

# THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

President: Rhodri Morgan

Vice Presidents: Antonia Wigley BBChB

Dave Cargill BEM, JP, FCCA

Nick Hawkins

## NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – March 2014

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

**Festival 2014. Charity – LATCH.** The programme for the May Festival, which will run from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May, has now gone to print and will be distributed in the April edition of Radyr Chain. A full colour programme will include over 30 events, some old, some new. The theme of the Festival this year is “This Sporting Life”. This will be featured in the Parade on the first Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, prior to the Fete, the Primary School colouring competition and the Community Council literary competition. We hope that the events this year will meet the aspirations of all ages and interests of our community from fetes, concerts, theatre, jazz, walks, quiz, sports, music, dog and horse shows, along with the traditional crowning ceremony and fun run. Residents will be leafleted about the closure of roads for the fete and parade and the use of the community area at Parc Radur on the final Sunday when we will again be running the successful ‘Concert in the Parc’. This will again feature music from the youth of the village and also include the newly formed Radyr Choral Society under the leadership of Peter Esswood.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the Arts are well catered for. On Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May, the Festival Theatre there will be a performance of Brecht's ‘*The resistible rise of Arturo Ui*’ by **Fluellen**; on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May, there will be a lunchtime concert by singers from the **Wales International Academy of Voice**; the popular **RPMG Concert** has moved to the middle Saturday on 10<sup>th</sup> May; on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, there will be a first outing of a new **Film Club** when we will be showing ‘*Philomena*’; on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May, we have a production by the **Lighthouse Theatre Company** of Dylan Thomas's ‘*Reminiscences of Childhood*’; this will be followed on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> May by another lunchtime concert by a coming young pianist, **Paul Israel**; and on the closing Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, we have Peter Karrie, in his show ‘*Peter Karrie and Friends*’, being put on special for LATCH. And that is before the final Concert in the Parc!

Draw tickets are again not being sent to members this year, but will be distributed via the Radyr Chain. The first prize is **Two tickets for Warhorse at the Millennium Centre**, the second prize is **A Round of Golf for four at St. Pierre, Chepstow**, and the third prize a **Champagne Tea for two at the Hilton Cardiff**. As all the draw money goes to LATCH, we hope you will buy lots of tickets. In fact LATCH have already received nearly £2000 from our activities at Christmas. We hope that this year with the help of Radyr Golf Club that the Charity will receive over £10,000 towards a very good cause.

All we need now is some good weather and your support!

**Cardiff Local Development Plan.** Are you following what is happening? Probably not as it all appears somewhat boring – but it is important. If you look on the Home Page of the R&M Website, you will see it has got to what they call the ‘Alternative Sites’ stage. This is the final step before Cardiff Council officially rubber stamps the overall plan (scheduled for June) and passes it to the Welsh Government for ‘examination’. If you look at the ‘alternative sites’ in question (follow the links on the website) you will see that some are scheduled for insertion (generally suggested by people or organisations that feel their land should have been included) and some for deletion. A lot of people have suggested that the proposals for the major development in NW Cardiff should be deleted, so you will find that there, but it certainly does not mean it will be!

Responses to the proposals are required by 4<sup>th</sup> April and it may well be that it would be a good idea for as many people as possible to make a response. Those of you who went to the LDP meeting in the Comprehensive School on 10<sup>th</sup> March will have heard that there were ‘few’ objections to the NW Cardiff sites in the early consultation, apart from residents in Creigiau. This is hardly surprising as Creigiau mounted a massive publicity campaign and R&M has largely left it to the R&MCC to make a collective comment – which they have done most professionally. It now looks, worryingly, that a well-thought-out, professional response could be trumped in a numbers game. Not good news. Officially, responses in this present phase have to relate to specific sites, but this does give the opportunity to make other comments. We will liaise with the R&MCC as to how to play this and will give you specific briefing on what to say, and how, in the very near future.

As a final bit of briefing in this saga, the ‘North West Cardiff Group’ (of which both the R&MCC and the RMA are part) is joining forces with Cardiff Civic Society to make a very interesting counter-proposal to Cardiff’s plans. Watch this space!

**Morganstown Motte.** After many delays, it is time to move on with the development of Morganstown Motte. A meeting will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the OCR to form a Friends Group. If you are interested in the future of the Motte and the Mound Field, come along and express your views. In the meantime an open day, with guides on hand to explain the Motte, is scheduled for Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May (the May Day Bank Holiday), between 10:00am and 1:00pm, weather permitting. Come along and have a look around.

**PACT and Neighbourhood Watch.** If you follow the threads on the Soapbox on the R&M website, you will see that a number of people have commented on the strange fact that a number of contributors have complained about 'issues' in R&M (notably in Lychgate Gardens) but they are not discussed at the regular PACT meetings. It would appear that people are willing to make comments electronically but are not prepared to come to PACT meetings to press the point. This is a great pity. Broadly, there are around 6000 residents in R&M and, at the last PACT meeting on 11 March, only 10 residents were present. We don't want a lot of 'moaning minnies' at the meeting, but it would be good to have some decent representation. PACT meetings are attended by the Police and Cllr Rod McKerlich, who gives a verbal report. If you want things to happen, this is a real opportunity to speak to them face to face – even 'call them to account' if you think that is appropriate. Neighbourhood Watch is also on the agenda and, if you think that 'neighbourliness' is something that ought to be encouraged, come along to discuss that as well. The next PACT meeting is in the Old Church Rooms on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 7:00pm.

**Good Neighbours.** You will have heard the sad news that GN is being wound up following the withdrawal of Cardiff Council funding. We do, though, understand that arrangements are being made to pass some of the present functions to Age Concern, although that will not include the very popular (and useful) Friday 'Meet for Lunch Club'. We do hope that things do continue and also hope that the MFL Club can be resurrected in some way or another – surely that is not too difficult? In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Barbara Willis, the GN Co-ordinator for many years, and the whole team, for the sterling service they have given R&M (and neighbouring Communities).

**Hanging Baskets and Cicchetti.** We are delighted to note the undoubted success of our newly refurbished restaurant. All of a sudden we found it was open (they didn't tell us it was going to happen) and now you have to book to get in there – at least on any evening. We think it might be useful if they did have a sign outside saying when they are open, but just at the moment it seems to be seven days a week. We wish then well and everyone we know who has been there has reported favourably. On a slightly less positive note, the builders who did the refurbishment managed to lose two of the hanging basket supports (although the owners have agreed to pay for replacements). As you know, we have now taken ownership of filling the baskets and we will get the displays mounted just as soon as the right plants are available.

**Meetings.** Our next meeting will be our **AGM on 31<sup>st</sup> March** (a bit earlier this year). 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. Don't forget we have some vacancies on the Association's Executive Committee and we would love to have some new members. Although some of us are quite busy actually running events, there is no need for all Committee members to be so involved. **If you are Community-minded and have ideas as to what the Association should do over the next few years to make R&M (notably in the newer estates) 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. The AGM will feature a short presentation from Ed Hunt, a BT employee responsible for rolling out fibre broadband across Wales. As a taster, and in case you cannot attend the meeting, here is a brief resume of what he will be saying:

***Fibre Broadband is coming to Radyr and Morganstown.*** Superfast Cymru, a partnership between BT and Welsh Government, will be deploying superfast fibre broadband in early 2015. Why should you care? At home, fibre broadband enables a family to simultaneously download a movie, watch a TV replay service, surf the internet and play games online all at the same time. A whole album can be downloaded in less than 30 seconds and a feature length HD movie in less than 10 minutes, whilst high-resolution photos can be uploaded to Facebook in seconds. The high speed service will boost the competitiveness of local firms also, giving users the ability to run multiple bandwidth-hungry applications at the same time such as sending and receiving large amounts of data much more quickly and efficiently. For more information go to [www.superfast-cymru.com](http://www.superfast-cymru.com), @superfastcymru on Twitter or [www.facebook.com/superfastcymru](http://www.facebook.com/superfastcymru).

**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.

**We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.**