

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

(A Civic Society affiliated to the Civic Trust for Wales)

GENERAL MEETING

Old Church Rooms on Monday 17th June 2013 at 7.30pm

Present: Cyril Williams (Chairman), David Silver (Vice Chairman), Nick Hawkins (Secretary), Bob Roberts (Treasurer), David Cargill, Allan Cook, Wyn Phillips, Cllrs Mike Diment and Julia Hallinan and 18 members.

Apologies: Cllr Rod McKerlich, Julie Davies, John Hunt, Caroline Noall, Sue Thomas, Pam Williams, Chris Wills, Ralph Vaughan

A Talk by Ron Jones

Mr Jones started his talk by stating that he had been a broadcaster - mainly on BBC Radio 2 and 5 - for 35 years and he did not know where all the time had gone! He talked about his relationship with the microphone; to consider that one is talking to potentially 186M listeners on the BBC World Service is too daunting, it is necessary to regard oneself as talking to just one person. He mentioned that David Parry-Jones used to imagine the microphone was his mother!

Mr Jones said he had met his wife Jill (who now produces Crimewatch and spoke to the Association in September 2012) at the BBC when she was working for Dewi Griffiths (who now presents 'String of Pearls' on Sunday mornings on BBC Wales). At that time he was introduced to the cricketer Peter Walker and the Rugby giant Carwyn James.

In terms of background, he started work as a PE teacher and found himself working as a sports coach in Jamaica. His broadcasting career started there when he was asked to work on local programmes. He mentioned Sir Garfield Sobers as one of his favourite cricketers - famous for his malapropisms. He joined the BBC in Cardiff working with the famous broadcaster Alun Williams. His advice was simple; don't read a script, 'see it and tell people about it' - basic advice for a radio broadcaster which often results in radio being 'more visual than television'. He moved to London and worked with 'the greats' - Brian Johnson, John Arlott, Christopher Martin-Jenkins, Bill McLaren, David Coleman, etc. He learned lessons all the time, notably from Cliff Morgan who was head of BBC Sport and a stickler for accuracy.

Mr Jones' favourite sport is football but he did move into golf commentary for a period. He mentioned being impressed when interviewing Tiger Woods - 'a most cooperative and professional character, unfailingly polite and helpful'. He also had a session commentating on hockey matches in a number of Olympic Games.

Looking back on his career, he said he felt he had been very lucky. He had enjoyed himself immensely and had been privileged to be paid to go round the world visiting all the main sporting venues with the 'best seat in the house'. The only downside was the amount of travelling he had to do and, for that, he was extremely grateful for the forbearance of his wife, Jill.

In answering questions, Mr Jones again mentioned his commitment to radio as a medium as opposed to television, his interviews with Sir Alex Ferguson (a difficult man, very autocratic and always easier to interview when Manchester United lost), and his commitment to football (he found Rugby Union emotional to commentate on; with football he could be dispassionate). But he did, finally, note that not all people proved to be as interesting as you might expect; 'Gary Player merely spoke for South Africa'!

At the conclusion of the talk, the Chairman thanked Mr Jones for his very interesting and entertaining talk and presented him with a bottle of whisky.

Minutes of the previous General Meeting on 4th February 2013

The minutes were approved. In terms of matters arising, it was noted that 'local organisations' were now being promoted regularly on Saturday mornings in Radyr Library (*Secretary's note, these are advertised in the Events Diary on the R&M Website*); Neighbourhood Watch would be featured on the coming Saturday, 22nd June.

Festival 2013

David Cargill reported that the 26th May Festival had recently finished and many regarded it as the best ever. The Arts content - Fluellen's performance of Marilyn Monroe and the two main concerts - had been superb. The weather had been kind with only one 'casualty', the Junior School Boules competition. For him, a highlight of the Festival had been the increased involvement of all three schools, helped no doubt by the appointment of three new head teachers. This bode very well for the future. The Concert on the Parc had also been great, again thanks to the involvement of so many young people: it was a super way to round off the Festival. He was pleased to report that the Charity, Tenovus, would be receiving around £4000 from the various activities. A 'wind down' meeting for those involved would be held shortly.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that he was still finalising the figures for the Festival but confirmed that Tenovus would be receiving a cheque for around £4000. So, overall, the Festival had been good in raising money both for the Charity and delivering a surplus to the Association. The Association's accounts stood at £7911 in the Current Account and £3726 in COIF, total £11,637. The figure was unnaturally high because there were still expenditures to be made, most notably to Tenovus.

General R&M Matters

The Chairman introduced this topic by stating it was a new item on the agenda intended to give Members the opportunity to raise, or report on, any aspect of life in the R&M Community. Matters raised were:

Local Development Plan. Concern was raised over whether the R&M Community was doing enough to guard itself against the outcome of the LDP which is due to 'be placed on deposit' by Cardiff Council in October 2013. It was noted that the Community of Creigiau was demonstrably opposed to what had been included in the earlier published 'Preferred Strategy' and had placards on display; the R&M response seemed very passive in comparison, particularly when considering the potential impact such as the loss of Ty Gwyn Farm. If the LDP process failed (as it might well do due to the blatant lack of detail on the provision of infrastructure to support the proposed level of development) then developers might rush in with 'windfall' planning applications. Communities needed to be ready. In discussion it was noted that the R&M Community Council had matters well in hand and was meeting with neighbouring Community Councils to agree an appropriate way forward. Action needed to be formulated and coordinated by the R&MCC and the Association was ready and willing to play its part. It was, though, noted that the R&M Community might not be as well briefed as it ought to be on the potential impact of the LDP, even though all the relevant papers have been placed on the R&M Website. (*Secretary's note: see the last item on the Noticeboard on the Home Page of the site.*) It might be appropriate for an article to be placed in the next edition of Radyr Chain, although this should really be written by the R&MCC.

Neighbourhood Watch. It was noted that there had been a few incidents in the area recently, notably two burglaries (one of an empty house) and a handbag snatched from a car near the Mound Field. Items such as these were really for discussion at PACT meetings (*Secretary's note: next PACT meeting is at 19:00 on 25th June in the OCR*), however it was important to reinforce the standard advice of keeping houses and sheds etc secure and removing from sight all valuable items in a car. It was also noted that the Police were 'increasingly getting behind' NW.

Radyr Chain. The Association expressed thanks to the Editors of Radyr Chain for excellent coverage, in colour, of the May Festival in the centre pages of the last edition.

Initial Thoughts on the Christmas Tree lighting Ceremony

The Secretary mentioned that, although it seemed very early to be talking about Christmas when summer hardly seemed to have arrived, planning for the 2013 ceremony, which would take place on Friday 6th December, was just about to start. The ceremony, which is jointly funded by the Association and the R&MCC, had been growing in size and importance over the last few years and the wish was to continue that progress. Ideas were therefore being sought on how the ceremony could be improved, how to attract more traders and entertainment, and how generally to make it even better. Ideas could be sent at any time to either the Chairman or the Secretary (email: rma@radyr.org.uk).

Any Other Business

Nothing raised.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, 16th September 2013 at 7.30pm in the Old Church Rooms when the speaker will be our local MP, Kevin Brennan (subject to availability on the day).