

Caversham Bridge

No 675

www.cavershambridge.org

May 2021

CHAZEY'S TREE CHEERS!

MAY is a month of tree blossom and new hope. Over the last year or so, the Caversham Bridge has reported on the impact of Covid-19 on our community and the many ways we have adapted to successive lockdowns. For example, residents have set up WhatsApp groups for their streets, such as the group in Chazey Road who organised front garden displays for Easter (*photo this page*). Their next project is sunflowers!

This month we look back again at the life of Mary Kift, this month her time in the Land Army, (*page 13*) at another time of crisis for the country. Her friend, Martin Andrews, is collaborating with local artist Janina Maher in the first of a series of drawings and articles celebrating local buildings, starting with the iconic Caversham Library (*this page*). In addition, we have two new regular contributors. Jacqueline Winston-Silk complements Les Cooper's regular 'In the garden' feature with articles on the increasingly popular subject of house plants (*both page 10*). Ruth Martin will be reporting on our many talented crafters with her 'Crafty Cuppa' series, the first of which appears this month

(*page 9*). Elestr Lee provides us with another colourful item on a local artist, sculptor Roger Smalley (*page 12*).

The subject of our 'Community Connections' article (*page 11*) is Chris Walton, of Walton's Jewellers. Chris is also chair of the Caversham Traders Association, who we are working with for our 'Think Local, Shop Local' special edition for June.

We have contributions from two local schools this month, as they return to more normal operations. Micklands Primary parents organised a 'Welcome Walk' which we highlighted last month (*page 11*) and St. Martins held a fundraising event in aid of improved water supplies in places such as Ethiopia (*page 4*). Learning is a theme for page 15, with items on the University of the Third Age, playing croquet and making jam!

Finally, Mark O'Neill launches our new night-time photography competition (*page 14*). Follow his advice and open a window on an exciting and challenging photography field.

We welcome your comments and contributions. Contact us at editors@cavershambridge.org



Drawing by Janina Maher

www.janinamaher.artweb.com

Books for the people

by Martin Andrews

CAVERSHAM Library is perhaps one of the most recognisable and distinctive buildings in Caversham, and Janina Maher has captured the spirit of the architecture in her lively and affectionate drawing. Often used as a landmark in the heart of Caversham, it is an essential part of our community and has provided a valued and loved service for us all for well over a century.

The official opening ceremony was on Wednesday 11 December 1907 with the Caversham Fire Brigade on parade, and the front doors were opened by Viscount Valentia with a silver key. A large framed portrait of the American multi-millionaire, Andrew Carnegie, was presented to the library to honour the generous grant from the Carnegie Trust that had largely funded the project.

The library was designed by a local architect, Mr W.G. Lewton, who lived in the Woodcote

Road and designed many of the large houses on Caversham Heights. The design is a joyous concoction of architectural styles. A colourful blend of red brick and stone, the canopy over the entrance has a classical feel with Ionic capitals to the columns. However, the overwhelming impression is of an Arts and Crafts style with a hint of Art Nouveau. The rather eccentric copper ball placed off-centre on the central tower is surmounted by a beautiful weathervane in the form of a swan. The winged figure of 'Old Father Time', holding his scythe, seems to bear the weight of the clock on his shoulders – the sculptor is unknown but the initials BL can just be seen to the right of his feet – does anyone know who carved him?

When you next pass this familiar landmark, just pause a moment to appreciate this notable building at the heart of our community. Let's hope that when the Covid lockdown is over it will once more be full of adults and children making the most of our library.

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MOVING FORWARD IN A STRAIGHT LINE

I RECENTLY watched the film 'News of the World.' It is set in 1870 just after the American Civil War, and stars Tom Hanks as a retired Army Captain, Jefferson Kidd, who makes a living travelling town to town across the Southern States reading the latest news. On his travels he comes across a young girl who has been abandoned. It transpires that she is a German immigrant who, six years earlier, had been taken by the Kiowa Native Americans after her parents had been killed by them in retaliation for white settlers' crimes against their tribe. Then, six years later, the Kiowa family who had adopted her were massacred by the Federal Authorities. She had witnessed both events.

Captain Kidd, receiving no help from the authorities tells them, 'This little girl is lost, she needs to be home.' He then takes her on a journey to find a relative of her German parents. It is a wonderful story of gaining trust as they travel. At one point, despite the language difficulties, there is a conversation where the Captain tells her she



Talking Point by Keith Saynor

must 'move forward in a straight line,' and she describes that with the Kiowa she was used to travelling in circular movements. After several twists in the story the Captain adopts her as his daughter and the film has a wonderful ending.

It is a moving story of love and restoration following trauma, loss and sadness. It reminded me of how God helps each one of us to move on when we face similar difficulties. The Bible encourages us to trust God for, when we do, He will guide us and make our paths straight (Proverbs 3, verses 5-6) embracing us with His healing and restoration (Jeremiah 30, verse 17). He helps us to move on from any trauma we have experienced. Also, when we trust God, like the young girl in the film, we find our home, a place to belong as He adopts us into His family as sons and daughters (Ephesians 1, verse 5 and 1 John 3, verse 1).

During this season when Covid-19 has impacted all our lives and where so many have faced a variety of difficulties, let me encourage you to trust God and let Him bring His healing and restoration in relation to any trauma or loss you may have experienced. Trust Him to help you move forward with Him and enjoy the sense of belonging as you find your home with Him as a dear child of God adopted into His family!

Keith Saynor

Pastor Grace Church Caversham

Local clergy and church services

ANGLICAN

Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Ministry

St Peter, St Margaret, St John
Rev'd Mike Smith, The Rectory, 20 Church Rd
Caversham RG4 7AD
Tel: 947 9505 rector@ctmparish.org.uk
Rev'd Penny Cuthbert Tel: 07825 331 810
Rev'd Andy Storch Tel: 07365 555 905

Parish Office

Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham RG4 8AX
Tuesday and Friday 9.30 to 14.00
Tel: 947 1703 e-mail secretary@ctmparish.org.uk

Current services

Sunday 09:30 – You Tube service - www.youtube.com/channel/UCYMGve_d64enHsm1FUfwntA
10:15 – Zoom service – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84366839832?pwd=M2xJSUtFbGkycG1DbEFxQ1JGYWRsQT09>
11:15 – Zoom service - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82793512985>
Wednesday – 09:30 – Zoom morning Prayer - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/786384026>

St Andrew

Rev'd Nigel Jones, St Andrew's Vicarage, Harrogate Road.
Tel: 947 2788 www.standrewscaversham.org

Current services

St Andrew's weekly service is at 10am on Sunday mornings and is a livestream on the St Andrew's YouTube channel. Details on the parish website. www.standrewscaversham.org/services
Tuesday – 20.00 - Compline service by Zoom. E-mail the vicar to join - vicar@standrewscaversham.org

St Barnabas Emmer Green

Vicar: Rev'd Derek Chandler 20 St. Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, RG4 8RA.
Tel: 947 8239. Email: vicar@saintbarnabas.org.uk
Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk
Curate: Rev'd Dr Leonard Onugha
Tel: Parish Office 9476310.
Email: curate.emmergreen@icloud.com

Current services

All services listed below open to the general public and

in accordance with safety guidelines. Sunday 9.30am also accessible live via Zoom and then uploaded to Youtube, please contact the vicar for details:

Sunday 8.00am - Traditional Communion (BCP)
Sundays 9.30am - 1st Sunday: All Age Service.
2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays: Parish Communion.
3rd Sunday: Service of the Word
Wednesday 10.00am - Communion (Common Worship)

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (LEP)

(United Reformed Church, Methodist and Baptist)
Contact: Dr Alison Johnston
Tel: 0118 947 5152 www.cavershamparkchurch.com

Current services

Sunday – 11.00 – Livestreaming on YouTube
Details on their web site at: <https://cpvc.org.uk:5152/livestream>

METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM

Rev'd Martin Beukes, 72 Highmoor Rd.
Tel: 0118 947 2223 <https://cavhmc.org.uk>
Rev'd David Jenkins Tel: 0118 327 1592

Current services

Sunday – 10.30 – Zoom service
E-mail the Minister for details martin.beukes@methodist.org.uk

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Colin Baker
Church office Tel 0118 954 5353
Email: secretary@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

Current services

A link is placed on their website each week at: www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk and on their YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/CavershamBaptist
Live broadcast starts at 10.30am each Sunday

GRACE CHURCH

(formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)
Pastor Keith Saynor
Tel 9474529 www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk

Current services

See their web site for details: www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk

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Tel: 947 1787 www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk

Current services

See their web site for Father Patrick's weekly homilies and details of opening for services at: www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk

St Michael Sonning Common

Fr Michael Sharkey, St Michaels, Sonning Common
Tel: 972 3418

At the time of writing, church services are affected by the pandemic restrictions, disrupting normal worship. However, church communities have adapted to the circumstances and are alive and active in new ways.

Some churches are open in a limited way at present. Most have a range of on-line services, house groups and social meetings, using web based systems like YouTube and Zoom. For current information, see individual web sites for each church on this page or on the Churches Together in Caversham website: www.cavershamchurch.org.

The Caversham Bridge is a community newspaper produced by Caversham Christian News Ltd

Future editions:

Contributions for the June 2021 issue should be submitted by 10 May and for the July edition by 14 June. These should be e-mailed to: editors@cavershambridge.org

Dates for advertising copy are 20 April for the June issue and 25 May for July. These should be e-mailed to advertising@cavershambridge.org

Lucy's trees for Captain Tom



by Phil Chatfield

I AM WRITING this almost exactly a year since the first lockdown started 23 March 2020. This was a new experience, shared by us all. None of us knew what to expect or how long the virus would be impacting on our lives; and certainly one local family had no inkling of what lay in store for them.

We all followed the progress of Captain Tom, who became a rallying point for the nation and for our support of NHS staff and the work of carers generally. But for one Caversham resident and her family this was very personal. Although Captain Tom lived with his daughter Hannah in a village in Bedfordshire, his eldest daughter, Lucy Teixeira lives in Caversham. Lucy and her family moved here from Bristol in 2012, in large part to be closer to her husband Tom's work in London and to allow him more time with their children. Their lives were transformed, as Tom spent much less time commuting and was able to spend time with their two sons in the evenings.

Lucy runs a Wellbeing business selling homeopathy and Weleda's biodynamic products. Weleda - a long established company (100 years), builds long term and sustainable relationships with its global network of suppliers. Whilst the lockdown impacted her business,

it also, and more significantly for Lucy and her family, made visiting her father impossible. Following a fall when he was 98, Tom was making a real effort to rehabilitate himself. He wanted to play his part in life at his home, shared by five generations of the family. It was his determination to keep active and his regular exercise walks which led to his fund-raising efforts and brought him to the attention of the nation and the world.

For all of us, the last year was a difficult time, but for Lucy it has been both extraordinary and, at times, painful. Her father had not been keen to celebrate 'ordinary' birthdays, but the whole family had been looking forward to his 100th. With the pandemic, it was not only impossible for the family to meet up, but Tom had become a public figure - everyone's father or grandfather. So Lucy had to watch Tom on the television, along with the rest of us.

The whole family has grown accustomed to media attention, and Lucy has written many letters and dealt with lots of questions from magazines. A key message from Tom was the importance for older people of keeping active - he was determined not to spend all his time sitting in a chair! Lucy has also grown accustomed to radio and television interviews. When we spoke, she was preparing for filming for the BBC Countryfile programme to be shown in May.

Concern for the environment is important to Lucy and she has a strong belief in the benefits of planting trees to counter climate change and improve lives. The Countryfile feature will be centred on planting a tree in Lucy's garden as part of a 'Trees for Tom' campaign, working with the Woodland Trust to plant trees in Tom's beloved Yorkshire. Lucy is also working with a charity called Treesisters to plant trees in tropical areas. We will be featuring both of these charities in our June edition.



Write to the editors

My friend Mary

What a joy, to open the Caversham Bridge and find an article about my friend Mary Kift.

We met when I moved to Caversham in 1975 and began to worship at St Margaret's Mapledurham. We became friends through the work we did with the children in our monthly Saturday Workshops. We were both in the teaching profession, although Mary retired before I met her.

Every summer, we would have at least one outing to somewhere of interest to both of us. One trip I remember clearly was to Jane Austen's house at Chawton and Gilbert White's home at Selborne.

Mary was an amazing companion on such trips. She would wander for a short time through the exhibits and then return to me and talk about these people as if they were close friends of hers. She could really bring such characters to life. We would always stop for a spot of lunch somewhere and she was a fun person to spend time with. I have many happy memories of those trips.

When I was teaching very young children in a church school, I taught them the hymn 'I sing the Song of the Saints of God'. The words include 'you can meet them in church, you can meet them in school - or in the street' and I would talk to them about my good friend, Mary Kift.

Irene Lindsay

The Piano Player

It was interesting to read of Balmore House, but more interesting to me was the talk of Wilf, the piano player.

My parents always went to the evening service at St John's and usually brought someone home with them to spend the rest of the evening.

One Sunday they arrived back with Wilf, the piano player, who sat right down at the piano and played for the duration of his visit. He came many Sundays after that and we always looked forward to his visits.

Surely there can only be one Wilf in the Army Pay Corps who played the piano and was working at Balmore House? The letter brought back lots of happy memories. Maybe I would know the original writer - who knows?

Joan

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Alternatively copies of this paper can be purchased from:
Caversham Emporium and Fourbears Books and
at the True Food Community Co-Op in Grove Road,
opposite St Barnabas church.



In memory of PC1274 Peter Towner

We recently received the following notice and the accompanying photograph from his wife, Babs Towner and Julia Stanbrook:

PETER TOWNER died on 4 November 2020. He was a local policeman in Caversham in the 1970s and 80s. Peter's parents ran a grocery shop in Westfield Road, which stood him in good stead, as he knew the area and a lot of local people. Due to Multiple Sclerosis Peter spent his later years in a wheelchair, but still enjoyed life, smiling and grateful for everything.

Pete featured on the front page of our November 1982 edition, pictured in uniform and on his bike in the Peppard

Road. The article recorded that Pete was born in 1945 in Caversham and attended Caversham Primary School and then Alfred Sutton School. He became a cadet with the Berkshire Constabulary when he was 17, and joined the Reading Police Force in 1967.

He and Babs were married at St Peter's Church, Caversham in 1966, and their two children grew up here. For many years, Pete was our 'policeman on the beat'; he knew everyone and everything that was going on around Caversham

in those days. For a long time, Pete lived in Tokers Green but latterly moved to Henley where, with the help of Babs, he was always out and about in spite of the wheelchair.

WHAT'S ON

As the lockdown rules are relaxed, there are a few events planned for May. Because of the impact of the virus, it is important to check to see if events are running. Our on-line events diaries are updated regularly, so it is worth checking to see what has been added at:

cavershambridge.org:5154/local-info/whats-on

If you have an event planned, please send details to

editors@cavershambridge.org

Caversham Library is open for booked appointments. Limited opening: 10:00-13:00 Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 13:00 - 16:00 Thursday

www.reading.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/libraries-reopening

Mondays – Time for U pram push 10:00-11.30 Caversham Baptist Church. Term time only. www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk

Sundays – Farmer's Market and Artisan Fair 10:00 - 15:00 Caversham precinct www.facebook.com/CAFMarket

Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 – Plant Sale in aid of WaterAid – 10:00 - 18:00 daily, 97 South View Avenue www.facebook.com/cavershamfairtrade for details.

Saturday 22 May – Beanpole Day – 10:00 - 15:00 Caversham Court

www.econetreading.org.uk

Saturday 22 May – Concerts in Caversham - Ariel Lanyi, Piano 19:30 St Andrew's Church Albert Road RG4 7PL. Tickets £20, £18 and £15. Under 16s free www.concertsincaversham.co.uk

Saturday 29 May to 2 June - a long weekend of wildlife events in Reading for adults and children <https://www.wildaboutrg.com>

Escape to the woods

THERE WAS lots of excitement and laughter at St. Martin's Catholic Primary School on 30 March, as the children supported the CAFOD Walk for Water Appeal.

Prior to the sponsored walk, they learned about the people CAFOD aims to help, like Abdella from



Afar, Ethiopia – one of the hottest places on earth. Like hundreds of people in the area, he spends most of the day walking to get water for his family to drink.

The children prepared banners for the walk and, on the day, came to school wearing blue, many with wigs and face paint too. The older children walked a total of 6 miles as a school in Clayfield Copse. The younger children completed a walk including an obstacle course on the school grounds. "Following the Covid guidance and ensuring the children were safely supervised when they went off site was a challenge," said Katherine Tilling, who organised the walk. "It was worth it though, as they had such a good time and it has been so long since we have been able to do anything like this."

The school raised over £1500, a huge achievement for a small school. "I'm so proud of our school community," said Headteacher Erika Kirwan. "The children approached this challenge with such positivity, and the support from parents and staff was wonderful."

Find out more about the CAFOD appeal at: <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-for-Water>

Photos by teaching staff, used with permission from the school.

by Mrs Erika Kirwan, Headteacher

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IT'S ALL HAPPENING

Making Arrangements

Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club is supporting the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies National Flower Arranging Day on Friday 7 May this year.

In the past members have left bouquets around Caversham for people to take home as an act of kindness. This year, due to Covid-19 concerns, they can only create designs within their own properties; so members will be putting floral designs on their gate posts, front doors, fences, and garage doors, etc. to celebrate the fun and friendship that flower clubs offer.

Perhaps more importantly this year, we are hoping to bring a smile to people's faces during these difficult times - so do keep an eye out for them!



Our Club has been doing monthly zoom meetings and visitors are always welcome. For more information including meeting details, see our website at:

www.bbandoflowers.org.uk/Clubs/Caversham

You can also find us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. by Emma Thurlow

Building our community

Planning update from Caversham and District Residents Association (CADRA), bringing you a summary of planning and transport matters affecting the RG4 area

THE NEW application (210018) for 257 new homes on the Reading portion of **Reading Golf Club** is unlikely to be determined before June. There is a complex mix of issues to address, alongside the large number of comments -many of them objections.

The application for a mainly residential scheme of up to 11 storeys, across the river on the **SSE site, Vastern Road**, has been refused by RBC because of concerns about the impact on the river and of living alongside the huge remaining electrical transformers, but principally because of the lack of a clear and direct pedestrian route between the station and the Thames footbridge. While the scheme has some merit, CADRA has consistently argued that the development of all three sites in this area (this one and the Aviva and Hermes sites) needs co-ordinating to ensure a coherent layout, and the decision supports that view.

An application has been submitted at **389 Gosbrook Road** (210279) to demolish an existing building and build six apartments. As this is next to the 17th Century farmhouse at the Lower Caversham roundabout it will need to be a sensitive design. CADRA is considering it and will comment.

CADRA has written to the **Mapledurham Estate** about the continuing concern over access to Chazey Wood and a reply is awaited.

Just over the border in South Oxfordshire, but very much part of the Caversham area, there is an application for six homes on **The Piggery, Gravel Hill** (P21/SO897/ND1). An application for a single house had been approved previously. This application is higher, occupying a larger footprint and CADRA has raised concerns. It is the site on your right if you are walking down Gravel Hill and is an open one which is important in views, so care will be needed.

PLANT SALE IN SUPPORT OF

WaterAid

Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 May
10am to 6pm daily

In the garden at 97 South View Avenue RG4 5BB
Cards from Liz Real and crafts from Pam Chatfield
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Fairtrade stall

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For details see:

www.facebook.com/cavershamfairtrade

Spring Litterati

RESIDENTS across our area responded to a call to clean up their local environment on 21 March to mark the Spring Equinox. Litter pickers were at work in locations which included Clayfield Copse and Caversham Park Village, with dogs helping to a greater or lesser extent! Penny Peirce and Suzanne Tappern started at the Farnham Drive shops and had filled a black bin-liner by the time they reached the Henley Road and a second by the time they reached Play Hatch.

For more information on this annual event see <https://springequinoxcleanup.org>



Penny, Suzanne and helpers!

Photo and text Fred Smith

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For your bookshelf....

Never give up...

by Alex Forbes

Welcome to 'Fourbears Reviews' where we briefly review a couple of chosen titles from our bookshop 'Fourbears Books' on Prospect Street. At the time of writing we are just about to re-open, so we are eagerly looking forward to welcoming customers back into the shop.

THIS MONTH is a little different, I would like to talk about two books which are predominantly aimed at children, but can be enjoyed by all ages.

The first is from the popular 'Little People, BIG DREAMS' series. Anyone who has visited the shop will have seen we stock many titles from this series. The books are aimed at 4-10 year olds, but older kids may also enjoy them. The series tells the story of the person in question, informing the reader about all their achievements and what makes them who they are, focusing on how they started out as a little person with a big dream. Each page is exquisitely illustrated, which really brings the story home. The latest release is Ernest Shackleton, a person I didn't know as much about as I should until I read this book. What a man. His explorations to the Antarctic are truly phenomenal. It's books like these which make me love the series. They really celebrate great people who trailblaze in their field. There are over 50 titles in the series now, with personal favourites being Rosa Parks, Mary Anning, Prince, Pele and David Attenborough.

Captain Sir Tom Moore also has his own 'Little People, BIG DREAMS' book, but I want to bring the picture book 'One Hundred Steps' to your attention. Predominantly aimed at children between 3-7, it can be enjoyed by all. This picture book brings to life the 'never give up' attitude, and what can be



The Bear has the books

photo A Forbes

achieved when working together. It tells the story of the incredible Captain Sir Tom Moore, taking the reader through key moments in his life, and in particular the 100 laps of his garden that raised so much money and inspired so many people last year.

Happy reading, whatever you pick up, and hopefully see you in the shop soon. Please do let us know if there are any genres or areas you would like us to write about next month.

A RUDE AWAKENING

by Ruth Wright

OF COURSE, no-one is in a hurry to get up early; it's Lockdown and it's snowing. Standing at the cooker in my dressing gown stirring the porridge my mobile rings, and it's a WhatsApp call. I've never had one of those before. So, I answered the call only to be confronted with my face and two other of my friends' faces - male I should add - school friends from the 50s. We were all as surprised as each other, as none of us had made the call. We do belong to a WhatsApp group of six

and have only ever sent messages - you know, the ones that have been circulating keeping everyone amused, informed and comforted during these trying times.

Immediately, I started to re-arrange my hair into something looking half-respectable, one of the 'callers' was still in bed, bare-chested, and the other one was dressed, but at the beginning of the call I noticed he was missing a couple of teeth. He obviously hadn't quite completed his morning's dental regime but, as if by magic, he was soon chatting and smiling with confidence. This rude awakening threw us all, but we managed a stilted conversation and then had a good laugh about the situation. The outcome is that one of them is going to arrange a Zoom chat for the six in our WhatsApp group, and will possibly include a few other 'old-timers' from our junior school days.

Suffice to say my family and friends thought it was a hoot, and one of my sons commented, "That's hilarious, Mum! What a perfectly imperfect set of circumstances. Only true friends could endure such a collective shock!"

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WOODPECKER SPARE THAT TREE



Lesser spotted woodpecker

photo R Stallard

THERE are three kinds of woodpecker in my neck of the woods.

Curious phrase 'neck of the woods'. The Concise Oxford Dictionary, my bible, let me down with the etymology – pity I gave away the full edition. However, there has been keen debate online about the phrase. It was used in a book 'Tour Ireland' in 1780, and in another book 'Americanisms' in 1871. One theory is that it comes from an old Scots word neuk (nook or corner), or the German word ecke – German was common in the armies of King George III. (ED: *Steady on: that's enough etymology*).

Sorry about the digression. Back to the woodpeckers in my patch: there are three woodpeckers, the green, the great spotted and the lesser spotted. The great spotted is my favourite. The green is too noisy, which is why it is called yaffle, and the lesser is a rare visitor.

Great spotted woodpeckers are about the size of blackbirds, whereas the lesser is nearer to sparrow size. The male has a red patch on the back of its head. They are more often heard than seen, as they have a habit of hiding on the opposite side of the tree as if to avoid being caught sight of.

They feed on insects and larvae which live in the bark. If a woodpecker excavates too many holes they can cause the branch to die. They can often be seen on bird feeders containing peanuts, sunflower seeds or fat, but will also eat eggs and chicks in the nesting season.

That distinctive drumming sound is also a mating call. The great spotted is the fastest drummer of all woodpeckers. Ornithologists have counted up to 16 beats a second in 1 second bursts.

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Taking flight in May



Tree Bumblebee (*Bombus hypnorum*)

by Tricia Marcouse

IN THE April edition I wrote about inviting wildlife into your garden. This month I highlight three May visitors. Can you spot these in your garden?

At the beginning of May, the blue butterfly in the garden is a Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*) The upper side of the wings of males is bright blue, whereas the female has a noticeable black band across about a quarter of the upper wing. You'll find them flying high towards and around holly trees, where the female lays eggs on the flowers.

You might see Tree Bumblebees,



Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*)

(*Bombus hypnorum*) at any time during spring and early summer, but you're almost certain to see them in May if you have cotoneasters in the garden, as this bee is very partial to the flowers. Easy to identify with a black thorax, ginger abdomen and white bottom. Tree bumblebees don't need help in finding suitable nest sites and are perfectly capable of ousting blue tits from a nestbox.

Towards the end of May, you may see the Common Blue butterfly (*Polyommatus*

icarus) in the garden, on roadside verges or up in Clayfield Copse. This butterfly likes bird's-foot trefoil as a food plant for the caterpillar, and places one egg on the underside of a leaf. The males of Common and Holly Blues are hard to tell apart EXCEPT that the Holly Blue tends to fly high whilst the Common Blue flies low to the ground. The females have noticeably different markings.

Photos by Rob Stallard of Reading and District Natural History Society



Common Blue butterfly (*Polyommatus icarus*)



A Crafty Cuppa – with Pam Chatfield



Local resident Ruth Martin, who runs Cucumber Wood Candles, featured in our Caversham Connections article last October. Ruth offered to write an occasional piece for us on local craft producers. There are many talented people in our area, producing a wide range of hand-made crafts, from beautiful bead work and cards to painted wooden plaques. Ruth will interview some of these crafters over a cup of tea (virtually for now), to introduce us to the people and their crafts. In this, her first 'Crafty Cuppa', Ruth talks to Pam Chatfield.

by Ruth Martin

IT WAS SO lovely to have my first 'A Crafty Cuppa' with Pam Chatfield, Caversham resident and maker of bags, garden aprons and bunting. We chatted 'virtually', as is the way, but it didn't stop us having a good natter about all things sewing!

"I grew up just knowing how to sew," Pam told me. "My mother made our clothes on her Singer machine, which I learnt to use. When I left home to train as a nurse, the first thing I did was to go to John Lewis and buy my own sewing machine."

Fast forward a few years - through making clothes for herself, then for her 2 children then, as a busy working mum, finding time to make the odd pair of curtains - and the sewing machine was

used less and less. "The first lockdown made a big difference," Pam explained. "I'd recently retired and my daughter had left home. I gathered into one room the craft things I'd squirrelled away over the years and got sewing!"

Posting a photo on Facebook of the first garden apron she'd made, Pam was encouraged to make a few more to sell, which were snapped up by friends. Next up was rainbow bunting, with proceeds to NHS Charities. "It was lovely to see houses in my road with it proudly hanging in their windows," said Pam. Gift bags followed and the sewing bug was re-bitten! From selling her wares at a charity plant sale, Pam created an online shop on the crafters' website, Foltsy, donating to local charity



Pam and her trusty sewing machine

photo P Chatfield

Launchpad and focusing on colourful, and where possible, re-purposed fabrics.

But it's not just the joy of creating things that her rekindled hobby has brought; "I love the connections I've made locally," Pam enthused. "I've found the crafting community to be really supportive, and have got to know new people through my craft club at the Weller Centre (which will restart after lock-down)." And what would

she say to anyone else with a hankering to get making? "Just give it a go! Make contact with others doing a similar thing, go on-line for ideas and inspiration and just have fun!" We said our goodbyes, as Pam got back to an afternoon's sewing on the machine she bought as a student nurse all those years ago.

You can find Pam on: Facebook, Instagram and Foltsy @pamcrafts.

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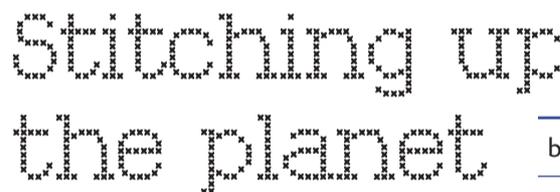
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by Pam Chatfield

MANY OF us are creative and enjoy making items for ourselves and others. I have been asking myself recently if I can do this in ways which help protect our planet. Here are a few ideas I have found.

Look for fabrics, threads and yarns produced without large amounts of water and toxins. Organic cotton is grown without using chemicals or pesticides. Hemp is made from plant fibres. Bamboo is naturally anti-bacterial, hypoallergenic and is also biodegradable. Organic silk is naturally sustainable and differs from standard silk because the silkworm is not killed when making it. Soya is made from tofu manufacturing waste and the fibres produced are incredibly soft and, feeling similar to cashmere; it is often combined with organic cotton. Linen is made from flax fibres and is durable and strong; it is also highly absorbent

For more information, see:

www.thesewingdirectory.co.uk/using-eco-fabrics

www.goodonyou.eco/how-ethical-is-tencel

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and good for garments to keep you cool.

Viscose and Tencel are produced from wood fibre. The traditional viscose process is chemically intensive. Tencel production is less harmful as almost all the solvent used in its production is reused rather than dumped into the ecosystem. Also it is made from sustainably sourced wood.

Plastic from PET bottles can be spun into threads, such as the Sew-all Thread by Gütermann, made from 100% recycled polyester. The spools used for this all-purpose thread can also be recycled. Scanfil has a range of organic thread on eco-friendly wooden spools. If you are using interfacing, Vlieseline has fusible lightweight and medium weight recycled polyester options.

Of course repurposing fabrics into something new is best of all. Happy crafting!

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COME ON CHELSEA



by Les Cooper

IT'S MAY "the merry month of May"; well let's hope so. But it's not a good start when due to the pandemic the RHS have postponed the famous Chelsea Flower Show until September, after it was called off last year.

It might surprise you when I say, over the years, I have attended the Chelsea show more than fifty times. That should make me very knowledgeable but sadly I have spent most of the time standing around trying to sell delphinium seed. Admittedly during breaks I have had a chance to look around and admire the gardens and trade stands.

Way back in the dim and distant past when I did go as a spectator, I remember wandering about gazing open-mouthed at the glorious spectacle of the large exhibits by firms like Suttons Seeds, Carters Seeds and Allwoods Carnations. These huge displays of magnificent flowers still stand out in my memory.

Nevertheless, with half a century of visits, Chelsea has



Dahlias at Wisley

photo E Cooper



Delphiniums at Wisley

photo E Cooper

The Chelsea Flower Show is scheduled for 21-26 September 2021.

House plants

by Jacqueline Winston-Silk



FOR A long time the modern home has featured plants; the practice of bringing the outside in, although influenced by changing interior trends, has persisted. It began with modest and practical pot plants, brought into the home for medicinal purposes and their ability to perfume stagnant air. In the 17th century efforts were made to cultivate highly prized citrus fruits in elaborate orangeries and glass houses. Curiosity evolved into botany, and advances in the discipline gave us the Linnean system of classification and nomenclature. We embraced indoor gardening like never before and attempted to keep newly discovered tender exotics, with varying degrees of success. The Victorians perhaps solidified our love affair with plants. Embracers of ornamentation and decadent display, they filled their homes with ferns. No middle-class interior was complete without bushy evergreens atop mantles, inside purposefully designed ceramics and balanced on fancy jardinières.

For me, the language of plants helps to articulate moments in social history and domestic design. Recall the ubiquitous mid-century spider plant or aspidistra, the creepers and climbers in cascading macramé hangers of the 1970s, or the architectural palms of the decade that followed. And where are we now, what do our biophilic tendencies reveal?

become for me, an over familiarity. This is partly because the BBC is really keen to show us so much and partly because there is such a similitude of exhibits. Obviously, the outside designer show gardens are wonderful and new each year. But within the main marquee, where the nurserymen are showing off many lovely plants, their displays can be repetitive with only one or two introductions each year to make a slight difference.

So then, in my opinion, perhaps it is no bad thing to have a change and to give us a chance to see some new plants in their glory when previously even the experts could not get them to look at their best in May. Once upon a time dahlias were really popular with everybody, but then gardeners seemed to lose interest in these lovely flowers and less and less were seen growing in gardens. Now perhaps a few super displays at Chelsea later in the year might re-stimulate their appeal for us. Similarly, gladioli, asters, fuchsias and salvias will now have a chance to come to the forefront. If the BBC airs as many programmes as they usually do, then with Monty Don and Co lauding their worth in our gardens, fads might change.

As a point of interest, my Delphinium Society hopes to have their usual small promotional stand with delphiniums in flower. Onlookers love to see beautiful delphinium spikes but it is fairly difficult to get early flower spikes for May. However, it is even more of a challenge when it comes to getting respectable flowers in September and will my friends get any decent late blooms worthy of exhibiting? We shall see.

Without doubt, social platforms, a growing awareness of the wellbeing benefits of plants, and the impact of the pandemic have compounded to increase both the number of house plant enthusiasts and the variety of plants available to them.

Home improvement, being one of the few activities permitted in the lockdowns, became the focus for many. Care and maintenance of house plants can be seen as a natural extension of this. Pretty and interesting to look at, plants are said to reduce airborne pollutants, lift mood and reduce stress - the tonic we all needed. In parallel to this, micro-networks of grower-to-customer relationships have emerged to cater to so called pot heads. Rare and eye-wateringly expensive plants can be propagated and sold, often spanning continents, enabling healthy rivalry between house plant collectors.

Next time you look at your pot plant, know you are part of a long lineage - don't forget to water it!

Over the coming issues I'll be bringing you a plant of the month feature.

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WALK THEY ALL WELCOMED

by Sarah Roy and Sarah Perchard



photos Helen Carp

AT MICKLANDS Primary School, we pride ourselves on our community spirit, which is why the Parent Teachers Association (PTA) wanted to take the opportunity to show our love for the amazing Micklands' teachers, staff, parents and students. The winter lockdown had been hard for us all, so we decided to create an explosion of colour along Micklands Road to welcome everyone back to school on Monday 8 March. This Welcome Walk was a perfect way to thank teachers and staff, say well done to parents and welcome back to children!

With help from Mrs Rapson, the office manager, we contacted all the

parents and carers to let them know our plans and to ask for their help in creating posters to say thank you, welcome back or any message they wished. Keeping it a secret from the rest of the school staff was tricky, but we did manage it, and within a few days the posters started to flood in.

With posters at the ready, a group of parents from the PTA gathered (at social distances) on Sunday 7 March to hang them all on the driveway

up to the school gates. The overall effect was amazing, and we could not wait for everyone to be surprised by the welcome when they arrived at school the next morning.

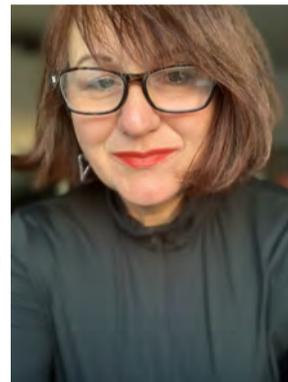
The staff were thrilled with the Welcome Walk with many commenting it had given them a much needed boost on their first morning back. There were tears of joy from many, and the smiles on the faces of the children, seeing their work up, will live with us all for a good while. A huge thank you to all the children who contributed wonderful artwork for this PTA event.



Community Connections

by Caroline Gratrix

This month we get to know something about Caversham resident Chris Walton



Chris Walton photo C Gratrix

CHRIS WALTON opened Waltons Jewellers and Goldsmiths as a fresh faced 26-year-old back in December 1986 and has been a goldsmith for over 40 years.

A local lad, Chris attended Chiltern Edge School in Sonning Common, where his parents ran the Bird in Hand Pub. Chris always enjoyed and excelled in the practical elements of school and knew from an early age that

he wanted to be a jeweller. He learned his craft by completing a 5-year apprenticeship in goldsmithing at Jobins Jewellers in Henley. After working at another jewellers he decided to borrow money from every source he could find to start his own business.

Chris is naturally creative and a perfectionist at heart. During the lockdowns he has been busy making stunning, bespoke pieces that you can see on his Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Waltons-Jewellers-Goldsmiths-308639809164204

However, Chris's talents go way beyond precious jewels. He is also a keen videographer, historian and film maker. If you search for Caversham 100 on YouTube you will find his brilliant video on Caversham, then and now.

A real community champion, Chris is chairman of the Caversham Traders Association (CTA). The CTA organise regular meetings of the traders to talk about safety and increasing footfall to the area. Let's find out a little more about his favourite spots in Caversham ...

What's your favourite thing about Caversham?

It has a great community spirit, which I think we've all seen during this pandemic. The traders have pulled together, with weekly zoom meetings advising each other about grants and general advice.

Caversham's best coffee shop?

I'm a tea drinker! Sorry, coffee doesn't do it for me.

Where to eat in Caversham?

We are fortunate in Caversham to be surrounded by fabulous restaurants and takeaways. I'm sure all of us can't wait to get back to having a delicious meal at any of them. As I've eaten at all of them I can't pick a favourite.

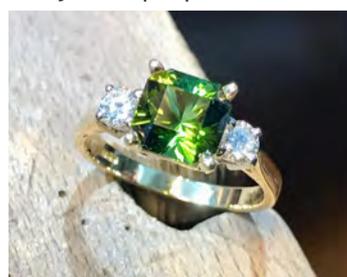
Where to shop in Caversham?

Waltons, Cara, Collective, Frangipan Home, Geo Café, Emporium, Terry's, Carousel, Dolly's Vintage, the hardware store, Griggs and Mackay, The Flower Shop and everyone else.

If you could bring anything to Caversham, what would it be?

We have already run various competitions for the public and are currently in the process of updating the ChooseCaversham website.

I would love to see a culinary festival here. If all the restaurants could work together, I'm sure it would be a big hit and bring many more people into Caversham to see what it has to offer.



Examples of Chris's work

photos C Walton

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FIREPLACE THAT LIT A PASSION FOR SCULPTURE



This month Elestr Lee meets long-time Caversham resident Roger Smalley, who discovered a talent for working in stone through one of those classic 80s DIY projects...

OUR ARTIST grew up in Earley, Reading. Having moved to Gosbrook Road during the 1980s, he was faced with the familiar 80s horror story – a boarded-up fireplace.

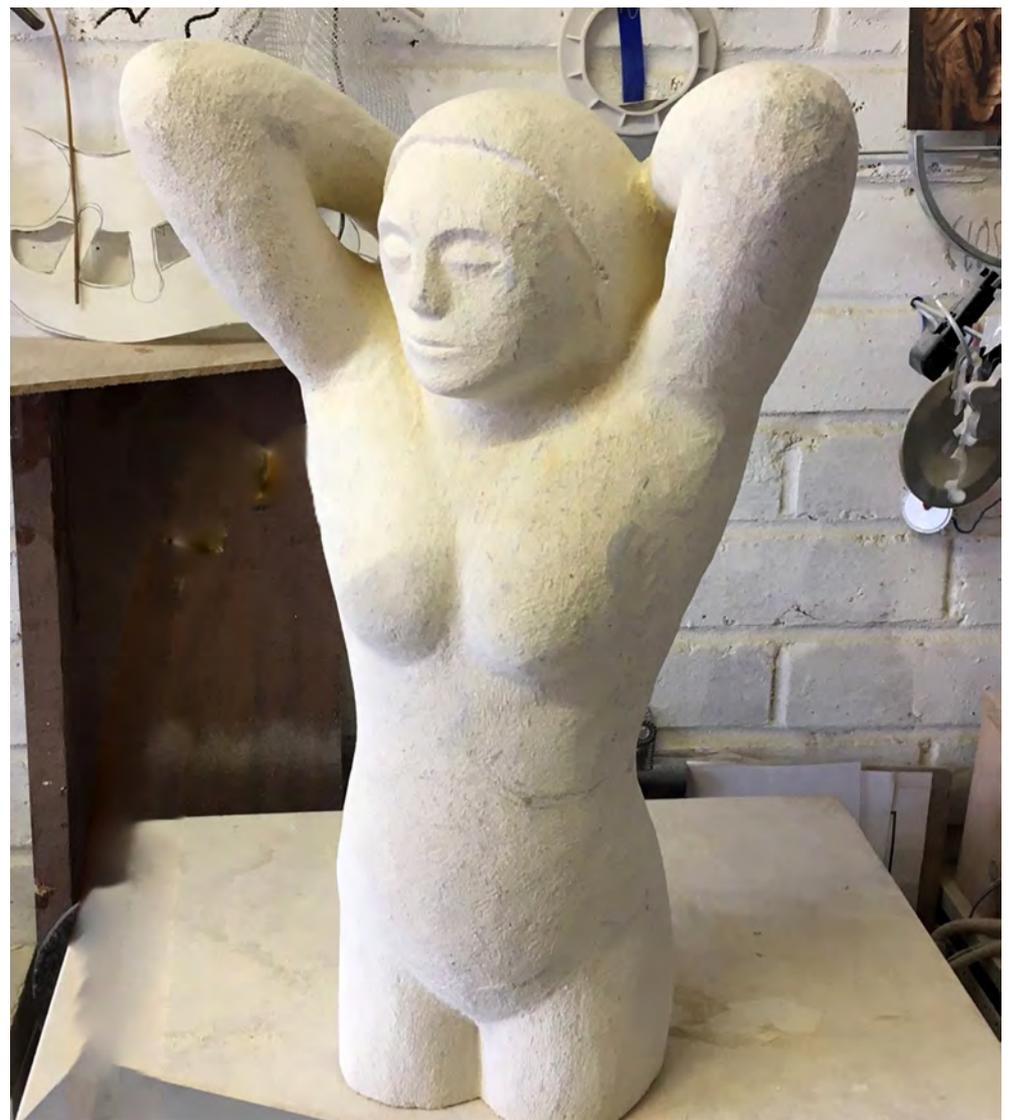
Having freed up the fireplace, Roger decided it would be good to replace the stone surround that would originally have been a feature of the room, so he visited the stonemason AF Jones – many of us will have passed their outlet on the A4074 near Ipsden.

“I bought some stone and started cutting it to fit the fireplace, and I really got into working with it. So when I’d finished, I went back, and asked if I could look through their skip!” Roger, a former civil servant, remembers.

Initially he was entirely self-taught, using chisels and tools from local DIY stores. Roger quickly became absorbed

in his new interest in sculpting stone, reading up on techniques, and acquiring specialist tools. Having joined Reading Guild of Artists in the early 2000s, he was thrilled to be invited to become sculptor Eric Stanford’s part-time assistant. “My family is not at all artistic, and I had no training. I used to travel to Eric’s home in Devizes every Friday, then work with Eric at the weekend. This was the most artistic environment I had ever been in,” he recalls.

The garage at Roger’s Caversham home has been converted into a studio. Now retired, creating his sculptures (as well as collages, which he prefers to concentrate on in the chilly winter months) has become Roger’s passion. His materials of choice are limestone or polyphant, a form of soapstone, which can be polished to create a beautiful shiny surface. Roger makes a



Torso-arms raised – sculpted in Roger’s studio

photo R Smalley

range of pieces suitable for gardens, and also smaller indoor sculptures. As well as using newly quarried stone, he is very interested in re-using unwanted pieces of pre-worked material.

“Sometimes I get in touch with a verger and ask if I can take away any broken stonework from graveyards. I visit demolition sites, or even find things locally – I spotted a damaged decorative balustrade being removed from Reading Bridge, which they told me was being thrown away. So I have re-used that as part of a sculpture,” Roger explains. He also acquires broken bits and pieces from junk shops – old lamps for example – and incorporates various quirky parts into his designs.

“I am always drawing and doodling, it’s something I have done since my teenage years,” he says. “Sometimes, when I sit down with a piece of stone, I have a definite idea, which I draw on to the stone. But on other occasions, I just start chipping – and see where it goes!”

As well as being a member of the RGA, Roger is proud to be a longstanding member of the Caversham Arts Trail – “I was a trailblazer,” he laughs, and believes he has only ever missed one year since the event started (though of course, the event has been ‘on hold’ since the pandemic). “I miss the trail and the ‘open studios’. It’s the nearest I get to being able to sell my work direct to the public, as there’s no independent art gallery in Reading nowadays. Usually I show my work at both

the Reading and Henley Guilds – it’s good to have these events to work towards. Without them, it’s easy to drift.”

Roger is now using Instagram to show his work; otherwise, the pandemic has not affected his creative output. “I work



On the Arts Trail

photo B Goodbun

on my own, in any case, and it is quite solitary at the best of times,” he explains. “I can’t work with anyone else, as I don’t like to use goggles or a mask. So in many respects I have been quite insulated from the pandemic. I can get on with things without any interruption.

“I was never very career-orientated. Now I have retired, art has become an end in itself. I’m not under any pressure, and I have the freedom to do what I want to do!”



Roger’s sculpture Howl at the moon

photo R Smalley

To see more of Roger’s work, check out:
https://www.instagram.com/stone_rog/

Mary Kift – life in the Land Army



Mary is the teacher on the left with her class at Mapledurham School.

1960 (from Mary's family)



Our April edition featured an article on Mary Kift, who was best known for her book – *Life in Old Caversham* – to mark what would have been her 100th birthday.

In preparing the article, a wealth of information about her eventful earlier life came to light. This second article draws from Mary's own words in an interview recorded at the Museum of English Rural Life. It provides an insight to rural life in the 1940's and the work of the women of the Land Army.

by Helen Lambert

NOT LONG after the death of Mary's grandfather, her family moved from Goring to live with her grandmother in Darell Road, Caversham. Before war broke out, she helped at St Peter's Hill School, which she and her brother and sister had attended before she went on to the Abbey.

Age 21, Mary was called up to the Land Army. Ever one to be well prepared, she asked if she could help out at the farm in Mapledurham and learn to milk. She then joined the Agricultural Research Council at Compton. Billeted away from the farm, she had a long walk in the dark over rough chalky ground to start milking at 5am – and of course no torches were allowed. The Council was experimenting with artificial insemination, very new at the time, and how to stop mastitis, so there were often vets 'sticking needles into these poor cows'. Despite the rigours, she loved her six months there and remembered finding wild cornflowers by the barn.

She moved to Yattendon, still with a 5am start for milking, but followed



Mary standing by the hayrick she thatched herself. 1946 (from Mary's family)

by haymaking, which could make a 90-hour week. One morning, crossing the barn in the dark, she found it full of American soldiers dosed down while on manoeuvres. Then it was on to Stockcross, on the River Lambourn, where she was milking by hand with all the hazards of sitting near the back end of a cow. Perhaps this was good preparation for digging the contents of the bucket lavatory into the garden. It made for good potatoes!

Bathing facilities were basic. In winter, they topped up the 'copper' (used for heating water) from the hand pump to fill a zinc bath. In summer, it was much simpler to take a dip in the river while the Keeper's wife kept watch on the bridge in case "the Yanks were coming". That was good practice for standing in the river helping to separate the grayling from the trout.

Mary learned to bind and stack the sheaves of corn and, when needed, to kill the rats coming among them. Driving the cows across the railway line and down the lane for milking she might hold up a convoy of American lorries and the soldiers would throw oranges to her – a real treat. Parachutes would drop at night, practising for the invasion of France. A couple of times they came down on the cottage roof.

She learned to broadcast seed and how to thatch, to use a great big hay knife to cut wedges out of a hayrick, to cut up turnips, take the tops off sugar beet, and how to deal with an angry bull. In Worcester, at a friend's farm, there was a gander who would take the back seat of her breeches and she would tow him along while he stuck his wings out and squawked and grabbed her. She learned to recognise a 'messenger cloud' telling her there were many more clouds to come.

When her service ended, she thought about taking on a farm but instead joined the Frobel Institute to train as a teacher. She always adored young children and had a wonderful rapport with them. She went on to teach at Checkendon, Wallingford and was latterly in charge of the small school at Mapledurham.

At Frobel she learnt to paint and to make pottery. She was encouraged to develop her interest in natural history and to write. All this was an excellent preparation for her later work as author and researcher of local history which we wrote about last month.



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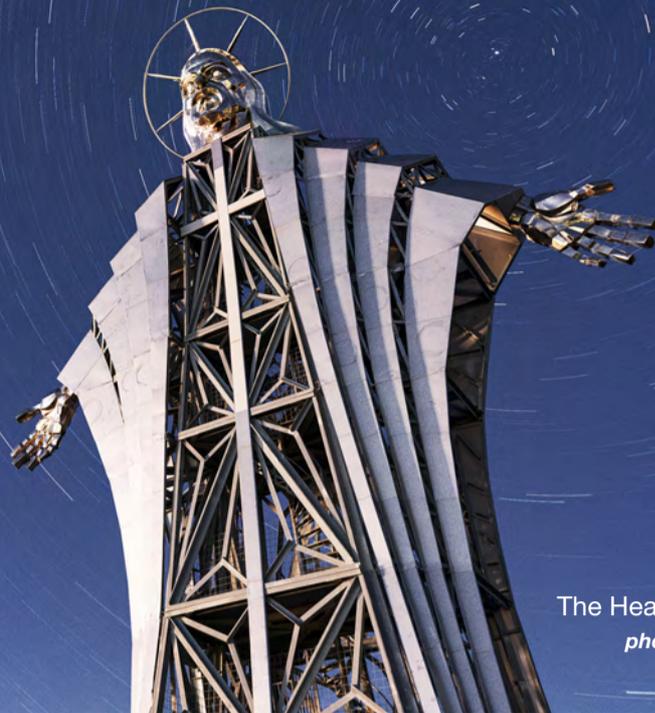
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A shot in the dark – photo competition

by Mark O'Neill

THE NIGHT is a magical time to be out with a camera and can become a creative opportunity to immerse yourself in a surreal world, out of reach of your own eyes.



The Heart of Christ
photo M O'Neill

The compression of time in a long exposure photograph – the trails of light crafted in the fourth dimension has forever been captivating to me, especially since picking up an SLR camera in 2006. As a night photographer, I grew from shooting any interesting

scenes I could find around Emmer Green, Caversham and the Reading area, to travelling across much of Eastern Europe. Here I chased the thrill of exploring abandoned remnants of the former communist regimes and Europe's lesser-known landscapes. I combine these subjects with my love of long exposures and the night sky.

Besides the wonderful variation of ambient and artificial light which blossoms once the sun has gone down, the illumination of scenes with torchlight can draw out the

textures and scars of the buildings. The atmosphere of the night adds to the mood of the scene, and the sky can produce rainbows of colour with long exposures. Their experimental nature can really test one's patience, especially in the harshness of a winter night. But the rewards of pushing yourself out of your comfort zone can be stunning and the experience unforgettable. With the stars above, what better view could you have to watch while you wait?

On my journey I learned a few key points on how to take great photographs at night:

- A sturdy, firmly placed tripod is the foundation to a good long exposure photograph
- Arrive before dusk to get a feel for your location, then shoot through dusk and into the night to vary the colour palate of your images
- Develop your images further by experimenting with different exposure lengths, lighting and perspectives
- Try illuminating your subjects with a torch to selectively highlight areas of interest
- It gets cold at night, so wrap up nice and warm to ensure your comfort and enjoyment
- Happy accidents can happen at any moment, but only if you're there to make them

With Spring in bloom, the sun setting later in the evening and temperatures rising, there is no better time to grab your camera and step into the unknown for Caversham Bridge's night photography competition. Submit your best night photographs of the elements of the night that most capture your imagination for a chance to win a £25 John Lewis gift card. Following the closing date of Thursday 1 July 2021, I will select what my tastes tell me are the most compelling images, then announce the winners in the following August issue.

Good luck and don't forget your tripod!



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First Impressions Matter

CV formats

Last month we introduced Laura and our new feature on completing a CV and applying for a job. This month Laura starts with a look at different CV formats.



by Laura Harmsworth

DID YOU know there's more than one type of CV format? All showcase your skills, experience and achievements, but in different ways. Below are outlined three types of CV and why you might use them.

Chronological:

This is the CV you're probably most used to seeing or using.

Everything is written in reverse chronological order, with your most recent experience and qualifications showing first. This CV is logical, making it easy for recruiters to see your experience and progression.

This format is for you if you've been following a natural career path.

Functional or Skills-based

This format focuses the reader's mind on what you can offer in terms of skill, ability and professional expertise, rather than when and in which role you acquired them.

By putting your achievements and contributions under a 'Skills and Achievements' heading, you can highlight your transferable skills, and employment gaps or irrelevant experience are less obvious.

For example, you could have managed projects in several of your roles. Put all your relevant

experience and achievements under the heading of 'Project Management'. Under the 'Career History' section, list each job with little or no detail underneath.

This format is for you if you're changing career direction or have had a career gap. Just be aware that recruiters are often wary of this type of CV as it can be harder for them to read.

One-page

One page CVs are quick and easy to read, but it can be tricky deciding what to include, and they lack the detail required when applying for an advertised role. They do have their place though; for example, your employer might ask you for one when tendering for work you would be contributing to or if you are self-employed and need to show what you can offer in terms of experience and skills.

Next month I'll go into more detail on the sections you should include, and what to exclude from your CV.

You can follow Laura on:

Facebook ([@CavershamCVWriting](https://www.facebook.com/CavershamCVWriting))
www.facebook.com/CavershamCVWriting
on LinkedIn where she posts tips and articles regularly
www.linkedin.com/in/lauraharmsworth
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INTERNATIONAL organisation u3a is a charitable, self-help learning platform for people who have completed careers or finished raising a family.

Reading u3a, with over 600 members, provides the opportunity to make new like-minded friends through groups enjoying exercise, learning, sharing information and creativity. We have a wealth of experience and knowledge between us, and the self-help model allows our members to learn in the ways which suit them best.

On 2 June 2021, the organisation is holding a National u3a Day and, in the lead-up to this, we are hoping to promote and showcase what we can offer locally. Our groups cover a wide range of interests from Art to Yoga and Bird Watching to Wit and Humour. We also have several European Language Groups.

Regular Members' Meetings feature one of our members speaking on a topic they have a particular interest in and knowledge of. Each month we have a Guest Speaker Meeting with an outside speaker.

We provide informative newsletters, and our website provides links for our members' further benefit. Membership is less than £1 a week, so, if your philosophy is 'I've retired from my job – but not from life', then come and join us. We would love to include you in the learning, laughing and living experience which is u3a.

For further information please contact:

membership@readingu3a.org.uk or look on our website: www.readingu3a.org.uk

Virginia Day



Croquet coaching photo J Wakeford croquet.

Carol, a Caversham Croquet Club member, drawing on her skills as a primary school teacher, has pioneered this technique to help Pam and other novices to keep their heads down, ensuring their croquet shots are accurate.

This summer, Carol is leading a team of coaches at the club at Albert Road Park to provide a free introduction to this fascinating game, offering an opportunity to explore and develop new skills and to confront new physical and mental challenges.

Croquet is a congenial game which men, women and children of all ages play on equal terms. New members quickly make friends at the Club, the only one in Reading.

With the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions the Caversham club is able to offer two-hour personal one-to-

"I HAVE PUT A coloured marker under the ball. When you've played your shot, tell me which one I've put there," Carol Jamieson told Pam Briggs, a former nurse, on her first lesson in

one coaching by appointment. All equipment and support is provided.

To find out more, check our website at:

<https://cavershamcroquet.uk> or contact the club secretary,

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Get Jamming

with Sarah Roy – The Jam Lady



In our April edition, Sarah provided an introduction to the joys of jam making. This month she starts her regular feature with a classic -

Raspberry Jam

This jam is an absolute family favourite, my daughter won't have any other flavour on her toast! Raspberry Jam is one of the simplest and quickest recipes to follow. You'll be making your own in no time! This recipe will make

5-6 jars which will keep up to 12 months in a dark cupboard.

Ingredients

- 1kg raspberries – fresh or frozen
- 1kg granulated sugar

Method

1. Wash the jars and lids in hot water. Put into a warm oven (175°C) for 15 min to sterilise them. Put a saucer into the freezer.
2. Stew down the fruit in a large saucepan using a masher to break down to a pulp.
3. Stir in the sugar until it dissolves, then bring to a rolling boil.
4. When the mixture thickens, test the setting point by spooning a teaspoon of the hot jam onto the cold saucer. If you push your finger along the plate and the jam wrinkles on the top then it is ready. If not, keep on boiling and test again in a few minutes.
5. Once ready, ladle into the hot jars right to the top and firmly seal the lids. As the jam cools, a vacuum is created and the jam is preserved.

Perfect on fresh bread, scones or in a Victoria Sandwich - enjoy!

Follow Sarah on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/thejamladycaversham

WORD PUZZLE ANSWERS:

splat, snare, midge, crumb, gnat, drum, fly, bug, drug, pie, pill, flan, bill, rye, pile

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