

cwutch

WINTER/SPRING 2020-21

student edition

**FROM HALLS
TO HOME**
Our guide to moving
home in 2021

the green issue

PLUS...

**EATS,
SHOOTS,
LEAVES**

The best
of Cardiff's
vegan scene

**WHERE TO
GET YOUR
VINTAGE
FASHION FIX**

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homes not halls



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A FRESHER LOOK AT STUDENT LIVING

hello...

...and welcome to the green issue of Cwttch, the student living magazine from CPS Homes. What a year it's been. Words we'd never used before have entered our everyday vocabulary – firebreak lockdown, anyone – and Zoom calls have replaced birthday parties, Thursday night drinks and more.

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 long, hot summer, the city's parks became garden extensions for so many people, and 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 in lockdown – 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.

If you are looking ahead to next year, and thinking about moving out of halls and into a house with friends, our guide on **page 17** will help ensure things go smoothly, and 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.



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The best of Cardiff's vegan scene



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oh this old thing

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halls to home

Get ready to make your next move



Harriet St, 8 bedrooms, £425 pcm each

18

5 minutes with...

Our student property gurus tell all

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Harriet St, 8 bedroom,
£425 pcm each



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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.



ekologi

59 WHITCHURCH RD

Open a business during a national lockdown in the middle of a global pandemic? Sure, why not?! EKOLOGI began life several years ago, building rustic furniture from reclaimed wooden pallets, but the move to becoming a customer-facing store providing sustainable living products came just as retail across the UK was grinding to a halt. When the supermarket shelves were empty they had queues round the block for their zero-waste flour and cleaning products. Since lockdown lifted, they have expanded their ranges to include local fresh produce, freshly made oat milk, ready-to-eat snacks as well as homewares, art prints and gifts.

blanche bakery

16 MACKINTOSH PLACE

You've arrived in Cardiff in the middle of a pandemic. It's a bit weird. What should you do? Sit at a marble-topped table in a bougie blush-pink café and order a berry-topped doughnut and an iced tea, of course. Blanche Bakery is the most Instagrammable spot in Cardiff, and also serves a mean vegan brunch, as well as burgers and salads. Go for the selfies, stay for the baked goods.



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.





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.

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!

ripple

102 ALBANY RD

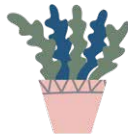
Hey, of course it's nice to eat out, but you didn't buy all those pans and plates in Ikea just to pack them back up in June. Ripple was the first zero waste store to open in Cardiff, and is still the best one, with the biggest selection of dried goods to buy by weight—as well as shampoos, laundry detergent 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.

3

TIPS TO... HELP YOUR PLANTS THRIVE THIS WINTER



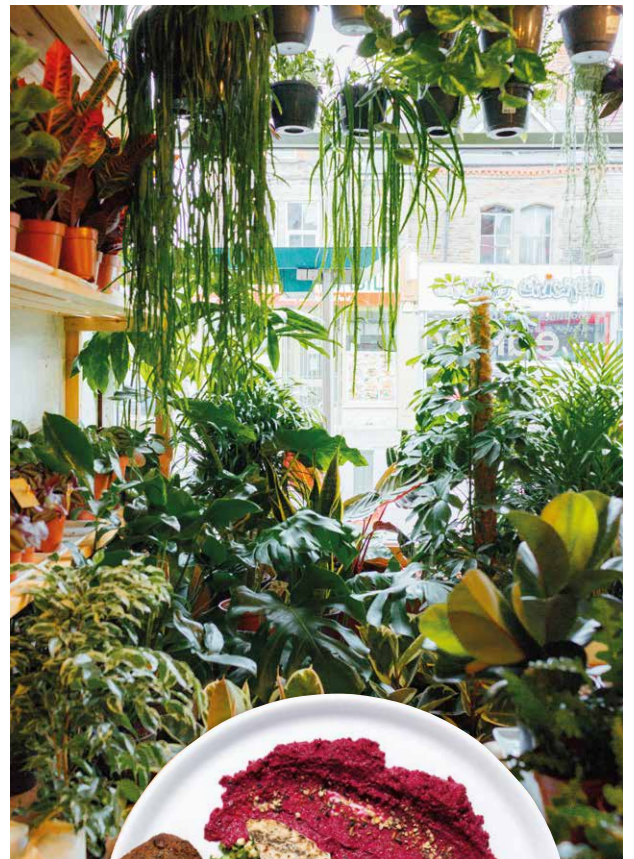
Move them to an area that gets a lot of light. Clean the windows so they get as much light as possible! Wash dust off too, so leaves can make maximum use of available light.



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!

simply v 26 CASTLE ARCADE

Independent, family-run vegan shop stocking everything from frozen food to candles, beauty, gifts and more.

viva organic 79 PONTCANNAN ST

A one stop shop for all things organic and zero-waste. Also famous for their juice bar

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Richards St, 8 bedroom, £380 pcm each
Includes hot tub!



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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 THE ACTUAL QUEEN'S GRANDDAUGHTER BORROWED A FROCK FROM HER GRANNY FOR HER OWN WEDDING DAY. 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? Take the left turn at the end down Wellfield Road and you'll clock up another 3. Now, don't come here expecting cast off cashmere sweaters—for swanky swag you need to hop on a bus and head Penarth—Albany Road's chazza's are strictly for last year's Pretty Little Thing 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. There are currently excellent stock levels, because everyone had such a massive clear out during the summer lockdown, and the diverse mix of people in the area mean 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—and sometimes smelly—work. 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 or a wooden leg 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 **two Fjallraven Kranken bags** to give away. Simply tag your bestie on our Fjallraven Kranken Insta post to win one each. Add comment **"cwttch"** for your chance to win a bonus prize!

 [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.

studentville

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LIFE. SHOPS, BARS AND MORE EATERIES
THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A FORK AT!



City centre shopping arcades

Cafes

Cat drink shop repeat cat drink shop repeat

More shops

- ▲ Halls of residence
- Supermarkets
- 🏠 CPS Homes office
- 🚂 Train Station
- 1 Woodville Pub
- 2 The Royal George Pub
- 3 The Student Union
- Cathays area



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

COFFEE CO.

Bayscape, Watkiss Way + 31 Mermaid Quay

Known for their decadent signature coffees that can't fail to put a smile on your face and likes on your feed. Try the Curly Wurlly Latte.

SECRET GARDEN CAFÉ

Bute Park

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.

SUNFLOWER + I

1 Mount Stuart Square.

A treasure trove of vintage gems and flowers. Afternoon tea favourite. You won't be able to resist the Instagram potential.

brekkie

THE LITTLE MAN COFFEE COMPANY

Bridge Street

With tables big enough for a bacon roll, coffee and laptop, this is the perfect place for revision or collaborations over good coffee.

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.

BRODIES

Gorsedd Gardens

An outdoor gem with a positive mental health vibe. The coffee is so good you'll be happy to return rain or shine.



Scan QR code to watch Gemma review some top coffee spots

win bigmoose coffee + cake for two!

We have two pairs of **Bigmoose coffee and cake vouchers** to give away. Simply tag the friend you'd like to treat on our Bigmoose Insta post to win. Add comment **"cwtch"** for your chance to win a bonus prize!

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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? Blissful? Reflective? For many of us, with little else to leave the house for beyond a daily walk, lockdown brought a new appreciation of nature and what it means for our well-being, and the health benefits of immersing ourselves in greenspace are not to be sniffed at.

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. In normal times – 2021, we're looking hopefully at you here – 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

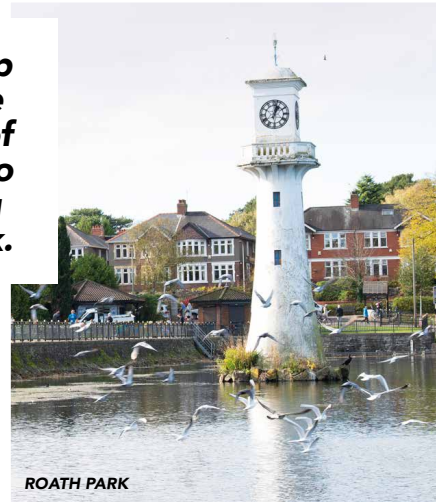
If your rowing skills are not up to much, book a pedalo, take a back seat and choose two of your most energetic friends to take charge of powering you around the lake at Roath Park.



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 mousakka

SELMA OWNER OF BLOSSOM 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.



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.



"MOUSAKKA IS A GREAT VEGETARIAN DISH THAT CAN BE EATEN AS A MEAL OR WHY NOT TRY SERVING WITH A GREEN SALAD AND TOASTED PITTA BREAD OR CHIPS, GARLIC YOGHURT AND CUCUMBER."

Selma Oran, Blossom



put a hold on the deliveroo!

We have three **Leon: Happy one-pot cooking** books to give away. Send us a snap of your home cooking to our Facebook to enter. Add comment "cwttch" for your chance to win a bonus prize!

@cpshomesstudents



lights, cardiff, action!

THE 'NEW NORMAL' HAS MEANT MANY OF YOU HAVE YET TO EMBRACE THE FULL CARDIFF STUDENT EXPERIENCE. SO, WE'VE BEEN WORKING AT BRINGING YOU A TASTE OF WHAT OUR LOVELY CITY HAS TO OFFER AND A SNOOP AROUND SOME GREAT STUDENT HOMES FOR 2021 - ALL FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR SOFA.

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. Give us a follow and comment 'cwtch' under our latest giveaway to be in with a chance to win a bonus gift.




Thank-you to our tenants who've been opening their doors to our filming crew. Watch our new-look video property tours online - rewind, pause and watch again until you find the perfect home for 2021. If you spot a place you love on our property pages, scan the QR code to view the full video tour and get in touch. Our student property advisors are ready and waiting for video call advice and suggestions, simply message '#zoom2021' to get started.

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.



Want to be a vlogger?

Could you teach this year's freshers a thing or two on the best places to go? Our production team will be filming again shortly, so get in touch we'd love to hear from you.

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A *FRESHER* LOOK AT STUDENT LIVING

from halls to home

Harriet St,
8 bedroom,
£425 pcm each



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this property

YOUR GUIDE TO MOVING FROM
UNI HALLS INTO THE COMFORT
OF YOUR OWN HOME. HOW,
WHEN AND WHERE TO MAKE
THOSE BIG DECISIONS FOR 2021.

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zoom: Message us anywhere saying
#Zoom2021 and we'll setup a meeting

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 cpshomesstudents

 cpshomes_students

Gap year travelling on hold, freshers' fairs held on Zoom and online lectures the new 'norm'. Our personal space has never been more important as we carve out daily routines that keep us happy and healthy.

Here at CPS Homes, our Maintenance Team has seen an increase from 60 reports a week to 60 a day as tenants ensure their homes are in tip-top condition for 24-hour living. All of us are craving homes; space for friends to chat, eat, sleep, work and relax.

So, here's our guide to help you find your home for 2021-2022:

Step 1:

DECIDE WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE NOW AND WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO IMPROVE.

Halls of Residence are mostly in reasonably good locations, but rooms tend to be small and lounge spaces more functional than comfortable. Garden space is usually very lacking. Private homes are hugely varied, plentiful and usually located in the popular student areas of Cathays or Roath (some in the Heath for medical students). It's true that the newly-renovated homes are always popular and quick to be booked, but you'll be surprised at the quality of all the modern, open-plan homes with double bedrooms and gardens.

Step 2:

CHOOSING THE RIGHT HOUSEMATES.

Do you know someone who's happy to do the dishes or let's you borrow their milk? Put them on the list. If your best friend is great fun but their wardrobe tends to be the floor of their room, just make sure you're happy to compromise on that front. Most private homes come with all the mod-cons you'll need – many with dishwashers – but I've yet to see one with a daily cleaner.

Step 3:

BUDGET AND LOCATION.

Working out how much rent you can afford each month is vital. It's easy to get swept away and want the home with the outdoor decking and Jacuzzi (yes, you did read right!). Roll-out-of-bed-and-into-uni homes are often a little more expensive, so work out your personal priorities.

Step 4:

ZOOM STUDENT PROPERTY ADVICE AND VIRTUAL VIEWINGS.

We've been busy making everything as easy as possible for you. Our Student Property Advisors – many of whom are ex Cardiff students – are ready for you on Zoom, WhatsApp or FaceTime. Let us chat, listen and do the legwork to match you to your perfect home. With the help of our current tenants, our student homes are ready for you virtually. View as a group, with a cuppa or in bed with one eye open, if you like.

FIVE MINUTES WITH

the dream team

STUDENT PROPERTY GURUS ELLIE, EMILY AND NADINE TALK CHIPPY LANE, ZOOM QUIZ NIGHTS AND LEARNING TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB.



Your favourite Cardiff takeaway?

ELLIE: It's got to be F.A.B burgers, the best burger I've tried in a long time!

EMILY: Sushi Life on Wellfield Road

If you have friends visiting Cardiff what are your top 3 places to show off the city? Can be anything!

ELLIE: Cardiff wouldn't be Cardiff without the Rugby. So, taking friends to a rugby match at the Principality Stadium. Cardiff Bay is a great spot for drinks; Gin and Bake have the most amazing gins. And Castle Coch is perfect for a Sunday stroll.

EMILY: DEPOT for the best street food

What were the best and worst things about lockdown?

ELLIE: I have a big family so not being able to see them as much as normal was challenging. On a positive note, I had a lot more free time which I spent trying to perfect my cooking skills.

NADINE: It was disappointing having to celebrate all my friends' birthdays over Zoom instead of hitting the bars. Most of all, I missed the birth of my nephew and seeing my niece. On the flip side, I loved the opportunity to be lazy.

Best tried and tested ideas for group Zoom/House party entertainment?

ELLIE: Those that are based around the friendship group, funny times, embarrassing times and old baby photos are the best.

EMILY: Fancy dress quiz nights

How old were you when you first changed a lightbulb?.....honestly.

ELLIE: I must be honest; I don't think I changed a lightbulb until I moved out and went to uni. Even then I had to ask my Dad which type of lightbulb to use.

NADINE



ELLIE



EMILY

Favourite film from your 'student' 18-21 years?

ELLIE: Pretty Woman was and still is one of my favourites. It is a strong classic.

EMILY: Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again

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

ELLIE: Sung along to Tom Jones' Delilah with the crowd at a Welsh rugby game.

EMILY: Ended a night out on chippy lane

What's the hardest part of your job? Most fun part?

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

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

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

ELLIE: Girls are actually messier than boys!

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

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

Everyone has a good idea for an app, what's yours?

ELLIE: A laser tag app. Being able to play laser tag in your house with your housemates would be amazing.

house video tours

Our production team have been busy filming student house tours, so you can view houses from wherever you are.

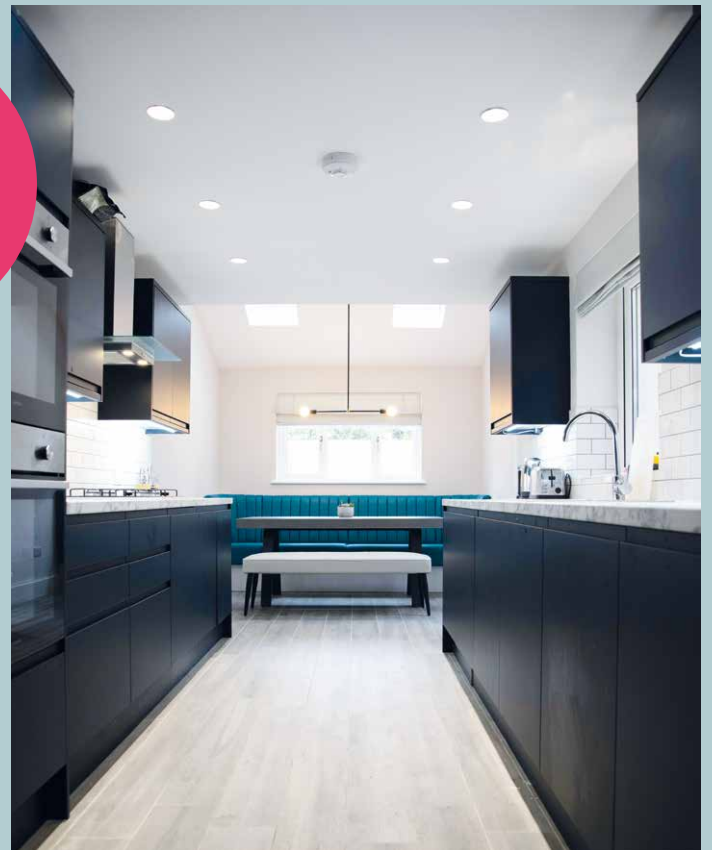
need a chat?

Nadine, Ellie and Emily and the rest of our team are here to talk you through finding your student home for 2021. Individually or as a group, we can set up a face-to-face via Zoom, **Whatapp** or **Facetime**. We know these properties inside and out so tell us what you like and we'll find your perfect property match. Message **#zoom2021** to get started.

follow us

Don't forget to follow us on **Instagram** for the latest in Cardiff events, nightlife and news, we'll be sharing all of our top tips for student life, plus lots of giveaways.

 **cpshomes_students**



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6 bedroom house in cathays

£425pcm each + refurbished throughout in 2020

A newly refurbished six bedroom house that has been finished to an incredibly high standard, for students looking for high end living.

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- + Kitchen/dining area with all mod cons
- + Set over three floors in the heart of Cathays
- + Three full shower rooms



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A **FRESHER** LOOK AT STUDENT LIVING

cpshomes.co.uk



Corner House, 4 bedroom, £440pcm each
Bills included option available.



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virtual tour of
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**no deposit
no fees**

A FRESHER LOOK AT STUDENT LIVING