



April 2015

Your Cathays Newsletter # 3

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## What is happening in your part of Cathays?

Please tell us about your Cathays local event which we can add to this banner – bringing people together!  
A charity event? Food festival? Community gathering? A litter pick activity? Knitting group? Live music gig? Alleyway Clean up?

This newsletter is produced on a voluntary basis by residents and local people with no political affiliations, no financial support from industry or charities. We rely on small donations to cover printing costs. [Please help us? We hope for Newsletter #4 to put out 300-400 copies \(to every resident and local business\) yet £150-£200 is a lot to cover – please donate?](#)

## Cathays Neighbourhood Watch initiatives

Believe it or not there are several existing Neighbourhood Watch initiatives across Cathays and they are keen to encourage you to set up your own on your street (or cluster of streets). On the last distribution of newsletter Y/C #2 (January) it was with good fortune that I met several of our pioneering Cathays based Neighbourhood Watch neighbours. For this entry we shall focus upon **Spencer Street Neighbourhood Watch**. Mr Douglas Bragg explains:

*“Neighbourhood Watch is a crime prevention initiative which brings Neighbours together to take action to cut crime and the fear of crime. It is a method of developing close liaison between households, the local Police and the Local Authority. The aim is to help people to protect themselves and their property, reduce the fear of crime and improve the local environment.*

*Neighbourhood Watch schemes are run by their members through co-ordinators and supported by the Police. Volunteer co-ordinators are resident in the area, co-ordinates the scheme and liaises with the police. The co-ordinators will act as a voice for the community as appropriate.*

*Early in 2005 crime in the area adjacent the Gower Hotel in the East of Cathays was becoming a worry for the local residents and following advice from the Police the Cathays 'Gowerside' Neighbourhood Watch was set up. For about nine years this scheme, resulted at least in part, to a reduction of crime in the area. During the last year or so, due to the lack of co-ordinators, this scheme has evolved and has now become known as the "Cathays Spencer St Neighbourhood Watch".*

*Although Neighbourhood Watch is in the main a crime prevention initiative it also serves as a method of dealing with many Spencer St environmental issues and we would recommend all areas within Cathays to set up such schemes for their streets or areas. Help with this is readily available from the Police and we would only be too pleased where considered appropriate.”*

Mr John Roberts of Maindy Road Neighbourhood Watch (more affectionately known as the **Maindy Road Mafia**) agrees with Mr Bragg that any Neighbourhood Watch initiative has many hands in many different pies. John explains *“With the University expanding and building its new research facilities opposite our homes on Maindy Road; we [Maindy Road residents] were always informed and involved at every stage of the development. Our input was absorbed and considered by the university and our concerns about the development were always addressed.”*

With the input from Maindy Road Mafia, the University buildings were designed so that aesthetically they are not intruding or creating any burden upon the resident’s street. It shows with open communication and working together we can always achieve a better social standard for Cathays. Getting more Neighbourhood Watch initiatives established across Cathays will help the residents and local businesses feel more engagement and empowerment.

The Neighbourhood Watch initiatives throughout Cathays do prove that we can be given a voice on a street level and district level. You can contact Mr Bragg on [douglas.bragg4@virginmedia.com](mailto:douglas.bragg4@virginmedia.com), if you are interesting in setting up your own Neighbourhood Watch in your part of Cathays. PCSO David Lloyd is keen to support your street set-up its own neighbourhood watch. You can contact PCSO Lloyd on **07584 003 999** and start your initial discussions on what you can do, what support is available and how you can build a Neighbourhood Watch for your street; improving the safety, environment and more importantly social engagement of your street. *You are NOT alone folks - Get involved!!*

### The Salisbury Road Saxophonist

Many of the residents on Cranbrook Street and Salisbury Road has spent Sept 2013 onwards listening to the beautiful music of a student saxophonist who many families would enjoy listening to in the warmer evenings (some in their gardens with a cup of tea).

The residents did express concern that the saxophonist had moved away over summer 2014 and when we could hear him playing again in Sept/October many of the families were relieved and they look forward to his playing over spring and summer 2015. **Play on Mr, Saxophone!!!!!!** The resident love listening to you!!

### Cathays Knitting Group?

We have been told by local residents about an established knitting group somewhere in Cathays – yet we have been unsuccessful trying to find out who runs it.

Is it you? Can we please add your monthly (weekly?) event to the website calendar to try raising awareness of your group and encouraging more Cathays residents to get involved?

With discussions on multiple subjects with residents all over Cardiff, many of the families showed interest in joining in and supporting this knitting group. If you know of this knitting group – please can you get in touch with us?

### Your Cathays: Calendar

[www.yourcathays.org.uk](http://www.yourcathays.org.uk)

You will see on the main page of the ‘Your Cathays’ website that a calendar is present which will attempt to highlight as many local Cathays events. Please use it to see what is happening in your district.

If you know of something you would like to have added to the Cathays calendar - *please tell us.*

### Friends of Cathays Cemetery

[Fairoak Road, off Crwys Road](#)

Cathays Cemetery is a place thousands of people love to walk through each year, and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of such a beautiful place in Cathays.

Friends of Cathays Cemetery is a voluntary group set up almost ten years ago to support care for the cemetery and raise awareness of this amazing site.

A video is being produced by Y/C to support highlight the efforts of Friends of Cathays Cemetery and encourage you to join them.

For more information of Friends of Cathays Cemetery (meetings, public talks, cemetery walks or workshops), please look on the other side of this newsletter.

### Cathays Cons Club

[54-58 Wyverne Road](#)

This lovely building had a facelift with a beautiful mural on the external façade which has encouraged more residents (and students) to join in with this venues wide choice of activities.

Cathays Con Club is a very vibrant focal point of Cathays history and they are keen to encourage more people to get involved. (More information overleaf.)

### Rhymney Street Reunion

[Facebook: Rhymney Street Reunion](#)

If you search on Facebook for Rhymney Street Reunion, you will find this amazing page which chronicles the history with pictures and words about Rhymney Street and its rich Cathaysian history.

### Cathays clubs, organisations and local groups

**Please tell us about your community centre, charity, religious establishment, or local voluntary group so we can add you to website and put an entry in the newsletter to support raise your profile.**

## Student saturation reversed?

When attending the PACT meetings, it is one of the few opportunities that you will learn that, every year, your Cathays Councillors (Labour/Lib Dems) have successfully stopped a lot of planning applications to transform small Cathays housing into 7-8 bedroom monsters (which many students feel are too many rooms for just one house).

Many of our Cathays based landlords take a more sensible approach and produce quality over quantity and maintain decent 4-5 tenant accommodation.

What should be noted is with all these larger private halls (the majority being established outside of Cathays) being built in recent years and more being put through the planning process – what is inevitable is that student tenant numbers will drop in the Cathays district, as they move outwards towards these massive private halls.

Although some residents and authoritative figures have expressed concern over these potential empty houses (burglary and vandalism) there may be an opportunity to encourage more families from all age ranges to move into Cathays. What can we all do to attract more families back? Is this unrealistic? What do you think? What can we all do?

## Friends of Cathays Cemetery events calendar:

Here are some of the events listed that *Friends of Cathays Cemetery* will run in 2015. They additionally hold days out where the volunteers get together to take care of the cemetery site. Look at their website for full details on [www.friendsofcathayscemetery.org.uk](http://www.friendsofcathayscemetery.org.uk) and join in some positive community activities. Alternatively contact them on [cathayscemetery@gmail.com](mailto:cathayscemetery@gmail.com) or 029 2054 4820. A fantastic group with positive links to all of Cathays!

|         |                |  |
|---------|----------------|--|
| Tuesday | May 5th        | 7pm Talk by Peter Robinson - Boer War.   |
| Tuesday | June 23rd      | 7pm Midsummer Guided Heritage Walk led by the Friends of Cathays Cemetery                                      |
| Sunday  | July 12th      | 2pm Heritage Walk - Cathays Cemetery led by Bereavement Services   |
| Tuesday | September 8th  | 7pm Illustrated Talk for Open Doors by Geoff Brookes - Stories in Stone  |
| Sunday  | September 20th | 11am Open Day for Open Doors - The Chapels will be open until 2pm  |
| Sunday  | September 20th | 2.30pm Open Doors - Guided Walk - Cathays Cemetery (Allensbank Road) led by the Friends of Cathays Cemetery    |
| Sunday  | October 25th   | 2pm Insignia Walk - Cathays cemetery led by Bereavement Services   |
| Tuesday | November 17th  | 7pm Bill Mosley Memorial Lecture by Chris Williams - Cartooning in World War I {£5 Entry charge to the Public} |

### PACT dates for 2015

Each few months the PACT meetings (7pm start) are held for residents to raise their concerns. Activities like this help people get the word out and express concerns or positive ideas to keep your district moving forward.

**Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015**

The recent years PACT meetings have seen a real resurgence in a voice of Cathays being established. Everybody is given a fair opportunity to speak and the meetings are conducted in a very appropriate manner for everyone to feel included and heard.

**Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015**

The feedback has generally been very good as residents, students and professionals are shown to be working better together in Cathays as a community than compared to ten years ago. You make the difference – come to the PACT and make your voice heard. **Your opinion on tackling local issues is important.** Please be advised dates occasionally change.

**Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

Each event at **Cathays Methodist Church, Crwys Road (Blue door on side entrance)**

Next issue #4 of *Your Cathays*:

**Listing Cathays local businesses!!!** - The amazing work of 'Connect Cathays' has made efforts in recent years to list your local Cathays based businesses in the hope that we can all have a stronger economic connection. In summer 2015 there may be some collaboration of research on Woodville Road which some residents believe had a strong focal point in our Cathays history. Additionally – an A4 sheet may be coming to your business asking whether you would like to be listed on the website. Is this of interest?

**Stronger Cathays Summer economy** – is there such a thing in Cathays? You have ALL mentioned it – you have all complained (rightfully about it) in the June-September period – YET WHAT CAN WE ALL DO ABOUT IT? If we set up a meeting in e.g. Cathays Conservative Club – would you (as a business owner) attend and be willing to contribute ideas to improve the economy in the summer time? What do you think? Please contact us and tell us your thoughts on this issue. Who wants to manage this?

**Tell us what you want to appear in your newsletter/website:** Putting on a regular event in the area? Please get in contact and request an interview! If you want your opinion/story/project heard or recommended something you'd like to see in the successive newsletters – then please inform us! **This is your newsletter – your Cathays!**

## Cathays Cons Clubs

Cathays Cons Club has a rich history to it as a social focal point to Cathays. Its doors are *open to everyone* and with the breadth of what they put on each week – there is a lot to choose from for all ages ranges.

Please stop by for a drink, play some pool or bingo, enjoy some live music or just play some poker (you don't have to be affiliated to a political party to attend.)

- ✦ **Monday – Free snooker**
- ✦ **Tuesday - Poker**
- ✦ **Wednesday – Free Pool**
- ✦ **Thursday – Bingo Night**
- ✦ **Friday - Friday night for everyone!**
- ✦ **Saturday – Live Music**
- ✦ **Sunday – Bingo Night**

Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month the *Blue Dragon Rhythm And Blues Club* meet up; come and play yourself or just come listen and enjoy their music!

Additionally a skittle alley is available inside and a small boules playing area outside next to the club - which is always fun for everyone. The Cathays Cons Club also has free venue room hire for anyone.

You can contact Cathays Cons Club on **02920 2022 0902**.

## **Cathays home grown Businesses and organisations**

This is loosely titled, as it is hoped that all Cathays based local business, charities, voluntary bodies etc. will be listed on the Y/C website – It is hoped that mapping out all our local businesses will encourage greater use of these local businesses by everyone. What do you think?

### **Independent Living Services:**

Independent Living Services was set up recently by the council to support our vulnerable Senior Citizens.

This is a FREE service so our Senior Citizens of Cardiff and they may be able to get help with e.g. a broken television, perhaps some help with cleaning, or repairing something in your home.

If you are, or know a Cathays senior citizens who may be vulnerable, isolated, or needs help then please telephone **029 2053 7380** and enquire to what Independent Living Services can do to help our senior citizens.

**101** – Your non-emergency number to the Police services (for reporting noise, break-ins, low level disruption, stolen vehicles etc.)

C2C – Connect to Cardiff  
**029 2087 2087**

### **Your PCSO contacts in Cathays:**

**PCSO David Lloyd**  
email: [david.lloyd6@south-wales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:david.lloyd6@south-wales.pnn.police.uk)  
Telephone: 07584 003 999

**PCSO Loren Saunders**  
email: [Loren.Saunders@south-wales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Loren.Saunders@south-wales.pnn.police.uk)  
Telephone: 07825 262 391

### **Your Councillors in Cathays:**

**CLlr Elizabeth Clark**

**CLlr Sam Knight**

Tel: 029 2063 0311  
Email: [ELClark@Cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:ELClark@Cardiff.gov.uk)

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Email: [sam.knight@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:sam.knight@cardiff.gov.uk)

**CLlr Sarah Merry**

**CLlr Chris Weaver**

Tel: 029 2037 2301  
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Tel: 029 2039 7149  
Email: [Christopher.weaver@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.weaver@cardiff.gov.uk)

### **Your weekly Councillor surgeries:**

11am until 12 noon: Held at Cathays Community Centre 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, then Cathays Library on all the other Saturdays. Voice your concerns and ideas with the councillors.

### **DONATIONS – Thank you !!!!**

The following donations have been given by fellow Cathaysians who have given very generously towards the Your Cathays Newsletter:

Local landlord £10-00p.  
Anonymous 30+ £5-00p  
Spencer Street Neighbourhood Watch - £20-00p  
PACT meeting £3-00p  
Anonymous 50+ £4-00p  
Also a donation of A3 paper for Y/C printing newsletters!

Thank you all – it has helped a great deal as all this work is done on a voluntary basis to support your district!

All the paper, printing, distribution and work is done on a voluntary basis – if you can [donate@yourcathays.org.uk](mailto:donate@yourcathays.org.uk) (using PayPal - or call us on the main number) giving £1 to £5 will help us get the next 300-400 newsletters out.