



THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

President: Rhodri Morgan

Vice Presidents: Antonia Wigley BBChB

Dave Cargill BEM, JP, FCCA

Nick Hawkins

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – March 2015

Welcome to our regular Newsletter.

Festival 2015. Charity – NSPCC. The programme for the May Festival, which will run from 2nd to 17th May, has now gone to print and will be distributed in the April edition of Radyr Chain. **It contains no less than 36 events.** The theme of the Festival is “Carnival” (as in the full South American version), which has been chosen to reflect the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Welsh Colony in Patagonia. That should give plenty of opportunity for colour and interpretation in the Parade on the first Saturday prior to the Fete, the Primary School colouring competition and the Community Council literary competition. **Harry Robinson** has agreed to lead the Festival Parade and open the Fete. Harry played for the Blues last season and switched to the Scarlets this year. He has played three times on the wing for Wales and is likely to be a regular Wales squad player. He lives in Radyr and played a good standard of tennis as a member of Radyr Tennis Club.

The three schools will be heavily involved in the Festival, joining in the Festival Parade and the Concert in the Parc, which we hope will be blessed with good weather. There a large number of events include theatre, concerts, sport, exhibitions, film show, competitions and many outdoor events to look forward to.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the Arts are well catered for. On Tuesday, 5th May we will be showing the Welsh film **Hedd Wyn**, the story of the poet Ellis Humphrey Evans who was killed at Passchendaele. It will be shown with English subtitles, so do come along. On Wednesday, 6th May, **Eddie Butler**, the journalist and well known Rugby commentator, will be talking about his first published novel; on Friday, 8th May, there will be a lunchtime concert by classical guitarist, **Rishiart Arwel**; the popular **RPMG Concert** is on the middle Saturday, 9th May; on Tuesday, 12th May, we will be showing the Oscar-winning film ‘**The Theory of Everything**’; on Wednesday, 13th May, **Karl Daymond** will be entertaining us with a variety of songs in ‘**Lowering the Tone**’; Friday, 15th May brings another lunchtime concert by singers from the **Wales International Academy of Voice**; as an innovation we have moved the **Concert in the Parc** to the last Saturday, 16th May; and, to close the Festival, on the final Sunday, **The Ardwyn Singers** will be performing in Christ Church in support of the NSPCC.

Draw tickets are again not being sent to members this year, but will be distributed via Radyr Chain. The first prize is **A round of Golf for four at the Vale Golf Club**; the second prize is **Bed & Breakfast for two at the Park Thistle Hotel**; and the third prize a **£50 voucher for a meal at the Gwaelod y Garth Inn**. As all the draw money goes to NSPCC, we hope you will buy lots of tickets. We hope that this year, again with the help of Radyr Golf Club, the Charity will receive over £10,000 towards a very good cause.

You will be interested to learn that we are currently building a new Festival website, independent from but linked to the main R&M site. This will contain links to the on-line version of the Programme, background information, and ticket sales. We hope that this will open up the Festival to a wider market.

And finally, a reminder that we are always looking for stalls and entertainment at the Fete on Saturday 2nd May. Please get in touch if you have something to offer! All we need now is some good weather and your support!



Other things to entertain you: Don’t forget that, even before the Festival, we will be showing **Mr Turner on Thursday, 26th March**. The film explores the last quarter century of the great if eccentric British painter J.M.W. Turner. Profoundly affected by the death of his father, loved by a housekeeper he takes for granted and occasionally exploits sexually, he forms a close relationship with a seaside landlady with whom he eventually lives incognito in Chelsea, where he dies. Throughout this, he travels, paints, stays with the country aristocracy,

is a popular if anarchic member of the Royal Academy of Arts, has himself strapped to the mast of a ship so that he can paint a snowstorm, and is both celebrated and reviled by the public and by royalty. Timothy Spall, plays in a monumental performance and the film is directed by one of the greatest British film directors, Mike Leigh.

We should also mention that, on **Saturday 21st March**, the Radyr & Morganstown Choral Society will be performing a concert of **Music for Passiontide** including Fauré's *Requiem* and Matthew Owens' *St Matthew Passion*. The concert is in Christ Church at 7.30pm, conductor Peter Esswood, with David Geoffrey Thomas organ and the Welsh Chamber Players. Tickets £10 available from Douglas Hogg, 2084 2457, or on the door. And, again in Christ Church, on **Sunday 29th March** at 6.00pm, an extended Christ Church Choir will be performing Maunder's *Olivet to Calvary*. All welcome, no charge.

Planning Update: A quick note to say that the Cardiff Local Development Plan hearings are now complete. As a result of all the representations Cardiff now have to respond to over 150 Action Points – quite a few of which could have been avoided if the comments and suggestions fed back to them at the earlier Consultation Phase had been acted upon. So the CLDP review process by the Welsh Government is a (potentially) good example of democracy in action but the arrogance of Cardiff Council in ignoring honest suggestions beggars belief. We can only hope their responses are responsible and not whitewash to allow them simply to continue as originally intended.

Station Road: We will shortly be welcoming two new shops into Station Road, ME Law, a law practice (occupying the old Vintage Gem premises) run by Meinir Evans specialising in the legal aspects of the elderly, and Thomas H Wood, a new Estate Agent (occupying the old Christian Aid premises). We wish them well. And, to keep the area attractive, we will be remounting the hanging baskets just as soon as the weather allows the plants to flourish. Unfortunately, due to Cardiff Council cutbacks, we have had to take on responsibility for the water supply to the south side of Station Road (which shouldn't be too expensive) and we are also having to remake one of the animals as it has rusted badly (which will be expensive!).

Old Church Rooms: Another quick update. The Community Council has acquired planning permission for the renovation and extension work mentioned in the last Newsletter and are now seeking to obtain grants towards the work. We are still hoping that the work will start this summer.

Facebook: We haven't mentioned our Facebook account recently. The R&M Hub was launched in December 2013 and it has gone from strength to strength, in the first 14 months. A measure of how many people regularly see the posts we put on the Page is the number of people who have "Liked" the Page. This has now reached 466, an increase of 30 in the last month. Virtually all of these people live in our local area. The average number of views has also risen monthly and we are now at a level of over 6000 views a month. As we have mentioned previously 80% of the people who view the page are in the 25-54 age range. 15% are older and only 4% are below 25. We put about 15 posts a month on the Page ourselves. However, whilst this is obviously a great place to advertise what you do and events you are running, many local groups and societies still don't use it or ask us to put something on for them. *If you are running an event and want more people to attend, want to tell the community about things you have done, are trying to recruit new members or just want some free publicity, let us know either by e mail to events@radyr.org.uk or send us the hard copy and we will put it on for you.*

Wine Club: At the suggestion of Saverio Florimonte, a new 'wine appreciation' club has been set up in Cicchetti to talk about, learn about, taste and enjoy wines. It now meets on the second Monday and Fourth Friday of the month at 11:00am. If you are at all interested in being involved, please contact the Association Secretary (details below) – although this is not an Association activity! For logistical reasons, we need to keep the membership quite small so potential new members join on a first-come first-served basis.

Meetings. Our next meeting will be our **AGM on 30th March**. It is not a very formal meeting and we try to make things a bit more palatable by offering a free drink and nibbles after the proceedings. 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. At the AGM we will also be telling you about our schedule of speakers for the year.

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 the Chairman, David Silver (rmachair@radyr.org.uk)