

# Caversham Bridge

No 681

[www.cavershambridge.org](http://www.cavershambridge.org)

November 2021

## A CALL FOR ACTION

by Imogen Haley

HAVE YOU heard of CoP26? Perhaps only in passing, but I'm sure someone must have mentioned it recently. CoP26 stands for the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties, being held this year at the end of October beginning of November in Glasgow. It is when the countries in the United Nations meet to discuss their progress on the Paris Agreement (trying to keep the rise in the global temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius) and make decisions about lowering or cutting carbon emissions.

As a teenager, I feel that not enough is being done about global warming. Though many people are talking about it, few people actually know what to do to make a difference, myself included. I'm afraid this cycle of nothing actually happening will continue until we pass a point from which we can't turn back.

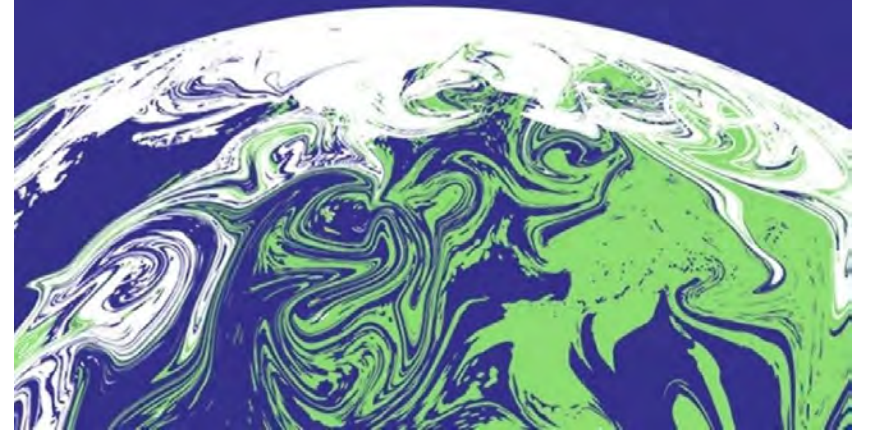
Whenever we have an assembly about

climate change in school, or I see it mentioned on the news, I feel quite anxious. I'm afraid that the current world leaders aren't doing enough to lower the rising temperatures, and failure on their part will have a knock-on effect for my generation, as it will be us who must deal with the current politicians' mistakes.

Because of this, I think that CoP26 is very important, as it will shift society's attention to the world's rising temperature, and the importance of lowering it. For this reason, I think that everyone, including in particular young people, should take this opportunity to learn about climate change. I believe educating yourself and others around you about the effects of climate change, and how it will impact our future as a generation, is paramount.

I'm sure you are aware of how important it is to recycle, how you should buy from ethical and sustainably sourced shops, or how you shouldn't throw away clothes into landfill. These things are great, but they are also not the only things we should do. My challenge to

## THE CLIMATE HAS NO BORDERS



you, dear reader, is to do your own research about CoP26 and tell at least one other person about it. This way, more and more people will become aware of the importance of the conference in Glasgow, and you will have played a part in it.



Poppies

painting by K Spencer-Millan

## And on a similar theme.....

by Phil Chatfield

ONE OF THE most important international conferences for many years is taking place in Glasgow this month. Our lead article (above) gives some background from the point of view of a young person and suggests one simple action we could all take.

A number of the articles in this expanded edition (20 pages)

also touch on climate change and the environment. Trish Marcouse writes about the national campaign to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by planting trees (p11), and we have a report on a recent Harvest Eco-Fest at St Andrew's Church in Albert Road (p17). We also highlight the efforts of Plastic Free Caversham to reduce single use plastic consumption (p9). The part played by woodland in our recreation and in

maintaining a habitat for a wide variety of species is emphasised by our Community Connections article from Caroline Gratrix (p13), together with an article on Clayfield Copse from Jude Oliver (p16). A warning for those with a fear of spiders, our Wildlife item this month looks at their valuable place in the natural scheme of things (p8).

Our contribution from Happy Wanderer looks back at the Caversham Bridge Hotel (p7) and its close association with the bridge over many years. November is the month for remembering those who have served our country over the years: the Poppy Day collection and Remembrance Day parades have had to change as a result of the pandemic, but do please continue to support the Royal British Legion in other ways (p4). Sadly, wars are still being fought around the world, with a huge armaments industry providing the weapons. Our article from Jenny Gordon on the peaceful protests of Quakers at a recent armaments fair throws a light on this trade (p4).

Local creativity is also to the fore this month, with a new book from local author Anita Frank previewed (p6), the Art Jam Studio appearing in Janina Maher's drawing (p15), and Creative Caversham featuring painter Kate Spencer-Millan (p12).

We do hope you enjoy this edition of the Caversham Bridge, your trusted local paper produced by volunteers. Do contact us if you have news to share or upcoming events which we can publicise. Write to us at [editors@cavershambridge.org](mailto:editors@cavershambridge.org).

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# News just out: young people pray twice as much as old people!

I WAS SURPRISED and delighted by a recent survey (see [Young more likely to pray than over-55s - survey - BBC News](#)) in which over 2,000 people were polled about their prayer life. Whilst over 50% of under 55s pray at least once a month, only 24% of over 55s did.

You may have shared my surprise. In most of the churches I have attended, more people are over 55 than under. Of course, some churches buck this trend, but I think the key explanation is younger people do not feel the need for formal institutional church – or other religion – to pray. And that is what delights me. Anyone can pray to God at any time. I believe a desire to communicate with our Maker, whatever form you may think He/She may take, is instinctive. Unfortunately, the society in which we live works on a secular basis, and there is no space for the spiritual



## Talking Point – by Andy Storch

dimension in everyday life. Politicians “Don’t do God” as Alastair Campbell (Tony Blair’s adviser at the time) said in 2003. But perhaps younger people are more aware of spiritual life, and whether this was increased during the pandemic, whether other religions have made a difference, or whether people are simply more prepared to find their own spiritual path, I am pleased that so many are looking for God.

But there are two things I suggest as a consequence. Firstly, I would say to the younger folk, do try church. You may have little sense of who it is you are praying to, but the good news is that God has been revealed. Jesus Christ jumps off the pages of the New Testament, which is read in every church in the land. As you learn of Jesus’ character, so you learn of God’s.

Secondly, for those over 55 (I claim my age qualifies me for neutrality in this article, as I am exactly 55, neither young nor old!), I say this: don’t harden your heart to God. Keep going to church, or return to church, or try church. But even without the help of church you too can connect with God. Prayer doesn’t require special words or a set formula. Praying is merely sharing your day, or sharing your gratitude and your worries, with the One who is with you forever. Many of us carry on talking to our loved ones after they have passed away. That is a type of prayer. Pray more. It puts the world into better perspective.

*Rev Andy Storch, curate of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham*

## 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](mailto: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: 0118 947 1703 e-mail [secretary@ctmparish.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ctmparish.org.uk)

#### Current services

St Peter’s Church –  
1st Sunday of the month:  
8:00 BCP Holy Communion  
9:30 Service of the Word with junior choir and potential for baptism  
2nd and 4th Sundays 9:30  
Holy Communion using existing service booklets, with adult and junior choir and Sunday Club  
3rd Sunday  
9:30 Holy Communion in a new, shorter format with junior choir  
18:30 Sung Choral Evensong.  
St John’s Church – 9:30  
St Margaret’s Church Mapledurham – 11:15  
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: 0118 947 2788 [www.standrewscaversham.org](http://www.standrewscaversham.org)

#### Current services

St Andrew’s weekly services are Sundays at 8:00 and 10:00. The 10:00 is also livestreamed on the St Andrew’s YouTube channel. Prayer Book Communion at 11.30 on the first Sunday of each month. More info on the parish website. [www.standrewscaversham.org/services](http://www.standrewscaversham.org/services)  
Wednesday 8pm Compline (in church/vicarage)

#### St Barnabas Emmer Green

David Howell (Churchwarden)  
Email: [churchwarden@saintbarnabas.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@saintbarnabas.org.uk)

#### Current Services

1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays of the month at 9:30:  
Parish Communion

1st Sunday of the month at 11:30: All Age Service  
3rd Sunday of the month at 9:30: Service of the Word  
Every Wednesday at 10:30: Midweek Communion

### CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (LEP)

(United Reformed Church, Methodist and Baptist)  
Contact: Dr Alison Johnston  
Tel: 0118 947 5152 [www.cavershamparkchurch.com](http://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 – Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road – 10:30 – (also available on Zoom – email: [martin.beukes@methodist.org.uk](mailto:martin.beukes@methodist.org.uk) for details)  
Sunday – Caversham Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road – 10:30

### CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Colin Baker  
Church office Tel: 0118 954 5353  
Email: [secretary@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk)

#### Current services

Sunday worship is at 10:30 each week  
A link is placed later on Sundays at:  
[www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.cavershambaptistchurch.org.uk)  
and on YouTube channel  
[www.youtube.com/user/CavershamBaptist](http://www.youtube.com/user/CavershamBaptist) where the recorded service is shown.

### GRACE CHURCH

(formerly Caversham Hill Chapel)

Pastor Keith Saynor  
Tel: 0118 9474529 [www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk](http://www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk)

#### Current services

See their web site for details:  
[www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk](http://www.gracechurchcaversham.org.uk)

### RIVERSIDE CHURCH (Reading)

[www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk](http://www.riversidechurchreading.co.uk)

### NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Rev’d H R Gayle  
Tel: 0118 946 3009 [www.ntcgreeding.org.uk](http://www.ntcgreeding.org.uk)

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

#### Our Lady and St Anne

Mgr Patrick Daly, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue.  
Tel: 0118 947 1787 [www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk)

#### Current services

See their web site for services at:  
[www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk)

### St Michael Sonning Common

Fr Michael Sharkey, St Michaels, Sonning Common  
Tel: 0118 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](http://www.cavershamchurch.org).

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

#### Future editions:

Contributions for the December 2021 issue should be submitted by 8 November and for the January 2022 edition by 6 December. These should be e-mailed to: [editors@cavershambridge.org](mailto:editors@cavershambridge.org)

Dates for advertising copy are 26 October for the December issue and 23 November for the January 2022 issue. These should be e-mailed to: [advertising@cavershambridge.org](mailto:advertising@cavershambridge.org)



## CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Standing on this bridge,  
Through all my years,  
My life is a smidge,  
Of all the cries and tears,  
That these stones have seen,  
Through the centuries.  
The battles that have been,  
Buildings out growing trees.

I have seen some changes,  
But not as many as the bricks.  
While this world rearranges,  
The crossing always sticks.  
Serving through the wars,  
In traffic jams and stories.  
Surviving human flaws,  
Amid disasters and glories.

If walls could talk out loud,  
They would tell a tale or two.  
The mysteries that shroud,  
Of which we have small clue.  
Walking over the bridge,  
As the sun sets on the river.  
Climbing down each ridge,  
I love the views the sides deliver.

This is my Caversham,  
This bridge my borders end.  
In midnight walks or daily jam,  
Always a good old friend.  
No matter where I roam,  
It's a kind sight to see.  
Letting me know I'm home,  
Sharing so much memory.

David Cuthbertson

## Caversham Bridge Subscriptions 2022

by Phil Chatfield - Chair

DESPITE RISING printing and delivery costs, we have decided to keep the cost of the annual subscription for the Caversham Bridge at £5. The cover cost for single copies will also be unchanged. However, if you can help support us in continuing to make the paper available in our area by paying more, we would be grateful for any additional contributions. Subscriptions are due as from 1 January 2022.

The collection of subscriptions can be a challenge for our volunteer deliverers, particularly in the light of the pandemic. Last year we introduced the option for direct payment which was used by a small number of subscribers. We now aim to make this option more generally available. If you can do so, we would appreciate payment by direct bank transfer.

To identify the payments, a reference made up of

your postcode and house number (or name) should be used. For example, 59 Church Street, Caversham, RG4 8AX would be RG48AX59. This will enable us to notify your deliverer that payment has been made directly. We have set up a new 'subscriptions only' account for this, details as follows:

Account Name: Caversham Christian News

Sort Code: 30-67-99

Account Number: 72808960

The option of paying your deliverer by cash or cheque on the doorstep continues to be available, as we know not everyone uses internet banking.

Finally, we have worked hard over the last 18 months to improve the paper. If you enjoy reading the Caversham Bridge, please recommend it to friends and neighbours. Your deliverer should be able to provide a complimentary copy if it would be helpful.

## Parkers Partnership

by Phil Chatfield



Miss Roseaman, Family Hub Leader photo Parkers

HAVE YOU caught sight of Parkers Estate Agents signboards in Caversham? The local branch of the company joined with Thameside Primary School to sponsor mental health and wellbeing services at the school delivered by BEAM Wellbeing. The school has a newly established Family Hub which supports families and carers within the Thameside Community. Parkers offered to contribute £25 towards the service for every one of their signboards hosted by parents, up to a total of 30. The target was met in just two days!

An Advanced Drawing & Talking practitioner from BEAM provides gentle therapeutic early intervention to help children overcome emotional problems like anxiety, low self-esteem, bereavement and trauma.

For more information, see the school's website at:

[www.thamesideprimary.co.uk](http://www.thamesideprimary.co.uk) and Parkers' Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/ParkersCaversham/posts/223904346454762](https://www.facebook.com/ParkersCaversham/posts/223904346454762).

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The annual subscription including delivery is £5.00. Alternatively copies of this paper can be purchased from: NOODSkin in Church Street and Fourbears Books and at the True Food Community Co-Op in Grove Road, opposite St Barnabas church.



# Shining a light on a dark trade

by Jenny Gordon

WE ARE APPALLED by news portraying scenes of death and destruction in war-torn countries across the world. We also see people fleeing those countries, risking all in flimsy boats to find sanctuary here. But do we make any connection?

On 14 September, Quakers joined others taking action against the Arms Fair network, challenging attendees and listening to those directly impacted by weapons sold at this event. The Defence and Security Equipment International Arms Fair held at the Excel Centre in London is one of the biggest trade shows for the arms industry this year. Over four days, more than 1,500 companies displayed their products to 30,000 visitors from around the world. The weapons sold by these companies cause suffering and devastation across the world. And British companies are among those profiting from this.

Our protest started on the eve of the fair, with a candlelit peace vigil under police surveillance. They allowed only 100 of us inside the Excel Centre perimeter fence. Some of us stood outside to complete the circle. We heard heartrending stories from victims of bombing, notably in Yemen, where

90% of casualties are civilians. Attacks are made close to residential areas, destroying health services, transport systems, schools and telecommunications. A mother told how her young son was blinded and lost both his hands. She hoped the whole family would be killed outright in the next attack, rather than suffering further.

The next morning, after an early Worship Meeting, there was further non-violent action. People lay in the road to stop

cars heading for the Centre. Buyers and sellers who walked in were met with banners and verbal challenges. 'War starts here', 'Give blood, don't spill it' and 'Armed with love' were just a few of the messages.

The 'Walk of death' took place on 15 September. With a police escort, Quakers made a pilgrimage on foot to the headquarters of weapons manufacturers in London. We held silent vigils, with our banners,

outside the premises of Northrop Grumman UK, DAE systems, Boeing UK and Lockheed Martin, none of whom identify themselves on their buildings.

While so many of us try to make peace with our planet, we ask two questions: 'Why is the manufacture of arms not included in the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions calculations?', and 'Why do we give the cold shoulder to those who are fleeing from the weapons we produce?'



Jenny at the protest

photo C Davidson

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## We will remember them

THIS YEAR we mark 20 years since British forces became involved in Afghanistan. On Remembrance Sunday we honour all who have served in our armed services. However, because of the constraints imposed by the Covid epidemic, it is not possible to hold the usual parade. A gathering will occur at the Caversham Cenotaph at 11:00 on Sunday 14 November. Full details are not available at the time of writing.

Changes in the way the British Legion collection for Poppy Day is organised have also been necessary. The Legion is focussing on collection at larger events, where contactless devices can be used, rather than door to door collections. Please do look out for these or visit their website at [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk) to make a donation.

This year also marks the retirement of Pauline Palmer from her role in local fund raising. After more than 20 years, she feels now is the time to step down. She said "I am sad not to be organising the appeal any longer, but want to thank everyone for their support over the years".

Many local churches will be holding Remembrance Services on 14 November – for details check their websites (details on page 2).

Based on information from Pauline Palmer

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## WHAT'S ON

IF YOU have an event planned, please send details to [editors@cavershambridge.org](mailto:editors@cavershambridge.org). We need to receive these no later than the 10th of the month before the event for inclusion in the printed paper. Later submissions can be included in our online What's On, which is updated regularly. To see what has been added check: [cavershambridge.org:5154/local-info/whats-on](http://cavershambridge.org:5154/local-info/whats-on)

**Caversham Library** opening: 09:00 -17:00 Tuesday and Friday, 13:00 – 17:00 Thursday and 10:00 – 15:00 Saturday [www.reading.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/all-libraries/caversham-library](http://www.reading.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/all-libraries/caversham-library)

**Sundays – Farmer's Market and Artisan Fair** 10:00 – 15:00 Caversham precinct [www.facebook.com/CAFMarket](https://www.facebook.com/CAFMarket)

**Tuesdays – Rivarate Choir** – 19:00 Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road. Enjoy singing together. For details see <http://rivarate.com>

**Monday 1 November – Caversham Park Bridge Club** – at the Milestone Centre, 19:15 for 19:30 start. Phone Lin 9477820 for further information. [www.bridgewebs.com/cavershampark](http://www.bridgewebs.com/cavershampark)

**Wednesday 3 November – Rosehill WI** –14:00 St Barnabas Village Hall

**Thursday 4 November – Caversham Inner Wheel friendship lunch** – Mapledurham Village Hall, Trench Green. This is a fund-raising event for the President's charity of the year, the Ways and Means Trust. Finger buffet and talk on Hollywood and films. For details, contact Anne Long, email [longsoflyegrove@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:longsoflyegrove@yahoo.co.uk)

**Friday 5 November – Bereavement Café** – monthly drop-in for the bereaved 14:00 – 15:30, St Barnabas Parish Centre, Emmer Green, RG4 8RA Every first Friday of the month. All welcome. Contact Gillian Wilson 0118 9478772 for information.

**Saturday 13 November – Artists & Makers Fair** – 10:00-16:00 – Caversham Methodist Hall, 272 Gosbrook Road. Local artists and craftspeople display their work for sale. Free entry. Phone Jean 07808 966928 for information.

**Wednesday 17 November – Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild** – 14:30 Wesley lounge of Caversham Heights Methodist Church, 74 Highmoor Road. Any Ladies wishing to join will be most welcome. Contact Margaret Miles 01491 681223 for further information

**Thursday 18 November – Caversham WI meeting** – 19:30 Church House (next to Waitrose). Every 3rd Thursday of the month. New members are welcome. Email: [cavershamwi@berkshirewi.co.uk](mailto:cavershamwi@berkshirewi.co.uk) Secretary: Joy Kennedy 07786642424

**Friday 19 November – Private viewing of local artist Scarlet Page's photographic portraits of local artists** – 19:00 - 21:00 Charity evening in support of MIND - mental health charity held at Creativ.Spaces, South View Park, Marsack Street, Caversham. Tickets £10 from [www.madebytamilia.co.uk](http://www.madebytamilia.co.uk) - all proceeds for MIND.

**Sunday 21 November – Christmas Gifts and Art Market** – 15:30 - Fun for all the family. taking place in the car park at Creativ.Spaces, South View Park, Marsack Street, Caversham. Open all day. A chance to do your Christmas shopping, meet local traders and have some fun. Over 25+ stalls, food, crafts, art, refreshments, children's art activities, Santa.....

**Advance notice:** Caversham Traders Association have agreed to hold a pre-Christmas late night shopping evening on Friday 3 December. Details to follow. Check their web site: [www.choosecaversham.co.uk](http://www.choosecaversham.co.uk)

## 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

PLANNING APPLICATIONS approved this month include changes to what was the Happy Diner on Prospect Street. The earlier plans showed an extra storey on the Prospect Street frontage, but this was removed when plans were amended.

The weeping willow in front of the Canoe Club is diseased and permission has been given to cut it to the ground. This will be a sad loss, as it forms such an important part of the view from across the river, which is formally recognised in both St Peters Conservation Area and the Significant Views with Heritage Interest in Reading's Local Plan. We trust that the Canoe Club will make early plans to plant at least one replacement tree as was requested by the Council.

A new application at 58 Prospect Street (ref 211478) is for a two-storey detached house adjacent to the interesting large building on the corner with Oxford Street.

A Winter Wonderland is planned for Hills Meadow from 12 November to 3 January. CADRA is raising concerns about the long period of disturbance to local residents from this.

The Council is to consider several nominations for Local Listing, including the Attwells' Drinking Fountain on Thames Promenade. Unveiled in 1908, it was erected in memory of Frank



Attwells' Drinking Fountain

photo Evelyn Williams

Attwells, a local businessman who founded a musical instrument manufacturers and piano dealers in 1866 and in 1887 took over the Royal County Theatre, both on Friar Street. He died in August 1892 while Mayor of Reading. His wife Georgina provided money in her will for a fountain to be erected in his memory. Originally it was placed closer to the main road and the Caversham Bridge Hotel. CADRA will be writing in support of the listing before the consultation closes on 4 November.

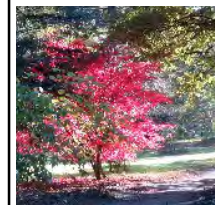


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## CAVMAS! Caversham's Christmas shopping evening

CAVERSHAM TRADERS have organised a Late-Night Shopping and Christmas Extravaganza for Friday 3 December from 18:00. Caversham Artisan & Farmers Market will be putting together a selection of food and gift stalls in the precinct. Dancers, choirs and bands will be performing through the centre of Caversham in Church Street, the precinct, Prospect Street and up to The Last Crumb.

Shops will be staying open until late and there will be a pop-up bar in the precinct bought to you by Chapter, who will be open and festive on Prospect Street as well. There will also be a reverse Santa - instead of asking Santa for a gift, you bring one to him to give to those who may go without this year.

The whole Christmas night stretches from the precinct in Church Street up through Prospect Street to The Last Crumb, where there will be further entertainment and festivity. The smell of mulled wine will be filling the streets and yummy food available all evening!

Jodie at NOODSkin





## For your bookshelf....



### Your task for the day

Welcome to 'Fourbears Reviews' where we briefly review a couple of titles chosen from our bookshop 'Fourbears Books' on Prospect Street. We are fully on the countdown to Christmas now, so pop down for all your booky Christmas gifts, advent calendars, and diaries.

by Alex Forbes



The bear would choose....

photo A Forbes

THE FIRST BOOK is beautiful albeit a little sad; 'The Death House' by Sarah Pinborough is about Toby who has forgotten how to live. It is set in a world where death is everywhere and children are tested for a mysterious illness and, if they test positive, they are whisked away to 'The Death House' where they will die. The house is filled with children and we see the world through Toby's eyes as friends he makes start showing symptoms, and there is only one outcome. Then Clara turns up and changes his world reminding Toby how to live, bringing a determination that her

story won't end at the Death House. Not suitable for younger readers, but a stunning melancholic book which we absolutely love.

The TV show Taskmaster is brilliant. It's original and funny, and currently on Channel 4, pitting comedians against each other carrying out random tasks. The show has released a book with 101 Next-Level Tasks for the family to play together. Tasks range from dressing up, or drawing certain things to creating something, all within a time limit per task. A perfect gift for cold

weekends with family or friends to see who comes out on top.

If you are preparing for next year, we have the beautiful Caversham Calendar for 2022 in stock featuring a different Caversham location for each month created by the talented local artist Janina Maher.

Happy reading and contact us if you have any book needs. Our subscription service is becoming quite popular and is a perfect Christmas present!

## The Return

a book by Anita Frank



both the Goldsboro Glass Bell Award and the Historical Writers' Association Debut Crown in 2020.

A year later and she is celebrating the publication of her second novel. 'The Return' is a sweeping story of love, sacrifice and loss set around the Second World War. The novel opens in May 1945 as the bells ring out for Victory in Europe but, for one young mother, the celebrations elicit a sense of dread.

When Gwen's husband, Jack, left for the war, he made a parting pledge to his pregnant bride that he would never return – it was, after all, best for everyone that he didn't. Now Gwen is terrified he will renege on his promise, threatening the life she has built for herself and their son on the family farm. But war has changed Jack and he is coming

home, determined to claim a place in Gwen's life – and her heart. As events of the past come back to haunt them both, Jack and Gwen find themselves facing their greatest battle yet – and it is a fight neither of them can afford to lose.

'The Return' is available in hardback from 11 November, and any copies ordered through Fourbears Books in Caversham can be signed and dedicated on request.

by Fred Smith

LAST NOVEMBER we published an article by local author Anita Frank describing how her first book, a ghost story 'The Lost Ones', came to be published. The book was shortlisted for

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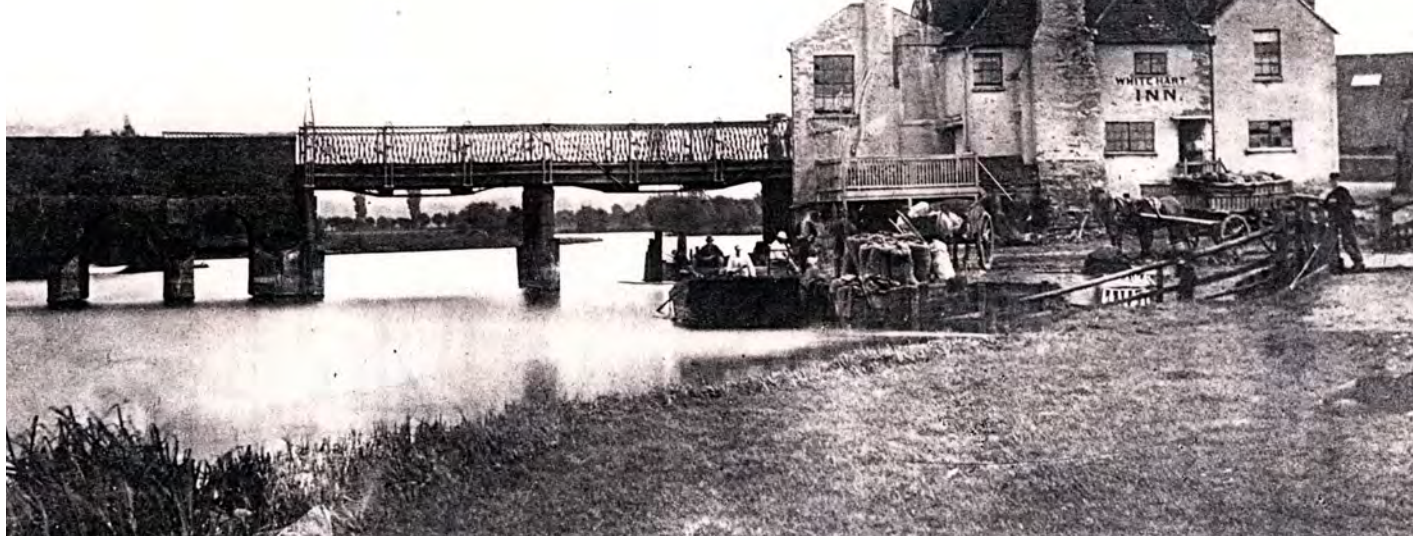
# Happy Wanderer checks into The Caversham Bridge Hotel

THE EARLIEST mention of the bridge in the historical record comes in 1231 and the earliest mention of an inn at the Reading end of the bridge comes in 1614. Of course this does not mean that bridge and inn were not there long before those dates.

In their journeys between Caversham and Reading, many readers will be familiar with the Crowne Plaza Hotel, and perhaps with the former names of the building, the Holiday Inn and the Caversham Hotel. Those of us who have lived here for rather longer will remember the previous building on the site, the Caversham Bridge Hotel, gracious and spacious with lawns going down to the Thames, overlooked by the restaurant.

...a place for dinners with work colleagues...

Happy Wanderer recalls it as a place for dinners with work colleagues, at Christmas or when someone retired. In fact, this building was the second Caversham Bridge Hotel. The first one had been built in 1890 but lasted for only eleven years. The Borough Council decided that it would have to be moved slightly to accommodate a new bridge, and the replacement hotel opened in 1901. Then the First World War intervened and delayed construction of the new Caversham Bridge, which was finally opened in 1926.



This first Caversham Bridge Hotel of 1890 in its turn replaced a much older inn, The White Hart, which appears in our picture. It comes from the collection of local studies illustrations in Reading Central Library. Reading had another White Hart, on the corner of what was then called Oxford Street and St. Mary's Butts, the site now occupied by the Metro Bank.

As can be seen in the photograph, the left-hand part of the bridge was a series of masonry arches, with a timber and iron section to connect them to the Reading bank. This peculiarity was the result of the partial demolition of the bridge during the Civil War, a wooden drawbridge spanning the demolished section. Both armies had more men than there were townsfolk, demanding food, lodging, horses and money, and bringing diseases in their wake. As a result of long-standing disputes over who should repair the bridge, its 'temporary' section remained

until 1868. The whole of the bridge was then rebuilt in iron, which was both rather ugly, and narrow. When the present-day bridge was planned, it was proposed to bring the corporation trams over it to Caversham, but this never happened.

More detailed information on the inns and public houses of Reading and Caversham can be found in a newly published book, 'Abbot Cook to Zero Degrees: an A to Z of Reading's Pubs and Breweries'. The Happy Wanderer played a part in putting it together, and the History of Reading Society has paid for its publication. The survey goes back through the centuries, and includes around five hundred establishments, twenty-two of which were in Caversham. Of these twenty-two, thirteen are still in business, though some with different names. Copies can be purchased at Fourbears Books in Prospect Street, Caversham.

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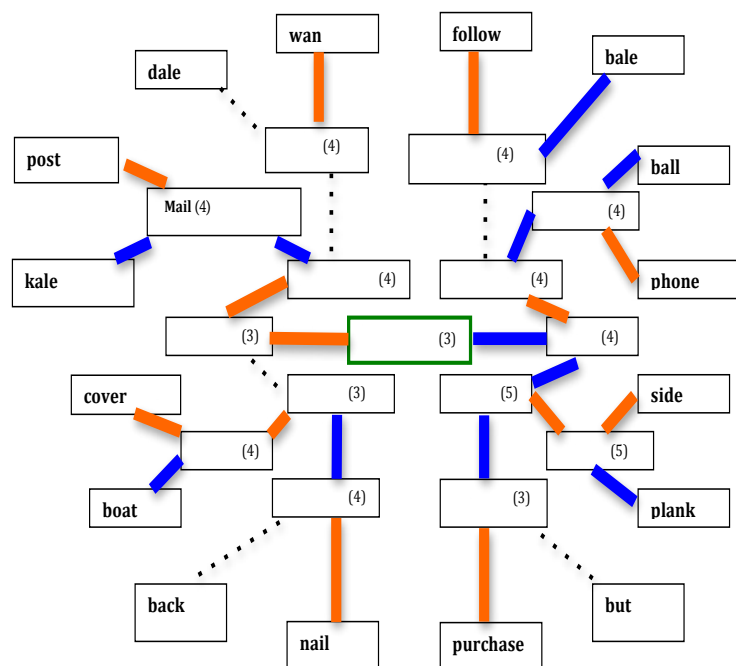
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## Puzzle Corner

### The Challenge by Rachel

Find the word that has the same meaning as the clue; or rhymes with; or has one letter that is different. For example: *mail* has 4 letters, rhymes with *kale* and means *post*.

Rhyme ———  
Letter change . . . . .  
Meaning ———



### WORD SEARCH

Can you find the 18 garden related words here?

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C R E W O M N W A L B A G H  
H S H E A R S N A T U C R T  
S P A D E E S O R B R G E A  
F L O W E R P O T U H N E P  
W S H E D A W A P L S I N N  
A E C R R E E F T B S R H E  
S A O O L O O S H I N E O D  
E D R S S R C R R U O T U R  
K L E L K E E K C O E A S A  
A D C E T H O S E O G W E G  
R B A C S R O D R R E O O A  
E R H E P H E P N A Y P L L

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Fork  
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Garden Path  
Greenhouse  
Hose  
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Answers on page 19

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# Misunderstood Critters

by LaToya Atkinson

HAVE YOU ever wondered what lurks around in your garden and what their purpose is? One particular creature I am sure you have seen often enough, who just so happens to be the man in the middle of our ecosystem, is the very common Garden Spider. These spiders can be anything from light yellow to dark grey in colour, but they all have one specific feature that you can't miss - white marks on their abdomen.

Garden Spiders are famous for spinning orb webs. These are vertical silk webs formed from a central point where the spider will either remain or hide in near-by plants. They wait patiently for their prey, mostly flying insects, to get stuck on the sticky silk. They will quickly bite their prey to paralyse them, before expertly wrapping them up in a type of cocoon for a very tasty meal later on. In doing this, they help naturally to control the insect population and any potential pest problems.

Garden Spiders are not only predators. They are themselves prey for a wide variety of birds, lizards and wasps, making their role within our ecosystem

a very important one. The autumn is a good time to spot their webs. So next time you come across one of these critters, why not take a step back and appreciate them and the part they play in the web of life?

## Some live indoors!

Regular reader Ruth Wright also sent us a spider photograph this month!!

When Incy Wincy needs a drink, any 'watering hole' will do. In this case my half-filled contact lens case.

I couldn't believe my eyes!



Garden Spider

photo L Atkinson

## Weller Welcome

by Hazel Bingham

ON 1 OCTOBER, the Weller Centre organised a special celebration of the International Day of Older People established by the United Nations in 1990. Senior Caversham residents came along to enjoy several organised activities, although the highlight of the day may well have been the meal prepared by volunteers! A busy kitchen and plenty of satisfied guests. The lunch was served by one of our young people who gave up his inset day from school to carry plates, cups and glasses - both full and empty. Once everyone had eaten, they played Connect 4, quoits and Jenga, as well as chatting at the tables.

The Weller Team hope this will be the first of many events for everyone and we look forward to welcoming those who couldn't make it this time at future events. The next date for the diary is 5 November. Booking via phone

01189475828 or email  
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The guests enjoying the meal photo S Prendiville



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## Wipe-out

I WAS recently asked if I knew of a source of environmentally sound sanitising wipes for use on children's toys. I contacted Bio-D, who manufacture a range of eco cleaning products. Their response was: 'Wipes don't have a very good eco credential as they

are used once and then thrown away. So it isn't something we would be looking at introducing to our range.

Try our all-purpose sanitiser. Use it on all hard surfaces – simply spray on and wipe off after 60 seconds using a clean damp cloth.'

Bio-D products are available in a number of local shops, including the True Food Co-op in Emmer Green.

Phil Chatfield



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## CAVERSHAM TACKLES PLASTIC WASTE

by Anne-Marie Evans

ON THE NORTH bank of the River Thames, people in Caversham are working to reduce single-use plastic and improve the area's eco-credentials. Plastic Free Caversham is part of the nationwide initiative by marine conservation group Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) to encourage local communities towards accredited plastic-free status.

The group was founded in 2019 by local business owner Anne-Marie Evans and Caversham Councillor Ayo Sokale. It aims to help residents, businesses and schools to reduce reliance on single-use plastics.

Activities have included a successful 'mass unwrap' event at Caversham Waitrose and several litter picking events. A number of local organisations and businesses, including community hub The Weller Centre and popular vegan café Vegivores, have implemented changes to become Plastic Free Champions, helping the group to achieve four out of the five objectives in the SAS accreditation process.

The group has also had a busy summer of fundraising to install a water refill station in central Caversham, believing this to be a simple but effective way to discourage people from buying single-use plastic water bottles when visiting the area.

Through the sale of bamboo reusable cups and a Just Giving page, at the time of writing they are about 20% of the way towards their £3,000 target, with a proportion of funds raised also heading to the SAS national plastic



free campaign. During August and into September, there has been a lot going on behind the scenes with key players in the community to bolster these funds and make this goal a reality - so watch this space.

The final task for Caversham is to unite community allies to support the group's efforts, which would secure accreditation through the Surfers Against Sewage scheme. This would bring the group closer to their long-term goal of achieving champion status for Reading.

If you would like to get involved with Plastic Free Caversham, email Anne-Marie on [annemarieev@gmail.com](mailto:annemarieev@gmail.com). If you are interested in working towards plastic-free status in your local area, visit <https://plasticfree.org.uk> to find out more about the scheme and how to get started.

For further information see:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/plasticfreecaversham](https://www.facebook.com/plasticfreecaversham)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/plasticfreecaversham](https://www.instagram.com/plasticfreecaversham)

Just Giving page: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/plastic-free-caversham](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/plastic-free-caversham)



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# TIME FOR A MULCH?



*by Les Cooper*

FOR SOME reason or another I think of November as a good time of year for mulching. It's probably because my compost bins are so full and in need of emptying they are groaning. I blame that recent period when our green bins were not collected.

The answer to the full compost bin problem would appear to be to use the contents for mulching things like my gooseberries. However, as I have written before, when I did this a year or two ago it was a disaster. Back then, I unloaded my 'compost' and spread it around my gooseberry bushes and the following spring every weed known to gardeners infested the wretched bushes. The sad fact is I am not conscientious enough, and I suspect I am not alone in this, and I have never been that good at compost making. In the past I have made wooden compost bins the rats seemed to appreciate for their nests; built ones made of wire fencing that fell apart; and in latter years, bins that preserved the weeds rather well. Now, to boost my morale, I have bought a new expensive aerobic composter bin that promises to conserve enough heat to ensure all weed seeds are annihilated. It is made of thick polystyrene and has,

amongst other things, two thermometers, straps to hold it together, a stirrer and lots of instructions. If it is as good as the blurb says, then it will be the answer to my prayers and a problem solved. We shall see, but even now I am rather doubtful. Meanwhile, here is something to keep us busy.

It is planting tulip bulbs. Surely tulips are one of the 'must grows' for any gardener, especially if we get a spring similar to the last one. My wife, Eunice, and I planted quite a few, and it really paid off this year when we had a good display over a relatively long period. This was possibly due to the cool spring weather, or perhaps because we had chosen a range of bulbs with differing flowering periods. An acquaintance told me that they had a poor show with their tulips and wondered why? The answer was, I think, that the bulbs had not been planted deep enough and perhaps too soon. Monty Don suggests November planting and says it is better to plant tulip bulbs too deeply rather than not deeply enough. Naturally, Eunice and I have differing opinions about which ones to grow. I like the Parrot 'shaggy' sort, while she prefers Apeldoorn tulips growing to heights of 18 to 20 inches and glowing in shaded reds and yellows. This means that we finish up with a wide selection and that's no bad thing.



Top left: 'Parrot Tulips;  
Top right: Apeldoorn Tulips;  
Lower right: Mixed Tulips

*all photos E Cooper*

But undoubtedly the best idea of all is to cosy up in a warm armchair and dream about your garden plans for 2022.

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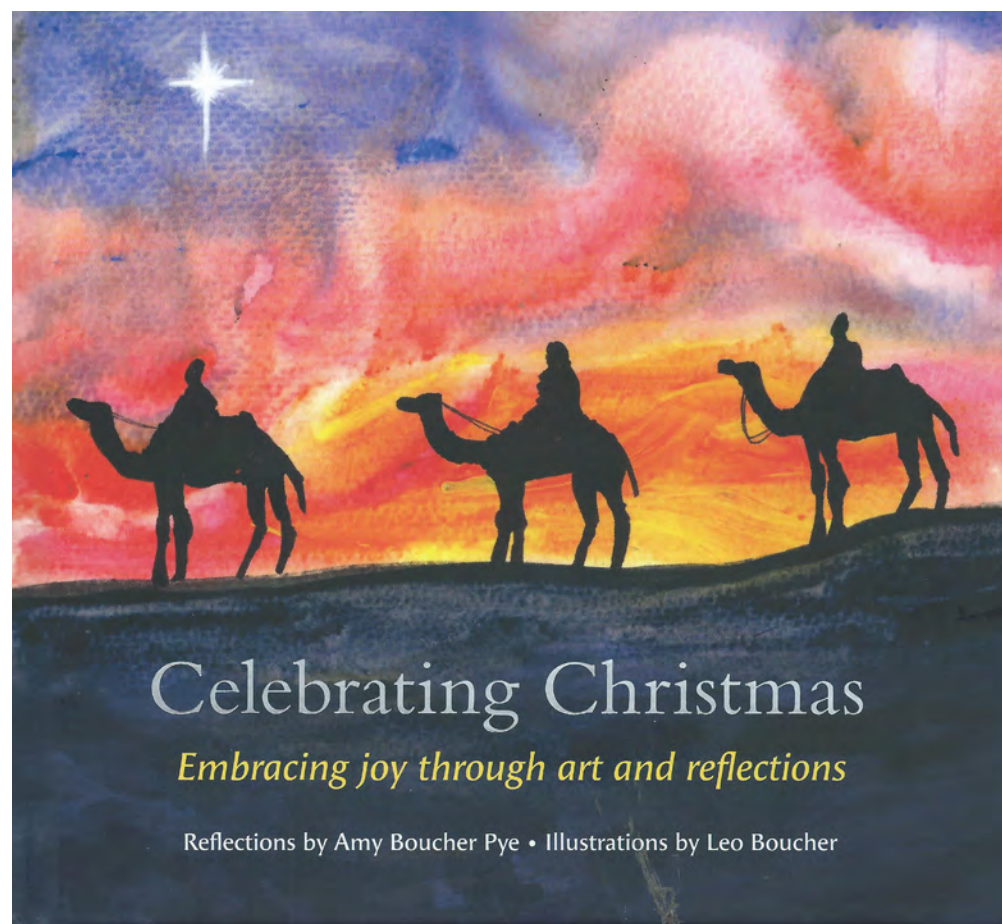
## CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS: EMBRACING JOY THROUGH ART AND REFLECTIONS

Reviewed by Meryl Beek

HAVE YOU noticed how much improved book covers are these days? Instead of a plain title and author plate, there is a bright picture here which makes us want to open the book and look more closely.

The approach taken by author Amy Boucher Pye in this book is original and likened to a chef making a Christmas pudding, with choice ingredients well blended. There are reflections on both familiar, and perhaps unfamiliar, Bible passages, mixed with memories of our Christmases gone by (and not just the good ones!), candlelit services and family customs.

The artwork is by Amy's father, Leo Boucher. It is simple but means more as we take a closer look. The book could be used on a daily basis through Advent, as a preparation for the Christmas festival, or just picked up over the Christmas holiday. Keep it for use again next year, as there is nothing in it which dates.



It will certainly help us to come closer to God in these strange and difficult times. The book can be obtained through Fourbears Books in Caversham.

Celebrating Christmas: Embracing joy through art and reflections by Amy Boucher Pye, Illustrated by Leo Boucher. Price £9.99  
ISBN 978 1 800 390515



# The Queen's Green Canopy

by Tricia Marcouse



OVER THE next six months you'll hear more and more about this project, which asks everyone to plant a tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and mark them on the UK map at [www.queensgreencanopy.org](http://www.queensgreencanopy.org)

This is a great idea for carbon storage and biodiversity, provided it is the right tree in the right place! The carbon emitted can be significant from a tree that has been in a nursery, possibly imported and moved around the country. Add the disruption to the existing balance of micro-organisms, fungi and invertebrates from a newly dug hole, and the release of carbon if the tree is cut down because it has grown too big, and it will probably result in more net releases of greenhouse gases than it has stored over those years. And then the wood will rot down and release still more.

Planting is best done between the middle of October (for pot grown trees), or end of November (for bare-rooted plants), to the end of February, so now is the time to choose and order your tree. You can't know whether the next owner of your house will love the tree or get rid of it, but it's best not to choose one that is almost guaranteed to be a nuisance in a couple of decades. Homework is needed, and not at the garden centre where the labels tell you how large the tree will be in ten years, but not



Witch Hazel in flower

photo T Marcouse



Witch Hazel

photo T Marcouse

the final height and width. The Royal Horticultural Society website gives these details for a huge range of native and non-native trees on [www.rhs.org.uk/plants/types/trees](http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/types/trees) and provides honest recommendations.

Native trees are far more likely to support a good range of biodiversity than non-natives, but most will grow far too large for a small urban garden. Crab Apple, Rowan, Bird Cherry and Alder Buckthorn are pretty much your only options for a non-poisonous tree with flowers and fruit. A factsheet from Reading Climate Action Network (RCAN) gives final height and best soil conditions for many of our native species: <https://readingcan.org.uk/growing-trees-for-carbon-storage-and-biodiversity>.

If you live on a very large plot, then please consider planting something like a native oak tree in an open space to grow for the next five centuries. For the rest of us, there are other options. Consider

planting a hedge, including some native species, or choose a cultivar that may be far more suitable for a small plot. There are loads of different crab apples with different coloured flowers, leaves and fruit, smaller, less thorny hawthorns or columnar birches. Or choose a multi-stemmed tree or contorted form that does not grow as tall and is a beautiful structure for the winter when the leaves drop. The RCAN factsheet trees-for-small-gardens-factsheet.pdf may be useful.

Don't forget fruit trees: there is an apple variety and rootstock to suit every garden and every taste. The RCAN factsheet on trees for small gardens may be useful.

Finally, in a small garden, think about large shrubs as well as 'trees'. A witchhazel makes a great multi-stemmed small tree with an interesting structure and scented blossom in winter and something for a clematis or honeysuckle to climb over for the summer.

Choose wisely and please 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'. Contact [nature@readingcan.org.uk](mailto:nature@readingcan.org.uk) if you need more help.



Multi-stemmed birch

photo T Marcouse

## The Climate for Electric Cars by Helen Lambert

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**The Climate for Electric Cars**

Phil Coker, Reading University  
and Anthony Simpson, Renewable Energy and Sustainability specialist

**Wednesday 10 November 2021  
7.30pm**

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[www.cadra.org.uk](http://www.cadra.org.uk)

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Residents' Association

ARE YOU debating changing to an electric car? What are the benefits and challenges for you and for the energy industry? Is an electric vehicle really greener? And how does this fit in to all the national issues on energy supply?

Phil Coker, from the University of Reading, is examining the variability of renewable energy supplies and the challenges in moving towards a low carbon energy system. This includes demand response, energy storage, vehicle-to-grid and hydrogen applications. Anthony Simpson works in Renewable Energy and Sustainability, including the grid integration of electric vehicles. Together, they will address these complex questions in a Zoom online meeting Wednesday 10 November at 19:30. Register at:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/theclimate-for-electric-cars-tickets-177978146427](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/theclimate-for-electric-cars-tickets-177978146427)

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## Finding her path to fulfilment: El Camino leads Kate to her calling

**MOST OF** the artists we have met are based locally: Kate Spencer-Millan makes regular excursions to the area to contribute to our artistic community. But then, as she explained to Elestr Lee, one very special pilgrimage is the inspiration for her artistic expression



**T**he various opportunities for creative artists within Caversham and the immediate area are a matter of pride – and even some surprise that there is so much going on. Artist Kate Spencer-Millan had travelled some considerable distance before settling down to live in Berkshire with her husband and baby son – but she finds herself drawn from her home in Maidenhead to Caversham on a regular basis, both to showcase her works and to pass on her skills in classes.

She grew up in Stockport, Manchester and studied interior design at Huddersfield. Kate then spent 12 years in Canada, where she married a Canadian. The couple moved to the UK three and a half years ago, and her husband's job in Reading led Kate to joining the Reading Guild of Artists and making connections with many local artists.

"This area definitely has so much to get your teeth into, especially compared with Maidenhead," she comments.

Having completed an interior design degree, she decided this was not the career for her. "It's not creative enough for me, it's having to work with other people's ideas," Kate explains. So she re-trained as a hairdresser. However, she found herself enticed back to her paint brushes, having always been very creative. By the time she came back to the UK she planned to concentrate on art, working in mixed media – acrylics and stitching. However, just prior to returning, she went on a course using alcohol inks. She intended to do the course just for fun – but by the time she reached the UK, she knew she was hooked!

Kate's new-found passion for creating works using alcohol ink coincided with another new interest – and another new passion - when she discovered the Christian pilgrimage hike El Camino de Santiago. This crosses the Pyrenees, ending up at Saint James Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, in Galicia, Spain. "My husband has family in Spain, and one of his relatives said, 'I'm on the Camino.' I asked, 'What's the Camino?' Having found out about the hike, I did it myself. Then I went back and did it again with my husband. People become addicted to it, and do it multiple times," Kate explains.

Kate chose to start the 500-mile journey from Roncesvalles, on the Spanish side of the border with France in the Pyrenees, and completed the Pilgrims Way in 34 days. "The people doing this are a mixture of those



Kate (left); *Path to somewhere* (above)

*All photos: K Spencer-Millan*

who are religious, while for the majority it is just a hike – but let's face it, few people have the chance to get this amount of time off. To do the walk, you really have to take it one step at a time – doing the Camino is like a lesson in life!" she says.

Having done the Camino a couple of times Kate became engrossed in recalling her experiences. "All I wanted to do was remember and return to the Camino. I created paintings based on the photos I had taken and posted them online. Then I started to get commissions, both from people who had already done the walk, and those planning to. I suddenly knew that this is what I really wanted to do."

Capturing the varied landscape of the Camino has become Kate's inspiration, and she has been thrilled to experiment with the possibilities opened up by using alcohol ink. "I prefer to use Yupo paper because, although the ink can be used on many surfaces, it works best on non-porous materials. The alcohol ink evaporates, leaving the colour behind. It is different from water colour – brighter, and the colours merge, so you can achieve lots of effects as the ink dries. You can control it to a certain extent – but it is a very organic way of painting."

Kate's works featuring the Camino cover the Pyrenees, which form the first section of the hike; the flat plains of the Meseta – when walkers find their

bodies have eased into the challenge, and they have time to think! Then the green, hilly landscape of Galicia. "I have completed at least a hundred paintings of the Camino," Kate says. "Although I also do abstract works, as well as portraits, and I am just about to start a portrait of my 18-month-old son, Rio."

Examples of Kate's work can be seen during November at Art Jam in Caversham – including some of her paintings of the Camino. She has led workshops at Art Jam, and exhibits in the Artists and Makers Fairs which take place at the Methodist Church in Gosbrook Road, Caversham.

Find out more:

[www.spencermillanart.com](http://www.spencermillanart.com)

Rio (left); *Camino hiker* (below)







## A Crafty Cuppa – with Corinne Atherton

by Ruth Martin

DO YOU EVER wonder where the flowers you pop into your supermarket trolley are from? It turns out that they're mostly intensively farmed and imported from abroad, bringing with them a substantial carbon footprint. Keen to find a more sustainable bouquet, Caversham-based Corinne Atherton researched a new wave of UK flower farms which take a different approach - growing blooms from seed and offering freshly cut bunches reflecting the seasons.

As an avid gardener and a lover of colour, Corinne set about growing her own flowers from her garden in Caversham, and House & Flower was born. She experimented with creating hand-tied bunches that would look beautiful, smell divine and be sustainably produced. "Every stem in one of my bunches is grown by me, there are no airmiles, no plastic packaging and no pesticides."

Corinne's fledgling business bloomed during lockdown,

"I started spending more time in the garden and found I loved being outdoors, it was so joyous working everyday with this beautiful product and I found the whole process from planting a seed to it transforming into an incredible flower absolutely fascinating."

After a summer of providing colourful bunches to families in her road, all very pleased to be testers of her new creations, Corinne is back to planting seeds and planning for next year. "The neighbours gave me a wonderful opportunity to practice arrangements and learn what it takes to create the perfect bouquet. I can't wait to get growing and do it all again now, just a little bigger and better than before!"

If you're inspired to get planting, Corinne tells me this is the time of year to order the seed catalogues and plan next year's spring and summer blooms. I have it on good recommendation that snap dragons and sweet peas are ones to be thinking about now! And of course, you can bear House & Flower in mind if you're in need of a seasonal hand-tied bunch of flowers grown just a stone's throw from home. What could be more blooming lovely?

To find out more about Corinne, please check her Instagram account, [@house\\_and\\_flower](https://www.instagram.com/house_and_flower).



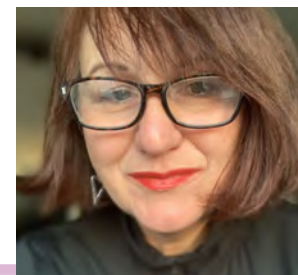
Corinne with some of her flowers photo B Atherton



## Community Connections

by Caroline Gratrix

This month, we learn  
something about local  
resident Nicky Culetto



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I STUMBLED across Woodland Women on social media in the summer. This is a weekly meet up for women who enjoy spending time outdoors. I thought, "That's something I'd love to do," so put my name on the waiting list. When a place came up, I went to see what it was all about.



photo C Gratrix

Woodland Women is run by Julia Warwick (left), a Director at Path Hill Outdoors, and Nicky Culetto (right), who works part-time.

At that first session we made tea with freshly picked herbs, learned how to light a fire and cooked flat breads. It was magical and I was hooked! Since then, we've enjoyed meditative moments in nature, made survival bracelets, learned how to chop kindling and tie knots, foraged for blackberries, and made delicious crumble. It's now my favourite part of the week.

Nicky lives in Caversham so let's

find out a little more about how she became involved, along with how she feels about our Caversham Community.

**Tell us a bit about you Nicky....**

**How did you get involved with Woodland Women?**

Path Hill Outdoors is an outdoor centre based in the beech woodland at Hardwick Estate. I've worked here for just over three years. We offer one-to-one alternative provision for children who find the classroom challenging. We also run activities for school groups, Wild Days in school holidays and sessions for voluntary and community groups, amongst lots of other things! We aim to encourage a love of nature in young people, enabling them to experience the wellbeing which comes from time spent outdoors. With Covid lockdowns, people realised how they treasure time spent in nature. So we felt we could offer something to adults too. We had considered Woodland Women for a few years, but 2020 seemed the right time to launch. We had small groups at first, so it's lovely to increase

numbers now. We aim to create a supportive and nurturing community, where women learn new skills, spend time in nature, make new friends, relax and have fun!

**How long have you lived in Caversham?**

10 years. I'm from Hastings and my husband is Swiss. We moved around a lot and ended up in the Reading area for work. We've had two children in that time, bought a house, adopted two guinea pigs, and now it feels like home.

**What's your favourite thing about Caversham?**

We knew nothing about the area when we moved here. We needed to find somewhere quickly, so we put a pin in the map! We soon realised what a lovely area we had chosen. I like being close to the river with the countryside on the doorstep. It's a friendly place with a community focus. I've made lots of friends here, which makes it feel like home.

**Caversham's best coffee shop?**

Oh that is tricky... My children love Alto Lounge, and still call it The Brown Café from when the sign was brown! It's always been a great place to meet with other families but feels grown up too! Recent favourites are Geo Café and The Collective. It is great to see local places thriving. When restrictions eased last summer, it was such a treat to buy coffee and cake from The Collective and walk to Caversham Court Gardens to sit by the river.

**Where to eat in Caversham?**

Another tricky question! I don't think there is a bad restaurant in Caversham, is there? I really like Lebanese Village - the food is delicious. I was pleased to see Vegivores open in Caversham, having been a regular at their stall in Market Place.

**Where to shop in Caversham?**

The Sunday market has been a great addition. I also love visiting Nood Stores. I hope to try one of their evening courses soon. I have to mention Fourbears bookshop. So helpful and friendly. A great addition to the community of independent businesses here.

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

I grew up on the coast, so I miss the sea, but having the Lakes open on my doorstep has helped! I struggle to think of anything else Caversham doesn't already have! Maybe regular live music in one of the bars...





Carole and the adapted wheelchair controller *photo MakeAbility*

## From junk to life changer....

by Kimble Earl at Remap

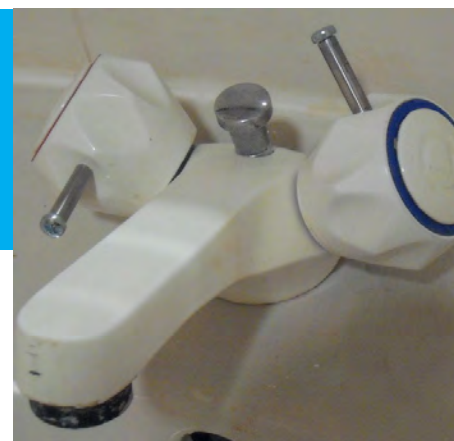
TAKE HALF AN old tennis ball and a bit of broom handle, and what do you have?

No, not rubbish, but a remarkable wheelchair control gadget which has transformed someone's everyday life.

Caversham resident Carole O Bray has difficulty with manual dexterity which exacerbates her general mobility problems. She sometimes found her wheelchair control stick impossible to operate properly. Local engineer Robert Monk – a 'MakeAbility' volunteer with charity Remap Berkshire – came up with a simple solution at zero cost, creating an easy-grip extension from a tennis ball and a broom handle.

Robert explained, "The team at MakeAbility design and build free bespoke gadgets and equipment for people with special needs or disability where nothing suitable is available to buy. These range from simple long-reach window openers and cornered access ramps to sophisticated electronic aids, many of which help people maintain their independence and interests. Although we often use recycled components, this is the first time an old tennis ball and broom handle have been so useful."

Carole is delighted. "It is amazing what MakeAbility has done for me. Not only the natty wheelchair controller, but also some tap conversions which allow me to use the sink so much more easily



Carole's new easy-turn taps

*photo MakeAbility*

- I had tried endless designs you can buy, but none suited me as well as those Robert made for me with a couple of bolts. The taps are fantastic - so simple but so effective. I am over the moon with what the MakeAbility service has done for me - Robert and his colleagues are definitely 'Dragons Den' worthy!"

Carole has lived in Caversham for 13 years. She served in the RAF and lived in South Africa for many years before teaching at a school in Sussex until she retired to Berkshire. She now suffers from the pain of arthritis and fibromyalgia, which seriously hampers her everyday movement.

The charity Remap MakeAbility has been assisting people like Carole since 1965. There is no charge for the gadgets their volunteer engineers design and build, which often make a real and lasting difference to recipients.

Remap Berkshire can be contacted in confidence on 07790 127123 or by email [berks.caseofficer@remapgroups.org.uk](mailto:berks.caseofficer@remapgroups.org.uk) Or you can visit the website [www.berks.remap.org.uk](http://www.berks.remap.org.uk)

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## CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

### Are you a people person?

Caversham Good Neighbours is a group formed to offer essential transport to the elderly and disabled in our neighbourhood. If you would like to give to the community by joining us as a volunteer driver or helping in our office, then please do get in touch with us.

[www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk](http://www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk)  
**0118 948 3466**

Monday to Friday 9.30am – 11.30am  
Church House 59 Church Street Caversham RG4 8AX

## Saving Lives with a Defibrillator

by David and Mel White



Some of the volunteers and the box

*photo D White*

IN 2017 A local group was formed to 'save' the phone box at the top of Courtney Drive in Emmer Green which the council wanted to remove.

Firstly, we asked the local community, via a questionnaire, how the box should be re-purposed, and the majority of responders thought the box should be retained, refurbished and a defibrillator installed.

The group began to look into the probable cost of installation and upkeep. We found that the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) was able to supply a defibrillator and some on-going support. The initial cost would be £2,500 with additional annual costs of about £120. So now we needed to think about raising the money! CHT provided donation envelopes which we delivered locally and collection boxes which were placed in local shops. Thanks to a Facebook page, the niece of Dr Davidson, a recently deceased local doctor, read about our quest and generously offered £2,000 in his memory. One of our members completely refurbished the box and repainted it with paint kindly donated by Dulux, and the defibrillator was duly installed.

Maintaining a defibrillator is an on-going community commitment as it needs to be checked

on a weekly basis. This is done by our volunteers who work on a rota, and the result of the check has to be reported to CHT to maintain the insurance. The volunteer group has been expanded so that each pair needs only to be on duty for one month in twelve.

If you have an emergency at home, two people are required, because the patient cannot be left without CPR whilst the defibrillator is collected. The local First Responders can also access it in an emergency.

We are now at the stage where we need to raise funds for new batteries and pads, so we are about to encourage our supporters to donate again, hopefully via a small standing order which will enable us to continue this invaluable service for our community.

**If you feel you can help, please send donations to:**  
CHT, PO Box 168, Haverhill, CB9 1AX,  
with the reference EMM001,  
or email [egphonebox@btinternet.com](mailto:egphonebox@btinternet.com).

We strongly recommend other groups to consider installing a defibrillator and would be more than happy to share our experience.



## ♦ Poets' Corner ♦

### WALKING THE DOG

"Come on old fellow!" I encourage  
As he snuffles  
At the edge of a gravestone  
I am none too sanguine  
About him doing his business there

We walk on and I can hear  
The rustle of the leaves  
A weeping willow

He knows his way  
Better than I do  
My dog

The air chills  
And it's time to turn back  
This is not a friendly place  
When the sun goes down  
Where the dead people live

As a child  
I would never enter  
But now with this brave fellow  
It has become our regular haunt

The large wrought iron gates  
Are due to close soon  
I know the man who locks them  
In charge of the key

He sees us regularly  
Caleb and I  
I wonder if he knows  
Who is leading whom?

Nicola Dominic

## The Local Scene

by Martin Andrews

**T**HIS MONTH Janina has chosen the façade of the Art Jam Studio at no. 41 Prospect Street, heralded as 'Caversham's own art space'. It offers a wide range of creative classes and workshops from pottery, painting and drawing, glass fusing and painting, sewing, clay modelling and much more'. For some years it has fully justified this description, and many children and adults have enjoyed the warm welcome from its inspiring owner, Sherrie Tuhy, and benefitted from the guidance of her team of experienced artists and teachers. Schools groups, children's parties, grown-up gatherings – beginners and those of all abilities can throw themselves into the joy and fun of creating – it's often a frenzy of noise and activity.

During lockdown they kept going by providing boxes filled with pottery to be decorated at home, and then fired back at the studio,

and now it's back in business. I have always stopped to look at the lively window display and been tempted by the exhibitions of work by local artists and makers; it's also a great place to find special presents and cards with local interest.

On an historical note, one hundred years ago, no. 41 Prospect Street was occupied by a Mr William Kelley and seems to have been residential, but it was flanked by Mr Hobbs, a stationer and toy dealer at no. 39, and Sutton Bros., antique dealers and joiners, at no.43.

There is a little bit of artistic licence in Janina's drawing – can you spot it? Sherrie Tuhy has always disliked the colour of the front door and asked for it to be depicted as blue to match the rest of the façade! Janina's drawing of Art Jam is featured on the cover of a new calendar that is filled with her drawings of local buildings. It is available for sale in Art Jam and Fourbears Bookshop.



Drawing by Janina Maher

[www.janinamaher.artweb.com](http://www.janinamaher.artweb.com)

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# US PRESIDENT VISITS CAVERSHAM

by Jude Oliver of Econet

BUT IT WAS in 1786! During his visit to Caversham Park, Thomas Jefferson, who later became the third President, planted a White Mountain Pine in Clayfield Woods.

As part of a programme of work agreed between Econet and Reading Borough Council's Parks Department, some space will be cleared around the tree and a commemorative plaque placed nearby. Other work includes changes to the storage of woodchip from Christmas Tree recycling on the site to discourage the tipping of garden waste in the area. A bank is



Bracket Fungus on beech tree, Blackhouse Woods

also planned along the boundary with some semi mature trees. A new oak tree will be placed in the car park, and a honeysuckle will be planted next to the stump of the former tree.

After the long Covid break, we are restarting some of our activities

in Clayfield Copse. In September we held a bat walk with Rose-Anne of the Berks and South Bucks Bat group. Whilst walking around the outside of the football field, they heard and saw common and soprano pipistrelle activity and one noctule bat. Rose-Anne also heard a serotine bat (and one or two people saw this). She said, "A first for me at the site; we also heard male and female tawny owls. As it got dark quite quickly, and lots of the kids had torches, there was quite a bit of interest in moths and other creatures in the hedgerows." Next year we hope to incorporate this with a moth search.



The Dragon revealed!

The main task for the Friends of Clayfield Copse (FOCC) in October was to release the dragon in the meadow. It had become so overgrown with brambles it was hidden from visiting children. So, with thick gloves, we braved the prickles, revealing it much to the delight of our younger visitors.

At the same time, we installed a craft-built seat next to the dragon. This is the fifteenth seat made by local resident Bryan. He has been making these seats for some years now



The Mystery Cherry

and we are very grateful to him. You may spot him if you visit, as he is often walking round the Copse with his terrier.

In October, a new midweek FOCC volunteers meeting started, held at 10:15 on the third Monday morning of the month. At these sessions, which last no more than a couple of hours, we will do a variety of odd jobs. The next one is on 15 November. Contact Peter on 07748 766340 for details if you are interested in joining us.

While our Natural Regeneration self-guided walk was in place in September, we asked if anyone could help us identify a self-sown non-native tree with small red fruit. We had a response which identified it as a Shogetsu or Chinese cherry, also known as Blushing Bride. There are several of these around the site and our informant says the fruit are very good for cherry brandy and cherry vodka!



Bryan's latest seat

There is always work to do at Clayfield Copse. There are monthly work parties and some small midweek tasks. Details are on our website [www.econetreading.org.uk](http://www.econetreading.org.uk)

All photos Rachel Paton

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## Current news

THE FIRST electricity was generated from the new turbines at Caversham Weir on 27 June. However, the project suffered further difficulties with a range of statutory approvals. The last problem was a lack of water in the river! However, the Environment Agency finally gave approval in September and the Archimedes screws were in operation when this photo was taken on 29 September. Despite a number of teething problems, Reading Hydro is now delivering electricity to the Lido on the opposite side of the river, via a cable installed under the river from View Island.

F Smith



Archimedes screws in action

photo Pam Chatfield



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# Enter the toys

by Anna Waite, Reading Family Aid

READING FAMILY AID'S annual Toys and Teens Christmas Appeal was launched on 21 October. Due to Covid-19, we will be fundraising online again ([gofundme.com/f/Reading-Family-Aid-Toys-and-Teens-21](http://gofundme.com/f/Reading-Family-Aid-Toys-and-Teens-21)), to buy presents for children in the Reading area who live in poverty and with other disadvantages. During weekends in

November, we will also have a few pop-up stalls which will accept new and nearly new toys. Visit [www.readingfamilyaid.org](http://www.readingfamilyaid.org) to find out more.

Our fundraising page will remain open until 6 December, after which funds will be used to buy presents. Anything you can give will make a huge difference to the families we help. And any excess funds will be used in the future to buy gifts or will go towards outings. Thank you for supporting us!

## Going Green at St Andrew's Church

by Stephen Barden

ST ANDREW'S Church & Pre-school held a Harvest Eco Fest event on Saturday 2 October. This was a new community initiative to get people together who are interested in the environment, recycling, making, growing, and harvesting. Originally, the plan was for the car park to be filled with exhibitors under gazebos, attracting passers-by along the road; alas it was not sunny but very wet! Plan B brought everyone inside, using the Church buildings. Happily, crowds of people still found us.

The Church's aim was to raise awareness of the Climate Change Conference (COP26) meeting in Glasgow in November and of local projects and the impact of individual choices we make each day. We wanted to highlight the local community's actions to go carbon neutral this decade. A great range of local groups put on interesting and thought-provoking displays. These included Reading Community Energy Society, the Berks Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, Reading Climate Action Network, Econet, Caversham Globe, Readifood, Reading Friends of the Earth, Reading Beekeepers Association, and Caversham Methodist Church with information about the Eco-church award scheme. Thanks to all of them for their participation.

In the run-up to our Harvest Festival, we also wanted to celebrate the harvest from

allotments and numerous back gardens which we have learned to appreciate more because of the impact of the pandemic. Children enjoyed finding out about fruit, vegetables and grains in a Harvest Trail and quiz.

In the Hall people enjoyed delicious tea and cake, and there were family-oriented activities and recycling stalls – our new name for bric-a-brac and secondhand books and toys! There was a real buzz to the afternoon, particularly as people were getting together for the first time for such a long time. Proceeds of £1,320 are being shared between St Andrew's Pre-School and No5, the Reading-based charity which supports young people with mental health issues.

The weather was not conducive on the day, but we will plant a Silver Birch tree in the next couple of months to celebrate the Queen's 70th anniversary as part of the Treebilee!

The St Andrew's Eco Promise Tree was a feature of the day - come and find it and bring it to life by adding your promise!



The Eco Promise Tree (left) Garden Produce display (right)

Photos by S Barden



# Thursday Tea Time

by Elisa del Galdo-Miles, chair of WADRA

THE WARREN and District Residents' Association (WADRA) is pleased to announce our first event in over 5 years was a great success. With the Pavilion at Mapledurham Playing Fields now refurbished and finally opened, WADRA has begun to run a regular Thursday afternoon Community Café. Our first session was on 7 October and was well attended. We had a real cross-section from the community in to enjoy a hot drink, cake, and a chat. We also had a local 'Mary Kay' representative doing a bit of pampering.

WADRA will be running the Community Café every Thursday from 13:00 to 16:00 at the Mapledurham Playing Fields Pavilion. At some sessions we will have local vendors, artists, or local interest groups available in the Pavilion. If you would like to join our volunteer team or would be interested in booking a date as a local vendor or artist, or for more information on the Community Café please go to our website [www.wadra.org](http://www.wadra.org) or email [info@wadra.org](mailto:info@wadra.org).



Our volunteers

The light and airy pavilion room

Photos  
E Delgado-Miles



## Probus by Alan Bradbury

THE READING and District Probus Club has restarted meetings following a break due to the lockdown.

The club now meets at its new venue, the Club at Mapledurham. Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month, when members meet for lunch. Arrangements are in hand for an interesting series of talks over the coming months.

Probus is a club for retired men and those nearing retirement, who enjoy a meal together once a month. The lunch is usually followed by a talk on one of a variety of interesting subjects. For further information visit the club's website [www.probusclub-reading.org.uk](http://www.probusclub-reading.org.uk).

If you are interested in joining, please contact the secretary David Laird on 0118 9470709. New members are always welcome.

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## First Impressions Matter

### My spelling is Wobbly

by Laura Harmsworth

*It's good spelling but it Wobbles, and the letters get in the wrong places-- A. A. Milne*



WHILST YOU might forgive Winnie the Pooh for the odd typo, a recruiter will be less forgiving if they find one on your CV.

Checking spelling and grammar sounds so simple and obvious but it's often what lets a CV down, despite impressive content.

According to a survey by Adzuna in 2019, a review of 20,000 CVs submitted online found that nine in ten of them had misspelled words, with only 1,134 fault free.

Rightly or wrongly, if a recruiter has a pile of good CVs on their desk, this can be one way to eliminate a handful.

### What should you do?

- Run spellcheck but don't rely on it. It won't pick up errors such as manger for manager. It might also Americanise words so keep an eye out for those e.g., organization, specialized.
- Double-check all grammar, particularly apostrophes e.g., GCSEs and KPIs don't need apostrophes.

- Use the Read Aloud function in Word (in Review Ribbon options) - hearing the text will enable you to pick up typos that spellcheck doesn't.
- Print off your CV and read it.
- Ask someone else to read it.
- Read it backwards (sounds odd but it works!).
- Have a night's sleep (or at least a break of an hour or two from looking at it), then read it again.
- Use tools such as Grammarly (a free app you can use to check documents).

Having covered all the basics of CV writing, next month I'll start a series of articles relating to particular circumstances, e.g. career changes, career gaps, first/early CVs for students and graduates.

You can follow Laura on:

[www.facebook.com/CavershamCVWriting](http://www.facebook.com/CavershamCVWriting)

or on LinkedIn, where she posts tips and articles:

[www.linkedin.com/in/lauraharmsworth](http://www.linkedin.com/in/lauraharmsworth)

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Email Laura at [contact@cavershamcvwriting.co.uk](mailto:contact@cavershamcvwriting.co.uk)



# Get Jamming with the Jam Lady

Sarah Roy



## Apple and Cinnamon Jam

*WE ARE NOW well and truly in the thick of Autumn with all the gorgeous fruits that go with it. This month's recipe is for Apple and Cinnamon Jam, and it's a great one to make if you still have apples on your trees or in your stores.*

### Ingredients:

- 1kg peeled and chopped apples
- 4tsp ground cinnamon
- 200ml water
- 1kg sugar

### Method

1. Wash the jars and lids in hot water. Put into a warm oven (175°C) for 15 min to sterilise them. Mix the chopped apples and ground cinnamon in a large, heavy-based pan and add the water.
2. Stew down the fruit, using a

masher to break down to a pulp. Add a little more water if necessary.

3. Stir in the sugar until it dissolves and bring it to a rolling boil.
4. You will know that it has reached setting point when the mixture is bubbling and spitting. Take care as the jam will be scalding hot at this stage and can be quite dangerous.
5. Once ready, ladle into the hot jars filling them right to the top and seal the lids firmly. As the jam cools, a vacuum is created and the jam is preserved.



## Wellbeing with Ami Roy

# Taking Notice

THROUGHOUT OUR lives many of us will experience times where we find ourselves lost in our own thoughts. We may find we are so busy, making plans, going from task-to-task, or from one place to the next and pushing forward in many different directions, we don't take time to reflect and take notice of the world around us. At other times in our lives, we may find that we aren't busy in the same way – but are occupying our minds with 'doing nothing'. We can find ourselves worrying about the future and being bogged down with unhealthy thoughts and negative feelings. In both cases, we can find ourselves not taking the time to pay attention to the present moment – the here and now. By taking notice and being in the present, we can improve our mental health and sense of wellbeing.

This means actively bringing our mind's attention and interest to the world around us and ourselves; what is going on externally to us and what is happening within us. Taking notice means being present in the moment, observing what is beautiful or unusual in the world. It means being aware of our thoughts and feelings as

they arise, without getting lost in them. It means savouring the moment, whether you're being active, connecting with a friend, learning a new skill, or giving to others.

It is natural to respond to the stresses in our lives by thinking about them. But taking a break from these thought patterns and focusing on the present moment has been shown to help alleviate negative thinking and maintain a level of calmness, which is good for our mental health and wellbeing. Being aware of what we are experiencing at every given moment – being aware of our sensations, thoughts and feelings has been shown to enhance well-being for several years.

### ...focussing on the present moment...

Being in nature, looking closely at what is around us, savouring the smells and textures of each meal, really listening to a loved one without offering judgement or immediate response, even brushing our teeth or taking our shower mindfully. These things can allow us to drop away from the chatter of thoughts and notice simple moments deeply.

Notice how you've felt holding this newspaper in your hands, the texture and the colours, the layout and content. Unfolding it and folding it back along the same lines could be today's simple act of taking notice.

## WORD PUZZLE SOLUTIONS:

(From left to right) pale, tail, mail, call, male, tall, man, **guy**, high, mac, thigh, coat, flank, tack, buy.

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