



## Putting the UNITY back in commUNITY

Welcome to UNITY news - your opportunity to find out how the universities and student unions of Cardiff engage with the community.

My name is **Emma Robson**, Cardiff Council's Student Liaison Officer, working in partnership with Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University and the University of South Wales.

This Issue of Unity News reflects the fantastic work that has been undertaken by student and non-student residents since the start of the 2014/2015 academic term.

### Letting Board Controls to be introduced in Cathays and Plasnewydd

The City of Cardiff Council has received approval from the Welsh Planning Minister to introduce local controls over the erection of residential letting boards within the Cathays and Plasnewydd wards.

The Minister agreed with the Council's assessment that the number of letting boards displayed has become so excessive that they have an adverse impact on the character and appearance of the area and the wellbeing of the resident communities.

The controls come into force as a result of significant partnership working over the past few years by Cardiff Council, local councillors, residents at local PACT meetings, Student Unions and the Universities.

The display of conventional



residential letting boards will be prohibited from 1st October 2015. Letting Agents across the city will be sent full information about these controls in June. More information can be found at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/lettingboards](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/lettingboards).



### WHAT'S INSIDE?

- ▶ Summer changes to the waste and recycling service
- ▶ Student Volunteers receive awards from Cardiff University and South Wales Police
- ▶ Moving out tips for students

Keep in touch with **Unity news** and **Cardiff DIGS**.

Keep up to date with all the news across the city related to students and the community at our Twitter, Facebook and Blog pages which can be found here:

[cardiffdigs.blogspot.com/](http://cardiffdigs.blogspot.com/)  
[twitter.com/@cardiffdigs](https://twitter.com/@cardiffdigs)  
[facebook.com/cardiff.digs](https://facebook.com/cardiff.digs)

# Get It Out For Cardiff returns for another successful year



The award winning reuse and recycling campaign, Get it Out for Cardiff (GIOFC) is back for its 11th year. The scheme is set up to ensure that moving out at the end of term is stress free and leaves our communities clean and tidy. GIOFC includes a re-use and charity collection of unwanted items, so when you clear out, donate it!

**21 Green Zones** - are set up in halls of residences and Student Unions across the city where you can donate clothing, food (unopened tins, packets, jars etc), small electrical items, books, CDs, DVDs and kitchen items (plates, mugs, utensils, pans etc).

**17 YMCA re-use banks** - are in place all year round to collect clothes, shoes, bags, textiles, small electrical items, books, CDs/DVDs.

Other items such as bicycles and large electrical items can be donated to local Cardiff charities, please see [www.cardiffdigs.co.uk](http://www.cardiffdigs.co.uk) for more information.

**Household collections** - Students living in the private rented sector will be reminded that their household collections will involve 'Two in June' general waste collections. Kerbside collections in June for Cathays, Gabalfa and Plasnewydd will be as follows:

Waste should be presented after 4pm on Tuesday's; bins should be removed as soon as possible following collection. If tenants are moving out on a non-collection day, they can arrange for the Council to remove their waste on a day suitable to them for a small cost (this is in addition to the bulky waste service). Tenants can also take their waste to a local Household Waste and Recycling centre for free.

Advice sheets for tenants and landlords are available from [www.cardiffdigs.co.uk](http://www.cardiffdigs.co.uk)

	DATE			
General waste (black bins/bags)		10/06/15		24/06/15
Recycling (green bags)	03/06/15	10/06/15	17/06/15	24/06/15
Food waste (food caddy)	03/06/15	10/06/15	17/06/15	24/06/15

Waste should be presented after 4pm on Tuesday's; bins should be removed as soon as possible following collection.

## Moving out soon?

There are many important steps to take to ensure a smooth departure of your Student Digs. Here are some tips to help you....

- ▶ **Bond/deposit.** Do you know your Deposit ID and details of where it is protected?  
  
Contact your Deposit Protection Scheme if any disagreements arise with how much deposit you are getting back.
- ▶ **Inventory.** Check the inventory you filled in when you moved in. Arrange an inspection date with

your landlord/letting agent. Book a day with your housemates to clean everything before you move.

Share duties between housemates, leaving it all to one person is not what you want to do!

- ▶ **Bills.** Ensure you've paid all outstanding gas, electricity, water bills etc, take final meter readings and inform utility companies of your moving out date, otherwise they'll keep charging you.
- ▶ **Too much stuff?** When you

clear out, why not donate unwanted items to the Get It Out for Cardiff campaign (GIOFC)?

Find your nearest YMCA bank or green zone at [www.cardiffdigs.co.uk](http://www.cardiffdigs.co.uk)

- ▶ **Leaving...** Make sure you put all bins out on the **correct** rubbish day. Donate reusable items to GIOFC, and/or take general waste to Lamby Way, the closest Household Waste

Download our **FULL "Moving Out checklist"** from [www.cardiffdigs.co.uk](http://www.cardiffdigs.co.uk)

# Community News & Events

## Recycling and waste services will soon be changing across the city.

The City of Cardiff Council continue to ask residents to recycle all they can to 'get it out of the black and move into the green'. These changes will begin during the summer of 2015- further information can be found at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/recyclemore](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/recyclemore). You will receive further detailed information in the upcoming weeks and months.

## RSPB Cymru Art Project in Bute Park

Help RSPB Cymru to create a giant web-like structure woven between trees for people to climb inside for a truly unique experience with nature. Volunteers will have the chance to work with an international artist.

Visit [www.rspb.org.uk/joinandhelp/volunteering](http://www.rspb.org.uk/joinandhelp/volunteering)

## Fareshare food collections, 6th July, at times to suit you.

Volunteers are needed to assist Fareshare by collecting food donations from halls of residences across the city, as part of the 'Get It Out for Cardiff' campaign. If you can help out, please email [sianpuddfoot@btconnect.com](mailto:sianpuddfoot@btconnect.com)

## Summer garden waste collections have now returned.

Between April - October garden waste will be collected fortnightly. You can find your collection dates online [www.cardiff.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/recycling). You can also download your annual collection calendar from here.

## Interested in helping keep the environment clean and tidy?

Become an Environmental Champion – email [environmental.champions@svccardiff.org](mailto:environmental.champions@svccardiff.org)

## Shelley Gardens Community Food Festival, Sunday 21st June, 12pm - 4pm.

Tasty local food stalls, food demos, workshops, live music, circus fun, face painting and lots more!

## Charges for bulky waste collections have changed.

The minimum cost will reduce to £12.50, which includes up to two items. There will be an additional charge of £12.50 for each additional two items. Residents can now book in a maximum of 6 items.

e.g. 1-2 items = £12.50,  
3-4 items = £25.00,  
5-6 items = £37.50

There will no longer be free collections for those residents eligible for certain benefits.

Full information about how the waste and recycling service will be changed can be found online at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/recyclemore](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/recyclemore).

## Litter picks in Cathays and Roath

Student volunteers and local residents have collected 25 bags of rubbish in Cathays and Roath during end of term litter picks. To get involved with future litter picks, email [environmental.champions@svccardiff.org](mailto:environmental.champions@svccardiff.org)

## Local PACT meetings

Your chance to meet with your local Police representatives and local councillors to discuss what matters to you in your community;

**Plasnewydd meetings at Mackintosh Sports Centre:**  
4th August, 1st October, 3rd December

**Cathays meetings at Crwys Rd Methodist Church:**  
27th July, 21st September, 16th November, 14th December

**Gabalfa meetings at St Josephs on Whitchurch Rd:**  
29th July, 9th September, 21st October, 2nd December

# STUDENTS GIVING SOMETHING BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITY

## South Wales Police recognise commitment of their Student Volunteers

**On Friday 8th May, South Wales Police invited over 50 volunteers and 55 stakeholders to an awards ceremony to recognise the commitment of student volunteers and partners during the academic year.**

Held at Cardiff University Students' Union, speakers from South Wales Police and Cardiff University spoke about the positive impact that student volunteering has on our communities.

Throughout the year, volunteers get involved in a variety of events including community walkabouts, multi-agency education drives, property marking events and night time patrols on the student safety bus.

On the recent "Going home for holidays" campaign, volunteers visited 40 streets in the local area speaking to over 1,250 residents about preventing crime by taking valuables home for the Easter period.

The campaign also resulted in 199 new properties signed up to Tidy Text scheme.

This year volunteers who dedicated the most hours of volunteering to the project had the opportunity to experience a different side of policing. Volunteers had

the opportunity to visit the CCTV control room, the fire arms and dogs units, the driving school and the helicopter pad.

The scheme is growing from strength to strength with nearly 60 volunteers now registered to the scheme.



## Cardiff Metropolitan Students' Union team up with local residents for litter pick in Roath

**On Thursday 28th May, 14 volunteers including Cardiff Met students, SU staff, Keep Wales Tidy and local residents attended an 'Environmental Champions' litter pick in Roath.**

The group met on Albany Road to collect equipment before splitting up to

pick up litter from the surrounding streets. The team litter picked for 1 hour collecting 14 bags of rubbish. Local residents that attended were grateful of the Students' Union for organising the litter pick and said that they would like to take part in more projects like this. The litter pick was organised as part of the voluntary

action group, 'Environmental Champions,' who work on sustainability initiatives and campaigns. The project is a partnership between Cardiff Met Students' Union, Cardiff Digs, Student Volunteering Cardiff (SVC), Cardiff Council and Keep Wales Tidy.

Environmental Champions are keen to carry out more volunteer litter picks throughout the year involving more students, staff and residents, hoping to make a difference within the area and bring the community together. If you would like to join the Environmental Champions mailing list, please email [acampbell@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:acampbell@cardiffmet.ac.uk)

To find out more about Environmental Champions and Students' Union volunteer opportunities, please visit: <http://www.cardiffmetsu.co.uk/umax/employability/volunteering/>



# CONSULTATION BEGINS ON HMO LICENSING SCHEME

The City of Cardiff Council is consulting with the public on extending an Additional Licensing Scheme covering Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in Cathays. The consultation period has begun and tenants, residents and landlords can give their views by visiting – [www.askcardiff.com](http://www.askcardiff.com)

Following the consultation period, the information received will be considered prior to a cabinet decision in September to re-designate Cathays as an HMO Licensing area.

The scheme in Cathays has been operating successfully since March 2010, with a new scheme launched in Plasnewydd recently. It requires anyone who owns or manages an HMO in both Cathays and Plasnewydd to apply to the Council for a licence.

Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Bob Derbyshire, said: "The licensing of HMO's is very important to ensure that tenants renting these properties live in accommodation which is fit for purpose and meets the legal requirements to ensure their safety. We estimate that there are 1000 landlords who require this license.

kitchen and bathroom amenities and based on the size of the rooms, sets restrictions on the amount of people that can live at the property.



"The scheme makes checks and balances on the landlord or manager of the property to ensure they are fit and proper. Although there are many good landlords, our research indicates that more than a third of HMOs would fail to meet Decent Homes Standards. This scheme ensures the properties are suitable in terms of fire safety and

"The income generated from the license fee, contributes to the enforcement against landlords who flout the licensing agreement. In the last year, the Council has brought seven successful prosecutions against rogue landlords who flout the rules set in their licence."

Cllr Bob Derbyshire continued: "We hope as many people take part in the consultation as possible, to ensure that we can get views from residents living in these communities, tenants renting this type of property and the landlords who rent them. These will all be considered prior to the decision that will be made by Cabinet this autumn."

To apply for a license, please visit [www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk) and visit the licensing page – [privatesectorhousing@cardiff.gov.uk](https://privatesectorhousing@cardiff.gov.uk) or call 02920 871762.

## #AvoidThePitfalls in private renting

- ✓ Contracts
- ✓ Flatmates
- ✓ Budgeting
- ✓ Deposits & Bonds
- ✓ Damp & Mould
- ✓ Responsibilities
- ✓ Know Your Rights

For advice, contact your  
University Accommodation  
Office or Student Union.

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more information

download our **FREE**  
checklist & help sheets  
for student living



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sabbatical officers are responsible for addressing the issues that affect students at their University, and for representing students' views on an institutional, local and national level. Unity News would like to introduce you to Sabbatical Officers at the Student Unions of Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan and the University of South Wales. I work closely with them to ensure campaigns and messages we work on reach our students throughout the city.



**Cardiff Metropolitan Students' Union, Josh Barnett, President and Stef Kelly, Vice President.**

This academic year we have focussed on raising awareness of mental health issues and have encouraged students to acknowledge the part they can play in providing peer support: In October we ran a week long campaign of 'Look After Your Mate': we made a video of students talking about what they did to look after their mates, we placed cards on tables in all our commercial operation areas, with facts/myths concerning mental health and we created a hi-visibility board where

students could post up notices of support ideas.

In February this year, for University Mental Health Day we left 'conversation starters' around on tables in our cafes, bar and restaurant venues – encouraging students to think about mental health of both themselves and their friends and family. We also handed out spring daffodils – each of which had a message of support attached

Our international work is something that we continue to work on at Cardiff Met as every Cardiff Met student is vitally important to us at the Students' Union. This year both myself and the Vice President were able to visit some of our partner universities in Alexandria, Thessaloniki and Athens to see Cardiff Met students. This way we can ensure that their

experience at university is as close to our home students as possible.

This year we were very pleased to be recognised with the University for winning The Times Higher Student Experience Award. It was a fantastic achievement to be recognised by our own students for the amount of effort that goes into ensuring that they have the best experience at University and we will continue to pursue this goal in the future.



**Cardiff University Students' Union, Elliot Howells, Student Union President**

"It's been an exciting and busy semester for Cardiff University Students' Union and we've been reporting our progress at regular PACT meetings, which is always an excellent way to work closely with the community.

We've had some real successes with lobbying for stricter rules on the use of lettings boards on properties in Cathays and I'm delighted to see that this has been taken forward as legislation. A huge focus of ours was ensuring students were registering and voting in the General

Election. This focus meant that we increased voter registration numbers by nearly 20,000 in 4 months as well as increasing turnout by 8% in Cardiff Central alone; 1.3% above the national average. This was, of course, a joint effort between various groups in the community but is a testament to the power of the student



voice in this area. Thank you to Cardiff City Council for their continued support.

We've also had some major successes on our campus; this month, a GP surgery opened next door to the Students' Union following lobbying from Officers, we secured a £2.5M redevelopment of the back of our building which will give the whole area a facelift, we held a debate attended by 650 students with high profile politicians as well as holding 5 awards' dinners celebrating the achievements of our students. These awards included the Student Police Volunteer Awards which rewarded those students that make such a difference in our community.

We are currently preparing to hand over to the new team of Officers and I'm excited to see how they build on the work we have done over the last year. To find out more about our campaigns and activity, visit [cardiffstudents.com](http://cardiffstudents.com).

## Useful contacts

### Housing Enforcement

02920 871 762

For help with housing standards such as damp and mould, fire safety and security.

### Housing Options

02920 570750

For issues related to bonds/deposits, tenancy agreements and landlord disputes.

### Connect 2 Cardiff (C2C)

02920 872087

For Council services and general Council queries.

### Noise Pollution

02920 871650

For issues with household noise, car alarms, dogs barking etc.

### Pest control

02920 872934

For issues with rats, mice, bedbugs, etc

### Police Student Liaison Officer

02920 633420

For community safety issues and crime prevention advice.

### Welsh Water

0800 052 0145

For issues connected to security on campus and to investigate noise/disturbances in private student accommodation.

### Cardiff University Security

02920 874444

### Cardiff Metropolitan University Security

02920 416155

### University of South Wales

01443 482055

For more useful contacts visit [www.cardiffdigs.co.uk](http://www.cardiffdigs.co.uk)

South Wales Police have completed their end of term "Going Home for the Holidays" campaign. This is a crime prevention exercise where Police Officers and Police Student Volunteers speak to students leaving for the term time break, to offer crime prevention and burglary advice.

This campaign is run 3 times a year and has been extremely successful, and beneficial, to the student community in Cathays. During March 2015, the team visited 40 streets in Cathays and gave advice to 2502 properties.

As part of this campaign South Wales Police also assisted CardiffDIGS and Cardiff Council with signing students to the Tidy Text scheme which sends text messages regarding when to put your waste out correctly. The campaign saw 199 new properties added to the scheme.



South Wales Police continued with the campaign during May as students prepare to move out of their accommodation for the Summer holidays. "Lock It.. Hide It.. Keep It" balloons were placed through insecure doors and windows to highlight to residents the dangers of leaving their home insecure. During 8 days of walkabouts in the Cathays area with the Police Student Volunteers and staff from Cardiff University Security team, officers visited 1012 properties for burglary crime prevention advice.

This operation has been extremely successful in highlighting the dangers of insecure properties and keeping students and residents of Cardiff safe.

## ✉ Subscribe to UNITY news

To subscribe to Unity News send your e-mail with the word 'subscribe' in the title/subject to [cardiffdigs@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:cardiffdigs@cardiff.gov.uk). Unity news is published twice a year at the end of academic terms in December and June. E-mail addresses will not be sent to third parties or used for any other contact.

## • Read all about it

Have you got a story you would like to submit? Send it to [cardiffdigs@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:cardiffdigs@cardiff.gov.uk) for consideration. (300 words maximum, feel free to include images).

If you would like this newsletter in Welsh, please contact

[Emma.Robson@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Robson@cardiff.gov.uk)



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