

# THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

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## NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – September 2014

**Welcome** to the September edition of our regular Newsletter:

**Christmas Tree Lighting Event:** Planning for Christmas Tree lighting on **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> December** has commenced. The first meeting of the organising committee has been arranged for **13<sup>th</sup> October**. The Secretary has written to all the shopkeepers and will be following up the letters with personal visits at the end of September. Some actions have already taken place to acquire stalls and to ensure that the road closure request has been sent off. The format of the event will be similar to previous years with two tree lightings in the Sidings and Morganstown, with carols to be sung by pupils from the local primary schools, followed by the lighting of the tree in Windsor Gardens. The street lights in Station Rd will be lit by a celebrity organised by our charity for this year, the NSPCC, and Santa will be coming along to visit the children.

**LDP Update:** Cardiff Council have now approved the LDP and sent it formally to the Welsh Government for review. No account was taken of objections by any group including ourselves. There is nothing in the plan about phasing of the building or putting infrastructure in place before building. No further discussions will take place until the hearing by the Inspectors in early 2015. There is now information on Cardiff's website about the Examination. The lead Inspector is Mrs R Phillips assisted by Mr R Jenkins. Those who said they want to speak at the Examination should be contacted by the programme officer shortly. A Pre-Hearing Meeting will be held in early December. The Hearing Sessions will last 4-6 weeks starting 6-8 weeks after the Pre-Hearing Meeting, so probably sometime in January 2015.

In the meantime it is expected that various developers will be making individual planning applications prior to the adoption of the LDP. It is very important that these are opposed by as many local people and organisations as possible. The R&MCC Clerk has put a link to template responses on the R&M Webpage and she will do this for each individual application that comes in. Every effort needs to be made to get as many people as possible to use them. These will be advertised via our Facebook page, the RMA Newsletter, Radyr Chain, the website etc.

**Partnership and Community Together [PACT]:** The PACT Meetings are held bimonthly. The main purposes of these meetings are to enable the residents of Radyr and Morganstown to meet with Councillor Rod McKerlich and representatives of HM Police Force and to voice their concerns. Of late, the main concern has been the possible effects that the Cardiff Local Development Plan will have on the R&M Areas. Other concerns have included education, parking at the village shops, traffic flows along Heol Isaf and access to and from the railway station. The next meeting will be held in the Old Church Rooms on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September** commencing at 7.00pm. The notes of previous meetings and the agenda for the next meeting can be found on the R&M Website.

**Festival 2015:** The 2015 Festival will run from **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**, hopefully packed with a variety of events. The first meeting of the Festival committee has been arranged for **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September**. The theme will be "*Carnival*" with a Welsh flavour, as we celebrate 150 years of Welsh settlers in Patagonia. This year's charity is the NSPCC and we hope that all the organisations within the village will adopt this charity for the current year. Discussions are being carried out to determine the charity for 2015/16 and this will be announced soon! The following year we will be celebrating 100 years since the birth of Roald Dahl, who lived as a boy in the big house "Ty Mynydd", now Maes yr Awel.

**Radyr Sidings Update:** The Radyr Sidings development continues to be affected by a number of on-going issues. For those of you who keep an eye on the 'Soapbox' on the R&M website you will likely already be aware of the strength of feeling from those impacted. For those not so familiar the issues include but are not limited to:

- A substantial vacant plot of un-kept land. This has been left to a mixture of bare soil and loose rubble and is an eyesore at the heart of the development.
- A children's play area that has been only partially laid with suitable surface finishing. This leaves the park almost unusable for 2/3rds of the year, as it more closely resembles a mud pit during this time. This is a long way away from the state-of-the-art playing facility promised to the community.
- Large areas of block paving that have been installed so poorly that they lifted and moved almost immediately. These require regular remedial work to keep the surface safe. The works conducted are merely to patch the worst areas and the root cause remains unaddressed.

During recent meetings between residents from the Sidings and the Councillor it has been agreed that the best way forward would be to form a Residents Association. A number of residents are currently working to bring this to reality. The RMA is supporting their efforts by providing help, guidance and advice where possible. We are sure you would agree it is unacceptable that wholly avoidable issues such as these should have arisen. With the LDP potentially bringing the advent of further large-scale development on our doorstep we should all support the Sidings residents in this venture. A clear message must be sent that Radyr & Morganstown will not allow the developers and planners to wash their hands of their responsibilities to our community. We shall keep you informed of the Radyr Sidings Residents Association's progress over the coming months.

**Dickens The Chimes.** As a pre-Christmas treat the R&M Association are bringing Dickens' classic ghost story *The Chimes* to Morganstown Village Hall on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December** at 7.30pm. *The Chimes* is presented by professional Swansea based theatre company Lighthouse, who brought their delightful production of Dylan Thomas' Reminiscences of Childhood to the May Festival. It is the second of the ghost stories written by Dickens, the first being A Christmas Carol. *The Chimes* packs as powerful a punch now as it did at the time. It is a Victorian "It's a Wonderful Life" filled with all of the master story-teller's colourful characters and heart-rending poignancy. With a company of five, carols, music and bells, this show is sure to be fast and funny, inventive and entertaining; but most of all a Christmas treat to reinforce the message of this festive time of the year.

**The Schoolmistress.** The Radyr Drama Society's next production will be the delightful Victorian farce *The Schoolmistress* by Arthur Wing Pinero. Pinero is probably the best known of the late Victorian playwrights and certainly the most often revived. He is best known today for his three classic farces, *Dandy Dick*, *The Magistrate* and *The Schoolmistress* as well as his many other plays which include *Trelawny of the "Wells"* and *The Second Mrs Tanquery*. The play is directed by Allan Cook, who directed Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, *The Wind in Willows* and the classic comedy *Sailor Beware* for the Society. The set is designed by Raymond Rivron who is well known for his brilliantly detailed sets for the Radyr Parish Music Group. *The Schoolmistress* can be seen at Morganstown Village Hall on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of November** at 7.30 pm. Tickets can be obtained from the usual sources.

**Dr William Price.** The last talk of this year at the Local History Society will be given by Dean Powell, author of an extensive biography on the subject of Dr. William Price. Dean calls his talk "Eccentric", but William Price was much more than that. Born near Caerphilly in 1800 his long life filled the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was a physician, nationalist, Chartist, druid, early vegetarian, proponent of equal rights and of cremation. He was the first person to conduct a cremation in the UK in modern times when he burnt the body of his son, Jesus Christ Price, on a mountain top near Llantrisant. He is often pictured wearing a "Davy Crocket" hat. A statue has been erected to William Price in the centre of Llantrisant. Dean Powell's talk can be heard in the Old Church Rooms on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

**FILM CLUB.** The film club in the Old Church Rooms got off to a good start in September with *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. Future films will be :-  
**October 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 7.30pm. *The Two Faces of January*. A stylish adaptation of the Patricia Highsmith thriller set in 1962 Athens. Kirsten Dunst and Viggo Mortensen star. Very elegant and very "Hitchcock" it has such a 1960's feel that the BBFC felt moved to issue a warning about on-screen smoking. *Cert (12A) duration 94 minutes.*  
**October 28<sup>th</sup>** at 2.30pm. **HALF TERM MATINEE** of *Malificent*. This Disney attraction tells the back story of how Snow White's wicked stepmother became so evil. Starring Angelina Jolie and Elle Fanning, masses of money was spent on this spectacularly entertaining attraction. Suitable for adults and children. *Cert (PG), duration 95 minutes.*  
**November 27<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30pm. *Belle*. This film is inspired by the true story of Dido Elizabeth Belle, the illegitimate mixed race daughter of Admiral Sir John Lindsay. *Cert(12A) Duration 104 minutes.*

Tickets, price £4, can be obtained from Ener-chi in Station Road, Radyr; Nick Hawkins 2084 2561; or Allan Cook 2084 3176. **There isn't a drinks license so bring your own drinks and popcorn.**

**Next RMA Meeting.** Our next meeting is on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30pm in the OCR. The guest speaker will be Andrew Williams, Head Teacher at Radyr Comprehensive School.

**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](mailto:rma@radyr.org.uk)), or the Chairman, Dr David Silver ([rmachair@radyr.org.uk](mailto:rmachair@radyr.org.uk))