Cathays Monthly Update – October 2024

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

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October 2024 comments:

Nuisance Parking – lead the charge!

As the build up recommences of vehicles in Cathays please act responsibly! If you are going to report parking issues try using this guidance: ***https://www.south-wales.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/nuisance-parking/*** - to this …… responsible reporting by the residents will make for hopefully a better parking managed area (hey Cathays neighbours – 'Denial' is not just a river in Egypt! – *I can already hear the complaints about that typo!!*)

Before everyone starts blaming the students – I bet many of you will be surprised it often isn't always the students with the parking fiasco!

Bits amazing how over the last 10 years people tell me "it's a student house!" when in fact it is 25-50 year old professionals living in an HMO …… think about it !!

New Bins in Autumn – get them marked !!

I will keep saying it - ***PLEASE get those permanent black markers out*** this autumn – mark your own new 5 bins – and help do one student house either side of you – it will all pay itself forward in positive steps!

Cardiff Crossrail (Consultation)

Closes on Sunday, 27th October – the consultation is out to ask residents across Cardiff of their ideas/input for the Crossrail network project that runs on the periphery of the town centre.

The link is: ***https://haveyoursay.tfw.wales/cardiff-crossrail*** - I do hope some of our transport enthusiasts, train welders, maintenance crews etc living in Cathays do input on this.

I've always said since the 1990's it's a shame that (what was one dilapidated building in Butetown Train Station – later renamed) Cardiff Bay Train Station – did not go another 4-5 km deeper into the actual Bay possibly even near to Penarth Pier/beach area.

For our keen walkers, you may be able to cover this area on foot in less than an hour, yet disabled people – or tourists/residents with little children it is a bit more of a challenge. I wonder what prospects the crossrail can bring to our many communities in Cardiff?

What is your contribution to Cathays?

Does anyone fancy writing a piece on your experiences or your inputs into our community?

I am sure some of you have a few good stories…..

Cathays PACT update!

A preparatory meeting will be held so that residents, the Police and University can discuss a better format for the Cathays PACT to go forward in.

Once this has been established a public PACT meeting will be broadcasted which you will all be invited to. As a community you have a lot to contribute ideas on safety, local connections, support networks to safeguard our community etc.

Watch this space ….

Savers on Crwys Road are now CLOSED

Oh dear – very disconcerting that another shop has closed in Cathays. Savers have discontinued on Crwys Road and now refer you all to the nearest Savers which is on City Road (near death junction) or another option would be Queen Street, in town.

Too many empty shops everywhere – we have to rethink our entire local shopping economic model. What can save our high streets/commerce streets?

Wales Climate Week Conference

The Wales Climate Week event is happening from 11th to 15th November. You may wish to partake in the video conferencing activities of multiple workshops.

There are different focal points – so a choice for almost everyone to engage with one of your climate concerns: ***https://www.climateweek.gov.wales/EN/pages/Virtual_Conference_2024***

There is even a 'Take Action' pack you can download ***https://www.climateweek.gov.wales/EN/pages/Take_action*** and get involved with!

Residents projects …..

I realise some neighbours think a lot of 'hit and miss' has happened in recent years on various resident's projects – yet please know there is traction in various local projects in Cathays. This will all come to pass – for now – all I can ask of many residents is a leap of faith.

Police and Student Police activities

The Police will be working alongside the Student Police to go out with the 'safety information' now that enrolment/fresher's week at the 4 colleges of Cardiff Met, USW, Welsh College and Cardiff Uni is well underway.

Information on safety in the community etc will be made available to the students by our local Police. Some of our pioneering residents have always reached out each Sept/Oct to help the students settle in – this is always much appreciated.

Cathays Local Businesses

The 'Your Cathays online CALENDAR' in October:

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

October 2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1 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	2 10:00 am: Bute Park - Plant Sales EVERY Wednesday 6:45 pm: Cardiff Greenpeace @ Temple of Peace - 1st Wednesday of each month	3 2:00 pm: Heritage FAN [Friends And Neighbours] 2pm at Cathays Library 7:30 pm: Blues Dragon & Blues - First Thursday of each month	4	5 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	6
7 7:00 pm: Cathays Brass - every Monday evening!! 7:00 pm: Cathays PACT - Bi-Monthly: Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec @ Venue TBC	8 2:00 pm: Memory Lane (Dementia support group) EVERY Tuesday	9 10:00 am: Police Community Access Point - weekly @ Sherman Theatre 12:00 pm: Home Grown Vegetable for sale - EVERY Wednesday	10 4:30 pm: Youth Club @ Cathays Community Centre - EVERY Thursday	11 6:30 pm: IYP - Youth Club @ Cathays Community Centre EVERY Friday	12 11:00 am: Foodbank @ Woodville Baptist Church - EVERY Saturday	13 1:00 pm: United Community Social - EVERY Sunday @ Brodies Cafe (North Road)
14 9:30 am: Story Time for Under 5's - English 7 Welsh Medium - EVERY Monday	15	16 10:00 am: Coffee Morning - EVERY Wednesday @ Cathays Community Centre	17	18	19 10:00 am: Plant sales @ Bute Park - every Saturday	20
21 6:00 pm: Embassy Youth Club - EVERY Monday early evening	22 1:00 pm: Foodbank @ Woodville Baptist Church - EVERY Tuesday 1pm to 3pm	23	24 12:00 pm: 'Cuppa with a Copper' - Bi-weekly @ Cathays Library 2:00 pm: Memory Lane (Dementia Support) EVERY Thursday	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Cathays Local Businesses

The Waste / Bin Day changes in October!!

In the coming weeks – the majority of households in Cathays will receive a **Soft Pink/Red Bag** (**Plastic/Cans/Cartons**) and ***Soft Blue Bag*** (**Card/Paper**) and the ***Hard Plastic Blue Container*** (**Glass**) – as the new system switches over from Green Bags / Black Bags / Kerbside Caddies to the ***new 5 Bin system***! We all need to get on board with this!

Here is the Waste Calendar for 2024-2025!! I have put this through 3 of the 4 college networks, as well as our residents on this email list, the local businesses etc – ***USE IT WISELY please!!***

2024 SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
4	2	6	4
11	9	13	11
18	16	20	18
25	23	27	*27
	30		

2025 JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
*2	5	5	2
8	12	12	9
15	19	19	16
22	26	26	23
29			30

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
7	4	2	6
14	11	9	13
21	18	16	20
28	25	23	27
		30	

Do NOT lose these new bags/container:

As mentioned repeatedly before, please do get a Permanent Dark Marker Pen and write your house number on the new bags/container; when the wind is blowing them up the street, or some opportunist too lazy to find their own bags takes yours – at least you will have identified your own waste bags for your property and this should reduce the amount of missing bags!! When piles of them like this happen, it will be impossible to identify the non-house numbered waste bags!! ***So please do get that permanent marker, or permanent numbered stickers and mark your new bags!!***



It goes without saying dear residents, if you can do 1 or 2 HMO's nearest to you – and show what a good neighbour I know 100's of you are – by helping marking the bags of our younger neighbours we can help reduce the amount of blight on our community!

Bin Day Reminders:

The bin reminders are put our through various mediums be it council, letting agencies, the community updates etc so hopefully this new system of bins will not only separate the waste, yet make it easier to sort at the Recycling Facilities etc.



Once again – I actively discourage production of excessive waste and if you can get package free products, reuse your glass jars etc for house plants or fruit/veg which I know some of you grow in your homes – then great!!

We can do this properly as a community, if everyone does their bit – it all pays itself forward!

Use the instructions on the bags!

It like teaching people to suck eggs, yet so no-one gets confused the instructions of what goes in either of the soft bags will be on the side of these new waste carriers. ***Do not get it mixed up – or the Waste Teams will not take them!!***



Let's keep it all clean, I am aware in other districts some families have washed these bags once in a while if they get too smelly. Yet the best practise is to ensure the plastic, metal/tins, glass etc is all washed and cleaned before it goes into the waste. From many conversations over the years I am well aware many residents lead by example on this front!!

Let us see how the rest of the years goes – lessons to learn!

We can make this work between us if we work as a community!!

Make no mistake the BIN FINES will go out – and the students will get hit with most of them, so try and be a good neighbour and encourage good practise!! Please do mention to the students about the infamous PINK BADGE and when it goes on their bins – a BIN FINE will soon follow!!

Foodbank in Cathays – donating and collection for October 2024

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



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!

- **Coffee**
- **Condiments e.g. ketchup, salt, pepper, mayonnaise**
- **UHT milk**
- **Fruit juice (long life)**
- **Tinned custard**
- **Sweets and chocolate**
- **Tinned potatoes**
- **Nappies (size 5 and above)**
- **Deodorant**
- **Toothbrushes and toothpaste**

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**

Please check the link weekly.

To quality for Foodbank – you need to get referred by your GP, our 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!

Foodbank Cathays DONATION / drop off locations:

Deposit in Foodbank Boxes in various part of Cathays including:

→ ***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

Wales International Festival of Photography @Ffotogallery 1st – 31st October

ffotogallery

Link: ***https://www.ffotogallery.org/ffotocymru***

FFOTO CYMRU

Wales International Festival of Photography
1 - 31 October 2024

The first Ffoto Cymru:

Wales International Festival of Photography opens in venues across Wales in October 2024.

In a society where women artists and photographers are still regularly overlooked, the first Ffoto Cymru points the spotlight towards female photographers and artists using photography.

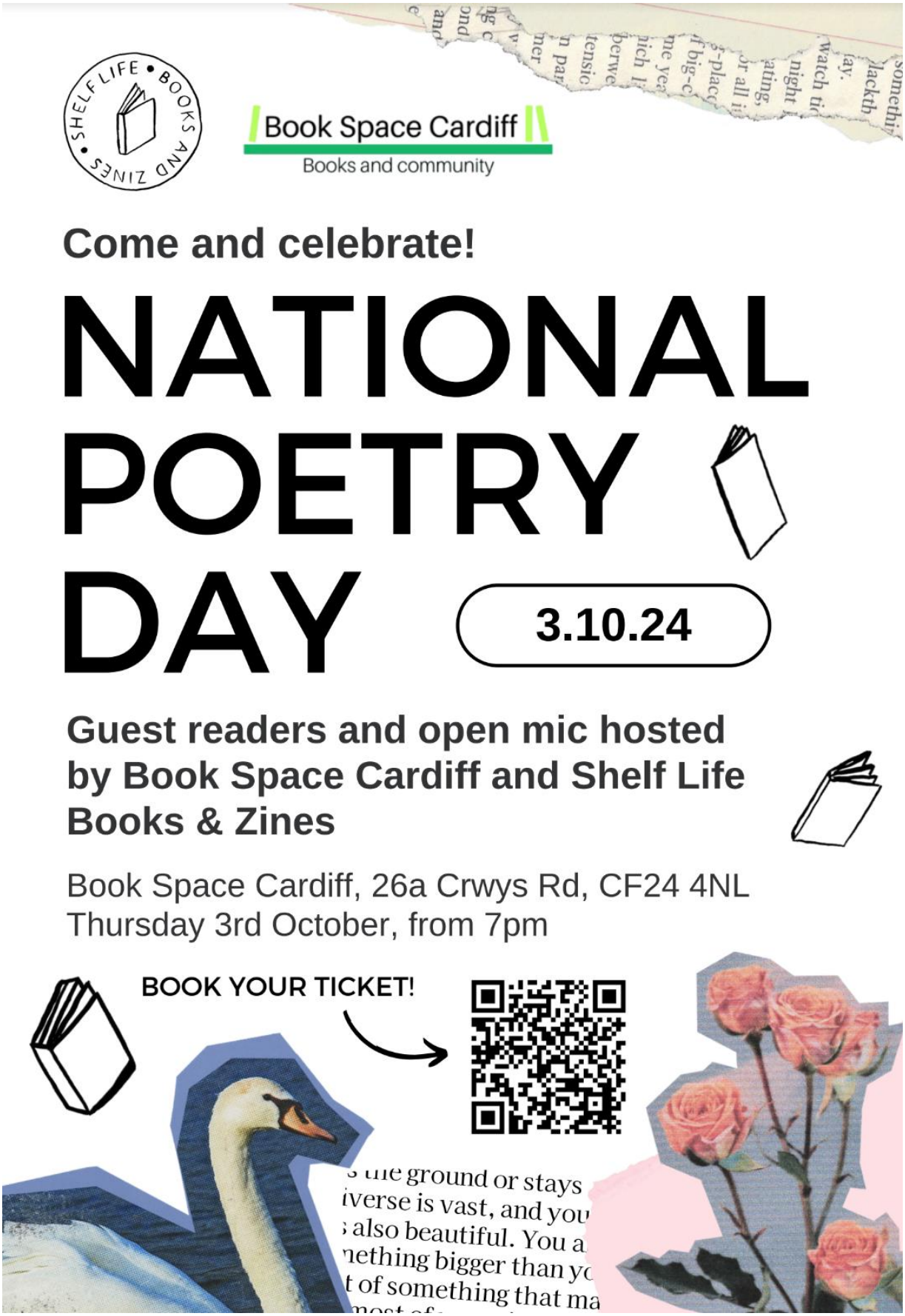
With the theme *What You See is What You Get*? the festival questions how we see, understand and use images and how they shape our identities and culture, from historical archives to AI and modern technologies.

Cath – Manager
Ffotogallery – Fanny Street



National Poetry Day @ Book space Cardiff – Thursday, 3rd October

@bookspacecardiff



Lili – Manager
Book Space Cardiff - Crwys Road

Cathays Local Businesses

Repair Café Cathays – 10am to 1:30pm @ Sherman Theatre – Saturday 5th October

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 everyone else - Volunteers
Repair Café Cathays

Steve Clark - Perfomer @ CSAS – Saturday, 5th October



It's back !! Tea and Cakes Tuesday @ Ffotogallery – Tuesday, 8th October

ffotogallery

Tea and Cakes Tuesday takes off again after Ffotogallery has had it's recent building work completed. So please do pop in for some Tea and Cakes this Tuesday and talk to your neighbours!



11am to 1pm – come and talk to your neighbours!

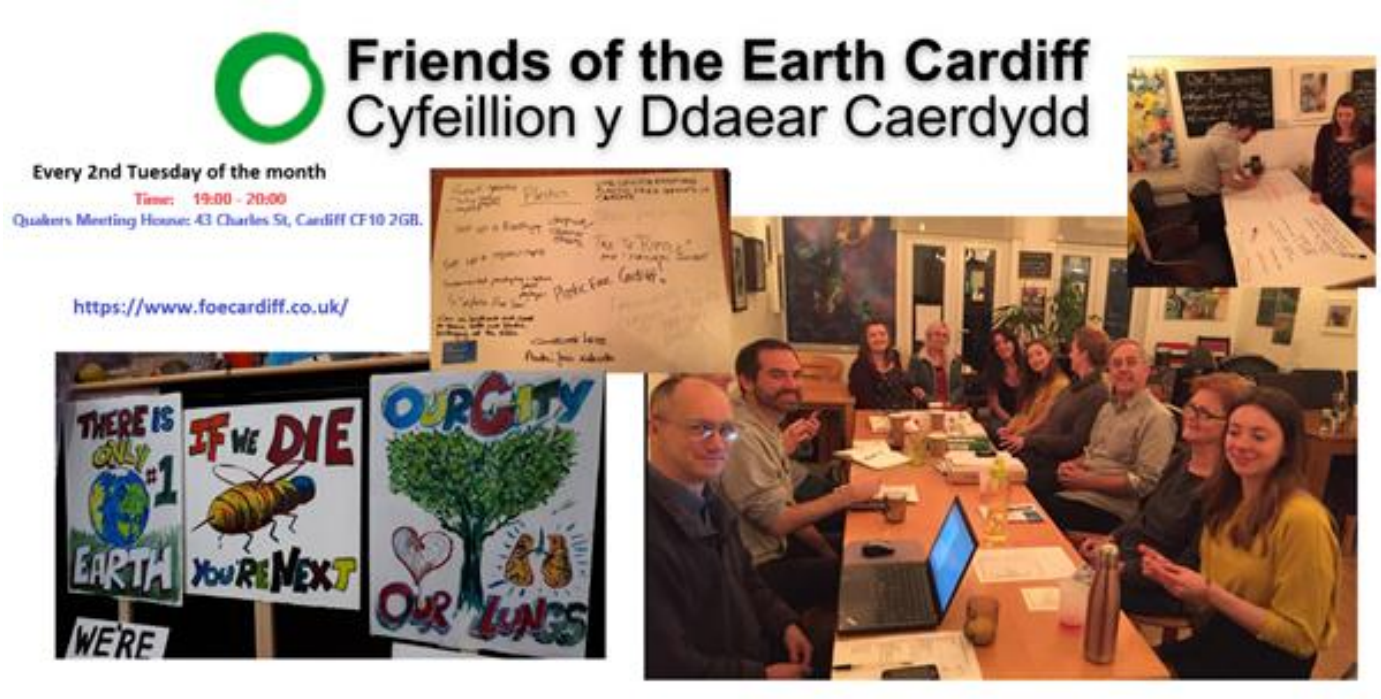
Cath – Manager
Ffotogallery – Fanny Street
Ffotogallery

Friends of the Earth Cardiff – Monthly Meeting @ Quakers – Tuesday, 8th October

Foe Cardiff Link: ***https://www.foecardiff.co.uk/support-us***

Friends of the Earth Cardiff

The Friends of the Earth Cardiff run their in-person meetings on the second Tuesday or each month!



Mike & co – Volunteer
Friends of the Earth Cardiff – Charles Street

In Person

19:00 - 20:00 on the second Tuesday of the month at Quakers Meeting House: 43 Charles St, Cardiff CF10 2GB.

FAN: Haunted Places in Wales @ Cathays Library – Thursday, 10th October

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

Most Haunted Places in Wales

The FAN Charity
Registered Charity No. 1134900
Companies House No. 7157056

FAN (**F**riends **A**nd **N**eighbours) monthly meetings in Cathays Branch and Heritage Library are a great opportunity to make new friends and meet your neighbours! English learners are welcome. We meet for an hour to listen to each other and find out about local history. Meetings are free and you don't need to book. You can just turn up!

Future FAN Meetings in Cathays Branch and Heritage Library

10th October, 2pm – Most Haunted Places In Wales

An opportunity to prepare for some spooky stories for Halloween! Come and join us for a short FAN meeting, followed by an chance to find out about some of the most haunted places in Wales!

For the most up to date information about FAN, visit www.thefancharity.org or contact janina.kuczys@thefancharity.org



Janina – FAN co-ordinator
FAN Cardiff

After Hours Browse @ Book Space Cardiff – Thursday, 24th October

Link: ***www.bookspacecardiff.co.uk***

Book Space Cardiff

Books and community



lily@bookspacecardiff.co.uk

@bookspacecardiff

www.bookspacecardiff.co.uk 07723142872

Cathays Local Businesses

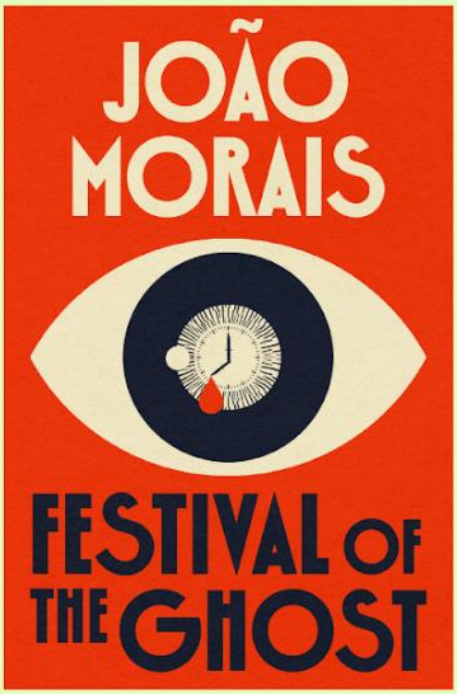
Festival of the Ghost (Book Launch) @ Book Space Cardiff – Wednesday, 30th October

Book Space Cardiff

Books and community

Book Launch Event

Festival of the Ghost



30/10/24

19:00



Ticket only: free

Ticket & a book: £9

Book your ticket online:

www.bookspacecardiff.co.uk/pages/events

Or you can book your tickets in store!

João Morais will be interviewed by Joshua Jones in discussion of The Festival of the Ghost

The last 25 years of tree planting in Cathays:

This was actually written a year ago, yet I am glad it has been put off due to ongoing efforts our other residents have been up to – and waiting on permissions of residents to add stuff into this entry……

The boring intro ….. you asleep yet?

Joining the ***Woodland Trust*** at the turn of the century was one of the last 'eco'-groups (I hate using the word 'eco') I joined/gained membership with. A decade before that I was wary of the 1987-1992 'eco-movement' (the cliché middle-class white boys with dreadlocks (so perfectly played – 20 years later - by the reliable actor: *Mr Freddie Stroma* in the Inbetweeners 2 movie – ***"I don't fail!"*** – yes you all know the scene – get your heads out the gutter!) yet it scared me, 35+ years ago that such negative role models were leading a charge on something that was vital – yet mainstream late 80's to mid-90's Society would perceive them to be hippies!



Back then my biggest problem with Greenpeace and FoE (Friends of the Earth) was the lack of healthier 'role models' – something I still look for now in the older/middle aged/younger generations 30-40 years later. As human's we do have a sense of looking up to people we admire – and following their [we hope] positive example! This planet needs a few million role models!! Yet too many times the counter culture lot of these pressure groups - were not necessarily a leading positive role model when they are trying to convey a message of climate destruction etc. I always thought this was going against the cause of a concept I've been trying to get my head around the last 4 decades (and could it even be realistically achieved) namely – Sustainability. A word and concept that has been vastly misused in the early new century we are in.

My greatest joy was joining the ***www.AECB.net*** (***A***ssociation of ***E***nvironmental ***C***onscious ***B***uilding) in 1992 – and getting the previous years 1991 edition of ***'Building for a Future'*** was incredibly insightful – *they were actually going nuts about all the damage the CDBC had done creating Cardiff Bay in the 1980's to the natural estuary and nesting sites in the old Cardiff docks*. My goodness …….. we have come a long way since. *I wonder what their take would be on three Tidal Lagoons in the 2020's?* Another of the journals I enjoyed, in 1995, when they were celebrating their 20th anniversary was CAT's ***'Clean Slate'*** (by the ***C****entre of* ***A****lternative* ***T****echnology*) – something 29 years later I am grateful to still be reading (and very grateful the CAT still exists).

These sort of groups like ***AECB***, the now defunct ***EDA*** (***E****cological* ***D****esign* ***A****ssociation*) and ***CAT*** were the role models that took a sensible, economic and practical approach to saving our earth. That is not taking anything away from Greenpeace, XR, FoE etc – I value them all too!! Especially the maturity the latter three have gone through over the decades. There was real meat-on-the-bones, which was both *viable and pliable* and could be integrated into people's busy lives without stigma of "if it is eco-it won't work" which was boring listening to in the 1990's.

2000's Wildflowers and Tree planting in Cathays:

It's never been necessary to tell anyone about the tree growing in Cathays – which stepped up a bit in 2001/2002 (back in '9/11' time – how quickly the world has been forgotten about that turning point in modern history) with the initial 1990's observations of very tiny trees sprouting out everywhere across Cathays. Many of you will recognise these as the sycamores sprouts (which are everywhere) – yet it was also gratifying to see Lime/Oak/Conker etc sprouts appearing on many of the gardens – yet soon got stomped on and destroyed.



As the turn of the century unravelled these trees were added to pots (in very small numbers) when the main focus was on wildflowers back then. There was a lot of issues trying to grow the trees/wildflowers – the compacted ground that pilot efforts were undertaken on showed many of the seedlings did not survive due the heavy compaction of the soils in Cathays, as well as problems of water leaks in areas which caused consistent micro flooding which did not make for decent planting conditions.

It was quite odd 20 years ago – doing something productive like adding wildflowers to green spaces that have been left to fall apart/experience a rea lack of maintenance. I'd be looking over my shoulder like I've done something wrong as I added in the lesser knapweeds, foxgloves, field scabious etc. Yet it would be a slow plodding effort – and too frequently I found the wildflowers and sapling trees being damaged. Such a different time back then, at the turn

of the century, a time of smashed glass on many streets – whereas now you just see entire bottles left around. So we've made some progress in 30-40 years in Cathays.

Composting:

This I cannot hint enough on everyone to undertake – please understand that having 1000 large composting tubs across Cathays just for leaves, branches, rotted wood, sodden cardboard etc. – putting all this into composting tubs would be amazing for Cathays and a carbon absorbing activity. Local waste (biological) disposal that you can gain from the end result of healthy compost that you can distribute on your gardens.

2010's Wildflowers and Tree planting in Cathays:

The local Transition Network (Cardiff Transition) took its volunteers out in 2012 and 2013 to map out as much green space as possible across Cardiff and it was amazing to see the prospect of what could be done in the limited green spaces of Adamsdown, Canton, Gabalfa, Roath and other districts of inner Cardiff.

For Cathays, I took this a step further looking at every street to see what could be done with re-design of frontage with integrated trees and wildflowers. Its amazing how better designed spaces does encourage more positive social engagement – or should I say detract from the anti-social activities (more on that in future monthly updates).

Please compost those fallen branches:

With the experience of the 4 seasons – I found so much potential material being an potential danger (sodden leaves on the roads and paths of Cathays) yet knew so much more could be done with it. All this free resource we should all be taking advantage of is instead perceived as trouble.



Although it's a running [bad] joke about ducking the falling branches – this is a common event across Cathays and wider Cardiff, which I hope none of us get slapped silly by any vengeful thick twig as it comes hurtling down!

I actively encourage you all to pick these leaves and branches up and compost them in your back garden if you can. Just depositing these [out the way] in ***small log piles*** will do wonders for the local bacteria, bugs et al.

The build-up of these natural decomposition points will do so much for your gardens and your plant pots (household and garden pots) and if half our 3000+ residents did their bit of just picking up the leaves outside their houses – even putting them temporarily into plastic bags for 3-6 months to maintain the moistness of the leaves – this all makes for excellent composting material! The positive carbon absorbing effect of healthier composting just does contribute to much positive impact – if 1,500 Cathays resident households composted in their gardens (if space allows it) then the causal positive knock on effect would be amazing.



By the time the hardcopy Your Cathays newsletter was into it's 3rd year of door knocking on every street and engaging with 1000's of residents in Cathays – it was very obvious a lot of residents wanted to do something with the nearby green spaces to them.

One example would be Paul in the Maindy part of Cathays – who wishes to set up Friends of Rhigos Gardens, or Susan in Blackweir part of Cathays who wanted (one of a dozen different families) set up a 'Cathays Community Garden' which is now seeing more fruition of a potential multi-site food / wildflower growing project. The residents are fully capable of expanding this project across wider Cathays.

Another example was Dougie in mid-Cathays who is actively involved in New Friends of Bute Park (as a supported of the original Friends of Bute Park I was mortified when it was dissolved in the mid 2010's) so New Friends of Bute Park was a very welcome development by many volunteers from all over Cardiff.

The University union did contact the newsletter about the biodiversity projects, yet I had to meet with them first to explain what constraints would occur (the temporary status of our 18-22 years olds, then a year later the next lot would be on these streets) which would make the project null ……. Yet I never quit on any potential neighbourhood Cathays Biodiversity project. It was good to see the Union had some passing interest in such projects.

Water resources:

As 2018 and 2019 came to a close, a network of water butts had been installed in the residents, landlords, faith buildings etc. with a view to being a nearby water resource to stop residents walking silly distance with 10 kilograms of water in the watering cans (yes 1 litre of water = 1kg – look it up!!) so we could at least water any potential biodiversity projects during potential drought conditions without residents having to lug water significant distances. The main focus was to make things easier for people to get immediate resources to.

Building the 'Catherine Street Planting Boxes':

One of our best residents holistically led projects in the late 2010's was the Catherine Street residents designing, building and long term maintenance of the Catherine Street Planting Boxes Link: ***https://www.davius.org.uk/biodiversity-cathays-catherine-street-planting-boxes/*** - these efforts can be easily reproduced in Cathays by our residents. The initial concept was to build the pilot project – then expand the efforts to the other areas of green space neglect to create a more vibrant array of colours and design improvements.

2020's Wildflowers and Tree planting in Cathays:

During the infamous and quite horrific lockdown experience that Cathays suffered – as I was not able to get out & engage the neighbours with a 'lockdown newsletter' a physical newsletter due to national safety guidance – so inevitably I was engaged with a many different video calls (a technology that was a non-starter in the 1990's – that suddenly became widely accepted 25 years later!) with so many topics of discussion – yet on the green space front; it was amazing to discuss many residents ideas and focuses on what they wanted to undertake once the lockdown would end ….. yet no-one could have predicted it would drag out 18 months.

The post-lockdown I just wanted Cathays to 'bolt out the gates' like a wild horse cooped up in the racing cages for 18 months, yet the reality check was too many residents had become apathetic (which was reflective of much wider Cardiff as I came to know through community links in the 'the quartet' of) learning all these volunteering activities have significantly dwindled in the 2020's compared to the 2010's.



Coed Caerdydd:

This section is not to offend our friends in the various council departments – yet since we speak openly with each other; they are in agreement of what I write.

In June 2022 I set up the initial meetings with the Coed Caerdydd staff to begin the tree planting in Cathays. I did stress to them from Day 1 of engaging with them that our residents would no longer tolerate any politization of our local activities – or we would just discontinue any efforts we undertake with the various council departments.

Weeks later, I met with the council staff and we walked the length of Senghennydd Road and Maindy Road, where I pointed out the 4 larger gardens which we could try and plant trees upon. This was achieved from years of mapping out the data that our Cathays residents contributed ideas on where we could add trees, wildflowers, bushes etc. What I did not show them nor confirm was where any of the trees which I planted across Cathays (or wider spaces) in recent decades.

Come November 2022, the actual planting day had been arranged – which I invited many of you via the community update to attend. There were residents from Roath, Penylan and Gabalfa who showed up – which I connected them up with similar minded people in their own respective districts as we continue to grow our community networks.

In early 2023 though most the trees that were planted – were either torn up or destroyed. So the ones I did recover were placed in pots and will be added to new grounds in good time. The only tree that was not damaged was the one that has a tree spike and straps added next to the young tree. The lesson from this is every future tree we plant in future will a) be grown from local propagated stock (not like the ones brought by others that came a significant distance from) b) they will be matured 5-10 years before adding them to the grounds (on a case by case basis) and c) the grounds will need more TLC in order to make for stronger green space design.



As Patience is a virtue …….. it was an honour to see our Council Gardeners (Roath) adding a tree to replace the dead tree in March 2024 – after I have been reporting it dead trees, or empty spaces where trees used to be in the many parts of Cardiff I walk around – I've mapped out all the 'tree planting opportunity' prospects we have all around inner Cardiff districts.



In 2024 a 4th group from the university opened discussions with me about biodiversity on campus and local procurement. I spoke very openly about this being done for the right reasons – not a PR stunt or gratuitous vacuous non-activity or any forced politicisation and I will report all involved negative opportunists higher up to their superiors.

Very sadly I have become very aware of people stepping back from the Coed Caerdydd, due what many holistically prefer some believe the approaches/philosophies/processes of our local residents in contrast to the industries, council and universities approaches are very, very incompatible. Some middle ground may be sought, yet not at the expense of opportunist taking credit for something they have contributed literally nothing to.

As it is the residents have chosen not to publicise their own tree planting, wildflower/biodiversity projects – for concerns about the forced politicisation – or forced big boy projects that will serve literally nothing for our community – yet rape our resources in the unseen plunder.

2030's/2040's Wildflowers and Tree planting in Cathays:

The next decade (or two) we could achieve so much on the tree planting, biodiversity alleys, repairing a lot of damaged green space – yet it will only flourish if people look after their own small pockets of space around their homes!



The lessons learnt from all the experience/growth/learning arcs/damage accrued in the 1990's, 2000', 2010's and now 2020's – there have been significant revisions in plants, processes, designs and general set up. Some of the Cathays volunteers have found the efforts we've done individually and as teams of several families to be incredibly enrichening for those that have participated. No social media, no broadcasting – just the intrinsic purity of doing something right because it is a necessary task to undertake!

The damage done to the trees is something that was echoed by other volunteers in other parts of Cardiff, so a new approach of planting – like a larger scale pockets of not just planting a tree – yet doing work to the immediate area where the tree is being planted – like a clean up, adding grass where soil is compacted, painting the rough spots etc.

Replacement trees – we've been growing them in Cathays for decades, so if the families want to get involved in the late 2020's and early 2030's we should have a healthy spread of decade old matured trees to add to various parts of Cathays and wider Cardiff.

Did you give up reading this pages ago?

All this is achievable at low costs, volunteering heavy input, citizenship responsibility on the long term looking after the green infrastructure we are fortunate to be surrounded by! A lot of Cathays residents have expressed interest in getting involved in these projects so we will involve the immediate surrounding residents of specific sites of planting each time one of our volunteering bouts are undertaken.

Every blade of grass counts!! Every indigenous wildflower !! Every tree !!! …… and everyone one of you willing to role up your sleeves and make change!

What can you do??????

November 2024 – Cathays Monthly Update

Bonfire Night 2024

Any activities in Cathays?

Armistice / Remembrance 2024

What events are you doing in your fair district of Cathays?

Get composting those leaves – clear those pathways!!

You know it makes sense!!

Invigorate your garden with some leaves – put them in a plastic bag (yes you all have them – don't deny it!!) and let the moisture keep the leaves in excellent condition until you are ready to mix it in with your garden soils.

Regards,

Paulus