



THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

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

President: Rhodri Morgan

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NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS – November 2014

Welcome to the November edition of our regular Newsletter. We hope you like our new logo.

Things to entertain you: In the run up to Christmas there are a number of events being organised by the RMA and others. If you do not act fast you will miss the performance by the Radyr Drama Society of *'The Schoolmistress'* by Arthur Wing Pinero at 7.30pm in Morganstown Village Hall **this week!** The next **Film Night** will be **on Thursday 27th November** in the Old Church Rooms at 7.30pm when we will be showing *'Belle'* (*Cert 12A, Duration 104 minutes*). This film is inspired by the true story of Dido Elizabeth Belle, the illegitimate mixed race daughter of Admiral Sir John Lindsay. **There isn't a drinks license so bring your own drinks and popcorn – although we will be selling delicious ice cream.** The **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is on 5th December**, as this is worthy of special mention, details are below. Then, on **Wednesday 10th December** at 7.30pm in Morganstown Village Hall, **Lighthouse Theatre** will be performing *'The Chimes'*, based on a short novel by Charles Dickens. This is a wonderful treat for Christmas for both children and adults. Tickets for all these events were available now. The RMA ones can be bought from ener-chi in Station Road, Radyr; Nick Hawkins 2084 2561; Allan Cook 2084 3176 **and also on-line at www.rma.ticketsource.co.uk**. If you go to that site you will also find full details of the shows.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony - Friday 5th December: Weather permitting, the event will follow the now very popular format. The tree in The Granny Park, Morganstown, will be lit at 6pm with the help of children from Bryn Deri Primary School. At the same time the tree in Lychgate Gardens will be lit with the help of children from Radyr Primary School. The tree in Windsor Gardens will be lit at 6.40pm by the Festival Queen followed by the 'switching on' of the Christmas lights in Station Rd at 6.50pm by Radyr's very own Nobel Prize winner **Sir Martin Evans**. Santa will arrive shortly afterwards. Burgers, hot dogs and mulled wine will be available from 6pm. Many of the shops will be open and there will be a variety of stalls including crafts, food, tombola, etc. NSPCC, the RMA's charity for the year, will be collecting during the evening. Come along and enjoy the festivities. Entrance is free.

Planning Update: Important though this topic is, we are sure you do not want to read all the gory facts yet again. (If you do, then the R&M Website has all the details in the Community Council area and there are a number of related Soapbox threads.) Suffice it to say that the LDP hearings will start soon, with a pre-hearing on 5th December. Also, many thanks for all your support with respect to the petition against the Redrow Homes planning application for 630 dwellings at the edge of Radyr. A lot of people obviously got actively involved in collecting the 686 signatures. We will let you know when this application is about to come before the Planning Committee. A good turn out at the meeting itself might just be persuasive!

Council Cutbacks: To add to your gloom and doom (before we try to cheer you up), we have heard that Cardiff Council has decided to (or been forced to) make cuts of around £48M to next year's budget. We understand the details will be published on line this Thursday, 20th November. What will they cut? In Radyr we have already lost our street cleaner and the hugely valuable and much loved Good Neighbours Scheme. We have lost support for the Festival (although the Community Council have been very generous with sponsorship, for which we are very grateful). There is talk that some libraries may cease to be funded, and offered to communities to be run locally. Will that happen here – especially after so much money was spent upgrading the building? We shall see.

Library retirement: Mentioning Radyr Library prompts us to mention how sorry we were to see the departure of Caroline Noall from the Library a few weeks ago. Caroline has been an absolute star in all that she has done both for the Library and for the R&M Community. It was a delight to work with someone like her who was so practical, professional, and public-spirited. She supported our events, often turning up (so we believe) in her own time and providing delight to people of all ages. We well remember all the story times, teddy-bear picnics, stalls, etc that she provided for us and for the R&M Community. We could not have wished for a better partner in all our endeavours. We are exceedingly sorry that she has now retired from her post; she was one of a kind. We wish her a long and happy retirement (although she has told us she will be back!).

Remembrance Sunday: A bit of good news. Did you participate in this year's parade? Wasn't it a splendid affair? A local resident, Chris Sutton, took this picture of the proceedings. A proud moment. And the organisation of the event by Roy Scott was as perfect as ever. Incidentally, he has been doing the job for around twenty years and would like to hand over to a successor. If you think you might like to get involved – even just to assist as a first stage – do let him know. We will be happy to pass on any enquiries.



Old Church Rooms: We are continuing to work with the Community Council on a project to upgrade the OCR significantly. We have agreed the designs with the architect and found out the likely cost (a bit frightening). The next stage is to go to tender (to confirm the cost), apply for planning permission, and seek grants. If anyone has special skills to offer to this project, then do get in touch. If everything really goes to plan, the work could be done next year.

Radyr Sidings Update: We are pleased to report that the inaugural meeting of the Radyr Sidings Residents Association (RSRA) was held on Monday 20th October in the Old Church Rooms. Present were the steering group members (those who have coordinated progress to date), Cllr Rod Mckerlich, PC Huw Thomas and approximately 35 residents from the Sidings. The meeting was opened with a brief explanation of why and how the Steering Group had formed: namely shared frustration at the lack of progress on those issues impacting the Sidings development. It was advised that the intention is that the RSRA be led by an elected committee. This committee would replace the steering group and take over the running of the RSRA. The election of the committee will take place at the next meeting with any keen residents encouraged to stand. Cllr Mckerlich briefed the meeting on the history of the Sidings development and also covered in some detail the background to the community plots, the issues with the children's playground and the current status with regards adoption of the roads. Further concerns were then mentioned covering the abandoned plot, inconsiderate parking both from users of the train station on De Clare Drive Bridge and residents within the estate, speeding vehicles and Japanese knotweed growth on the soft landscape areas between the end of the estate and the river bank.

The next meeting of the RSRA is scheduled for Monday 24th November at 8pm in the Old Church Rooms, any interested persons are welcome. The intention is to adopt a constitution and appoint the committee members. We shall keep you informed of their progress in our next newsletter.

Festival 2015: The preparation for the 2015 Festival is well advanced. Our chosen charity is NSPCC and we are hoping that a number of organisations in the village will adopt this charity during the coming year. The theme is "Carnival" as we celebrate the 150th year in which the Welsh populated Patagonia. Pupils of all the local schools will be participating again in the Festival Parade and the Concert in the Parc. Radyr Cricket Club also have a celebration next year when they achieve their 125th birthday and we are hoping to include a special event during the Festival week. Anyone who is willing and able to help in any other events would be most welcome, especially if they have any special talents like costume making, barbecuing, standing behind a bar, erecting or dismantling marquees, or just want to join in the fun!

Film Club: We mentioned above that the next film will be *Belle*. We are now about to put in the order for the films we will be showing in January, February and March. Would you like to be involved in that selection? *Mr Turner*, *The Imitation Game*, *Boyhood*, *A Most Wanted Man* are some of the possibilities. Get in touch.

Wardrobe person needed! The Radyr Parish Music Group is desperately in need of someone to coordinate the sourcing and hiring of costumes for their February production of *Pirates of Penzance*. If you would be interested in helping out, please email music@radyr.org.uk.

Next RMA Meeting. Our next meeting is on 2nd February 2015, commencing at 19.30 in the OCR. The speaker will be our own Allan Cook, who will be talking about 'Soaps' on TV.

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)