Cathays Monthly Update – March 2026

Check out the regular events on the Your Cathays website calendar: ***www.yourcathays.org.uk*** on the home page!

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March 2026 comments:

Missed the deadline or this goes out too late …

Not really – this community update is a supplement – not a lead!! You are all the leads!! When you put stuff out via various avenues of (best thing!) word-of-mouth, sharing a text or more advanced avenues of (dare I say it) social media etc.

A lot of stuff we get the posters well in advance, so it goes through a lot of avenues of communication – yet my favourite has got to be when one neighbour passes it onto the next person, and they in turn it onto the next person.

You lot pay it all forward – great job Cathays!!!

Quick bit of love for a local garage!!

Thanks to Brett and his team at Crwys Auto's (off Fanny Street) Garage for doing a last minute fix and breathing life into one of our residents 20 year old car!

They perform a few miracles in their garage and get a lot of word-of-mouth referrals.

Thank you guys for your efforts!!

The 'Homeless' Girl

One of our case workers was quite mortified when he felt like he'd been taken for a ride.

It was interesting that we got a bit of hate, when the residents and local businesses complained about the 'Co-Op Homeless Girl' and asked that I put something in this community update explaining about her antics.

I wonder where all the keyboard warriors who enjoy their woke are, when they find out they got conned by the so called vulnerable person.

As it was we knew as of 2022 she had been secretly sheltered in the autumn and winters, which when the case worker found out about this – they did say they felt foolish, after everything they did for her, the pity, the support ……. only then did they become more attuned to all the cons that this character has been up to. They have not been without – yet a lot of people conned in the process too – believing all this. It has been very frustrating for nearby residents.

I would say though, it was a bit harsh one of the long term Dalton Street residents telling me they hope the Co-Op collapses and falls down on her ….. come on Cathays neighbour - *that* was a bit harsh!!

Friends of Cathays Cemetery

No formal event in March (other than the work parties – so if you want to get involved – check out the FoCC website for the dates (Google it please!)

Next event will be in April 2026. Stay tuned.

Keyboard warrior dies ….

Speaking of misrepresenting trouble making keyboard warriors, one of the 50 year old's died very recently.

This was one of the infamous characters, who does not even live in the area – yet was gobbing off on the Cathays Facebook group (which now sadly has nothing to do with our community – just adverts for outside entities!!!) and stirred up a great deal of angst amongst our Cathays residents when our community was on it's knees in 2020 lockdown (which I had to listen to a lot of the backlash) Although people were aggressive towards me, believing I knew where the keyboard warrior lived in Cathays – which our neighbours – you wrongly perceived – and I got once again hit by all sides.

I wouldn't say anything as too much needed to be played down before we all erupted!! Ironically, I helped him move to the house in 2015, (off Newport Road!!) when no one else would help them out - yet it would have served *no purpose* telling angry Cathays residents [who had been deprived of sleep, daily rage, & all the lockdown issues we faced – when our community almost tore itself apart!] where 'keyboard' lived. It would kicked off – for what?

Do not hide behind a keyboard, live in the real world and be part of something real ……. For all the woke loons who want to kick off about what I have written – you don't even know what you are talking about!! Just like the entry above this one. Will you die an empty life too?

Rathays!!The epidemic issue?

Thank you Mike – Gower Cathays area resident (No I am not saying where he lives!!) for the share of our students making this video on the rat issues in Cathays.

Well done students for this production: ***https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEC636d7v2E&*** and the wider issue they discuss in the video too!!

What it does not show is the efforts certain treasured souls are taking to reduce the rat infestations in many parts of Cathays and wider Cardiff.

You know who you all are – and your contribution counts, like many other residents initiatives in our locale. Keep doing what you do – it's because of your efforts that things are not even worse!

Susan's petition

One of our food champions has asked to share out this petition link: ***https://petitions.senedd.wales/petitions/246835***

Yes I realise it may not work on some devices. We will look into this ……

Cathays Local Businesses

The 'Your Cathays online CALENDAR' in March:

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

March 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	29
30	31					

RIP: Corporal Alun Cleaver (1952 – 2026)

The end of an era on so many levels, with the last of the original 2010's Curry Club sadly joining the rest of the team in Heaven. It was very sad to hear that Mr Alun Cleaver (born 1st May 1952) died at 21:39 on 21st January 2026. It was heartbreaking for many of the friends and family of this paragon of a man who loved Cardiff – as Alun Cleaver did love many of you in this wider community!



Schooled in Cardiff, Alun went into the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at 16 years of age where he worked in the Military in Hong Kong and in Northern Ireland where he met his beloved Sue and to quote one of the Cleaver sons "Dad was smitten – and mum played hard to get!" Alun worked his way up to being a Corporal in the Fusiliers.

Alun managed to finally get Sue to join him in Cardiff, where they married and had children and grandchildren which has been part of a decent, honourable and well respected family in Cardiff.

After finishing his Miliary Service, Alun worked as a truck driver doing a lot of miles getting the deliveries dropped off all over the UK.

Ever the strong family father figure, he challenged his children to do their best in life, always pushing the need to have a good education. All his children born in the 1970's and 80's went into University. Alun was a brilliant mentor to the grandchildren too – and was a role model to them well into his advanced years.

Alun and Sue were regulars at the Con's Club Cathays, where they made a lot of friends – and Sue would enjoy her time with the girls, whilst Alun, Kevin, Richard and Bob (who sadly now have all passed and no doubt around a table in Curry Heaven) would set up the Curry Club and aimed to get our 5 to 6 times a year to celebrate each of the blokes birthday's. It was a very tight group – good friends who were never shy to say it like it was to each other.



These were good days, with more people joining the group like Brian (left of picture here) who always had the running banter of who was the best Battalion be it the Royal Engineers or the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. New editions included Tony and Rhys to the Curry Club.

It was my great honour as the 40 something kid in the group to eat with the 60-70 years old wisdom of the curry tribe. There was never a dull conversation, with some incredible insights into their combined life experiences of the 1950's, the 1960's ride of counter culture, the 1970's oil crisis, the 1980's boom and bust era – and the many things that happened since then – with the whole curry club becoming grandparents and sharing their experiences and concerns of what their prospective grandchildren would face in the mid-21st century. Again – never a dull moment in the conversation …… they all stood up to life, and expect the generations to follow in the same manner, not hide behind their phones.

The funeral on 26th February was immense, with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers standing the guard, and the flag held high. The friends and familiy cried to the eulogies told and the stories shared. Remember people like Alun Cleaver, genetleman who made us all stand and do what is right, even under the toughest challenges. You are deeply missed sir!

God Bless your Corporal Alun Cleaver!! The conversations and your presence will be greatly missed Alun, as will Kevin, Richard, Bob of the cool Curry Quintet group. There will be another group like this with warm memories of the mid to late 2010's in the Cons Club, a circle of friends hopefully all together in the higher plains now….. RIP my friend.

Our deepest condolences to Mrs. Sue Cleaver and the wider Cleaver 2-3 generations.

InterAid to close down! After 43 years it is and of an era!



It is with a heavy heart after 43 years, at the heart of the community, we have made the decision to close InterAid Charity Shop. 58, Crwys Rd. Cathays CF24 4NN.

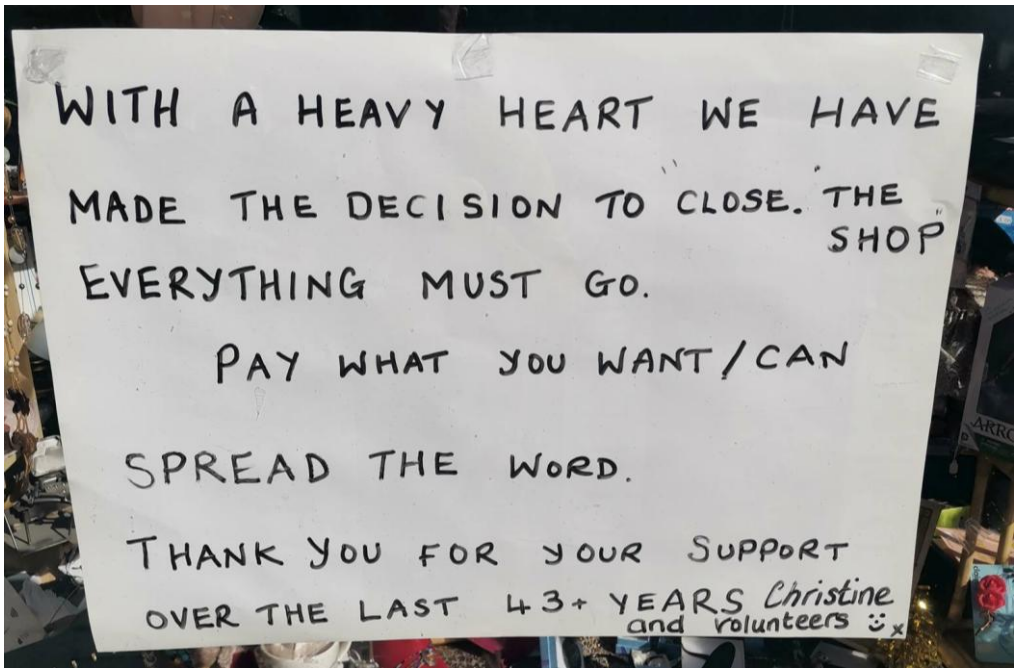
Loved by our ageing generation as a social stop and renowned for kitting out students for their next fancy dress party in the students "rummage" room.

Christine has had many battles with her health over these last few years and is no longer able to open the shop and our most valued volunteers have moved on or are working too. Everything must be sold or given away before we hand the keys back to the landlord at the end of March. *Bills still need to be paid even when the shop is closed*…… Please look out for sporadic opening times, with a ***"pay what you can"*** rather than definite prices.

We have some lovely new wedding dresses and prom dresses too. ***Unfortunately we are not able to take any further donations except cat food for Homeless Cats Cardiff***. Thank you all for looking after my mum over the years. It was difficult to make the decision, now Christine can concentrate on keeping well. Muck love and gratitude to you all x

Written by Tina Windells – on behalf of treasured Cathays resident Christine Windells.

Christine Windells - Manager
InterAid – Crwys Road



Foodbank in Cathays – donating and collection for March 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!

- **CLEANING SPRAY**
- **NOODLES**
- **SNACKS**
- **TINNED CARROTS**
- **TINNED SWEETCORN**
- **LONG-LIFE MILK**
- **PASTA PACKETS (MICROWAVE)**
- **SPONGE PUDDINGS**
- **TINNED HOT DOGS**
- **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:

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

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

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

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

à ***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

Ramadan @ Dar Ul-Isra - Thursday, 5th March



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

Meeting Room Cafe @ St Michael's Church – Saturday, 7th March



Rev Caroline – Faith Leader
St Michael's Church **–** Gelligaer Street

Come Dine with Us @ Al Manar Centre - Saturday, 14th / Sunday 15th March

website: **www.almanar.org.uk**



Barak - Manager
Al Manar Centre – Glynrhondda Street

Poetry Open Mic @ Book Space Cardiff – Wednesday, 18th March

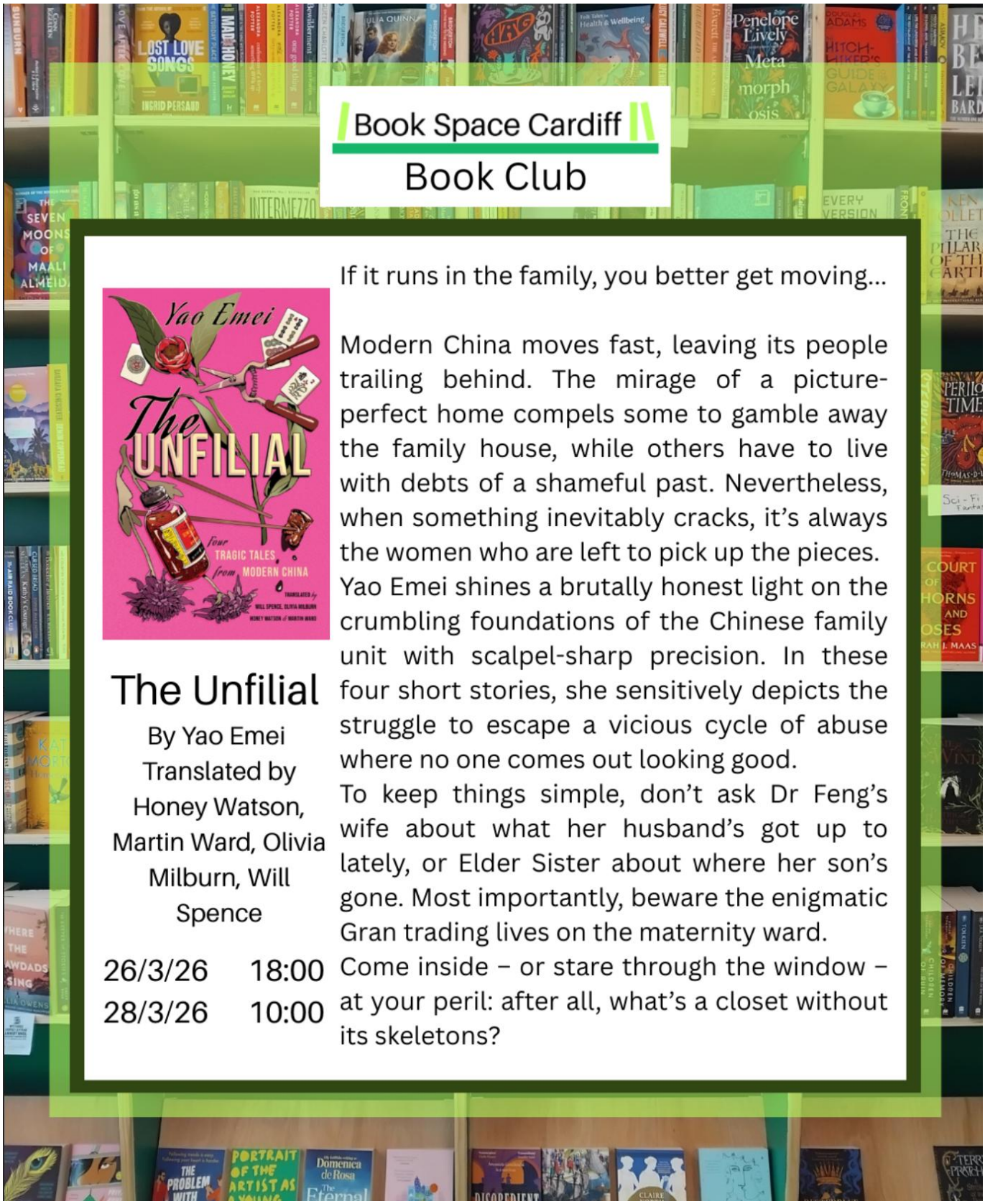
Link: ***https://www.bookspacecardiff.co.uk/products/poetry-open-mic-march-tickets-1***



Lily – Manager
Book Space Cardiff - Crwys Road

Book Club @ Book Space Cardiff – Thursday, 26th and Saturday, 28th March

Link: ***https://www.bookspacecardiff.co.uk/products/march-book-club-the-unfilial***



Lily – Manager
Book Space Cardiff - Crwys Road

Cathays Local Businesses

April 2026 – Cathays Monthly Update

Please do get your spring/Easter events in!!

Spring is coming folks!!!

Regards,

Paulus