



THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

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NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – January 2015

Welcome to our regular Newsletter. Another year has flown by and we wish all our members a successful 2015.

New Members. We have often told you that we would like to have some new blood on the Association's Executive Committee (a rather forbidding title – apologies), and numbers have been declining recently for various reasons. Without over-egging the pudding that does make our job a little more difficult as we actually do quite a lot and sharing tasks makes them that much easier. So we are delighted to report that we have two new members on our team – Raymond Rivron and Ralph Vaughan. Many of you will know them via other R&M activities (it is always the way...) and do not be alarmed by the fact they are both retired doctors! They are an extremely welcome addition to the Executive and have already been hard at work. We could still do with a few more on the Committee. Do get in touch if you are even remotely interested. We do work quite hard, but we do have fun doing it.

Things to entertain you: We recently sent you a quick message about **Boyhood**, the Golden Globe winning (and Oscar nominated) film we are showing at the Old Church Rooms **today, 22 January** at 7:30pm. Some tickets (£4) are still available. If you come on the door. In fact, those selecting the films seem to be showing a particular skill at choosing winning films. Our choice last September, Grand Budapest Hotel, won the award for the best comedy in the same Golden Globe competition.

We wonder how well the February and March choices will do? The choice for **26th February** is **What we did on our holiday** – a heart-warming, uplifting comedy for all the family, from the creators of the BBC comedy series **Outnumbered**. Doug (David Tennant) and Abi (Rosamund Pike) and their three children travel to the Scottish Highlands for Doug's father Gordie's (Billy Connolly) birthday party. It's soon clear that when it comes to keeping a secret under wraps from the rest of the family, their children are their biggest liability... The choice for **6th March** is **Mr Turner** – another fantastic film which we will tell you all about in the next Newsletter.

We should also mention the RPMG production of **Pirates of Penzance**. This production will be staged at the Bishop of Llandaff High School, from **Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st February**. Tickets (£10, concessions £8 on Wednesday and Thursday only) are available from 2084 2995 or Ticketsource.co.uk.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony We hope you came on Friday 5th December and enjoyed the show. Have a look at the picture at the end of this Newsletter. The weather was again kind – well, almost – and all the stalls were kept busy. Unfortunately, we were a bit short on stalls this year as a few stallholders (not local to R&M) simply didn't turn up; very disappointing. If you think you would like to run a stall (no charge) at next year's event then let us know and we will be in touch nearer the time (and see also the Festival item below). We are also delighted to report that the NSPCC collected £500 on the evening – an excellent start to their fund raising.

Planning Update: We suspect you do not want to read vast amounts yet again about this issue. Suffice it to say that the Cardiff Local Development Plan hearings are now underway and the R&M Community is being very well represented by Cllr Rod McKerlich and Helena Fox, the Clerk to the R&M Community Council, together with representatives from Cardiff Civic Society and the Llandaff Society. They are presenting very valid and well-documented arguments against some of the excesses of the proposed plan (notably transport infrastructure) but it is proving an uphill job to challenge the 'professional input' (for which read bland sweeping statements) from Welsh Government, Cardiff Council Officers, and the Developers. We wish our representatives all success.

Radyr Library: We expect you are now well aware of the threat to close Radyr Library. That would be a great loss and also appears a strange decision given that so much money (around £600K) was spent refurbishing it a couple of years ago. We note the work being done by the R&MCC to keep the Library open via other means (you can read Cllr McKerlich's statement here <http://www.radyr.org.uk/soapbox/29551?p=5>) but we would have preferred that the R&MCC had actually stated somewhere that they are opposed to the closure. As it is, Association representatives have fully supported the fight against the closure and took the lead in organising the photoshoot at the Library. In this we have joined with other Cardiff areas, like Whitchurch and Rhiwbina, in saying 'this is wrong'. There is a further photoshoot at the Library organised for **7th February** at 11:00. We await the outcome with interest.

Old Church Rooms: Another quick update. All the design work for the upgrade has been finished and the plans have been sent out to tender and also submitted for planning permission. If you really want to see the plans, they can be accessed on line at <http://planning.cardiff.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal= CARDIFF DCAPR 110474> (sorry about the length of that link) but the closing date for comments has now passed. Once the tenders are returned we will know whether the project is truly affordable, but the R&MCC has made provision in the 2015/16 budget for the work to continue. In the meantime we are working on more details aspects like kitchen and overall lighting design. As we said in the last Newsletter, if anyone has special skills to offer to this project, then do get in touch.

Festival 2015: The 2015 Festival Programme is almost fully defined and will be going to press towards the end of February. We mentioned last time that, because of the Patagonia link, the theme of the Festival is Carnival and South America, so the Parade on the first Saturday should be a colourful affair. We have also booked suitably themed events. The classical guitarist, **Rishart Arwel**, is coming to give a lunch time concert of classical guitar music and music with a South American flavour. **The Welsh Academy of Voice**, that finishing school for the operatic stars of the future, will also to be giving a lunch time concert. **Eddie Butler**, the journalist and well known Rugby commentator, will be talking about his first published novel, **The Head of Gonzo Davies**, also on a rugby theme. The closing concert, proceeds from which go to the Festival Charity the NSPCC, will be given by the Radyr based but internationally known Choir, **The Ardwyn Singers**.

You will be hearing lots more about the Festival in the next couple of months so no more details for the moment apart from issuing a very early invitation to potential stallholders who may like to be at the Fete on the first Saturday (**2nd May**). There is small charge for a stall but a huge attendance. Please get in touch if you are interested. We would also like to mention that we are considering setting up a new specific Festival website which will provide loads more information than we can put into a paper programme and link into e-ticketing for as many events as possible. You may not realise how unique R&M is in having a Festival of this length and quality and we feel we need to promote it even more widely to ensure full attendance at our events. The website, linked to our Facebook page, is designed to do just that.

Charity for 2015/16: We have decided that Velindre Hospital will be the Association's Charity for the next year, which starts in June. Many R&M residents will be aware of the excellent cancer care work that is done at Velindre and we are very happy to be joining with them in raising funds. Again, we will be telling you much more about Velindre over the coming months – and we hope to host a speaker from them at our meeting on 16th November. We look forward to working with them.

Out of Hospital Resuscitation: When the Good Neighbours Scheme closed and finalised their accounts, they passed us some money to spend on 'something suitable'. We have decided to top up the donation and purchase basic equipment for resuscitation which will be installed in the OCR. It is a frightening experience when an untrained member of the public is confronted with a fellow citizen who has collapsed and is unconscious. The kit we are buying is identical to one already installed in the Golf Club. It has to be operated by trained personnel, but we will be providing that training to all interested parties free of charge. You only have precious few moments to re-establish lung ventilation when confronted with a victim of an accident or collapse. Emergency services may take too long to arrive at the scene and oxygen saturation levels can fall below critical levels leaving irreversible brain damage. This kit can bridge that gap. And, for information, we know that the OCR Hall Management Committee are also considering acquiring a defibrillator. The two items complement each other.

Next RMA Meeting. Our next meeting is on **2nd February**, commencing at 19.30 in the OCR. The speaker will be our own Allan Cook, who will be talking about 'Soaps' on TV. And don't forget our AGM will be on **30th March**. Please put that date in your diary.

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 the Chairman, David Silver (rmachair@radyr.org.uk)

