

cwttch

WINTER/SPRING 2021-2022

student homes edition

SOPHIE'S STUDENT HOUSE HUNT

Sophie finds
her perfect
second-year
home

the green issue

PLUS...

EATS,
SHOOTS,
LEAVES

The best
of Cardiff's
vegan scene

**FREE PIZZA WITH
EVERY VIEWING!**
See inside for details

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A FRESHER LOOK AT STUDENT LIVING

hello...

...and welcome to the green issue of Cwtch, the student living magazine from CPS Homes. What a year it's been. Words we'd never used before entered our everyday vocabulary – firebreak lockdown, anyone? – and I'm never sure whether to wave awkwardly, bump wrists or go in for the double-cheek-kiss when I meet up with friends.

One thing that has kept me smiling is getting outside into the fresh air and doing my 10,000 steps a day. We are so lucky that Cardiff has so much green space, even right at its heart. During the summer, the city's parks become garden extensions for so many people, and this year I loved getting my picnic rug out at the weekends and setting up for an afternoon in the sun. In our green spaces feature we have highlighted some of the best places in Cardiff for a bit of alfresco fun.

One of my favourite things to do if I have got a couple of hours spare – and I really missed it during the lockdowns – is sitting in a coffee shop and watching the world go by. Cardiff is so full of characters and creative people, you never know what you might see. On **page 11** we've rounded up some of Cardiff's best places to stop for a caffeine fix; some old faves and some you might not have heard of.

Already looking ahead to next year? If you're thinking about moving out of halls and into a house with friends, join first-year student Sophie on **page 17** as she takes you through her experience of finding the perfect home. On **page 18** you can meet three of our student property advisors and find out what they get up to when the office is closed.



Cath

Cath Taylor
Assistant Lettings Manager
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free pizza

A voucher for a free pizza with every house viewing courtesy of **Fireaway**.



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sophie's student house hunt

Sophie finds her perfect second-year student home



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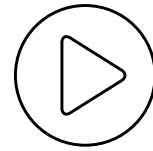
5 minutes with...

Our student property gurus tell all

cpshomes.co.uk



Harriet St, Cathays, 8 bedroom,
£450 pcm each



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house tour

**video tours
online**

A FRESHER LOOK AT STUDENT LIVING



eats shoots leaves

WHETHER YOU'RE A COMMITTED VEGAN, OR JUST EXPERIMENTING WITH MEAT-FREE MONDAYS AND OTHER WAYS OF CUTTING DOWN, CARDIFF HAS AN INCREDIBLE ARRAY OF OPTIONS THAT ARE SURE TO GIVE YOU PLANT-BASED POWER.



luna's vegan corner

26 WELLFIELD ROAD

Nestled amongst other good foodie independents on this popular street bordering Roath and Penylan, Luna's continues to be a local favourite. Offering a seasonally changing menu from virtuous summery Buddha bowls to cosy winter stews, ragus and risottos, you can enjoy the friendly atmosphere with a side of twinkly lights. If you can leave without ordering a tiramisu or bread and butter pudding, you've better will-power than us!



mother nature

16 HIGH STREET ARCADE

Cardiff's Victorian arcades are packed with indie hangouts with pavement-seating, perfect for a spot of people-watching over a stack of pancakes. Mother Nature is a cute-as-a-button space, with comfy seating, pretty Spanish tiles and a cosy weekend vibe every day of the week. The menu has a host of breakfast choices, as well as hearty curries and a couple of brilliant burgers, but if you only come here once, make it on a Sunday.

The Mother's Roast, with pecan crusted chick'un, caramelised carrots, roast potatoes and a generous serving of rosemary gravy is everything you want on a plant-based plate.



ripple

102 ALBANY RD

Hey, of course it's nice to eat out, but you didn't buy all those pans and plates in Ikea just to pack them back up in June. Ripple was the first zero waste store to open in Cardiff, and is still the best one, with the biggest selection of dried goods to buy by weight—as well as shampoos, laundry detergent and cleaning stuff. Just take your clean, empty containers with you and fill them with pasta, rice, nuts and spices and you can cook up a vegan storm in your very own kitchen. While you are there, pop into their lifestyle store next door, for ethically produced clothing, beauty and homeware.



wild thing

36-38 CATHAYS TERRACE

Based in a community centre, this is a social enterprise where you pay what you can afford, and all the profits go back into funding projects for the local community. Sit in the back garden for a breakfast feast of fig and tahini toast, plum-topped porridge or a stack of vegan pastries. They have a community fridge too, and are very keen to talk to anyone interested in volunteering. Get involved!



the naked vegan

CARDIFF INDOOR MARKET

Have you been into the Indoor Market yet? You really should. Tucked between the greengrocers, hardware stalls and the penny sweets are some brilliantly quirky independent food sellers. If you're in town and in need of a coffee and a cake, the guys at Naked Vegan can sort you out with a chocolate orange brownie or a red velvet cupcake. There are a couple of tables, but take yours to go, and wander up the stairs to the balcony for a browse at the always brilliant Kelly's Records, who have been selling vinyl to Cardiff's students since 1969.

got no beef

8 BARRACK LANE

Some days a Buddha Bowl just won't cut it. If your appetite is larger than life, the lovely team at Got No Beef have you covered. They've got that indulgent burger experience - loaded fries, all the sides - ready to go, so get yourself to this city centre vegan fast food mecca. These old Cardiffians have returned home to roost after touring the UK with their buffalo wings, hotdogs and mouth-watering platters. Next door to the St David's shopping centre, it's the perfect spot to refuel mid-shop or to meet friends for a cocktail after the store shutters roll.

TIPS TO... HELP YOUR PLANTS THRIVE THIS WINTER



Move them to an area that gets a lot of light. Clean the windows so they get as much light as possible! Wash dust off too, so leaves can make maximum use of available light.



Keep them warm - most house plants need a temperature of 12-18°C and don't do well with temperature fluctuations. Keep them away from draughts, open windows or doors.



The air will be getting drier, so keeping your plant's soil wet takes more effort, but don't overwater. Plants need water when the root zone is dry - poke your finger into soil up to 2 inches. If the soil is dry, water it. Soil is also lighter when it's dry - learn how wet soil feels by lifting pots immediately after watering.



herb falafel + buckwheat tabbouleh

eartha 213 CITY RD

Eartha started life two years ago as a plant-store pop-up in an empty shop in the centre of town, but has blossomed into a cool retail space with a brilliant café at the top end of City Rd, just near the junction with Richmond and Albany. Cool hunters enter through an oasis of cacti, succulents and hanging plants and can grab a table near the kitchen, or head outside and sit in the yurt out back. The all-vegetarian, mostly vegan menu changes weekly, and the Wednesday night, five-course supper clubs are not to be missed. Leaving without a plant or two under your arm is a challenge.

**THE
BEST
OF THE
REST...**

the lazy leek 183A KINGS RD YARD

Plant-based street food shack trading on weekends in Kings Road Yard. You have to try their The Cow(less) Boy burger!

crumbs kitchen 33 MORGAN ARCADE

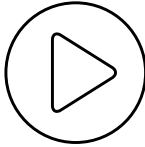
A cosy cafe full of charm that's still thriving after nearly half a century, serving fresh, tasty vegan and vegetarian food.

aubergine café 26 CLARE ST

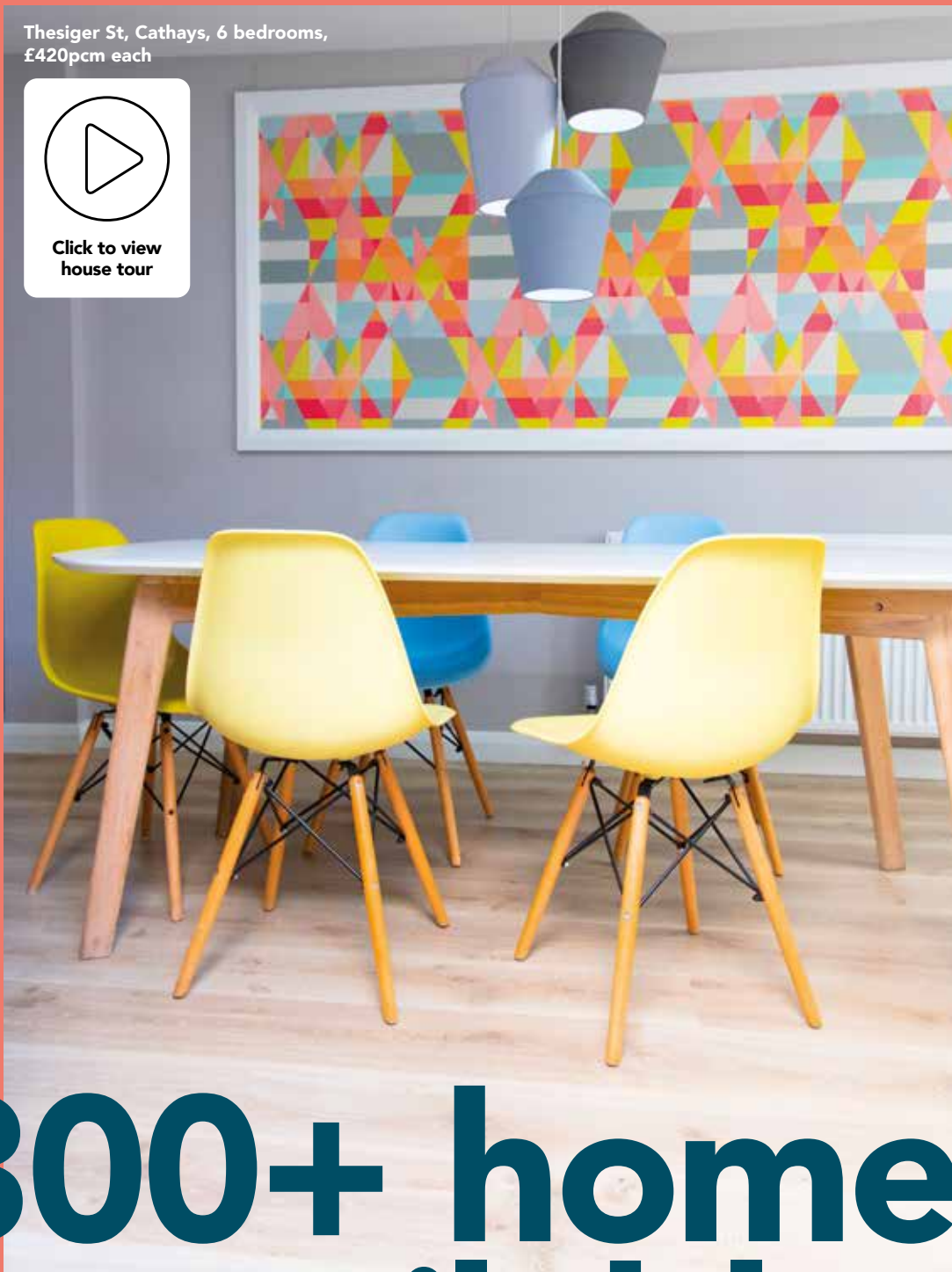
Inclusivity is key at this humble community café, where a positive work environment embraces its autistic team.

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Thesiger St, Cathays, 6 bedrooms,
£420pcm each



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available**

A FRESHER LOOK AT STUDENT LIVING



oh
this
old
thing?

THE HOT SPOTS WHERE CARDIFF'S PRE-LOVED AND VINTAGE STYLE HUNTERS HEAD TO SEEK OUT THEIR PREY.



hobo's vintage

26 HIGH ST ARCADE

Don't let the exterior fool you: Hobo's may be a teeny-tiny shop, but once you're inside—my gahd!—they make good use of that space. It's an absolute riot of colour, with 80s leisure wear vying for space with oversized baseball tops, leather bombers and Hawaiian shirts galore. They really know their stock too; if you are after an oversized plaid shacket that will fit a UK8, they can pull out three and suggest something to wear them with. If you ask nicely, they will let you tip-toe down the winding stairs to the lower level, which is where the accessories—as well as more clothes—can be found. A rainbow of Converse in colours that were retired long ago, funky ski goggles, beaten up crossbody satchels and bucket hats for days.

flamingos vintage

CAPITOL CENTRE

Buying vintage gear by weight is nothing new in the US, where warehouses are piled high with denim, flannels and cords sold by the kilo instead of priced individually, but in the UK it's still a relatively fresh idea. Over the last year or two, Cardiff has seen a couple of pop-up kilo sales take over an empty space for a weekend, but Flamingo is a permanent—and welcome—addition to the city's vintage scene. Most of the stock is from the 70s, 80s and 90s—think rows of jeans, college sweatshirts and bomber jackets. There is a £4 sale rack as well as a couple of rails of branded gear, which is priced individually, but where's the fun in that? Treasure seekers need to rummage the rails, then load their haul onto the giant weighing scales to find out just how much bang you can get for your buck.



YOU MIGHT CALL IT VINTAGE, OR PRELOVED, OR SUSTAINABLE, BUT SURELY YOU'VE NOTICED EVERYONE IS WEARING SECONDHAND THESE DAYS. EVEN BORIS JOHNSON'S WIFE RENTED HER WEDDING DRESS VIA AN ONLINE FROCK-HIRE BOUTIQUE. IF YOU'RE SICK OF SCROLLING THROUGH DEPOP AND EBAY'S GETTING YOU DOWN, GRAB A SHOPPING BAG, LACE UP YOUR DOCS AND HIT THE STREETS. CARDIFF HAS GOT THE VINTAGE GEAR YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR, AND WE KNOW JUST WHERE YOU NEED TO GO TO FIND IT.

albany rd charity shops

Did you know that if you take a walk from one end of Albany Road to the other, you can forage in 7 charity shops? Now, don't come here expecting cast off cashmere sweaters—for swanky swag you need to head to Penarth—Albany Road's chazzas are strictly for last year's PLT party dress or a barely worn parka from Boohoo. If your housemate is too rich or lazy to list stuff on Depop, this is probably where it will end up. Stock levels are currently high, as they are all still working to sell the donation tsunami that they experienced after the lockdowns – bad news if you want to offload, great news if you are looking to buy – and the diverse mix of people in the area means you never quite know what you will find. Unworn golf shoes and a patent leather Mickey Mouse belt, anyone?

oxfam boutique

34 ST MARY'S ST

It's no secret that charity shops are the Aladdin's caves of the great British high street, but seeking out vintage treasures and designer pieces can be time consuming. The Oxfam Boutique people do the hard work for you, so everything here has been selected from donations to the charity across the UK and is sold in this boutique-style shop. So, you won't fall over a casserole dish as you browse the jeans, but you will pay for the privilege. The Oxfam folk really know their brands, so no hidden gems here; expect to pay Ebay prices – but remember, everything you spend is going to support the charity, so you can pat yourself on the back as you hand over your card. Coats seem to be a particularly good buy here, we picked up a cherry-red 100% wool cocoon coat from Reiss for £30.

Pack up and get outside.

We have a **Fjallraven Tree-Kranken** rucksack in New Moon Blue to give away. To be in with a chance of winning just share a photo of our magazine to your Instagram Story and tag **@cpshomes_students**

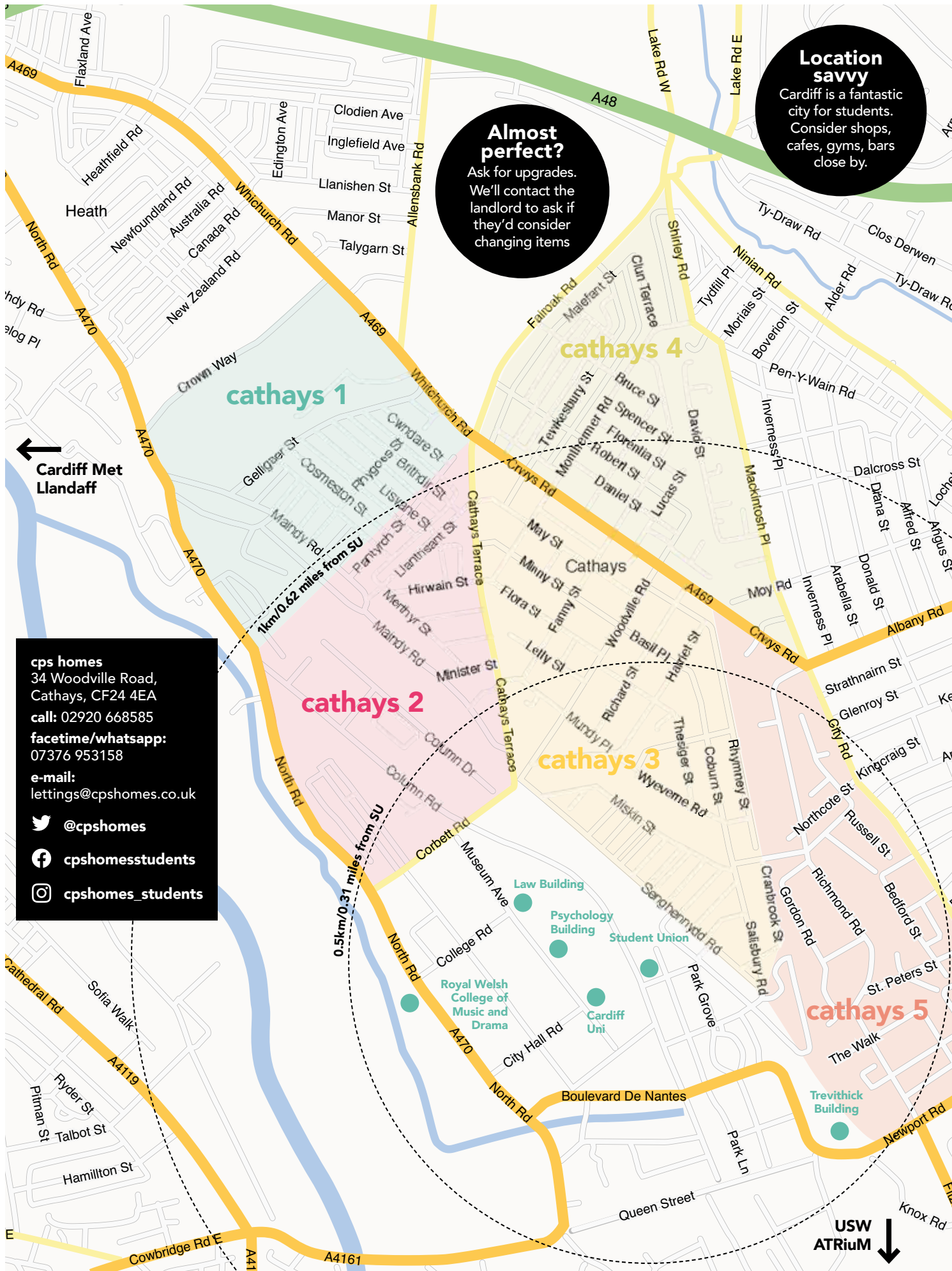
 [cpshomes_students](https://www.instagram.com/cpshomes_students)



hatts vintage emporium

CARDIFF INDOOR MARKET

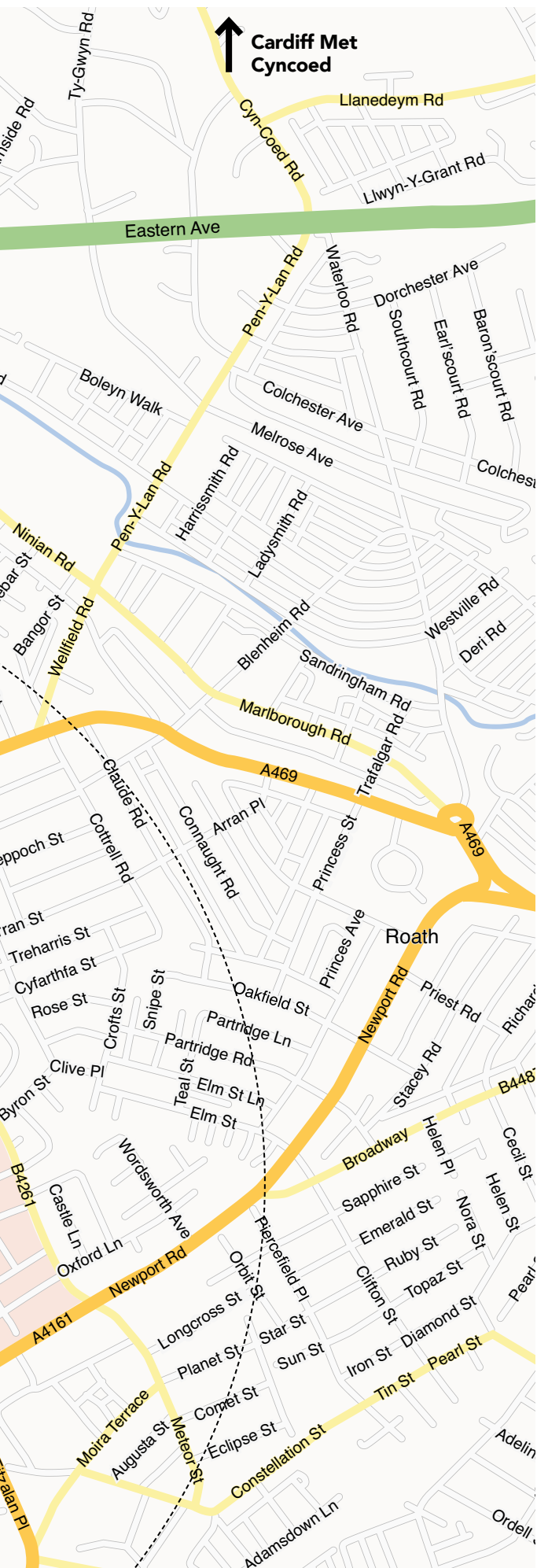
What sort of fella shops at Hatts Vintage Emporium? The best dressed fella in Cardiff, that's who. The self-styled Traders to the Dandy, Hatts is heaven to anyone who has ever practised tying a half-Windsor knot in a pure silk necktie in the mirror. A tiny unit in the indoor market, Hatts is tricked out with vintage shop fittings and piled high with tweed blazers, wool trousers, and caps, bowlers, panamas and trilbies; tiny drawers slide open to reveal shiny cufflinks, crisp handkerchiefs and tortoiseshell combs. The aesthetic is very much Peaky Blinders, with a side order of Agatha Christie. Sharp tailoring, crisp shirts and perfectly trimmed moustaches. Because sometimes, denim just won't do.



Location savvy
 Cardiff is a fantastic city for students. Consider shops, cafes, gyms, bars close by.

Almost perfect?
 Ask for upgrades. We'll contact the landlord to ask if they'd consider changing items

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halls to home

WE'VE BEEN HELPING STUDENTS FIND HOMES FOR OVER 20 YEARS, SO REST ASSURED WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

Get to know the area

Chances are, if you've been living in halls with extended home-learning, you've not really had an opportunity to explore Cardiff.

"Behind the Cardiff Uni SU are a host of independent cafés and shops in an area known as Cathays. We always recommend having a wander around to find your favourites. There's a real sense of student community in Cathays." *Emily, Property Advisor*

What's on your priority list?

"I wanted a house super close to uni as I was tired of walking from Talybont in the rain. My housemates wanted massive bedrooms. Nadine [Property Advisor] was great as she helped us find the streets that gave us the best of both. Her insight saved us so much time." *Gareth, 1st Year @ Cardiff Business School*

Knowing the order of your priorities really helps focus your house search. Check that everyone's on the same page by talking openly about your expectations with your group.

Be realistic about your budget

"It's really easy to get carried away when you're looking at amazing images of properties with en-suite bathrooms and hot tubs, but think carefully about what you can afford each month. Some properties have utility bills and internet included, so don't forget to ask." *Jack, Property Advisor*

"I was surprised how much cheaper living in a shared house was compared to my private halls!" *Sophie, 2nd Year @ Cardiff Uni*

Tell your agent your budget before you start looking. They'll be able to match your priorities with your finances more easily and find a home just right for you.

Free pizza with every viewing!

After you've been on your viewing, don't forget to grab your **voucher for a free 12" Margherita pizza**, courtesy of our friends at **Fireaway** on City Road. Fancy something bigger? They'll deduct the cost of the 12" pizza from your order, so you're only paying for your upgrade!

About Fireaway

- Fastest growing pizza company in the UK
- Vegan & Gluten-free options
- Unlimited amount of toppings for £9.99 only
- Fresh produce & daily-made dough and sauces
- Hand-stretched, authentic Italian pizza & calzone, all cooked in 400 degree oven
- Milkshakes made with Italian gelato



211A City Road, Cardiff, CF24 3JD

Offer ends **28th Feb 2022**.
Subject to withdrawal and availability.
One transaction per person. For full terms visit: cpshomes.co.uk/terms

aaand breathe

CARDIFF'S PARKS AND GREEN SPACES MAKE THIS ONE OF THE GREENEST CITIES IN THE UK, SO PULL ON YOUR TRAINERS AND A WATERPROOF COAT AND LET'S GO OUTSIDE.



How does walking in the great outdoors make you feel? Peaceful? Blissed out? Reflective? For many of us, the last 18 months saw us exploring our local area on foot like never before, and gave us a new appreciation of nature and what it means for our well-being. The health benefits of immersing ourselves in green space are not to be sniffed at and in Cardiff we are spoiled for choice, with everything from formal planted parks to wilder riverbank walks.

bute park

All roads lead to Bute Park, the green, beating heart at the centre of the city.

There is nowhere else like Bute Park for

that feeling of the great outdoors just a few minutes walk from your front door. Several of the trees in the arboretum are the tallest or widest of their species in the UK; perfect for sheltering under in a sudden downpour. Miles of footpaths and cycle tracks lead you along the river and under the trees, with plenty of space to meet up for a picnic, play a game of football or just sit and read a book. Coopers Fields, the wide, flat space immediately behind the castle is home to various festivals and outdoors events through the summer, as well as a belter of a firework display in November. Caffeine seekers should head to the Secret Garden Café – follow the signs to the Education Centre, the café's just next door – for a takeaway coffee to sip



as you walk, or grab a seat if you can and enjoy the walled garden setting and a delicious salad box for lunch.

getting there

It's immediately behind the castle, you really can't miss it. Access it from North Rd, next to the Royal Welsh College of M&D, or use the entrance on Castle St, next to the Pettigrew Tea Rooms.



SECRET GARDEN CAFE



ROATH PARK

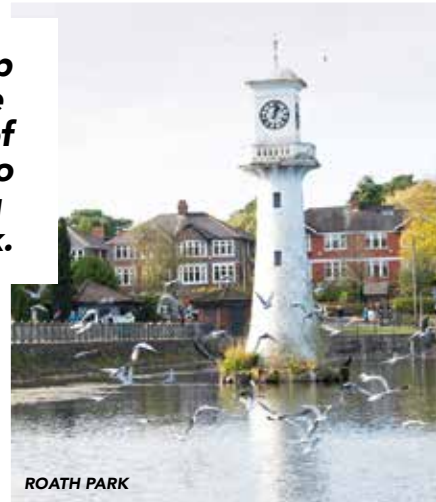
If your rowing skills are not up to much, book a pedalo, take a back seat and choose two of your most energetic friends to take charge of powering you around the lake at Roath Park.



ST FAGANS



INSOLE PARK



ROATH PARK

st fagans

national museum of history

If you are from Wales, you will definitely have been here on a school trip, but don't let that put you off.

This is an open air museum covering around 100 acres of parkland. The museum records the history of Wales, and more than 40 historical buildings have been dismantled from all across Wales and rebuilt on the site, so you can visit farmhouses, a terrace of iron workers cottages, churches and a Victorian school. Dr Who fans will recognise several of the buildings that have been used as locations. Pick up a map at the entrance and hit the footpaths: you'll see horses, pigs, cows and sheep near the rural buildings, and for a Jane Austen moment head up the hill past the ornamental fishpond for the more formal gardens surrounding the manor house.

getting there

By bus: From Cardiff city centre, the Easyway 32A stops in the main car park of the Museum.

insole court

If your parents are National Trust member-types, this might be one to save for when they visit; there's free parking on site if you do.

Insole Court is a gothic Victorian mansion, with a mix of formal gardens and wilder woodland areas perfect for picnics or a weekend stroll. When you've explored the grounds, it's worth going into the house for a look round –the exhibition is ticketed, but there's plenty to see for free–and the second hand bookshop in the butler's pantry is worth a rummage if you are someone who likes to have a paperback with them at all time. The Potting Shed Café is open Monday to Saturday, currently takeaway only, but there are lots of large outdoor tables where you can enjoy their homemade, ethically produced food, often made from the produce grown on site in the community garden.

getting there

On foot/by bike: Access is available from the North Gate on Fairwater Road (main entrance), the South Gate on Vaughan Avenue and the East Gate on Insole Gardens. Bike parking is near the Dairy or in front of the mansion.

By bus: The nearest bus that operates between Cardiff city centre and Insole Court is the 66 (Cardiff Bus). Get off on Fairwater Road at Rookwood Close, walk back 150m to the North gate.

roath park

There is something seriously wholesome about a trip to Roath Park; think Mary Poppins taking the Banks children for their walk after luncheon.

The park is centred around the 30 acre lake, with Victorian-style gardens and paths, lawns and wild wooded areas. Hiring a boat and getting out on the lake is one of those iconic Cardiff memories you need to do at least once while you're here. Miles of gravel paths make Roath Park popular with runners, and at the Penylan Road end, the Roath Recreation Ground is a huge playing field, the home of Welsh baseball, with basketball courts and football and rugby pitches, and is a mecca for sunseekers once the summer comes around.

getting there

On foot/by bike: If you are a Cardiff Met student, it's right on your doorstep, just walk out of the Cyncoed campus and head down Cefn-Coed Road. If you live towards the Cathays campus, go along Richmond Road then turn up Mackintosh Place all the way to the top. Turn right down Morlais St and when you get to the end, the park will be right in front of you.

By bus: If you are coming from the city centre, the 58 will drop you at the Penylan Library stop, right at the end of the Recreation Ground, and for the lake, you need the 28.

whole house wholesome moussaka

SELMA, OWNER OF BLOSSOM CAFE IN ROATH SHARES A RECIPE FOR A WINTER WARMER TO FEED THE WHOLE HOUSE.

Ingredients

Olive oil
1 large aubergine
1 large onion
2 cloves of garlic
1 large courgette
1 green pepper
1 tin of chopped tomatoes
2 potatoes
2 tblsp of tomato puree
Salt and pepper

For the bechamel sauce topping.

½ cup or 170g plain flour
25g butter
450ml milk (hot)
½ cup or 170g cheese, grated
Salt and pepper.

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 C/350F/gas 4.
2. Slice pepper into stripes. Peel the potatoes then slice along with the courgette and aubergine into 1cm thick rounds.
3. Place the aubergine in a colander over a sink or on kitchen roll and sprinkle with salt. Leave to drain.
4. Place all the vegetables in one layer onto a lightly oiled baking tray(s) and drizzle with oil and sprinkle with salt. Roast in oven for 15-20 minutes until golden.
5. Slice the onion and crush the garlic. Saute both with 1tbls oil, for 5 minutes.
6. Add the tin or tomatoes and tomato puree, bring to the boil and simmer for 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper and set aside.
7. For homemade bechamel sauce, melt the butter in a saucepan, stir in the flour to form a paste, add a dash of hot milk. Stirring continuously, add the rest of the milk a splash at a time. At the end you'll have a smooth sauce.
8. In an oven proof casserole dish, begin layering up your ingredients. Spoon some tomato sauce into the bottom of your dish, add a layer of vegetables and then tomato sauce. Repeat until all used.
9. Grate cheese over the dish and then spoon over the bechamel sauce, until all the layers are covered.
10. Bake for 30 minutes or until it is bubbling and golden brown.



"MOUSSAKA IS A GREAT VEGETARIAN DISH! WHY NOT TRY SERVING WITH A GREEN SALAD AND TOASTED PITTA BREAD OR CHIPS, GARLIC YOGHURT AND CUCUMBER."

Selma Oran, Blossom

Freeze!

To freeze place in freezer-proof container and cover well with foil. It will last for up to 3 months frozen, defrost thoroughly before reheating until piping hot.



Put a hold on the deliveroo!

We have two recipe books from the Master of £1 meals, Miguel Barclay. Share a snap of this page on your Instagram or Facebook stories and tag us in.

 @cphomesstudents

 cphomes_students

do you fancy a coffee?

OUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT COFFEE HOUSES OFFER MUCH MORE THAN YOUR AVERAGE FLAT WHITE. SO, BEFORE YOU ORDER YOUR NEXT TALL, EXTRA HOT, NO FOAM; TRY A LOCALLY ROASTED BREW.

bakery + coffee

NATA & CO.

118 Clifton St; 3 Castle St +
Capitol Shopping Centre

Take your coffee black or with a dash of milk and a Pastel de Nata on the side – you won't regret it!

BROD

126 Wyndham Cres.

Find your hygge relaxing with friends in their cosy wood interiors. Great coffee accompanies some of the best baked treats in Cardiff.

arcade

COFFEE BARKER

1-13 Castle Arcade

Enjoy seasonal specialty coffees, cakes and lunches with an eclectic 1920s vibe.

UNCOMMON GROUND

10-12 Royal Arcade

We love an excuse to visit the Victorian Arcades and this is definitely a great place to kick back and flex your hipster credentials.

outside space

BRODIES

Gorsedd Gardens

Offering a calm study space with oodles of greenery. Take your iced latte upstairs to enjoy the colourful rooftop terrace - it's a total suntrap!

RHOSTIO

16C Crwys Road

Tucked away in an idyllic setting, this eco-conscious café serves up an amazing oat milk latte. Try the salads, they're a taste sensation.

coffee positivity

BIGMOOSE COFFEE CO.

4-5 Frederick St

This Bigmoose has a big heart. Your coffee is served up with a passion for reinforcing positive mental health across our city. It's not often a toilet makes the Insta list, but you do need pay a visit.

insta-ready

BLOSSOM CARDIFF

11 Wellfield Rd

The most Instagram friendly coffee in Cardiff. Pose in front of the floral wall or Freida Kahlo mural and don't forget to upload your image to create your very own 'selfie' coffee.

SOCIAL EATS

20 Salisbury Road

Grab a hot pink beetroot latte alongside your Insta-ready smoothie bowl for an antioxidant boost mid-week. This Cardiff newbie even offers a customer barista class!

brekkie

BRICKS 'N' MORTAR

56 North Road

Fresh from the Brodies Team enjoy the same uplifting coffee and energy you'd find at the cabin whilst keeping snug inside. For brekkie try James's top secret mocha nut granola. (Don't miss their supper club events, just down the road from Talybont.)

STAG COFFEE

87 Crwys Rd

Arguably one of the best breakfasts in Cathays. We recommend their pancake stack with scrambled eggs, bacon and maple syrup.

near uni

HOFFI COFFI

2 Colum Rd

The between lecture go-to for a caffeine kick with a friendly and relaxing vibe.



Click to
view our top
student coffee
houses

Win Social Eats brunch for two!

We have a **delicious brunch for you and a friend** to give away. Simply post a photo of this page to your Instagram story and tag in **@cpshomes_students** and **@social_eats_cardiff** to be in with a chance of winning. Good Luck!

 [cpshomes_students](https://www.instagram.com/cpshomes_students)



lights, cardiff, action!



OUR DEDICATED MEDIA TEAM HAVE BEEN WORKING AT BRINGING YOU A TASTE OF WHAT OUR LOVELY CITY HAS TO OFFER AND A SNOOP AROUND SOME GREAT STUDENT HOMES FOR 2022 - ALL FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR SOFA. HERE'S AN UPDATE ON WHAT THEY'VE BEEN PRODUCING TO HELP YOU EMBRACE THE FULL CARDIFF STUDENT EXPERIENCE!

Our Instagram page has been given a fresh new look with more local news, events and regular giveaways. Graduates share their top tips for student life.

With over 201,000 views last academic year, many of you watched, loved and rented your 2021-2022 student homes from our new-look online property tours. We've been working hard to continue to improve these for an immersive, 'at home' property tour experience on your mobile or laptop. Rewind, pause and watch again until you find the perfect home for 2022-2023!

New to renting? Our filming crew shadowed first-year student, Sophie, throughout her journey to finding the perfect home. We've captured the process from start to finish to show you exactly what it entails.




It's not often we're asked to drink more coffee and eat more cake, but we're always up for a challenge! Tasked with bringing you the best in Cardiff's coffee houses we got to trying and testing. It's been a blast getting

to know the faces behind these great indie businesses. Watch our coffee edit on Instagram @cpshomes_students.

Finally, we've also put together a tenant tips series to help you tackle some everyday repairs. Trust us, those fiddly tasks that might sound daunting will be easy to get to grips with once you've watched Emily and Beth show you 'how to' in a few simple steps!

Look out for a guest appearance from Gemma at 'thelittlecardiffblog' as she hosts us for a mini-series in 'how-to style your home'. We can't wait!

Stay connected

-  @cpshomes
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Click to view
Sophie house
hunt

sophie's student house hunt

WHEN SOPHIE AND HER FRIENDS CONTACTED US ABOUT FINDING A HOUSE FOR THEIR SECOND YEAR AT UNI, WE ASKED IF WE COULD SEND OUR MEDIA TEAM OUT TO FILM THEIR JOURNEY. SO, THIS IS HOW THESE CARDIFF FRESHERS GOT TO FINDING THEIR PERFECT SECOND-YEAR HOME.

SOPHIE: My boyfriend was living in a CPS Homes house in Cathays with his mates and so I knew it was something I wanted to do for my second year. I just hadn't a clue where to start.

Know your budget

SCOTT: [Videographer]: You look a little surprised Sophie

SOPHIE: I can't believe how much I'm paying in private halls compared to what I'd be paying in a house-share with friends next year. It's so much cheaper!

Find a location that suits you

SOPHIE: I've realised I barely know where anything is. Is it Ca-TH-ays?

SCOTT: [chuckles] Ca-T-hays. What do you think of the area?

SOPHIE: I really like it. I think it's really lively. There are a lot of students around which is nice – it feels like more of a community. I'm excited to check out the independent shops and cafés nearby.

Work out what everyone's priorities are and seek advice

SOPHIE: Lily likes the open-plan of the first Llandough Street house, as do I. But Rosie loves the bigger bedrooms in the other house on the street.

CHELSEA: [Student Property Advisor]: The size of the houses in that street are far larger than usual for Cathays, so your bedroom sizes in both houses will naturally be larger too. My advice for pleasing everyone is to opt for the open-plan house.

Sophie's house hunting advice.

SOPHIE: The process was so much easier than I thought. CPS Homes were really helpful. Make sure you know your budget, who you want to live with and take time to explore Cathays.

A helping hand

Top tips for house hunting:

- Be realistic about your budget. If you see anything you like above your budget, ask the agents if they have anything similar in your price range.
- Get to know your locations. Cardiff is a fantastic city for students. Consider local shops, distance to Uni, cafés/bars/gyms.
- Living with friends is great fun but check you share the same vision of what makes a good house-mate.
- Almost perfect? Ask for upgrades. Your Agent will be happy to contact the landlord to ask if they'd consider changing or upgrading any items.

Get in touch

cps homes

34 Woodville Road, Cathays, CF24 4EA

call: 02920 668585

facetime/whatsapp: 07376 953158

e-mail: lettings@cpshomes.co.uk

zoom: Message us and we'll setup a meeting

FIVE MINUTES WITH

the dream team

STUDENT PROPERTY GURUS
EMILY, JACK AND NADINE TALK
CHIPPY LANE, ROB BRYDON AND
RENTING A HOME WITH MATES.



Your favourite Cardiff takeaway?

JACK: It has to be Hanoi 1991 in the Royal Arcade. It's a Vietnamese coffee house with great Bánh mì - a crispy, short baguette. So good.

EMILY: Sushi Life on Wellfield Road
If you have friends visiting Cardiff, where are your top places to show off the city? Can be anything!

JACK: Watching a rugby match or concert in the Millennium Stadium. The walk around Cardiff Barrage between Cardiff Bay and Penarth has some great views.

EMILY: DEPOT for the best street food!

Finish the sentence: you can't call yourself a local (Cardiffian) unless you've...

EMILY: ...ended a night out on Chippy Lane.

What advice would you give your 18-year-old self on renting a house with friends?

EMILY: Don't rush into getting the first property you see; have a look around first.

NADINE: Make sure they're clean and tidy people and will share the cooking!

JACK: We rented a 9-bed house on Richards Street in Cathays - I wouldn't change a thing!

What's the hardest part of your job, and the most fun part?

EMILY: The people I work with and the tenants I love chatting to make every day fun. I also love being the first to see newly-renovated properties.

NADINE: Getting up early in the mornings is never going to be my favourite thing.

JACK: I've really loved working with our Media Team this year. With property viewings going online, we've been learning different filming techniques which has been new and exciting!

NADINE



JACK

Talking of filming, Tom Hardy was recently spotted in Barry Island. Who would you most like to run into in Barrybados?

JACK: Michael Palin.

EMILY: Rob Brydon... to find out what happened on that fishing trip!

NADINE: Ruth Jones, to match the accent haha!

Would you hook up your Spotify 'recently played' list to the office speakers and let us listen?

JACK: There's some Tom Petty, Robert Plant, War on Drugs, Fleetwood Mac, Roxy Music - nothing to worry about!

EMILY: Mine would be ABBA all day long!

Is there a better frozen food than a potato waffle?

NADINE: Chicken nuggs!

EMILY: Yes, a hash brown.



EMILY

house video tours

In-person viewings are back, but you can still search from your sofa beforehand with our professional video tours.

need a chat?

Nadine, Jack and Emily and the rest of our team are here to talk you through finding your student home for 2022. Get in touch or follow us for newly listed property plus our top tips for student life in Cardiff.

free pizza?

To help fuel your 2022-2023 house search, check out **page 11** for info on our 'free pizza with every viewing' offer, courtesy of our friends at **Fireaway** on City Road.

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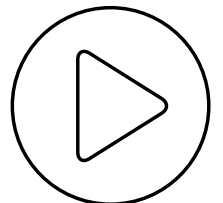
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- + Three full shower rooms



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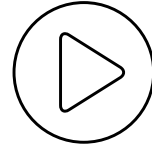
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A **FRESHER** LOOK AT STUDENT LIVING

cpshomes.co.uk



Corner House, Cathays, 4 bedroom,
£540pcm each inclusive
of utility bills and internet.



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house tour

**no deposit
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A FRESHER LOOK AT STUDENT LIVING