

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – July 2016

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

Festival 2016. On Thursday, 14th July, the Festival Committee met to review the May 2016 Festival. The Festival, which had had Roald Dahl as the underlying theme and was run in support of Velindre Hospital, was thought to have gone really well. Two new events – the Vintage Afternoon Tea Party, organised by Karen Wright, and the Open Gardens Sunday, organised by Gill Evans – had been a tremendous success and it was hoped that they will be repeated in future years.

David Cargill, Chair of the Festival Committee, thanked everyone for their hard work and noted that next year would mark the 30th anniversary of the May Festival. A challenge indeed!

During the proceedings, David Cargill and David Silver presented Professor Rosemary Kennedy (Chair of the Velindre NHS Trust) with a cheque for £11,000. This represented the total amount raised by the R&M Community for Velindre over the past year. Professor Kennedy thanked the Association and the Community of Radyr & Morganstown for supporting the work of Velindre and ensured the money would be put to very good use.



At the end of the proceedings, Aled Treharne, local leader for St John's Cymru, introduced himself and his organisation and said how delighted and honoured he was that St John's Cymru had been selected as the Association's Charity for the coming year. He looked forward to working with the team.

The next meeting of the Festival Committee will be held at the end of September – see events diary on the website. All those who wish to help or have ideas for next year are very welcome.

Film Nights: We are delighted to be able to report that we have been successful in our application to the British Film Institute Neighbourhood Cinema. We have been awarded a 'Mobile Cinema package' (value £4907) which will be delivered in August. This is a complete set of screening equipment for a larger venue and includes a projector, screen (similar size to the one we have been hiring from Chapter), Blu-ray Disc Player, Amplifier, Speakers and Speaker Stands. We will need to play with it a bit before first proper use but we hope it will prove a step up from the kit we have been using to date.

We are still choosing the films that we will be showing in the season starting in September. But you can note the dates in your diary now: *Thursday 22nd Sept; Thurs 13th Oct (Somme Film); Fri 14th Oct, 3pm (second showing of Somme film); Thurs 27th Oct; Thurs 24th Nov.* You will see that we are joining with the WWI Committee in the showing of two specific films.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, we would still like to move towards forming a sub-group within the Association which takes charge of the scheduling, selection and showing of the films. We have no idea whether we are choosing the 'right' films for you and it would be good to have more input. It is also quite a fun activity.

Please let us know if you would like to be involved in any way.

OCR Refurbishment Project: We are delighted with the feedback we are getting on the refurbished OCR. Wifi is now available throughout the building and this will even be linked into a 'Smart TV' which we have just agreed to install in the new Castle Room (upstairs). Blackout blinds have also been installed in this room. Bookings are now growing but we still have space for new users – both regular and occasional. If you are interested in hiring the rooms (notably the Castle Room), or think you know someone who might be, or would simply like more details, email ocrbookings@radyr.org.uk.

Hanging Baskets: We are very pleased with and proud of the hanging baskets in Station Road. Thanks to the efforts of Allan Cook and Raymond Rivron, who ordered the plants, sorted out the watering system for all the baskets, and can be seen at 8:00am every Tuesday morning with a weird contraption for feeding them, they are now looking magnificent Here are a few pictures of some of the baskets



Planning Matters: there have been a few planning issues bubbling along just recently. Let's deal with the positive matters first. We are delighted to hear that in a few days time the new foot bridges and lifts to the Station will be completed and the old footbridge taken away. How many years has that taken? Also Radyr Weir (with the new hydroelectric scheme) will be opened at about the same time; the diversion to the Taff Trail has already been removed. Both really good news.

On the (possibly) down side there was a presentation in the New Schoolrooms on 7th July to provide details of an extension to the Station Car Park. On the face of it, 187 more (free) car parking spaces is good news. Overflow parking by commuters in all the surrounding streets has been a nightmare for some years. More spaces will solve that problem – or will it? Radyr Station is at the end of the inner charging zone for travel into Cardiff. Tickets from Taffs Well (where there is available parking) cost more. As people cannot currently park near the station very easily we guess they pay the extra and park at Taffs Well. What will happen when parking becomes readily available in Radyr? Will the car park simply fill up with commuters from up the A470, resulting in more traffic and no easement of the on street parking? We hope we are not being alarmist. And, of course, the residents from the new (LDP) estates may well want to use Radyr Station as well. We are all for encouraging the use of public transport but local conditions should bring some practical considerations.

And, for the record, we did object to the planning application for the redevelopment of the NatWest Bank site into a new Co-Op store (although we did not oppose the change from Financial to Retail). Details were in the minutes of our last General meeting. We wait to hear the outcome of the application.

Meetings. As mentioned in our last Newsletter, we have still got some problems lining up all the speakers for our General Meetings for the rest of the year. We hope you didn't miss the splendid session with Graham and Ian Pugh. Our next meeting, on Monday, 19th September (at 7:30pm in the OCR as usual), features a talk by our very own **Jason Mohammed**; he will be talking about his time in broadcasting. Another event not to be missed.

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). –

Let's end with a couple more pictures of the hanging baskets in Station Road, including one outside Cicchetti. Who would have thought a few years ago that Station Road could look so cheerful and inviting?

