or GOOGLE and YAHOO is all about?

Want to learn to shop ONLINE or SURF the NET, or use EMAIL, download your photos from a digital camera, help your KIDS with their homework, develop a CV, job search etc. then we can HELP !!!

As part of a new Welsh Assembly Government Communities @ One Funded project, the CASCADE project will help you get to grips with your PC.

Penrhys Partnership now have staff on hand to help you understand more about what computers can do.

The qualified Trainee Tutors are here to listen to what you want to learn - not put on courses hoping

that you will attend. They can give advice and guidance on what computers to buy, depending on what you want to do with them.

So, if you are looking to buy, upgrade your PC for Christmas, then we will be happy to offer our support.

If you haven't got a computer then you can come along to the Partnership Office and use the FREE DROP-IN FACILITIES, which are available weekdays.

If you are interested in benefiting from this service, then contact the Partnership Office on 01443 755008 or pop in to see Gavin or Dave to ask for their help.

**Communities @One
Cymunedau @Ei Gilydd**



**Wales Co-operative Centre
Canolfan Cydweithredol Cymru**

PENRHYS PRIMARY SCHOOL - and their FRIENDS

Did you know that **The Friends of Penrhys Primary School** was set up in 2005 to support the needs of children and young people in our community. The group was formed to try to assist the Penrhys Pre-School Consortium in developing Pre-School Provision in Penrhys. As a result of hard work, the group have been successful in securing funding from the **Communities First Trust Fund** for essential play equipment to support the children. Julie Alford the Chairperson said *'the group is delighted that we have got this equipment as the children need a variety of opportunities to develop their skills, and the grant of £2556 will help support our other fundraising activities throughout the year'*.

If your group is looking for grants for your project - up to £5,000 is available from the Welsh Assembly Government Communities First Trust Fund, for more information or support then give Penrhys Partnership a ring on 01443 755008 or pop in for a chat with Wayne Carter or Julie Edwards.

BASIC SKILLS SUCCESS

The school was reassessed by the Basic Skills Agency in October in order to renew the Quality Mark. This we did with 'flying colours' and we will be awarded our second plaque in the near future.

The school currently benefits from two Basic Skills initiatives, Catch Up Reading and Spotlight Maths.

HARVEST and SPECIAL VISITS

Our Harvest service was held recently and every within the school contributed to its success by either reciting poetry or singing.

Captain Steven Westwood from the Salvation Army also visited us told the children about the work of the Salvation Army.

Representatives from the Operation Christmas Child Charity also visited us, and once again we need your support in filling shoe boxes with 'goodies' to children less fortunate than ourselves. If you can help contact the school on 01443 730037.

SCHOOL EVENTS SEE BACK PAGE

PENRHYS PILGRIMS PROJECT

What is the PENRHYS PILGRIMS PROJECT?

During the summer, Penrhys welcomed hundreds of pilgrims from all around Wales which dates back to the 13th Century. You may or may not know that in 2008 Penrhys will celebrate it's 40th Anniversary of the official opening of Penrhys Estate and the 470th Anniversary of the Dissolution of the Monastery in Penrhys by Henry VIII.

The **PENRHYS PILGRIMS** is a major fully-bilingual community heritage, education and arts project for Penrhys, the Valleys and Wales. It will use as its focus the rich layers of history that Penrhys offers (including its evidence of pre-historic, Roman and Norman sites of occupation; its holy well; monastic chapel; Virgin and Child statue; its part in the birth and death of the coal industry; its smallpox isolation hospital; and the fascinating story of the estate itself), at the time of the four hundred and seventieth anniversary of the destruction of the Penrhys Shrine and the confiscation and burning of the 'miraculous' statue of the Mother and Child; and the fortieth anniversary of the completion and occupation of the Penrhys Village both occurring during one weekend next September.

The **PENRHYS PILGRIMS** Project aims to restore Penrhys' place in the contemporary life of Wales through a diverse range of imaginative, sustainable initiatives based upon this rich heritage. Specifically, and plans are being developed to undertake the following activities in 2008.

- Interviews (and transcriptions) of local Penrhys Village residents; (Digital Storytelling)
- a major new touring Exhibition, created by children and local people;
- a Penrhys Peoples' History publication (based upon the interview material);
- a new Book made by children exploring and telling the story of the holy well, the shrine and the statue(s) through poetry, drawings and photography;
- a Children's Workbook;
- a DVD with an original soundtrack filmed, edited, composed and recorded by local people;
- a PILGRIMS' Education Pack for use in schools;
- and a Community Festival

If you are interested in getting involved in planning the Penrhys 40th Birthday Celebrations or getting involved in the Penrhys Pilgrims Project Contact: 01443 755008 for details



Over 85 young people and adults who participated in the Rhondda Fach Summer Skillz Programme were presented with their certificates at a recent Awards Ceremony.



Leighton Andrews – Deputy Minister for Regeneration presented the awards to the participants who were involved in a learning programme that aims to give opportunities to young people and adults in improving their confidence, self-esteem, and raising their personal aspirations, whilst learning new skills, experiences and knowledge, on a formal and informal basis.

Summer Skillz was developed after consultation with young people and adults within Rhondda Fach, who were exploring their future career options either looking to enter the fields of further education, higher education and/or employment.

The programme developed in 2006 by Penrhys Partnership initially provided 9 programmes such as First Aid, Food Hygiene, Brush cutting, Play work training etc. with 69 participants receiving accredited and non-accredited training. The success of the programme saw the expansion of the programme across the Rhondda Fach in 2007, working with the Communities First Partnerships, Bell Centre and Arts Factory in developing the programme for 2008. In 2007 12 programmes were offered including Bike Maintenance, Youth Access/Gateway etc., with 85 participants. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event and the organisers hope that the skills developed will support the young people and adults in the future and Summer Skillz 2008 grows from strength to strength. **For more information on Summer Skillz 2008 - contact: Penrhys Partnership – 01443 755008**

PENRHYS WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

LLANFAIR UNITING CHURCH - PROJECTS

MONDAY	CRAFT CLUB	6-7pm (4-11yrs)
	HOMEWORK	6-7.30pm 11+
	MUSIC LESSONS	6-7pm (all)
TUES to	CAFÉ, BOUTIQUE	9-2PM
FRI	LAUNDRETTE	DAILY
TUES	HOMEWORK	5-6pm (4-11yrs)
	HOMEWORK	6-7.30pm (11+)
WED	CHOIR PRACTICE	
THU	HOMEWORK	5-6pm (4-11yrs)
	HOMEWORK	6-7.30pm (11+)
	CAFÉ	7-9pm (all)
FRI	FOOTBALL TRAINING	6-7pm
	CAFÉ & DISCO	7-9pm (all)
Every other SAT	CAFÉ	7-9pm (all)

WORSHIP

SUNDAY	MORNING SERVICE	9.30am
	SUNDAY SCHOOL	2.00pm
	SERVICE	3.00pm
MON	PENRHYS PRIMARY	9.30am
WED	HOLY COMMUNION	9.30am
	COMPLINE	8.00pm
	BIBLE STUDY	9.00pm
FRI	PRAYER WORLD CHURCH	9.30am

Contact 01443 732814

CANOLFAN RHYS ARTS & EDUCATION CENTRE

TUE	PICK & MIX/MEDIA/ART	4 - 6.00pm, (5-11yrs)	5.00-6.00pm (11-16yrs)
WED	CARD MAKING AND PAPERCRAFT	10-12noon	
	GIFT CRAFT	1pm - 3.00pm	
THU	NAZARETH HOUSE	10 - 12pm	
	ART ATTACK/DANCE	4-5pm (5-11yrs)	
	DIGITAL MEDIA	4-5pm (8-14yrs)	
	ART ATTACK	(5-6pm) 11+	
	DANCE	6-7pm	
	SINGING/ SONGWRITING	4-5pm (5-11yrs)	5-6pm (11 - 16yrs)
	FOCUSED AND SONGWRITING	6-8pm 11yrs+	



Contact 01443 755580

PENRHYS EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTRE

MON	Christmas Club/ DRAGON SAVERS	3.30pm-5.00pm
	PIC AND MIX	4 - 6pm
TUE	CROSS STITCH	10 - 12pm
	HOUSING SURGERY	1.00 - 3.00pm
	ARTS AND CRAFTS	12.30-3pm
WED	WALK YOUR WAY TO HEALTH	11-12pm
	PICK AND MIX	4.30 - 8pm
	MAKE YOUR OWN PC	6-9pm
THU	Christmas Club/DRAGON SAVERS	11-12 noon
	FRUIT & VEG COLLECT	12-2pm
	GET COOKING	1-3pm

**Order Fresh Fruit
and Veg packs
til 12 noon
Wednesday
Healthy Start
Vouchers
accepted**



Contact 01443 755008

PENRHYS newsletter



PENRHYS PRIMARY SCHOOL - Important Dates

Friday 26th October -	Break Up For Half Term
Monday 5th November	Return to school
Thursday 8th November	Years 1,2,3 and 4 to visit Maerdy Community Centre to watch a performance of 'Devoted Friends'
Thursday 15th November	Years 5 and 6 to visit the New Theatre to watch a performance of 'Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'
Thursday 15th November	Porth County Comprehensives School Information Evening for Parents, 6:30 at Porth
Friday 17th December	Netball Tournament at Tylorstown Sports Centre
Tuesday 11th December	Welsh Brass Trio
Thursday 13th December	KS 2 concert at 10:00
Friday 14th December	Early Years, years 1,2 and 3 concert at 2:00
Wednesday 19th December	Early Years, years 1,2 and 3 Christmas party
Thursday 20th December	KS 2 Christmas party

Seasons
Greetings

to
All Our Readers



Merry Christmas
And a Peaceful
New Year

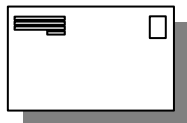
PACT MEETING

Tuesday 4th December

@ 2.00pm

Llanfair Church

Come and discuss any issues
with the local Police,
Councillors and Housing



Scouts Christmas Post at Woody's

The Scouts post will operate from Woody's up until
Mid day 8th December 2007

Stamps are available at the Store at a cost of 12p each -
Christmas cards can only be delivered in the Rhondda area.

Volunteering in Scouting is fun and rewarding and here in the Rhondda we would like to here from any adults who have something to offer our young people especially former scouts and guides. You will have the chance to learn new skills, rediscover adventure, make new friends, spend more time with your child if they are a Scout and give something back to your community. For further details contact John on 423550.

For further information on scouting in the Rhondda please visit our website
www.rhondda-scouts.co.uk "

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and the Arts Council of Wales



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