

DRAFT



THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom



Present: David Silver (Chairman), Tom Evans (Vice-Chairman), David Cargill (Treasurer), Nick Hawkins (Secretary), Eric Blackwell, Allan Cook, Ian Thomas, Richard Wales, Cllrs Rod McKerlich, Clive Morgan & David Suthers plus 14 members.

Apologies: Ade Currie, Bob Roberts and Iona Sassoon.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that the Association had not held an AGM in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 15th April 2019

The minutes were approved.

Chairman's Report

Please see summary at Appendix A.

The Chairman presented his report, which had been circulated earlier. There were no questions. He did, however, highlight the continuing growth of communications via Newsletters and Social Media; the September 'mini-Festival' mounted at short notice; the innovation of the live streaming of events (Remembrance Sunday and Christmas lighting) and again thanked Cllr McKerlich who switched on the lights as one of his first actions as the newly appointed Lord Mayor of Cardiff. He also highlighted the benefits that had arisen from the acquisition of a Zoom license and moving all meetings on line. This was not part of any long-term plan, merely a reaction to circumstances, but had actually resulted in higher meeting attendance. Thought would now be given to whether some future meetings will be conducted on line as a matter of practice.

The Chairman concluded by reminding all of the on line Hustings on 19th April for the Senedd election. All the major parties had agreed to participate and there was still time to suggest questions to be put to the candidates.

Treasurer's Report and 2021 Budget

The Treasurer reported that the Association's accounts had been examined and sent out to members via email in advance of the meeting. In summary, 2020 had been a strange year financially in that sponsorship had been received from the Community Council, Plasdŵr and Redrow for the May Festival which had then had to be cancelled. Some expenditure (notably for the printing of the Festival Programme and draw tickets) had already been incurred but the result was a surplus for the year of £1690. (Local advertisers in the Festival Programme, which was distributed to all households as usual, were not charged for their entries.) Redrow had kindly agreed to sponsor the 2021 Festival website but other sponsorship was not being sought for 2021 so there was a forecast deficit for the year of around £1-2K which would bring the Association's finances back into balance.

There were no questions.

Election of Officers

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff and local Councillor Rod McKerlich took the chair for the election of the Chairman. David Silver was elected as the new Chairman unopposed. Tom Evans was elected as Vice Chairman, Nick Hawkins as Secretary and David Cargill as the new Treasurer.

The following members were proposed, seconded and elected to the Committee unopposed: Eric Blackwell, Allan Cook, Ade Currie, Moy Lewis, Ian Thomas, Richard Wales. It was noted that Bob Roberts had stood down from the Committee after many years of service (*Secretary's note: see AOB*).

The Chairman noted that there were still vacancies on the Executive team and anyone interested in getting involved should contact him.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Mr Geoffrey Saunders was proposed, seconded and agreed.

DRAFT

Any Other Business

The following items were noted:

Bob Roberts. The Chairman noted that Bob Roberts had stood down from the Executive Committee of the Association, being both a founder member of the Association and having acted as Treasurer for most of that time. His service to the Association and his commitment to its purposes had been exemplary and he wished to propose that Bob be appointed a Vice-President on his retirement. After a short discussion this was agreed by all present. The Chairman agreed to inform Bob of this appointment.

Festivals. The Chairman briefed the meeting on the details of the forthcoming mini-May Festival. (Full details can be found on the Festival website, www.rmfestival.org.uk). He specifically highlighted the Tenovus Quiz, on Thursday, 6th May, for which more teams would be very welcome. He also mentioned the Festival on 11th-26th September which would be reintroducing the 'Summer Show' which used to be an annual event many years ago. It will consist of garden produce competitions (e.g. 'biggest marrow'), home produce (e.g. cakes and jams), and crafts. Anyone able to help put on this event should contact the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

THE RADYR & MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020/21

We started the year started full of optimism. Not only was a full 35 event Festival being planned for May, but we were including extra events to commemorate the 25th anniversary of VE day.

However, Covid soon put an end to that and we had to postpone the May 2020 Festival completely.

It was clear our normal programme of events could not take place. However, the RMA wanted to do everything we possibly could for our community and to get some normality back into our activities.

Communications and information

We continued to produce Newsletters regularly for our members throughout the year. Our community website was upgraded and all relevant items and notices with local news were posted. We used our Social Media platform, the R&MHub, on both Facebook and Twitter to get immediate information out to residents. Our following on social media continued to grow and we now have 2580 Followers on Facebook and 1280 on Twitter. A fantastic number for the size of our community and a great facility for spreading information quickly. We also continued to hold our bimonthly General Meetings online using Zoom.

Mini Festival

Having postponed the May Festival we decided to hold an online Festival in September. This was organised at very short notice. We included a Tenovus Quiz which was run online where teams split into breakout rooms and was a great success. There was a family treasure trail and a number of competitions including a junk challenge for children of all ages, story time online for younger children and a photo competition for everyone. There were also a series of walks around all of R&M by Mickey, Minnie and their friends. This brought a lot of joy to all the community.

Charities

In a normal year, we expect to raise between £12 and £20K for our charity of the year. Our charity for 2019-20 was Tenovus Cancer Care. However, due to the cancellation of the May Festival and the suspension of all other face to face activities, the amount of money that could be raised was well below this. Therefore we decided to extend their period to cover 2020-21 up to the end of the September Festival. Following the Festival, Headway will take over as our charity from 2021-22. Since the RMA was setup we have now raised around £200,000 for local charities.

Remembrance Day

This year's Remembrance Day event had to be held without any in-person attendance. The RMA filmed the service from the War Memorial and live streamed it for all the community to see on YouTube via our website. It was also recorded and many people watched the event both live and later on.

Speakers at our General Meetings

Our first programmed talk by Chris Dale on "Raiders of the past" was held as normal. It illustrated how stealing artefacts had taken always taken place across all civilisations. After a short gap we arranged a talk by Prof. Ron Eccles on "COVID-19, the great pandemic" where he explained a lot about the virus. This was seen by ~70 residents and gave a good insight into the disease. James Grundy then gave an excellent talk called "90 minutes of freedom" where he talked about the only prison football team in Wales.

We had arranged a talk by Transport for Wales called "The Metro, and what it means for Cardiff and R&M but this was overtaken by events with the proposed construction at Gelynis Farm. This was a lively meeting with over 70 attendees and many questions were raised. We then had a second topical talk by Prof. Simon Smail on Public Health and COVID where he related it to Bubonic Plague, Spanish Flu etc . Our final talk of the year, was by Simon Bradwick and Paul Barrat about a new project they are running called "the Living Taff".

Transport for Wales then asked if we would be willing to host another General Meeting where they would like to explain the work they are planning to start before they "break ground".

THE RADYR & MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020/21

In fact we held more general meetings online this year than we normally hold in-person and they were all very well attended. With the agreement of speakers, we have recorded the talks, so anyone missing the meeting can view it later.

Christmas Event

This year's event was very different as we were in lockdown. The Community Council arranged for extra lights to be installed in Heol Isaf and Station Road and organised another visit by Mickey and his friends. There was also a trip around R&M by Santa on a motorised sleigh which was greatly enjoyed by all. The RMA put up the Christmas Trees above the shops in Station Road and arranged the switching on of the lights. This was done by a socially distanced Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress with Santa in attendance. Having learnt from our experience on Remembrance Sunday, we filmed the switch on and again streamed it online so residents could see it happening live.

Zoom Licence

The RMA have purchased a Zoom licence. Besides using this for our own meetings we are happy to allow local clubs and societies to use it for their meetings. It has, so far, been used by the Local History society, the local WI groups and their book clubs. Hopefully this allows members of local groups to keep in contact with each other when they may not have been able to do so themselves.

Future Plans

We are planning to hold an online Hustings for the Senedd Elections to give residents a chance to have their questions put to the candidates. This will be on Monday 19th April. As a consultee, we have set up a small group to look at our response to the new Local Development Plan being prepared by Cardiff Council as well as other local planning applications.

Festivals 2021

We are currently planning two Festivals for 2021. The first will be online from 1st – 9th May with, hopefully, six events and two competitions. Full details of this will be given in the April Radyr Chain but we are planning two talks, one by Saverio Florimonte (from Cicchetti) on Wine and a second by Chris Dale on The Roman Ships of Lake Nemi: A Tale of Found and Lost. We are planning to hold another online quiz with Radyr Friends of Tenovus, have a bingo evening and stream a live cookery demonstration. If Welsh Government Regulations allow, we will also have an Open Gardens event.

Simultaneously we are planning for a second Festival in September from 11th – 25th where we are aiming to hold many of the normal events plus some new ones. We are currently looking at starting the Festival with a produce/craft/ cake show, holding the Concert in the Parc in the middle and ending with a Fete. There will also be a number of concerts, a walk and other in-person events assuming we are allowed to hold them though there may still be some restrictions.

Summary

Overall it has been a very busy year with a complete change in the way we operate, holding all our meetings and events online. Hopefully most members enjoyed the mini-Festival, our live streamed events and our talks and have found our communications interesting and informative. Whilst our initial meetings and the May mini-Festival will be held online, we are looking forward to a time, later in the year, when hopefully some normality will be brought back into what we do as we bring the community of Radyr and Morganstown together and show how it is a great place to Live and Work.