

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

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NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – January 2014

Welcome to our regular Newsletter. Another year has flown by and we wish all our members a successful 2014.

Facebook. Our Facebook page, the “Radyr & Morganstown Hub” was launched on schedule about two months ago. The feedback we have had from users has been very positive. Just over 200 people have now ‘liked’ the Page; this means they will get items posted on their “news feed” every time there is a new posting on the Page. Nearly 400 people looked at the posting about a new Choral Society (see below) and well over 1000 people had viewed the Page in the first month. A welcome development is that we have started to see posts from individuals about new classes and events they are thinking of running in the community.

There are many events/classes in the community, but a lot of them are still unpublicised with an occasional entry in the website diary. To make the Page really successful we would like to see more organisations using it to publicise their events, both in advance and then afterwards, with photos if available. If you wish to put something on the Page for yourself or your society, but don’t have a Facebook account, just contact us at events@radyr.org.uk and we will do it for you. And also get in touch if you feel you need any other assistance in publicising your events.

Cardiff Local Development Plan. As we said in the last Newsletter, the process rolls on. The Community Council made an excellent submission on behalf of the R&M Community within the deadline (you can find details via the link of the Home Page of the website) and we now wait to see what Cardiff Council make of it all. Or do we? All the Community Councils in North West Cardiff (that is Creigiau & Pentyrch, R&M & St Fagans) plus the Llandaff Society, Danescourt Community Association and the RMA have joined together to form a ‘North West Cardiff Group’ to lobby on behalf of all the residents. Together, they represent 24,050 people or 7% of Cardiff’s population living in 9% of its land area; quite a significant force. The aim is to try to ensure that sense prevails and that development does not start in NW Cardiff before the necessary infrastructure is in place. You will have heard all that before but the view of the Group is that powerful forces are likely to be petitioning for early development in ‘attractive NW Cardiff’ on the grounds that infrastructure can come afterwards. We all know that that means. The aim is to lobby the key people and get them on our side. There will be a website for the Group and regular bulletins. If you think you can help in any way, or even have good contacts with ‘key people’, do get in touch with the Association or Helena Fox, the Clerk to the Community Council (clerk@radyr.org.uk or 2084 2213). We need all the help we can get.

Christmas Lighting Ceremony. We hope you came on Friday 6th December and enjoyed the lighting ceremony. We were again fortunate with the weather but the general feedback we got was that this was, again, the best ceremony to date. We certainly had more stalls than previously (we could have done with more) and we could have done with more food outlets (it was pity that Cicchetti did not open on 1st December as originally planned), but there was a tremendous crowd and everyone enjoyed themselves. The lighting of the two trees in Morganstown and Lychgate Gardens (where there was a bigger tree with more lights) went off well, with carols being sung by the two Primary Schools. Martha, a special guest of LATCH (the Association’s Charity for the year), was joined by Patch (the LATCH Dog) to turn on the lights in Station Road and Santa arrived shortly afterwards. Sue Thomas, Santa’s helper together with a group of scouts, marshalled the queue and made sure that each child had a small gift of a tangerine. Chris Dale provided a backdrop of Christmas music.

This event, run jointly by the Association and the Community Council, has certainly gone from strength to strength and we will be looking at even more ideas for next year. If you do have any feedback or suggestions, do let us know. But please do not tell us about the way the lights in Station Road kept on going off after the event. There was a fault in the lights which our suppliers failed to fix and we had to resort to switching them back on again manually each time they failed – which was very often. We hope for better next year.

But, more importantly, bucket collections for LATCH at the event totalled £469 and these were added to by a number of generous donations – Bryn Deri Primary School £823, Radyr Primary School £500, The Orchard Café £30 and Cardiff Morris, Morris Dancers £92 – to make a grand total exceeding £1900. An excellent start in support of our 2013/14 village Charity thanks to the generosity of our community.

Festival 2014. Details are beginning to emerge of a bumper Arts content to the May Festival. One of the highlights will be a visit by an old friend to the Festival, Fluellen Theatre Company, in Brecht's *'The resistible rise of Arturo Ui'*. This brilliant satire, switching between savage and hilarious, parallels the rise of Hitler with the small time Chicago gangster, Arturo Ui's take over of that city's greengrocer trade. *Arturo Ui* had a successful run at the 2013 Chichester Festival and transferred to the Duchess Theatre in London. Another highlight will be a first visit by Swansea's Lighthouse Theatre as part of the Dylan Thomas 100 celebration. Lighthouse will bring their delightful production of Thomas's *'Reminiscences of Childhood'* to Morganstown Village Hall. Music will be catered for by another Festival first, a lunch time piano recital by an up and coming young pianist, Paul Israel, which will include the Beethoven Appassionata Sonata. For the first time the Welsh Academy of Voice, that finishing school for some of the great voices of the future, will give an evening concert at the Festival. The closing Saturday will see a visit by Peter Carrie, in his show *'Peter Carrie and Friends'*. Peter has played the part of The Phantom of the Opera in the Lloyd Webber musical in London, Toronto, Vancouver, Singapore and Hong Kong and is the favourite Phantom of the Phantom Appreciation Society. He has also appeared in the west end production of Les Miserables, as Fagin in Oliver, Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof and he has recently had his own series on the B.B.C.

The Festival itself, which has the theme 'This Sporting Life', runs from the 3rd to the 18th of May ending with a public concert in Parc Radur. A copy of the full programme will be circulated with Radyr Chain at the beginning of April.

Choral Society. We are delighted to note that Peter Esswood, who led the singing at the Golf Club for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and also at the end of the 'Concert in the Parc' last May, is starting up a new Choral Society. We understand it will rehearse in the New Schoolrooms on Wednesdays starting on 22nd January and will be open to all singers. Although the Radyr Parish Music Group is still flourishing (note that they have a performance of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* coming up in February – tickets have just been put on sale), we have not had a Choral Society since 2001 when the Radyr & District Choral Society finished. It is great to see the formation of a new social group and we have been very pleased to have been able to support its foundation via the website, emails, Facebook, posters etc. If anyone else has any aspirations to start a new group, do get in touch. The Association really wants to ensure there are more and more activities in the R&M Community – for all ages.

Cicchetti. We have been following with some amazement all the refurbishment that has been going on in Station Road for the new restaurant. It was originally meant to open on 1st December, then 1st January, and now we are told 1st February or shortly afterwards. We have also been told that the premises turned out to be in far worse a condition than originally thought and each step has uncovered more disasters. Still, things look pretty good now and the beer pump that has been on view for some time looks increasingly tempting. When it does open, do give it a whirl. Judging from Cicchetti's other restaurants it should be very popular but it will close, as have the others before, if we do not use it.

Meetings. We had a very successful meeting on 18th November when Martin Chamberlain gave a wonderful illustrated talk about Forest Farm; so much to see and so much going on, just on our doorstep. Our next meeting will be on **Monday 3rd February** when **Gwyn Rhys** will be talking about the Glamorgan Family History Society. With television programmes such as *'Who do you think you are?'* proving so popular many people are becoming fascinated with finding out their background. And more and more information is being made available on line. Come along to the talk and hear how you, too, can get involved. The following meeting will be our **AGM on 31st March** a little earlier than usual. That probably sounds a bit boring but, to make the process more palatable, we do offer a free drink and nibbles after the proceedings. As we have said before, we do have some vacancies on the Association's Executive Committee and we would love to have some new members. Although some of us are quite busy actually running events, there is no need for all Committee members to be so involved. **If you are Community-minded and have ideas as to what the Association should do over the next few years to make R&M (notably in the newer estates) a great place to live and work, do consider joining us on the Committee.** We do not meet very frequently and your input will be hugely valuable. If you want to know more, do have a chat with us. Contact details below.

Old Church Rooms. We are delighted to note that, after 25 years, the mortgage on the OCR has just been paid off and the building is now in the ownership of the Community Council. We can all be very proud of the initiative shown to save this iconic building for Community use – and which was also the cause of the formation of the Association itself. We are pleased to have been involved with its successful management since purchase.

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 ring the Chairman, Cyril Williams, on 029 2084 2250.