



Centre for
Community
Journalism

Canolfan
Newyddiaduriaeth
Gymunedol

Centre for Community Journalism

2016 Annual Review

2016: the headlines

Investigations | Infographics | People's History | Illustrations | Poems | Comics

Issue 24 | December 2016

Spring 2016

THE BRISTOL CABLE

A media co-op

- Trained over 8,000 learners online from over 118 countries on the third run of our Massive Open Online Course

- Taught over 500 face-to-face throughout Wales in 2016

- Worked with: BBC, Welsh Government, Nesta, National Eisteddfod of Wales, FutureLearn, National Assembly of Wales, NUJ Training Wales, Centre for Investigative Journalism, Comms Cymru, Impress, Carnegie Trust

- Media coverage from: Press Gazette, BBC Radio Cymru, Journalism.co.uk, Hold the Front Page, The Conversation, Times Higher Education, BBC World Service

- Announced the establishment of a representative body for the hyperlocal / community news sector

Grangetown



Summer 2016

Established 1978

THEY'VE VANISHED AND GONE

Frustration over our street's vanishing waste receptacles

If you think you've lost a litter bin in your Grangetown street over the past couple of years, you're not imagining it.

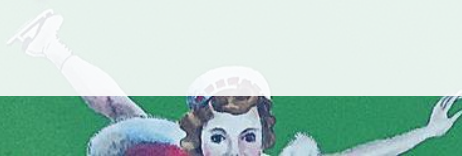
A dozen bins have been taken away in recent years. The fate of the bins which disappeared has led to some head-scratching. Where did they go?

Grangetown Community Action became aware of litter bins being taken away from some streets and asked residents on Facebook and Twitter if they had noticed any disappearing from their immediate neighbourhood.

A street-by-street survey, followed by a comparison of street view photos on Google Maps, revealed that in 2014, the council had looked after by the cleaning team. It looked at maps to improve efficiency with wardens and they were in the sites. But the loss of streets has annoyed some having from outside the site. It comes as no surprise that the amount of litter in the area in recent years has increased. The efforts of volunteers like Keen Grangetown

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South Leeds Life

Headingley & Stourton

In this issue:



Plans revealed for brewery site



Pudsey pops for breakfast



Plans revealed for brewery site

Gift of life this Christmas

Give your bone marrow for Zara



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The story so far...

The Centre for Community Journalism is one of Cardiff University's Transforming Communities Engagement Projects. We are working with communities across Wales to create or improve ten community news services by 2018.

By the end of this year, we will have worked with eight community news groups in total.

Based in the Cardiff University's prestigious School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies, we provide expert training and advice to community journalists, both online and face-to-face. We work with researchers within the School to apply their findings about community journalism to strengthen and inform our grassroots action. We are a strong voice for the sector, and this year we have taken the first steps in establishing a representative body for community publishers across the UK. We also provide a space for discussion and amplify best practice examples.

Port Talbot  **Magnet**

Pobl  DINEFWR



**RHONDDA
PEOPLE**

Pobl  CAERDYDD
Y Dinesydd
Digidol

Hack the Local

Bringing together students, community journalists, and software developers, the C4CJ held a hackathon to help build new apps and platforms for local news, and to raise the profile of community-driven data journalism.

With over 30 people in attendance from across the UK, including representatives from the ONS, Tableau and Cardiff Council, the weekend-long event was a huge success.

With a specific focus on environment, politics & elections, sources of open data and editorial processes and platforms, the following pioneering new projects were developed:



Map Your Trash: focusing on the local environment by mapping geolocated tweets on litter

HODOR (Hyperlocal Open Data Open Resource): bringing together helpful sources of open data

Democr-app: which explored the issue of redrawing electoral wards

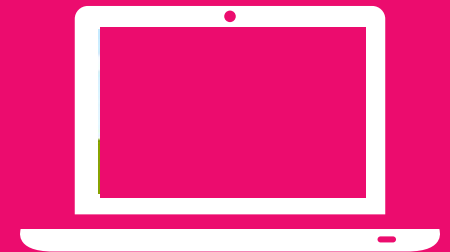
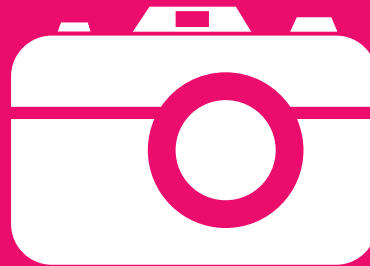


Investing in the future

The Centre for Community Journalism spent 10 weeks teaching school children how to shoot and edit videos on smart phones and tablets in a bid to create a new community digital news service in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales.

Attendance of the after-school club rose as the weeks went on, with children bringing their friends with them to enjoy the lessons.

The result of this work is North Merthyr Voice, a hyperlocal news website which brings together news articles on local issues such as fly tipping, bullying in school, and dog fouling from the perspective of schoolchildren.



Emma Meese, centre manager for Cardiff University's Centre for Community Journalism said: "Children are already so engaged with videos on YouTube, and now they have the option to tell their own personal stories through images, video and audio, in a way that resonates with them and their community."

Community news services in Wales

Following our successes with Rhondda People, Pobl Dinefwr, The Port Talbot Magnet and Pobl Caerdydd, the C4CJ turned its attention to a small community newsletter in Cardiff called Grangetown News. Set up in 1978 by volunteers in a Cardiff suburb, we were keen to offer as much help as they needed to give their newsletter a boost.

We provided the Grangetown Community Action group with a new Lenovo laptop as well as technical assistance and news training.

Notably, the newspaper, which has now been fully handed over, generated a print saving of £1,218.03 per edition and a 48 per cent increase in editorial content.

"C4CJ took us through a complete reformat. They supported us by providing training, workshops on how to create a story, and given ongoing support on how to use social media. They've also taken us through different pricing options when it comes to printing costs. So they've kind of hand-held us really, taking us through everything and made sure it's okay." Ashley Lister, Grangetown.



Pobl DINEFWR

Pobl CAERDYDD
Y Dinesydd
Digidol

RHONDDA
PEOPLE

Port Talbot Magnet



Training and outreach

The Centre for Community Journalism provides ongoing valuable training to communities of professionals and citizens alike.

This year we have been working with the Centre for Investigative Journalism to deliver a unique workshop on investigative journalism for community publishers - from how to put together a Freedom of Information request to advanced web searches.

We also built on our valuable relationship with NUJ Training Wales to provide a free lecture of media law updates for bloggers and indie publishers, and to assist in delivering a training day on religion in the news to faith leaders and journalists. The Centre is co-running a follow-up to this event with a workshop day on social media and communications.

Centre manager Emma Meese also gave a mobile journalism lecture to communications professionals at this years Comms Cymru event.



"One of our most fruitful working partnerships is with C4CJ. For a number of years we have been taking the Social Media Roadshow around Wales and Emma is a most informative, engaging and entertaining trainer - in English and in Welsh. The independent community news services that C4CJ support are important beneficiaries for us too." Anna Wynn Roberts, Project Manager, NUJ Training Wales

Llais Y Maes



Sir Fynwy a'r
Cyffiniau 2016

Llais y Maes (Voice of the Field), a bilingual digital newspaper run by Cardiff University covering the National Eisteddfod of Wales, returned this year with an exciting new format bringing together students with learners from PeoplePlus Cymru, a leading work-based learning provider which delivers traineeships and apprenticeships on behalf of the Welsh Government. Llais y Maes, established in 2013 by the Centre for Community Journalism, trains students in key journalistic skills such as creating news content, writing,



Sophie says: "Llais y Maes turned out to be one of the best experiences I had during my masters at Cardiff University. Working on a digital newspaper proved to be essential experience for me as digital news and online storytelling becomes increasingly important in our field and I'm already using what I learnt there in my current job. Diolch!"

video editing and social media newsgathering and to help create a fresh perspective on a centuries-old tradition of Eisteddfodau.

Llais y Maes alumni have gone on to find jobs in organisations such as S4C and BBC Wales, helped by the skills they honed on the fields of the Eisteddfod. Sophie Gardner-Roberts, a French national who had never been to a National Eisteddfod before, took part in Llais y Maes and has since landed her ideal job as an editorial assistant at Archant, working across its portfolio of French magazines.

Networking & advice

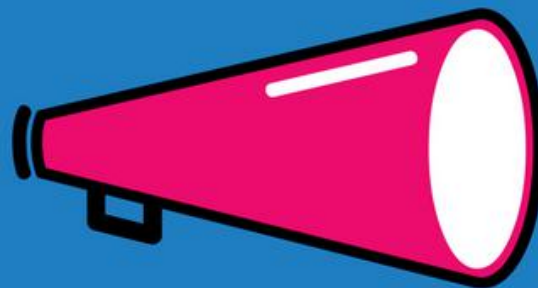
Our website, social media channels and newsletter provide daily, weekly and monthly discussion on the community news sector. This year we have covered a range of issues from open data to how to leave a legacy for your community news site. We have also provided breaking news and comment on developments such as press regulation and BBC collaboration.

Key statistics from 2016:

- Over 5100 Twitter followers and 125,000 impressions on average per month
- Social media engagement from influential media commentators and users including Nieman Lab, Josh Stearns, Andy Dickinson, and Rachel Oldroyd, Editor of the Bureau of Investigative Journalism
- Recommendations from other media newsletters including the Local Fix and Media Mill
- 70+ blog posts published throughout the year from community journalists, academics and supporting organisations such as Carnegie UK Trust and National Association of Local Councils



Representing the sector



"Cardiff University's Centre for Community Journalism (C4CJ) was set up in 2013 with one goal in mind: to encourage and promote the dissemination of quality news and to help create more jobs in journalism at the hyperlocal level.

It's been a very interesting and eye-opening four years and we've learned a lot. The sector is as diverse as it is disparate. And over the last half decade it's only grown more so – there are now more than 400 independent publications across the UK.

However, there is currently no strength in these numbers. Many long-standing problems persist; namely a lack of sustainable revenue streams, accreditation, legal support and advocacy.

This is why the C4CJ decided to reach out to see if we could provide a formal framework to represent the sector in the belief that changing the scope of what we currently offer could be of even greater benefit to all community news publishers.

The sector clearly needs a voice to unite it – you have told us that – and that's why in December 2016 we formally announced plans to set up a representative network.

Throughout a series of public consultations, both here in Cardiff, and in London, Wrexham and Edinburgh (with one more to be held in the North West in the New Year), we have received overwhelming support.

Building on the valuable work already done by Talk About Local, Carnegie UK Trust and Nesta, along with the Hyperlocal Alliance and other organisations in the sector, we believe the time is right to create a network to represent the best interests of its members. The sooner the sector has a unified voice, the better.

Creating a network of publications and like-minded individuals with an interest in the sector will be step one of this process. Our key goals will be to provide lobbying and advocacy, training and networking and an online discussion forum (to be launched in the New Year).

Following on from this first step, the C4CJ aim to constitute a formal representative body – and we're looking forward to working with you and getting your input."

Emma Meese, Centre Manager.

 **Josh Stearns**
@jcstearns [Follow](#)

UK local journalists are launching a new professional organization to build capacity and unite the field. Inspired in part by @LIONPubs. [twitter.com/c4cj/status/80...](#)
2:36 PM · 8 Dec 2016
👤 3 🍷 6

 **Love Wapping**
@LoveWapping [Follow](#)

Well done to @C4CJ team for all their work on this. #hyperlocal [twitter.com/c4cj/status/80...](#)
2:44 PM · 8 Dec 2016 · Poplar, London
👤 1 🍷 1

 **Kathryn Louise Geels**
@girlondon [Follow](#)

So pleased the collaborative work we've achieved during the years is continuing to develop #hyperlocal media @nesta_uk @jonkingsbury @cecook [twitter.com/C4CJ/status/80...](#)
2:50 PM · 8 Dec 2016
👤 2 🍷 2

 **Joe Willis**
@joewillisnews [Follow](#)

Great news. Look forward to hearing more #hyperlocal [twitter.com/C4CJ/status/80...](#)
4:35 PM · 8 Dec 2016
👤 1 🍷 1

 **Damian Radcliffe** 
@damianradcliffe [Follow](#)

As someone who has advocated this for some time, it's great to see this now happening! [twitter.com/c4cj/status/80...](#)
4:42 PM · 8 Dec 2016
👤 2 🍷 2

 **West Leeds Dispatch**
@WLDISPATCH [Follow](#)

Exciting news - we broadly support the creation of a #hyperlocal representative body ... [twitter.com/C4CJ/status/80...](#)
4:54 PM · 8 Dec 2016
👤 1 🍷 1

 **John Baron**
@johnbaron [Follow](#)

Bold move: Be interesting to see how a sector of incredible diversity and varying objectives can be united under one banner [twitter.com/c4cj/status/80...](#)
5:49 PM · 8 Dec 2016 · Hull, England
👤 1 🍷 1

Advocacy and stakeholder engagement

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cardiff University for all of the support they have given my democratic deficit campaign... It is important that we develop relationships with hyperlocal journalists, with the help of the Centre for Community Journalism."

Dame Rosemary Butler, National Assembly of Wales

The Centre for Community Journalism provides a voice for the community news sector, working with and for journalists to make their case to key stakeholders.

In 2016, C4CJ worked with the BBC's Local Journalism Working Group alongside major players in mainstream news including Trinity Mirror and Johnston Press, as well as supporting organisations including Nesta and Carnegie UK Trust. As a direct result of our involvement in this process, and following months and months of negotiations, the BBC criteria to both apply for a reporter and receive BBC content is now more accessible to this sector.

We are also working closely with the National Assembly of Wales as part of their Digital News and Information Taskforce to recommend ways in which the Assembly can deliver engaging and accessible news and information.



How can you get involved?



communityjournalism.co.uk



@C4CJ



029 208 70101

Find your local community news provider

Discover what's going on in your area by locating your community news service using our map, or register your own site.

Visit: communityjournalism.co.uk/find-a-hyperlocal

Email: Abbottm2@cardiff.ac.uk

Share your story

If you have advice or a community journalism success story to share, make your voice heard by writing a guest blog post.

Email: Abbottm2@cardiff.ac.uk

Visit: communityjournalism.co.uk/blog

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Email: meesee@cardiff.ac.uk

Research this growing sector

We work with some of the leading UK researchers in this sector, as well as generating our own rich data and insights. Find out more.

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