

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – January 2018

Welcome to our regular Newsletter and a Happy New Year to all our Members.

FILM CLUB

The Film Club's Winter season starts on **Thursday 25th January** when we shall be showing "The Limehouse Golem", a film is set in London in 1880. A series of murders has shaken the community in the dangerous Limehouse district. So monstrous and ruthless are these crimes the press claim they are the work of The Golem - a legendary creature from dark times... It is based on Peter Ackroyd's best-selling novel 'Dan Leno And The Limehouse Golem'. Bill Nighy leads a strong cast.

On 22nd February we will lighten the mood with a humorous film "Lost in Paris". This about Fiona, a Canadian librarian, who flies to Paris and discovers that her 88-year-old aunt is missing. As Fiona scours the city looking for her, she encounters Dom, a friendly but annoying tramp who won't leave her alone. The film is a comedy of the absurd that is always entertaining. *Come along to cheer up those miserable February nights.*

The last film of the session is "Loving Vincent" on **22nd March**. The film is a long and arduous labour of love by Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman who turn van Gogh's work into an unusual kind of biopic. Using tens of thousands of oil paintings commissioned from scores of artists, the filmmakers transform famous works of modern art into a hypnotic and beguiling cartoon. Tickets for all these films (£4) can be purchased online at TicketSource, or locally at Ener chi in Station Road, and from Nick Hawkins or Allan Cook.

Incidentally, we have built up quite a stock of disks of the films we have shown (mostly blu ray format). We are considering lending the disks, possibly for a small fee, to film club members. Do let us know if you are interested.

FESTIVAL 2018



By the time you read this we will have finalised the programme of events. The cookery event mentioned in the last Newsletter now seems very likely to go ahead with *Angela Grey*, who runs a cookery school at Llanerch vineyard and will be preparing some dishes live. She is currently publishing a series of five books and her third will be about summer cooking. We expect some samples of dishes she prepares will be available for the audience to taste and other dishes will be raffled. It should be an exciting evening and a brand new event for us. Our second lunchtime concert, on **Friday 18th May**, will be a guitar recital by *Rishart Arwel* who performed in our 2016 Festival. As

usual, details of all events will be given in the Festival Programme which will come out with the April Radyr Chain. More detail of all the events and competitions will be available on our dedicated Festival website www.rmfestival.org.uk which will be up and running by April.

Fundraising for the Alzheimer's Society Cymru

Alzheimer's Society Cymru, our charity for 2017-18, have set up a local group in R&M under the chairmanship of Mark Richards. If anyone wishes to join this group please send him an email. mrichradyr@aol.com. The local group held a coffee morning at Radyr Library on Saturday 13th January and raised almost £100. A variety of events over Christmas, which included collections and contributions at the lighting event, plus collections held in the local schools at their Christmas concerts gives a current fundraising total of around £5400. This is a great achievement at this stage of the year

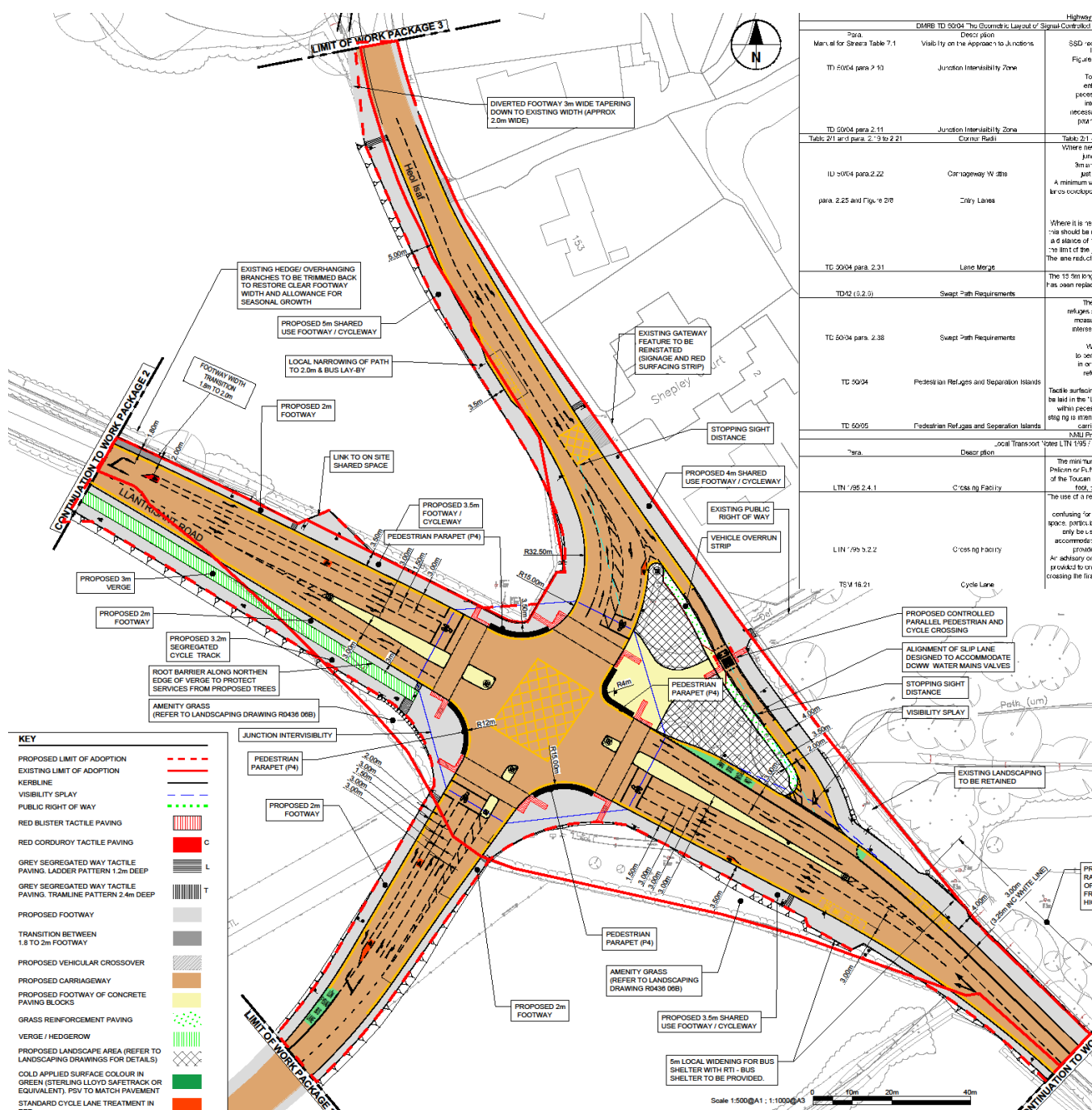


CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

We hope you all enjoyed the lighting ceremony on Friday, 8th December. We put a report about it on the R&M website, which you can read [here](#), so we won't repeat it all! Suffice to say that all went well although the weather threatened, but the results were excellent. We are always looking to see how we can improve things so, if you have any ideas for next Christmas, do get in touch.

PLANNING and PLASDWR

We make no apologies for returning again to this topic with a major feature. We are concerned that our members – and all R&M residents – are simply unaware of the extent of the changes that are likely to be made to the roads in and around our Community. The message from Cllr Rod McKerlich regarding the introduction of traffic lights on the Llantrisant Road as a pre-cursor to the major road works has been posted on the R&M website. However, you may not have seen the diagram below which shows just what the junction with Heol Isaf is designed to become. (This is from a Redrow diagram dated October 2017.)



This is a very major development and will take time to create, and the fact that the roadworks will only be operating 09:30-15:30 is not going to speed things along. Cllr McKerlich has requested that more intensive work is carried out (see his [monthly report](#)) and we do hope he will be listened to. In that report he also suggests that readers may like to read the Vectos travel plan, which is the basis for all the work but, at 105 pages, we suspect few will do so. He did, though, give much more detail when he spoke at our last General Meeting in November – you can read the draft minutes [here](#) (apologies for all these links; without them this Newsletter would be even bigger!). We are concerned that residents, notably along Heol Isaf, have not been briefed on the likely changes and may wish to make comments. We accept that the changes are not definite and we do not wish to be alarmist, but they are very likely. Contact your Councillors if you want more information now or wish to be involved.

We do not want to cast aspersions at Redrow or Plasdŵr but we remain concerned at the current lack of reality being expressed by them in their public briefing sessions. One of our members attended the 'drop-in session' on 23rd November. Here is his report:

I attended the Drop-In session with the builders. The smart young man seemed resigned to the fact that most of his visitors that day were not interested in the lovely new houses he wanted to promote, only the fact that, as clearly shown on the free maps, Radyr was about to be separated from greater Cardiff by a settlement of perhaps 20,000 people (based on 7,000 houses and average family size of three). As the result of our conversation I came away with a number of disturbing insights.

1 They seemed to be only interested with the transport needs within their territory - children walking to schools, mothers to the shops etc.

2 They believe, and kept stressing, that the hapless car drivers would be subjected to buses flying along past them in their own special designated bus lanes into Cardiff, which would convince them to opt for the bus instead. He seemed certain these bus lanes along the Llantrisant Road and approaching Llandaff were the answer to the morning commute.

3 All transport arrangements further than their boundary were the sole responsibility of Cardiff City Council, who they hoped would deliver a viable solution.

4 The phased nature of the development would result in about 10 years of builders' traffic on the existing road network.

5 The first primary school might be ready for 2020 with no idea where the children might go to school in the meantime.

6 Traditionally, he said the expected mean age of buyers was 40 but the company had expressed surprise at the number of younger families in their more recent customer analysis.

7 At least one Health Centre will be provided (when was not stated), but the local Hospitals will have to absorb the increased population.

8 They didn't seem to appreciate that people buying houses in Plasdŵr might do so as a way to access Cardiff and its environs for employment and that a large proportion of the commercial and business activity is spread over a wide area not all serviced by the bus system.

9 Then, a more senior representative did seem to concede that buses 'speeding' along their designated lanes up to Llandaff would have to share nearly a mile of the current two lane road through Llandaff and down Cathedral Road. They seemed to think there would be some 'holding back' effect on normal traffic to allow the buses priority passage. This being in addition to the current concerns with air quality in Llandaff prompting talk of restricting traffic flow in some way! Pointing out the three secondary schools in Llandaff, and the rather wide catchment area for two of them, produced the helpful suggestion that the pupils should all come by bus.

10 The Metro provision had been allowed for but they did not know the actual route through the estate and were keeping two options open. Also, there were no plans they were aware of to build any other new access routes into Cardiff, just a possible park-and-ride at junction 33 on the M4.

It appeared to me that they are hoping to make the journey by private car so car unfriendly that, in desperation, the commuting population will somehow find another way into Cardiff. I hadn't appreciated that Redrow were not really sensitive to, or responsible for, any transport chaos they caused 'outside' of their development and that this was all in the capable hands of Cardiff City Council. But I doubt Redrow are going to promote the advantages of bus travel to the purchasers of their new houses, and suggest they won't need their cars.

We shall say no more on this topic, for the moment, but do come along to our next General Meeting (see below) if you would like to discuss any of the issues.

WAR MEMORIAL

A quick mention about the war memorial on Heol Isaf. We are delighted to hear that it is being renovated paid for by funds provided by CADW and the War Memorial Trust. You can read more about the renovation work on the R&M website and a slightly more comprehensive article will be in the forthcoming Radyr Chain.



RADYR SIDING DEVELOPMENT

As advised in our last newsletter, Taff Housing Association proposes to build 36 dwellings and 34 parking spaces on a 0.75 acre plot of land on the Radyr Sidings estate. These could house an additional 100 people, adding to the existing pressures on local amenities such as primary schools, the medical centre, road infrastructure, parking and the sewerage system. The Housing Association has now submitted a formal planning application which you read [here](#). The deadline for submitting comments for the planning committee's consideration is 26 January 2018. For more information, including how to object to the proposal, visit the [Sidings Residents Association website](#).

Festival 2018 postscript!

Maggie and Julie are holding Auditions for the 2018 Festival Queen and attendants on Tuesday 13th February at 6.30pm in the Radyr Guide centre. Get in touch with her (2084 2995) if someone you know would like to be considered. The auditions are open to all girls living in the R&M Community Council area, regardless of where they go to school – but they must be available to attend any Festival event if required. If you would like to run a stall at the Festival Fete on Saturday, 5th May, please contact the Secretary.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

We realise that a large section of this Newsletter has dwelt on the negative aspects of building, traffic etc. Now is the time to be more positive. The R&M Association's top remit is '*To make Radyr and Morganstown a great place in which to live and work*'. We are here to help build and sustain our Community. Despite our concerns over the future, the R&M Community has a good track record in welcoming new residents and we still have lots of activities and organisations within our boundary. So, if you are not active within the Community, why not make a New Year's Resolution to be so? A lot of organisations are looking out for new members (you don't have to join any committees!) and new ideas. Go and look at the R&M website for an idea of what is on offer. Let us know if you can't find something in which you are interested; we may be able to help start something new.

YES, WE CAN HELP!

To add to the last point, we are aware that some existing local organisations may not be promoting themselves as effectively as they might or as they might wish. We have a lot of experience in such matters with making and placing posters, use of the website, social media, use of our local halls and equipment, planning events, etc. If you think we can help build your organisation, attract new members, etc, do get in touch.

NEXT MEETING

The next General Meeting of the Association is on Monday 5th February when our guest speaker will be broadcaster, Roy Noble. He is calling his talk 'Back to the future' but he says it will, of course, include BBC life, a life in education and life in general. Roy is a fantastic speaker and has a wealth of knowledge and anecdotes about his broadcasting life, and elsewhere. We are delighted that he has agreed to come and talk to us. Not to be missed!

As usual, as well as the talk we are happy to talk about any matter which is of concern to our members. All that we ask is that, if possible, we have an idea in advance of topics that will be raised. Contact details below.



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).