

Your Cathays



March/April 2018

Your Cathays Newsletter # 8

www.yourcathays.org.uk

mail@yourcathays.org.uk

Cathays Compass presents: **Cathays Fair** community event – Saturday, 21st April 2018

2pm until 5pm – top of Pentyrch Street (pedestrianised zone), and in both St Monica and Gladstone Primary School playgrounds; you will have 70 stalls, bouncy castle, live music (10 bands), all local business/faith groups/artists/crafts – created by the community!

Also – Survey Cathays – time to get some hard facts on the area !!! This will be to gain some facts/links/accurate info on your district.

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!

Cathays in the 2010's/2020's - a renewed community!

First off – thank you again to all of those who have trusted me with their email addresses/mobile numbers over the last 5-10 years. It has taken time to build a network of trust in the area – yet every time this newsletter goes out, I just find more and more amazing people living in your district; people who do a lot for Cathays and care about the area! **Also – if I've asked you for your email again – it's because I am categorising the emails by streets now.** The list has become so massive now at almost 500 emails that it will be easier to break into groups e.g. if we are apprising certain families on 3 or 4 connected streets about a new project, anti-social issue, a planning issue etc - it will be better than me emailing everyone across Cathays just over one street or two's issues. The mass email stuff needs to be kept to 1-2 monthly messages.

For new people who have given me their email with **Y/C#8** – you will be added to the BCC list for the **Cathays Monthly Update** (which at present is approximately 500 emails on the list (80% residents, the other 100 are local businesses, faith groups, schools, library etc.) I hope by the end of 2018 we get this BCC list up to nearer 750 – and I know there are 1,200 families living here as I've knocked on your doors to find you all! For new recipients please look in bottom right hand corner of this newsletter to understand what the Cathays Monthly Update is trying to do.

A survey to show us at our best: Data can be in the simplest forms – just age range of the families, how long have you lived here – this would prove once and for all that we have all these young couples now moving into the various streets of Cathays. It would be interesting to see what skills people have (how many builders, plumbers, tailors, ceramics, artists, decorators, consultants) live in Cathays. Would it help the district if we had a 'go to database' to get a locally recommended trade person when we quickly need one! Many of you may have particular interest which you'd like to volunteer in the area, or partake in larger voluntary projects. For now, Cathays neighbours we are just trying to connect-up Cathays (as was Paul Byers original mission) and bring everyone together as stronger community. More info in Y/C#9 ...

A need for some data/facts – I'm sure the late Paul Byers is laughing at me from above, yet his words always rung true. Many of you have real negative depictions of the local area and you never believe me when I tell you how many amazing families exist on your individual streets, as well as how many young 25-40 year old couples (young professionals) are moving into the area (starting their own families too!) and with the amount of babies born and many of you commenting how nice it is to see children around Cathays again – just know your community numbers/demographic is re-emerging! What would be good is to have some facts to present to everyone. I know we've got all these amazing people moving into (and already living here a long time) the area – I knock on every street's doors the last 5-10 years - hence I have a good idea. What I do know is Cathays is becoming increasingly a very socially advanced district with insanely high level of skills that many of you hold.

For the real naysayers whose sophistry and negatively/wrongly assume 'benefits families' are living here – you are talking rubbish! The fact that many couples are now buying into Cathays (with help from their elders/families) is something you don't see yet it is happening. Yet for the record all over Cardiff we have parents who both work full time yet go to the Foodbank as they are on their knees financially trying to bring their children up in tough times. The national Foodbank network is under real pressure, with Cardiff being cited as one that needs more support. If you can put a spare tin of beans/pasta/anything!) please deposit them at your Crwys Co-Op Shop! Each contribution makes life better for others.

PCSO Lloyd moving on: Some neighbours may not know that our local bobby; PCSO David Lloyd has moved onto the Gabalfa ward to continue his policing work and will be succeeded by the two PCSO's listed overleaf in your 'contact panel'. Mr Lloyd has worked tirelessly for the Cathays ward and built a good association with many of you as he built of decent reputation for integrity and trust! No doubt many of you will miss him – yet as he moves onto 'greener pastures' – no doubt we wish him well and say a massive Thank you and safe journey!!

Fund raisers for Cathays projects: Regrettably a lot of things can not all be done for free! So as a community we are trying to rally small pots of money to get different projects off the ground. With the build up to end of 2017's Cathays Xmas Carols, the pub quiz which was run by our excellent quizmaster Mr Neil Lauwers raised a staggering £260 which covered the £10m indemnity insurance for the Christmas tree, lights, deco etc. to go up at top of Pentyrch Street. The fact that people turned up just to put money in the pot (unable to partake in 2-hour quiz due to other events/family responsibilities) as they wanted the event to be successful. In future community events Cathays Compass will stretch out the events over 2-3 weeks as to make full use of the tree/lights/carols and most importantly the community coming together.

The feedback off so many neighbours about the lights being up, and leading up to the Xmas Carols on 8th December was a very positive experience and yet another positive sign of the real sense of community returning to Cathays. Tradition is re-establishing itself across Cathays; with many neighbours showing a keen sense to participate in the seasonal community quarterly events – come and meet your neighbours!

The Board Games night in March was an attempt to create some funds towards the Cathays Fair and Cathays Picnic. With the Cathays Compass having now set up a bank account with support of the constitution – all funds will be responsibly and transparently handled; any localised projects that occur under the umbrella of Cathays Compass means they can qualify for funding and be supported grants/funding that we will all have to make efforts to procure to make our multiple mini projects a viable success. We all need to collaborate on this.

Cathays Summer Picnic/community BBQ – July or August 2018

It may seem a few months away and we still have Cathays Fair 2018 to happen – yet the community is looking at having a large BBQ for hundreds of families this summer. If you wish to partake in the ideas/planning/preparation/outreach then please do get in touch.

Cathays Fair Stall holder info

STALL HOLDERS: There is still time for a few more Cathays based groups to set up stalls! To request a 'stall reservation form' – just email abigail.beacon@cardiff.gov.uk and the basic requirements are **A)** £10 deposit (cover fencing, port-a-loo, advertising and all other costs associated with the Fair preparation) for a stall, **B)** evidence of indemnity insurance and **C)** you must bring your own gazebo! The Cathays Fair has the capacity to go to 60-80 stalls.

The stall reservation form will answer all questions/requirements (do you need electricity for your stall/food rating/table+chair request/are you fundraising/other options etc).

Music: Any musicians who wish to jam at Cathays Fair please contact manager Bud from Cathays Community Centre on: email@cathays.org.uk Last year's event it was the first time some of the bands had played, so we encourage any newbies to sign up!

Set up: All stalls will bring their resources/gazebo's to the school on the Friday 20th afternoon between 4:30pm and 7pm – to begin setting up the next day of actual Cathays Fair between 11am and 1pm. Volunteers will be on hand to help everyone out.

Cathays Fair: Families and friends attending information

Saturday 21st - Top of Pentyrch Street.

THE PUBLIC: For all the community wishing to attend the festivities on the day of Sat 21st April; 2pm-5pm there are **three access points** – **two** points top of Cathays Terrace/top of Pentyrch St/**one** side entrance off Cwmdare Street. We strongly discourage people driving to this event due to lack of parking space available.

Public transport via train and bus is easy to get to the Cathays Fair. The centralised location means it is very easy walking distance for all age ranges/families with children to access the Cathays Fair.

There will be 40% increase in amount of space that you experienced at last year's inaugural and very successful Cathays Fair. *A lot of (approximately 70 stalls) food stalls, bouncy castle, many faith groups in attendance, face painters, the local businesses, artists, musicians, charities, voluntary bodies etc. lots for everyone there!*

We look forward to seeing everyone there!!

Quick go to list of contacts in area!

Turn overleaf

Before you recycle your copy of this community newsletter; please consider cutting the BACK PANEL off (with various council, police, community centre etc.) and sticking it to your fridge or notice board so you have quick access to contacts!

Tidy Text – still running!

Tiny url: <https://goo.gl/EodMr4>

For those not using smart phones, nor have internet access – or just prefer a text reminder – **Tidy Text is still running!** Sign up and you will receive a text message the day before your collection to remind you what bins/bags/sacks you need to put out for collection by 6am the following day.

To sign up, text **'TIDY' + your house number and postcode to 60163**

For example: **TIDY 307 CF24 4XY**

Trying to find infamous landlords ...

www.connectcathays.org.uk

When Paul Byers began the 'Connect Cathays' informatics project – it was to give you the information to make informed choices. For those of you with issue of *some* landlord and HMO's [*House Multiple Occupation*] Paul created a database on his **Connect Cathays** website so you can get the names and contact details of the landlords on some of their buildings.

We have six landlords that we know of who actually live in Cathays and they are very protective of the area, they have built good relationships with the neighbours and have been easily contactable when a problem with their HMO's has occurred. Yet the absent landlords are the tough ones to cook.

We don't know how much longer the Connect Cathays website will be active – PLEASE go on there now and **find my street** – and jot down the contact details of those landlords (as some of their home addresses are not listed on the Rent Smart Wales website – they use the infamous letting agencies address as their own.) just so you have a point of contact.

Advertising in Your Cathays Newsletter:

It's okay for the complainers to say there are no pictures in the Y/C newsletter the last 5 years or so – yet it requires more ink and thus more costs. The possibility of switching to laser from ink-jet is an expensive option – yet it may be one format forward as we go into the next decades publications.

Advertising is a possible way forward - £100 a pop for local businesses to get hand delivered adverts piggy-backed on a trusted newsletter also means that Your Cathays has a responsibility to try and ensure the content is not unethical or incompatible with community aspirations. Certain businesses will be told **NO** to any possible adverts they wish to put in.

Cathays Monthly Update

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

The updates will come to you in a 10-15 page .pdf format – which goes out (just under 500 recipients) before the beginning of the new month (*past 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. Please contact paulus@davius.co.uk to be added to the BCC list.

This is free to all of you – you must be responsible for **your own content/dates/times/links**. 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 out sections and offer it to our elder residents to read.* A couple of families print the highlights and things they know will be of interest to those without email access.

For people who need to get a poster out quickly of something happening in the next week – using the *community message board via the Facebook Cathays Compass*; it is a faster option for you to get your info/event/notice out ASAP to everyone.

Cathays Compass – ongoing development

www.cathayscompass.org



The Cathays Compass website is slowly being developed. Over 2018 its main task will be to show:

- the four regular community events (spring fair/summer picnic/autumn event/Xmas carols etc.) that coincide &/or reflects with the four seasons (honestly – no spring snow!)
- Cathays Compass constitution and other necessary policies.
- Show the regular monthly community meetings & locations.
- Co-ordinate more with local families/residents, local businesses, faith groups, charities and voluntary bodies in Cathays.
- Be a supporting entity to the locale and everything in it.
- A PayPal link will be added to the website; people can then safely donate directly/or businesses pay in for future events stalls etc. via PayPal to the constituted Cathays Compass Bank Account. Records & Receipts can account for all activity (transparency).
- Request help with development of the five following sub groups

Cathays Compass five sub-groups

Family: What can we all do to help the families/residents/young professionals living in Cathays feel like part of the community?

Community: What clubs, or groups do people wish to partake in? Is a Cathays Community Garden viable? How can we co-manage these projects? How do we support outreach of information to everyone – of all age ranges particularly the infirm/vulnerable?

Faith: Our Christian, Muslim and other faith groups wish to collaborate together on various projects – what can we do together? One idea was clean up effort together – such as Lowther Road area?

Business: The possibility of a **Cathays Loyalty Card**? Some businesses have considered giving 5% off to other businesses/residents in the area etc. What would make for a more resilient Cathays economy?

Funding: Regrettably we still need money to undertake a lot of community tasks, are you an aficionado on funding applications/sourcing? Can you help procure community funds?

If you are interested then please do consider contacting admin@cathayscompass.org – or **message via Facebook**, thank you!

Building links with other groups to share good practice and recommend good people who make sacrifice, are honest and act honourably – this makes for stronger communities will be!

Community Notice Board:

www.facebook.com/cathayscompass/

Please use the Cathays Compass Facebook page as your community notice board. For the many one off's such as Valentines, or Easter events – if message your poster to the Cathays Compass Facebook group – it can be added to the main FB Compass page quickly (particularly if it's an event happening in next week or so!)

The existing posts get many shares and your input will go reach far into Cathays and adjacent districts! For the rest of the Cathays community – please consider **adding a like** to **Cathays Compass on FB** the more people in the know the stronger the community connections!

'Coo-Coo-ing' in Cathays?

.... Hopefully not any streets in Cathays!!

This piece would not have been possible if not for the input from our local residents who have backgrounds in social work, land-lording and social housing. All contributors have requested to remain anonymous.

Coo-Coo-ing is a phenomenon where you own home is carefully taken over, putting the owner under real pressure and their lives into a bad chaotic state where invariably many are forced out their own homes.

The concept began in recent decades where a vulnerable person – be it a drug addict, a disabled person, an elderly person or anyone who is very vulnerable and easily accessible.

The occupant is invariably approached by a criminal relative or someone they know. If it is an elder who has long paid of their house, yet they cannot afford to redecorate or maintain the upkeep of the house – the criminal will offer to pay rent and improve the state of the house. This sounds like an amazing deal which is willingly accepted. The houses get improved with redecoration and modernised with newer technologies/creature comforts. It all seems to improve nicely

What the original occupant does not realise is the house soon becomes a central focus for selling and the distribution of narcotics. Yet as the local police may know the house belongs to an elderly or disabled person they may not understandably immediately suspect there are negative shenanigans occurring in that specific house - even if complaints from nearby neighbour's stem from that they see 'odgy characters' coming down their street yet can't guess what house they are going into. This is a very clever ploy the more negative drug dealers of our society have managed to conduct themselves as they attempt to pedal their trade on a more covert and secretive manner.

The house owner is soon overwhelmed with the level of anti-social and illegal activity that goes on & often becomes intimidated and trapped like a prisoner in their own home. They are too scared to report the drug selling as the dealer actually lives in their home with them – they will lose sleep, live in fear and consistently have their backs up.

Often they will sell the property (a at severely reduced price of what its market value should be) just to get a quick sale and escape the property in question. Sometimes it is the criminal house invader who purchases the house further exploiting the vulnerable person – these are not isolated cases, rather horrific unsubtle clichés that have been allowed to creep into a society which is already overtired and overburdened.

This is just merely the next step in drug culture/dealing processes. They are moving away from dealing in car parks, or infamous 'odgy areas' (which the Police are quicker to be able to legally arrest and process) to end up peddling their trade from respectable people's homes by carefully usurping the decent vulnerable persons position in the home.

This may seem like a fictitious tale yet the bottom line /moral of this story is to *please keep an eye on your neighbours*. It's only because of many pro-active Cathays residents who report drug smells, peculiar activity like people selling drugs from cars or other antisocial activity that it feeds the police the intel they require to act upon these negative social phenomena.

ILS: Independent Living Services:

This is dominantly for our elders, people who are disabled or people who have mobility issues around the house. Please telephone **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 – mostly for FREE!

Meals on Wheels:

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:

To discuss the possibility of you having a telecare device put in your house (you can hang it like a necklace on your person) just call **02920 537 080** or email telecare@cardiff.gov.uk in case you fall in the house or you are suffering 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.

Cathays Councillors & your weekly surgeries:

11am until 12 noon: Held at Cathays Heritage Library

Cllr Ali Ahmed – 029 2075 5283 / 07968 165 138

Email: Ali.Ahmed@Cardiff.gov.uk

Cllr Norma Mackie – 07779 975 605

Email: Norma.Mackie@cardiff.gov.uk

Cllr Sarah Merry – 029 2037 2301 / 07906 355 971

Email: Sarah.Merry@cardiff.gov.uk

Cllr Chris Weaver - 029 2039 7149 / 07909 991 021

Email: Christopher.Weaver@cardiff.gov.uk

Again - STOP the nuisance and Cold callers!

www.tpsonline.org.uk

Telephone Preference Service – call **0345 070 0707** or check their website - start reducing your nuisance phone calls: Get your mobile and landline both registered!!

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, 9th April 2018

Monday, 4th June 2018

Your PCSO contacts in Cathays:

PCSO Ceri Francis

email: ceri.francis2@south-wales.pnn.police.uk

Tel: 07805 301 669

PCSO Chris Blatchford

email: chris.blatchford@south-wales.pnn.police.uk

Tel: 07967 128 190



Keep Cathays Tidy

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

Keep up to date with next months **Keep Cathays Tidy Community Litter Picks** via **FB page** or **Cathays Monthly Update**

The families step up across Cathays!!!

With many more of you making efforts to improve your gardens (Woody Bap volunteers helping clean up gardens) and helping the more vulnerable or infirm families in Cathays get their facades/front yards cosmetically and biologically enhanced: one issue arisen is the 30-50's families citing concern about our elders and now quite a few of them help each other out with de-weeding/clean up front gardens

Keep Cathays Tidy: Quad

The 'Rhymney Bricks' 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. Obviously, the design must be durable and withstand a pounding from vehicles or drunks. Yet as part of the growing interest from multiple families to partake in looking after and physically improving the area – the 'Rhymney bricks' project will be another potential example of the Cathays families working together as a proper caring and responsible community.

Keep Cathays Tidy: Triangle

Tagging is getting worse – so what can we do about it? Quite a few local businesses on Salisbury Road have been in touch with us all regarding the tagging element which has spiked significantly in the area on shops, resident's homes, and walls in area. For those not in the know 'tagging' is not even graffiti art – it's just a signature that vandals just arbitrarily spray on multiple surfaces.

Discussions with the businesses, the nearby families on following streets; lower half Senghennydd road, Salisbury, Rhymney St, Lowther Road, Cranbrook St, Glynrhondda St & Llantwit St are now contemplating best approach. If the tags are sprayed off by council cleansing teams, or the residents paint over the tags – sadly the taggers will spray them back up. Yet how can we break the negative tagging cycle?

Some suggestions include adding planting boxes, have boxed/protected composting or wormery areas (a precursor to feed a future Cathays Community Garden) basically anything to make the streets look **'look and feel lived in & looked after'** and reinforce there is a proper community here! Various families (and Cathays Community Centre) are looking for wall space to create murals designed/painted on multiple locations yet this is a project that must be handled with sensitivity and ensuring all nearby locals are apprised of the plans.

There is a large voluntary resource in the area with teams of people wishing to volunteer from Al-Manar, Sherman Theatre, Keep Cathays Tidy families and other local-residents. There is interest in mobilising a clean-up and improve the visual state of the area. One of the hurdles is to seek funding and use it wisely to get the projects off the ground. The fact that many of you have said you can't help with the admin side – yet more importantly would be willing to give a few hours up for volunteering speaks high volumes for the area. We will co-ordinate on all this and get some projects mobilised and become a reality. Should the businesses put in £50-£100 each?

Viridor Energy Recovery Facility Tours:

The Viridor facility that takes all Cardiff waste, burns it and creates electricity and heat as a byproduct. One of it's biggest challenges is educating the industry and local public on what should/should not go into the Viridor Energy Recovery Facility (ERF); namely 20% of the unwanted products that go 'into the fire' is C&D Construction and Demolition waste, this decreases the efficiency of the facility output. If we all responsibly put our waste in the right places this will increase the Viridor ERF electricity output significantly. The Viridor group put on *tours where people can visit the ERF* at Cardiff Bay and learn about the overall processes involved. **Just Google Cardiff Viridor ERF**

Next issue #9 of Your Cathays: - *tell us what you want in your community newsletter? Autumn Food Fete? other community events? support the local 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 1300 to 1500 newsletters out to residents & local businesses.



www.cathays.org.uk / 02920 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!!

Budd, Amelia, Fran & CCYCP Team!

Dalton Street Luncheon Club

Dalton Street, Cathays

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**. After food - Bingo follows lunch everyday expect Thursday.

Louise – Manager Dalton Lunch Club

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

[Cathays Heritage Library](http://CathaysHeritageLibrary.org) / 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

Bulky items the Council will take away from your home – FOR FREE!!

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

The list on council website is extensive; ranging from fridges, mattresses etc. which you can see under the lists **1) General Items 2) Electrical Items** and **3) White Goods**. Once you figure out what you wish to put out – contact the council and they will organise a collection day!