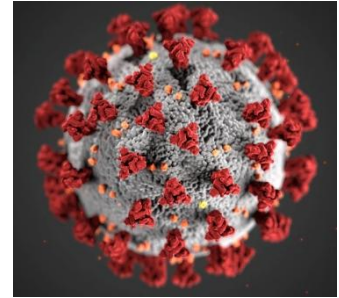


## NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – March 2020

**Welcome** to our regular Newsletter. It is said (we have checked and it is not true) that there is a Chinese curse – ‘May you live in interesting times’ – which seems somewhat appropriate just at the moment both for its sentiment and its (doubtful) provenance. However, we are now going through very strange, difficult and even dangerous times so this edition is both shorter than normal and has a specific focus.

### **CORONAVIRUS – CORVIS 19 – LOCAL IMPACT**

The current UK Government opinion is that the UK is about three weeks behind Italy in its impact, and we must all have seen what is happening there. Here, in R&M, it currently feels like a bit of a phoney war but action is already being taken to protect everyone, particularly the vulnerable, from what we can expect to arrive. Here are a few items.



#### **Local self help**

A team of people, led by the R&M Community Council, is arranging for the publication of ‘postcards’ which neighbours can pass to people who are vulnerable or need support for other reasons. Details of the scheme are available on our website, [www.radyr.org.uk](http://www.radyr.org.uk), and we suggest everyone should read about it and act appropriately. The R&M Community regards itself as caring and close-knit; this is an opportunity to demonstrate our neighbourliness.

Arrangements are being made to set up a dedicated telephone line for people who need support but have not been contacted. The team is keeping up to date with current events and will continue to publish advice. This will be placed on both our website and the Community Council’s, and on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts. If you have a smart phone or home computer and have not got a Facebook or Twitter account this might be the time to register and ensure you get regular updates.

#### **Public Gatherings**

Inevitably, significant decisions have already been taken with respect to current and future events. Most notably, from an Association perspective, we have postponed the whole of the May Festival, which was due to start on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. As we have already had the brochure printed, it will be distributed as usual in the next edition of Radyr Chain, due out at the beginning of April. Take note of the events that were planned as we hope to run some of them later in the year, perhaps as an autumn Festival. *(We would like to acknowledge at this point that Plasdŵr and Redrow have said they will still provide the agreed sponsorship of both the Festival Brochure and the associated website as the expense has already been incurred. That is exceedingly helpful for our accounts.)* We have also decided to postpone the associated Prize Draw (in support of Tenovus Cancer Care) and run it later. We do not want them to lose out on fund raising so please be generous in buying tickets when we do run it. The Festival Brochure contains a list of the prizes.

We have also suspended our Film Club for the present. Film Club members will be notified when it restarts.

**Our AGM is scheduled for Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April** but we do not know whether it will be possible or advisable to hold it, at least as a physical meeting. We will distribute the material to you electronically in any case. Please note that one key aspect of the AGM is the appointment of our Committee. If you would like to join, or are potentially interested in what goes on behind the scenes, do get in touch.

Our next scheduled General meeting is 15<sup>th</sup> June. It is too early to say if that will go ahead. We will keep you posted.

We are aware that most other local organisations, including the churches, are cancelling or modifying normal arrangements. Specifically, we have been told that all services in Christ Church have been suspended and the Drama Group have cancelled their planned production. **Most organisations are featured on our website so this is a message to them to tell us what is happening so it can be recorded and to readers to check regularly as to the current situation.** This is bound to change over time.

### ***Impact on the community.***

Please be aware that the local shops, restaurants, cafes and bars depend on our trade and are hugely vulnerable at this time. We want them to survive. We are aware that current advice is to avoid using restaurants and bars etc and that advice may harden to require them to be closed altogether. However, if you feel able and take the necessary precautions, then you may choose to give them some custom. Food shops etc will almost certainly remain open so please use those.

### ***Scams***

We are sorry to mention this but feel it is necessary to warn everyone that some people will aim to take advantage of those who are vulnerable. Please be alert to offers of help that arrive in emails or on the phone, and even at the door if you do not know the person. Also, please try to ignore 'fake news'. Sadly, there is no current way to avoid catching the virus apart from avoiding personal contact and regular hand washing.

### ***CONCLUSION***

That is all we want to say at this time. Life continues to go on and concerns remain over traffic, highway improvements and many other aspects of our local life. However, these pale into insignificance when the health of us all is in peril.

Despite the gloom of this Newsletter, we hope you all remain healthy.

**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)).

### ***POSTSCRIPT***

We have become aware of [this article](#) in the Sydney Morning Herald. Although it relates to Australia, it makes some very important points about how we should all conduct ourselves at this time. It is well worth a read.