

## July

At our July meeting Alan Knight showed us a DVD called *The Fascinating history of Whitchurch, Rhiwbina and Heath*.

The DVD explained that a thousand years ago to the North of Cardiff lay a Great Heath dotted with tiny hamlets, the largest of these was the manor of Whitchurch, named after a Norman 'White Church'. Whitchurch was a small farming community until the Industrial Revolution which brought the Melingriffith Works, Woollen Mills and the busy Glamorganshire Canal. As the area grew it split into suburbs of Birchgrove, Rhiwbina, Heath and Coryton. Of particular interest were the Rhiwbina Garden Village, the Ararat Baptist church, the opening of the new University Hospital, the Rhiwbina Recreation Club, the Pantmawr Inn, the demolition of the Monico cinema and a nuclear bunker. And more.

Copies of the DVD are available on request.

## August

In August, we went on a behind-the-scenes award-winning tour of BBC Cymru Wales to learn about the future of broadcasting at their newest and most advanced studios in Central Square.

We visited one of the largest BBC newsrooms, packed with cutting-edge technology including virtual reality and robotic cameras (see photo).



We learnt how sound effects are added to your podcasts, what it is like to read the news and how the weather forecasters have to be spontaneous to fill up their available time slot. We visited other state-of-the-art television and radio studios to discover the secrets of making a BBC programme and follow in the footsteps of some of Wales' famous faces.

## September



At our September meeting, Sarah Liney, treasurer and trustee of Hedgehog Helpline, spoke about how we can help hedgehogs in their natural environment and the reasons why they need to be rescued. The charity covers south east Wales operating from seven field hospitals all run by volunteers. In 2023 they cared for 1200 hedgehogs with the ultimate aim to release them back to the wild.

We learnt that the typical lifespan is three to five years, weighing up to 1.5 kg and have between 5000 and 7000 spines for protection. Their favourite foods are beetles, caterpillars and earthworms rather than slugs. Try to make your garden hedgehog-friendly!