



THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

(A Civic Society affiliated to the Civic Trust Cymru)

President: Rhodri Morgan

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NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – March 2016

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

Festival 2016. Charity – Velindre. The programme for the May Festival, which this year runs from 30th April to 15th May, has now gone to print and will be distributed in the April edition of Radyr Chain. **It contains no less than 34 events.** The theme of the Festival is “**Roald Dahl**” as part of the celebration of the centenary of his birth. We hope that will make for a colourful Parade on the first Saturday prior to the Fete, and interesting entries in the Primary School colouring competition and the Community Council literary competition. **Jonathan Davies** has agreed to lead the Festival Parade and open the Fete. We don't think we need to spend time here telling you his background!

The three schools will be heavily involved in the Festival, joining in the Festival Parade and the Concert in the Parc (this year on the middle weekend and starting earlier at 12:00 – come and have lunch), which we hope will be blessed with good weather. There a large number of events include theatre, concerts, sport, exhibitions, film show, competitions and many outdoor events to look forward to. There are two notable innovations this year. The first is an ‘**Open Gardens Sunday**’ when five excellent gardens will be open for you to view. We realise that May is not necessarily the best time to show off a garden but we know the owners will put on a great display – and we hope to feature other gardens in future years. The second is a ‘**Vintage Afternoon Tea Party**’ where you will be able to indulge yourself with a waitress serviced luxurious afternoon tea, featuring a glass of prosecco, selection of finger sandwiches, delicious homemade cakes, pastries and freshly baked scones, with jam and clotted cream. The event will also have an entertaining guest speaker and live music. Not to be missed.

As ever, the Arts are well catered for. On Wednesday, 4th May, cartoonist **Will Kevans** will talk about his cartoon book ‘*My life in Pieces*’. Will Kevans enlisted in the Welsh Guards as a teenager and served in the Falklands. Since leaving the army he has worked as a cartoonist on such animations as Dennis the Menace and as a designer of video games. On Friday, 6th May, there will be a lunchtime concert by Portuguese pianist **Nuno Lucas**; the popular **RPMG Concert** is on the middle Saturday, 7th May; on Tuesday, 10th May, we will be showing the Award-winning film ‘*The Danish Girl*’; Wednesday, 11th May, brings the return of Fluellen with their comedy ‘*Taffy Shakespeare*’; on Friday, 13th May we have another lunchtime concert by singers from the **Wales International Academy of Voice**; on Saturday 14th May we have the welcome return of the **City of Cardiff (Melingriffith) Brass Band**; and, to close the Festival, on the final Sunday, **Connie Fisher** (no less) will be hosting a ‘*Concert for Velindre*’ given by the innovative **Welsh Pops Quartet** featuring rising star, singer/songwriter **Bronwen Lewis** (who made a considerable impression on the BBC's talent series *The Voice*).

Draw tickets are again not being sent to members this year, but will be distributed via Radyr Chain. The first prize is a **50" Slim LED TV with Internet and voice assistance**; the second prize is a **voucher for £160 family photo portraits**; and the third prize a **signed/framed print of Martyn Williams (Wales and the Blues)**. As all the draw money goes to Velindre, we hope you will buy lots of tickets.

And, finally, a reminder that we are always looking for stalls and entertainment at the Fete (in a refurbished Old Church Rooms) on Saturday 30th April. Please get in touch if you have something to offer. All we need now is some good weather and your support!

Other things to entertain you: By the time you read this you will either have seen or just missed our showing of *The Lady in the Van*, starring Maggie Smith. Sorry if you wanted but could not get tickets but our shows seem to be attracting bigger audiences. We have just signed up to be members of ‘Film Hub Wales’ and ‘Cinema for All’ which gives us access to all sorts of good advice, the loan of splendid equipment (with proper wide screen and good sound), and, potentially, access to a wider range of films. With the OCR refurbishment all but complete, the environment is now much better – and we have reintroduced the selling of ice creams!

We should also mention that, on **Saturday 19th March**, the **Radyr & Morganstown Choral Society** will be performing **Handel's Messiah** in Christ Church at 7.30pm, conductor Peter Esswood and the Welsh Chamber Players. The soloists are **Anastasiia Golovina** (Soprano), **Olivia Gomez** (Contralto), **Andrew Henley** (Tenor), and **Bertie Watson** (Bass). Tickets £10 available from Douglas Hogg, 2084 2457, or on the door. Also, the **Radyr Drama Society** will be performing Neil Simon's comedy ‘*Barefoot in the Park*’ in MVH from Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd April. Tickets, £10 (£9 Conc, £7 Student), from www.ticketsource.co.uk/radyrdrama, ener-chi in Station Road, or 2084 2585.

OCR Refurbishment Project: We have said this a number of times before but the OCR work really is coming to a conclusion. All the rooms are back in service, including a splendid new upstairs room. The new entrance (key pad operated – contact David Cargill if you need personal access for whatever reason) is in operation and the car park has largely been returned to full service. Do come and have a look round. The landscaping still needs to be done and the car park markings repainted. Then we have to reinstall the WI bench, put up notice boards etc. Everything will look really splendid very soon.

You may remember us telling you that, for various reasons, it was necessary for the Community Council to register the OCR for VAT. However, we took the choice – notably bearing in mind we were about to go through a major period of work – not to increase rentals. Unfortunately, that had the effect of reducing our income by 20%. We will be looking at rental levels over the next few months (no immediate shocks) but our wish at the moment is to recoup that income by increasing the usage, particularly in the new room. If you are interested in hiring the rooms, or think you know someone who might be, or would simply like more details, email ocrbookings@radyr.org.uk.

Planning: We know we keep harping on about planning; apologies if we say too much. To keep it simple on this occasion we would like to report that, as mentioned in the last Newsletter, both Cllr Rod McKerlich and the RMA Secretary addressed the Cardiff Council Planning meeting on 10th February which considered the Outline Planning Application for 630 houses on the border of Radyr. The outcome was inevitable; permission was granted. It is particularly galling to note that the Cardiff Council had consistently refused to alter the LDP to take account of the building of the Metro (which logically would have caused the houses in NW Cardiff to be built along its line) because its future was uncertain, only to find the deal for the Metro has just been signed. We quote the headline: **‘The £1.2billion deal for south east Wales includes a metro system and is expected to bring thousands of jobs to the area’**. So the 630 houses will now be built far away from the line of the Metro, as will the rest of the 7000+ houses in NW Cardiff. On top of that the applications for all the development will probably be dealt with piecemeal (one has recently been submitted for 300 houses at Goitre Fach Farm) so it is difficult to see how the necessary infrastructure will ever be justified. Does it surprise you to find that The Sunday Times has just reported that Penarth is now the best place to live in South Wales? It mentioned that Lisvane and Cyncoed used to be the best but fears over total traffic chaos now make North Cardiff potentially undesirable. Great planning guys.

PACT At the last PACT meeting on 7th March a delegation of residents from the Park Road/Windsor Ave area expressed their concern regarding the parking of cars across driveways and causing significant disruption to other road users and pedestrians. The School is going to be asked to communicate to the parents this concern and ask if green bollards can be placed along parts of the road. The police will be making spot checks. However they have advised that the pupils of the school should not be involved, as they have been in the past. A similar problem exists around Kings Road/Station Road/Windsor Crescent with cars parked up for the day for rail commuters to Cardiff. Cars parked outside the Comprehensive School are also being monitored.

A number of commercial and domestic burglaries have been reported recently and the police have increased their vehicle patrols around Radyr and Morganstown. One property was burgled whilst the owners slept upstairs. Money, a purse and car keys were stolen, resulting in their car being driven off and abandoned in Llandaff.

Cllr Rod Mckerlich reported on the LDP and stated that he had spoken to the planners regarding the 7.5 tonnes weight limit on Heol Isaf for vehicles accessing the new development site on the Llantrisant Road. The Cardiff Bus service is being changed to a half hourly service and the route will include Radyr Gardens, Morganstown. The next meeting is to be held at the Old Church Rooms at 7.30pm on Thursday 19th March.

Defibrillator: The arrangements regarding establishing an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) on Station Road are almost complete. The funding for the defibrillator has been obtained from St John’s Cymru, Cardiff West Rotary, Cardiff Lions and the Radyr and Morganstown Community Council. It will be situated on the wall outside Radyr Eye Care. The Association is most grateful for the support received from all these bodies. The Radyr Division of St John’s Cymru meet every Tuesday evening from 7.00pm in the Old Church Rooms. The Divisional Office, Mr Aled Treharne and his staff, will be responsible for training in Basic Live Support and the appropriate use of the A E D. Any person in the R&D area who wishes to be trained in these disciplines should contact him at: aled.treharne@sjaw.org.uk or call on 01633 533103.

Meetings. Our next meeting will be our **AGM on 18th April**. It is not a very formal meeting and we try to make things a bit more palatable by offering a free drink and nibbles after the proceedings. We do have some vacancies on the Association’s Executive Committee and we would love to have some new members. **If you are Community-minded and have ideas as to what the Association should do to make R&M 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.

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)