

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – September 2015

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

QAVS Award: As noted in the minutes of the last General Meeting on 14th September, Dr Peter Beck (Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan) has presented us with the Queen's Award. This consisted of a document signed by Her Majesty the Queen and an impressively inscribed glass ornament (see next page). We will find somewhere to put them on display once the OCR refurbishment is complete. Our Chairman, David Silver, accepted the Award on behalf of the Association, and both Cllrs Julia Hallinan and Rod McKerlich spoke briefly to pass on their congratulations. Unfortunately, our President Rhodri Morgan could not be present as he was travelling back from Patagonia that day but we have promised to invite him to the formal reopening of the OCR! The presentation was a lovely occasion and the newly decorated Garth Room (aided by flowers lent to us by Pugh's) looked very smart. We hope all who attended enjoyed themselves and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone he helped set up the room in such a short time.



OCR Refurbishment Project: You will gather from the item above that the Garth Room was returned to service on 7th September in time for the start of Park Road Nursery. Inevitably, things are not going exactly to plan but we have good relationships with the builder, aided by a regular weekly meeting. Unfortunately, primarily due to Health & Safety concerns, it proved impossible to keep the second hall (the Weir Room) open during the refurbishment. That will probably come back on stream in November. In the meantime, David Cargill has done a tremendous job in finding temporary accommodation for the many groups that use the OCR. Even the Garth Room is not yet complete – the new lighting and the 'destratification fans' (which will improve the heating) will not be fitted until half term. We hope the brand new kitchen will be back in service in October.

If you want to find out how the project is progressing, there is a regular log of progress on the R&M Website, including pictures.

Defibrillator: We reported in the last Newsletter that, with the help of Welsh Hearts Charity, Radyr will be getting a defibrillator which will be located outside the Opticians in Station Road. Regrettably, there have been a few delays but we hope to report positive progress soon. Just to remind you, the defibrillator – more formally called an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) – is for use in the treatment of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA). Once a diagnosis of SCA has been made, the key initial treatment is efficient Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The person performing the CPR should ask bystanders to ring 999 and obtain an AED from the nearest location; the AED itself will indicate whether an external shock is appropriate. The Welsh Hearts Charity has indicated that their staff will participate in the training of CPR and the correct use of the AED.

Festival 2016: Planning has already started for next year's Festival. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, our Charity is now Velindre Hospital and we hope to learn a lot about them, and see a lot of them, over the next year. One complexity in planning next year's Festival is that the last weekend coincides with the Twinning visit from St Philbert (the date is fixed because of their holidays). So some major events – notably the very popular Concert in the Parc – will have to be moved, almost certainly to the middle weekend. If anyone has any ideas for new events to have in the Festival, do get in touch. On this occasion we won't expect you then to run them! But we do want to make sure that we hold events which are of interest and are relevant to our growing Community.

Planning Issues: Can we prefix this bit of the Newsletter by saying that we really do not like having to dwell too much on planning issues? We have a Community Council and a County Councillor who deal with all that. However, we continue to find things that we feel we need to make you aware of. On this occasion:

Planning Application for 630 houses. Last year we mounted a successful petition against application 14/02157/MJR. 686 residents signed the petition which called for the application to be refused, or at least

delayed until after the determination of the Cardiff Local Development Plan. We asked for the right to speak at the planning meeting, which we have. All went quiet but Redrow Homes, who submitted the original application, have now submitted “**further information and other information**” (technical term) and comments are required by 8th October. Links to the various documents (which are lengthy) can be found at www.radyr.org.uk/soapbox/33986. Our immediate view is that the application is still premature, given that the LDP is still being debated, but we will work with the R&MCC in providing a template response.

Radyr Station. We have seen some plans for the future of Radyr Station, drawn up by consultants on behalf of the Welsh Government. Some details are very welcome – increased parking, better facilities, etc – but we are a bit disturbed at the suggestion that Radyr Station might be being positioned as a key bus/train interchange hub for NW Cardiff. The prospect of having a fleet of buses coming down Heol Isaf every morning into Kings Road and Station Road from the proposed ‘new estates’ along Llantrisant Road somewhat appals us. The proposals are all very long term (up to 15 years we are told) but once these ideas get accepted they are difficult to overturn. A meeting has been set up on 2nd October to discuss the plans but here is part of the response sent to Cllr Rod McKerlich when he queried the purpose of the meeting: *‘This meeting with the Access Group will just look at physical alterations to Radyr Station, e.g. location / number of accessible car parking, wcs, changing facilities, lifts, station platform access, wayfinding and signage, security, out of hours management / services etc. and Not logistical or transportation considerations associated with increased numbers of vehicles and travellers or the effect on the locality as you discussed; as such I hope / suggest that there would be or has been consultation that would have already addressed these particular considerations at a community level; but this is outside my knowledge and sphere of influence/ involvement.’* What consultation?

Bins and refuse sites. We hope you are enjoying the new black bins. The logic of their deployment defeats us. Your diarist is at present the possessor of two black bins – one big, one small. If they do not take the big one away soon he is contemplating putting the small one in the big one and seeing what the Council then do. On top of that, Cardiff Council seem intent on closing the last refuse site in north Cardiff, Wedal Road. Rather than write any more here, can we suggest you look at www.radyr.org.uk/soapbox/33978? That thread makes the point that, in Rhiwbina, the local MP and the County Councillor covering Rhiwbina, Jayne Cowan, are holding public meetings about this and our Councillors should be taking a similar stance. We agree.

Entertainment: We will be running the following items over the next four months. Tickets are available from Nick Hawkins, 2084 2561, Allan Cook, 2084 3176, ener-chi in Station Road and www.rma.ticketsource.co.uk.

Film Nights on Thursdays in the OCR starting at 7:30pm, tickets £4.

24th September *Far from the Madding Crowd*

22nd October *Royal Night Out*

26th November *Mr Holmes*

The Railway Children by Edith Nesbitt by Fluellen on **Friday 20th November** in MVH at 7.00pm (an earlier time to allow youngsters of all ages to attend). Tickets: £9, £8 (concessions), £6 (children, full time students).

Christmas Tree Lighting: This ever popular event, jointly organised with the R&MCC, will be on **Friday, 4th December**. As usual, we are involving all the schools, trees will be lit in the Granny Park in Morganstown, Lychgate Gardens, and Windsor Gardens. The Station Road trees will be lit by a celebrity from Velindre and Santa will, of course, be present. More details in due course.

Police changes: We were extremely sorry to hear – at very short notice – that our popular and hugely cooperative beat officer, PC Huw Thomas, has been moved to Whitchurch. We have very much enjoyed working with him and wish him well in his new post. Our new beat office is PC Sam Willis. We are afraid that the Police have given us no further details of him but we look forward to working with him. He can be contacted on 07584 883599. PCSOs Jessica Southam and Laura Smith are still covering our area.

Meetings: A quick reminder of our speakers for the rest of the year. They are:

16th November Judith Hall (Cardiff University School of medicine)

1st February 2016 Peter Vaughan (Chief Constable) **Note change of date**

Do come along to listen to them and have an update on local matters.

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 the Chairman, David Silver (rmachair@radyr.org.uk).

The Queen’s Award

