

cwtech

AT HOME IN CARDIFF

Official publication of



YOUR GUIDE TO CATHAYS

PAGES 2-3

CARDIFF STUDENT MAP

PAGES 6-7

HOW TO ENHANCE YOUR CV

PAGE 10

EXCLUSIVE STUDENT OFFERS

PAGE 11

STUDENT
EDITION

Cathays

of our lives



There's more to Cathays than simply being a vibrant and unkempt maze of cheap eateries and watering holes in the shadow of town – but that's still probably the best reason to live here.

She immediately stood out from the hunched figures walking towards their places of work, across the tracks, in town. Their hooded heads were bowed against Cardiff's trademark drizzle, while she quietly padded in the opposite direction, barefoot and bedraggled, in last night's dress.

The hashtag for the above scene could be #onlyincathays. After all, it's only here that 'walk of shame'-spotting is a popular hobby. Then there's Cathays' official sport: dodge the seagull.

"Cathays is famous for its fighting seagulls and obstacle courses of wheelie bins," says Robert Evans, who in the past eight years has lived all round Cathays since first moving to Senghennydd Hall as a fresher. "These, along with the early morning walk of shame, offer some hilarious observations."

It's a description echoed nearly word-for-word by Emily Bater, a journalist and former resident.

"Seagulls, smelly bins and students doing the walk of shame after a night out would all feature on a morning walk from home to lectures, but these all just added to Cathays' unique brand of charm," she says.

Given the likelihood that the name Cathays ('hayes' means 'open area' in Welsh) referred to wildcats that once roamed here, it's a shame there aren't a few still around to help with the seagull problem.

"In late spring, I'd dread every morning because from the instant I opened the front door there would be three or four on the roof across the road that would dive-bomb me until I'd ran almost to the end of Dogfield Street," recalls Robert.

A HARD CATHAYS NIGHT

But there's more to Cathays than the bewildering network of terraced streets, dazed students and angry birds.

With lots of bars, more places to eat than you can shake your fork at, and more than 12,919 students wanting to have a good time, Cathays is Cardiff's party hub. And house parties aside, the bright lights of Salisbury Road is The Strip where most of the action takes place.

As an electoral ward, Cathays covers Cardiff city centre, so from a political point-of-view you don't actually leave Cathays on a night out in town. This includes Cathays Park, with its world-class Civic Centre featuring Crown Court, National Museum, City Hall, plus much of Cardiff University's extensive campus.

And just over the train line there's the beautiful Sherman Theatre. See, Cathays just got classy.

To the west lies the open greenery of Bute Park, while to the north the tranquility (and eerie gothic Victoriana) of Cathays Cemetery, the UK's third largest municipal cemetery, and Roath Park's 'Quiet Park' (as we knew it as kids) and 'The Rec'.



Top places...

Café 37 Diner
37 Salisbury Road

Thé Pot Café
138 Crwys Road
(they do cinema evenings too)

Magic Wrap
Student Union, Senghennydd Road

Kappucino's
1 Cathays Terrace

Falafal Café
38 Woodville Road

Noodle Box
62 Salisbury Road

Daiquiri's Mexican restaurant
49 Salisbury Road (a local favourite)

Circles hairdresser
114 Salisbury Road
(the cheapest hairdressers in Cardiff at £6 all day every day)

Gassy Jacks
39 Salisbury Road
(longtime favourite nightspot, which started life in the 1960s)

All offer respite from the tight-knit residential area we know and love as Cathays, which starts to the east of the train line over which the Student Union is built. Rapidly thrown up over the last quarter of the 19th century, the district is home to just over 20,000 people, a whopping 55 per cent of who carry NUS cards.

There are 1,408 student-only households here, compared to the next largest student area, nearby Plasnewydd, with just 654. It's hardly surprising the term 'studentification' is used in relation to Cathays, which is home to more than a third of the city's 36,304 students.

Chain pubs and fast food outlets have moved in to target this upwardly mobile demographic, while over time longtime residents have made way for ever more rental properties. (These days 64 per cent of all homes are rentals.)

Clever in Cathays

Pearls of wisdom to newcomers from Cathays veterans Emily Bater and Rob Evans:

1. Get to the Lidl – it will become your cheap best friend.
2. Bar hop each night to find a deal on somewhere every night of the week.
3. Don't be afraid to explore City Road – it has some of the best food/pubs.
4. Take advantage of the Sherman Theatre – they do student tickets and have the best shows.
5. If you have neighbours who aren't students, get to know them and be polite.

QUIETER PROGRESS

Many insist there remains a sense of community and place, in spite of these changes.

"I think Cathays really is a great place to live for all sorts of people," says student Beckidy Smith. "I know families, young professionals and older people who all live in the area.

"It's so convenient, because it's walking distance to town and there are so many great shops and amenities. You're never more than ten minutes' walk from what you need and it's the sort of place where you could strike up a conversation with someone you meet in the street."

Journalist and new dad Steven Day has lived in Cathays for the past decade, from when he himself was a student. He's recently seen an increase in non-students moving in.

"My wife and I have become accustomed to the Cathays-style of living with everything nearby so we decided to stay within the area when we moved house," says Steven. "There is a great community feel about Cathays and you can't beat it for that."

"Just off the top end of Cathays Terrace, it is becoming an area increasingly full of young families. It's a very mixed community now as opposed to just being full of students."

Relations between students and permanent residents are also improving, says Steven. "There's more respect now between students and non-students than there has ever been during my time living here," he says.

Emily Bater agrees. "I think the relationship between long-standing residents and students is fairly harmonious," she says.

"People like to describe Cathays as a student ghetto but there are lots of families and long-time residents, young professionals, and a large Muslim community. We all get along fine, and I think the community really benefits from having students here."

Indeed, Cathays – and Cardiff generally – feels empty without its students (you can even find a parking space in Cathays). Each year the city welcomes an army of academics with open arms.

"I think Cathays really is a great place to live for all sorts of people"

On dark, damp days in the 'Diff, Cathays can seem a dreary place. But even then, under lampposts' fuzzy amber glow and incessant drizzle, it retains its 'unique brand of charm'.

It gets under your skin, it does. You find yourself acknowledging a soft spot for the place. God help you.

"There's more to Cathays than dazed students and angry birds"

The usual suspects

By Chris McSweeney

On moving into your new student pad, you're probably overjoyed at how lucky you are to be moving in with the most excellent people you know. In time, however, you will most likely learn that at least one of them is an idiot child or an obsessive-compulsive psychopath.

Here are some personality types you're likely to run in to, along with some helpful solutions to the inevitable problems that will arise.

1: The Fridge Bandit

Half your bread has gone. All but a lonely gram of cheddar cheese and one slice of your special bacon remains in the fridge. Forensic inspection reveals that your chocolate spread has been fingered. The Fridge Bandit has struck again. **SOLUTION:** The true culprit will probably be the most convincing liar, so direct confrontation is useless. Avoid bulk purchases and keep tabs on everything. Write your name on your food with a Sharpie. Spit in your milk. Take no prisoners.

2: Insufferable 24-Hour Party Person

The person who insists on living life like it's an advert for some awful MTV reality pap will likely be fun to get wasted with during

Freshers. This will not seem like such a good idea once deadlines and exams start looming. You can also expect borderline-criminal practical jokes from this person. **SOLUTION:** Approach politely and with care. Appeal to their better side. Anger will only encourage them (and probably make all their idiot friends laugh at you when you demand they turn their music down).

3: Passive-Aggressive Spring Cleaner

This person will devise a demanding cleaning rota and be devastatingly snitty to those who don't stick to it. Angry capitalised post-it notes will be left on large piles of washing up. No one is safe. **SOLUTION:** Making visible effort and a friendly chat will shut this person up. If you've got the gumption to do some cleaning, do it now. All of it. You regain the moral high-ground, and it makes great coursework procrastination.

4: Thud, the Neanderthal

The exact opposite of #3. This person will likely have never done a bowl of washing up, but will adamantly maintain they "always wash up [their] own", before shlunging off to their dingy room which smells of rotting food and fags. **SOLUTION:** Cleanliness comes naturally with adulthood, but this person is unlikely to grow up during your tenancy. A polite confrontation will work wonders, as avoiding problems can cause resentment to grow.

5: The Borrower

A guy named William Shakespeare once said, "Neither a lender nor a borrower be." In contemporary terms, that translates to: "Do not lend your idiot housemate bill/rent money because they spent their overdraft at Live Lounge." **SOLUTION:** Do not lend your idiot housemate bill/rent money because they spent their overdraft at live lounge.



Do you like our mugshots?

Decorating your room

Just moved into your student digs and your room is looking a bit bland? Try these inexpensive ideas for inspiration...

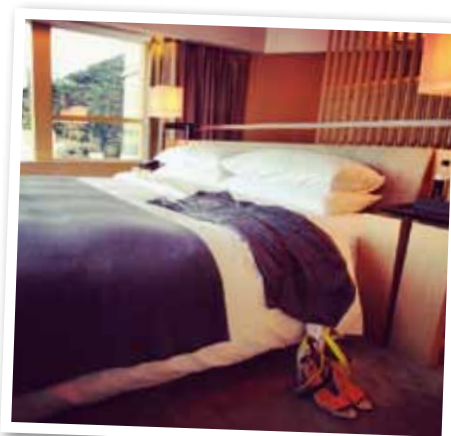


INSTAPRINT

X-Pro II, Earlybird and Inkwell... sound familiar? We love to use Instagram's filters for photos of our pets, friends, nights out... and even food. But how about making these images into pieces of art? Instaprint offer a design service that turns your images into posters for as little as £3.50.

BLACK FRAMES

Another simple idea is to use framed postcards in simple black frames. You can pick up a small black frame from IKEA for under £3 and make



them as random as you like, the black frames will give it the continuity that you need for the room to feel stylish.

POSTERS

Freshers week is great for collecting little things to decorate your room. Cardiff Students' Union holds a poster sale in the first few weeks of term, selling hundreds of cheap posters to suit all tastes.

My Freshers Week



SAM LLOYD – 2ND YEAR STUDENT:

What I remember most vividly about my Freshers week is meeting a huge number of cool people in a really short period of time. Everyone's lovely and happy during Freshers, and I found myself running into people from all over the country and beyond, shouting "HELLO I AM SAM", and they'd shout "HELLO SAM", and everything would be swell. I actually also met my girlfriend the first time I went out to the union, so I'll always have a sweet spot for Freshers' week...and the accompanying Vodka-Red-Bull...



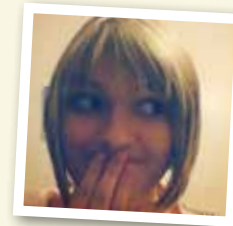
ALICE HART – 2ND YEAR STUDENT:

Nothing could've prepared me for the craziness that 'Craydiff' brought me. Freshers week is a memory of brilliant blurs to me – an endless party, interrupted occasionally by introductory lectures, and phone calls from concerned parents. There is of course much I can't remember, thanks to my ungraceful introduction to my good pal rosé wine, but students can expect to encounter a world of banter boards, 'Ring of Fire' drinking games, and downing shots hands-free to the chants of "down it, fresher!"



ASHLEY BEBBINGTON – 3RD YEAR STUDENT

I arrived at my university accommodation for the first time with a strange mixture of excitement and sheer terror, and found myself in a flat with 9 other guys who I'd never met before. That night, we got drunk, oh so very drunk. The week that ensued consisted of utter chaos; the majority of which I must admit I can't remember! Dirty pints were downed, friends were made, and one of my flatmates managed to land himself in a jail cell for the night. All in all it was a brilliant week, and I've never experienced anything quite like it since.



SALLY CROSS – 3RD YEAR STUDENT

Leaving my home, which in comparison to Cardiff is a small place, was a daunting prospect. My first night out, however, took away all the fear I had built up! I was lucky enough to be housed with people I immediately clicked with, making the adjustment so much easier. We went to an event put on by the SU – all halls had a particular colour associated with them making it easier to make friends with people who lived close by but also knowing your rivals at the same time! Every night after that was different and felt dedicated to establishing the freshers' presence in the university. Even the events during the day – what to expect and things to look out for – all made the experience less terrifying and set me up for the best three years of my life!



VINTAGE

If vintage is your bag, there are plenty of quirky antique places to rummage through and find little trinkets to liven up your room. Why not start off with the Cardiff Antiques Centre in the Royal Arcade, City Centre? Jacobs Antique Centre on West Canal Wharf near the Central Train Station, and The Pumping Station on Penarth Road, are perfect for the more experienced antique lover.

Alternatively, there are a plethora of charity shops on Albany Road in Roath.



BUNTING

Another great way to make your room feel special is hanging bunting. You can buy bunting or you can simply make it using second hand material from charity shops or wrapping paper from a local card shop.



Remember...

When decorating your room, be careful not to damage any of the walls. And if you're looking to make any alterations colour-wise, ensure you have permission from your landlord first. Call us on 02920 668585 if you're unsure of anything.



TO UNI HALLS



TO TALYBONT



1 CPS HOMES OFFICE

2 THE FLORA

3 THE CRWYS

4 SAINSBURY'S

5 THE ROYAL GEORGE

6 MILGI

7 LIDL

8 BLACKWEIR TAVERN

9 THE MACKINTOSH

10 THE VULCAN LOUNGE

11 GASSY JACKS

12 KOKO GORILAZ

13 TESCO

14 DOUGH SANDWICH BAR

15 SENGHENNYDD HALL

16 TREVITHICK BUILDING

17 ARTS & SOCIAL LIBRARY

18 THE WOODVILLE PUB

19 THE SHERMAN THEATRE

20 MAIN BUILDING

21 STUDENTS' UNION

22 SENGHENNYDD COURT

23 ROYAL WELSH COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND DRAMA

24 TIGER TIGER

25 GLAM

26 OCEANA

CATHAYS TRAIN STATION



cps
homes

HARRIET ST

5

6

CITY RD

RICHMOND RD

FITZROY ST
COBURN ST

10

11

GORDON RD

SALISBURY RD

MISKIN ST

12

13

14

15

SENGHENNYDD RD

19

22

WEST GROVE

16

GLYNRHONDDA ST

20

21

PARK PL

TO CITY CENTRE

MUSEUM AVE

26

25

GREYFRIARS RD

23

24

CARDIFF

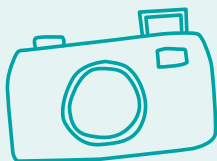


Let's start at the very beginning...



It's the day of your move. Excited? You should be! Yes, there's a lot to remember and an awful lot more to do, but don't let that stop you enjoying a new chapter in your life! Just follow these short steps to make living in your new home a smooth and easy transition.

1



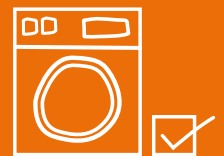
Take pictures

With pretty much everyone owning a smart phone nowadays, who doesn't have access to a camera? No excuses! Take a photo of each room and any items of particular concern. Keep these somewhere safe for the duration of your tenancy to safeguard against any disputes with the landlord when it comes to moving out.

2

Inventory

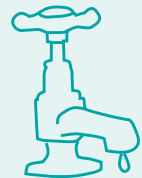
Your inventory is a list of all of the items in your house and their condition. Make sure you check through thoroughly and sign an inventory. It really does safeguard you against any potential problems that could occur in getting your bond back at the end of your tenancy.



3

Utilities

Moving into a house means having to enter the 'real world' when it comes to bills. It's not too interesting, but definitely worth remembering: Take meter readings when you get to the property so you're charged the correct amount and set up your accounts as soon as possible.



4

Council Tax

Students are lucky enough to not have to pay council tax – you just need to make sure you get your Council Tax exemption certificates from the University and pass them onto the Council. It's a whole new story when you graduate, though!

Exempt

5



Parking

Parking without a permit in certain areas will get very expensive very quickly. Get one from the council as soon as possible to avoid those pesky fines.

6

Rent payments

It sounds obvious but you'll be amazed how many people forget to ensure their rent is paid each month. Most landlords/agents will ask you to set up a standing order, but bear in mind this doesn't allow them to take the funds from you. It's an instruction between you and your bank, so you need to make sure it's actually left your account.



Dates for your diary

Pencil these dates in your diary or set a reminder on your phone, whichever works best for you...

September

Move-in time

Pick up your keys, do a big shop and get well and truly prepared for the oncoming year.

Freshers' Fortnight

Whether you're in Cardiff Met, University of South Wales or Cardiff, Freshers' is the biggest event on the student calendar. Soak up all the fayres, sample the nightlife and make brand new friends.

October

3rd & 4th

CPS Homes BBQ @ Woodville Rd, Cathays. Grab a FREE burger and free t-shirt from right outside our Woodville Rd, Cathays branch!

8th

Student Lock-In @ St. David's 2 Shopping Centre. Get your hands on exclusive double student discounts and deals from Cardiff's main shopping centre St. Davids.

17th – 20th

Swn Festival. Welsh for 'sound', this edgy little festival was co-founded by the Welsh Music Foundation's John Rostron and Radio 1's Huw Stevens. If that's enough reason for you to go, just imagine four days, 200 artists and the best independent venues all over the city.

31st

Halloween. Always a big night-out and an excuse to get dressed up. What more do you need?!



November

1st

We release our 2014/15 housing lists. Log onto cps homes.co.uk and bag yourself the student house of your dreams. Book your viewings now!

3rd

Cardiff City vs Swansea City @ Cardiff City Stadium. If you can manage to bag yourself a ticket, witness the first ever Premier League showdown between the fiercest of rivals. Alternatively, find a pub that's showing the game, sit back and enjoy!

December

Winter Wonderland @ City Hall

This is the event to get you in the festive mood. Ice skating, mulled wine and a variety of Christmas-themed stalls, what Scrooge couldn't enjoy themselves? Don't forget your hat, scarf and gloves!



January

Back to Uni

Once your Mum has washed your clothes and your Dad has washed your car, come on back to Cardiff, get those revision books out and your heads down ahead of those pesky assignments/exams!

February

1st

Wales vs Italy @ The Millennium Stadium. Defending champions Wales kick-off their Six Nations campaign against the Azzurri, followed by another home fixture against France on the 21st.

14th

Valentine's Day. Impress your "significant other" by treating him/her to a slap-up meal in one of Cardiff's many top restaurants.



March

1st

St David's Day. Munch on some Welsh cakes and hope the daffodils are out in time for the feast day of Saint David, Wales' patron saint.

Come on wales!

15th

Wales vs Scotland @ The Millennium Stadium. The Six Nations concludes as Wales host the men from north of the border. Fingers crossed they're still in with a chance of making it three championship wins in a row!

April

Easter break

Another load of washing for Mum, but you could reward her with a chocolate egg of her choosing. The question on everybody's lips – will they sell giant Cadburys Creme Eggs this year?!

Welsh Varsity

Contrary to popular belief, this annual Cardiff Uni vs Swansea Uni clash isn't just rugby. It's a huge array of sports, all hotly-contested. Cardiff won the overall event last year and will be hoping to retain their title this time around.

May

Exams...

Nothing much more to say than "good luck!"

June

...and more exams

The end is in sight as light begins to appear from the end of the tunnel. Keep going – you'll soon be off on your holidays!

Time to move out

It's time to pack up and leave. Have one last look around the place and think back to all the good times you've had there over the past year. We carry out accompanied check-out inspections, meaning your deposit return is agreed in person and there can be no hidden charges.

Beach Break

Blow off some steam post-exams and end your year on a high. This event comes with a big fat guarantee of a good time before leaving for the summer!



Enhance your CV... and earn money while you're at it!

“Employers could spend as little as five to seven seconds looking at your CV, so getting it right first time is key.”

Chris Malone Careers Advisor,
Careers Wales



Let's face it, no matter how good your intentions are, very few of us manage to make that student loan last. So getting some part-time work can help balance that overdraft and give you a healthy dose of work experience along the way.

Your first port of call is to produce a killer CV, so here are our top tips to make sure yours stands out from the crowd...

- ✓ Recruiters skim hundreds of CVs everyday, so be sure to make an impact with a simple, clear layout and no big essays!
- ✓ Include up-to-date contact information. D'oh! You'd be amazed at how many people forget or mistype vital details.
- ✓ Structure everything in order of importance. If your studies are the most relevant, then they should be placed above other experience, and vice-versa. Start with a summary of who you are, what you're looking for and why you're so fantastic.
- ✓ Be mature and remember you're a grown-up now! University extracurriculars are much more important than the Grade 3 clarinet exam you did when you were 12.
- ✓ Keep to two pages. Even later in life, this is a great rule to stick to. The likelihood of a prospective employer reading any more than that is highly unlikely.
- ✓ Proof read, proof read, proof read. Bad spelling and grammar will put recruiters off instantly, so don't let it let you down. Run a spell-check, read it aloud to yourself or, even better, ask a friend to check it for you.
- ✓ Clean up your social media. Some companies will look at your Facebook and Twitter pages when making decisions, so don't let last week's embarrassing photos spoil your chances. Simply change your privacy settings so you're not visible to anyone apart from friends.
- ✓ Follow-up with a phone call. It sounds scary but, once you've sent it, how will you be sure that your CV is opened? Always call to make sure they've received it and have a relevant opening question to start off the conversation. Your aim is to check that your application is on their radar.
- ✓ Not getting any luck? Try, try and try again. Don't be disheartened - it takes time! Ask for feedback from the companies that have turned you down, allowing you to improve on both your CV and interview technique.



To get a head start on things, have a gander at these great job sites for students:

thebigchoice.com
gowales.co.uk
prospects.ac.uk

- ✓ Confidence is key, so never be afraid of selling yourself. If your modesty is getting in the way, ask your friends and family to help. They may be quick to point out your annoying character traits on a regular basis, but, equally, they know your strengths.

Exclusive discounts



**PRINT CENTRE
CARDIFF**

Design
Digital Print
Copy
Large Format
Garment Print
T-Shirts
Societies

**PERSONALISED
MOUSEMAT**

£7.99*
(USUALLY £9.99)

*with this voucher. Prices include VAT.

Call us on 02920 665 049 or
visit www.printcentrecardiff.com



sales@printcentrecardiff.com
6 Windsor Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BX
Also at Cardiff University Students' Union 02920 233225

Café
Atma
Vegetarian & Vegan Cafe

10% off

With This Voucher
+ Double Discount With Valid NUS Card

Open Mon-Fri 11am-8pm
Sat 10am-6pm

 40 Crwys Rd, Cathays, Cardiff 

Your local independant
greengrocers

**Student Friendly
10% Discount Card**

(Please bring this card with you)

Market Garden
19 Albany Road,
Roath, Cardiff



THE AWARD-WINNING LOCAL CULT BRAND



**10% CASHBACK ON ALL PURCHASES FOR
STUDENTS - JUST GIVE YOUR NUS NO. WHEN
CHECKING-OUT. VISIT ILOVESTHEDIFF.COM**

THE ULTIMATE STUDENT RUGBY TOURNAMENT



FEATURING
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH WALES, CARDIFF MET,
CARDIFF UNIVERSITY & CARDIFF MEDICS

WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2013
FROM 12PM AT CARDIFF ARMS PARK

For tickets contact the Union Office
cardiffblues.com

 **EADS**
EJ CASSEMAN

IT'S IN THE BLOOD
Blues student season ticket price - £80!
029 20 30 20 30

THE **MAGIC WRAP**
THE HEALTHY EAT OUT!



Cardiff Students'
favourite
eating place

Find us on the
ground floor of
the Student Union

10% OFF
your first
MAGIC WRAP
with this
voucher

www.magic-wrap.co.uk
Offer valid 23/9/2013 to 27/9/2013 inclusive



DAVE'S GYM

Your neighbourhood.
Your body. Your gym.

**FREE
workout
before end of
Oct. with
this ad!**

www.daves-gym.co.uk
www.davesgymblog.co.uk
[@Davesgym](https://twitter.com/Davesgym)



Exclusive offer!

Present this ad for **20% off your agency fee** when
taking your property in November for the **2014/2015**
academic year.

 Find us on Facebook: [CPSHomes](https://www.facebook.com/CPSHomes)  Follow us on Twitter: [@CPSHomes](https://twitter.com/CPSHomes)



presents

THE WELCOME BARBECUE



FREE BURGER & DRINK
FREE I ♥S THE 'DIFF T-SHIRT & LIVE DJ
THURSDAY 3RD & FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER



34 WOODVILLE
ROAD
CATHAYS
CF24 4EA



#CPSBBQ
f cpshomes
cpshomes.co.uk