Cathays Monthly Update – February 2026

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

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February 2026 comments:

How far does this update reach?

Not a massive fun of 'views', statistics etc – yet over the year's people have asked what sort of viewship the monthly update gets.

Still looking into this, the maps of how far the update goes I do find unreliable and dubious. Yet in terms of Cardiff wide readership – I do get surprised at the numbers sometimes. So for those of you that contribute – it does mount up to something positive.

Martial Arts – free sessions for the kids

For the parents desperate to kick the little dynamo's out the house for one evening a week Mr/Sensei Peake is offering free taster sessions for Martial Arts – which run on Crwys Road. Check out the poster in the following pages …..

Drug House Seized ….. again!!

So – repeat offending house 86 Cathays Terrace was raided by our local Police in January. This is not the first time – as the Police had shut the place down before in June 2022 for being a Cannabis Factory.

It was quite funny reading our 'spot a drug house' guidance: ***https://www.yourcathays.org.uk/cathays-police-cathays-pcso/#drug-house*** as it also harks that when our more progressive landlords are genuinely insulating the houses with their rebuild efforts – they are are probably not looking over their shoulders as they are also being watched by the neighbours!!

We are aware of who the letting agency is linked to it – all rather usual dodgy-wodgy-broken-Britain stuff ……. I ponder how interblended all the deviant activity is now linked into the economy of Cardiff…..

Just keep up the reporting, all of you – as many of you have done for years around here!! You all make us safer – please remember this when you think of our fair district in a worse light.

Try and watch your manners.

Given the stress of two elections in 2026 and 2027, the tensions in some parts of Cathays are as palpable as the dissent I had to listen to in 2019 in a pre-lockdown era. How I kept quiet about all that I'll never know – quite ironic I was blamed by the politico deviants when the neighbour around the corner started gobbing off !!

I ask that you be polite in various avenues, such as the infamous social media. My goodness the comments from the back end of January 2026 regarding one of the political parties was just nasty! Please do not get too abusive on social media etc.

RIP Alun Cleaver

More sad news that Mr Alun Cleaver has sadly passed in late January. The last of the original Curry Club (of Kevin, Richard and Bob all sadly have died in 2021, 2024 and 2026 respectively – may they all be dining it up on a cloud in 'Curry Heaven'.

For now – this is just to share the news that Alun passed in late January. The local neighbour's network of residents will share with friends when Alun's funeral is going to happen.

A much lengthier piece will go into next month's update to praise dear Alun for the amazing man he was!

Other friends passing ….

We are aware other treasured neighbours have passed – we don't as yet have permission to put it in the community update. Yet if and once we do – we will add the information in to March's update.

PACT progress

PC Andrew Gardiner sat down with residents and the Uni staff to have a progress on the preparatory meeting for the PACT.

They are setting it up in small steps, although the University wishes to look at integrating other projects along with it – the main issue of the PACT is to get the residents in one room with the Police to get a bi-monthly update on the local policing of Cathays.

I was surprised that one of our Police officers shared that they get called up to Cathays High School very regularly due to knife crime. It was saddening to hear …..

It should be said now, a lot of residents do an amazing job monitoring and reporting many issues – which is why it gets dealt with!

One of 40 something's wanted a page to go in this update at the turn of the decade called *'dealing with the scum'* yet I thought that a bit evocative…. And could have been misinterpretated by some residents.

…… also I have to stress

The safety projects the residents have quietly been working on for quite a few years - have NOT been discussed in any of these meetings, namely as they have their own remit which the philosophies are incompatible with certain established lines ……

Just keep yourselves in check, be mindful of what you are looking into – think of the safety of your neighbours!

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

February 2026

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

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 February 2026

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!

- **COFFEE**
- **JAM**
- **LONG-LIFE MILK**
- **SNACKS – CRISPS, CEREAL BARS**
- **TINNED FRUIT**
- **TINNED TOMATOES**
- **INSTANT MASHED POTATO**
- **LONG-LIFE JUICE**
- **PASTA PACKETS**
- **SPONGE PUDDINGS**
- **TINNED POTATOES**
- **TOILET ROLL**

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**
- **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

Thank you Bud – 10 ½ year's as our Cathays Community Centre manager !!!

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

Where? AGM: Cathays Community Centre
When? It was on Saturday, 24th January 2026

CANOLFAN GYMUNEDOL CATHAYS COMMUNITY CENTRE

An absolutely wonderful send off – for someone who has given so much to Cathays Community Centre the last 10 & a half years. Thank you Mr Bud Harper!

Picture of Bud (centre with white T-shirt) jamming with the Community Centre regulars!



The dozen internal projects the community centre puts on: It's important to remind people who live in all of Cardiff what the community centre gets up to……

Coffee morning – every Wednesday 10am – 12 noon – for 10-12 year's olds. 148 people involved in this coffee morning.

Community Fridge: A tricky one – trying to fill the fridge – so all donations welcome – just get in touch with the Community Centre first before you even think about dropping stuff off. Current supporters include Cardiff Orchard, Lidl, Palenstine support group – and many of you!!

Community Support: Started in 2020 COVID – Runs in conjunction with day provision. 1,146 recorded sessions – 1 to 2 staff supporting this venure. Ian is the manager on this project

Day Provision 17-24 members – Monday to Friday. The video; showed the exhilaration of the antics of this wonderful project.
Day trips to other parts of Cardiff i.e. the Bay. Singing/ Jamming sessions. A positive vibe, real inclusion – which the Cathays Community Centre does us all pride – THANK YOU !!! What a tremendous video in the video – does the world think we are all really beat? Time 8 Bn souls stepped up!!

Gardening Club Running May to September

Impact (Tuesday 5pm to 7pm For our LGBT groups – a very close group. 48 recorded sessions a year. 438 individuals in this group – part of the Pride Games – real pride!!!

IYP Working with young people with difficulties – which Debbie as part of (part of the centre the last 35 years).

Memory Lane: Started 8 years ago – which the dementia group was set up – still running now. Every Thursday – not just for Dementia people – yet their carers too. 250 people involved in this.

Monday Youth Monday: 468 members.

Thursday Youth Club: Thursday, 5pm to 8pm for Year 6's – will return in a few years as our mischievous teenagers.

Link to contribute to Cathays Community Centre - ***https://localgiving.org/charity/ccycp***

Chair / Trustees:

Next the members voted in new group for the committee:

- Isobel – Trustee for 9 years – positive speech about the community centre – massive thanks to everyone!!
- Simon – on/off the board for many years.
- Ieuen – Chair for the last 12 months, Trustee for the last 6 years.
- Rhiannon – 3rd year as Trustee – praise for the efforts / safeguarding etc.
- Norma – 2017 started, the centre brightens everyone's lives. Give people their life back!!
- Caled – involved since he was 13 years old – any excuse to smash the drums – now 30 – a Trustee: the place is amazing!!!
- Pam – a Trustee since May 2025, a graduate in 2023 – been here since; now a trustee. Cathays is a magical place!
- Damien – absent, yet joined as a trustee.

Voting 2026:

Pam will do the articles of association: Raise hands for Isobel, Simon and Ieuen – resounding re-voted back in!! All re-elected.

Isobel to continue as Treasurer.
Damien to return as Vice Chair.
Ieuen to return as Chairperson.

The Community Centre are always looking for more trustees. There will be a drive in later weeks for new Trustees.



Jam Club @ 17:40

A wonderful 30 minutes of our local singers jamming – getting Bud up for a bit of guitar work ……. These are the days of memories where dozens of the attendees can say "I was there!" It is the end of an era on many levels.

With Bud being asked up to sing, then Bud asking new manager Rhys to step up too to sing for a rendition of "Staying Alive" 1970's Bee Gees classic!!

Farewell to Mr Bud Harper: 10 amazing years!!

From 18:15 / 6:15pm - A lovely very big A3 farewell card was given to Bud, which was annotated to every edge with a lot of people giving their love for everything bud has done for the community centre the last ten years!

A large glass picture frame was given with the Football shirt 'visit Malaysia' sport top was given the Bud, which he was asked to say a few words ……..

"Thank you everyone for coming. I've been here 10 ? years, its been a great job – its all about meeting people – I will miss all the staff and members – that's all – that's it – end of speech!"

A lot of hugs going around. A man who has sacrificed a lot, and everyone is proud of your efforts. Setting up the multiple initiatives for the Cathays Community Centre, the music set up for Cathays Fair 2017 (April 2017), Cathays Fair 2018 (June 2018) and Cathays Fair 2019 (June 2019) – the Gabalfa festivals.

"We had a 'golden age of Cathays in the mid to late 2010's – and the Cathays Community Centre was pivotal in this!!"

Just remember folks, people like Bud Harper are the epitome of the 'diamond in the rough' – a warm hearted gentlemen who effortlessly gives to many, with patience and kindness in ample quantities!!

Thank you Bud for 10 and a half year's of solid contribution which made the Cathays Community Centre what it is!! And equally thanks to ***John*** (the previous manager) who died in recent year's to bequeath the community centre in his will. Same goes of ***Debs*** who retired at last year's agency (you know – that one that got delayed to January 2025 due to UK's first ever red storm warning in December 2024 – the current history is interesting times!!)

They all lived it, with the love in their blood & veins – leading by example on multiple levels. Thank sir for being Mr Bud Harper!! You will be missed (yet we know you'll come back in a few year's as a trustee) and you are very much loved!!

Thank you Mr Bud Harper for 10 & a half wonderful years!! You will be missed by many sir!!

We salute you with the next phase of your life …….

…….. also we know you probably will be back!

New business opening – First Light Coffee Cathays – Dalton Street

Website: ***https://www.firstlightcoffee.co.uk/***
Phone: ***07971 545188***
Email: ***hey@firstlightcoffee.co.uk***



Cardiff Martial Arts @ Cathays Methodist Church: Free two-week trial offer !!

Link: ***www.cardiffmartialarts.com*** / Tel: ***07888 729 667***



Mr Peake – Sensei
Cardiff Martial Arts

Repair Café Cathays – 10am to 1:30pm @ Sherman Theatre – Saturday 7th 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!







sss

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

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





Margaret, Colin, Melanie, Imants, John and everyone else - Volunteers
Repair Café Cathays

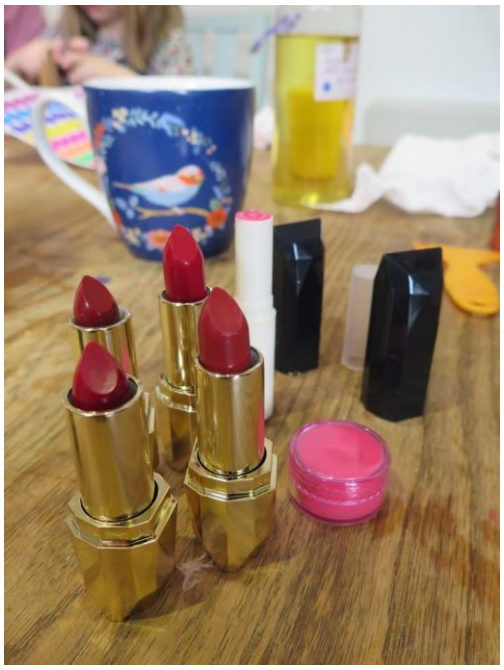
Parent/toddler Lipstick & Lip Balm Making @ Lark Design Make – Sunday 8th February

Website: ***https://www.larkdesignmake.co.uk/***

This event: ***https://www.facebook.com/events/1596849605098307/***

Multiple events each month link: ***https://www.facebook.com/Larkdesignmake/events***

We have a huge range of containers, pigments, fragrances and oils to make totally unique creations, you'll also have time to package them.



1 ticket required per Parent & Child pair who will make 4 lipsticks and 5-6 lip balms together.

Activity is suitable from age 7 upwards.

If you would like to bring an extra child or parent , who will get to make 2 lipsticks and 3 lip balms, please also purchase an extra single ticket here via this url: - **www.larkdesignmake.as.me/extra-ticket** -



Gemma – Manager
Lark Design Make – Dogfield Street

Open Mic Night @ Book Space Cardiff – Wednesday, 11th February

Link: ***https://www.bookspacecardiff.co.uk/products/poetry-open-mic-february-tickets-1***



Lily – Manager
Book Space Cardiff - Crwys Road

Cathays Local Businesses

Penylan Observatory - FAN @ Cathays Library – Thursday, 12th February

website: ***www.thefancharity.org***

THURSDAY 12th FEBRUARY 12TH 2026 - TOPIC: PENYLAN OBSERVATORY

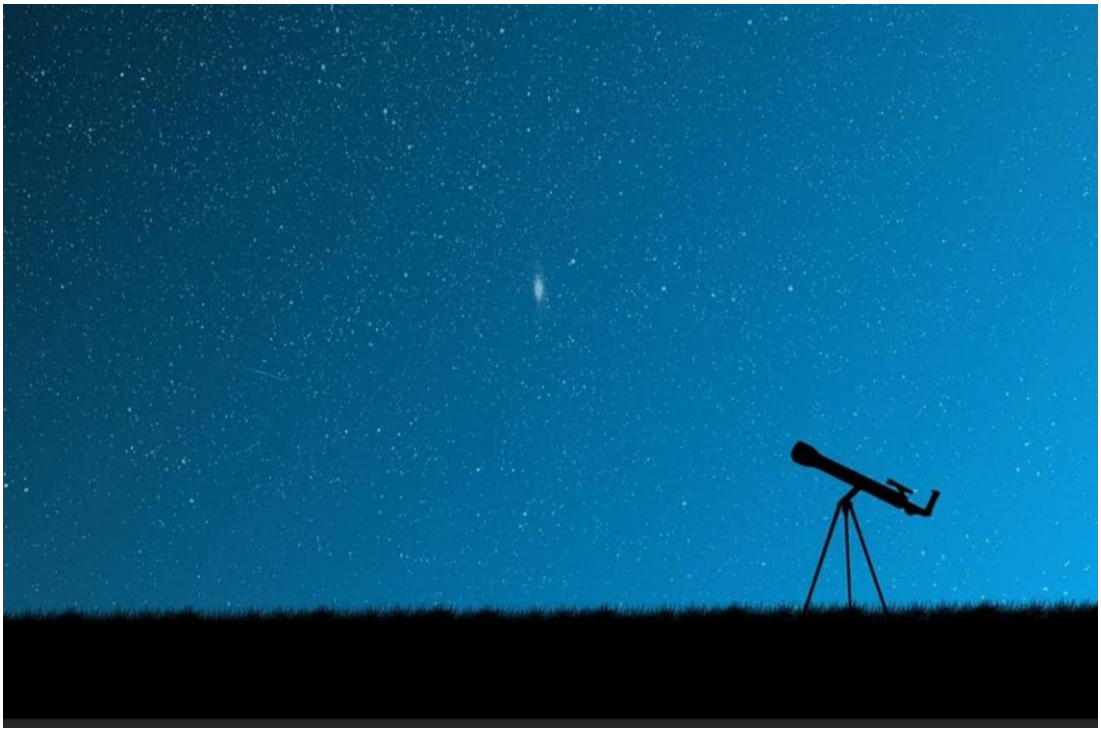


Photo Credit: Pixabay.

Please do join us on Thursday, 12th February

Find out about ***Penylan Observatory***

Join us on Thursday 12th February to find out about the fascinating history of Penylan Observatory which housed the largest telescope in Wales!

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

Meet 2 - 3pm at Cathays Branch and Heritage Library, Fairoak Rd, Cathays CF24 4PW. No need to book.

Tel: 02920 785580 for further details.

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

Janina – FAN co-ordinator
FAN Cardiff



Sebastian Bruno Ta Ra @ Ffotogallery – Thursday, 12th February

Link: ***https://www.ffotogallery.org/whats-on-listings/sebastian-bruno-ta-ra***

Public Preview: Thursday 12 February, 6-8pm. All welcome.

TA-RA, by Sebastián Bruno, won the *Premi Mallorca de Fotografía Contemporània 2022* for its strong contribution to contemporary photographic discourse. The project explores the place Bruno called home from 2013 to 2022, focusing on the everyday moments and intimate routines of the people of South Wales - details that especially stood out to him as a foreigner.



Image rights to Ffotogallery website:

Bruno portrays contemporary Welsh society through portraiture, using the classic photographic genre to reveal the moment when a social mask slips over the individual. His images balance irony and tenderness, inviting viewers into a quiet play between identity and appearance. He created these photographs between 2013 and 2022 across South Wales, including: Porthcawl, Merthyr Tydfil, Swansea, Barry Island, Nantyglo, Merthyr Vale, Cardiff, Newport, Abertillery, Caerleon, Pontypool, Brynmawr and Swffryd.

After exhibitions in Palma, Rome, Madrid, Galicia and Paris, we are delighted to present TA-RA in Wales. Bruno began his photographic journey with the Ffotogallery photography courses in 2011, and we are proud to welcome him back with this affectionate farewell to a project that shaped so much of his time here.

ffotogallery

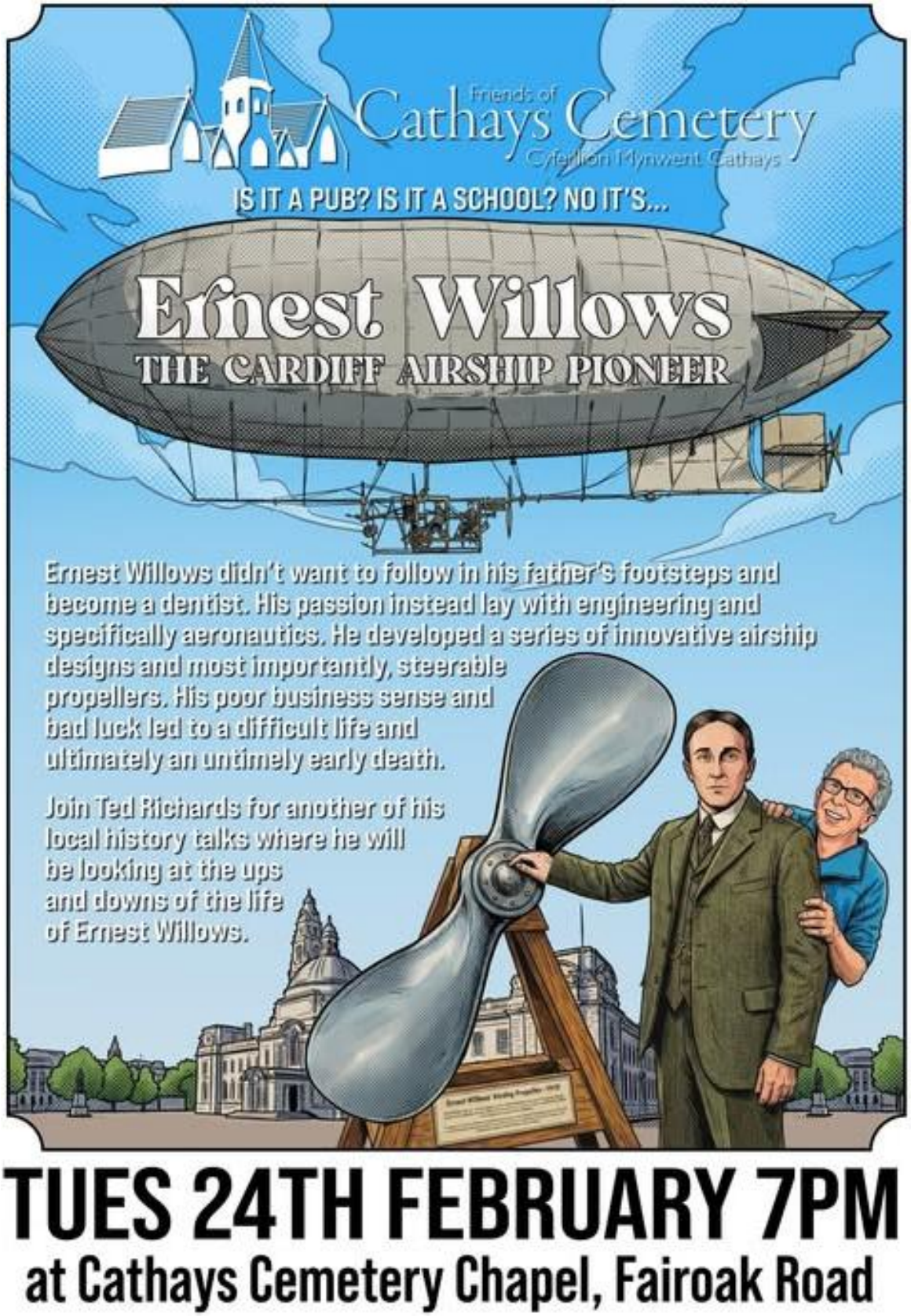
Kate, Grace et al - Staff
Ffotogallery - Fanny Street

Richie D - *UB40 night* @ Cathays Sports & Social – Saturday 14th February



Earnest Willows @ Friends of Cathays Cemetery – Tuesday 24th February

Link: ***www.friendsofcathayscemetery.co.uk***



John, Paul & co – Committee members
Friends of Cathays Cemetery - Fairoaks Road

(Reminder) The Walk for Health – MONTHLY: Wednesday 25th February

Meeting point:

Meeting point to be confirmed, please check the website for details:
https://www.thefancharity.org/find-a-fan-meeting/cardiff/

On Wednesday 25th February, the group will be visiting Cathays Park, Cardiff's civic centre, which includes beautiful parks and fascinating buildings!

Please wear suitable shoes and clothing appropriate for the current weather.

Children welcome under the responsibility of their parent or guardian.

Meet 1.30pm in time to set off at 1.40pm. No need to book.



Photo Credit Wikipedia, Alan Hughes

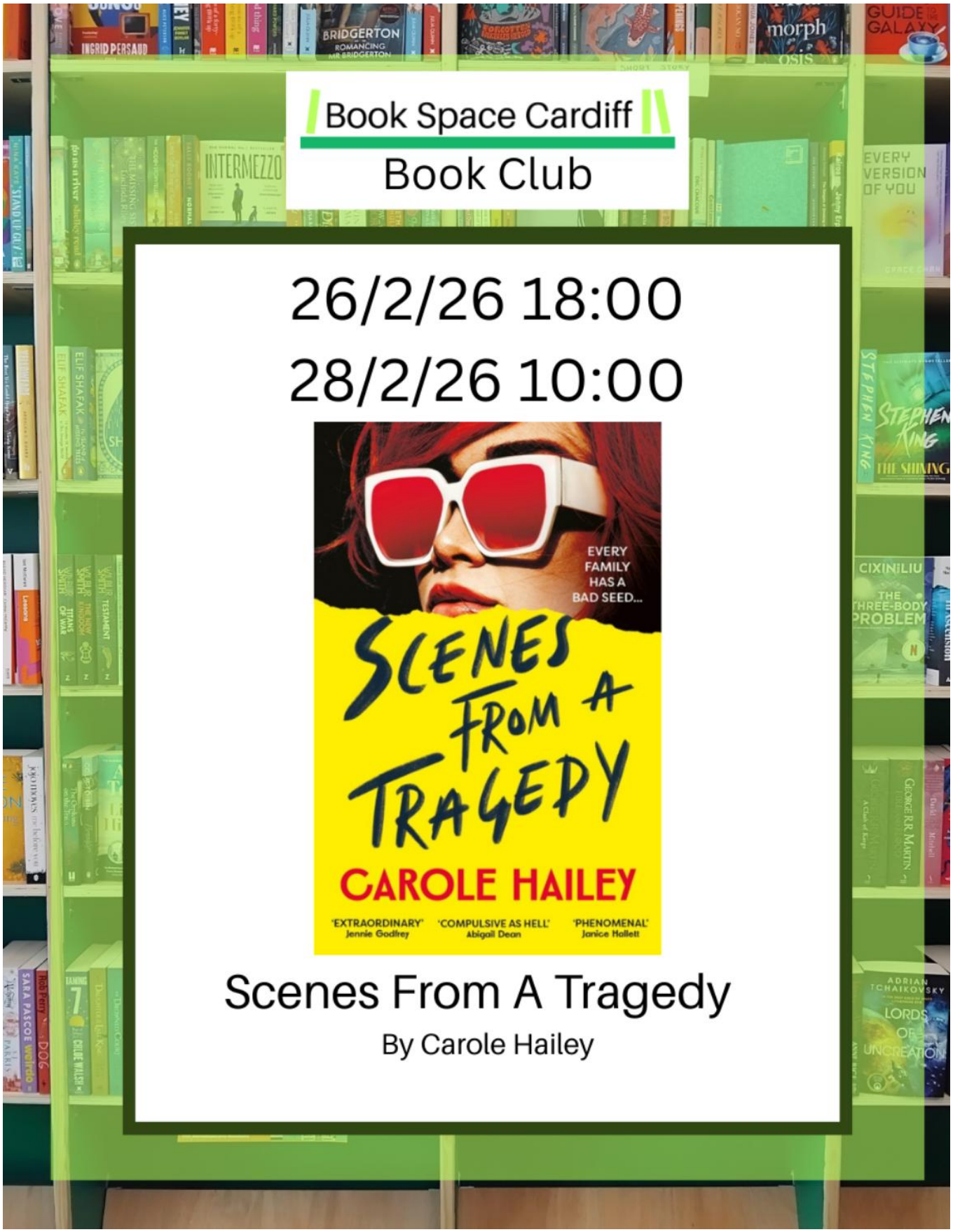
For further details contact Ruth on ***ruthhkenyon@gmail.com*** or Janina - 07512 638792

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

Janina *and* ***Ruth*** – organisers
FAN Charity – all over Cathays

Scenes from a tragedy @ Book Space Cardiff – Tuesday,26th & Thursday 28th February

Link: ***https://www.bookspacecardiff.co.uk/products/scenes-from-a-tragedy-event-ticket***



Lily – Manager
Book Space Cardiff - Crwys Road

Cathays Local Businesses

March 2026 – Cathays Monthly Update

"I swear it m'lord: springeth is a comin' !!"

The first ebb of spring – the first tiny leaves coming out on the branches – do not pretend you can not all wait !!!

Please get your end of winter / early spring posters in asap.

You make us Cathays (and town too!!)

Regards,

Paulus