

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

President: Rhodri Morgan A

Vice Presidents: Antonia Wigley MD
Dave Cargill JP, FCCA
Nick Hawkins

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – May 2012

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

Getting involved – the future of our community. Unusually, we are repeating below a transcript of the article the Association has submitted to the forthcoming edition of the Radyr Chain. Apologies for the fact you will see it twice. Although the article (and the theme for our next Members meeting on 18th June) was initiated because of the poor response to new members to both the Community Council and the Association, this has now been solved for the Community Council, who are now fully up to strength. We congratulate them on that: for details, have a look at the R&M website. However, the situation regarding the perpetuation of existing organisations (or the starting of new ones which will have appeal for the ‘next generation’) remains highly relevant. We will shortly be contacting as many R&M organisations as possible to send representatives to that meeting, which will be run jointly by the Association and the Community Council. If you do represent, or are a member of one of those organisations, then please do all you can to ensure someone does attend.

As we come to the end of another successful Radyr and Morganstown Festival and Jubilee events, concern has been expressed about the future of such events. Although the average age of the population of the two villages has decreased over the past ten years the average age of those organising such events has increased. For obvious reasons this cannot go on indefinitely.

A few facts. There are two main organisations, the R&M Community Council and the R&M Association. The Community Council has an annual budget of £79,000. The money is spent on community halls, green areas, grants to local organisations and community events. They are asked to comment on local planning applications and respond to the Welsh Government when they wish to consult with communities.

The R&M Association organises the two week May Festival, the Christmas tree lighting ceremony, they run the Old Church Rooms (jointly with the Community Council) and organise a number of other events over the year. They aim to nurture the 52 local organisations, most of which can be found on the R&M website. The two organisations work closely together; the Community Council often subsidise Association events.

Both of these organisations are run by volunteers who wish R&M to keep its unique character. A crisis arose a short while ago when, not only was there no need to have an election to the Community Council, they were unable to fill about 50% of the vacancies. This problem has largely been solved but if you are interested in becoming a Community Councillor then phone Helena Fox, Clerk to the Community Council.

The Association Executive has a similar problem and its members are conscious that it is losing active members to organise large scale events like the Festival and in the end they will have to scale down such events.

If they are honest, many of the 52 organisations would also admit that they too would like new active members. For instance, the Drama Society and Music Group would like some younger faces on their boards as well as to help backstage. This is probably true of most, if not all, of the organisations. Do these organisations not fill the needs of the younger community? And by younger we mean people under 60.

The next meeting of the Association on the 18th of June at 7.30 p.m. in the Old Church Rooms will look at Volunteering. Why not come along and see what it involves and to tell us how we can change things to meet the needs of the younger community? Representatives of some of the 52 organisations will be present. An hour or so regularly makes all the difference and it can be both pleasurable and fulfilling.

Now to other matters....

Festival. The Festival has just finished and we are all taking a short breather before the Jubilee weekend (see next). Actually quite a few of us are also involved with the Twinning visit this weekend. No rest for the wicked! David Cargill did his normal splendid job masterminding all the events, and a goodly sum (over £3000) was raised for George Thomas Hospice Care. A full report of the Festival will be found in the next Radyr Chain. If you have any feedback – positive or negative – and positive suggestions for future years, please get in touch. We have not yet decided on the charity for next year, by the way.

Jubilee. The Jubilee celebrations are being organised by the Community Council and they have done a splendid job. You should all be getting a leaflet delivered to your door listing all the events but, if you miss it, here is a quick list:



Fri 1 st June	Audio-visual evening on HM The Queen's Life	OCR 7pm	£2
Sat 2 nd June	Service of Animal Blessing	Ty Gwyn Farm 11am	
Sun 3 rd June	Big Lunch	Everywhere!	
Mon 4 th June	Jubilee Prom Concert (ending in fireworks)	Golf Club starts 2pm	
	(Note: there will be no parking available at the Golf Club)		
Tues 5 th June	Children's Jubilee Party	MVH 4pm	50p

The Community Council would like help with the Jubilee Prom at the Golf Club. Specifically, they would like:

- stewarding from 5:30 – 10:30pm on Monday 4th : 8 people (there will be a shift system)
- dismantling from 8am – 10am on Tuesday 5th : 2 people.

If you think you could help, please let Helena Fox know on 2084 2213.

Hanging baskets. We have been asked by a number of people 'what has happened to the hanging baskets in Station Road?'. These were taken down by the Council in March and have not reappeared. We can tell you that the Council have decided to replant them themselves, at no cost to our Community, and they will be coming back shortly. That is the good news. We feel we have, though, to express our disappointment with the local traders in Station Road. When the baskets, and the excellent and unique supports, were first proposed by the Council, it was under the understanding that the traders would take responsibility for them, either by arranging for planting themselves or paying the Council to do it. However, they stood by and watched the beautiful flowers just wither and die and did nothing. We find that very sad. We are very fortunate that the Council have decided to do the replanting but financial constraints may prevent them from doing so in future years. If the traders had taken control, we could have the baskets in place for the May Festival and the Jubilee.

Potholes. There has been a lot of correspondence on the R&M website about the poor state of our roads. We do not understand why so many potholes have suddenly appeared – apart from noting that, if repairs are done properly, they should not. Cllr Rod McKerlich is well aware of the issue, which is right across Cardiff. Please ensure you tell him about potholes as they emerge (contact details: 2084 3106, rmckerlich@cardiff.gov.uk) and he will initiate the necessary action.

Next Meetings. As mentioned above, our next meeting will be on 18th June at 7:30pm in the Old Church Room and will deal with volunteering. Please attend! Future talks have been arranged as follows – Monday 3rd September – Jill Jones of BBC Wales will make an audio visual presentation of the programme "Crimewatch", which is now broadcast from the new studios in Cardiff Bay and, on Monday 19th November, Dr Rhys Jones, also of BBC Wales will give a talk on his programme "Rhys to the Rescue", dealing with creatures all great and small. 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), or ring the Chairman, Cyril Williams, on 029 2084 2250.