

Your Cathays



Autumn/Winter 2017 Your Cathays Newsletter # 7 07421 994 768 www.yourcathays.org.uk mail@yourcathays.org.uk

Cathays Compass presents: **Cathays Christmas Carols** community event – Friday, 8th December!

3pm until 7pm – top of Pentyrch Street – *Victorian Theme, Children's Santa Grotto, Cathays Choir, Cathays music, Mulled Wine in Pop up pub, drawing competition to decorate all Crwys Road businesses – most importantly 1,150 families in Cathays invited to attend !!!*
 Also - Xmas Tree Quiz on Wednesday 15th November; 7pm at Crwys Pub – help us raise money towards Cathays Christmas Tree! (£5 a quiz team)

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 #8 or #9 to put out A2 size 1200 copies (to every resident and local business) across Cathays. Please give cash to Y/C deliverer – or PayPal via donate@davius.co.uk or donate@yourcathays.org.uk and help us!

Summer & Autumn in Cathays review

www.cathayscompass.org www.facebook.com/cathayscompass www.twitter.com/cathayscompass

The hardest thing about delivering this newsletter is seeing whether our residents will open the door to me. There is always a danger that if I just post this hardcopy to you – it will be treated as junk mail and just thrown out (see side panel to try and reduce some of the actual junk mail). So thank you to hundreds of you who have taken a leap of faith and spoken to me since the community outreach efforts quietly began in 2011. I wish to express a massive thanks to 400+ families (out of 1,150 families in Cathays) who have trusted me their email addresses (and phone numbers) the last few years which hopefully is now helping more of our family numbers - please see *Cathays Monthly Update* below.

For those of you who are weary of opening the door, I will ask your neighbour (who you know) to give this newsletter to you (this edition is prioritising helping our disabled and housebound neighbours). With the families & local businesses working together to bring the recent *Cathays Compass autumn event – the 'Info Fest'* we are all very happy to share this info with you! To our supportive (many) neighbours please help/highlight the info in this newsletter to your infirm or more vulnerable neighbours? Possibly help them call the numbers below etc.?

ILS Information Living Services – this is dominantly for our elders, people who are disabled or people who have mobility issues around the house. This may be an opportunity for you to get help with fixing an old television, putting a shelf up, broken tap or something that you can't quite do yourself and you have no money or network that can help you (the vast majority of this is FREE to you so please call **02920 234 234** or email contactILS@cardiff.gov.uk to find out if Independent living services can help you in your home and help maintain your independence.

Meals on Wheels – (no description required) you all know meals on wheels, yet you may not know they operate in Cardiff to serve our elderly, disabled and mobility challenged neighbours. Interested/curious? Then please call **02920 537 080** or email mealsonwheels@cardiff.gov.uk to discuss whether it is suitable for you. *£3-60p for standard meal or £4-50p for meal & dessert (this includes delivery costs).*

Telecare – this will give you peace of mind with cold-callers - please call (again) **02920 537 080** or email telecare@cardiff.gov.uk to discuss the possibility of you having a telecare device put on the inside of your door (for the love of God just don't hit it when I knock on your door over the coming years!) this should cost you £4-95p a month. If someone is being a pushy cold caller – you can just hit the telecare alarm button on back of your door and someone will come around within 10-20 minutes to check on you and find out what has happened.

A quick reflection of last 6 months – with so many more people communicating with each other in Cathays, and attending the local events happening – the *Cathays Monthly Update* was created 6 months ago to get info out to as many people as possible. The family's feedback from the *Cathays Fair*, the *Summer Cathays Picnic* and *Autumn Info Fest* is very positive and the Cathays Compass will volunteer to bring 4 seasonal events to Cathays each year. Additionally we have more families (many 25-40 year old young professional couples) moving into Cathays now (student houses being converted back into family homes), to this **seven babies** were born over this summer to 25-40 year old professionals and the last count on the Y/C newsletter distribution list was 1,150 families (and still climbing!) and I'm honoured so many of you have been so open and shared your thoughts, concerns and ideas – we are (as a community) trying to act on a lot of these issues and get the information out to you! If you wish to – you can look on the Y/C website on 'resident numbers' which shows a street by street breakdown – this is not conclusive, yet you may be surprised how many families live in your street or corner of Cathays! *Oh – and bear with me; the newsletter phone is broken!*

Winter/December 2017 'Cathays Christmas Carols' (thanks to Cathays Brass and one of our elders for coming up with the name) a Christmas pub quiz will be running, at **Crwys Pub 7pm: Weds 15th Nov** (£5 a team) to put some 5-10% funds towards the £2000 Xmas tree which is hoped to be placed at top of Pentyrch Street – the library is considering doing a Victorian themed Christmas, with a mulled-wine pop-up pub, a kids Santa's grotto with St Monica's, Muslim Primary, and Gladstone's collaborating to prepare Christmas window dressing for all the shops and restaurants (*A lot of families the last few years have commented that she would go out on more of a visual show of celebration in and across all family houses and commerce streets across Cathays*) on Crwys Road. Invites will go out to you all – and the event will run 3pm until 7pm with Xmas Band, local music groups, the Cathays Choir, and perhaps a few of you may wish to dress up in Victorian attire – do we have any thespians wanting to be Charles Dicken's Scrooge? Tradition is re-establishing itself across Cathays; please do get involved with your community event!

Spring Cathays Fair – Saturday 21st April 2018

It may seem a long way off – yet given the planning and preparation undertaken for 2017's Cathays Fair (45 stalls, 4-6 music groups, easily 400-500 residents) – the 2018 Cathays Fair will be larger and a lot more local businesses, faith groups, voluntary bodies all based in Cathays are expressing interest in setting up stalls at the next April 2018's event! It looks like we could go to **70 stalls** next year!

The 'Cathays Monthly Update':

www.yourcathays.org.uk/cathays-monthly-update

First off – THANK YOU to 400 amazing families who trusted me with their emails – (it has taken a long time to build up the trust/neighbourhood links from 2011 onwards) yet there is a huge amount of work to get the email list up to the full 1,150 families (which I've found so far in Cathays) on the email list - as well as the 500 local businesses/faith groups/charities/voluntary bodies etc. who all exist inside the Cathays boundary!

The updates will come to you in a 10-15 page .pdf format – which goes out just before the beginning of the new month (examples are on the website above – see the link above) with the updates usually comprising of a quick reflection on the previous month, learning arcs, local news and the rest of the document being full of local people's/local businesses posters, event invitations, announcing new shops, offers etc.

This is free to all of you – you must be responsible for your own content/dates/times. One of main reasons it's done in .pdf is we have lot of people who do not use email (particularly our elders) so some groups who get the update – then print it out and leave it out for the elder residents to read. A couple of families print the highlights and things they know will be of interest to those without email.

If you are holding regular monthly events – then it may as well go on the Y/C calendar too on the front page of the Your Cathays website!

Yet with the Y/C newsletter going to 1,140-1,150 families (possibly more with this one going out and we always find more families living in the area) it will take years to get the list up to 1,600-1,800 recipients – including the 350-500 local businesses, faith groups, voluntary bodies etc.

If you wish to be added to the *Cathays Monthly Update* recipient list; then please contact me on Paulus@davius.co.uk and your details will go on the BCC list (so that no-one else will see your email) – trust and privacy are paramount. One .pdf at the end of the month – then a reminder email mid-month for the litter pick/next Cathays Compass meeting.... I am trying to keep the emails to a minimum as understandably many of you get hundreds of emails a month. The updates are designed so you can scan through them quickly!

Cathays Business Directory for all of you: The CATHAYS ESSENTIALS

Wyn and Phillip from www.DinasComputers.co.uk are working hard to create a business directory for everyone in Cathays; 'a *Cathays Essentials*' – which as the guys have been speaking to the local businesses on Crwys Road, Woodville Road, Salisbury Road etc. to apprise the local businesses of what this potential database/directory could deliver for Cathays (and wider Cardiff) so people have a 'go-to-resource' in their district – we wish to tell everyone now as you may be a resident who runs a craft group, kids parties, game group, therapy meeting, self-help, skills improvement group etc.– which for approx. £35 for your advert it would go in 2000 Cathays Essentials directories – your entry can reach everyone in Cathays helping you and supporting the local Cathays economy! Contact sales@dinascomputers.co.uk for more information.

Wyn and Phillip – Dinas Computers

Reduce (some) Junk mail to your house!

<https://goo.gl/NwdXY7>

Many of you have commented on your frustrations of the mix of junk mail along with your regular post. Now having spoken to several of our amazing local Postal staff; they are very forthcoming to share with all of you the junk mail **opt out**:

Type out/Click on the short URL above (or call **0345 266 0858** & press option 4) and once you fill out the forms – it means when the postal workers are sorting your mail first thing in the morning, *they will no longer add* the supplemental junk mail you guys normally end up with through your letter box on a weekly basis! *Small yet important steps to reduce your stress!*

If you don't trust the above link – just Google 'Post Office opt-out' and several options will come up for you. It will reduce some of the junk mail coming through your door (and your local postal worker will be grateful to you all for less weight to trundle round Cathays every morning on top of your normal post loads. Imagine the waste reduced on a million families opting out across the UK – small steps = big results!

Working together - reducing the litter!

Every individual street in Cathays needs TLC

With many of you supporting our student population make the transition from their home life to Cathays life can be a challenge at times. So many of you have led by example by positively engaging with our students and letting them know you are there to help out, taking their post in for them, looking after their houses over the holidays, yet also prompting them when to put the right waste bags out on the right days.

We have found that some residents are a little more socially aggressive with their penalising – by going out and taking pictures on their phones etc. (this may do more harm than good) The council and Environmental Champions did go around in October to give **waste calendars**, basic information (on safeguarding their houses) and complimentary green/food caddy bags to get the student houses started on the right foot – and reduce falling foul of paying £100 fines!!!

With increasing family numbers now moving back into the area and some streets organising their own litter picks (as part of Keep Cathays Tidy **shapes**) – Cathays is taking pride again in its appearance with gardens/streets looking better in recent years

Support your parking warden

(Again) Every street in Cathays

Heard it all before? It won't work – did you even try? Residents have battled parking problems for the last 30 years! Remember – the traffic wardens are out until 8pm in Cathays; and they want to hear from you!

Just Google 'Cardiff council reporting a parking problem' and fill in the appropriate boxes. You should record the incidents (non-residents parking in resident parking area etc.)

If you are not sure when to call Parking wardens or the police due to serious parking violations – then please do **look at the 'Positive Action' on Your Cathays website** – and follow list down to **'parking section'** to read up on what info is available to you – and what you can do about it?

Speakeasy - Debt advice

www.speakeasy.cymru

I am surprised how many people have told me such personal financial problems with the 100's of conversations I have with each time I distribute Y/C#5 & Y/C#6 – to this some of you have wished to pass on the positive experiences you had of visiting the **'Speakeasy' (top of Richmond Road)** this a trusted group (funded/supported by faith groups) who can give you unbiased/impartial advice on how to deal with debts, bill payment problems etc.

Open Monday – Friday: 10am – 1pm

As long as you are honest and transparent with them – they can give you a tailored advice plan to help alleviate some of your burdens. It's on a first come first serve basis – so please start queueing at 9:30 – 9:45am to visit the Speakeasy and get some good advice/guidance to help you in your time of need!

Surveillance in Cathays update

Is it possible to cover all of Cathays?

One of the first things our Cathays Police always ask us as residents and local businesses when a local incident has occurred is; "Do you have camera's in the house pointing at your street?"

Many residents have discussed with the Y/C distribution of last newsletter the prospect of installing surveillance equipment in their homes or shops. This cannot be taken lightly as there is a danger of abuse of the data collected. If you read the Government guidance on responsible use of CCTV (see bottom of this article).

Imagine 50 more cameras all across Cathays – giving you the much needed evidence of people breaking into adjacent properties, or students trying to dump their rubbish on someone else's property, or God forbid – some poor young woman gets jumped!

Eno (from Treorky St) is a prime example of this. Since he has had cameras up outside his house – the Police come to him as a 'go to resource' and this has helped in finding the deviant who jumped a young lady last year on Treorky Street. It's also resulted in reducing 'caddy collection slamming' – every time the kerbside caddies kept getting thrown down – Eno is out there to have a quiet word with the council staff to ask them to place them back gently. Would the council staff act differently if they knew the many families on your street? Talk to your recycling/waste teams!

Like last edition (Y/C#6) massive thanks to Cerian & Luke (the atypical example of Cathays residents these days – active citizens who keep an eye on our fair district). Talking one evening with this lovely couple (who forwent suffering jetlag just to talk to me) started me on this odyssey, the last 12 months, of looking into community surveillance; talking to technicians, engineers and other surveillance enthusiasts. I'll try & get the info out to you all.

One option is "IP Camera's" (Google it please) which you can plug into your pc. You'll find reasonably priced camera's on websites like **Ebuyer** – where customers will rank their perspectives of the units they purchase giving you all some much needed insight into which camera would be best for you home and neighbourhood!

Evidence via surveillance is one of the last defences we have folks. With one of big boy supermarket delivery trucks writing off a resident's **parked** car at end of 2016; even with 5 witnesses, the tracker on the delivery vehicle and pictures taken of the aftermath – the supermarket just covered their own backsides and denied all knowledge of the destruction they had caused!

The resident had no car for 7 months until the infamous supermarket finally coughed up part of the damages – yet the losses overall for the resident were massive. It's only now that word got out the last 12 months; another resident came forward to explain the same supermarket had one of their delivery truck rip a side window off their car! Almost a year it took to get the compensation back! It is merely giant industry self-governing gangsterism! If only the residents had a camera outside their house/car dashcams to disprove the lies the big boy supermarket were plying! Protect yourselves neighbours!!

For more information – please look at www.yourcathays.org.uk and the 'positive action' at the top menu bar - which you'll see the **CCTV link**. (And please do look at the other positive actions too!)

Repair Café



- Free repairs!
- Share skills!
- Reduce landfill!
- Meet neighbours

www.facebook.com/RepairCafeWales
www.twitter.com/RepairCafeWales

Sounds too good to be true? This phenomenon is real, and it has helped a lot of locals get much needed repairs on their goods which they'd otherwise have to pay for to get fixed.

Held at 'The Table' at Pentyrch Baptist Church from 10am until 2pm on the first Saturday of every month; it is your opportunity to get something fixed you've had in storage for ever, or a recently damaged object which you'll be overcharged for, or its' not 'cost-effective' to get it repaired – yet if you bring it to the Repair Café – they will take a look at your broken goods and tell you whether they can fix it or not.

The Repair Café by definition is the community entity which represents people coming together and helping each other out for free. Many of you have complained (understandably) over time about the lack of local skills/knowledge/'go-to' person; the Repair Café may be one avenue to resolving this issue many of us face in Cathays!

- * **Fix your broken clothes, jewellery, carpentry, computers, and small electricals - FOR FREE!**
- * **Learn how to do it next time by yourself!**

There are many residents who do not use digital media, social media or email – this hard copy newsletter is attempting to apprise you that Repair Café exists and we actively encourage many of you (particularly our low income families, elders in the district, or people who don't have strong maintenance/repair/fixing networks within their own neighbourhood) to bring your broken things down and see if they can be repaired for free. **Come down – first Saturday of every month and have a look!!!** Telephone 07906 133 649 for more info or email: joeomahoney@gmail.com

What's the catch???? Well oddly enough there isn't one - apart from the fact that you may have to venture out to the 'The Table' and possibly purchase some of Rob's beautiful sandwiches, cakes and hot/cold drinks served up in the wonderfully furnished 'The Table' inside Pentyrch Baptist church – whilst your broken stuff is being repaired for free!!!

Can you help out & volunteer for Repair Café?

It doesn't just stop there folks!!! We have a significant resource of talent all across Cathays (with some people not even recognising their own abilities) can you knit? Solder? Dismantle? Sew? Fix electronics? Bike-repair? Intricate watch repair? Something not even thought of on the list? Can you volunteer at Repair Café?

The Repair Café for us all is a significant step forward to bringing people together, building community – and by the way, did we mention reduce more waste going unnecessarily to the landfill.

Your voluntary skills could bring back someone's sentimental prized possession to life, or the bare-essentials that a family cannot live without – your skills will help your neighbours!!

Joe, Cerys, John - Repair Cafe

Keep Cathays Tidy

www.keeppcathaystidy.org.uk Facebook/Twitter search: Keep Cathays Tidy
Mass community litter pick - Every 2nd Saturday month!



In December, Saturday 9th we are targeting Coburn/Thesiger/Wyeverne roads 10am start at Dar Ul-Isra Mosque!

The families step up across Cathays!!!

With many more of you making efforts to improve your gardens, and helping the more vulnerable or infirm families in Cathays get their facades/front yards cosmetically and biologically enhanced (no we don't mean the grow houses!!) a lot of visual improvements have been made. It is good to hear from some more families that they take more care cleaning their own street (or blocks on streets) now.

Keep Cathays Tidy: Quad

The Rhymney Box is being planned where a square of bricks that has fallen into disrepair is being cited as a community project where some of the families will design & build a more pleasing box shape around it and plant some indigenous wildflowers to make it more supportive of insect species that are in decline. Davius Nursery has been quietly been doing this in Cathays since 2002 – and as such has learned from the continual damage and setbacks how to reduce these impacts through more appropriate design elements.

Keep Cathays Tidy: Triangle

Lower Senghennydd, Salisbury, Cranbrook, Glynrhondda streets are now working together as Elias of Al-Manar Mosque, local Landlord's Tina, Craig & Arbee, sweeping legend Mr Wall, several of the Salisbury businesses and a few others are pulling together to make this corner of Cathays cleaner and greener. The 'Planting Cathays' where the community build boxes and place them in areas to make more 'greener paths'. More of this will be reported in next year's outreach communication to all of you. Talking to businesses and families on Salisbury Road/Glynrhondda/Lowther etc. – their main demands/ideas are Façade clean-up in terms of tackling the graffiti (particularly the tagging!) before anything else is done regarding planting the area up! What can we do about tagging? Do you wish to get involved?

What the council waste teams can take away from your house – FOR FREE:

Shorter URL: <https://goo.gl/sNXyGx>

Many of you may not be aware that the council has waived the costs on certain items for collection. The council is prepared to collect more of your bulkier items in Cathays (and other districts) This is intended to help to REDUCE FLYTIPPING – please look at this list of what the council will take away from your house for FREE!! The list is significant and will help many of you!

You'll read down dozens of things you may not know the council will collect for free under the lists of **1) General Items 2) Electrical Items** and **3) White Goods**. In Cathays – we simply can not take any more dumping – so please do engage with your neighbours about this free collection.

I bet some of you will be very liberated to clear the homestead out – particularly after the festive silly season! Please help spread the word!

Next issue #8 of Your Cathays: - *tell us what you want in your community newsletter? Spring Fair, Summer Food Fete, Community events, support the little businesses & residents!*

Tell us what you want !!! - At present we are working on trying to build a business, voluntary and community group database for Cathays to highlight all the positive things that regularly happen in your area, yet what do you want to see in the next newsletter? Please contact us and tell us.

All the paper, printing, distribution and work is done on a voluntary basis – if you can donate@yourcathays.org.uk (using PayPal - or call us on the main number) just £1 to £5 will help us get the next 1200 to 1500 newsletters out to residents & local businesses.

CATHAYS & CENTRAL YOUTH AND COMMUNITY PROJECT



www.cathays.org.uk / 2920 373 144

The CCYCP (on lower part of Cathays Terrace) has much to provide our children, teenagers, families' right through to seniors – please check out their website for all the exciting stuff they provide in your district!!

Come to Halloween night – Friday 3rd November! 5pm!
Budd, Amelia, & CCYCP Team!

Dalton Street Luncheon Club

Dalton Street, Cathays

For our elders in Cathays – come and meet your neighbours at the **Dalton Lunch club** which is open to our seniors all around Cathays (and beyond!) 5-days-a-week (**8am – 2pm** / close 1pm on Thursday) – just call us the day before to make a booking for daily £5-00p lunch: **02920 220 675**. For a bit of extra fun we have the Bingo-quiz (everyday expect Thursday)

Louise – Manager Dalton Lunch Club

0-5's (and parent) Story time!!

Cathays Heritage Library / 02920 785 580

Every Monday (term-time) a **story, singing & art** session for age group 0-5's (and parents), English session at 9:45am and Welsh medium at 2:15pm – all welcome!

Katherine – Cathays Heritage Library

Again - STOP the nuisance and Cold callers!

www.tpsonline.org.uk

Once again – we've still got neighbours complaining about the ~@#*%\$ nasty phone cold callers !!!!!

Again – we don't mean Paulus!! Get registered with TPS: **Telephone Preference Service** – call **0345 070 0707** or check their website - start to reduce your nuisance calls.

Your Councillors in Cathays:

Clr Ali Ahmed

Tel: 029 2075 5283

Email:

Ali.Ahmed@Cardiff.gov.uk

Clr Norma Mackie

Tel: 07779 975 605

Email:

Norma.Mackie@cardiff.gov.uk

Clr Sarah Merry

Tel: 029 2037 2301

Email:

Sarah.Merry@cardiff.gov.uk

Clr Chris Weaver

Tel: 029 2039 7149

Email:

Christopher.Weaver@cardiff.gov.uk

Your weekly Saturday Councillor surgeries:

11am until 12 noon: Held at [Cathays Heritage Library](http://CathaysHeritageLibrary)

Cathays P.A.C.T.

Police and Community Together

Cathays Methodist Church (Halfway up Crwys Road) look for the blue doors on right of building: 7pm start!!

Monday, 4th December 2017

Monday, 5th February 2018

Monday, 2nd April 2018

Your PCSO contacts in Cathays:

PCSO David Lloyd

email: david.lloyd6

@south-wales.pnn.police.uk

Telephone: 07584 003 999

PCSO Paul McDonnell

email: paul.mcdonnell

@south-wales.pnn.police.uk

Telephone: 07811 162 628

Local Sustainability in Cardiff

www.cardifftransition.com



Feedback from residents has shown a requirement for some form of 'sustainability directory, mapping & events' group around Cardiff; the **Cardiff Transition** group may be one answer for you – with multiple events for food growing/harvesting, local energy, community, ecology, skills, volunteering etc. going on regularly and ubiquitously across Cardiff – there may be something happening in your corner?

Lewis (Chair) Sam (treasurer) & Mike (Secretary)

"All we want for Christmas"

I have the honour of speaking to hundreds of you If I had one wish for this Christmas, it is that you all talk to each other a little bit more. Will 2018 see us be an even stronger connected dynamic community? Just believe!!