



THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

(A Civic Society affiliated to the Civic Trust Cymru)

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NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – November 2015

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

Paris: With the terrible news from Paris all too fresh in our minds and recognising that Radyr & Morganstown is Twinned with St Philbert de Grand Lieu, we thought we should report that the following message has been sent by the Twinning Fellowship. (Alain Fourrier is President of the St Philbert/R&M Twinning Fellowship.)

To Alain and all our French friends.

All your friends in the Radyr and Morganstown Twinning Fellowship would like to express their great sadness on hearing of the terrible events in Paris yesterday. We send our condolences and affirm our solidarity with the French people at this very sad time. We want you to know that we are thinking of you all.

Things to entertain you: In the run up to Christmas there are a number of events being organised by the RMA and others. **If you do not act fast you will miss the performance** this Friday (20th November) **by Fluellen of The Railway Children** by Edith Nesbitt **in MVH at 7.00pm** (an earlier time to allow youngsters of all ages to attend). **That will be followed quickly by a performance by the Radyr Drama Society of 'Bonaventure' by Charlotte Hastings at 7.30pm in Morganstown Village Hall** the following week! **The next Film Night** will be on Thursday 26th November **in the Old Church Rooms at 7.30pm when we will be showing 'Mr Holmes'** (Cert PG, Duration 105 minutes). There isn't a drinks license so bring your own drinks and popcorn. **The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** is on 4th December – as this is worthy of special mention, details are below. The Radyr and Morganstown Choral Society have a concert in Christ Church on Saturday, 5th December at 7.30pm when they will be performing **Vivaldi's Gloria and a Feast of Advent Music**. **Tickets for all these events are available now.** The RMA ones can be bought from ener-chi in Station Road; Nick Hawkins 2084 2561; Allan Cook 2084 3176 and also on-line at <https://ticketsource.co.uk/rma>. See the R&M Website for details of the others.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony - Friday 4th December: Weather permitting, the event will follow the now very popular format. The tree in The Granny Park, Morganstown, will be lit at 6pm with the help of children from Bryn Deri Primary School. At the same time the tree in Lychgate Gardens will be lit with the help of children from Radyr Primary School. The tree in Windsor Gardens will be lit at 6.40pm by the Festival Queen followed by the 'switching on' of the Christmas lights in Station Rd at 7.00pm by the **Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Cllr David Walker**. Santa will arrive shortly afterwards. Burgers, hot dogs and mulled wine will be available from 6pm. Many of the shops will be open and there will be even more stalls this year selling all sorts of goodies – crafts, gifts, jewellery and much more. Velindre, the RMA's charity for the year, will be collecting during the evening. Come along and enjoy the festivities. Entrance is free.

OCR Refurbishment Project: Building projects – particularly complex ones – seldom run exactly to time. Good progress is being made but the project is overall running about two to three weeks late. At this moment, the new main lights have been fitted to the Garth Room but we are still waiting for the new (dimmable) 'architectural' and stage lights. We hope they will be in very soon as the room is now very bright – good for meetings but not so good for presentations and social events! The heating is on but the destratification fan is not yet connected. The very good news is that the kitchen is now back in service, and very splendid it looks, with large fridge, proper dishwasher, hot water dispenser (for tea/coffee) and much more. We have been told that the Weir Room should be back in service just before Christmas. The overall project should be finished by the end of January.

Defibrillator: We keep reporting that Radyr will be getting a defibrillator (which will be located outside the Opticians in Station Road), with the help of Welsh Hearts Charity. We greatly apologise for the delay but the Charity initially told us that they would donate a defibrillator to our Community providing we arranged installation. The R&MCC kindly agreed to pay for the latter. Having made all the arrangements, the Charity then told us that we actually had to pay £500 towards the unit – money which we did not have. We are, however, delighted to report that both Cardiff West Rotary and Cardiff Lions International have both agreed to chip in £250, allowing us to acquire the kit. We are exceedingly grateful to them. The project will now start to roll forward although we do not yet have a definite date for installation. Training also needs to be arranged.

Festival 2016: Work is progressing on finalising the programme for the 2016 Festival, which starts on Saturday 30th April and runs through to Sunday 15th May. A number of changes to the dates of some of the traditional events have been made to accommodate the arrival of our French visitors on the last weekend. We are working closely with the charity, Velindre, to make the fortnight enjoyable and financially beneficial for the charity, which makes a major contribution to the diagnosis and care of cancer. A number of local residents have joined the committee, especially to provide support for the charity. The theme is “Roald Dahl” and this will feature throughout the Festival, especially with characters of his books appearing in the Festival Parade on the first Saturday. A plaque will be placed on the “gatehouse” on Heol Isaf which stood at the bottom of the drive to “Ty Mynydd house”. The village is joining with the larger area of Cardiff to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of Roald Dahl’s birth in Llandaff, later in the year. We look forward to meeting you all at a number of events which will be included in the Festival programme, issued free to all residents in the April issue of Radyr Chain

Electronic Radyr: In mid October a number of changes were made to our website www.radyr.org.uk, the main one being the basic software on which the site runs. It is now far easier for us to make changes to the site in a timely manner. It also allows us to handle photos much more easily and gives us security for the future as we have moved to the most widely used software on the internet (WordPress). There was little change to the way the site appeared to most users, but our old bespoke Soapbox would not run on the new software and has been replaced by a new ‘R&M Forum’. Users will need to re-register on the new site if they have not already done so to be able make comments or to add events.

Use of the R&M Hub, both Facebook and Twitter are still growing strongly. We now have over 720 "Likes" of our Facebook page and over 220 organisations and people are following our Twitter Feed. Nearly 4000 people saw our posts and photos of the Remembrance Sunday Parade and in September there were over 16,000 views of our posts. We cannot measure how many people see our Tweets but it is often several thousand for each one. Tickets for all RMA events can also be booked through the Facebook page or online at <https://ticketsource.co.uk/rma>. We are currently looking at the Festival Website and deciding how best to organise it in both this and future years.

Radyr Sidings Association: A year on from their formation, the Sidings Residents Association is holding their first Annual General Meeting. This will take place in the Garth Room, Old Church Rooms on Monday 30th November, starting at 7:30pm. Working alongside other key contacts the Association achieved an excellent result achieved in having the children’s playground surface upgraded to a far more suitable standard. Also on the agenda are the proposed changes to Radyr Station and the vicinity. Whilst it is currently not clear how advanced these plans are, or when it is proposed work might begin, the Association is welcoming residents’ initial views on the proposals. In conjunction with the Community Council the Association is pressing for formal consultation on this scheme. The RMA is happy to have supported the formation of this community group and we wish them good luck with their work for the coming year.

Planning Application for 630 houses. This application, for a development at the southern end of Heol Isaf, has been mentioned on previous occasions. After a number of alterations, it now looks as if the application will come before Cardiff Council’s Planning Committee very soon. Due to the petition submitted last year, both the RMA and Cllr Rod McKerlich will be able to speak but we are not hopeful of a good result. As Cllr McKerlich pointed out at the last RMA meeting, current plans are actually designed to cause traffic congestion on the Llantrisant Road, partly to prevent a bottleneck in Llandaff. There is a distinct possibility that it will prove hugely difficult for residents of Parc Radur to drive out of the estate at peak times.

Village Plan: We are sorry to have to report that, despite fulsome support from the RMA, the R&MCC have decided not to proceed with developing a new Village Plan for the time being. When the last VP was completed in 2010 it was stated that it would be renewed in five years. With so many changes having occurred over the last five years and with so much potential change coming over the next few years we think it is foolhardy and even callous not to want to consult R&M residents over future plans and options.

Meetings: Our next meeting is on 1st February 2016 commencing at 19.30 in the OCR. The speaker will be Peter Vaughan (Chief Constable). We are in the process of drawing up the list of speakers for next year. If you would like to speak at one of our meetings, or have a topic you would like addressed, do get in touch.

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).

Finally, as this is our last Newsletter before Christmas, the RMA Executive would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very happy forthcoming Festive Season and a successful New Year.