

# THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

**President:** Rhodri Morgan AM

**Vice Presidents:** Antonia Wigley MD  
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## NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – MARCH 2011

**Welcome** to our third newsletter. We continue to have good feedback but please continue to tell us whether we are fulfilling a useful purpose in producing it. We are also interested in knowing if we are covering the right topics.

**Festival 2011** We hope that your receipt of this Newsletter will be quickly followed by your copy of Radyr Chain – which will include the full Festival Programme and a book of Draw Tickets. This year's chosen charity is the Radyr & District Good Neighbours Scheme and we have decided to take the bold step of sending everyone in our community a book of tickets (as opposed to sending them just to you as Association members). We are very grateful to Jeff Davison of J&P Davison, the printers, who agreed to do all the extra work of printing the tickets and putting them into the Festival Programme and Radyr Library who have agreed (amongst others) to receive the stubs and money. Please buy as many tickets as you can – sell them to your friends and colleagues – as it is a worthy cause.

Regarding the Festival (which runs from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> May) itself, there are over 40 events for you to choose from. Many of the events are organised by individual local organisations themselves, but a number of the larger events are run by the Association. To do this we need as many helpers as possible. Besides the obvious things like running BBQs and bars, there are many other jobs to do like erecting and dismantling marquees, setting up tables, chairs or staging and clearing up after events. To make the Festival a success we need help, your help. If you are willing to help in any way from erecting marquees to stewarding the Fun Run please get in touch. Contact details are at the end.

We are very pleased with the number of arts events that have been incorporated in the Festival. On the first Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, Fluellen, the Swansea based theatre company who have brought so many high class productions to R&M, will open their new production of one of Chekov's greatest comedies, UNCLE VANYA, at Morganstown Village Hall. It is difficult to believe that Chekov is the second most performed playwright in the world – after Shakespeare – as his fame depends on a quartet of plays. The comedy begins when the Professor brings his new, young and beautiful second wife for a summer visit. Uncle Vanya falls instantly in love with her with disastrous results.

The main concert on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> May in Christ Church features a relatively new chamber choir, CANTEMUS, who are rapidly making a reputation for themselves. Already highly regarded in France, Spain, Italy and Norway as well as on the BBC they were given the rare privilege of opening the 2010 Swansea Festival of Music with Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610. Later this summer they will open the new concert hall at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Subtitled 'Two Continents and Four Centuries' the concert will consist of choral music from composers such as Bach, Byrd, Tallis, Pachelbel and Vaughan Williams. It will be conducted by their new conductor Huw Williams with organ and cello continuo and solos. The cello soloist will be Radyr's own Simon Davison.

Another Radyr resident making a welcome return to the Festival is baritone JEREMY HUW WILLIAMS. Jeremy will be giving the lunchtime concert at 12.45 pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May at the Methodist Church. He will be accompanied by leading pianist Nigel Foster.

After two years of poets as the literary event the Festival organisers decided that a novelist was called for. They have been lucky enough to persuade leading crime writer BERNARD KNIGHT to come along on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> May. Author of more works than he can remember, he is best known for his Crowner John novels. Born in Cardiff, he became the first director of the Wales Institute of Forensic Medicine and is a leading member of the Crime Writers Association.

Tickets range in price from £2 to £9 and can be bought via the Festival Box Office, namely Veg Vendor, Station Road; Allan Cook 2084 3176; or Nick Hawkins 2084 2561.

**Festival Walk** This year's Festival Walk will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May and will begin at the entrance to Radyr Station at 7 pm. The Walk will follow the route offered in the first of the Association's 'Walks in and around Radyr'. This walk will look at Industrial Radyr. All are welcome.

**The Brownies** meet on Tuesday evenings 5.45 pm - 7.15 pm. and Wednesday evenings 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm. They are in need of helpers on both of these evenings. There is a two year waiting list, with over 30 children desperate to become Brownies. If you are able to lend a hand on either of these evenings please contact Julie Davies 2084 2923.

**Morganstown Motte.** It is hoped that DEFRA will soon declare the area of the Motte free from the fungal infection which has slowed down progress. At the moment it is still fenced off and inaccessible. Once access to the Motte has been restored plans can be drawn up for a survey of the Motte and possible excavations of parts of the area. Local schools are being invited to get involved. The County Council, who acquired the Morganstown Rugby Club building some years ago, are planning to put the building up for lease in the near future. It is hoped that, whoever takes over the building, some kind of interpretation area for the Motte and the lower Taff valley can be included. We are pleased to announce that Allan Cook has agreed to lead the working group taking this activity forward.

**There is now a major problem with the new Library we were promised in Park Road.** Cardiff Council have taken the £650,000 they had allocated in the financial year 2010/11 for a new library for R&M out of the budget for 2011/12. Consequently there would not be funds for a new library and our County Councillor tells us we may now have to settle for a refurbishment. Both the Association and the Community Council are appalled by this decision and both organisations are fighting on the issue with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive. The library saga has been ongoing since 2003 and Cardiff Council have done very little over a long period of time and now they have totally let our community down. We will report any update in the next Newsletter. Incidentally, we have reluctantly, as an Association, now abandoned the hope that we will see a future community use for the 'Community Plot' on the Sidings. So enjoy the Festival event that will be held there on 15<sup>th</sup> May; it will probably be the last.

**Potholes** The Association has been working with our local County Councillor in detailing a large number of potholes following the snow and icy conditions over Christmas. A number of residents responded to the appeal on the R&M website in identifying trouble spots. Most of this work has been completed and it is hoped that the remaining areas in Dan y Bryn Avenue and Bryn Derwen will be repaired soon.

**Traders Forum** Just a quick note to say that the Forum (at present made up of traders in Station Road) has had a further meeting. They are keen to take an active part in the Festival and will almost certainly be mounting a further set of window displays on the Festival's theme of 'Alice in Wonderland'. And, whilst mentioning Station Road, those of you with very keen eyes may have spotted a capped-off pipe which has appeared next to the Chemists. This is a water supply installed by Welsh Water which will eventually be connected to an array of hanging baskets. Keith John has completed his painting of 15 animals which will be set alongside the lone Heron above Veg Vendor. We do hope installation will take place soon.

**Next meeting.** A reminder that our next meeting, on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011, will be our AGM. We hope those of you who came to our last meeting, when Tara King spoke to us about rubbish in Cardiff, found it of interest. We were very pleased to be joined at that meeting by members of the R&M WI. We are sorry that our AGM clashes with their next meeting, but subsequent meetings will not. So, please come to the AGM, tell us what you think we ought to be doing in the next year, volunteer to serve on the Executive, and enjoy a free drink on the Association. Finally in respect of the AGM, we hope then to make the second of our Garry Newbould awards. This award is to one or more young people who, in the previous year, have demonstrated leadership and commitment to enhancing community life within the Radyr & Morganstown locality. Recipients must live within the boundary of the Radyr & Morganstown Community Council area. Despite working with the schools over the past year, no nominations have been put forward. If you know of someone that deserves this award, please let us know.

**Contacts.** If you would like to comment on any aspect of this Newsletter or require further information, then either email the Secretary, Nick Hawkins, at [rma@radyr.org.uk](mailto:rma@radyr.org.uk) or ring the Chairman, Cyril Williams, on 029 2084 2250.