

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – May 2017

Welcome to our regular Newsletter – and a particular welcome to our new members.

RHODRI MORGAN

In our last Newsletter we reported the sudden death of Prof Garel Rhys. On this occasion we record the equally sudden death of our much-loved President Rhodri Morgan. Despite being of national standing, he always found time to come back to his roots in Radyr. There have been many obituaries published giving details of his life and achievements so we won't repeat them here. Our brief statement can be found in the News section of the R&M website, if you haven't seen it. He will be greatly missed by us and many others and, of course, we now need to appoint a new President.



RADYR FESTIVAL 2017

Our 30th May Festival finished on 14th May. If you want to read about what happened and look at the many pictures of the numerous events, go to the dedicated festival website www.rmfestival.org.uk/. From our point of view it was a success, greatly helped we have to say by the good weather, and it was great to find we had raised at least £6000 for the chosen Charity, St John Ambulance Wales. That figure will grow as more contributions come in and we will tell you the final sum (collected over the year) in the next Newsletter.

Rather than say more ourselves, we thought we would leave it to three very important people to give their impression of the two weeks – the Festival Queen and her two Princesses. Here are their reports:

Festival Queen - Caitlin Jewitt

Being the 2017 Festival Queen has been an amazing experience. I have participated in the festival for many years and I always wanted to be the Festival Queen. When the date for the interviews arrived, I was so excited and I was thrilled to be chosen as the Festival Queen. It has been a fortnight of attending many different events. The highlights for me have been leading the parade in the open topped car and judging the dog show at Lychgate gardens. I also really enjoyed the 'Up, up and away' concert at Morganstown Village Hall, which featured 'Rubicon Dance'.

I would like to thank Maggie and all the organisers for giving me the opportunity to experience these wonderful events. During the Festival fortnight, I was able to meet many people in local community and in my role as Festival Queen help raise money for St. John Cymru Wales. It has been a busy and spectacular Festival and an experience I will never forget and always treasure.



Phoebe, Caitlin and Sharmeela with 'chaperone' Maggie Roberts. Behind are David Silver, Association Chair, and Cllr Mike Diment, Vice-Chair of the R&MCC.

Festival Princess – Phoebe Coombs

Being Festival Princess is truly wonderful! I've enjoyed everything about it, especially being with Sharmeela and Caitlin because they made me laugh a lot! However, above all, I loved the brass band in Christ Church and the Gymkhana. It has been a very busy fortnight and I have been lucky enough to go to many different functions from a fashion show to listening to a male voice choir and an amazing opera singer. One of my favourite experiences was the dog show. As an animal lover, I was elated to be involved.

The charity this year was St John Ambulance and as Sharmeela and I are both cadets at St John, I was surprised and excited to be helping to raise money for an organisation that we're involved with. At the opening of the festival, Caitlin, Sharmeela and I took part in an emergency scenario, demonstrating our skills. Caitlin pretended to faint and Sharmeela and I attended her! That was great fun! I'd like to thank anyone who donated to St John. It really is a fabulous organisation.

I'd recommend to anyone to try for this role, as I've met so many interesting people and have made new friends.

Festival Princess – Sharmeela Bragg

I loved making good friendships with the Queen and other Princess, we have so many great memories now. I loved going to the Gymkhana and the dog show, having the thrilling experience of going to the different activities in the Radyr festival. There were lots of things I'd never been to or heard of before.

It was such fun, I met new friends and had a lovely time it was an honour to be chosen and a pleasure to be part of the festival; I will always remember the thrill of riding in a Porsche and the noise of all those people welcoming us. We were made to feel so special. I also want to thank Maggie for looking after us and arranging the things for us to visit.

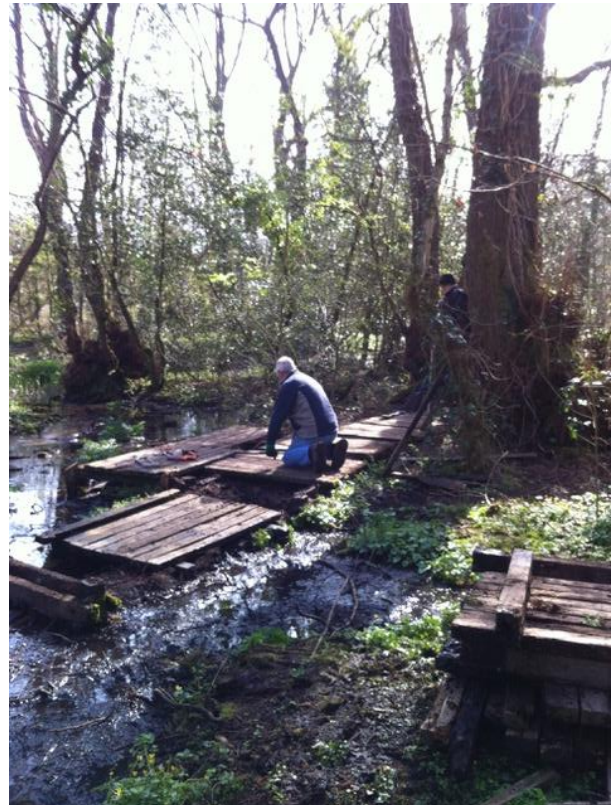
We can't conclude this report without mentioning that it was David Cargill's last stand as Chair of the Festival Committee – yes, he has been doing it for 30 years; over which time we have raised a huge amount of money for Charity. Our thanks and congratulations go to him.

Incidentally, if anyone has any thoughts about the Festival, events that could be added or things that could be improved, do get in touch. Contact details are at the end.

RADYR WOODS

Many of you who visit the Radyr Woods Community Area for strolling, picnicking, jogging, dog walking or just passing through will have noticed the change in the large boardwalk crossing the main stream in the centre of the wood. The oak original, finished in 2000, had decayed to an unsafe level. The Radyr Woods Volunteer Wardens dismantled it to generate mini platforms to act as 'rafts' for the Cardiff Conservation Volunteers to construct the replacement boardwalk. This work started on Easter Sunday and will be completed in June, which explains the half-finished look about it. All the structural material is recycled plastic with the top boards made in Ebbw Vale. Hopefully this will last longer than the original oak which suffered from the constantly damp conditions. The project is being funded by the Radyr and Morganstown Community Council.

The day-to-day management and maintenance of the 14 acre woods area is by local residents organised as the 'Radyr Woods Wardens', and they are always happy to welcome new volunteers from anyone who enjoys this special and historic area. There are occasional 'working parties' for specific repairs and but many just help out with the 'litter-pick' rota or just keep an eye out for any issues with the trees or with the various paths, benches, steps and bridges. If you want more information about the ways you could help safeguard this important amenity in our community, please contact the Warden's Secretary on 029 2066 6999 (office hours - phone answered as 'Key Legal Services').



MAY ELECTIONS

A quick note to say that Cllr Rod McKerlich was re-elected as our Councillor at the recent election. Many congratulations to him. Sadly, no new members signed up to be Community Councillors and some stood down. The net result is that there are now no less than five vacancies on the R&MCC. It is probable they will seek volunteers for co-option onto the Council as the work they do does have to be shared around. Anyone like to join them?

CHARITY FOR THE COMING YEAR

Each year we adopt a new Charity for our fundraising. The year starts and ends in July, so we shall shortly be saying goodbye to St John Ambulance. We have enjoyed working with them and know they will use the money raised to good effect. We have chosen Alzheimer's Society Cymru as our Charity for the coming year. We have already had some exploratory talks and know they have a few good ideas for events through the year. The first big event for them will be the Christmas Tree Lighting which is on 8th December.





HANGING BASKETS: Hot off the press, we have just put up the hanging baskets in Station Road. These are jointly funded by the Association and the Community Council and we hope they will look as splendid this year as they did last. The weather certainly looks good at the moment and, with all the baskets being watered automatically by the clever systems installed by Raymond Rivron, they should take off quickly.

Here is a picture of the 'erection set'.

FILM CLUB

The Film Club has been running for two years and become a fixture in the Association's programme. We now have quite a large number of Club members, excellent projection equipment and sufficient black-out capability in the OCR to show films throughout the year. So, we would now like to take the Club to the next level.

Essentially, we need to involve our Club members more actively. What type of films would you like to see being shown? Are our film shows the right length? We used to show a short 'B Film'; do people miss that? Would you like more discussion about the films being shown or about to be shown? Should we put on films for children? Would they be supported? Should we show films more often, and extend the programme through the summer months? And many more questions...

We will be setting up a meeting in the near future to look at all this and anything else you may think interesting. We may even provide a free drink whilst we do it! In the meantime, if you have any thoughts about any of these questions, or any other observations, do get in touch with Eric Blackwell who looks after the Film Club. He is on rmfilmclub@btinternet.com.

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MEMBERSHIP

We decided to use this year's Festival as the start of a recruitment drive to increase our membership. We thought we should say why! Many people are aware of the Association through the activities we organise – the May Festival, the Christmas Lighting event, etc – plus the R&M website and the Facebook page. But few attend our meetings and even fewer actually correspond with us in any way. Our aim is 'to make Radyr & Morganstown a great place to live and work' – that is what it actually says on the citation signed by Her Majesty the Queen when we won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. We have been going for 30 years and we would like to think we can keep going for another 30 years, but we will only do that if we continue to provide a social core to our Community. We need feedback on what we do; we need to be told about the activities that people would like to have in place here – we want to be relevant to all sectors and ages of our Community; and we need to identify those few people who would like to take a part in shaping our future. From time to time we do campaign on behalf of some issue and greater numbers gives greater legitimacy to our submissions. So do come to our meetings, do ask us why things are happening (or not happening), and do get involved.

NEXT MEETING

The next General Meeting of the Association is on Monday 19th June where our guest speaker will be Historian Brian Davies, who will be talking about the coal trade between Cardiff and France. Brian decided to retire in October 2014 after 25 years service to the Pontypridd Town Council as curator of the Pontypridd Museum. He bought a canal boat (steam launch) to sail on the Brecon & Abergavenny canal and now gives a number of talks on local history.

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).