

IN BRIEF



■ **ART LEGEND**
Rolf Harris.

Feeling creative?

WOULD-BE artists are being urged to get back to the drawing board.

The Big Draw 2004, launching tomorrow, is a free event to encourage people to put pen, pencil and paint to paper.

Events will be taking place throughout Wales in October in a bid to boost creativity.

The national launch will be broadcast live from Trafalgar Square in London with the help of Rolf Harris.

The annual drive is the biggest free arts event in the United Kingdom.

ALEX IN THE CITY

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Grumble down...

THE number of complaints made to the Ombudsman against a Valleys council has halved in 12 months.

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council had 59 complaints determined by the local government watchdog last year.

This year's figure is 28, with five resolved without report and 23 not pursued.

The authority says that its residents' guide - Help us to Improve - introduced last year, is behind the reduction and shows its commitment to dealing with complaints quickly.

ANDREW PLANS TRANSATLANTIC RECORD GLORY

Amputee to test his endurance

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THE race is on for an amputee who is aiming to break a half marathon world record.

Andrew Palmer may only have been running for three years but the 35-year-old is confident he can beat the best at the US national championships in November.

The record for the flat road course in San Diego, California, is currently one hour 29 minutes and 52 seconds set by Paralympian Paul Martin.

Andrew's best in hilly South Wales is only 48 seconds slower and he reckons he can beat Martin's time.

But first he needs to raise the money to cross the Atlantic for the chance to make athletics history.

"I'll hopefully try to get the course record and maybe that will give me more of a profile internationally," said Andrew, of Cedar Way, Penarth, who had his leg amputated at nine because of a birth defect.

Andrew has already set a number of unofficial world best times, his most notable in July when he beat the time for a five kilometre road race by 28 seconds.

But these achievements are not recorded officially in the UK because distance running is not recognised by the International Sports Organisation for the Disabled. Races are only staged up to 800m and records can only be set at 400m or less.

To compete properly, Andrew must travel to the Silver Strand Half Marathon - part of the US National Championships - in San Diego, California, on November 14.

But he needs to find \$1,000 to cover costs because he cannot get official funding and is hoping a company or organisation will sponsor him.

And he believes that if he sets a new record it will help improve the profile of disabled distance athletes.

"Maybe then in the future, it might be easier to get sponsorship to do these events and put distance running on the map over here," he said.

■ **Paralympics latest:** See Page 35



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CALL HIM ON 029 2056 0336

■ **GETTING READY** Andrew Palmer is aiming for sporting glory.

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Applicants are going flat-out!

CARDIFF council has received the following planning applications:

CATHAYS

■ Permission is being sought to turn a three-bedroom house at 72 May Street into two flats.

■ An application has been made to turn a lighting shop in Cathays Terrace into an estate agency.

CANTON

■ Mohammed Irshad is seeking permission to build 18 flats on land at 109-115 Cowbridge Road East.

■ Six apartments are proposed at 548a Cowbridge Road East by Pendragon Asset Management.

HEATH

■ Sue Fry Properties has applied to build a four-bedroom family home on land at Nant-y-Fedw.

LLANISHEN

■ Hendre Housing Association is seeking permission to provide six supported housing units, including one disabled flat at the rear of Gwynfa in Station Road.

LISVANE

■ Plans have been submitted for 24 apartments on land at Cherry Orchard Road.

■ Two apartments are planned at a former blacksmith's shop in Lisvane Road.

■ Permission is being sought to extend Brookside in Rudry Road to include a swimming pool and triple garage.

ADAMSDOWN

■ An application has been made to demolish an MoT station and build 18 student flats at System Street in Adamstown.

CYNCOED

■ An application has been made by Dr Leonard Smart to demolish and rebuild a double garage at 264 Cyncoed Road and replace with a sauna room and outside hot tub.

TREMORFA

■ Permission is being sought to build 20 two-bedroom flats at the former council depot in Deemuir Road. The applicants are Rycon Homes.

PONTCANNA

■ An application has been made to change 67-71 Cathedral Road from a home for the elderly to 21 apartments with a new three-storey block of apartments also being built.

■ TPP Developments has applied to convert and extend 40 Cathedral Road to 11 flats.

OLD ST MELLONS

■ A six-bedroom detached home with integral double garage is proposed at Mainbrace, Druidstone Road.