



# THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

President: Rhodri Morgan

Vice Presidents: Antonia Wigley MB Ch B  
Dave Cargill BEM, JP, FCCA  
Nick Hawkins



## NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – May/June 2015

**Welcome** to our regular Newsletter. Normally we would have issued this edition in May, just after the Festival but, as we have something rather special to tell you, we have delayed until 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

**QAVS:** We are delighted – and somewhat bemused – to tell you that the RMA is a recipient this year of the ‘Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service’. This unique UK national honour was created over a decade ago by Her Majesty The Queen to mark the Golden Jubilee in 2002 and to recognise the outstanding contributions that groups of volunteers make to local communities. It has an equivalent status for voluntary groups as the MBE has for individuals. It is an exceedingly prestigious award; in 2014, there were only 111 recipients in the whole of the UK – and only one in Wales. So it is fantastic that the Association has been recognised this way. The citation for the award reads “*Providing a social framework for a growing Community, making Radyr & Morganstown a great place to live and work, and fund raising for an annual Charity.*” The nomination for the award was made by the Radyr & Morganstown Community Council and we thank them for seeking this recognition for us. Our Chairman David Silver comments, “We are flattered and honoured to receive this award which recognises the work of the RMA since its foundation in 1987. We are a hard working group of individuals who care deeply for the whole Radyr & Morganstown Community and its future.”

Apart from the kudos of winning the QAVS, the award allows us to use the above Logo on all correspondence; we will receive a signed certificate from Her Majesty The Queen, presented locally by Dr Peter Beck, the Lord Lieutenant for Glamorgan; and we will also receive an English Crystal with the QAVS Logo insignia.

**Festival 2015:** Of course, the award comes just after the end of a very successful 2015 Festival when a cheque for £10,000 was presented to our Charity over the last year, the NSPCC – an ample demonstration of all the work the Association does. The Festival was very busy for us and we hope everyone took part in at least some of the activities. After a damp start with the Carnival Procession and Fete on the first day, the weather caused us no real problems and the Concert in the Parc was another wonderful Community event. You can read all about the Festival in David Cargill’s report in Radyr Chain. This year we introduced a new Festival website, [www.rmfestival.org.uk](http://www.rmfestival.org.uk), where you can find a lot of pictures – just click on ‘Gallery’. We also introduced a Twitter account ‘@RMHub’ and on-line ticketing for a number of events. This all ensured that attendance was good. Allan Cook was awarded the Ken Innes Bowl for his long-term work in organising Festival Arts events.

Next year’s Charity is Velindre Hospital and we look forward to working with them.

**Planning Update:** We mentioned in the last Newsletter that LDP Inspectors had required Cardiff Council to respond to over 150 Action Points. The Inspectors have now received the responses although they are difficult to assess as they are set out over many documents, but we have been told they will shortly be published as one document as part of the six-week public consultation on the Matters Arising Changes Schedule, due to start this month. This is an unexpected extra opportunity to comment on the LDP. The Inspectors’ report is expected towards the end of the year.

**Old Church Rooms:** Another quick update. We are still awaiting a response on a possible grant towards the refurbishment work; we should hear about this at the end of June. We are currently working on the final plans with our architect and a number of possible contractors are being assessed. Our aim is still to start work in the summer holiday period to avoid as much disruption as possible. As it will be a construction site, either part or all of the car park may be shut for a time whilst work proceeds.

**PACT:** We haven’t mentioned PACT for a while but regular meetings still take place and important issues are raised. At the last meeting (on 19<sup>th</sup> May) issues raised included the lack of spaces at the Radyr Primary Schools, the LDP, HGV vehicles travelling illegally along Heol Isaf, a possible increase in double yellow lines in R&M to increase safety for both Pedestrians and Motor Vehicles, and the R&M Crime figures for April and May. These will be published on the website (see [www.radyr.org.uk/2195](http://www.radyr.org.uk/2195)). Yet again, residents were urged to ensure that their properties are secured, particularly cycles, sheds and garages. **The police forces are running a Property Marking Session at Radyr Library on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> June.** The object of this initiative is to enable residents to mark all their possessions with a personal unique code. This will enhance the chance of recovering stolen property. The next PACT meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> July at 7pm in the OCR.

**Film Nights:** With the showing of 'The Theory of Everything' during the Festival, which was a sell-out, our film season came to an end and will start again on 24<sup>th</sup> September. We do not yet know what the film will be (we do not get the schedule until July). The showing of films has certainly gone from strength to strength in our first full year and is actually returning a good income which we plan to invest in better equipment. One aspect of the OCR refurbishment will be the installation of better black-out blinds in the Garth Room which may allow us to extend our showing season. (Another aspect is improvements to the heating system, which we know will be welcomed!). Perhaps this is a good time to mention that the Association has no long-term aim to run these film nights; having demonstrated that it is a viable project welcomed by the R&M Community, we would be very happy to pass it over to an independent group to run. Do let us know if you would be interested in being involved with such a venture.

**Station Road:** As mentioned in the last Newsletter, two new shops have opened, or are about to open, in Station Road; ME Law, a law practice run by Meinir Evans specialising in the legal aspects of the elderly, and Thomas H Wood, a new Estate Agent. Both have told us that they wish to be actively involved in the R&M Community and both provided prizes for the Festival Draw, for which we thank them. Do pop in and say 'hello'. Unfortunately, we have been a bit delayed in getting the hanging baskets put out this year, but that will be done soon. We have no idea what is going to happen to the old NatWest Bank premises. There is a sign on it saying it is going to be sold; we only hope that it eventually contains a business that adds value to our Community. There was a Soapbox thread on this topic which, sadly, got invaded by a 'troll' (someone who inputs provocative remarks for 'fun'). We haven't deleted the thread but ignore most of the contents if you look at it!

**Sidings:** Talking about the Soapbox leads us to mention that a new webpage ([www.radyr.org.uk/31914](http://www.radyr.org.uk/31914)) was recently set up for the Radyr Sidings Residents' Association. This was announced in a thread on the Soapbox and a very strange discussion ensued. Unfortunately, the same troll infected that discussion as well. It was very disturbing to read remarks (not from the troll) suggesting that Sidings residents saw themselves as apart from the main R&M Community. We know this is not true as we know it is not true for residents of any of the newer estates that are now part of our Community. For the record, the Association welcomes as members all residents of R&M and actively works to integrate the whole Community.

**Village Plan:** Apologies for mentioning the Soapbox yet again but in a very recent reply by 'gwydd' on this subject it was said that the an update of the Village Plan is in the pipeline and the Community Council hope to commission a questionnaire for residents soon. This is very good news and we hope we will be able to work closely with them on drawing up a new plan, as we did in 2010.

**Facebook & Twitter:** Yet another quick update. Facebook 'Likes' have now reached 556 (it was 484 in March) and our Twitter account has 118 followers. The Facebook account is now linked to the Twitter account so postings on Facebook appear automatically on Twitter (and our followers often 're-tweet' our tweets to their followers). In May, the Facebook page was lookd at 10,000 times! Overall, coverage is potentially enormous. So let us repeat our advice from the last Newsletter. *If you are running an event and want more people to attend, want to tell the community about things you have done, are trying to recruit new members or just want some free publicity, let us know either by email to [events@radyr.org.uk](mailto:events@radyr.org.uk) or send us the hard copy and we will put it on for you.*

**Meetings.** We held our AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> March. David Silver was re-elected as Chairman; Tom Evans was elected as Vice Chairman; Nick Hawkins as Secretary; and Bob Roberts as Treasurer. We were delighted to welcome a new Committee member, Eric Blackwell, who joins David Cargill, Raymond Rivron and Ralph Vaughan. Sadly, Allan Cook stood down from the Committee after many years of active service, notable on Arts matters. There are still vacancies on the Committee and we can co-opt during the year. If you would like to join us, do get in touch. You will be very welcome.

Speakers for the General meetings for the coming year were confirmed as being:

<b>15<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Peter Barrett-Lee</b>	<b>(Velindre)</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> September	David Cargill & Brian Evans	(Magistrates Court)
16 <sup>th</sup> November	Judith Hall	(Cardiff University School of medicine)
8 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	Peter Vaughan	(Chief Constable)

We look forward to seeing you on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

**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 the Chairman, David Silver ([rmachair@radyr.org.uk](mailto:rmachair@radyr.org.uk))