

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

President: Rhodri Morgan A

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NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – November 2011

Welcome to our regular newsletter.

Last meeting. If you did not hear Rhodri Morgan speak on 7th November you missed a treat. As members of the Association you will already have seen the draft minutes of the meeting so do not need to be told what he talked about. Suffice to say it was a lovely friendly occasion with some real insights into old Radyr and how boyhood experiences can help to direct a career. We were a little concerned that Rhodri was most closely questioned by the two ex-Scotsmen in our midst but, as Rhodri himself said, Radyr was like the United Nations when he was young! Don't miss Professor Ron Eccles' talk at our next meeting on 6th February 2012. We hope by then to have the details of all next year's speakers.



Let's catch up with a few of the things we have been talking about recently

PACT Meetings. Not a lot seems to be happening at the moment regarding these meetings. If you look in the current Radyr Chain you will find the 'next meeting' listed as 8th November, but it did not take place then. It has been moved to 29th November (that is on the website calendar) – assuming it isn't moved again. It is, quite frankly, difficult to take these meeting seriously if, for whatever reason, the dates cannot be set and adhered to. Members of the Association Executive generally attend the meeting, partly to hear what is going on and partly to 'support the institution', so to speak. But our feeling is that they should either be taken seriously, and do proper business, or they should be abandoned. We would be sad if the latter happened.

Planning permissions. We reported in the last Newsletter that Taylor Wimpey had applied for planning permission for 10 houses on the 'Community Plot' on the Sidings. That was true but we were premature; the application was withdrawn. No-one seems to know why but it might have been because Cllr McKerlich asked for the 'Planning Gain' to be reviewed on the back of this application. (As a matter of history, the original Planning Gain calculation was based on 350 houses in the area, not the 450+ that will have been built – excluding 10 more.) We have also heard that the planning application (which we thought had been granted) for the conversion of the Old Rectory into four flats has also been withdrawn. We have no idea why. If anyone knows, could they let us know? Perhaps it was because buying a flat which simply looks out onto the roof of the Medical Centre did not appeal to anyone. If that is the case, what will happen to the building? It has been empty now for some years. A great pity.

Website. The R&M website does appear to be taking off. Although statistics can be dangerous things on which to rely, at a recent webteam meeting it was reported that traffic had grown by around 40% over the last year. The team recently introduced a new range of facilities, notably to the Soapbox, and that has become very active. Do go and have a look at it – you can find it at www.radyr.org.uk/soapbox. The webteam will shortly be carrying out a survey of what R&M residents think about the site and how it can be improved. If you get a form, please fill it in even if you think it is awful. The site can only be improved by honest feedback.

May Festival and Jubilee Celebrations. We are now working hard forming up the shape of next year's Festival (theme 'King Arthur at Camelot') which, incidentally, will be David Cargill's 25th Festival – that deserves recognition. To date, there are 36 events in the schedule (including a Gala Dinner at the Golf Club to celebrate the 25th anniversary); that will almost certainly grow. We are also working with the Community Council on their plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We have offered to move the popular 'Concert in the Parc' event from the Festival to the Jubilee weekend and re-time it so it ends with the firework display already being planned by the Community Council. Should be a fun day.

Christmas. We are in the final thrust of organising the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on Thursday, 8th December – again jointly with the Community Council. Carols will be sung at 6.30pm by the Bryn Deri School at the tree in Morganstown and by Radyr Primary at 6.45pm at the tree in the Sidings. The Windsor Gardens tree will be lit at 7.30pm and the new Christmas lights in Station Road will be lit at 7.45pm – followed by Santa’s arrival. Most of the shops have confirmed they will be open and there will be a wide range of craft stalls in Station Road. We will be running a barbeque and mulled-wine bar so please do not have your supper before you come out. The stalls will be open by 6.30pm.

Local Traders. We are delighted the Station Road Traders are getting involved with the Christmas activities; most have promised to put on a special shop display (which will be judged by Keith John on 6th December). It is also good to see some money being put back into the shops. Martins has had a bit of a makeover (although they are still waiting for the new floor – that will make a difference) and the long-awaited refurbishment of Spar is about to start. You may not have realised that Alun Pullen has given up ‘Veg Vendor’, to concentrate on running his Seasons restaurant, and the Greengrocers has been taken over by David and Wendy Welsh. They will be renaming the shop ‘Welsh’s’, which is, perhaps, not the most adventurous name they could have picked but we wish them well. Incidentally, do try to use our local shops for your general shopping (as opposed to those few things which you find you have run out of from time to time) and do give them hell if the quality is not good or they have not got what you need in stock (within reason!). It is only by such usage and feedback can we hope to improve our local shopping.

Motte field. Although, there is still a ban in existence on the Motte, it is hoped that the fencing around it will be taken down soon. There will be a need to remove a few more trees from the site, and it is hoped that some of these can be made into benches. The old Morganstown Rugby Club will then be put up for long term lease, with the proviso that whoever takes it on will provide an interpretation centre for the Motte and the Lower Taff Valley.

Remembrance Sunday Parade. By the time you read this the traditional Remembrance Sunday Parade will have come and gone. The number of people attending the Parade has been increasing year on year and many more youngsters now participate; we believe the Radyr & Morganstown event is one of the biggest in the local Cardiff Communities. We are very proud of that and are grateful to the amazingly few people who have ensured it has happened over the years. You may not know that the late Bill Clarke was asked ‘to start something up’ just after the Second World War. He established what we now think of as ‘our Parade’ and handed it over to Roy Scott twenty years ago. Roy still uses Bill Clarke’s plans and methods. “Why reinvent things when they are so successful?”, he said recently. Roy wanted to pass the baton onto someone new a couple of years ago and Glyn Nash took over last year – but he has now emigrated to Canada. So Roy is looking for another successor. We do hear that a volunteer may have been found but, if you would like to be involved in any way in organising the Parade or the selling of poppies, then do get in touch with us and we will pass on your details to Roy. Many hands make like work.

Radyr Library. Radyr Library is now closed for around six months for a major refurbishment. If you want to see the plans for the refurbished building, which were on show in the library for a couple of weeks before it closed, they can be seen in the R&MCC office in the Old Church Rooms. Every Wednesday that the library is closed there will be a free return shuttle bus service between Radyr Library and Fairwater Library for elderly and disabled customers. The bus will leave Radyr Library at 10.45am and leave Fairwater Library at 12.30pm. Places must be booked in advance by telephone : 029 2078 5583.

Details of addresses and opening times of the other local libraries can be found in the news item about the library on the local website www.radyr.org.uk . Details of other library opening hours including Central can be found on the Cardiff Council website.

Refuse bags, during the closure, may be obtained from Martins in Station Road or P’Zazz in Caer Craig. Some bags for local hall users will be available in the Old Church Rooms and Morganstown Village Hall.

Finally, as this is our last Newsletter before Christmas, the R&M Executive would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very happy forthcoming Festive Season and a successful New Year.

Contacts. If you would like to comment on any aspect of this Newsletter or require further information, then either email the Secretary, Nick Hawkins, at rma@radyr.org.uk or ring the Chairman, Cyril Williams, on 029 2084 250.