

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 – September 2011

Welcome to our regular newsletter. Apologies for it being a bit late this month.

Next meeting. Apologies also for starting off by mentioning our next meeting on 7th November yet again, but it will be a special meeting. Rhodri Morgan – ex Radyr resident amongst many other attributes – has agreed to come and talk to us. When we last spoke to him he was still considering the topic of his talk. We will let you know just as soon as we hear. But do put the date in your diary, as it will be a popular event. The meeting will be in the Garth Room in the OCR starting at 19:30, as usual.

PACT Meetings. We mentioned PACT meetings in our last Newsletter, and encouraged you to attend. Quite a few people did attend the last meeting – for which many thanks, particularly as the date was changed again at the last moment. It was a slightly unusual PACT meeting as the police themselves had got confused over the dates – they were not there, which somewhat missed the point!

So we remain concerned about these meetings. If you look on the R&M website you will find them described as a *'forum where the police and other groups that serve Radyr and Morganstown meet with residents. They take place once a month in order to deal with the issues that affect residents. They are organised and run by the police.'* Dr Ralph Vaughan has been chairing the meetings since their inception and doing a good job trying to hold things together. However he would like to hand over to a successor and has announced he will stand down at the beginning of 2012. Councillor Rod McKerlich always attends and gives a report. However the meetings are not well promoted; they are seldom well attended; the same people seem to attend on each occasion; and often the same issues are raised. So we are asking the question – 'who are the meetings for and what they are achieving?'

You might conclude from this that we advocate they cease, but that is not our intent. We would like to see them built up and serving a wider purpose. Where else can you attend a short (they normally last less than an hour) open meeting to learn about important aspects of our Community, to raise any issues that concern you (not just police related), and actually prioritise matters of importance? So, please watch out for the dates of future meetings. They should be listed in Radyr Chain but they do change so check on the events diary on the R&M website if you can. And come along and be involved. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11th October.

Christmas. Plans for the Christmas Celebration on Thursday, 8th December are well under way. New lights have been ordered for Station Road by the Community Council with a generous contribution from the local Traders. Arrangements are being made to install these in time for the lighting ceremony. (There are rumours that a celebrity from the TV will be there to help the Festival Queen throw the switch.) The top of Station Road will be closed off and several craft stalls have already confirmed that they will be bringing their wares to sell. The shops will also be opening late and will have plenty of promotions and bargains to help with your Christmas shopping. There will be plenty of food and drink and you may be asked to vote for your favourite Christmas window. The details have yet to be finalised but, if you wish to contribute or you're simply interested in what will be happening on the night, then please turn up for a meeting on Wednesday 19th October at the Old Church Rooms at 7.30pm.

Open Doors Walk. The RMA is part of the Civic Trust for Wales who organise the "Open Doors" events during the month of September each year. Our contribution was to restage the Festival 'Industrial Radyr' walk on Sunday 11th September. 41 people turned up from as far away as Surrey and Port Talbot, as well as local residents. The walk followed the Taff to Gelynis Farm and the Morganstown Motte and the canal back down to the Melingriffith Water Wheel, which was open and working for the event. It was particularly rewarding to see the Wheel operating after a long restoration by Cardiff City Council and CADW. Canal historian, Steve Rowson, was on hand to give a short talk on the Melingriffith Iron Works, the Canal and the Wheel. Incidentally, the Wheel will be opened on a regular basis, as a Trust has been formed to oversee this. We intend to continue with this event in future years. We have produced an illustrated leaflet of the walk which is available on request.

Guide Hall. We were shocked to hear recently that the Guide Hall (in Bryn Derwen) has got problems with subsidence and needs to raise a substantial amount of money to put things right. They are putting on a number of fund raising events (including a Posh Nosh Supper on 22nd October) which you might like to attend to help. They have also applied for a Community Award from Natwest Bank. Their project will be ranked with several hundred other good causes. You can help promote their cause by voting for them on line at <http://communityforce.natwest.com>. You will need to register your email address and provide a password.

Chimney Sweep. It may seem an odd topic to raise here but one of our members had his chimney swept recently and had an interesting chat with the sweep himself. (It is always worth talking to traders!) As you can imagine, Chimney Sweeping as a profession is somewhat going out of fashion, which is a bit of a pity as many of us still have chimneys in our houses and still light the occasional fire, even if a wood burning stove has not been installed. So, when did you last have your chimney swept and are you aware of the dangers of a chimney fire or even carbon monoxide poisoning if the lining of the flue has deteriorated? May well be worthwhile calling a sweep to have things checked. We are not going to recommend any sweeps here, just have a look in the local directory, but you can read a bit more about the potential problems here: <http://www.chimneyworks.co.uk/Heat%20Your%20Home%20Safely%20Leaflet.pdf>.

Local Traders. As an Association, we are providing support to the Station Road Traders, encouraging them to get together to promote the area and sort out common problems. When they do get together they seem to find it useful but there seems to be little co-ordination at the moment and attendance at the meetings has been disappointing. We are very pleased with the way the Traders have been behind the Christmas event (which, after all, will help to advertise the shops and encourage people to use them as a valuable local facility). We hope that it is a great success and will encourage more collaboration between the traders in the future. We also think the hanging baskets have been a great success and we do hope they continue to look after them.

Trees. Having mentioned Station Road, can we say how pleased we are with the announcement from Cllr Rod McKerlich that a number of 'public trees' in R&M will be replaced in the near future. (Rod's latest Newsletter can always be found on the Noticeboard of the R&M Website, by the way.) We expressed surprise in our November 2010 Newsletter that it apparently costs Cardiff Council £500-1000 to replace each tree. We have no idea whether this is still the cost but it nice that they have found the money to do the work.

Jubilee Celebrations. The 2012 Jubilee was, of course, the subject of the last RMA meeting. We were pleased at the attendance. Ideas put forward at that meeting have already been put to the inaugural meeting of the Jubilee Committee which met on 13th September. If you have anything to contribute to this occasion, it is not too late to get involved. Simply contact Helena Fox, Secretary to the Community Council, on 2084 2213.

Community Plot. We have heard that planning permission has been applied for by Taylor Wimpey for 10 houses on what we have been calling the 'Community Plot'. Sad but inevitable. We do not think we will oppose the application, although we will support Cllr McKerlich in his attempt to gain more planning gain monies. We are pretty certain that we will be able to use the existing plot this Christmas. We already have plans for adopting another site on the Sidings development for future activities at Christmas and other times.

SAILOR BEWARE. A short plug for the Drama Society's autumn production. The comedy Sailor Beware takes place over two days around a wedding. Emma has had no help from her hen-pecked, ferret fancying husband. She blames him for introducing Shirley to the orphaned sailor, Alfred, of whom she certainly does not approve. Add a batty sister-in-law, a nosy neighbour, a Scottish best man who's afraid of women and a scheming bridesmaid together with a dose of measles and you have the perfect set up for a classic farce. Many Drama Society regulars are in the production, Helen Windsor, Roger Page, Zoe Pierce and Pauline Watson. Sailor Beware can be seen at MVH on Thursday, Friday and Saturday Nov 24-26 at 7.30. Tickets £8 Adult, £7 Concs, £5 Child/students, from Veg Vendor, Station Road; Sheila Phillips, 2084 2585; and Allan Cook, 2084 3176.

And don't forget the Tenovus Coffee Morning at Radyr Golf Club on 13th October at 10:30, the Radyr Parish Music Group Race Night on Saturday 8th in the OCR at 19:30 and the Twinning Fellowship Wine Quiz on Saturday 15th October in the OCR at 19:30. Full details are on the R&M Website. Please let us know if you are interested in hearing about such events; we can arrange for you to be reminded via email. And if you are an organisation who would like to take advantage of such a facility, please get in touch.

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 2250.