

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

GENERAL MEETING

Radyr Comprehensive School on Monday 6th June 2011 at 8.00pm

Present: Cyril Williams (Chairman), Nick Hawkins (Secretary), David Cargill, Allan Cook, Elizabeth Fraser, Wyn Phillips, David Silver, Sue Thomas, 11 members including Cllr Rod McKerlich.

Apologies: Bob Roberts (Treasurer), Beverley Lewis, Julie Davies, Clive Morgan, Maggie Roberts.

(Note that this meeting was a curtailed meeting necessitated by a previous important meeting called by Cardiff Council concerning the Local Development Plan. Association members had been encouraged to attend that meeting.)

Presentation by Allan Cook

Allan Cook started his talk on the origins of Radyr & Morganstown by stating how pertinent it was to the previous meeting and to the current location. Until recently the caretaker's cottage on the Comprehensive School site could be traced back to the middle ages – and why was there an iron sculpture on the side of the present library block?

He explained that occupation of the R&M location could be traced back as far as the ice age. Evidence of history still existed in the form of bronze implements found in the Lesser Garth Cave (behind the Ty Nant Inn), the old cooking area in Radyr Woods and the Motte and Bailey in Morganstown. The name 'Radyr' was a bit of a mystery. The sixteenth green of the Golf Course covers what was once 'Maerdy Cottage' and 'Maer' means prince. So the sixteenth green may once have been the home of a prionce. But Maerdy can also mean a ploughshare – hence the iron sculpture! But early writings also mention a villa called Aradur Hen occupied by a hermit and it is now generally accepted that the most likely origin of the name Radyr is from the Welsh yr adur, meaning the chantry.

Allan went on to explain the six phases of the occupation of R&M from 'Radyr 1' as a small parish (not a village) around 1190 to 'Radyr 6' when the council (but not church) boundary was split in the 1970s to from Danescourt. This has left the anomaly of Radyr Parish church (St John's) being outside the administrative boundary. On the way he mentioned the early importance of Radyr on the pilgrim route from Llandaff to Penrhys, the origins of Morganstown and the significance of the coming of the railway – first to transport iron and then coal.

In summary, R&M as we know it is very much a modern invention, largely developed since the Second World War. Its 'centre' has moved over the years from the Radyr Court pub in Danescourt to the Motte and Bailey in Morganstown and evidence of that history can be found all around us.

(Secretary's note. A short history of R&M can be found on the R&M website at www.radyr.org.uk/docs/history and more information can be found – including a downloadable book – at the R&M Local History Society page at www.radyr.org.uk/docs/i-719 .)

Minutes of the previous General Meeting on 14th February 2011

Approved. Under matters arising it was noted that the OCR had had windows and a door fitted to the old Police Room (which is now being used as a store), thanks to a grant of £1500 from the Community Council. It was also noted that the animals (but not the actual flower baskets) had been

fitted to the shops in Station Road and that the shopkeepers themselves were becoming much more proactive and involved in Community events.

May Festival and Treasurer's Report

David Cargill reported that the Association's 24th May Festival had gone really well and a cheque for £3500 had been presented to the nominated charity, Radyr & District Good Neighbours Scheme. A full report on the Festival, including photographs could be found in the latest edition of Radyr Chain. He remained concerned that people on the new estates were not getting as involved as much he would like, despite events being held in both the Sidings and Parc Radur areas. Because of the imminent loss of the 'Community Plot' on the Sidings it was not known what would be held there next year. On the plus side, work was about to start on the permanent hard standing at Parc Radur which will create an easily usable concert arena (as well as extended play area).

The Secretary again extended the apologies of the Treasurer who had only got back from France an hour before the meeting. The Treasurer had, however, told him that the financial outcome of the Festival was still being determined but that the £3500 was the minimum amount to go to the nominated charity. Unfortunately, due to higher than expected costs of the 2011 Festival (notably mounting the Open Air Concert in Parc Radur before the provision of the permanent hard standing) the Association's forecast of a £1000 surplus was unlikely to be met. This meant that the Association would probably post a deficit on the accounts for the financial year. This was not a problem due to the retained reserves. Full figures would be presented at the next meeting.

Any Other Business

Roald Dahl. It was noted that 2014 marked the centenary of Roald Dahl. Allan Cook undertook to initiate suitable proceedings to mark this event.

PACT. It was noted that the next PACT meeting would be the following day, 7th June.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 5th September at 7.30pm in the Old Church Rooms when it is hoped that the speaker will be Rhodri Morgan.

(Secretary's note: On 7th November the speaker will be Ron Eccles who will talk about his work on the Common Cold Unit, and on 6th February next year the speaker will be PC Huw Thomas.)