Cathays Monthly Update – January 2025

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

Contents

January 2025 comments: 2

Happy New Year 2025 everybody 2

Goodbye Mr Robert 'Bob' John Hyman - RIP 2

Are you all too busy to have a life? 2

Calendar for community regular activities 2

Engaging with the waste producers …. 2

Rubbish not getting collected 2

The winter ends in 8 weeks 2

Bus Route Consultation 2

Cathays Community Centre AGM 3

Ffotogallery closed all January to public 3

Just start with one small step 3

Cathays PACT progress 3

Anything else? 3

RIP Brian Isles 3

Minimum events in January 3

Resident of the month 3

The 'Your Cathays online CALENDAR' in January: 4

Foodbank in Cathays – donating and collection for January 2025 5

Foodbank Cathays DONATION / drop off locations: 5

A potential Cathays Community Garden – or is all Cathays the garden? 6

Cardiff Social Circle – please do get involved. 7

Walk for Peace 2025 – Wednesday 1st January 8

FAN focuses on 'Womanby Street' @ Cathays Library - Thursday 9th January: 9

AGM @ Cathays Community Centre – Saturday 11th January 10

Poetry Open Mic evening @ Book Space Cardiff – Wednesday, 15th January 11

Cathays PACT builds up traction: 12

South Wales Police Listens – initiative: 13

February 2025 – Cathays Monthly Update 14

January 2025 comments:

Happy New Year 2025 everybody

Let's see what this year brings to world. Hopefully a fresh start for many on different fronts.

Goodbye Mr Robert 'Bob' John Hyman - RIP

I was contacted several weeks ago by Gareth, Bob's son with the painful news that Bob had shockingly passed away at 75 years of age.

One of the 'Curry Quintet' – it was a regular thing that the 65–80-year olds would go out for a curry meal to various Curry Restaurants on Crwys Road and Woodville Road. A true wonderful evening out.

Born in Roath and very much part of the Cathays staple; Bob worked at the South Wales Electricity Board where his career lasted for decades applying his engineering skills.

Bob was a very bright man, yet not egotistical with it and he was the gravity of sensibility in his social group whilst the other 60 and 70 somethings got more outrageous.

Like many of our local characters connected to Cathays; Bob was a very understated individual, like many of the old school around here a proper gentleman and a good friend to his immediate close circle of friends and a very family orientated father.

The funeral was on 30th December, which the residents were invited to submit pictures and a few paragraphs in advance of the funeral to be shown/read out at the funeral at the Crematorium.

This one was too close to home, it took everyone by surprise as it was just assumed that Bob would outlast everyone in the 60-90 age group due to his regular walking and frequenting the gym.

Bob is survived by his partner of 20 years Christine, and his two children.

Are you all too busy to have a life?

Not being morbid, yet it has been tough writing about many of the deaths of treasured Cathays neighbours over the last 5 years.

It was interesting to listen to neighbours in recent weeks explain that they did not get in touch with as many friends/family/colleagues to wish them seasons greetings and happy new year, as they should have.

With the amazing Bob Hyman and Brian Isles passing away a few weeks ago, it is a reminder to always make time for your friends and family. You never know when you are going to lose someone close to you.

Calendar for community regular activities

Not forgotten – still got to sit down with many people / establishments in Cathays to map out a hardcopy calendar of our regular monthly events to help encourage more

If I've not been in touch in last 3 months, I have not forgotten any of you from the residents, faith groups, volunteer bodies etc. It is going to take considerable time to engage with 50 specific people, sort out the calendar entries and links etc. then of course write/edit the whole thing – so patience please!

Engaging with the waste producers ….

One of the Pizza producers have been quite infamous with their bi-products of waste – I was hoping to start the new year with a piece on this – yet still trying to finalise the content – so deferred to February or March.

Rubbish not getting collected

Our Catherine Street residents and residents living off North Road have consistently complained about weekly waste collection not being picked up.

Please do contact the C2C Connect to Cardiff on 02920 087 087 or *https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Home/Contact-us/General-enquiries/Pages/default.aspx* and please do feedback on the missed collections.

It will help the waste teams map out what areas of Cathays are not being picked up on Wednesday's!

The winter ends in 8 weeks

Best wishes to our 3 expectant families who are all due to have babies in Spring (ish) 2025.

Bus Route Consultation

Some of you may have seen the consultation being undertaken by your local Cardiff Council: *https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Your-Council/Have-your-say/Live-Consultations/Bus-priority-strategy/Pages/default.aspx* The intention is to look into 6 priorities of (and to quote):

" - Faster and more reliable bus services.
- Attract more funding for bus priority measures.
- More accessible services that are easier to use.
- Better integration between each bus service, and with rail, light rail (trams), and bus.
- Bus routes and stops designed to complement walking and cycling facilities.
- More accessible and real time information to make journey planning easier."

Obviously many will meet this with a dubious nature, as more people are pushed out of using their cars – yet please do get your input added to the consultation.

Cathays Community Centre AGM

Yes it was supposed to happen on the – yet the Red Storm Warning had a different thing to say about this – hence the AGM was delayed to Saturday, 21st December – then delayed AGAIN to Saturday 11th – it is happening this month so check out the details in this community update.

Ffotogallery closed all January to public

Quick head's up – the amazing Ffotogallery is closed to the public – reopening on Thursday, 7th February.

As for many venues/events – Repair Café, Tea & Cakes Tuesdays, many are taking a break in January as they take a breather and prepare for 2025 many activities. So please double check before you venture out.

Just start with one small step

From meetings and activities in autumn/winter 2024 – it did highlight the frustration that certain residents had that local projects are stalling along and not actually achieving any progress. Like all talk and no action …..

You should not put pressure on yourselves, and many of these tiny steps have actually built up to a positive progress on many fronts.

For those that have become a little disillusioned, a simple activity like taking regular pictures will highlight the progress that has been made over the years.

Cathays PACT progress

The University Spark staff who have hosted the initial PACT preparatory meeting in autumn has now gained some funding to flesh out the potential PACT meetings in the future.

A summary is included further down in this community update. This does appear to be a positive and much more professional step forward.

We will resurrect the Cathays PACT and try and support our local Police and their working with our community.

Anything else?

Just get in touch and we can meet up to discuss you ideas for 2025.

Let's make this year count for something in Cathays.

RIP Brian Isles

Our last bar steward of The Cons Club got in touch to relay that sadly Mr Brian Isles sadly passed away just before Christmas Eve December.

Jayne wanted to say a few things: "Brian was well renowned and always friendly. Entering The Cons Club on a Saturday evening, he'd be there with his trousers & blazer on to warmly welcome all the members and regulars as he had done so for twenty years – a staple of the club that sadly shut in July 2023.

A great lover of his bingo nights at the club, Brian greatly enjoyed his crosswords as he relaxed with his Bacardi & Coke – or enjoying his classic mid-20th century films with actors like James Cagney or John Wayne.

Like so many, Brian set an example of being a true gentleman. You will be missed sir."

Minimum events in January

Please keep an eye out and do NOT assume certain regular events in January are happening (many people get burnt out over Xmas)

So things like Repair Café, Tea & Cakes Tuesday etc may not be happening – so please double check with the relevant organisations if they are running their activities in January.

Come February the regular monthly Cathays activities should be back into the swing of things everywhere.

Resident of the month

Eva one of our Harriet Street residents sent me a link about the work she undertakes, which gave me an idea about doing a regular piece on focusing on a 'resident of the month'.

It could a piece on their work, or their volunteering or contribution to Cathays. Its always interesting to understand someone's job – the intricacies and complexities – which many others may take for granted or not even understand whatsoever. Or perhaps one of our elders have a story about Cathays in last 50 years?

Would you like to nominate a local resident for their contribution to our community?

It does not have to be full page of content, just a quick hour's interview to put the information together and then add it into this community update.

Cathays Local Businesses

The 'Your Cathays online CALENDAR' in January:

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

January 2025

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

Please *contact us* and tell us about your events in Cathays so that we can add them to the *Your Cathays Calendar* for everyone else across Cathays to see & share in your activities !!

Cathays Local Businesses

Foodbank in Cathays – donating and collection for January 2025

Just like any week of the year – 10,000's of people are still going hungry in a 100km radius of you!
Please donate for this Christmas 2024 !!

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

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

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!

- **CHOCOLATE**
- **INSTANT MASHED POTATO**
- **SOUP**
- **SPREADS**
- **TINNED FRUIT**
- **CUSTARD**
- **LONG-LIFE JUICE**
- **SPONGE PUDDINGS**
- **SWEETS**
- **WOMEN'S DEODARANT**

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:

- **SQUASH**
- **BAKED BEANS**
- **PASTA**
- **NAPPIES**
- **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

A potential Cathays Community Garden – or is all Cathays the garden?

“Will the real Slim Shady please stand up?” So, which one of our wonderful residents put this banner up in Autumn-2024? I am grateful to see it is still there. One of the stars in the ‘Save Maindy Velodrome’ took the original image and posted it in that amazing group many months ago (thanks Nick!)



Image: Courtesy of Paulus

This picture was taken in December, many hundreds of people, passing by, have seen it as the proverbial seed is planted in many people’s minds.

To our 50 regular food growing, herb growing, wildflower growing, tree growing residents (this is just the ones I regularly converse with in the last 10 years) I hope you choose to collaborate, share etc. we can make the entire district a growing space and greener space on so many levels. Cleaning up damaged land, restoring and enhancing our beautiful green spaces across Cathays. So many of you undertake your own efforts (without broadcasting it) to support local wildlife – with every precious green space improved then the better we make the biodiversity locally resilient.

Contributors could potentially include:

This list is not comprehensive, some people have asked their details not be included – yet they wish to quietly contribute:

Susan – community growing, Gemma - Cathays Community Centre – lead gardener, Paul & Julia - Friends of Rhigos Gardens, Mel – local businesswoman, Dougie - New Friends of Bute Park, John, Paul & co - Friends of Cathays Cemetery, Eco-Church – Christian groups, Eco Schools, Eco Iftar, Davius Nursery – and most importantly the people of Cathays.

Cathays residents, and everyone else - Volunteers
The Cathays Community Garden

Cardiff Social Circle – please do get involved.

We run our community on a platform called Discord: **http://discord.gg/cardiffsocialcircle**
FB group:



James – Co-ordinator
Cardiff Social Circle

(I have mentioned to James several venues in Cathays to host potential Cardiff Social Circle events, to this if I know in advance that an event is happening, I will add it into this community update ……..)

Walk for Peace 2025 – Wednesday 1st January

Register here: Peace Walk Registration ***https://forms.gle/1yiXuYf4iuSCZAFZ6***



Darul Isra Mosque and St. Peter's Church are coming together to kick off the new year with a message of unity, peace, and justice. We'd love for you to join us on Wednesday, 1st January at 2:00 PM for a Peace Walk from St. Peter's Church to Darul Isra Mosque.

Details of the event:

Starting Point: St. Peter's Church, St Peters Street, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3BA.We'll be welcomed by Father Chris Fuse & members of the congregation. Destination: Darul Isra Mosque, Wyeverne Road, Cathays, Cardiff, CF24 4BG. A short 15 minute walk. Enjoy hot drinks and snacks with the community and hear from the Imam. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a city to hope for a better 2025, meet new people, and visit both a local church and mosque.

Mohammed – Cardiff Muslim Council
Dar Ul-Isra **–** Wyeverne Road

FAN focuses on 'Womanby Street' @ Cathays Library - Thursday 9th January:

Link: ***www.thefancharity.org***

January's FAN Plus Heritage, at Cathays Library, will focus on:

The fascinating history of one of Cardiff's oldest streets, **Womanby Street**.

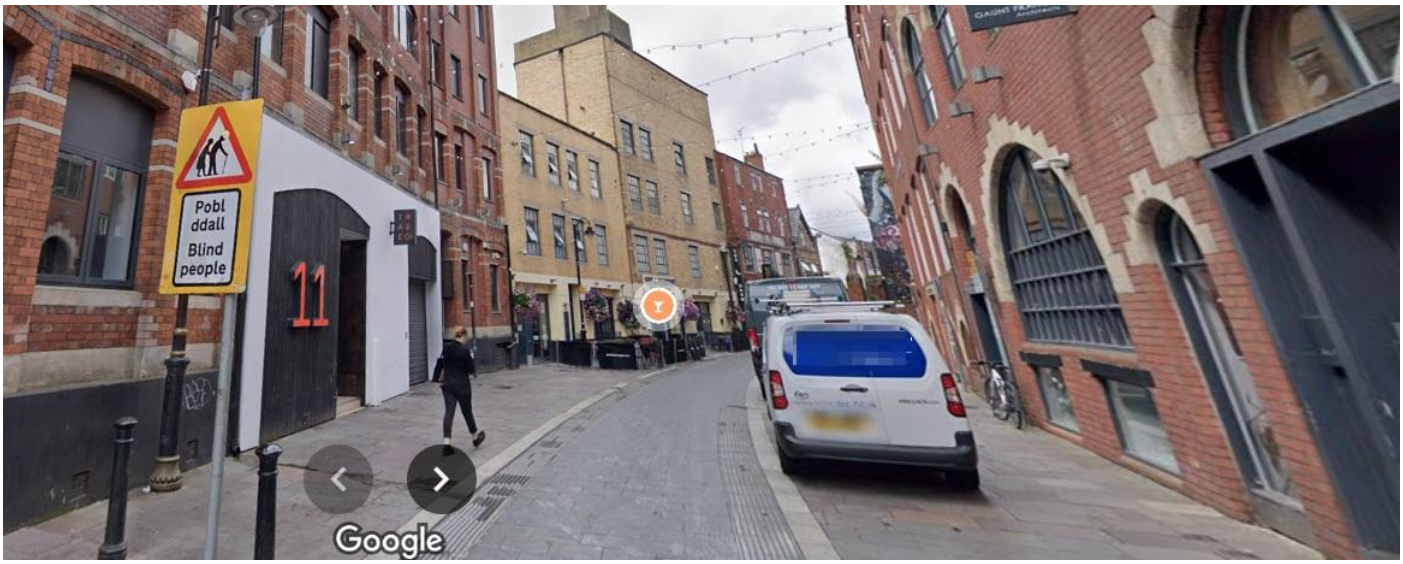


Image: Google

Beginning with a short FAN meeting, the session will go on to explore the history of Womanby St using documents and artifacts from the **Llyfrgell Cangen a Treftadaeth / Cathays Branch & Heritage Librar**y archives.

Please do join us at 2pm on Thursday 9th January!

Cathays Branch and Heritage Library
Fairoak Rd
CATHAYS
CF24 4PW

Janina – FAN Co-ordinator
FAN (Friends and Neighbours) Fairoak Road

AGM @ Cathays Community Centre – Saturday 11th January

Yes – this was supposed to happen in December – yet Red Storm Warning had caused the deferred AGM.

Link: ***www.cathays.org.uk***

So using last month's poster – yet assume the 11th January as date of your wonderful local community centre's AGM!

Assume a 5pm start – please contact the community centre for confirmation ***02920 373 144*** to confirm starting time.



Bud – Manager

Cathays Community Centre – Cathays Terrace

Poetry Open Mic evening @ Book Space Cardiff – Wednesday, 15th January

@bookspacecardiff

Tel: 07723 142 872

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



Lily – Manager

Book Space Cardiff - Crwys Road

Cathays PACT builds up traction:

Since proposing to the University that we need a space for a Cathays PACT meeting – after 10 of our forward-thinking residents attended an initial meeting in early winter 2024, this has now progressed to the next stage.

The SPARK Unit (where ten of our residents had the initial meeting with the lead academic in Autumn 2024) on Maindy Road helped build the foundation blocks to the potential of getting the Cathays PACT [Police and Community Toegther] up and running to support the Cathays district.

The abridged version of the initial email sent to me explained the recent progress:

"I am delighted to say that I have successfully applied for a small amount of funding to take the Cathays PACT (Policing and Community Together) design workshops forward, thanks to research seedcorn funding from the University's Security, Crime and Intelligence Innovation Institute (that is based in SPARK).

This is a summary of the proposal:
We aim to deliver at least three future lab workshops with residents, stakeholders and academic experts in neighbourhood and community policing to:

Co-design sustainable and effective PACT meetings (or equivalent) for Cathays residents to take forward undertake community-led research and evidence gathering to inform neighbourhood policing and future PACT meetings.

This project is also designed to provide residents with the knowledge and expertise to work with their local police and Cardiff University researchers on issues that affect their area. This builds on a pilot PACT Design Meeting on 07 Oct 2024 with residents led by the SPARK Hub Team. Ten residents attended this first meeting, and we were able to pilot our approach to curating discussions.

The funding allows us to do the following:
Three design workshops between January and July 2025 – with refreshments and catering
26 days paid work for one student research assistant to support the initiative (will need to be recruited via JobShop)
£10 thank you vouchers for up to 20 core resident participants

My indicative ideas for the workshops are currently as follows – but these can be refined with further consultation:

- *Early February: Future Lab Workshop 1 (20 participants) – identify crime and security needs*
- *Late March: Future Lab Workshop 2 (50 participants) – evidence gathering (likely to be held on a weekend)*
- *Early June: Future Lab Workshop 3 (20 participants) – finalise roadmap*

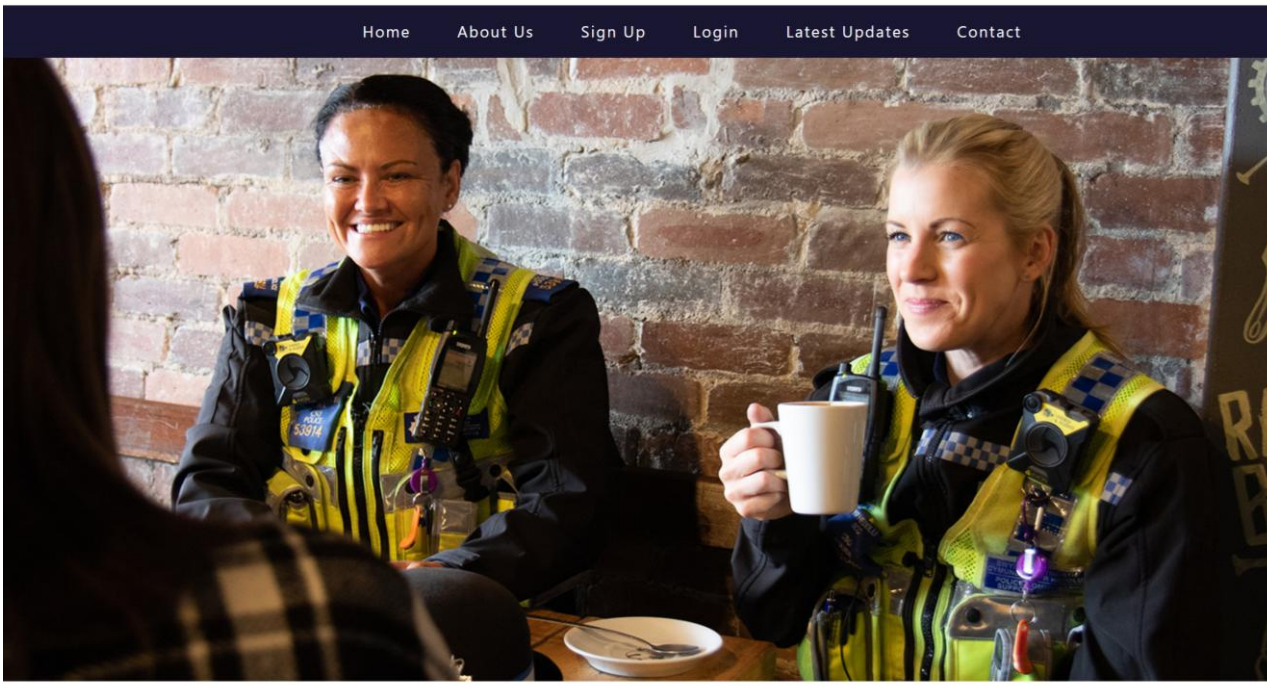
The project aims to deliver the following three outputs:

- *Project report for SCIII, South Wales Police and Cardiff Council*
- *Draft journal article on the design methodology adapted for this project*
- *Roadmap for the Cathays community to build stronger links with South Wales Police*

I know a significant number of residents would wish to partake in this – Let's make this work between us – make Cathays safer for everyone! I will be in touch with the initial 10 residents again, then we'll start bringing on board more sensible and willing residents.

South Wales Police Listens – initiative:

Link: ***https://www.southwaleslistens.co.uk/***



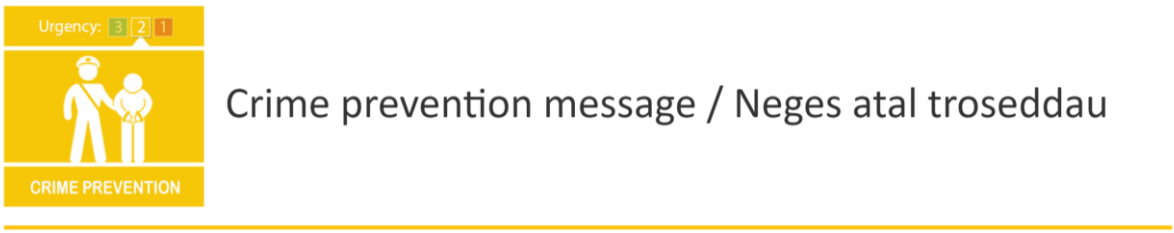
Welcome to South Wales Listens

South Wales Listens gives you the opportunity to tell your local neighbourhood police team about the issues that matter most to you, as well as taking part in surveys that will enable us to better understand concerns in your community. We'd really like to hear from you so why not ask your family, friends, and colleagues to register too? Registration is completely free, quick, and simple.

Speaking about PACT – the Police part of it; approximately a year ago I joined this 'South Wales Listens' website – which you can get updates on crimes or issues in your local area.

I contribute my token bit to list certain things – like December's Cyber crime and fraud prevention discussions in the City Centre where I put/shared it on the Next Door App – and it got 3.3k views in a mere few days – so people from all over Cardiff will want to come to the Cathays district to discuss their concerns/issues with the Police.

<u>You will receive regular emails with heading of:</u>



Which you get information on 'cuppa with a coppa', or a stolen car, or cyber crime intervention. This may be of use to you – so please do consider signing up and to the South Wales Listens website.

Cathays Local Businesses

February 2025 – Cathays Monthly Update

The new year begins ….. Here we go!

Please do get your February posters in – end of winter/early spring festivies, what about Valentines events? Please get your posters in!!

Why should you put your invitations / poster / event into this community update?

How far does this community update reach each month?

This community update is generated to support the mobilisation of Cathays!!

More inclusion, more support for all living souls – that includes pets too!! The main driver is word-of-mouth referral,

→ email network: 700 residents (out of 3,500 neighbours) 50 businesses, dozen Faith Groups, 3-5 Schools, volunteer bodies etc.

→ The newsletter website ***www.yourcathays.org.uk*** – **2,000 views a month**
→ FB Your Cathays – **1,000 views a month**
→ X / Twitter – **1,000 views a month**
→ Next Door – **1,500 views a month**
→ 3 of 4 of the University networks: – **Ranging from 500 – 2,000 VIEWS a month**
→ Most importantly word of mouth – ***unlimited !!***
→ You all make this a community a success – let's all pull together!!
→Reaching a dozen of the districts across Cardiff – encouraging people to visit Cathays more frequently.
→We can prove as a community the validity of this wonderful community of Cathays.

The online monthly statistics show people from all around Cardiff check this community update – and we strongly encourage all the other districts of Roath, Penylan, Birchgrove, Whitchurch, Gabalfa, Pontcanna etc to create their own monthly updates!

You all make this community a success – let's keep pulling together !!

If you wish to sign up – contact ***mail@yourcathays.org.uk*** and your email will go on the BCC list to receive this community update at the start of each month.

Regards,

Paulus