

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

President: Rhodri Morgan

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NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – September 2012

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

Getting involved – the future of our community. We reported in the last Newsletter the various action items that arose from the joint Community Council/Association held in June. We thought you would like a quick update on some of them.

- The Webteam will be looking at the comments at their next meeting in October.
- Allan Cook is updating the publication ‘What is there to do in R&M?’. We will be changing the format so it is easy to update and look at on-line. The present (rather out of date) edition can be found at <http://www.radyr.org.uk/bank/file5267.pdf>. We know Allan (2084 3176) would be very grateful if everyone were to look at that and tell him the changes that need to be made.
- We think it would be a good idea if there was a regular time slot at the library (weekly?) when R&M societies put on a display, explain what they do and seek to interest new members. We will be talking to the library and also to the many R&M societies to see if a schedule can be drawn up.
- We are meeting Community Council representatives in the next couple of weeks to start discussions about developing a marketing plan for both organisations.
- Wyn Phillips (2084 2526) has agreed to look at insurance possibilities and assistance to organisations in Health & Safety, Disability legislation and CRB checks matters etc. Please let him know if you can help in any way.
- The Festival Committee will be looking at the comments at the next meeting on 24th September.

Daffodils. You may have noticed that the ‘missing’ Hanging Baskets never appeared in Station Road, which is a pity. However, we were delighted to be told by Cllr Rod McKerlich that free daffodil bulbs were on offer to local Cardiff Communities. We worked with the Community Council on this and made a bid for a number of bags (of 500) but, this year, have been restricted to just two – 1000 bulbs. There is a possibility that the R&MCC will purchase a few more bags. They will make a good display next spring, and it would be nice to plant even more next year. Help may be required with the planting, though! If you would like to help, please get in touch.

Station Road. Having mentioned Station Road, we thought we ought to comment on the sudden loss of two of our traders. To misquote Oscar Wilde, ‘to lose one trader may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose two looks like carelessness’. David Welsh, who took over the greengrocers a little while ago, ceased trading about three weeks ago and Alan Pullen, who ran Seasons, closed on Monday, 3rd September. The latter was a real shock. We thought Seasons was doing well, judging from the number of people in the restaurant and often out on the pavement, and it also brought a wonderful ambience to Station Road (when sunny). Local residents commented that there had even been less youth annoyance in the immediate area since the restaurant opened in the evenings. We cannot comment on the business issues surrounding these closures but we sincerely hope that Seasons will reopen shortly – either in Alan’s hands or with someone else. And, if it does, make sure you use it!

Festival 2013. As mentioned above, the first meeting of the Committee organising next year’s Festival meets shortly in the Old Church Rooms under the continued Chairmanship of David Cargill – this will be his 26th year! The chosen Charity is Tenovus. If you would like to be involved with the Festival in any way, or have ideas for events which should be considered, do get in touch with David – 2084 2034. It is not compulsory to be a member of the Committee!

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. We have a bit more detail of what is going to happen at this year's ceremony which is on Friday, 7th December. The Community Council are again funding the erection of three main trees around the village – including a potential new site on Lychgate Gardens (the previously used 'Community Plot' having gone for development). We are even hoping that a power supply can be arranged for that spot, which will allow it to be lit as with the other two. In Station Road, the Community Council have also provided funds for the extension of the lights we had last year; they will now extend down to the corner of Radyr Eyecare. There will be a new arrangement of the stalls (and better lit). Incidentally, we are looking for just a few more stalls at present. If you would like to be there, please get in touch. We are even getting a new sleigh built for Santa!

Community Plot. So the 'Community Plot' on Lychgate Gardens has gone. We are sad about that but the fight to keep it for Community use was lost years ago. Although it has nothing to do directly with the Association, we now are getting concerned about the building plot at the other end of Lychgate Gardens where the intention originally was to build some form of retirement home. There was even talk at one time that the development might even have contained one or two retail units (or did we imagine that?). We understand that no proposals have come forward from anyone to develop such a home so there is a real risk that we shall simply have more houses. If you have any views on this, do speak to Cllr Rod McKerlich or the Community Council. We may not have many levers to change things locally but to allow opportunities to slip through our metaphorical fingers is a bit foolhardy.

Soapbox. Have you been following (or even contributing to) recent discussions on the 'Soapbox' on the R&M website? (You can find it here: <http://www.radyr.org.uk/soapbox>) Alongside threads dealing with lost dogs (we get a number of those), theft of garden furniture (worth reading for some cautionary advice), and litter louts, there is a very active (and long) thread on 'Parking in Radyr village'. Do have a look at it. Parking problems around the shopping centre and the Station have been debated for years, with no real conclusion – nor any consensus over a solution. Blatantly, this affects us all – not the least because it affects the viability of the local traders. There is a need for leadership here and it is not obvious whether anyone really wants to take it. You can also look at the thread concerning the need for a local pub. Now that is something that everyone would like to see, if it could be made to happen – particularly if we have lost our local restaurant. Any aspiring innkeepers out there?

Radyr Chain 'Coming Events'. If you are involved with putting on events in R&M can we just issue our regular reminder that there is a direct linkage between events featured in the events listing on the R&M website and the 'Coming Events' column that is always on page 3 of Radyr Chain? Radyr Webteam members are always aware that there are more things 'going on' in R&M than are listed on the website. This is a pity as people do – or should – look regularly at those pages to plan their social diaries. And, if organisations enter the event soon enough, the Editor of Radyr Chain will pick it up for the forthcoming edition – a double promotion. Entering an event on the website is very simple, but if you need help, do get in touch.

Fireworks. You may have heard that a horse was injured when it panicked during the letting off of the Jubilee fireworks. Just a reminder to be careful and consider animals when letting off fireworks on 5th November, or at any time, and, if you are an animal owner, to take precautions at obvious times.

Vacancies. Can we repeat the reminder that we still have some vacancies on the Association's Executive Committee? You can see from the above the sort of things we get up to. If you would like to consider joining the Committee, please have a chat with us. Contact details below.

Meetings. We had a very successful meeting on 3rd September when Jill Jones of BBC Wales told us about her experiences in producing "Crimewatch". Our next meeting will be on **Monday 19th November** at 7:30pm in the Old Church Rooms when 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. We are not quite certain whether or not he will bring any exhibits but the talk will appeal to young and old. We can also tell you our speaker on 4th February 2013 will be Chris Partridge who is the Keep Wales Tidy's Tidy Towns Project Officer for Cardiff. We know that is a topic that will strike a chord with many of you. 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.

PS Don't forget that, **this Sunday, 16th September**, Allan Cook is repeating the Festival walk 'In the footsteps of Pilgrims'. Details are on the front page of the website.