

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

President: Rhodri Morgan

Vice Presidents: Antonia Wigley BBChB

Dave Cargill BEM, JP, FCCA

Nick Hawkins

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – March 2013

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

Festival 2013. Charity – Friends of Tenovus. The programme for the May Festival, which will run from 4th to 19th May, has now gone to print and will be distributed in the April edition of Radyr Chain. The format has changed this year as we have decided to follow a brochure style in full colour; we would like to have your feedback once you have seen it. The theme of the Festival is “Colours of the World” and this theme will be featured in the Parade on the first Saturday, the Primary School colouring competition and a new Community Council literary competition. We hope that the events this year will meet the aspirations of all ages and interests of our community from fetes, concerts, theatre, jazz, walks, quiz, sports, music, dog and horse shows, along with the traditional crowning ceremony and fun run. Residents will be leafleted about the closure of roads for the fete and parade and the use of the community area at Parc Radur on the final Sunday. Following the success of the Jubilee Concert at the Golf Club last year, we have decided to re-establish our Concert in the Parc event with youth bands, school choirs, Radio Feynmen and the Tenovus Choral group rounding off with community singing to the theme “Ode to Joy”, led by Peter Esswood, who conducted the orchestra at last year’s concert.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, on Tuesday, 7th May the Festival Theatre is a performance of ‘*The Late Marilyn Monroe*’ by **Fluellen**; on Saturday 11th May the choir **Cantemus** will be singing ‘*Mainly Mozart*’; the lunchtime concert on Wednesday 15th May will be performed by New Zealand/Samoan baritone Moses Mackay and Australian soprano Siobhán Stagg from the **Welsh Academy of Voice**, and **Professor Chris Williams** will be talking about the *Diaries of Richard Burton* at the literary event on Friday 17th May.

Draw tickets are not being sent to members this year, but will be distributed via the Radyr Chain. The first prize is an **Overnight stay for two at the Celtic Manor Hotel** and the second prize is a **Garden consultation with local designer Caroline Jones**. As all the draw money goes to Tenovus, we hope you will buy lots of tickets. All we need now is some good weather and your support!

Cardiff Local Development Plan. Since the last newsletter Kevin Brennan, Member of Parliament for Cardiff West and Mark Drakeford, Assembly Member for Cardiff West, have made a joint statement re the LDP. Whilst they agree that Cardiff needs an LDP, they feel the number and location of houses are wrong, and that the building rate proposed by CCC is unattainable. They say that new developments should be reconsidered with Cardiff being part of a City Region with housing being placed in the lower end of the Valleys as well as in Cardiff. This would fit in well with the electrification of the Valleys Line. Appropriate infrastructure needs to be in place before any building commences. They believe that any land given over for development should only be released in phases as required, and not as a single lot: once land is identified for housing it becomes almost impossible to change. Their full response can be seen on our website at www.radyr.org.uk/bank/file17397.pdf. The next stage in the overall process will be the Deposit Plan approval by Cardiff Council followed by a consultation in September.

PACT and Neighbourhood Watch. There have been a number of incidents of break-ins to cars over the last few months. Residents are asked to lock their cars and keep valuables out of sight. The PACT meeting is held at regular intervals and residents are encouraged to attend to meet the police team and the local councillor. The area, which includes Pentyrch, Creigiau, Gwaelod y Garth and St Fagans, is going to be upgraded to three PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) in the next few months. If you have a new neighbour please let David Cargill (d.cargill@ntlworld.com) know so he can provide them with a ‘**Welcome Pack**’. Derek Bateman has now become the Chairman of the South Wales Neighbourhood Watch Association and he and David serve on the Cardiff Association. If you would like to receive police alerts and updates, use the above email address to register with NW or go on line for further information to www.ourbobby.com or www.cardiffnhm.org.uk. Both these sites can be accessed through the village web site, www.radyr.org.uk.

Mound Field. By the time you read this newsletter Pugh's should have taken out a long lease on the old Morganstown Rugby Club. They have exciting plans to develop the whole site; the Old Rugby Club building will become their new, enlarged, catering outlet, with views across the Motte and Bailey and the playing fields. Pugh's have agreed to include an area to explain the Lower Taff Valley within the development. Happily the fungal

infection that affected trees on the Motte and Bailey has been cleared and the fence should be taken down in the near future. The Parks Department plan to maintain the site as a flower meadow with mown footpaths and a low protective fence. Explanatory boards for the Motte and Bailey are planned. Work to map and possibly excavate parts of the Motte and Bailey is being discussed. Parking on the Old Rugby Club site will be restricted and the car park in the Mound Field enlarged. Finally the possibility of improving the drainage on parts of the playing fields is being looked into.

Festival Walk. This year's Walk will be on Sunday, 5th May and will look at the growth of Morganstown. It will be an opportunity to have a good look at the Motte and Bailey now that most of the undergrowth and trees have been cleared. Meet at Morganstown Village Hall at 2.30pm.

Ironbridge. The R&M Local History Society are planning to visit the Ironbridge Gorge in Shropshire on 4th July. Three of the ten sites will be visited; the Coalport China Works, Bliss Hill Victorian Town and the Ironbridge itself. Lunch will be taken at Bliss Hill. They plan to leave Radyr at 8.30am and return about 8.30pm. Non members are invited to join the visit. The cost will be Coach £12 and a passport to Ironbridge £17.50. Details of lunch will be given later. To book a place or for more information phone Allan Cook on 2084 3176.

Taff Trail. Talking of Ironbridges, those of you who walk the Taff Trail regularly will see that work is well advanced on the old iron railway bridge linking the west bank of the Taff to Hailey Park. It is hoped that it will open in the early summer. This will be for pedestrian and cycle use only and will be of great use in opening up this central area to walkers and cyclists. We are very grateful to our local County Councillor, Rod McKerlich, for his support and work on this venture.

Social Community Groups. If you follow the Soapbox on the Radyr website you may have noticed this thread (see www.radyr.org.uk/17903) which simply concerns residents – notably new ones – making new friends and getting involved. We are very excited by the ideas being expressed and have met some of the people behind the thread. We know we need to do more via Facebook, Twitter etc in communicating what is going on and in assisting people setting up new social groups. We hope to be able to give you some more information in the next Newsletter.

Station Road wifi. Mentioning the Soapbox reminds us to comment on the thread started by 'blawrie' advocating the setting up of a wifi zone in Station Road (see www.radyr.org.uk/17764). We have been in contact with blawrie but made little progress. Toast and the Andrew Cox, the gents hairdressers, already have wifi provision for their customers, which is probably the two main areas where people sit and wait. However, Toast did agree to talk to blawrie about his proposals with a view to getting other shopkeepers interested but blawrie has not taken up the offer. We do not regard ourselves as luddites but we could not see a huge advantage in making Station Road a wifi zone above that which is already present. Do let us know if you think otherwise as we could probably press a bit harder.

Meetings. Our next meeting will be our **AGM on 22nd April** and, as mentioned in the last Newsletter, we try to make things a bit more palatable by offering a free drink and nibbles after the proceedings. And, to be guilty of even more repetition, don't forget we have some vacancies on the Association's Executive Committee and we would love to have some new members. Although some of us are quite busy actually running events, there is no need for all Committee members to be so involved. **If you are Community-minded and have ideas as to what the Association should do over the next few years to make R&M (notably in the newer estates) a great place to live and work, do consider joining us on the Committee.** We do not meet very frequently and your input will be hugely valuable. If you want to know more, do have a chat with us. Contact details below. We hope to be able to tell you at the AGM about all the speakers for the coming year.

Barbecue. By the way, the gas BBQ mentioned in the last Newsletter is still available although it will be scrapped soon if no-one wants it. Do let us know if you are at all interested.

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.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.