

# 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 – January 2012

**Welcome** to our regular newsletter. A Happy New Year to you all.

### **Christmas 2011**

The Association in conjunction with the Community Council created the Christmas scene in Station Road. Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December saw the switching on of Christmas tree lights and carol singing in Morganstown, Windsor Gardens and Radyr Sidings. Children from Bryn Deri and Radyr Primary sang Christmas songs and carols at all the events. Our new lights in Station Road were switched on by Dr Rhys Jones of BBC Wales, ably assisted by Jonathan Davies of rugby fame. Rhys is an old boy of the Comprehensive School and enjoyed his return to the village. The shopkeepers dressed their shop windows for the occasion and hosted a large crowd with samples and traditional fayre. Santa arrived in his sleigh and created a very large queue of young children to chat with him. The event was a huge success despite the earlier abysmal weather conditions and all bodes well for an even bigger event next year, when we hope to have more lights and (almost certainly) a new location for the Christmas Tree in the Sidings.

### **May Festival and Jubilee Celebrations**

Work is progressing on the organisation of this year's Festival which will run from Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May. On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February we will be auditioning for the May King and Queen. This is keeping with the theme of the Festival "King Arthur at Camelot". Any youngster above the age of nine is welcome to compete for this appointment. The programme of events is now almost complete and we are pleased to be working this year with the George Thomas Hospice. We are particularly pleased to inform you that Allan Cook has managed to engage Donald Sturrock for the Literary event. Donald, a one time BBC producer, has made a documentary about Roald Dahl and written the librettos for five operas based on the work of Dahl, the latest being "The Golden Ticket" – a version of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. He has received the Spear Books Award for biography and has a number of accolades from both the Daily Telegraph and The Times.

In the last Newsletter we said we had suggested to the Community Council that we could move our popular 'Concert in the Parc' event to the Jubilee weekend. The CC have now decided that they wish to extend this event and run it themselves. We wish them well in this venture.

### **Radyr Library**

Our local councillor, Rod Mckerlich, has already reported that the work on the library should be complete by June 2012, when additional facilities will be added to the existing library. This has been funded from the Section 106, planning gain from the development on the sidings and a grant from the Welsh Government.

### **Radyr Sidings**

A Planning application for 10 houses on the "community plot" has been withdrawn when Taylor Wimpey realised that this number would - create a further requirement for social housing. They have now resubmitted an application for nine houses which avoids this commitment! Although we are not planning to oppose this application we do consider that action should be taken against TW to increase their financial commitment to the community. Both our County Councillor and Community Council have written in this vein.

## **PACT**

In the last newsletter we expressed our disappointment with the turnout and regularity of PACT meetings. A few more residents attended the January meeting, but unfortunately PC Huw Thomas was unavailable as he was on duty in the area. A free and flowing discussion took place on a number of subject matters which affect our community and the regular report from Cllr McKerlich was especially useful. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012 - Come and join us.

## **NatWest Bank**

We were concerned to hear that the local branch in Station Road will be reducing its opening hours and closing on Tuesday and Thursday each week from the 20<sup>th</sup> February. A number of letters have been sent to the Regional Director complaining that this is unacceptable to their customers and the community. They have extended hours at other branches in the outlying areas. The reasons given for the reduction in hours is our lower "footfall". We have argued that the bank is always full of waiting customers to be served. **Local management staff of the bank have been invited to attend the Community Council meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 19:30 in the Old Church Rooms, members of the public are welcome.** If you would like to express your opinion elsewhere there is a thread on the R&M Website soapbox or you might like to write to the Regional Director, NatWest, 6, Brindley House, Birmingham B1 2UU. The Association will respond and there may be a need for a petition.

## **Website**

The Web team, which is made of volunteers from the community, have circulated a questionnaire seeking the views of the users to its value and where it might be improved. This result of this questionnaire will be made available on the website at the end of January.

## **Old Church Rooms**

New chairs have been purchased for the Garth room. These chairs are lighter for users and can be stacked on a trolley saving space and effort. Consideration is being given to a similar set up in the Weir Room.

## **Future Meetings**

The next Association meeting has been arranged for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February when Professor Ron Eccles will give us a talk on the Common Cold Unit at Cardiff University. I am sure that we all could benefit from this! The meeting will be in the Garth Room and starts at 19:30. The following meeting will be our AGM in April. If you would like to consider joining the Association Executive then do get in touch – contact details are below. New members are welcome.

## **Contacts.**

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 ring the Chairman, Cyril Williams, on 029 2084 2250.