

# THE RADYR AND MORGANTOWN ASSOCIATION

*(A Civic Society affiliated to the Civic Trust for Wales)*

**President:** Rhodri Morgan

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## NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – July 2013

**Welcome** to our regular Newsletter. Well, not so regular actually as we did not produce one in May. Apologies for that but the Festival this year was a bit later than usual and the Twinning visit to France (with which a number of us are involved) a bit earlier. So things got squeezed in the middle. However, we did have a tremendous write up in colour in the centre pages of Radyr Chain, for which we are very grateful to Bob & Mary Pearce, the Editors.

**Festival 2013.** Concerning the Festival, we have now done all our sums and were delighted to be able to present Tenovus with a cheque for £4000 at our 'wind up' meeting – see picture on right. This replaced the cheque for £2500 presented at the RPMG concert on the final Saturday. And, if you have read the Radyr Chain article (which is available on-line at [www.radyr.org.uk/bank/file20379.pdf](http://www.radyr.org.uk/bank/file20379.pdf) although the pages are in a very strange order – we will try to get that sorted), you will see that the 'bag collection' might have raised up to £8500 more! So a really worthwhile year for our chosen Charity. You may spot that representatives of LATCH – our chosen Charity for the coming year – were present. We welcome them on board.



**LATCH.** It is probably a good idea to tell you a little bit about our new Charity. To put it at its simplest, LATCH is a charity that supports the children who are receiving treatment for cancer at the Children's Hospital for Wales, and their families. Having cancer at any age is a dreadful experience and that is more so for children, for which cancers can spread very rapidly. The treatment can be traumatic for both the child and the surrounding family. LATCH supports both. You can read more about the Charity on their website [www.latchwales.org](http://www.latchwales.org). You will hear more about them as the year progresses and do support any activities they may organise.

**Cardiff Local Development Plan.** We told you back in March how things were progressing with the LDP and that our MP and AM, Kevin Brennan and Mark Drakeford, had made a very sensible submission to the Council. As you have probably seen in the News Item on the R&M Website ([www.radyr.org.uk/20552](http://www.radyr.org.uk/20552)), their ideas appear to have been ignored and R&M is likely to be significantly impacted by neighbouring development. The most worrisome aspect of the proposal is the continuing lack of detail regarding the necessary transport infrastructure and the apparent abandoning of any attempt to ensure that infrastructure will be in place before development starts. Of course, we are only talking here about the **draft** Deposit Plan. The actual one, which should have more detail, should be published around October and there will be a six week period to send in responses.

Our Community Council is leading the detailed work on all aspects of the LDP and we know they are working alongside neighbouring Community Councils to achieve the best result for us all. This is not a matter of simple 'Nimbyism'; all of us are trying to ensure a sensible outcome for Cardiff. Building lots of houses which will create horrendous traffic jams when people attempt to get to work will bring no-one any credit or joy apart, perhaps, from the Earl of Plymouth and the Plymouth Estates who will be selling all the land. Do keep a close watch on developments in this area by looking at the website or reading information that will be sent to you over the next few months. We may need to act strongly as a Community. And, if you think you can help in any material way, do get in touch with the Community Council ([clerk@radyr.org.uk](mailto:clerk@radyr.org.uk) or 2084 2213) and offer assistance.

Finally on this topic, Kevin Brennan is due to speak at our next General Meeting on **16<sup>th</sup> September** and we will ask him to spend a little time talking about the LDP. Make sure that meeting is in your diary.

**PACT and Neighbourhood Watch.** If you are on the NW alert circulation list, you will be aware that there has been a slightly worrying increase in local burglaries of late. We do not know all the details but it seems appropriate to remind everyone in these suddenly (and very welcome) warmer days to ensure their property is kept secure at all times. That applies to closing easily accessible windows at night and ensuring that houses, cars, sheds etc are not left unsecured and unoccupied at any time. Most burglaries are 'opportunistic' so do not leave open invitations for unwanted visitors. And, if you spot your neighbour's house is unsecured, pop round and let them know. Incidentally, if you would like to be on the NW alert circulation list, get in touch with the Secretary of the R&M NW, David Cargill ([d.cargill@ntlworld.com](mailto:d.cargill@ntlworld.com) or 2084 2034). If you would like to hear an update on Police matters in the area, the next PACT meeting is on 10<sup>th</sup> September at 19:00 in the Old Church Rooms.

**Hanging Baskets.** We often get asked 'what is happening with the hanging baskets in Station Road?'. Officially speaking, it is nothing to do with us except for the fact that we worked with Cardiff Council in 2010/11 to get the project off the ground. Keith John, our 'local artist' designed all the brackets (creatures from the Taff Trail) which were then fabricated by the Council and painted by Keith. They still look magnificent and we are proud to have them. But the arrangement was that the shopkeepers would take responsibility for them after the first year, which they have not. Last year the Council belatedly did replace the flowers (although they missed out three, on the north side) but this year they have not and a sad sight they were. There were comments on the Soapbox. Anyway, we (the Association) have taken it upon ourselves to sort things out. At the time of writing, four replanted baskets are in place and we will replace the others on the main stretch of buildings once we can get the automatic watering system going. That requires the Council to provide us with the timer module they removed last year, but now cannot find. There is also talk of the Association having to sign a contract with Dŵr Cymru for the water supply! Interestingly, we have been told that R&M is unique at having such a hanging basket scheme. A number of projects were started when the Parks Department approached various localities back in 2010, but only the R&M scheme was completed. We may have had a little grief over running things, but we should be proud of that.

**Restaurants.** Talking about Station Road leads us to note that Toast has been having a bit of a rough time on the Soapbox of late and we hope that things will improve. It surprises us that Toast themselves do not appear to have made any attempt to respond to the criticisms on the Soapbox; we would love to hear their side of the story. Whatever the case, if you do eat in Toast and feel that things are not as they ought to be, do make your feelings known to the staff at the time. That is far better than posting a negative comment on the Soapbox afterwards. And we are delighted to report that a new Coffee Shop/Lunch Spot has just opened in Park Road opposite the Primary School. Give it a whirl! We wish them well.

**Website.** We have mentioned the R&M a number of times in this Newsletter; not surprisingly as it continues to grow in importance as a hub for all sorts of information concerning our Community. If you are involved in a Community Organisation, please ensure that all your public events are mentioned on the Events Calendar (and form where they will be carried into Radyr Chain) and send the webteam news and pictures of what you have been doing and what you plan to do. The Webteam are just about to implement a redesign of the Home Page which they hope will make everything look fresher and navigation easier. It is essential that snippets of news get reported regularly so that there is something new to see each time people log in. We are considering setting up a special meeting in the near future to help with this process. We and the webteam are looking closely at establishing an effective 'Social Media' element (i.e. Facebook or something) so that communication about what is going on can be much more rapid and fluid. Get in touch if you think you can help with that.

**Christmas Lighting Ceremony.** Is it too early to mention the lighting ceremony which will follow the pattern set in the last few years and be on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December? We would like to build up the number of stalls at this event. If you would like to run one, or know of someone else who does, please get in touch now!

**Holidays.** Almost finally, can we wish all of you who are about to embark on summer holidays (in the UK or not) a lovely time? And, perhaps, the dry and sunny weather will even continue?

**Next Meetings.** As mentioned above, our next meeting will be on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September** at 7:30pm in the Old Church Rooms when Kevin Brennan will be speaking. Subsequent meetings this year will be, as previously notified, **18<sup>th</sup> November**, when Martin Chamberlain will talk about Forest Farm, and **3<sup>rd</sup> February**, when Gwyn Rees will talk about researching family history. Please ensure these dates are in your diary; we look forward to the presentations.

**If you would like to comment** on any aspect of this Newsletter or require further information, then either email the Secretary, Nick Hawkins ([rma@radyr.org.uk](mailto:rma@radyr.org.uk)), or ring the Chairman, Cyril Williams, on 029 2084 2250.