Cathays Monthly Update – February 2024

Check out the regular events on the Y/C calendar: ***www.yourcathays.org.uk*** on the home page!

Contsents

February 2024 comments: 2

If I have missed anything out – my bad !! 2

Homeless girl at the Co-Op 2

Closure of Salisbury Surgery 2

Next YAG – Youth Action Group meeting 2

RIP of 3 Cathays residents 2

Apologies to FoE Cardiff 2

CSAS gets a 5 Star Hygiene Rating 3

Happy Hour to help the low income! 3

Meeting with South Wales Resists 3

Safety / crime in Cathays 3

Council Consultation – deadline 4th February 3

The Post Office saga ….. 3

The 'Your Cathays online CALENDAR' in February: 4

RIP Lazarus, Nigel and Ian who passed away in late 2023: 5

Foodbank in Cathays – donating and collection for 2024 6

Foodbank Cathays DONATION / drop off locations: 6

Claire (Teacups and Cupcakes) reaches out to the Cathays community! 7

Repair Café Cathays – 10am to 1:30pm @ Sherman Theatre – Saturday 3rd February 8

Greenpeace Cardiff @ Temple of Peace – Wednesday, 7th February 9

FAN @ Cardiff's Temperance Town @ Cathays Library - Thursday, 8th February 10

"Why does Palestine matter ….?" @ Dar Ul-Isra Mosque – Thursday, 8th February 11

'Memory Lane' Social Club (Dementia support group) EVERY Thursday! 12

Ceri De – Vocalist entertainer @ CSAS - Saturday, 17th February 13

Vandalism at business premise on Cathays Terrace: Metchy's Cafe 14

Save Maindy Velodrome Clean Up!! 15

Council Cuts will hit Bute Park, Cathays Park etc (and all Parks) hard in 2024/25/26 !! 16

YAG – Youth Action Group meeting 17

March 2024 – Cathays Monthly Update 23

February 2024 comments:

If I have missed anything out – my bad !!

I am pretty sure there are 3 to 4 entries I've forgotten to include in the February 2024 community update. Apologies if your content is missing …..

I don't get paid for any of this – and just writing this email update every month does take up 30-40 hours a month of editing - updating the website entries etc to ensure it all matches up, so please bear with me!

If you want to help out our community, please do mention this community update to your neighbours – (the more residents that sign up to the BCC list) are empowered with sharing our local knowledge the better for our community cohesion!

Homeless girl at the Co-Op

The issue of the homeless girl outside the former Co-Op (*I do miss my monthly meetings with Co-Op Crwys manager Lindsay – amazing lady!*) has continually come up in discussions over the last 18 months and the businesses and residents on Crwys Road and connecting streets wish to explain things to the wider community of Cathays. This may put some things into context.

The majority of people do empathize with the difficult situation the homeless girl is in, however her anti-social behaviour/activities has really put a lot of residents/local businesses under some duress.

Residents from Crwys Road have had their cars damaged by her, as well as their houses windows (the students also reported similar problems) – they did not antagonize any of this; the homeless girl would just come up to the houses/cars and start vandalising them.

Although people show empathy – the donations she has received of tents, clothing etc, she has been seen multiple times just throwing much of it away.

Clifford from Café has very kindly allowed the homeless girl to use the toilet facilities on many occasions – yet she just ends up trashing the facilities. The same story came from the betting shop too – when they've allowed the homeless girl to use the toilets, basin etc.

The abuse that passer's by in the evenings, by Medalion House, receive from the homeless girl is unpleasant for many. It is often reported – in the hope that the Police or council can get her re-housed or receive some sort of support, yet nothing has come of it the last 1-2 years.

Many have tried to help, yet this has not ended well and one of the 50-something Crwys Road residents told me "the best thing is not to look at her, not react to the abuse – as she'll use any excuse to kick off!"

I wonder what wider Cathays thoughts are on this?

Closure of Salisbury Surgery

A letter has gone out to residents registered with Salisbury Surgery, to advise them that Salisbury Surgery will close indefinitely on 31st March 2024.

After a lot of discussion, Salisbury Surgery could not find a satisfactory outcome with rental negotiations with the landlord of the property. So sadly the GP surgery will now close down. If you have any queries, please do contact ***salisbury.roadclosure@wales.nhs.uk***.

Dr (Mrs) K. Hassan was a brilliant local GP and very supportive in the 2000's and 2010's (which she retired in the mid 2010's) is remembered by many residents for her good nature and looking after her patients.

Current senior partner Dr Amir Ghanghro advises everyone involved that everyone will be deferred to the sister surgery at *St David's Court Surgery*. Obviously this is a bit of a blow to some people who may have challenges getting across town. Yet at least you still have another surgery running elsewhere for you to see a GP.

Thank you Salisbury Surgery for everything you've done the last 4 decades in Cathays.

Next YAG – Youth Action Group meeting.

Liz has included the minutes from the initial YAG Youth Action Group meeting at the end of this community update. Our youth need support on many levels and regular activities and engagement. Many parents, faith and other groups may wish to get involved with YAG.

The meetings are hybrid of in-person and video. Even if you can not make the monthly attendance – you can get a copy of the monthly minutes from Liz on ***Liz.VanDerAkker@cardiff.ac.uk***.

Next meeting – Thursday 7th March 10-11.30

RIP of 3 Cathays residents

We normally try to squeeze the notices of neighbours who have passed away into these columns – yet there was a lot to write about neighbours who died recently.

The details are on the pages below.

Apologies to FoE Cardiff

Once I get the correct details for Friends of the Earth Cardiff, I will add them to the online calendar. Apologies it has not gone in this community update. March it is!!

To this the XR Cardiff and Greenpeace Cardiff details are up on the ***www.yourcathays.org.uk*** home page calendar – and their actual entries are included on separate pages of this February update.

CSAS gets a 5 Star Hygiene Rating

Quick head-up – congratulations to ***CSAS***: ***Cathays Sports and Social*** for getting a 5 star in their recent hygiene rating assessment.

Happy Hour to help the low income!

With cost-of-living crisis, going out socially for some this is no longer a regular activity – yet a privilege.

I politely remind our low income, retirees, young families on tight budgets etc that *Cathays Sports and Social* does a ***Happy Hour every Friday from 3pm to 7pm***. The pints then average £3-50p – a saving for many.

It is mind blowingly hard to listen to many of you tell me how isolated you are – especially in lockdown, yet the aftereffects in 2022, 2023 and 2024 are tragic to hear.

Make new friends - please do join the happy hour!

Meeting with South Wales Resists

Last summer when one of our Cathays residents put in a poster about the 'Stop the 20mph demonstration' there were a couple of people who took offence to this poster on the grounds of the South Wales Resists ***SWR Group*** were anti-LGBT, biased view/stance on sex education in schools, climate change deniers etc. it was quite a list the other offended residents sent to me.

So, in January 2024 - I checked in on one of their SWR meetings (as I will be with XR Cardiff, FoE Cardiff and Greenpeace Cardiff in the coming months) to actually discuss with them our neighbours concern's on SWR alleged anti-stances.

What I came across in a coffee house on North Road was that the SWR attendees were rational, scientific minded people – one of them is heavily involved in food growing, biodiversity support, tree plantation etc.

So, I enquired politely to them as to whether the stances on anti-LGBT, or sex education stances, climate deniers etc – the 4 people present explained that they did not write the SWR website – and it did ***not*** reflect their stances in life. Their priority for being in SWR was the 20mph limit and supporting localised economy.

The SWR volunteers went onto explain their wish to collaborate with others on common ground issues – when they put out their events on Next Door and other pages it does get a significant view of several 1000 people – yet it was the same 5 people who kept rebuking them online. Susan explained she'd not get into online arguments yet would always be open to discuss in person with anyone who has concerns on the above issues – all people were welcome to the meetings.

For those who have their concerns please do join the SWR meetings – I am sure there is a lot they'd wish to discuss with you – as you will with them!

Safety / crime in Cathays

There's insufficient time and space to get this entry, yet I am re-writing this entry for March's community update.

Council Consultation – deadline 4th February

The link for the budget consultation is ***https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Your-Council/Council-finance/Council-Budget/Pages/default.aspx*** - hopefully residents from all over Cardiff will read and feedback upon this budget.

It goes without saying the cuts all over the UK will hurt literally everyone. Yet as opposed to all councils going bankrupt – I do hope people, industry and others innovate as it may be the only way we can save a future economy. No political party can offer a solution – it's up to millions of you to lead by example…..

The Post Office saga …..

I've actually been following this for many years; the news/media do love a good story to broadcast! The level of destruction done to ex-postmasters – people unfairly discredited, or worse imprisoned. How can compensation (no matter how large) give you your life back with what too many innocent souls experience in any prison for years.

Since that 4-part drama donned out screens from 1st January it has brought a great deal to light. Yes some people will just get frustrated – which may get ramped up by the news, until the next disaster makes you forget!

The parable of IT / AI running amok was evident in the British psyche's minds a decade ago due to the Horizon units in the local Post Office being compromised – yet that was human error (which they conspired to hide all these terrible errors) …. yet that is almost incidental to the real issue of challenging the authorities.

The misrepresentation is real on too many fronts, with too many people being in on it - higher up in the Post Office, the Government and Industry.

Do not be surprised if this does evolve into people in the lower social hierarchy's all over the UK doing some serious work/investigation/research and then later challenging cases/incidents/events and finding the truth, even if it is something we don't want to hear – to bring about a lot of justice – which is overdue for many.

The Post Office saga could be quietly forgotten, or will it spur social change in the UK to drive a better country out of the current chaos? Can you all make us better?

Whenever AI does become more prevalent everywhere – it could be an ally to help destroy a lot of fake news! Real empiricism / facts to empower the people, not opinions stated as fact which happens too much on the news and social media.

Cathays Local Businesses

The 'Your Cathays online CALENDAR' in February:

Links: ***https://www.yourcathays.org.uk/***

Scroll down the front page or click on internet link here: CALENDAR – What's on this month – enjoy!

Get your entries in please!

Please help to repopulate this monthly online Cathays Calendar – for those with entries on the calendar, please ensure the information is updated with times, links etc.

Basic/Uncategorised | Health, Fitness & Sports | Local Business | Volunteering & Activism | Social & Recreation | Art, Music & Culture

Events in February 2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1 2:00 pm: Heritage FAN [Friends And Neighbours] 2pm at Cathays Library 7:30 pm: Blues Dragon & Blues - First Thursday of each month	2	**3** 10:00 am: Repair Cafe Cathays - every 1st Saturday of the month 11:30 am: XR Cardiff - Monthly Meetings - first Saturday of each month @ Quakers - Charles Street	4
5 7:00 pm: Cathays Brass - every Monday evening!! 7:00 pm: Cathays PACT - Bi-Monthly: Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec @ Venue TBC	**6** 10:30 am: Baby & Toddler Group - EVERY Tuesday @ 'The Table' - Pentyrch Street 10:30 am: Weekly Tuesday 'Cathays Cemetery Walk' (Walk for Health) 11:00 am: Tea & Cakes - The first Tuesday of each month @ Ffotogallery	**7** 10:00 am: Bute Park - Plant Sales EVERY Wednesday 6:45 pm: Cardiff Greenpeace @ Temple of Peace - 1st Wednesday of each month	**8** 4:30 pm: Youth Club @ Cathays Community Centre - EVERY Thursday	**9** 6:30 pm: IYP - Youth Club @ Cathays Community Centre EVERY Friday	**10** 11:00 am: Foodbank @ Woodville Baptist Church - EVERY Saturday	**11** 1:00 pm: United Community Social - EVERY Sunday @ Brodies Cafe (North Road)
12 9:30 am: Story Time for Under 5's - English 7 Welsh Medium - EVERY Monday	**13** 2:00 pm: Memory Lane (Dementia support group) EVERY Tuesday	**14** 10:00 am: Police Community Access Point - weekly @ Sherman Theatre 12:00 pm: Home Grown Vegetable for sale - EVERY Wednesday	15	16	**17** 10:00 am: Plant sales @ Bute Park - every Saturday	18
19 6:00 pm: Embassy Youth Club - EVERY Monday early evening	20	**21** 10:00 am: Coffee Morning - EVERY Wednesday @ Cathays Community Centre	**22** 12:00 pm: 'Cuppa with a Copper' - Bi-weekly @ Cathays Library 2:00 pm: Memory Lane (Dementia Support) EVERY Thursday	23	24	25
26	**27** 1:00 pm: Foodbank @ Woodville Baptist Church - EVERY Tuesday 1pm to 3pm	28	29			

RIP Lazarus, Nigel and Ian who passed away in late 2023:

First off – thank you to 3 families/carers for giving permission to add this content to the community update.

Conversely if anyone else had passed in recent months who has been missed out the community update – many apologies and please do submit some information which will be added to the successive months update. We should all celebrate the lives of those that live and pass amongst us all.

Lazarus:

Lazarus was the son of *Christobel* and stepson of *Simos* – who both run ***Eat Drink Greek*** on Crwys Road. At 32 years of age Lazarus very sadly passed away in late November 2023, after a very prolonged period as he was battling a brain tumour. Such a young age to pass, this has been incredibly tough on those who were with Lazarus at the end.

Never giving up - Christobel and Simos set up an online fundraiser to try and get the money so Lazarus could have a very specialist operation in Germany yet sadly they could not get the funds raised in time. Before Lazarus passed; he requested that the initial funds be used for charities to help others who have suffered similar medical conditions.

The businesses on Crwys Road surrounding Eat Drink Greek, were incredibly supportive, giving emotional support to all the family leading up to the months before Lazarus' death. It has been a very difficult December and January for Christobel and Simos. They wish to thank all those that offered their support in this sad time. Bless you Lazarus!

Nigel:

Nigel passed away in early December after being ill for some of time, he passed away at 56 years of age. Even though Nigel was a challenged with a considerable disability he never let it hold him back and lived for his passion of football and being a lifelong supporter of Cardiff City Football Club – which he shared with his friends.



Nigel's funeral wake, on the 8th January, was a very well attended and beautiful occasion of people laughing, crying and sharing stories their time with Nigel who was very much loved by many. The theme was 'Cardiff City Football Club' which did make for some interesting variations of blue clothing/uniforms.

As a regular of the CSAS, he regularly attended with his mother on Friday late afternoons and was well regarded by the members and regulars. Nigel will be missed by many. An example of a life lived in real defiance of very heavy constraints – an example to many of us to keep trying every single day – no matter what! You are loved Nigel!

Ian:

Ian Whitehead sadly died at the Heath Hospital over 24th/25th December a few days after a tragic accident that he was involved with; he was 57 years of age.



For such a character with such a responsible job of being senior paediatric staff in the Heath Hospital, a scuba diver trained instructor, and a young man who was in the military – Ian was such a quiet, methodical, and very under stated real gentleman – a man of great skill, bravery and life experience. Yet certainly not one to brag about it all.

Ian's friends had a quiet commemoration drink at 10:30pm on 25th January, the time Ian would normally be finished with work and join his friends – this was attended by the immediate close-knit group of friends who Ian had a strong bond with.

His colleagues at the Heath, and the families of all the children he ever helped will always be grateful for what he did for the sick and injured children. Godspeed in Heaven Ian!

It goes without saying, that many local people have suffered the pain from these three cherished neighbours passing away in recent months, yet please honour their memories by making the most of your own life, and making time for your friends, family and neighbours who you value around you!

Many neighbours who passed in recent years in Cathays – they may have ceased to live; yet their souls are forever – and just as importantly, your wonderful memories of them will always live on!

Cathays Local Businesses

Foodbank in Cathays – donating and collection for 2024

Link: ***www.cardiff.foodbank.org.uk***

To quality for Foodbank – you need to get referred by your GP, your housing association, the Citizens Advice group or a Social worker!

Here you will be assessed and see if you qualify for the Foodbank voucher to use at the nearest Foodbanks to you!

Many residents, local businesses have asked how to help out – please do help to donate, or if you are a faith group, local business, school etc who wish to set up a foodbank – please contact Cardiff Foodbank and see how you can help out! Every donation (in the panel it highlights what we are short of!) welcome!

This list changes EVERY MONTH – so see what shortage/excess the Foodbank is experiencing and please help out by depositing in Foodbank Boxes at Sainsbury's, Lidl, Co-Operative etc. Thank you everyone for donating!

- **SPONGE PUDDINGS AND LONG LIFE CAKES**
- **INSTANT/EASY COOK PASTA**
- **FRUIT JUICE (1 LITRE, LONG LIFE)**
- **TINNED CUSTARD**
- **TINNED FRUIT**
- **RICE PUDDING**
- **TINNED FISH**
- **TINNED MEAT**
- **ANTI-BACTERIAL SPRAY AND WASHING POWDER**
- **GOOD QUALITY CARRIER BAGS**

Please be aware this could change very quickly each month – so please check out the Cardiff Foodbank link to view our wants/excess list on: ***https://cardiff.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/***

At present we have plenty of:

- **PASTA**
- **BAKED BEANS**
- **TEA**
- **CEREAL**
- **SWEETCORN**

Please check the link weekly.

Foodbank Cathays DONATION / drop off locations:

Deposit in Foodbank Boxes in Cathays at locations such as:

→ ***Al-Manar Centre*** – Glynrhhonda Road

→ ***Dar Ul Isra Mosque*** – Wyeverne Road *(please do drop off Saturday's between 11:30 and 12:30)*

→ ***Sherman Theatre*** – Box is on the right of entrance (also Warm Places)

→ ***Sainsburys*** – Woodville Road (regular opening hours)

→ ***Tesco*** – Cathays Terrace (regular opening hours)

We are grateful to learn that Dar Ul-Isra Foodbank has been nominated for the Co-Op community Fund 2022/2023 this year! Congrats!

Please do give where you can spare one thing on the right list box!



Thank you everyone who donates!

Felicity – Cardiff Foodbank
Gauri – Cardiff Foodbank
Barak – Al-Manar Centre
Mo – Dar Ul-Isra
Simon – Sherman Theatre

19,253

three day emergency food supplies were provided to local people in crisis by Cardiff Foodbank - of this number 7639 (39%) went to children.

£863

Average rent for a two bed in our city

MORE THAN 1 IN 5

of the UK population live below the poverty line

Claire (Teacups and Cupcakes) reaches out to the Cathays community!

Cathays Community, I am reaching out to ask how we, can help you.

Hello fellow reader, it's Claire here from Teacups and Cupcakes- owner and baker on Crwys Road. This year, I am really keen to hear from you in ways I can bring more to my teashop and most importantly our community. Are you a small business that would like to work together or in need of a space to showcase your work? Are you part of a small social group that needs a space to meet? Are you longing to meet like minded people to form a knitting group, share wonderful books, discover new reads or learn new skills?

I would love 2024 to be a year that my shop not only sells wonderful handcrafted cakes and bakes, good coffee and tea in china pots but a space that I can share more with the people of Cathays.

If this sounds like something you would like to discuss further, please drop me an email, pick up the phone or pop by. I am up for hearing all ideas!

Thanks Cathays. I celebrate 8 years on Crwys Road in May- long may it continue with your support.

I look forward to hearing from you and I hope you are keeping well. Cupcake Claire.

claire@teacupsandcupcakescardiff.co.uk 02920 220 848
Opening hours- Tuesday- Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-3
Teacups and Cupcakes, 146 Crwys Road, CF24 4NR

Claire
Teacups and Cupcakes

Yes!! Knitting enthusiasts in Cathays – we are hinting at you!! I've directly emailed a few of you Claire's outreach letter ……. Please get in touch with Claire!!

Paulus
Cathays Monthly Update

Repair Café Cathays – 10am to 1:30pm @ Sherman Theatre – Saturday 3rd February

Main website: ***https://repaircafewales.org/event/repair-cafe-cathays/all/***

Get your broken stuff repaired for FREE !!

When you arrive at Repair Café Cathays, register at the volunteer's desk – then please either scan the bar code to start the process, or …. Or alternatively – you can fill out the form online - ***https://repaircafewales.org/what-are-you-having-repaired-today/*** - and get your repairs undertaken)





There are Repair Stations for ***Information Technology***, ***PAT testing***, ***Textiles***, ***General***, ***Electrical***, ***Bike repair***, come and have a look at all the Repair stations!







email: ***repaircafecathays@gmail.com***

Social Media please search: ***Repair Café Cardiff***





Margaret, Colin, Melanie, Imants, John and other repair volunteers

Repair Café Cathays

Greenpeace Cardiff @ Temple of Peace – Wednesday, 7th February

Link: ***https://greenwire.greenpeace.org.uk/s/***
Social media: ***https://www.facebook.com/CardiffGreenpeace/***

The meeting for ***Greenpeace Cardiff*** will be at the *Temple of Peace* near to Cathays Park, in Cardiff on the first Wednesday of every month at 18:45 / 6:45pm.

If you want to attend, please follow this link below and sign up to attend the meeting: See you there!!

Meeting link ***https://greenwire.greenpeace.org.uk/s/group/0F94H000000CHkJSAW/greenpeace-cardiff?language=en_US***

Welcome to Greenpeace Cardiff, a community of change makers. Join our Greenwire group to receive our latest updates and to hear about our upcoming events.

We'd love to see you there!



You're joining us at an exciting time, as we're taking part in Greenpeace's latest campaign: ***Operation Climate Vote***.

We need a government that's going to take the climate crisis seriously . To win we need to make it clear at the next General Election that the climate crisis is a priority issue for a majority of people in the UK - and the winning political party must take our demands seriously.

That's why, together with groups across the country, we're having thousands of conversations, with the aim of recruiting 1 million climate voters. Sullie Burgess, Venice Fielding, Lionel Jacobsen and Rhian Hutchings are leading our canvassing teams, and there will be more tactics to get involved with down the line too!

There are lots of ways to get involved within the group and the campaign and we're excited to have you on the team!

Sullie – Local Group Coordinator
Greenpeace Cardiff



FAN @ Cardiff's Temperance Town @ Cathays Library - Thursday, 8th February

Website ***www.thefancharity.org***

Starting at 2pm / 14:00 Cathays Branch and Heritage Library

FAN (Friends And Neighbours) meeting

This will be followed by Heritage FAN group;

We will explore Cardiff's Temperance Town

using materials from the Heritage Library.

All welcome, no need to book.

This is a brilliant opportunity for those who have never done it before – to learn how to use the library resources.

How to search for information, historical data etc.



Janina

FAN – Friends and Neighbours Cathays

"Why does Palestine matter ….?" @ Dar Ul-Isra Mosque – Thursday, 8th February



Mo Alamgir
Outreach Team – Dar Ul-Isra

Cathays Local Businesses

‘Memory Lane’ Social Club (Dementia support group) EVERY Thursday!

Website ***https://cathays.org.uk/community/memorylane/***

Memory Lane Social Club

Free activities including indoor curling and music for people affected by dementia, their carers and friends.

Every Thursday 2-4pm at Cathays Community Centre







If you would like to join us or have any queries call or email:

02920373144

Phill.Racz@cathays.org.uk

I'm a Dementia Friend

You can join me at dementiafriends.org.uk

CRONFA GYMUNEDOL COMMUNITY FUND

Ceri De – Vocalist entertainer @ CSAS - Saturday, 17th February

Link: ***www.cssc.ukpub.net/***



Josh – Deputy-Manager
CSAS – Cathays Sports & Social

Vandalism at business premise on Cathays Terrace: Metchy's Cafe

Website: ***www.metchyscafe.co.uk***

News article: ***https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/popular-cafs-window-smashed-owner-28365201***



Mehmet Unvar business owner at ***Metchys Café*** sadly suffered some vandalism in late 2023, to some he is known as 'Metch' who has contacted the Cathays Monthly Update to ask that this be added in.

Obviously when people work all week – trying to run a business in a down economy; the last thing you need is your property (domestic or commercial) to be damaged/vandalised – it is soul destroying!

Several break-ins have already happened at Metchy's Café – as have many break-in's on Crwys Road in late 2022/early 2023 (the longer nights make for more anti-social activities) where many businesses are suffering break in's across all of Cathays.



As a Cathays resident/student/local business, If you see anything – do not be a hero and try and tackle it! Get the video/picture evidence – or write down what you have seen; time, location, persons appearance!! It all helps the Police as they gather intelligence reports on the crimes that happen in our locale.

Please support your local economy – every £5-00p you spend in a local shop helps all our local businesses that tiny bit more! Let's all work together as things will be incredibly challenging in the coming years.

On behalf of:

Mehmet Unvar
Metchy's Cafe

Save Maindy Velodrome Clean Up!!

Facebook: ***www.facebook.com/groups/savemaindyvelodrome/***
Website: ***https://linktr.ee/maindysave***
email ***ABCmaindypark@gmail.com***



In early December I was summoned by Jeremy to the Crwys Pub to discuss outreach with the Save Maindy Velodrome / ABC Maindy Park's next effort. Part of the discussion was where the ABC Maindy Park would progress in 2024, a quick chat about the potential growing space/community garden and what the progression/efforts would be of the existing Maindy Park site. It is amazing to see how much ABC/SMV have achieved.



The ABC Maindy Park/Save Maindy Velodrome group have undertaken such a gargantuan task in the space of just a few short years (I bet it felt like forever for them at times!) yet between ***Christine***, ***Wyn***, ***Renata***, ***Jeremy***, ***Chris***, ***Ant***, ***Leona*** *et al* and a strong core of local people from 3-4 districts they really brought their David and Goliath game on to challenge the might of a labour council trying to destroy our local heritage.

It is a pity Cathays did not have this ABC lot, together as a team, in the mid-2010's when we lost the *Gower Pub*, or say *Dalton Lunch Club* amongst many other things destroyed in Cathays in the last 10 years. So much lost in such a short amount of time …. Yet at least all these brave souls came together around late lockdown time to take a real community stance!

Wyn had organised the clean-up on Saturday 20th and Ant put the call out on 16th January on the FB group; the response was very good with the word-of-mouth encouragement from many supporters encouraging the neighbours to turn up on the 20th to help out!



A wide array of people turned up – ranging from ABC Maindy Park committee, local residents from 4 districts, faith groups, 4-5 Tidy groups and 2 community gardens representatives showed up on Saturday morning. It shows us, that a lot of people from all over Cardiff are very protective of this part of Cardiff culture/modern history of the last 70 years.

On the day - everyone broke up into sections/groups to undertake:

→ Clean up the basketball court, paths and hard surfaces.
→ Litter removal of the whole green space, parts of the old bowling green fence line etc.
→ Clean out the gutters/drainage, which have overfilled in recent months due to lack of services.
→ Dig the pathways to give them a proper edge/shape.
→ …. And so much more.

The mix of leaves, mud (and many 100's of worms) were deposited on the inner/shared fence lines and around the bases of dozens of trees to breakdown/degrade and give more nutrients to these precious green spaces. This is an amazing practice that dozens of residents have undertaken across Cathays over the last 10-15 years! Amazing efforts.



Massive effort spearheaded by Wyn (Dinas Computers) and one of the stronger community drivers in Cathays and Gabalfa – who sits on the Committee of ***'Save Maindy Velodrome'*** and the newly formed ***ABC Maindy Park*** (established 18 months ago).

I know more of you will want to get involved, so please do join the ***FB 'Save Maindy Velodrome'*** to see about successive outings! The lighter evenings/warmer days will hopefully bring out more people to partake.

A similar set-up, is happening with other large green space projects elsewhere in Cardiff – and this will be a familiar theme with more residents being invited to help clean and protect our parks, green spaces etc all over Cardiff as more budget cuts result in losing important souls like maintenance teams, park rangers etc – so please do help out with Bute Park, Cathays Park, Cathays Cemetery, Pontcanna Fields and the many public shared green spaces!

Council Cuts will hit Bute Park, Cathays Park etc (and all Parks) hard in 2024/25/26 !!

Website ***www.CardiffRiversGroup.co.uk***

This content is from Cardiff Rivers Group about the Park Rangers – which will affect many green spaces in Cathays (Bute Park, Cathays Park etc.) and much wider Cardiff.

Cardiff Council is currently conducting a ***wide-ranging budget consultation*** as it needs to find £30.5m in savings to balance the books in 2024/25.

One of the areas in which cuts are being proposed is Parks, with the *potential loss of four Park Rangers, including two from the Community Park Rangers team*.

The Community Park Rangers are responsible for the conservation management of all of Cardiff Council's nature reserves (excluding Flat Holm), ensuring effective habitat management to preserve and enhance biodiversity. Overall, they play a fundamental role in the management of ***58 locally designated 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation'*** (SINC), ***7 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest' (SSSI)***, 1 ***'Special Area of Conservation' (SAC)***, ***2 'Country Parks'*** and ***4 'Local Nature Reserves' (LNR)***.



CRG is proud to work closely with the Community Park Rangers, and is reliant on them for their expertise and experience in directing what we do. If there were fewer Rangers available to supervise volunteers it would inevitably mean fewer CRG events on council land, with the consequent loss of many hours of productive activity. (CRG volunteers collectively did approximately 750 hours of work on council-managed land in 2023.) And there would be a similar impact on the more than 20 Friends groups, plus the numerous other community groups, charities and organisations with which they work.

We also find it impossible to reconcile the proposed cuts to the Community Park Rangers with the "Nature Emergency" declared by the council in 2021, a declaration that was supposed to give biodiversity equal prominence with climate change at the heart of the council's decision making.

We'd encourage everyone to complete the whole of the council's ***budget consultation survey***, but especially the section on Parks.

The survey is online at ***https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Budget_2024-25_Cyllideb*** and paper copies of the survey are also available at Hubs across the city.

More information on the council's current budget situation is at ***https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/…/Council…/Pages/default.aspx***

John Wallis
CRG: Cardiff Rivers Group



Image courtesy of Craig Patterson from Cathays Library, sent with a note to you all: *"Please note the survey deadline is Sunday, 4th February"*.

Craig Patterson
Cathays resident

YAG – Youth Action Group meeting

This has been asked to be added to the Cathays Monthly Update – please do share with any Youth Workers, Community Centre's, Faith Groups etc. who may wish to get involved. This will not be added to every Cathays Monthly Update – if you wish to partake then please contact Liz on her email to receive a copy of the monthly minutes.

Liz.VanDenAkker@cardiff.gov.uk

Cathays Youth Action Group

Agenda/Notes of meeting proforma

Venue	Maindy Leisure Centre
Date& Time	24.01.24
Present	Bud Harper (Cathays Community Centre) (Chair), Craig Bartlett (CYS), Mujib (Cathays Community Centre), Joff Gunter (Ministry of Life), Laura (Salvation Army), Liz (YMCA SHOT), Abbie (YMCA), Faye (YMCA), Sam (YMCA), David Lloyd (SWP), Elen (SWP), Ibrar Ayyub (SWP),
Apologies	Liz Van Den Akker (SAFE), Chris Taylor (Cardiff University), Anthony Hayes (Maindy Leisure)

NB - Data Protection &Confidentiality Group members are kindly advised that all information discussed within the meeting is discussed sensitively. Any names of children and young people will be anonymised within these notes and it is asked of partners that any names are not discussed outside of the meeting, if sharing by email, do so using a secure system. Should anyone have a concern that a safeguarding issue has not be appropriately actioned they should contact the safeguarding team for advice or refer appropriately.

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **Youth and Community Items (Projects, Issues, themes, concerns)**
    a. Evaluation of the fire service event
    b. Maitland park brief update
    c. Aims and goals for YAG for 2024
    d. Bikes scheme (brief update if required)
    e. Dates for diary
3. **Partner updates (Take it in turns for partners to share key dates, events, activities)**
4. **AOB**
5. **Summary of Actions/ Issue for referral**
6. **Date of next meeting:**

Community Updates

Key points, summary and success stories	1. Maitland Park ASB is down: Huge success and positive impact of coordination between partners 2. There is ASB in the area, some at provisions some in key areas so discussions in the yag have allowed for partners to coordinate (see key points at end) 3. CYS/ Craig have funding available for Street based mapping exercise 4. Partners' key values and aims for the group are to coordinate better delivery of services and across the board there is agreement to help with the reduction of ASB 5. Various events have demonstrated good partnership working, it would be good to work towards this together, though it is clear that Cathays is a unique area with many different yp from many areas of the city so any partnership delivery needs to accommodate for this	
Evaluation of Fire service day	Happened in late November 2023. It went well. Not loads of participants but worked well as an opportunity to get partners together and those yp who attended enjoyed it. A bit better advertised would be good, it was a quick turnaround. Sharing contacts Maindy space was brilliant, it was well suited.	

Maitland Park Update	Bud/Mujib – Tuesdays and Thursdays we've been at the park 2-4pm There was a bit of a fight between the students at the end of school over at Maindy park as part of our outreach. Gayle – mentioned that CathaysCC are welcome to come over to the gate towards the end of the day at 3.10 Craig - Feedback regarding Maitland park the asb is much better. These YAGs can work really well for helping to coordinate provision, it is good if we can have a set of aims and goals to work towards and important for the YAG to be comprised of partners who are active and willing to contribute. Laura – We don't have huge issues with ASB really, I'm interested in info about the ASB taking place at McDonalds. Police – David – ASB has dropped at Maitland park Joff updated on Mike Logan's point about Maitand park Message from Mike *"Parks Services are in the process of procuring three CCTV signs to be located at the three entrances to the park. The plan is to install them at chest height on the park's railings. Additionally, Cllrs Wodd and Taylor plan a meeting at the Mynachdy community centre on* ***Tuesday 7th Feb at 7pm****, so that residents can discuss (among other things) setting up a park watch scheme, whereby local volunteers operate an opening/closing regime."* Bud - We'll be at Maitland one day per week	

Partner updates	Bud - Maitfest will be coming up. We tend to do 3 events per year. How can we get involved with various partners, I'm mindful that Maitfest is on the last day of the holidays, not sure that it's best? Gayle (Cathays High) - James Taylor organises the events at Cathays, email me (Gayle) and I can send info on via emails Liz – Could I get Joe's details, as we would like him as a youth mentor within our session. We were doing a session on toxic masculinity there and some concerning behaviour which we would like to help to improve. Bud to Gayle – When is best for us to do an event that would involve the yp? Gayle - We have lots of yp that are from outside of the community so difficult to know. For example we have Basket ball clubs every Thursday. Our school and teachers are at capacity at the moment, we have a summer timetable, contact James Taylor (dept Head) June to July there's a changing Sumer timetable and we could be able to accommodate for something like that in that period. Liz/ Abbie - We have seen lots of yp coming to our sessions which has been good, we are very low staffed only two part time and a volunteer. Tuesdays 7.30-9.30. Wednesday skills and wellbeing workshop session and the hall is open. Thursday and Friday is our junior youth club 4.30-6.30 CCFC are coming on a Thursday plus Cardiff met running boxing. We'd like to thank pcso Michelle. We're also seeing a lot of asb behaviour around the youth club, One yp got assaulted in the street (outside of club hours); there are gangs and groups in the area and things are spiking a bit and it's before and after the sessions that's when the incidents are happening PCSOs – we are doing stuff with operation sentinel and we would like to have some support with partners with this. Also we could come out on street based and support YMCA at your provisions no problem. Most days we're on until 8pm David – touching on Maitland park, from being on duty, the volume of calls has dropped.	

	Operation bang period was relatively quiet. I've had contact from a local councillor regarding a yp in the community kicking doors of houses on their way home. Key factors have been that we've issued a few asbos and a behaviour management plan which has deterred the yp from Maitland, plus the weather. The coordination between partners has been great and helped to highlight the issue and to help bring people together to work on it together. Our main ASB is Salisbury road and bus cut through road	

Aims and goals for 2024/ service providers updates	Laura (Salvation Army) - My biggest concern is the community and what issues and where do complaints come through so that we can support with this. PCSO David – My biggest issue is that we listen to the community and are aware of the main concerns Bud – We've generally been doing outreach autumn to spring once per week, to engage with young people, before bringing them indoors for youth club over the winter. Craig – this may be a good opportunity to introduce operation sentinel and a budget aligned to maptionaire to involve the PCSOs and partners in the area. Usually any ASB that is happening is linked with licensed premises, the majority here is in lower Cathays near Adamsdown, Sanquar Street, Lochaber street to Richmond road. We would like to get some accurate views to break down perceptions of ASB and we are going to help to create and promote safe spaces we can allocate some funding for street based capacity of pop up activities. The time frame is to the end of March. Welsh Gov. have agreed to continue funding if it's effective. We're looking for some applications and emails from partners to deliver.	
Liz	We have C-Card training coming up 23rd Feb and 1st March. We could do bespoke training.	

Upcoming Events
-
AOB
-

Key Points

Who	What	Date
All delivery partners	Applications to Craig welcomed for a street based consultation exercise which is taking place	ASAP
PCSOs/ YMCA	Great if PCSOs can come along to sessions at YMCA in the evenings to support and have a presence there is possible	
All partners	Availability for Maitfest in the Summer holidays	

Next meeting – Thursday 7th March 10-11.30

Cathays Local Businesses

March 2024 – Cathays Monthly Update

Spring is coming – clocks change on 30th/31st March

Get your posters in for the businesses, faith events etc - anything to increase community connection, footfall for local businesses etc!

Regards,

Paulus