

## NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – November 2017

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

### **ONLY MEN ALOUD STAR TO TURN ON THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

This year's lighting ceremony will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – weather permitting – and we are delighted to report that Aled Powys Williams, Classical Brit Award Winner and former member of Only Men Aloud will be with us to turn on the lights. Aled has been a great supporter of Alzheimer's Society Cymru, our Charity for the year, and it is great that he has agreed to be part of the festivities.

The three main trees will be lit as usual by the Festival Queen and her attendants and a brass ensemble has been hired to play Christmas Carols prior to the lighting of the tree in Morganstown. The Station Road lights will be lit by Aled at 7:00pm precisely and Santa will arrive shortly afterwards to talk to the young children. The stalls will be open from 6:00pm selling all sorts of goodies – crafts, gifts, jewellery and much more. Burgers, hot dogs and mulled wine will be available at the R&M Association stall and the WI will be dispensing tea and coffee. Come along and enjoy the festivities, arranged jointly between the R&M Association and the R&M Community Council. It is a lovely way to start the Christmas Season and entrance is free.



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### **FILM CLUB**

A reminder that the final film this year, on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, is "**Churchill**". This is the untold story of Britain's most celebrated leader, uncovering the true nature of Churchill's herculean war-time status and his vital relationship with "Clemmie" - the love that inspired him to greatness.

The list of films that will be available for our next season is due out any day now. We will again be asking all the members of our mailing list to help to choose the films for the next run which will start on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January. Make sure the first thing you record in your new diary is our Film Nights on the fourth Thursday in January, February, and March.

If you would like to be involved in the organisation and running of the Film Club, please contact Eric Blackwell at [rmfilmclub@btinternet.com](mailto:rmfilmclub@btinternet.com).



### **FESTIVAL 2018**

Plans for the Festival are in an advanced planning stage. This year the Concert in the Parc is to be held on the middle Saturday (the 12<sup>th</sup>) due to the visit of the Twinning members from St Philbert for the final weekend. An event we have not had for many years will be back in the programme this year. There will be a barn dance at Radyr Comp on the final Saturday evening organised by the Twinning Fellowship for their visitors and also for the rest of the community. We are trying to organise a cookery event, new to the Festival and are arranging a play by Fluellen, probably "The Lady Vanishes" which everyone will have heard of. The two massively popular lunchtime concerts are arranged, one with the usual singers from the Welsh Academy of Voice. All your other favourite events will be in the programme as usual.

Alzheimer's Society Cymru, our charity for 2017-18, have now set up a local group in R&M under the chairmanship of Mark Richards and they will be in evidence during the Christmas Lighting and the Festival. If anyone wishes to join this group please send him an [email](#).



## **PLANNING, PLASDŴR AND PARKING**

Are you confused, and possibly worried, about all the changes about to happen around R&M? If so, you are not alone. Association representatives attended a 'drop in' session on 28<sup>th</sup> September given by Plasdŵr and Redrow in the New Schoolrooms. We did not come away totally comforted or convinced. We do not accuse either organisation of any ill intention or duplicity in what they are saying but the travel plans (in particular) are complex and we feel no-one really know how it is going to work out in practice. Here are a couple of paragraphs extracted from Plasdŵr's plans:

### **Sustainable Travel Choices**

- The development provides a plethora of walking and cycling routes through the Site. Toucan crossing facilities will be provided on all arms of Llantrisant Road / Heol Isaf Junction, and on Llantrisant Road. The development will be well served by public transport, with a bus every 8-9 minutes on Llantrisant Road and improvements to the environment on Heol Isaf and Land North and South of Llantrisant Road

### **Integration with Neighbouring Areas**

- The development will be well connected to the existing urban form, with links to Radyr and Danescourt. The development will contribute towards changing the character of Llantrisant Road, removing it as a barrier to movement, and facilitating journeys on foot or by bicycle, including journeys between two key trip attractors, Radyr Comprehensive School and the new on-site primary school.

Are we being realistic or cynical when we read that buses will run so frequently on the Llantrisant Road which will cease to be a 'barrier to movement'? In truth, only time will tell and we sincerely hope they are right – for both the existing residents of R&M and the new residents of Plasdŵr. This is far too deep a topic to discuss in this Newsletter and we do recommend that you attend one of the future promised drop-in sessions. We will aim to publicise the dates of the meetings as soon as we hear about them and you can also register to be on their mailing list for further information by following [this link](#). Be warned; quite significant changes are proposed to Heol Isaf as well as along the Llantrisant Road. Parking for Heol Isaf residents may become very interesting...

And, whilst we are dealing with parking, we do note that the new car park at Radyr Station is fully open, and full – as is all the parking in the roads in the immediate neighbourhood. We thought that might happen. The new booking office is now open, as are the platform waiting rooms. It all looks very pretty, and so it should after all that time. We do feel they may have overdone the disabled parking allocation, though. It will be interesting to see how much gets used.



Additionally, are you aware that there are plans to build 36 affordable housing units (picture above) on land at the Sidings (De Clare Drive) – the 0.75 acre square plot at the end of the park area? Taff Housing Association are behind the development which is currently at Pre-Application Consultation stage. It is likely that the full planning application will be submitted in December. Full details of the proposal can be seen [here](#).

The Sidings Residents Association (SRA) held a special meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the development. The meeting was well attended and there was unanimous strong opposition to the development. The primary concern being the over-development of the plot and the excessive scale of the block of flats in particular. Many residents also feel they have been misled by Taylor Wimpey whom they claim, had provided assurances that the land would only ever be for 'community' use (this plot was allocated for the development of a Residential Home in the development masterplan). There is also concern that this development will exacerbate the existing and quite considerable, parking problems within the estate. The access roads to the estate are also under strain due to the original over-development by Taylor Wimpey but also the new train station car park.

Having been provided a clear brief to object to the application a number of actions were generated for the SRA to pursue. The SRA would welcome any advice that the wider community may be able to offer and can be contacted at [radysidings@gmail.com](mailto:radysidings@gmail.com) They would also encourage the community to comment on both the pre-application consultation via the link above and the full planning application in due course.



## OTHER EVENTS

The R&M Community Council have asked to us tell you about two events they are organising. On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December (12:30 for 1:00pm) at the Ty Nant Inn they will be launching the *Radyr & Morganstown Lunch Club*, a Lunch Club, for the over 50s. You can access more details [here](#). And, on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm they are sponsoring a performance of *Cinderella* in the Old Church Rooms. Tickets are just 50p. More details [here](#).

## SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

We have now had our Facebook Page, [Radyr & Morganstown Hub](#) for four years and our Twitter account [@RMHub](#) for 2½ years. Amazingly, the number of followers we have is still increasing month on month by about 20 for Facebook and 15 for Twitter. We currently get about 30,000 views a month for our posts and have 1350 followers on Facebook and 625 on Twitter. We don't think we ever envisaged that these two media would be so popular when we set them up and they have now become a major part of our advertising for community events. We are happy to promote events being put on by local organisations through the Hub and Twitter – just send us the details. And don't forget that you can (and should) add events yourself to the on-line events diary on the [R&M Website](#). Not only does that minimise the chance that organisations find they have planned competing events for the same day, there is an automatic uplift from the events diary into Radyr Chain, which is further advertising. R&M are well served in keeping everyone informed.



## CARDIFF COUNCIL CONSULTATION

We thought you would like to know that Cardiff Council is again asking for feedback on their budget proposals for 2018/19. Apparently, they are facing a £23 million shortfall in the coming year and a £73 million budget shortfall over the next three years. Consultation on the budget proposals is now open and will run until noon on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. You can find all the information about the proposals [here](#) and access the online questionnaire [here](#). **This is a matter which affects us all so we would like to encourage as many people as possible to respond.**

## NEXT MEETING

The next General Meeting of the Association is on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November when our guest speaker will be local resident Chris Dale. He is calling his talk “*Greasy poles and glass ceilings - electioneering in Pompeii*”. Be assured, it will not be a heavy classical treatise; “I don't do boring”, says Chris and anyone who has experienced his quizzes and other entertainments that he has organised over many years will appreciate this will be no ordinary talk.

As usual, as well as the talk we are happy to talk about any matter which is of concern to our members. All that we ask is that, if possible, we have an idea in advance of topics that will be raised. Contact details below.



## FUTURE MEETINGS AND CHARITIES

We are in the process of working out the list of speakers for our General Meetings next year (in June, September, November and January 2019). If anyone would like to suggest a particular speaker, or even a topic they would like covered, please let us know. We like some of our speakers to have a local flavour but we are happy to introduce a very wide scope of subjects. We would also like our Members to suggest the names of Charities that we might support in the future. Each year we work with a specific Charity, which normally receives in excess of £10,000. We like the Charity to have a local relevance and to be sufficiently well established to field key people, like at the Christmas Lighting event. Please let us know if you would like us to consider one.

**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](mailto:rma@radyr.org.uk)), or the Chairman, David Silver ([rmachair@radyr.org.uk](mailto: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.