

# THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

(A Civic Society affiliated to the Civic Trust for Wales)

## GENERAL MEETING

Old Church Rooms on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cyril Williams (Chairman), Nick Hawkins (Secretary), Bob Roberts (Treasurer), David Cargill, Allan Cook, Sue Thomas, Wyn Phillips, Cllr Rod McKerlich and 20 members.

**Apologies:** David Silver (Vice Chairman), Val Allen, Julie Davies, Liz Davies, Peter Esswood, Julia Hallinan, Cllr and Mrs David Suthers.

### **A Talk by Chris Partridge (Keep Wales Tidy's Tidy Towns Project Officer for Cardiff)**

Dr Partridge explained that the purpose of the Tidy Town's initiative was to 'help support, set up and encourage community groups or individuals to tackle environmental issues in their area'. This took the form of many activities including litter picks and clearing items in public areas. Effectively believing in the maxim 'the child is father of the man', he works mainly with schools and youth groups. He gave many illustrated examples of work done with Primary Schools (he prefers to work with the last two years so that last year's learners become this year's leaders and the message is taken on into the higher school), often in deprived areas of Cardiff, where a high degree of ownership of the problem area has been achieved, with spectacular results in clearing up rubbish, installing bird and bat boxes in woodland etc. He also works with corporate sponsors (such as John Lewis and BT) in providing materials and support to the projects.

He is happy to assist in the formation of community groups - he can help constitute, insure, kit out and train such groups. He has a network of 76 individuals called 'Litter Champions' across Cardiff who help to deliver a 'clean, safe and tidy Wales'. (It was noted that R&M does not have one - an opportunity for someone?). He noted that people who get involved get something back themselves. He spoke of one volunteer who, previously depressed and housebound, had found new life in getting out and making a difference to her environment.

His overall aim was not only to tidy up Cardiff but to modify behaviour so it remains tidy. He wants local people to care about their environment. He told the story of Dave and his dog, Stella, who walks his neighbourhood morning and evening picking up litter as he goes. He became dispirited because areas he had cleared in the morning looked in the evening as if nothing had been done. Dr Partridge got local groups involved, linking in with a Homebase 'Wild Weekend' funding campaign, and turned the area around. Children got involved and he encouraged them to write about their experience in school.

He acknowledged the help of many agencies in achieving his aims, notably Cardiff Council Parks and Waste services, the Street cleaning department and the Highways team. The Tidy Towns initiative is funded by the Welsh Government under the umbrella organisation 'Keep Wales Tidy'. However funding has dropped and part of his remit now is to secure funds from other sources (e.g. the plastic bag levy by John Lewis and the forthcoming 'Tidy Tea Break' campaign for St David's Day). He pointed out that apparently worsening statistics in his area can actually be good (i.e. picking up less rubbish each year because there is less to find)!

At the conclusion of the talk, the Chairman thanked Chris Partridge for the very interesting talk and presented him with a bottle of whisky.

### **Minutes of the previous General Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

The minutes were approved; there were no matters arising.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported that he had balanced the books for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 (subject to audit) and was happy to be able to report that, not only had the Association raised £4450 for the chosen charity, George Thomas Hospice, but a surplus of £1200 had been made for the Association. The Association's reserves now stood at £6622 which, although above the declared reserves limit of £5000, he thought was justified in view of the increased cost and risk of the May Festival. He noted that, over the past 10 years, the Association had donated £30,000 to its nominated charities.

## **David Cargill BEM**

At this point the Chairman said he wished to express the congratulations of the meeting to David Cargill, one of the Association's Vice-Presidents and the organiser of the May Festival since its inception, for his award of the British Empire Medal in the Queen's New Year's Honours List in recognition of his work in the Radyr & Morganstown Community. This was heartily agreed by all.

## **Christmas Tree lighting Ceremony**

The Chairman said that the organisers of the Lighting Ceremony on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012 had already held a review of the event but he was interested whether any members wished to give any feedback. On behalf of all the members, Cllr Rod McKerlich said he thought the event had been 'fantastic' with excellent attendance at all three trees and in Windsor Gardens and Station Road. The weather had been favourable for once and the whole R&M Community - young and old - had had a wonderful time. He congratulated the organisers. Thanks were expressed to the Community Council for their purchase of the main trees and the funding of the extended lights in Station Road.

## **Festival 2013**

David Cargill reported that the Festival was in an advanced state of preparation with 35 events recorded in the Programme to date. A lot of emphasis was being put on involving young people and he was delighted to note the close cooperation he was getting with the three Head teachers of the local schools. The decision had been made to change the format of the final Sunday to make the 'Concert in the Parc' evolve into a wider community music event similar to that which had been enjoyed at the Jubilee celebrations in the Golf Club the previous year. Peter Esswood, who had organised the Jubilee celebrations, was developing this part of the Programme. There were rumours that Connie Fisher, a supporter of Tenovus, the chosen Charity, might be opening the Fete on the first Saturday. Finally, he noted that the format of the published programme was being changed to make it a fold-out full colour affair. The plan was to produce more programmes than before (the cost would not be dissimilar) and thereby to arrange much wider publicity.

## **Hall Matters**

Mike Diment, Chairman of the Old Church Rooms Management Committee noted that discussion were on-going with the Welsh Nursery regarding secure access to their play area adjacent to the Weir Room. This might involve introducing a door with direct access onto the area. Maggie Roberts, for Morganstown Village Hall, reported that the snow had caused the loss of a number of bookings recently.

## **Promoting local organisations**

The Secretary reported that agreement had been reached with the Library to facilitate local R&M organisations being able to promote their activities on a regular basis. The aim was to draw up a list of organisations that would mount an attended display on Saturday mornings. The schedule would be put on the events diary and organisations would be able to retain part of the display through the following week. It was hoped that this would promote both the organisations and the Library as a

cultural centre for the Community. A schedule of organisations was already being drawn up and the Community Council and the Association would be featured early.

### **Any Other Business**

David Cargill noted that he had been involved in a series of meetings with the local schools together with Cllr Sue McKerlich. He wished to record how welcome these meetings were and how increased cooperation between the schools and the R&M Community would benefit all.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the Association's AGM which will be held on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 at 7.30pm in the Old Church Rooms. Refreshments will be provided after the formal proceedings, as usual.