Cathays Monthly Update – August 2025

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

Contents

August 2025 comments: 2

A new micro resident born to Cathays!! 2

Annual Transport Survey 2

No planning permission for Gigs given? 2

Migrating all the emails over 2

Stuff missed out on last months entry? 2

Funeral of Mrs Patty Hicks 2

PACT developments 2

Long term observation/recordings 2

Anything else? 2

The 'Your Cathays online CALENDAR' in August: 3

RIP Mrs Patty Hicks – Rhymney Street long term resident and legend of local legacy! 4

An act of kindness ruined by a tiny few selfish opportunist 6

Foodbank in Cathays – donating and collection for August 2025 7

Foodbank Cathays DONATION / drop off locations: 7

Repair Café Cathays – 10am to 1:30pm @ Sherman Theatre – Saturday 2nd August 8

Craftfest Cathays – by Lark Design Make – Saturday 2nd August 9

Singer: KJ @ Cathays Sports & Social - Saturday, 2nd August 10

@ Ffotogallery - Wednesday 6th August 11

FAN (Friends & Neighbours) @ Cathays Library – Thursday, 14th August 12

MOSH @ Ffotogallery – Thursday, 21st August 13

Richie D - UB40 night @ Cathays Sports & Social – Friday 22nd August 14

David Grace – Singer @ CSAS (Cathays Sports & Social) – Saturday, 23rd August 15

September 2025 – Cathays Monthly Update 16

August 2025 comments:

A new micro resident born to Cathays!!

Massive love and admiration for one of long-term Cathays families (four generations now) as Amber has had a baby in recent months.

Amber is 3rd generation – with little one being 4th of many of the wider Tobin clan.

Congrats new mum!! H is smiling at you from Heaven too - So proud !!

Annual Transport Survey

The deadline is end of August – so for the many local residents who fill out surveys please do say your bit – link is ***https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/resident/Parking-roads-and-travel/annual-transport-survey/Pages/default.aspx*** - thank you!!

No planning permission for Gigs given?

Jeremy has passed on a link for this month's update about the chronic lack of planning permission for the Blackweir Live whole shenanigans!

Link: ***https://nation.cymru/news/major-music-events-in-cardiffs-bute-park-broke-planning-law/***

With the Friends of Bute Park and others who had the meeting at Cathays Community Centre last month it would seem a great deal was not adhered to in terms of setting these gigs up …….

Migrating all the emails over ……

It was a bit of a nightmare sorting out … so I am trying to see what info, emails etc may have been lost in recent months – yet the migration of server has had it's challenges.

The guts of 5 new websites (which residents have been working on now for a long time) based on 23-ish initiatives the residents wish to bring to life.

Stuff missed out on last months entry?

A bit of backlash about the lack of info/effort/input explained when residents helped a new family move into a disaster of a house – and helped in a very short turn around to improve the internal environment of it all – that I missed out 80% of what they undertook.

No - I didn't!! It is being put into something larger – including a few pictures for later use. If it is something that can be rolled out on a larger scale – then it is worht discussing / sharing as a Cathays community.

Know that Haggis !!

Funeral of Mrs Patty Hicks

"My Beautiful Mothers Funeral will take place on Friday 15th August 2025 at 3.30pm in the Wenallt Chapel Thornhill Family Flowers Only.

Any donations can be made to Headway Cardiff & South East Wales collection boxes are available on the day for those who wish to contribute.

Thelma Patricia Hicks 27th August 1936 – 18th July 2025 R.I.E.P"

Jayne – Rhymney Street

PACT developments

Our residents have been to 4 meetings now to try and work with the Uni on safety in the area; hopefully the university staff and the residents found this to be of mutual interest with so many issues brought up.

Will keep you apprised of developments. The majority of you wish to make Cathays a safer place to live (and it is due to the efforts of many of you showing the community connection and presence!).

Long term observation/recordings ….

It does help that one resident has access to 'The 50 house project' over 1995 to 2025 (30 years of data collection!)

All the information collected from seeing social dynamics in multiple HMO's has not gone to waste – and this information can be utilised to help our transient population – yet also the 20, 30 – 70 something's who live in house shares!!

Again – from relentless year's of door knocking, building up the trust over 2013-2019 and gaining all this information there is so much positive action that can be undertaken to improve people's lives, improve functionality of housing/social dynamics etc which will have a positive knock on effect in Cathays.

Anything else?

By all mean's do get your gripes in!! Hopefully the review of the month, or resident of the month entries will show what an amazing place Cathays is!!

Cathays Local Businesses

The 'Your Cathays online CALENDAR' in August:

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

August 2025

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

RIP Mrs Patty Hicks – Rhymney Street long term resident and legend of local legacy!

It is with a heavy heart that we share with you that Mrs Patty Hicks died on 18th July 2025 – just before her 89th birthday. Patty died at the Heath Hospital from a form of pneumonia – surrounded by her family who were with Patty right up to the end.



Patty (Maiden name David) was born and bred on Dalton Street in Cathays; sister of George, Eileen, Dossy, Terry, Mo/Maureen , Michael and Malcolm – A pupil at St Monica's CIW School in the 1940's, when it was on Merthyr Street – later Patty was a barmaid and a cleaner and The Cons Club (under it's original name 'The Conservative Club, Cathays'.

As a main job – as a teenager in the 1950's onwards; Patty worked with her best friend Betty Painter at the cinema's guiding people to their seats with a torch.

Patty met her husband Steve Hicks, a Splott Boy, and they married in the late 1950's; where they moved soon after to Rhymney Street. It had long been renamed from the infamous Cairn Street – and new Hicks couple would be one of the new families bringing up the 'Baby Boomer' children on Rhymney Street.

Patty and Steve had 5 children – Carole, Linda, Jayne, John and Mark who grew up and were part of the vibe of Rhymney Street – additionally Patty's mother Katy David also lived on Rhymney Street, as did Aunty Mo – everyone was in arms reach as part of the family communion.

There were a lot of varied characters – and there was never a dull moment on Rhymney Street – especially on the weekends, when someone was always getting a telling off!

There were multiple shops in the mid to late 20 th century on Rhymney Street. Claire's shop – (by the steps) and Sudi's shop on (what is now called Lower Wyeverne Road) yet back in the day 'it was the street of no name' to name a few. Sudi was infamous (possibly Sudanese descent man) for chasing the kids up the street with a hatchet – puts Alf Garnet to shame!! Yet the kids use to give as good as they took – as the Hicks, Hourihan's, Davies, Dolbear and other family names (still around today!) would be falling out with each other one week – and besties the next!!

Patty was involved with the many historical street parties in Cathays (which happened all over the UK) for example The St Charles Investiture in 1969 (Patty is in the image towards the left, standing in the white dress and hat looking forward), the 1977 Queen's Jubilee, and the Charles and Diane wedding in 1981 – which resulted in street parties which were on Rhymney Street – which was focal point for many Cathays residents for such parties.



As the studentification crept into Cathays in the late 20th Century – and with 'the change' Patty refused to sell up, alongside a handful of residents and remained as part of the 60 resident's who saw it through to the present day when 2/3rds of the original Rhymney Street residents sold up and left the area.

The Hicks offspring did often joke 'It did help a tiny bit that Patty was deaf – so the student parties were not an issue for her!!!'

From the 1980's/90's when the Hick kids started to move out and have their own kids; Patty was always about in Cathays – often with her trolley basket. In the early 21st Century although Patty could manage to get over the Richmond Road middle bridge/steps to get to Albany Road, Patty would wait for students to walk by, and if the trolley basket was too heavy – she would ask the students to help her take the trolley bag over the bridge – which they would graciously help Patty take it up and down the steps on Richmond Bridge/Steps!!

It wasn't unnoticed that one of Patty's kids Jayne (recently celebrating her 60th alongside Colin and others) – was a pivotal character in the 2010's with receiving the Cardiff University Rugby Team – which they had to control (and built a brilliant relationship with student rugby team) which has made Jayne a legend in her own right.

I personally (editor) remember seeing Mrs Hicks rocking around Cathays in the 2000's and 2010's on her trolley basket.



I admired her longevity and strong spirit and being a staple ofour locale. Even up to Lockdown/COVID in 2020 – Patty was still independent in her 80's and got around – with her trolley basket as her tool for transport…..

After lockdown / COVID – Patty rarely ventured out – due to rheumatoid arthritis of the spine – yet the local's on Rhymney Street always kept an eye with Claire Bear putting the bins out and another neighbour like Anthony or Kevin helping to take them back in. The spirit of Rhymney Street never dies – and the community will always exist there in one form of the other.

The standing joke in the retail shop on Salisbury Road was – when Jayne, Mark or John would take the shopping list in, there was a date on the top of the list – which the products had to meet that expiry date – which coincided with Patty's housekeeping process of making everything stretch – which she did long before the kids were born.

The standing joke was everyone knew it was for Mrs Hick's who wanted her corn beef – yet when the family or neighbours went in for Mrs Hicks - the staff would say the shoplifters had pinched it all …… so Patty was not best pleased !!!

Patty was still very independent – making her own cuppa's right up to the day she went up to the Heath Hospital in July 2025. When Patty got taken to the Heath with pneumonia in July – right up to the end – she was ruling the 5 kids with the iron rod – ensuring who could come and visit AND at what specific time.

Patty passed with all her family around her – naturally of elderly age …… she did not get beaten by a heart attack, nor cancer or anything else that millions of others suffer. Mrs Patty Hicks was a silent strong-willed woman who brought up her children with a discipline that if you want it – you go out and work hard for it! It was this silent strong unspoken will that gave her the determination to bring her children up in the manner Patty deemed necessary.



Thank you Patty for being part of the mid-20th Century to early 21st Century of Cathaysian history – people like Mrs Patty Hicks are who made Cathays – and wider Cardiff stand up and be counted. She may have been a 'little woman' as some of the family described her – yet she kept everyone in order with her firm yet fair manner, part of her gentle heart of gold, in their household and had a lot of input with her grandchildren and great grandchildren too!!! When she passed away Patty was a proud mother, grandmother and great grandmother surrounded by them in the circle of love when she went onto Heaven.

Rest in Peace Mrs Patty Hicks – you will be missed by many local families.

An act of kindness ruined by a tiny few selfish opportunist …….

In the last month, Neil one of our very kind hearted and giving souls (and long term resident of Cathays) was giving away free Plums which he grows himself organically.

A nice big sign was put up to offer to the local community and passer's to help themselves to some healthy fruit. The first time I saw this – it was amazing and such and act of kindness and community giving etc. Then a conversation with Neil a few weeks later showed me the flip side of such a kind act ……..



It was frustrating to hear that some tiny element of opportunist sods thought they could go inside Neil's and take things that did not belong to them and nothing to do with the free plums!

It is horrible that when a neighbour does something in care and giving – and it is reciprocated by 1 or 2 deviants thinking they can take more than what they should. Absolutely disgusting ……

Obviously the knock on effect was a discussion about putting camera's up for multiple reasons – including personal surveillance on the alleyways behind – as some of the neighbours households have attempted to be accessed from the rear too.

This is not a doom-and-gloom story to lower your mood – rather a reinforcement of the need to increase our residential resilience. As one part of the five websites (they residents have been creating the content, images, keeping notes of progress etc since the late 2010's) and 23 projects that got stalled pre-lockdown – it would be a one positive impact if the whole area of Cathays was blanketed in surveillance which the residents are in control of.

Hopefully this will become a regular thing with Neil giving away plums on an annual basis, yet not for people to use it as an opportunity to steal things.

Cathays Residents – let's work together and make your district a safer and happier place!!

Cathays Local Businesses

Foodbank in Cathays – donating and collection for August 2025

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

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!

- **COOKING SAUCE IN JARS**
- **JAM**
- **LONG-LIFE JUICE**
- **NAPPIES – SIZE 5**
- **NAPPIES – SIZE 6**
- **SNACKS (CRISPS, CEREAL BARS)**
- **SPONGE PUDDINGS**
- **TINNED CUSTARD**
- **TINNED FISH**
- **TOMATO SAUCE**
- **WASHING UP LIQUID**
- **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:

- **NAPPIES – SIZE 0**
- **NAPPIES – SIZE 1**
- **NAPPIES – SIZE 2**
- **NAPPIES – SIZE 3**
- **PASTA**

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

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

Cathays Local Businesses

Repair Café Cathays – 10am to 1:30pm @ Sherman Theatre – Saturday 2nd August

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

Craftfest Cathays – by Lark Design Make – Saturday 2nd August

Link: ***https://www.larkdesignmake.co.uk/cathays***



For the first time, we're hosting a very exciting event this summer: the Craftfest Cathays! On the 2nd of August, we will be bringing together a range of local businesses to host different crafts and activities throughout the day. In the morning, we will have family-friendly workshops, and towards the afternoon, we will be changing the setting into a more adult-friendly event, as we will end up heading to the Flora pub!

We will have a fab selection of workshops taught by our lush tutors and some friends of Lark too! Have a look below to see which businesses are taking part!

Singer: KJ @ Cathays Sports & Social - Saturday, 2nd August



@ Ffotogallery - Wednesday 6th August

Link: ***https://www.ffotogallery.org/whats-on-listings/ffotogallery-1-2-1s-1-5mgaw***

ffotogallery

Wednesday 6 August 2025

Timeslots: 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm

Free - Booking Required : *https://forms.gle/7uHWGS8fwT2phzP39*

Looking for support or advice on your creative practice? Do you have a practical question we might be able to help with? Or do you need a bit of direction on what to do next? Book in a 1-2-1 with the Ffotogallery team.

Ffotogallery 1-2-1's are informal advice sessions to help emerging artists and photographers outside of full time education with their practice and careers. These sessions are with Siân Addicott and Bob Gelsthorpe, they last 45 minutes and can take place at Ffotogallery, or online if required.



Kate, Grace & staff - *Ffotogallery*
Fanny Street

FAN (Friends & Neighbours) @ Cathays Library – Thursday, 14th August

FAN has many meetings in Cardiff and beyond. For further details visit ***www.thefancharity.org***

Please do join us on Thursday, 14th August to find out about ***Portmeirion in North Wales***.



Photo Credit, Mike McBey, (Wikipedia)

Join us on Thursday 14th August to find out about the unique town of Portmeirion in North Wales.

Following a short FAN meeting, we will explore the history of the of the town using documents and images from the heritage library archives.

Meet 2 - 3pm, Cathays Branch and Heritage Library, Fairoak Rd, Cathays CF24 4PW
Tel: 02920 785580 for further details.

Free FAN meetings take place in many places across Cardiff and in Barry, Bridgend and online. No need to book. For further details, visit the website: www.thefancharity.org.

Janina – FAN co-ordinator
FAN Cardiff



MOSH @ Ffotogallery – Thursday, 21st August

Link@ ***https://www.ffotogallery.org/whats-on-listings/mosh***

ffotogallery

MOSH

Live Performance at Ffotogallery

August 21st, 18:00

Join us for a live (and recorded) experimental performance by **SGŎR.**

Developed during a six-week summer residency, *MOSH* derives from the chaos of Nu-Metal aesthetics right into the cyberspace noise, from sweaty mosh pits to flickering digital screens, from the live rawness of distorted guitars to the cold glow of recorded amplifier signals.

Through movement, sonic layering, and screen-based work, *MOSH* explores rupture, repetition, and the strange pleasure of disruption and breakdown—both bodily and virtual.



Kate, Grace & staff - *Ffotogallery*
Fanny Street

Richie D - *UB40 night* @ Cathays Sports & Social – Friday 22nd August



David Grace – Singer @ CSAS (Cathays Sports & Social) – Saturday, 23rd August



Cathays Local Businesses

September 2025 – Cathays Monthly Update

Please do get your posters in!!

Summer will gently wrap up and the autumn will come in ……

What events are you holding for late summer/early autumn?

Regards,

Paulus