

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

GENERAL MEETING

Old Church Rooms on Monday 3rd February 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Cyril Williams (Chairman), David Silver (Vice Chairman), Nick Hawkins (Secretary), Bob Roberts (Treasurer), David Cargill, Allan Cook, Wyn Phillips, Sue Thomas, Cllrs Mike Diment, Rod McKerlich, Clive Morgan, Chris St Leger and 21 members.

Apologies: Julie Davies, Tom Evans.

A Talk by Gwyn Rhys of the Glamorgan Family History Society

Mr Rhys explained the history of the Society. It was founded in 1974 to study local history and genealogy across the whole of Wales. Over the next few years groups such as Gwent and West Wales split away to concentrate on specific areas and in 1983 the present Society was formed to look purely at Glamorgan records; it now has over 2000 members throughout the world. In the early days this was very much a hands-on operation looking at and transcribing Parish records and Census returns. The Mormons were a great help with some of the Censuses. Gradually they built up a body of records and indexes of all the Censuses and Parish records for Glamorgan from the late 1500s to around 1925 - some 500,000 entries. He noted that many Parish records were not in good condition and they only covered baptisms and burials - not births and deaths. While the latter normally occurred close together, baptisms could sometimes be registered very late - a problem when fine detail is important.

Originally, all the records were kept on microfiche - it being a happy coincidence that many businesses were moving to use of the Internet and throwing out their old technology. Now all the records are available on CD.

Research continued until 2000 when it was decided to set up a 'resource centre' in Aberkenfig where all the records could be held and people could drop in for research (open Wednesdays). The decision was also taken to stop researching Census and Parish records as, with limitations, these resources are all available on sites such as Ancestry.com and findmypast.co.uk. Work does, however, continue with recording data on gravestones and school records as these are not covered by such sites. Mr Rhys did comment that much of the record transcription done by the public sites had been outsourced to areas often unfamiliar with old writing and abbreviations. This, coupled with the poor state of some original documentation, meant that Internet searches can be greatly hampered by incorrect spellings etc - he mentioned that one of his ancestors named Wilkins is recorded as 'Wilkens'. So research is not necessarily easy.

The Society has a comprehensive website - www.glamfhs.org.uk - and an on-line shop where the records (on CD) can be purchased. Generally, they start around 1720. The Society also offers a 'look up service' for members wishing to find an individual entry. Annual membership of the Society is £12 (£10 concessions and £15 family membership).

In response to questions, Mr Rhys said that the earliest Parish records were probably those from St Donats (c 1590). Sadly, Glamorgan was not well equipped with old Parish records. Henry VIII had introduced the requirement for such records to be kept but the Welsh had not been very dutiful in keeping them! Records from Roman Catholic parishes were generally not available. In practise, tracing ancestry back to the mid 18C was probably as good as anyone could expect. Courses are available for people wishing to learn how to do research - not from the Glamorgan Family History Society but some are run by the Public Record Office.

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

Minutes of the previous General Meeting on 18th November 2013

The minutes were approved. Matters arising were noted as:

- **The Christmas Tree Lighting event** on 6th December had been a great success, enjoyed by many people young and old. LATCH, the Association's Charity for the year, had run a stall which, together with a bucket collection, had raised £469. Other donations had subsequently been made - notably by the Primary Schools - which meant that so far £1900 has been raised for LATCH.
- **The Cardiff LDP** is currently 'on deposit' and the consultation period has closed; there were 420 submissions. Comments from Radyr and NW Cardiff mainly concerned the lack of infrastructure to support such a large development in the area with the insistence that infrastructure should precede development. Edwina Hart, the Welsh Government Minister for Transport, is currently considering proposals for a Metro system but, with the estimated cost ranging from £400M to £2Bn (depending on the scope), this will not come quickly. The next phase of the LDP will look at 'alternative sites', which gives landowners the opportunity to suggest tracts of land for development not featured in the current LDP. There will be a further public consultation meeting at the Comprehensive School on 10th March, starting at 6:30pm. Finally, it was noted that it was wishful thinking to suggest that boundary changes resulting from the recent Williams Commission report on Councils (which would merge Cardiff Council with the Vale of Glamorgan) will somehow stop the LDP process.
- There will be a trial **Film Night** during the May Festival. If successful, shows will be scheduled starting in the autumn.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the Association's books had already been balanced for 2013. In summary, the Festival had produced a surplus of £497 and the Christmas Lighting event £85. The year had brought various capital expenditures including a new BBQ, spares for the marquee and a number of Christmas items. The Hanging Baskets in Station Road had cost £259. The end of year figures stood at £2658 in C/A, £3739 in COIF, and £1 in the Reserve Account, total £6398. This included restricted funds of £287, being the bucket collection at Christmas for LATCH. So the true Association total was £6111 - a reduction of £533 over the year - a satisfactory position.

Community Facebook Page

David Silver reported that the Association's Facebook page, 'Radyr & Morganstown Hub', was doing well with over 200 people currently 'liking' it. Together with other people commenting on the page, postings are often seen by around 350 people. The only problem was that there were too few posts from R&M organisations - either telling people about future events or reporting on ones just finished. He emphasised this was a very simple process either to do yourself if you have a Facebook page, or details can just be sent to events@radyr.or.uk. He noted that the age profile of people liking the page was, as expected, well focussed on younger people in the R&M Community - 50% from 25-45 years old and over 70% from 25 to 64.

Festival 2014

David Cargill reported that Festival preparations were well advanced. All the normal organisations were 'on board'; the theme 'This Sporting Life' agreed; and 35 events currently planned. The Community Council had kindly approved a grant, which would be passed onto the schools to assist with the Parade; Cardiff Council had sadly withdrawn their grant. He also noted that Radyr Golf Club had agreed to adopt LATCH as their Charity for the year. He hoped that LATCH would therefore receive over £10,000 in total. The next meeting of the Festival meeting was scheduled for 5th February.

General R&M Matters

It was noted that the OCR had now, after 25 years, passed fully into the ownership of the Community Council with the final mortgage payment. A celebratory event had been held recently to mark the occasion. The Hall Management Committee were now starting to draw up plans for the refurbishment of the facility over the next two to three years. Anyone with any views on how the OCR might be enhanced for the future was asked to contact the Secretary, Nick Hawkins.

Any Other Business

RPMG. It was noted that the RPMG would be performing 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' at the Bishop of Llandaff School from 26th February to 1st March. Tickets were now available from Maggie Roberts, 2084 2995.

Good Neighbours. It was noted, with regret, the withdrawal by Cardiff Council of the regular GN grant. As a result the decision had been taken to close down the scheme. A letter had been written by a Pentyrch resident to the SW Echo suggesting that the scheme, which covers Radyr, Morganstown, Gwaelod y Garth, Pentyrch, Danescourt and Creigiau, should not be allowed to fail and that the local Community Councils should support it. There was also a discussion on the R&M Soapbox where the suggestion had been made that GN could be supported by voluntary subscription. Cllr McKerlich explained that a number of attempts had been made to secure future funding but that it had proved impossible to find a source of a grant for revenue expenditure. There was a possibility that the 'meet for lunch' club might be saved.

Neighbourhood Watch. David Cargill reported that Radyr & Morganstown were now part of the Cardiff Neighbourhood Watch group and a new pamphlet had been produced setting out their aims and objects. He noted that NW was also linked to the regular PACT meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, 31st March 2014 at 7.30pm in the Old Church Rooms which will be the Association's AGM.