

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

President: Rhodri Morgan

Vice Presidents: Antonia Wigley BBChB

Dave Cargill BEM, JP, FCCA

Nick Hawkins

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – January 2013

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

Honours. We are sure you know already, but we are delighted to repeat here that **David Cargill**, one of our Vice-Presidents and a former Chairman of the Association, was awarded the British Empire Medal in this year's Queen's New Years Honours List. The citation was 'for services to the community in Radyr and Morganstown' – which just about sums it up! David has, of course, personally led the running of the May Festival for over 25 years. This year (see below) is his 26th. In 2002 the Festival changed formally to supporting a Charity and many thousands of pounds have now been raised, not counting the considerable sums that have been raised by our local organisations over those 25 years. Apart from his work with the Association, David has been closely linked with many other R&M organisations, notably the Tennis and Golf Clubs, as well as having served as a Magistrate. The award is thoroughly deserved.

We were bound to mention David first but another Radyr resident – **Keith Griffin** – was awarded the OBE on the same occasion in recognition of his services to music in Wales. Keith may not be as well known to local residents but he is one of the leading musical administrators in the UK, having spent a 40-year career providing invaluable support, advice, practical help and planning to a host of musical organisations - from community brass bands to the visit of Pope John Paul II to Wales in 1982. He founded the Welsh Amateur Music Federation (later to become Ty Cerdd) as well as the National Youth Brass Band in 1982, followed soon after by the National Choir, National Jazz and National Youth Wind Band organisations.

We send our heartiest congratulations to them both.

Christmas. On 7th December we joined with the Community Council in running the Christmas Tree lighting event based in Station Road but extending to the trees in Lychgate Gardens and Morganstown. This event seems to be getting bigger each year (we do not object to that) and we extended the stalls further down Station Road to Radyr Eyecare and the Community Council also paid for the extending of the lights. It all looked very splendid, the weather was kind (remember the year before?), and there was an excellent attendance. Special mention needs to go to Councillor Mike Diment who managed to get an electrical point installed in the new tree location in Lychgate gardens at the very last minute (Cardiff Council had been dragging their heels in giving permission). New lights then had to be purchased in time for the tree erection shortly after. There were some complaints that not enough lights had been fitted to the tree but the R&MCC will buy more next year. For the record, the new tree location is where we will be placing the Festival events this year now that the previous 'Community Plot' has been built over. And, also for the record, the shopkeepers held a Christmas window competition which this year was won by Nicky's Sandwich Shop, second was Headway, closely followed by Excel Hair Salon in Morganstown. Congratulations to them all.

Station Road. We are delighted to report that Station Road has regained a café. The closure of the former 'Seasons' left a gap like a broken tooth in the shopping precinct. We missed the sight of people sitting on the pavement drinking coffee and the occasional glass of wine. Simon Kealy (of The White House Restaurant in St Fagans) has just opened 'Toast', his new café and delicatessen. At the time of writing Toast only occupies the premises previously used by 'Seasons' and only coffees and snacks are being served. He plans to knock through to the old greengrocer's shop next door. The coffee shop and delicatessen will then be established there and the present cafe will revert to a restaurant serving 'bar-type' meals. *Please go out of your way to support this new venture.*

Cardiff Local Development Plan. We would like to record our thanks to the Community Council for the excellent job they did in responding on the R&M Community's behalf to the LDP proposals. As we mentioned in the last Newsletter, the proposals, if implemented, will have a dramatic effect on the whole area in and around R&M. It is not in the remit of the Association to stand against required development but the lack of any detail within the suggested plans covering essential infrastructure matters such as transport are deeply concerning. The Community Council sponsored a 'transport appraisal' which

demonstrated just how much Cardiff Council appeared to be 'sweeping matters under the table' in their desperation to get approval. If you want to read that report, see the R&MCC's response, or even read the full LDP proposal, there are links on the Noticeboard on the R&M website. (You can get access in the library if you have not got a computer). The Association did make a brief submission to Cardiff Council on behalf of our members supporting the R&MCC's line. It is now too late to make a formal submission to Cardiff Council but, if you still wish to express opposition to the proposals, Cllr Rod McKerlich has suggested you can still write to the local MP and AM expressing any concerns you have about the scale of the proposed development.

Festival 2013. Plans for the May Festival are coming along well. It will run from Saturday 4th May to Sunday 19th May and will include the usual variety of events. Among the Arts Highlights will be a visit on Saturday 11th May by the choir **Cantemus** with 'Mainly Mozart', a programme self evident from its title. Cantemus were the big hit of the 2011 Festival and it is a delight to welcome them back so quickly. Another group making a welcome return is the **Welsh Academy of Voice**. The WAV was founded by international tenor, Dennis O'Neill, to give young opera singers, destined for stardom, a final polish. We are happy to welcome them back after a break of two years; they have been unable to appear at the last two R&M Festivals because of European singing commitments. It is hoped that their programme will reflect some of the centenaries and bi-centenaries being celebrated this year including Verdi, Wagner and Benjamin Britten. This will be the lunch time event on Wednesday 15th May. The Festival committee feel very honoured to have succeeded in getting **Professor Chris Williams** for the literary event on Friday 17th May. Chris Williams edited the *Diaries of Richard Burton* published in 2012, one of the fastest selling books of the past few months which has been widely reviewed and praised. After the runaway success of the show *Joyce Grenfell* last year the organisers are working on a worthy successor. More details soon.

Meetings. We had a very successful meeting on 19th November when Dr Rhys Jones gave a fascinating talk on his BBC Wales programme "Rhys Jones' Wildlife Patrol" and his early days at Cardiff University. Our next meeting will be on **Monday 4th February** when **Chris Partridge** (who is the Keep Wales Tidy's Tidy Towns Project Officer for Cardiff) will be talking about his work in keeping our streets clean. We know that is a topic that will strike a chord with many of you. If you have any suggestions to make to him, or problems you wish to raise, ensure you come along. The following meeting will be our **AGM on 22nd April**. That probably sounds a bit boring but, to make the process more palatable, we do offer a free drink and nibbles after the proceedings. As we have said before, we do have some vacancies on the Association's Executive Committee and we would love to have some new members. Although some of us are quite busy actually running events, there is no need for all Committee members to be so involved. **If you are Community-minded and have ideas as to what the Association should do over the next few years to make R&M (notably in the newer estates) a great place to live and work, do consider joining us on the Committee.** We do not meet very frequently and your input will be hugely valuable. If you want to know more, do have a chat with us. Contact details below.

Barbecue. We are not really into having 'small ads' in these Newsletters but we thought we would mention that the Association has quite a nice gas BBQ surplus to our requirements. We bought it a little while ago but have found it is not quite up the job of cooking 200 burgers and sausages in the space of an hour! However, it would be ideal for normal domestic use. We need the storage space it is taking up so, if anyone is interested in having it, do get in touch. We are not looking for any payment, although a donation to Tenovus, the Association's charity for the year, would undoubtedly be welcome.

Past editions of the Newsletter. We have now created a space on the R&M website for our Newsletters. We will still send the Newsletter out to our Members via email but are now placing a copy (after a short delay – it is only fair you should hear the news first) at www.radyr.org.uk/16388. All our past editions are there in case you want to go back and read what we said when!

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 ring the Chairman, Cyril Williams, on 029 2084 2250.

Don't forget the next meeting (with speaker Chris Partridge) on 4th February and the AGM on 22nd April. Make sure those dates are in your diary.