

# Working with Partner Organisations

Martin Birch FICCM(Dip)

Operational Manager for Bereavement & Registration  
Services for the City of Cardiff

# Working with Partner Organisations

- ❖ A look at how Cardiff Bereavement Services work with and support other external organisations
- ❖ Identifying mutually worthwhile opportunities
- ❖ Highlighting the benefits of trying something different
- ❖ Community Payback
- ❖ NHS
- ❖ The Caer Hidden Hillfort Heritage Project,
- ❖ The Welsh Local Government Association
- ❖ A48 Theatre & Writing Group

# Community Payback

- ❖ Part of Wales Probation Service
- ❖ Individuals complete 30 to 300 hours of unpaid work
- ❖ Pilot scheme started in 2015 at Cathays Cemetery Cardiff
- ❖ Now operate 3 Teams throughout the site
- ❖ Payback team members are able to undertake OCN qualifications
- ❖ To date over 10,000 hours of work has been provided



# Community Payback - Advantages

- ❖ Provide enhanced maintenance standards at the site. Able to do many of the jobs that are often left or overlooked due to competing priorities.
- ❖ Teams work with our own staff and we have employed staff from payback teams in both permanent and seasonal roles
- ❖ Tackling an ever increasing workload with limited resources has been a priority
- ❖ Links to Corporate Objectives - Well Being Act 2015 and our own Capital Ambition Corporate aim of Working for Cardiff which supports getting people into Work who face barriers to finding and keeping a job
- ❖ Awards – Green Heritage, HMPPS Wildlife Awards
- ❖ Challenge of high turnover of individuals and meeting conservation management plan for the site



# NHS

- ❖ Identified a need for the proper and sensitive disposal of all Fetal remains
- ❖ Discussions with local health board and key players (Mortuary, Bereavement Office, Midwifery)
- ❖ Existing arrangements in place to deal with Medical cases
- ❖ No process to deal with Social cases
- ❖ Major resistance to dealing with Social cases mainly by Midwifery service due to the obvious sensitivities
- ❖ 7 years of discussions to get an agreement in place
- ❖ Now established and working well
- ❖ Generates an income for the service and a dedicated post to deal with the families and associated administration
- ❖ Piece of mind for the NHS Trust and parents



# Caer Hidden Hillfort Heritage Project

- ❖ St Marys Church & Churchyard – Grade 2 listed
- ❖ Maintained as a Ruin
- ❖ Attracts anti social behaviour
- ❖ Constant drain on resources due to need to repair both aged related and deliberate damage
- ❖ Iron Age Hillfort
- ❖ Local Group established 2011
- ❖ Time Team Excavation 2012
- ❖ Hidden Hillfort project 2019
- ❖ Bereavement Services remain as part of the overall management board



# Caer Hidden Hillfort Heritage Project

- ❖ Advantages?
- ❖ Unfortunately not Financial – still hold responsibility for the churchyards and building
- ❖ Project aims to involve local community
- ❖ Become a destination and increased footfall
- ❖ Links to local schools and other groups
- ❖ Hopefully lead to reduction in antisocial behaviour at the site



# Welsh Local Government Association

- ❖ Sharing of Best Practice & Benchmarking with Neighbouring Authorities
- ❖ WLGA are the key policy makers for much affecting our services with the exception of Burial and Cremation legislation
- ❖ Regular consultees – have a voice that voice from a service delivery view
- ❖ Pandemic assistance (Funding, PPE)
- ❖ Funeral Fund and Recently introduced additional Bereavement Payment





# Theatre & Writing Group

- ❖ Cathays Cemetery – largest Victorian Cemetery in Wales & full of Local History
- ❖ Heritage walks and talks undertaken by staff and our friends group
- ❖ 2014 Cardiff Bereavement Services approached University of South Wales
- ❖ Trials and Trails performances June 2014 to June 2017
- ❖ Move to working with A48 Theatre and Writing Group from July 2017
- ❖ New scripts written and acted out in 2018 and 2019 and the need to increase performances due to demand
- ❖ Funds raised towards chapel restoration works



# Theatre & Writing Group



A48 Theatre Company – You Tube Page





Stories from the Cemetery at Cathays

Featuring:  
Mary-Anne Roberts O'Reilly  
as Frances Brown

A48 Theatre Company portray the rich and varied history of Cardiff through the stories of 12 people buried at Cathays Cemetery.

Updates for information can be found by visiting [a48theatrecompany.com](http://a48theatrecompany.com)

Launch date – March 31st 2021



# Questions & Comments

Martin Birch FICCM(Dip)

Operational Manager for Bereavement & Registration Services

Thornhill Cemetery & Crematorium

Thornhill Road

Cardiff

CF14 9UA

Email: [mbirch@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:mbirch@cardiff.gov.uk)

Phone: 029 2054 4820