Cathays Monthly Update – April 2026

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

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April 2026 comments:

Do not stop what good you contribute ….

One of our 30 something graduate single mum's told me recently she is frustrated that she feels she is not contributing to our local.

A lot of you are doing your best literally just by watching you own patch. Helping other families taking it in turn to walk the kids to school, cleaning up outside your house – just being polite to our transient neighbours – it all counts.

A lot of videos on YouTube are showing just how many good souls in many countries are becoming apathetic – and just go plodding through the daily routine – no materialist desires – no aspirations other than to just get through the daily grind ……

What is we ALL brought this on ourselves the last 175 years of 'modern economy' (apparently money is only a 'thing' that came about in the 1800's) and the awful boom and bust is just not helping.

The days we are in, I often ponder in post lockdown world whether we are reflecting the global 1930's in the 2020's …… so much desperation and depression.

The daily mail … Cardiff in a bad light…

Oh dear – the (no I am not putting the link in here …. Or should I?) article in The Daily Mail did not make Cardiff look like a good place to live.

Sadly too many trusted, rational and wise neighbours have frequently told me in recent year's that they don't reocgnise the old stomping grounds – and the feeling of unease in some streets causes some residents a bit of angst.

Does that mean I have lied to thousands of residents with the hardcopy since 2013 praising all the positive virtues of Cathays – when I should have been highlighting certain negative facets that have been allowed to creep in ……..?

What you don't see is the amount of positive examples that have calmed down some very bad situations, and that although some innocents are victimised – they do not seek revenge – and many examples of *"Karma is a b&^%@h!"* do seem to happen.

Some very bad people have been punished with being ostracised by the neighbours and the old school. Yet them going to a different pub in a different part of Cardiff only offsets the problems – not actually deal with them.

Just know, by their own hands – some deviants have really set themselves down a very self-destructive path; yet does that mean innocent people will be dragged down with them?

Disconcerting times ….

I swore I'd never be writing about war or the terrible conflicts – yet the next year things could escalate on many fronts ……

Just know a lot more planning has been done by people as a natural path of human life – so I think we could pull together a lot more proficiently and help each other if global conflicts really kick off.

The lessons from the past …..

In the mid 20th Century places like Gelligaer Gardens and Rhigos Gardens were all dug up – and used to grow vegetables.

This is just one example of repeating past good examples if we need to shore up food lines …..

Just putting it out there …..

Price hikes!! Do we adapt ….?

The price of oil (equivalent to £8.50p a Gallon) and I remember the The Times newspaper bleeting about the turn-of-the-century feared £5 gallon.

The £10 gallon in the 2030's – when the UK is alleged, to be phasing out petroleum new car production in 2035.

If you can please do walk, cycle, bus or train for the commutes. I am sure a lot of residents are just glad to be working from home.

Yet don't you become trapped in a routine then?

Death of Les ….

Yes – I am well aware of his full name, yet trying to get hold of the family to share with you one of the neighbours passed (sadly quite some time ago) at a very young late 50's/early 60's is shocking for someone so young.

Blessings and condolences to the wider family – still need full permission to get more information into this community update. If you know the family, or can contact them – please let me know.

Bit of pressure?

Yes – it's a late one, yet quite a few things taken out, and I didn't want to bang on about the Senedd election – whoever wins; there will be much work needed try and improve some very difficult social and economic phenomenon which have been allowed to creep in over the last decade or so ….

So please get off your backside and VOTE – even people who have told me they refuse to vote – have registered this year in Cathays, Canton, Roath, Birchgrove to vote.

Cathays Local Businesses

The 'Your Cathays online CALENDAR' in April:

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

April 2026

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 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 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 12:00 pm: Free Meals - every Tuesday at Cathays Community Centre	22 6:00 pm: Zumba Class EVERY Wednesday @ Community Centre	23 12:00 pm: 'Cuppa with a Copper' - Bi-weekly @ Cathays Library 2:00 pm: Memory Lane (Dementia Support) EVERY Thursday	24	25	
27	28 1:00 pm: Foodbank @ Woodville Baptist Church - EVERY Tuesday 1pm to 3pm	29	30			

Foodbank in Cathays – donating and collection for April 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**
- **LONG-LIFE JUICE**
- **SNACKS**
- **TINNED CARROTS**
- **TOILET ROLL**
- **COFFEE**
- **NOODLES**
- **SPONGE PUDDINGS**
- **TINNED SWEETCORN**
- **TOMATO SAUCE**

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

Highlight on Friends of Cathays Cemetery:

Email: ***CathaysCemetery@gmail.com***
Website: ***www.friendsofcathayscemetery.co.uk***
FB group: ***www.facebook.com/FriendsOfCathaysCemetery***

An interpretation panel has recently been erected in Cathays Cemetery to remember the life of Thamas Henry Thomas (1839-1915).



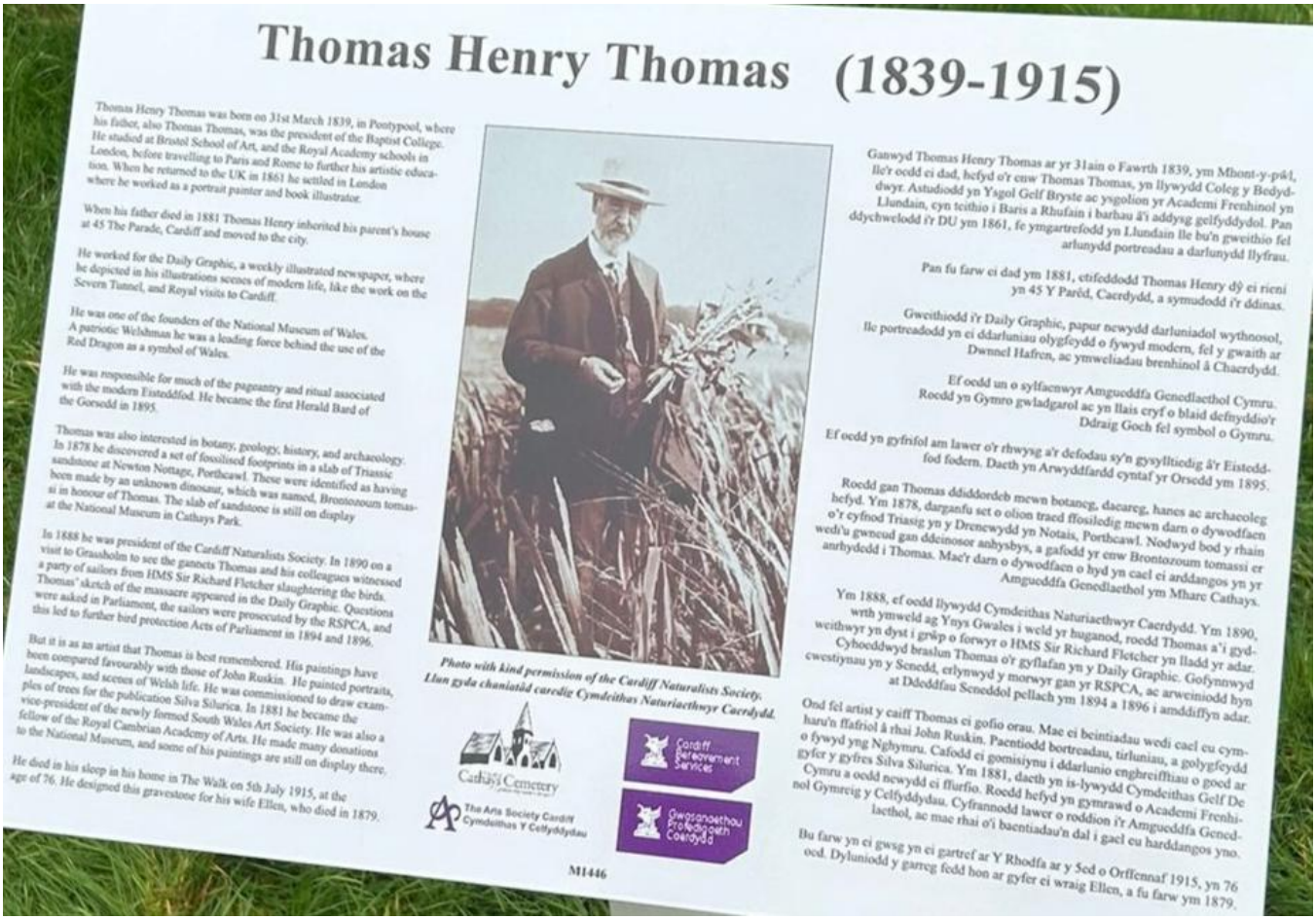
It was paid for by a generous community grant from Cardiff Arts Society and a contribution from Friends of Cathays Cemetery.

He is best known as a painter of portraits, landscapes, and scenes of Welsh life. A vice-president of the South Wales Art Society and Fellow of the Royal Cambrian Academy of Arts, he made many donations to the National Museum, of which he was one of the founders.

He made a substantial contribution to the cultural life of Wales, being a leading voice behind the use of the Red Dragon as a national symbol. In 1895 he became the first Herald Bard of the Gorsedd.

He also had interests in botany, geology, history and archaeology, and has a dinosaur named after him after he found its footprints near Porthcawl. In 1888 he was president of Cardiff Naturalists Society. A worthy recipient.

Grave reference M-1446



Thomas Henry Thomas (1839-1915)

Thomas Henry Thomas was born on 31st March 1839, in Pontypool, where his father, also Thomas Thomas, was the president of the Baptist College. He studied at Bristol School of Art, and the Royal Academy schools in London, before travelling to Paris and Rome to further his artistic education. When he returned to the UK in 1861 he settled in London where he worked as a portrait painter and book illustrator.

When his father died in 1881 Thomas Henry inherited his parent's house at 45 The Parade, Cardiff and moved to the city.

He worked for the Daily Graphic, a weekly illustrated newspaper, where he depicted in his illustrations scenes of modern life, like the work on the Severn Tunnel, and Royal visits to Cardiff.

He was one of the founders of the National Museum of Wales. A patriotic Welshman he was a leading force behind the use of the Red Dragon as a symbol of Wales.

He was responsible for much of the pageantry and ritual associated with the modern Eisteddfod. He became the first Herald Bard of the Gorsedd in 1895.

Thomas was also interested in botany, geology, history, and archaeology. In 1878 he discovered a set of fossilised footprints in a slab of Triassic sandstone at Newton Nottage, Porthcawl. These were identified as having been made by an unknown dinosaur, which was named, Brontozoum tomassi in honour of Thomas. The slab of sandstone is still on display at the National Museum in Cathays Park.

In 1888 he was president of the Cardiff Naturalists Society. In 1890 on a visit to Grassholm to see the gannets Thomas and his colleagues witnessed a party of sailors from HMS Sir Richard Fletcher slaughtering the birds. Thomas' sketch of the massacre appeared in the Daily Graphic. Questions were asked in Parliament, the sailors were prosecuted by the RSPCA, and this led to further bird protection Acts of Parliament in 1894 and 1896.

But it is as an artist that Thomas is best remembered. His paintings have been compared favourably with those of John Ruskin. He painted portraits, landscapes, and scenes of Welsh life. He was commissioned to draw examples of trees for the publication Silva Silurica. In 1881 he became the vice-president of the newly formed South Wales Art Society. He was also a fellow of the Royal Cambrian Academy of Arts. He made many donations to the National Museum, and some of his paintings are still on display there.

He died in his sleep in his home in The Walk on 5th July 1915, at the age of 76. He designed this gravestone for his wife Ellen, who died in 1879.

Photo with kind permission of the Cardiff Naturalists Society.
Llun gyda chaniatâd caredig Cymdeithas Naturiaethwyr Caerdydd.

Cathays Cemetery

The Arts Society Cardiff
Cymdeithas Y Celfyddydau

Cardiff Bereavement Services

Gwasanaethau Profedigaeth Caerdydd

M1446

Ganwyd Thomas Henry Thomas ar yr 31ain o Fawrth 1839, ym Mhont-y-pŵl, lle'r oedd ei dad, hefyd o'r enw Thomas Thomas, yn llywydd Coleg y Bedyddwyr. Astudiodd yn Ysgol Gelf Bryste ac ysgolion yr Academi Frenhinol yn Llundain, cyn teithio i Baris a Rhufain i barhau â'i addysg gelfyddydol. Pan ddychwelodd i'r DU yn 1861, fe ymgartrefodd yn Llundain lle bu'n gweithio fel arlunydd portreadau a darlunydd llyfrau.

Pan fu farw ei dad yn 1881, etifeddodd Thomas Henry dŷ ei rieni yn 45 Y Paréd, Caerdydd, a symudodd i'r ddinas.

Gweithiodd i'r Daily Graphic, papur newydd darluniadol wythnosol, lle portreadodd yn ei ddarluniau olygfeydd o fywyd modern, fel y gwaith ar Dwnnel Hafren, ac ymweliadau brenhinol â Chaerdydd.

Ef oedd un o sylfaenwyr Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Cymru. Roedd yn Gymro gwladgarol ac yn llais cryf o blaid defnyddio'r Ddraig Goch fel symbol o Gymru.

Ef oedd yn gyfrifol am lawer o'r rhwysg a'r defodau sy'n gysylltiedig â'r Eisteddfod fodern. Daeth yn Arwyddfardd cyntaf yr Orsedd ym 1895.

Roedd gan Thomas ddiddordeb mewn botaneg, daeareg, hanes ac archaeoleg hefyd. Ym 1878, darganfu set o olion traed ffosiledig mewn darn o dywodfaen o'r cyfnod Triasig yn y Drenewydd yn Notais, Porthcawl. Nodwyd bod y rhain wedi'u gwneud gan ddeinosor anhysbys, a gafodd yr enw Brontozoum tomassi er anrhydedd i Thomas. Mae'r darn o dywodfaen o hyd yn cael ei arddangos yn yr Amgueddfa Genedlaethol ym Mharc Cathays.

Ym 1888, ef oedd llywydd Cymdeithas Naturiaethwyr Caerdydd. Ym 1890, wrth ymweld ag Ynys Gwales i weld yr huganod, roedd Thomas a'i gyd-weithwyr yn dyst i grŵp o forwyr o HMS Sir Richard Fletcher yn lladd yr adar. Cyhoeddwyd braslun Thomas o'r gyflafan yn y Daily Graphic. Gofynnwyd cwestiynau yn y Senedd, erlynwyd y morwyr gan yr RSPCA, ac arweiniodd hyn at Ddeddfau Senedd pellach ym 1894 a 1896 i amddiffyn adar.

Ond fel artist y caiff Thomas ei gofio orau. Mae ei beintiadau wedi cael eu cymharu'n ffafriol â rhai John Ruskin. Paentiodd bortreadau, tirluniau, a golygfeydd o fywyd yng Nghymru. Cafodd ei gomisiynu i ddarlunio enghreifftiau o goed ar gyfer y gyfres Silva Silurica. Ym 1881, daeth yn is-lywydd Cymdeithas Gelf De Cymru a oedd newydd ei ffurfio. Roedd hefyd yn gymrawd o Academi Frenhinol Gymreig y Celfyddydau. Cyfrannodd lawer o roddion i'r Amgueddfa Genedlaethol, ac mae rhai o'i baentiadau'n dal i gael eu harddangos yno.

Bu farw yn ei gwsg yn ei gartref ar Y Rhodfa ar y 5ed o Orffennaf 1915, yn 76 oed. Dyluniodd y garreg fedd hon ar gyfer ei wraig Ellen, a fu farw ym 1879.

Cathays Local Businesses

FAN (Friends & Neighbours) @ Cathays Library – Thursday, 9th April



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.

Please do join us on Thursday 9th April
to find out about ***David Morgan Department Store***

The FAN Charity

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

Meet at Cathays Library 2 - 3pm.

Cathays Branch and Heritage Library, Fairoak Road, Cathays CF24 4PW

Tel: 02920 785580 for further details. No need to book.



Photo credit: Tony Hisgett - David Morgan Apartments

Cardiff ***https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=40984845***

Janina – FAN co-ordinator
FAN Cardiff

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

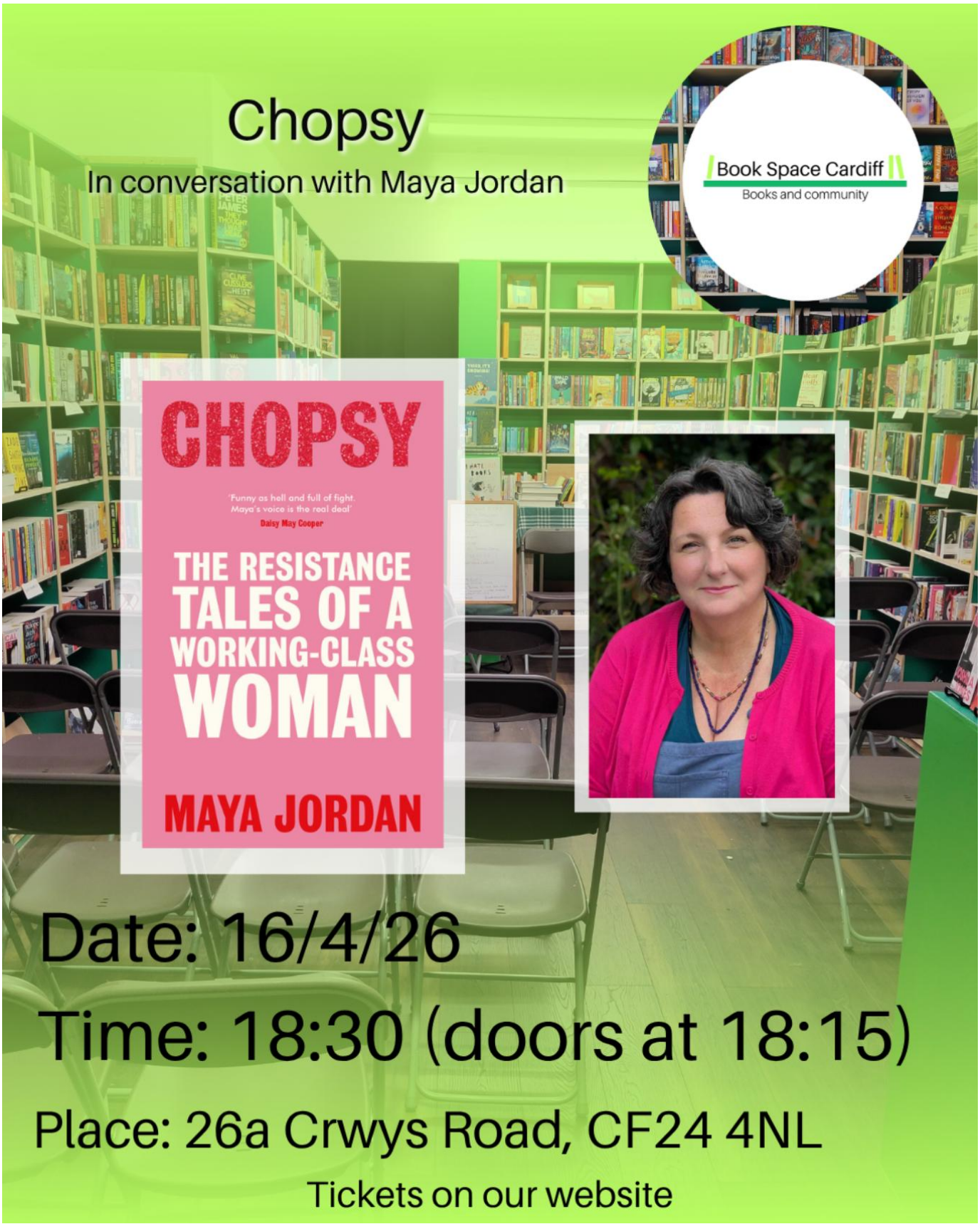
Link: ***https://www.bookspacecardiff.co.uk/products/poetry-open-mic-april-tickets***



Lily – Manager
Book Space Cardiff - Crwys Road

Chopsy – meet the author @ Book Space Cardiff – Thursday, 16th April

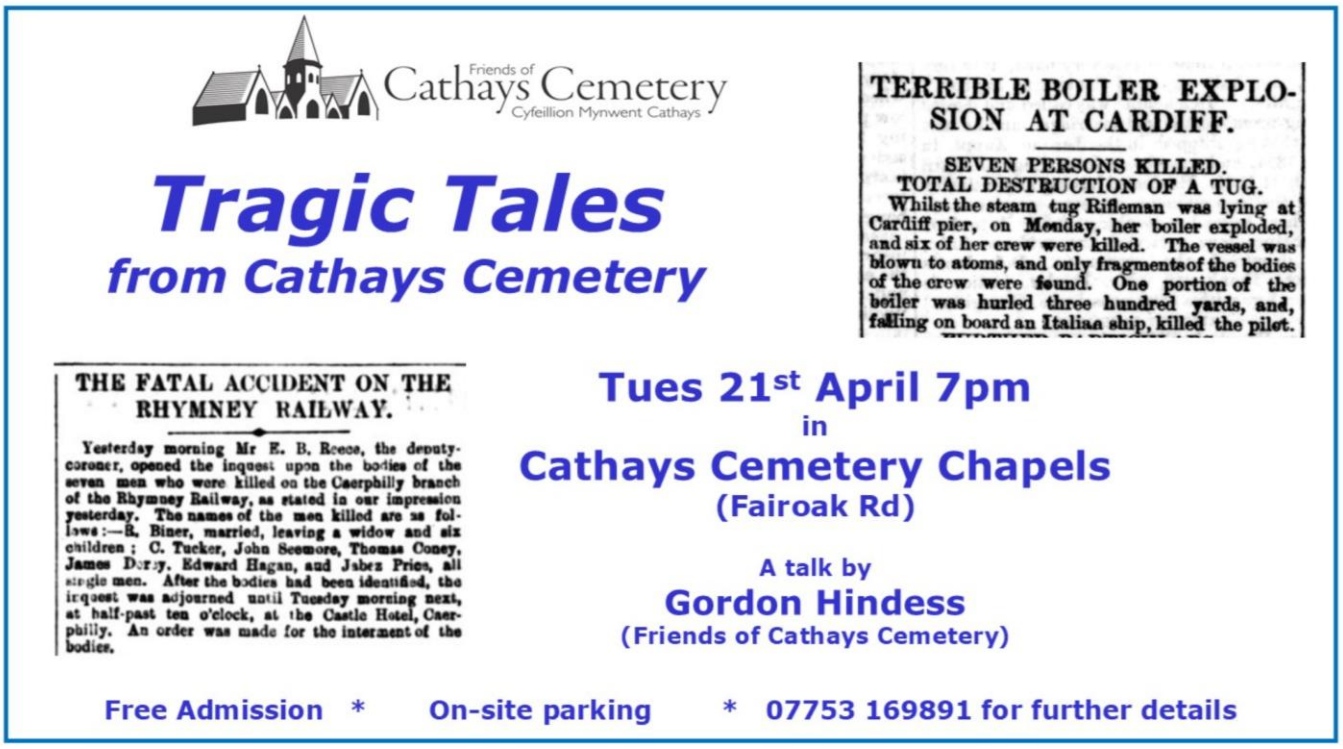
Link: ***https://www.bookspacecardiff.co.uk/products/chopsy-event-ticket***



Lily – Manager
Book Space Cardiff - Crwys Road

Tragic Tales @ Friends of Cathays Cemetery – Tuesday 21st April:

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



The next talk from Friends of Cathays Cemetery will be held on Tuesday 21st April at 7pm in the cemetery chapels when Gordon Hindess will be looking at some of the tragic events associated with people buried there.

All welcome. Free Admission. Plenty of on-site parking

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

Bute Park Plant Sale @ Bute Park – Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th April

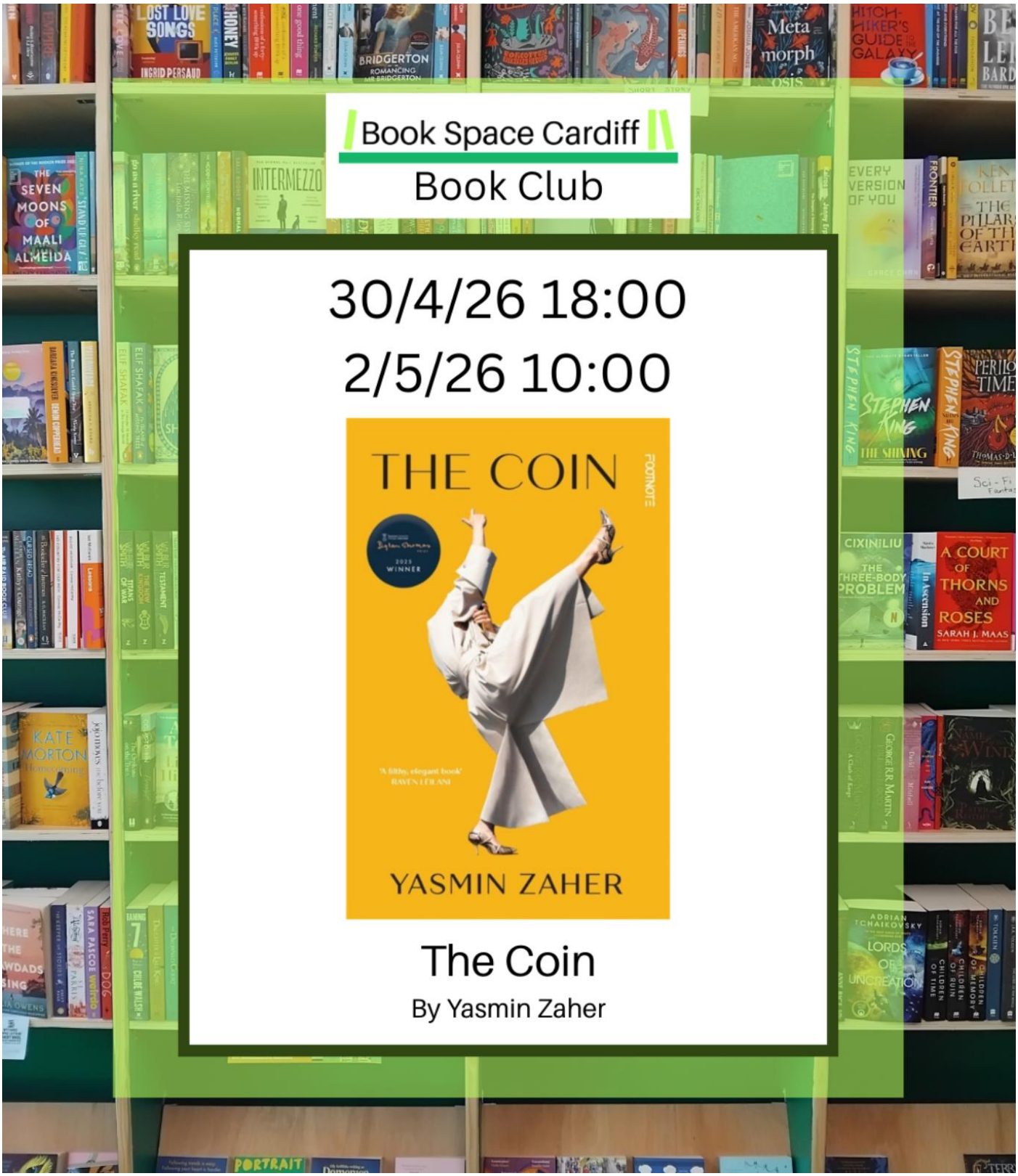


Bute Park Nurseries Staff – Bute Park

Cathays Local Businesses

The Coin – Book Club @ Book Space Cardiff – Thursday, 30th April

Link: ***https://www.bookspacecardiff.co.uk/products/april-book-club-the-coin***



Lily – Manager
Book Space Cardiff - Crwys Road

Cathays Local Businesses

May 2026 – Cathays Monthly Update

Get your May time posters in please!!

Spring time events

Bank Holiday weekends

Get your posters in to mail@yourcathays.org.uk – thank you!

Regards,

Paulus