



THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

(A Civic Society affiliated to the Civic Trust Cymru)

President: Rhodri Morgan

Vice Presidents: Antonia Wigley MB BCH (Wales)

Dave Cargill BEM, JP, FCCA

Nick Hawkins



NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – January 2016

Welcome to our regular Newsletter. Another year has flown by and we wish all our members a successful 2016.

Things to entertain you: We will shortly be restarting our Film Club and have a great selection of films to show; interestingly, all are what might be termed 'docudramas'. On **28th January** we are showing *Suffragette*. This is billed as a powerful drama about the women who were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality. It stars Meryl Streep and Carey Mulligan and tickets are selling well! The choice for **25th February** is *A Walk in the Woods*, starring Robert Redford & Nick Nolte with co-star Emma Thompson, amongst others. This is a comedy adventure based on the wonderful book by Bill Bryson. Finally, the choice for **17th March** (earlier because of Easter) is *The Lady in the Van*, based on Alan Bennett's true story. Miss Shepherd (played by a magnificent Maggie Smith) is a woman of 'uncertain origins' who "temporarily" parked her van in Bennett's London driveway and proceeded to live there for 15 years. It was actually filmed on the street and in the house where Bennett and Miss Shepherd lived all those years. All the films are in the Old Church Rooms (see below) and start at 7:30pm. Tickets, still just £4, can be got from Nick Hawkins, 2084 2561, Allan Cook, 2084 3176, ener-chi, or on-line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/rma.

We should also mention the latest RPMG production of **Kiss Me Kate**. This production will be staged at the Bishop of Llandaff High School, from **Wednesday 17th to Saturday 20th February**. Tickets (£10, concs £8 on Wednesday and Thursday only) are available from 2084 2995, 2031 0894 or www.ticketsource.co.uk/rpmg.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony: We hope you came on Friday 4th December and enjoyed the show, organised jointly between the RMA and the R&MCC. We were again blessed by good weather and managed to arrange more stalls than ever before. The Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Cllr David Walker and Mrs Walker switched on the lights in Station Road, with the help of the Festival Queen and her attendants. Trees were lit at the Granny Park in Morganstown with carols sung by pupils from Bryn Deri Primary School. Another tree was lit at Lychgate Gardens and carols were sung there by Radyr Primary School pupils. Santa arrived in his sleigh and each child was given a tangerine by Santa's helper (see picture at the end). In short, a good time was had by all. Many thanks to the many people who helped put it on.

Road Closures: We very nearly fell foul of a new Cardiff Council initiative when organising the Christmas event. In their wisdom, and to save money – or recoup expenditure – the Council have decreed that road closures, such as we have in Station Road at Christmas and Park Road during the Festival, must be paid for. Apparently, the admin costs of allowing a road to be closed is around £500 and, to ensure no-one tries to access a closed road, either the Police or Council Officers must be present for the duration. If the Police cannot guarantee their presence, the Council will charge a further £500 to attend. In other words, these two events will incur an upfront charge of £1000 each. It is all nonsense, of course, except it has serious implications. Cllr Rod McKerlich did get a breakdown of the individual costs leading to the Council charges and even the dimmest person could demonstrate how the individual items could be done simpler and cheaper. Both these events (and there are similar cases across Cardiff) are run by volunteer effort for the benefit of Cardiff citizens and, in our case, raise money for Charity. We cannot afford to pay £1000 upfront so, unless the decision to levy the charge can be overturned, we will not be able to run them. Through the R&MCC we aim to join with other communities and challenge the decision.

OCR Refurbishment Project: We are pleased to be able to report that the OCR work is coming to a conclusion, although the builders will not be totally gone until February. The Weir and Chain Rooms are back in operation (but only accessible via the rear door) and we are promised that the final work to the Garth Room (the new lights, the destratification fan and working blinds) should be done this week. That will make our Film Club nights much cosier and we still aim to improve the other kit over time. The new upstairs room (still to be named) is almost ready. It is not much smaller than the Weir Room, will have a screen, projection equipment and its own tea making area – excellent for mini-conferences. All that really remains to be done is the fitting out of all the new equipment – wifi throughout the building, new toilets, CCTV system, external lights, etc – plus redecoration and external landscaping. It will look splendid and will be much nicer, brighter and easier to use. If you are interested in hiring the rooms, or simply getting more details, email ocrbookings@radyr.org.uk. We will probably arrange an open day once things are complete.

Planning: Just to make your cup floweth over, can we mention that the Welsh Government Inspector has finished her review of the Cardiff LDP and found it ‘sound’! To be honest, we are more sad than surprised. The RMA has been associated with the NW Cardiff Group which has been trying to get Cardiff Council to see sense in its long term planning. It has not been a NIMBY approach – we have always accepted that the land in NW Cardiff will be built on at some time – but it has not seemed unreasonable to point out that infrastructure (notably transport) should be put in before houses and the route of the proposed Metro should dictate where those houses should be built. With the exception of a recognition that Radyr Golf Club might pose a danger to houses built too close to the course, we cannot spot any real change to the original plan put on deposit. What a wasted opportunity. We actually pity the people who buy the houses built in NW Cardiff under this plan, at least the first ones. They will not find it easy to get anywhere. Of course, the first planning application is for the 630 dwellings at the end of Radyr mentioned in the last Newsletter. Will it surprise you to hear that the application has been delayed because sinkholes (caused by acid rain dissolving underlying limestone) have appeared across the site and there are fears that, unless the water run-off can be contained, flooding may result? What great planners we have. By virtue of the petition we submitted a long time ago, we (the RMA) will be able to speak at the Planning Committee meeting for the 630 dwellings application. We will be working with both Rod and the R&MCC to achieve the best outcome.

Festival 2016: The final planning meeting takes place shortly when the programme of events for the 2016 Festival will be finalised. A number of local businesses have been asked to sponsor the Festival by placing advertisements in the programme. This year we are supporting the Velindre Cancer Charity and hope that other organisations in the village will nominate the same charity for their fund raising activities. We made a good start at the Christmas lighting ceremony with over £1000 being raised by various groups. This year the theme is “Roald Dahl”, celebrating 100 years of his birth in Llandaff. A plaque is being placed on the house in Heol Isaf on the first day of the Festival following the Parade and the Fete. This house was the lodge to Ty Mynydd House, where he lived for a time as a boy. As our French visitors will be in Radyr on the last weekend, some of the Festival events have been rescheduled. The Festival is in its 29th year and, with the usual variety of events, this will keep us all busy during the fortnight.

Charity: Incidentally, we still have to decide on the Charity that will follow Velindre. We have held some talks with The Alzheimer’s Society and they are a prospect but they do seem to lack positive local support. It is, of course, essential that we partner with our chosen Charity in putting on all the events; we cannot do it alone. If you would like to support The Alzheimer’s Society in a proactive way as our next Charity, do get in touch with them. We would also be interested in any other suggestions for Charities that we might support. We do have simple selection criteria that we can send you (no forms to fill in).

Defibrillator: We are sorry it has taken so long, but we now think we know where we are going in acquiring a defibrillator to place in Station Road. Having been run ragged by Welsh Hearts Charity, we have decided to work with St John’s Cymru – Wales (the successor organisation to St John’s Ambulance). They will provide us the kit for the same price as Welsh Hearts and also provide appropriate training including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), also known as Basic Life Support (BLS). This involves external cardiac massage and mouth to mouth lung ventilation. However, of late, more emphasis has been placed on the cardiac massage aspect. The Radyr Division of St John’s has agreed to provide appropriate training in the application of BLS at their regular training sessions on a Tuesday night at the Old Church Rooms. **Members of the community who would like to be trained in Basic Life Support should contact Mr Aled Treharne (01633 533103).** Furthermore, the St John staff will also train members in the use of the defibrillator. Again, we are very grateful for the financial assistance of St John’s Cymru-Wales, Cardiff West Rotary, Cardiff Lions, and the R&MCC in providing the necessary funds.

Next RMA Meeting. Our next meeting is on **1st February**, commencing at 19.30 in the OCR. The speaker will be Peter Vaughan (Chief Constable), who will be talking about ‘My Policing Journey’. And don’t forget our AGM will be on **18th April**. Please put that date in your diary.

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)

