

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

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NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – NOVEMBER 2010

Welcome. As mentioned in the intended Radyr Chain article that we sent out to you via email on 12th October (a copy is attached for postal recipients), we have decided to keep our members up to date with various R&M happenings via a two-monthly newsletter. This is the first edition. We would love to have feedback from you – is this a valuable service, have we covered the right topics, what would you like to hear about in future, etc? Contact details are the end.

Christmas activities. We are very excited about the new arrangements for the lighting of the Christmas Trees on 2nd December which we are organising jointly with the R&M Community Council and the shopkeepers in Station Road. For a number of years there has been a simple lighting ceremony at Morganstown and Windsor Gardens, with a few carols and a return to the Old Church Rooms. This year the R&MCC have agreed to purchase an additional tree, on the Community Plot on the Sidings. This tree will be ‘dedicated’ (no power supply for lights!) at the same time as the tree will be lit in Morganstown. Carols will be sung at both locations by the Primary Schools and there will be a candlelight procession from both locations to Windsor Gardens where the tree will be lit. We are planning lots of activities both there and in Station Road, where we will switch on the lights at the same time. The shops will be open, food and drink available. Lookout for details in a handout through your door in the near future.

Café Lazio. We were very surprised when Renato decided to shut his café at very short notice. We had got used to Station Road looking a bit continental with chairs and tables outside. A lot of interest was shown in acquiring the site and we were delighted to hear that Alan (‘Veg Vendor’) was successful in his bid. He hopes to re-open the café at the end of November trading under the name ‘Seasons Kitchen and Bar’. We wish him well in his new venture – and please make sure you give him support by eating there regularly!

Tree in Station Road. Whilst talking about Station Road, we feel we ought to mention the small stump of the tree outside the bank. This was one of the three trees planted a short time back when the ‘Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme’ was implemented. Sadly, two trees died and both were replaced and the replacement tree on this site has also died. No-one seems to have an idea why it should have died ‘twice’ but it has been dead for a long time and should be replaced. For some reason Cardiff Council have decided to cut it down and have left, to our mind, a very dangerous stump. We have spoken to Cllr Rod McKerlich who tells us that (a) it costs £500-1000 for them to replace a tree, (b) they will be considering doing it at the end of 2011 and (c) they will not allow anyone else to do it. We think this is crazy.

Village Plan. We have been working on a number of projects within the Village Plan. You should have received a little booklet ‘What is there to do in R&M’ together with the full Village Plan a while ago. If you did not get one or have lost it, please get in touch. Organisations come and go and contact details change. So, if you find anything in the booklet which needs to be added, deleted or altered, please get in touch. There is a copy of the booklet on the website which will be updated from time to time. Do print off a new version if you need one. We do not intend to distribute a new version through the door in the foreseeable future – it is rather expensive to do that!

We are about to distribute a new ‘Welcome Pack’ to newcomers to the R&M. That will be done via the Neighbourhood Watch network. Copies will be available in the library.

We are also working on some local walks ‘with a theme’. The first will be available soon in both printed form and on the website.

R&M Website. Mentioning the website leads us to tell you that the internal software was upgraded recently. Actually, we hope you did not notice. The important aspect was the introduction of new editing facilities which make it possible for various areas of the site to be altered by individual organisations rather than centrally by the webteam. If you represent an organisation and put entries on the events database (and please always use this facility), you may have noticed that whoever put on the entry is now able to edit it subsequently – a much-needed amendment. We do hope you find the website useful. Don't forget there is a soapbox facility to start and enter into debate on any local matter. Do use it; it is important that there is a place for airing views on subjects that might otherwise not get mentioned.

Broadband. If you have not heard (it is actually a topic on the soapbox) BT have started a competition called the 'Race to Infinity'. BT are gradually rolling out high-speed optical fibre broadband (non-geeks can glaze over at this point) across the country. It will take a long while to cover the whole country so BT have declared they will upgrade out of schedule the five areas which express the most interest in having it. This is done by voting on line at www.racetoinfinity.bt.com. The vote finishes on 31st December. At the time of writing, 97 out of a possible 2254 phone numbers on the Radyr exchange have voted – just 4.3%. That sounds pretty poor but it is a lot more than many other areas (if you go on line you can see the results for other exchange areas). However, this writer did find two other exchanges with 16.2% and 6.69%, so we are hardly in the top league. It really is worth voting even if you are on cable. Please tell your friends and neighbours.

Upgrade to OCR windows and door. We are very pleased to announce that the replacement windows for the Garth Room and the main door of the Old Church Rooms have been fitted, supported by a Community Buildings grant from Cardiff Council. They were fitted by Billy Dwyer of Castle Windows (based in Radyr) and very nice they are. The main benefit is in the Garth Room which should now be much warmer and free of draughts.

Radyr Woods. We were very pleased to hear that a company formed by a number of Radyr Wood Wardens had purchased the section of Radyr Woods that was recently about to be put up for auction. We would have been even more pleased if the R&M Community Council had purchased it themselves – after all, they have loaned the required money to the wardens. We wish the wardens well in their venture; in our opinion it is crucial that the whole of Radyr Woods remains in public ownership in perpetuity. Future generations will not thank us if we were to allow it to be exploited commercially.

PACT & Police. We were delighted to welcome back PC Huw Thomas as our 'Neighbourhood Bobby', but we still despair of the 'Neighbourhood' he is required to cover – which includes Pentyrch, Creigiau, Gwaelod and St Fagans. Representations have been made to the police at all levels that an increasing community (and one that contributes more to police coffers) requires more and not less policing. But our complaints fall on deaf ears. Whilst not wishing to visit crime on ourselves, one way of increasing the pressure is to ensure that all crime is reported and also raise attendance at the regular PACT meetings. Minutes of past PACT meetings can be found on the website. The next meeting is on 8 December at 7pm in the Old Church Rooms.

Next meeting. A reminder that our next meeting, on 14th February 2011, will be the first in the new format of a significant speaker and minimum Association business. We will be welcoming Dr Chris Partridge (Cardiff Tidy Towns Officer), who will be talking about 'Keeping R&M Tidy'. Put the date in your diary now. And, please let us know if you have ideas of topics you would like covered in future.

Finally, as this is not only the first Newsletter but also the last before Christmas, the R&M Executive would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very happy forthcoming Festive Season and a successful New Year.

Contacts. If you would like to comment on any aspect of this Newsletter or require further information, then either email the Secretary, Nick Hawkins, at rma@radyr.org.uk or ring the Chairman, Cyril Williams, on 029 2084 250.