

## NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – March 2017

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

### **RADYR FESTIVAL 2017**

If you live in R&M you will be receiving the full Festival Programme in the next Radyr Chain. All the details are now also on the Festival website, [www.rmfestival.org.uk/](http://www.rmfestival.org.uk/). For many events the website contains more details, photographs etc than the hard copy; it also contains links for you to purchase tickets online for all our own events should you wish to do so. As the Festival proceeds there will be a commentary on the Festival Update Page and a Gallery of photographs of the events. If you have any good photographs you would like us to include just email them to us on [events@radyr.org.uk](mailto:events@radyr.org.uk) and we can add them to the site. There will shortly be a link to a Welsh version. Please have a look at the site and tell us what you think about it.

We won't go into more details here except to mention that we have the normal full range of events, including top quality entertainment. The box office (on [www.ticketsource.co.uk/rma](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/rma)) is now open. Tickets for events will also be with Radyr Eyecare very soon.

There is still time to have a stall at the Festival Fete on the first Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> April. Get in touch with the Secretary if you would like further details.

Apart from that, we hope you enjoy the Festival. We hope we will have good weather and also raise a large amount of money for the charity, St John Ambulance Wales.

### **PLASDWR (WATER PALACE)**

Sorry to bring this up so early in the Newsletter but Cardiff Council gave the go-ahead to this scheme on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Redrow have erected their advertising board in the large field along the A 4119 between the Heol Isaf and Parc Radur roundabouts, and the hedges that surround the field have already been cut down. The initial development will be around 150 dwellings.

There are several immediate consequences associated with this development. There will certainly be increases in construction traffic, traffic congestion and the levels of general pollution; these will continue and most probably increase. Furthermore, the longer term increases in population will certainly have an adverse effect on Radyr and Morganstown and other local Communities.

It would appear that all the representations made by many bodies against this development have been in vain. The underlying theme has been the lack of supportive infrastructure. How will the offspring be educated and where? Currently, the Medical and Dental Facilities are very stretched. This winter has also seen the local hospitals fully occupied with great difficulties in admitting very ill patients. Again, how are all the area residents going to access commercial centres, motorways and employment venues given the current inadequate roads and resulting road congestion? A well known commentator once remarked that 'If the thinking was correct, the doing was relatively easy. If the thinking was incorrect, the doing was almost impossible'.

Yet, the powers that be are confident that all will be well. Actions will involve increases in bicycle access and egress, more public transport and ultimately (possibly) 'the Metro'. The lack of publication of the other important concerns mentioned earlier speaks volumes.

We await the outcome with trepidation – not just for ourselves but for the residents who will occupy the new properties. Will their experience live up to the rosy picture being painted by Redrow? Cardiff's LDP is due for review next year: there may be a change in the ruling party of Cardiff Council come the May election. The whole development may not happen. Whatever the case and whatever our current fears, we will seek to work with our new neighbours – or extended community – to make them welcome in R&M and fight for the facilities they will want and we still need.

### **MAY ELECTIONS**

To add to the above, don't forget that the May elections cover both Cardiff Council and our own Community Council. Why not get involved and put yourself up for election?



## **STATION PARKING**

Work on building the new station car park on De Clare Drive is proceeding very quickly. Large sumps were dug for drainage and these are now being backfilled. We spoke to one of the engineers working on the Site who said work might be completed by the end of the month.

**HANGING BASKETS:** We are very pleased to say that the Community Council have again agreed to contribute to the provision of hanging baskets in Station Road. They will be put up as soon as the plants and the weather allow. In the meantime, here is a reminder of what the baskets looked like last year.



## **GELYNIS FARM FOOTBRIDGE - GOOD NEWS FOR CYCLISTS AND WALKERS**

Having carried out emergency repairs some time ago, when the footway was found to be defective, the footbridge was shut on 20<sup>th</sup> February for three weeks to allow permanent repairs to be made and the footway widened. It was not wide enough for two people to pass comfortably and impossible if there was a bike.

Due to a complication of the design and a requirement for additional works, the reopening has been delayed and it will probably open sometime around 17<sup>th</sup> March. The current diversion, up to the Radyr Station bridge, is a mile each way and shows how valuable this bridge is to the community.



## **GAREL RHYS**

We were so shocked to hear of the death on 21<sup>st</sup> February of Professor Garel Rhys CBE. He was our speaker at the last General Meeting just two weeks before. If you missed that meeting, you missed a treat. Garel was knowledgeable – immensely so – amusing, possibly slightly controversial, and an incredible speaker. The R&M Community has lost a great character, and so have Wales and the UK as he was a foremost authority on the motor industry and the Welsh economy. At a time of Brexit (about which he spoke), the selling of Vauxhall and Opel to Peugeot and Citroën and other uncertainties in the Welsh economy, we need people like Garel who can provide honest, wise counsel, simply expressed. He will be sorely missed. Our thoughts go out to his wife, Mavis, and the whole family.



## **Roald Dahl, Llandaff Boy**

There is just room to tell you that on 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the OCR we are presenting a light and humorous programme on Roald Dahl by the Llandaff Society and Friends of Insole Court. The cast includes several professional actors as well as Geoffrey Barton Greenwood, a onetime resident of Radyr. Tickets £7 (£12 for two) from ener-chi, Nick Hawkins 2084 2561 and Allan Cook 2084 3176.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Our next meeting will be our **AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> April**. It is not a very formal meeting and we try to make things a bit more palatable by offering a free drink and nibbles after the proceedings. We do have some vacancies on the Association's Executive Committee and we would love to have some new members. **If you are Community-minded and have ideas as to what the Association should do to make R&M a great place to live and work, do consider joining us on the Committee.** We do not meet very frequently and your input will be hugely valuable. If you want to know more, do have a chat with us. Contact details below.

**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)).