

GENERAL MEETING

Old Church Rooms on Monday 5th February 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: David Silver [Chairman], Nick Hawkins (Secretary), Ellis Jenkins (Treasurer), Eric Blackwell, David Cargill, Bob Roberts, Ian Thomas, Cllrs Helen Lloyd Jones, Rod McKerlich, David Suthers and Ralph Vaughan & 33 members.

Apologies: Tom Evans [Vice Chairman], Allan Cook, Raymond Rivron, Karen Wright, Cllr Angharad Thomas-Richards, Colin Johnson.

Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roy Noble - '*Back to the Future*'

The Chairman introduced Roy. A native of Brynaman, Carmarthenshire, he has lived for many years in Aberdare. His early career was in education, becoming the Head teacher of two primary schools in Powys. He attained several bursaries and a Page Scholarship to study education systems in Germany and in eight regions in the United States of America. A move to broadcasting at the BBC in Wales saw him work as a presenter on radio and television, attaining a Sony Award in radio and a Royal Television Society Award as Regional Presenter of the Year on television. He has been associated with the BBC for over thirty years and has published several books, including 'Roy Noble's Wales' and 'Noble Ways - Laybys in my Life'. He is a recent Vice Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, a Knight of the Order of St John, a Paul Harris Fellow with Rotary International, the Welsh Ambassador for the RVS, a Fellow of Cardiff Metropolitan University, a Chancellor's Medal holder at the University of South Wales and a member of the National Eisteddfod's 'Gorsedd y Beirdd'. His interests are varied, including sport, as a past rugby and soccer referee, battlefields, having visited many at home and abroad, car travel, especially re-visiting places of his past and, as a quirk, he is a qualified bus-driver.

In a series of amusing anecdotes, Roy explained how he had got to where he is - from his failure to become a pilot with the RAF due to hay fever (he was told he shouldn't have been honest) to the way he gained his headships (the boards couldn't decide which of the other candidates they wanted) to the slightly improbable way he landed his first BBC presenter post (keep on inundating the BBC with silly letters). Early in his life he had met a Romany gypsy who told his fortune - "you will have three careers", she said. He was still wondering what the third will be.

He spoke of his love of history and culture throughout Wales, and the value of Community. He was concerned at the lack of ambition being encouraged in the Valleys. There is talent there; the people need to find their niche. He admitted that he had researched his background and found that he was the result of a rather long line of illegitimate births but, given that many of his forbears had been maidservants in important houses, he felt sure that, if he could prove the lineage, he could claim title to half of Carmarthenshire! He emphasised the value of parents and grandparents in inspiring children - "you are the sculptors", he said. He bemoaned the changing world - buses without conductors, surgeries where you have to book appointments days in advance, County boundaries that keep changing for no good purpose, Facebook and Twitter (which he doesn't use). It is all so confusing, and the changes not necessarily for the better. Nevertheless, we live in the current world and not in the past and we must make the best of it and of the opportunities - and he was still wondering what his third job will be!

In response to a question he questioned the wisdom of moving the BBC headquarters from Llandaff to the City Centre, particularly as it resulted in a bus station being removed before a new one was built. If the old buildings were not fit for purpose, why not rebuild on the existing site? Travelling into the City Centre is going to be much more difficult. He did, though, concede that the way programmes are made is changing - far more outsourcing of programmes and far less use of in-house

production. So he accepted that a new building with more administration than production is a valid way to go.

At the close of the talk, the Chairman thanked Roy for giving such an amusing and stimulating presentation and gave him a token of the Association's appreciation.

Minutes of the previous General Meeting on 20th November 2017

The minutes were approved. There were no matters arising not on the agenda.

Treasurer's Report

On behalf of the Treasurer, Bob Roberts reported that he had balanced the books for 2017. Over the year the Association had donated £6904 from its funds which, together with monies raised elsewhere, meant that the charity had received £10,500 in total. The Association had also generated a surplus of £1100 over the year and unrestricted funds now stood at £8004. This was a very healthy position and the decision had already been taken to use the excess funds to purchase much needed new equipment (mainly BBQs and gazebos) that are necessary to allow functions to be carried on. The cost would be around £1500 and the purchases made before the May Festival.

Entertainment

Eric Blackwell reported that the next film to be shown by the Film Club was a fun film *Lost in Paris*, on Thursday, 22nd February. This would be followed by *Loving Vincent*, a very well reviewed art-based cartoon, on Thursday 22nd March. He also mentioned that the Film Club had built up a stock of films (mainly on blu-ray) and that these could be borrowed at a very reasonable rate.

It was also noted that the RPMG would be performing *Me and My Girl* at the Bishop of Llandaff School from 21st to 24th February (tickets £12 - £10 concessions on Wednesday and Thursday - from www.ticketsource.co.uk/rpmg or 029 2084 2995).

May Festival 2018

The Chairman reported that the Festival Programme was now complete but there had been some last minute changes. He noted the three new events - a 'triangular tournament' on Sunday, 6th May (between the Cricket, Golf and Tennis Clubs), a cookery lecture/demonstration by the writer Angela Gray on Wednesday, 9th May, and a Barn Dance on Saturday 19th May organised by the Twinning Fellowship. The Concert in the Parc would be on the middle Saturday, 12th May, and the Hog Roast at the Golf Club would be on Sunday, 20th May. The final Charity Concert on, 20th May, would focus on the Festival theme of *Memories*. People will be invited to suggest those songs which have particular meaning for them to be included in the performance.

The Secretary reminded everyone that he was starting to build the list of stalls that would be at the Fete on the first Saturday, 5th May. Anyone wishing to have a stall should get in touch with him. He also mentioned that the 'Open Gardens' event, organised by Gill Evans, was on Sunday, 13th May. Anyone interested in 'showing off' their gardens should get in touch with him or Gill.

Plasdŵr

The Chairman said that this item had been included on the agenda because of the interest shown in many quarters - as a result of which Plasdŵr had been made a major subject of the last Association Newsletter. He invited people to make comments or ask questions, but none was raised.

In a short subsequent discussion it was noted that signs had been erected at the end of Heol Isaf stating that Heavy Good Vehicles should not be using the road and that this was now being policed.

General R&M Matters

The Chairman noted that the Radyr and Morganstown Community Council, working with Age Connects Cardiff, had restarted the Lunch Club for those over the age of 50 in the area at the Ty Nant in Morganstown and it had been decided to hold it every two weeks for the time being. Meetings would therefore be held on Fridays 16th February and 2nd, 16th and 30th March. People may wish to attend

or may be able to give up a little time to volunteer, either as a driver or to host. Contact details were on local posters.

Any Other Business

Nothing raised.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, 16th April 2018 commencing at 19.30 in the OCR. This will be the Association's AGM and refreshments will be offered after the formal proceedings.