

## NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – May 2019

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

### **FESTIVAL 2019 – DAVID SILVER REPORTS**



What a wonderful Festival we have had, yet again. Not only great events, but also glorious weather which has covered all 16 days and 34 events. The Festival started with the Parade and Fete which was opened by Kate Lewis of ITV Wales who also introduced our charity for this year "Action for Children".

The Concert in the Parc was very well attended this year, with all the local schools performing. As has often been the case, the BBQ sold out and the Bar ran out of beer and almost everything else except wine – even though we increased beer stock by 50%.

We held a cookery event for the second time, this year with Beca Lyne-Perkis, a finalist from the Great British Bake Off. A fabulous success. I particularly want to thank Allan Cook who organised this, and the concerts and Play for the RMA. I don't know how he is going to find people next near to match the events he arranged this year.

The Open Gardens, the Choir Concert organised by Rotary, and the Vintage Tea Party each raised £1000 or more for the charity. At the final event, the charity concert for Action for Children, the Chair of the Festival committee, David Silver, presented a cheque for £10,000 to the charity, being the sum of all contributions raised by the community so far. This will increase as more funds are received from Festival events. A final figure should be available in July.

From the feedback we have received, this year's Festival was a great success. If anyone has any ideas for new events next year, or wishes to help us with the next Festival, please let us know on [rma@radyr.org.uk](mailto:rma@radyr.org.uk).

Finally I would like to thank the Festival Committee, our Festival Queen and her attendants – Megan, Crystal and Maycee – the RMA Executive and all the people who helped us to set up the events. Without you, the Festival would not take place. Thanks also to all those who sold tickets especially "The Little Flower Den".

I look forward to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Festival next year where our charity will be Tenovus.

### **COSTS AND CAUTION**

As an extension to the above article, members might like to know some of the trials and tribulations of running the Festival. For many years we have coped with the need to get permissions for holding events – from the sale of alcohol and performance licenses to the use of public spaces. However, this year, we have been 'hit' by rising costs and a host of (to our mind) unnecessary restrictions. The Concert in the Parc came within a whisker of being cancelled because the police (who have to be consulted in connection with the granting of the licence to run the event) suddenly decided that the Association were not competent to run it without employing licensed security staff. They argued that, as people could bring their own alcohol onto the site, they might get rowdy. The fact that such matters were covered in our Risk Assessment (we prepare these for every event) and we have never had a problem in all the years we have run the event was irrelevant. The result? We had to agree to employ three 'professional' security people at a cost of around £250 before permission was granted. You will have seen them if you attended the Concert. They were nice people and they stood around chatting as there was nothing (as expected) for them to do. On top of this, Cardiff Council (who charge us £168 plus a security bond to use the field and did not even bother to cut the grass) introduced a whole new raft of conditions. This all means that the Festival is not cheap to put on. We are very fortunate that we have received grants and sponsorship from the Community Council (for the CIP), Plasdŵr (for the printing of the Festival Programme) and Redrow (for the Festival Website), for which we are very grateful and without which we would not be able to continue.



## COMMUNITY WEBSITE

The next edition of Radyr Chain (which will be out very shortly) contains an editorial on what has been happening to the Community Website, [www.radyr.org.uk](http://www.radyr.org.uk). Suffice to say in this Newsletter, that the Webteam (an independent team that had been in existence for 15 years) found itself in a position where it could no longer continue and the site was handed back to the R&MCC to run. In the meantime the R&MCC announced that they had built their own website. We are, though, delighted to report that, following negotiations, the R&MCC has agreed to pass the Community Website over to the Association to run. It will have a slightly different content – notably no Forum, and no Community Council details. OCR content (including bookings) will also pass over to the R&MCC website. We will be looking to redesign some aspects of the website, but that will take time. In the meantime, it will continue to be the ‘one stop shop’ for all social events and organisations in R&M.

## THE CHANGING FACE OF PURCHASING TICKETS AND PAYMENTS AT EVENTS

As members will know, we have been using Social Media, the R&MHub which we run, to advertise all our Festival events. We also have our Festival website, [www.rmfestival.org.uk](http://www.rmfestival.org.uk) with links to ticket purchases and a store of photos from most of the events. This year we have sold many more tickets online. Even lunchtime concerts, where we expect an audience predominantly made up of retired members of the community, we are selling 10-15 tickets online. Between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May we had 44,500 views of our posts on Twitter, and 28,600 views on Facebook, a total of over 73,000 views. This has now become one of the major methods of advertising in the community.

We see the Hub as a community asset, and not just for our events. ***If any of your organisations are running events and want them advertised to our 1800 followers on Facebook and 1000 on Twitter just send the information/poster to us on [events@radyr.org.uk](mailto:events@radyr.org.uk) and we will advertise it for you.*** We advertise events, local classes etc, but do not accept any business advertising.

You may also have noticed at the Fete and the Concert in the Park we now accept cards for payment for the BBQ and bar. To many people these days this is far more convenient than handling cash. We appreciate that this is not for everyone, but we try to fit in with the lifestyle of as many of our residents as possible.

## ARE WE AT RISK OF LOSING LOCAL ORGANISATIONS?

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the demise of the local Gardening Club, a club which had provided information and enjoyment to R&M residents for many years. This followed the fairly recent closure of two other fund-raising organisations, the NSPCC and George Thomas Hospice Committees.

Residents may not realise just how rare the R&M Community is in still having so many local organisations and activities, particularly given its proximity to a capital city. Historically, many of the organisations came into being when R&M was clearly separated from Cardiff and was a much smaller, close-knit community. We are exceedingly fortunate that that sense of ‘Community’ has not yet been lost, as it has in most other dormitory areas of Cardiff. We would like to think that one of the reasons behind that is the Association itself, which was founded to nurture organisations and run events like the May Festival. That is one reason that we were given the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service in 2015.

Nevertheless, we observe that quite a lot of organisations are run by people who are getting quite elderly and that is also reflected in the memberships. Unless that changes by clubs proactively reaching out to younger members (by doing different things, holding meetings at different times or in different ways, etc) it is inevitable that our active community will wither and die. We are told that ‘younger people’ (and we are not quoting specific ages here) are too busy with work and their lives to get involved. Perhaps so, but just a few people with ideas and initiative can make a huge difference.



**Please let us have your comments on this dilemma.** Surely there is still interest in having a local gardening club? Could a new one be started with a new remit? New residents are arriving all the time from other localities. Did they do things in their old communities that are not done here? The Association is happy to assist in the formation of any new entity – we can help with communication and connections and we may even be able to help financially. Should we consider setting up a youth section of the Association? Let us know your thoughts and ideas, however loosely formed they may be.

## **THE HISTORY SOCIETY**

This is one society that is thriving and we are happy to promote its activities. They still have places;

1. For a visit to the National Museum Store in Nantgarw on **Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June** at 11am. See what they have behind the scenes, from lamp posts to helicopters and railway memorabilia to steam engines. Also their 10,000 collection of old photographs. A wonderful collection. Admission free.

2. **Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> June**. A visit to the Steam Museum and Lydiard Park at Swindon, leaving Radyr at 8.30am (pick ups at the Guide Centre, rear of Ffordd Las, and the Methodist Church). Coach £9, both Steam and Lydiard Park £5.25 entry. You might prefer to spend the morning at one of the best McArthur Glen's in Europe! All are possible.

For more details, or to book, contact Allan Cook on 2084 3176 or by e-mail

[cookatradyr222@gmail.com](mailto:cookatradyr222@gmail.com)

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We would like to add a short note welcoming the new members who have joined the RMA over the course of the Festival, as this will be your first Newsletter. You are very welcome and we hope to see you at our General Meetings (see next) and at other activities.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next General Meeting of the Association is on **Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> June** when Rev'd Vicki Burrows, the newly appointed Vicar of the Parish of Radyr, will be talking to us about her journey to becoming our new Vicar. Without giving away any secrets, let us just say she has a very interesting story to tell!

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.



Vicki and her Rough Collie, Belle

**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, David Silver ([rmachair@radyr.org.uk](mailto:rmachair@radyr.org.uk)).