

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – July 2017

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

KEVIN BRENNAN

Following the unanimous decision at the last General Meeting, we invited our local MP, Kevin Brennan, to become our President in succession to the late Rhodri Morgan. We are delighted to report that he graciously agreed to do so, and said it was a great honour to be invited. He also said that we must let him know if we ever need any help. We may take him up on that offer from time to time!



EISTEDDFOD FUND RAISING

On 15th July the 'Radyr and the Garth' 2018 Eisteddfod fund raising programme started with a wine and cheese evening in the OCR. The 2018 National Eisteddfod is being held in Cardiff Bay and the R&M area has been asked to raise no less than £35,000! To tackle the task, R&M has joined with Gwaelod y Garth, Taffs Well and Tongwynlais and called themselves 'Radyr and the Garth'. Other nearby areas are 'Pentyrch and Creigiau', and 'Llandaff and Danescourt'.



A busy year of events has been arranged starting with a book launch on 15th September, a lunch time Hog Roast in the Golf Club on 1st October, a Christmas Choral Concert, a grand Dinner to Celebrate St Dwynwen's Day in January (St Dwynwen is the Welsh St Valentine). Other provisional events include someone taking part in the Iron Man competition in Tenby in the autumn, a grand auction of sporting memorabilia and promises, coffee mornings and much much more. If you would like to get involved or have any ideas for fundraising please contact the Chair, Huw Onllwyn Jones at onllwyn@mac.com.



RADYR WOODS – GOOD NEWS AND NOT SO GOOD NEWS!

We are delighted to report that Radyr Woods is one of 101 community managed green spaces in Wales that have met the high standard needed to receive the prestigious Green Flag Community Award (the international mark of a quality park or green space) given out by Keep Wales Tidy. This is well deserved recognition for all the hard work put in by the Friends of Radyr Woods, and the many local residents who take an interest in, and freely help keep the Woods, and is much appreciated. The Green Flag Award scheme is delivered in Wales by the environmental charity, Keep Wales Tidy, with support from Welsh Government. It is judged by green space experts, who volunteer their time to visit applicant sites and assess them against eight strict criteria, including horticultural standards, cleanliness, environmental management and community involvement. A full list award winners can be found on the Keep Wales Tidy website www.keepwalestidy.cymru/greenflag

We can also report that the replacement boardwalk mentioned in the last Newsletter was constructed over four weekends between April and June by the Cardiff Conservation Volunteers based in Forest Farm. The new boards were manufactured in Ebbw Vale from recycled plastic and polystyrene – very effective and eco! The project was funded by the Community Council and money left to the 'Wardens' to support this specific project, and there should be an official opening ceremony in the not too distant future.

On a sadder note we can tell you that this wonderful amenity is not actually being used as much as it ought to be and, partly as a consequence, is witnessing some bad behaviour and suffering some vandalism. Here is a picture of just some of the material dredged out of the pond by Radyr Woods Volunteers. If more of us visited the area – to see the wildlife, play games, have a picnic, etc – it will be more respected. And don't forget that the Wardens welcome new volunteers to help look after the area.



The work includes occasional 'working parties' but many just help out with the 'litter-pick' rota etc. If you want more information about the ways you could help safeguard this important amenity in our community, please contact the Warden's Secretary on 029 2066 6999 (office hours - phone answered as 'Key Legal Services').

DEFIBRILLATORS

Yet another good news story! The defibrillator on the wall of the opticians in Station Road has been reinstalled following the theft of the original model a short while ago. The new one, supplied by the R&M Community Council, is in a cabinet secured by a combination lock. If access is required, ring 999 and the emergency services will give you the code. More importantly, they will talk you through what you need to do in advance of using the unit (specifically, start CPR - Cardiopulmonary resuscitation). If you don't know what that is then we understand St John's Cymru (see next) will be laying on more courses soon to train people. The R&MCC have also installed defibrillators in the OCR and MVH, and the same kit is available currently in the Golf Club and the Health Centre. So R&M is well served in this respect, but we all need to know how to use the equipment.



RADYR FESTIVAL CHARITY

We held our 'Festival Wind-down' meeting on 20th July. This is when we review how the Festival went, present the final cheque to our Charity for the year, and formally adopt the Charity for the coming year. A few people have given us some thoughts about the Festival (*feel free to give us more...*) and these will be taken into account in next year's planning. Our Chairman, David Silver, has taken over the leadership of the Festival Committee following David Cargill's retirement after 30 years. We were delighted to be able present St John's Cymru with a cheque for £10,500 representing the monies raised by the R&M



Community over the year (see picture). They have a growing band of cadets and the money will be put to good use. We also met Cheryl George, Regional Community Fundraising Manager for Alzheimer's Society Cymru. She said how delighted she was to be working with the Association over the coming year and emphasised how dementia affects whole families as well as individuals. Not only is she looking forward to raising the profile of this terrible affliction but she also hopes to create an on-going Alzheimer's support group (similar to Tenovus) that will carry things forward for many years. If you would think you could help in any, let us know (contact details at the end) and we will pass the details onto Cheryl.

PLANNING ISSUES

Did you see the excellent programme produced by Jason Mohammad (an Association member) for BBC One Wales' Week In, Week Out? If not, you can still watch the programme [here](#). He correctly points out that Cardiff has plans to expand rapidly but currently lacks the necessary infrastructure to make it work. He interviewed Huw Thomas, the new leader of Cardiff Council, who refused to provide any details, simply saying that 'everything will be fine, just trust us'. Plasdwr, now in development next to Parc Radur, was mentioned on a number of occasions. Will it be the wonderful place to live that the developers are promoting? We hope so as the new residents will be part of our Community, and we will welcome them as such. But we do fear for the chaos in the area that is likely to be caused by yet more traffic on the Llantrisant Road.

We are also bemused by the apparent lack of action over the new car park at Radyr Station. It looks finished; it was opened for a weekend in June for the football final in town then closed again. We are told Network Rail (who commissioned the work) have not yet 'signed it off' but we do not know why. There is talk of camber angles being slightly wrong, or kerb stones needing to be cleaned, or something else. But, in truth, nobody seems to know what is going on. Actually, we remain fearful of when it does open. It is meant to cure the parking problem around the station. Will it, or will people still park on the residential roads (which are sometimes deemed safer than a public car park) and will it attract yet more traffic (from up the A470) at peak times? This is when 'solutions' become 'problems' in their own right. We feel the R&M Community deserves to be told about how everything is meant to work in the future. We do not mind suffering short term difficulties but we want to be confident that the plans will work in the end and not end up in yet more chaos. In truth, despite the assurances of people like Huw Thomas, Cardiff does not have a good track record in long-term planning. For the record, we have asked Cardiff Planning if they could field someone to talk at one of our General Meetings; they declined.

FILM CLUB

To get back to more positive things, the Film Club will be starting its new season of films on Thursday, 28th September. Eric Blackwell, who looks after the Film Club, recently trawled Film Club members on what films they would like to see shown and has had a good response. We will let you know as soon as a decision is made. If you want to contact Eric on any matter, he is on rmfilmclub@btinternet.com.



OLD CHURCH ROOMS



It is written into our Constitution that we should 'maintain and manage, or to co-operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance and management of, Community Centres for activities promoted by The Association and its constituent bodies' (a bit of a mouthful). We thought we should let you know that, following the successful completion of the rebuilding work, the Association and the R&MCC have just signed a new joint management agreement. A new Hall Management Committee has been formed with active membership from both organisations. For the coming year the Chair will be taken by the Association's Secretary, Nick Hawkins. There is still quite

a lot of work to do to make sure the building is kept maintained and clean and works for the benefit of us all. We also want it to be self sufficient financially. If you would like to know more about the building or are considering booking a room, then speak to David Cargill, 2084 2034.

HISTORY SOCIETY

A quick 'plug' for this Society. After successful visits to the Royal Mint in Llantrisant and a visit to the National Trust property at Stourhead in Wiltshire, the last visit of the season is to the Nantgarw China Works on Thursday 28th September. The first two talks in the winter programme are; Thursday 19th October, Chris Dale will continue his series of talks on Roman Emperors with Hadrian; Thursday 16th November, the leading authority on the Medieval Welsh Church Dr. Madelaine Gray on Medieval Tombstones in Wales. Talks take place at 7.30pm in the OCR. All are welcome. The visit to Nantgarw is a morning one. For more details phone Allan Cook on 2084 3176.

If other organisations would like to be featured in future Newsletters, let us know.

NEXT MEETING

The next General Meeting of the Association is on Monday 25th September when our guest speaker will be Ian Thomas, Chief Executive of Age Cymru. This links well with our new Charity as Mr Thomas was The Alzheimer's Society first Welsh Director from 2005 - 2009. As well as the talk we are happy to talk about any matter which is of concern to our members. All that we ask is that, if possible, we have an idea in advance of topics that will be raised. 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), or the Chairman, David Silver (rmachair@radyr.org.uk).