



# 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 – July 2015

**Welcome** to our regular Newsletter. Can we ask all readers to look carefully at the first article as many of you will be affected one way or another?

**OCR Refurbishment Project:** This project is now moving at a considerable pace. We are delighted to be able to report that the Community Council have succeeded in their bid for a grant of £130,500 from the (Welsh Government funded) Aggregate Levy Fund Wales. The overall project cost is in the region of £300,000; the balance being made up of already spent project fees, a loan from the Public Works Loan Board, retained funds and a contribution from the joint R&MCC/RMA Hall Management Committee. One of the underlying reasons for gaining the ALFW grant was the focus on energy efficiency and good design. So, once complete, the refurbished building, apart from having better facilities (we will tell you all about that later), should be cheaper to run, have better lighting – and the Garth Room should be warm in winter!

The joint R&MCC/RMA project committee have been working with an architect/project manager for some time and he will be overseeing the project **which starts on 3<sup>rd</sup> August**. WT Building Group have been appointed as the main contractor for the building work. The final details of the plan are still being worked out but **currently the end date is early January**. One major bit of disruption is that, for safety, security and practical reasons, the car park will be closed for the whole of that period. Those of you who organise meetings or events in the OCR may like to warn your members.

A key priority in the project plan has been to ensure that work in the Garth Room is completed by 7<sup>th</sup> September, when Park Road Nursery restarts. We hope that the refurbished kitchen (all stainless steel) will be completed shortly afterwards. Just at the moment we cannot be specific about when the Weir Room will be closed. The new building will have a new room of a similar size to the Weir Room and we are hoping that that will be available for use before the Weir Room is closed for a period. David Cargill, who deals with room bookings, has already been in touch with all users but, until the plan is firmed up, we cannot be sure what is possible. Please speak to him if you have concerns over any events you have already booked or are thinking of booking.

One key aspect that you may be able to help us with is clearing the building. In effect, we need to clear equipment and most of the storage spaces before 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The builders are providing a storage container for our use and we need to make sure we fill it in the right order so that anything required over the next few months is not right at the back! **Can we ask all organisations to tell us if there is any equipment (e.g. BBQs, trestle tables, gazebos, etc) normally borrowed from the OCR at this time of year which would cause difficulty if not available?** One solution, which is already being put in place, is for an organisation borrowing an item in the near future (e.g. a gazebo) may be asked to store the item for us in a garage. And, if anyone has some time next week (w/b 27<sup>th</sup> July) to help in the removals, please get in touch. Many hands make light work!

**QAVS Award:** Dr Peter Beck (Lord Lieutenant) has been in contact with us regarding the presentation of our Queen's Award. We did have the option of holding the ceremony in the Mansion House but we thought it much more appropriate to hold it in our 'home', the OCR. **We have therefore decided to change our next General Meeting, on 14<sup>th</sup> September, to be both ceremony and celebration.** All are invited and we will provide wine and nibbles etc. The Garth Room will be finished by then and we will have full details of the OCR refurbishment project. The scheduled talk, by David Cargill and Brian Evans concerning the role of the Magistrate, will be rescheduled to next year.

**Defibrillator:** We are pleased to announce that, with the help of Welsh Hearts Charity, Radyr will be getting a defibrillator which will be located outside the Opticians in Station Road, with the kind permission of Sara Ward. The defibrillator costs around £1000 but is being provided to us free by the Charity. It needs to be installed in a proper cabinet and we are also delighted to report that the R&MCC have agreed to fund the cost of that, plus installation (around £600). Pugh's Garden Centre have also been approached about one being placed there for the Morganstown area – we will update you on this once a decision has been made. Free training will be provided for the residents of Radyr and Morganstown during September. Dates will be announced on the R&M Website, our social media pages and local posters.

Every year in Wales 3000 people collapse due to Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) and Wales also has the lowest survival rate in the UK from this syndrome. Only around 3% of people who have a SCA will survive. The reason for this is poorly performed Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the lack of public access to the sort of Automated External Defibrillator that we are getting installed.

**Festival 2015:** Following a very successful 28<sup>th</sup> Festival the Association were able to inform the village charity NSPCC that a sum in excess of £16,000 had been raised during the year from all the organisations within the village. At the ‘wind down’ meeting we were able to introduce our new Charity – **Velindre Hospital** – along with volunteers from the village who have agreed to support the Association in fund raising during 2015/6. We look forward to working with them and the Charity. A meeting will be held in September to arrange a programme for next year’s Festival with the theme “Roald Dahl”. This is to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the writer and his links with Radyr.

**LDP:** To paraphrase a line from the long-gone radio program ‘Round the Horne’ (that will date many of you) you will either have sent in to Cardiff Council your comments on the ‘Matters Arising Changes’ (MAC) or you have just missed the deadline, which was 23<sup>rd</sup> July. We hope you did send in some comments, using the template response prepared by Helena Fox or your own views. If you would like to read the excellent responses sent in by both the R&MCC and the North West Cardiff Group, they can be found at [www.radyr.org.uk/7607](http://www.radyr.org.uk/7607).

The Inspectors may call a further Hearing Session or two and we are waiting to hear. The main concern remains the lack of infrastructure to match the scale of development proposed in NW Cardiff. While there are plans for new schools, medical and dental services and community buildings in the new development, there is concern about how these will be funded, when they will be built and whether our existing facilities will be expected to provide transition services.

There is no doubt that the lack of effective public transport will have a considerable impact on R&M, particularly road congestion. Currently, the traffic along Heol Isaf is quite heavy and worse at school opening/closing times. Furthermore, the proposed developments will greatly increase congestion on the A4119. It is Cardiff’s explicit policy to make travel by private car slower and thus increase use of public transport to achieve the 50:50 split in private:sustainable transport that the LDP needs. Since the only new public transport for NW Cardiff in the LDP is extra buses, and some new bus routes that will run on the existing roads, it has long been argued that this is completely inadequate. Occasional stretches of bus lanes will not help much.

The Metro, a mix of bus and rail-based travel, includes a rail link between Cardiff Central and RCT. This will not, however, be ready for many years. The environmental consequences associated with building several thousand new houses around the R&M area will also be considerable not only in the near future but also in the longer term.

For those of us who have been closely associated with the LDP process it seems incredible that after all the work done by the R&MCC, the NWCG and Cardiff Civic Society (amongst many others) so few changes have been made to the LDP. Regretfully, that has been the situation to date. Apart from anything else, the rate of build required to provide the designated number of dwellings by 2026, the end of the plan period, has always looked ‘off the wall’. We will know the Inspector’s final decisions one way or another by the end of the year.

**Entertainment:** We have agreed with Fluellen that they will perform a dramatised version of the ever-popular children’s book *The Railway Children* by Edith Nesbitt. That will be on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November** in MVH at 19:30. Do put that date in your diary. Despite the uncertainties of the OCR refurbishment we have decided to carry on the film club but have not yet selected the films to show. The first showing will be on **Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September**. With better blackout and (just possibly) a new screen, we hope to be able to have even better quality. We have also just started planning for the Christmas lighting event, which will be on **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> December**.

**Meetings:** There is just space too remind you of our speakers for the rest of the year. Apart from the very special QAVS presentation/celebration on 14<sup>th</sup> September, the details are:

6 <sup>th</sup> November	Judith Hall	(Cardiff University School of medicine)
8 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	Peter Vaughan	(Chief Constable)

**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 the Chairman, David Silver ([rmachair@radyr.org.uk](mailto:rmachair@radyr.org.uk)).