

CARNFORTH EXPRESS

Carnforth Town Council – Working for you

August 2020



That's what Friends are for!

Crag Bank Park Project: Since the last edition of the *Carnforth Express*, we have taken some important steps to get this project off the ground. We recently conducted a survey with the support of Lancaster City Council and held a General Meeting in order to formally set up our 'Friends' group. We now have a constitution (a set of operating rules) plus a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary that complete our committee of five neighbours. This team will drive fundraising in the coming months and begin to implement changes following feedback from the survey.

Over 140 people responded to the survey which we advertised through our Facebook group, and if you would like to follow us, we can be found at "Crag Bank Park Group" on Facebook. The feedback told us that the Park is used by a wide variety of age groups for several reasons with recreation, play and appreciation of the natural environment at the top of people's priorities. Families with children who play in the park, dog walkers and people using the area for sport and exercise were the main reasons for visiting the area however there was criticism about the quality, variety and condition of play equipment, the lack of seating and waste bins and the lack of things to do in the park to keep people of all ages interested.

The survey results listed responder's priorities in terms of upgrading the area, the top five priorities were:-

- ✓ Improve / upgrade the children's play equipment.
- ✓ Install benches & picnic tables.
- ✓ Improve the area for recreation & sport.
- ✓ Develop planting & wildlife.
- ✓ Cleaning & litter removal.

The full results of our survey are available on our Facebook page, should you wish to read it. The committee has already started work by writing bids for funding to deliver these improvements. This will be a long-term project and not all the changes can be made at once, we will be bidding for funds from specific organisations to match the feedback we have received from the survey and deliver these improvements in the months to come.

We also plan to do some community activities including a Park clean-up and a fundraising event which will allow us to demonstrate that the neighbourhood is behind this project. We already have the support of both Lancaster City Council and Carnforth Town Council who are working with this fledgling group to steer us in the right direction.

There are some quick wins which you will see in the coming weeks & months. We have asked our colleagues at LCC for the grounds maintenance teams to attend and cut back some of the overgrowing trees following some concerning feedback from neighbours. We have already had the damaged fence panels on the pathway removed and asked Lancaster City Council for

an extra waste bin on the park. We have also made tentative enquiries with Carnforth Town Council to support us with some form of seating which was one of the top points in the survey feedback. The committee of volunteers is completely committed to delivering the results of the survey and we will be working tirelessly over the coming months to raise funds to drive these improvements. Please carry on using the Park as you do, if you have never visited come and have a look at the space. You will see things change in time, but do bear with us as fundraising can take time however we will get there and you will begin to see improvements.

Councillor Steve Watson

Care in the Community

Over the last few months Lancaster City Council has diverted considerable time and resource to maintain and expand essential services, such as refuse collection and social care.

Many individuals and businesses in Carnforth and Crag Bank have benefited from City Council, Town Council and volunteers support during the CV-19 crisis. Many have never before needed to seek help.

Whether it has been financial support, food bank services, food parcel delivery or a simple visit or telephone call, tens of thousands of people across the Lancaster district have been assisted.

Unfortunately, as the City Council has sought to keep these services going, other things that we previously have taken for granted have suffered.

As you walk around Carnforth it is sad to see how the weeds have taken hold at the front of properties and businesses, and in the verges and roadside gutters.

On Saturday morning 20 June Councillor Roly Parker, assisted by Julie Thompson and a number of Haws Avenue residents (Michelle Steele and her son Jamie and Dick Cottam with his strimmer) decided to clear all the weeds and accumulated rubbish from the ginnel that runs between Haws Hill and Haws Avenue.

Two hours later the job was complete and what a difference!



Do you think you could help? If everyone just cleared the area in front of their house, or helped a neighbour do so, it would make a tremendous difference to the appearance of our community.

If you are motivated to make a difference PLEASE take care of your personal safety, particularly if you are clearing weeds from the roadside and NEVER stand in the road to clear weeds.

Who knows you may bump into me doing some cleaning up – if so just say hi (hoe).

Councillor Chris Smith



Park Opening: By the time you read this it is likely that Lancaster City Council will have re-opened local play provisions. Parents and carers need to take all necessary steps to keep themselves and their children safe. This includes maintaining social distancing in accordance with government guidance and keeping hands clean particularly before and after using play equipment.



Carnforth Citizen of Merit Award

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time and the trouble over the past three months to nominate someone from our community that has "gone the extra mile" for others during the pandemic lockdown. We've had a fantastic response to the idea of a Merit Award and over 90 people have been nominated. A full list of their names can be found on the Town Council website.

It is our intention to present each of the winners of the Award with a special certificate and memento at a ceremony at Carnforth Civic Hall on Remembrance Sunday, 8 November 2020. Further details will be announced in due course.

Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite

Supporting our Armed Forces



The Town Mayor, Councillor Kath Bromilow and Councillor Malcolm Watkins led a special socially – distanced Service on Saturday 27th June. Sadly, due to the COVID-19 Government restrictions at the time it was not considered appropriate to promote this event, but the Town Council could not let the opportunity pass to show our support for the men and women who make up the armed forces community: from currently serving troops to service families, veterans (past and present) and cadets.

The Town Mayor explained the purpose of Armed Forces Day and, after the hymn '*We have caught the vision splendid*', Reverend Neale led prayers. This was followed by a reading of the *Armed Forces Covenant* by the Salvation Army's Mrs Margaret Watkins. The Covenant outlines how the Government, businesses and communities support armed forces personnel past and present throughout the year and is a promise by the nation that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families are treated fairly. Representatives from the Salvation Army then played the Last Post / Reveille as the Union Jack and Armed Forces flags were lowered by Councillors Grisenthwaite and Parker.

The Town Mayor then laid a wreath on behalf of Carnforth Town Council as in tribute to all to all our armed forces personnel, past and present. Before the final prayer, Councillor Watkins gave a passionate and inspiring 'Thought for the Day' about the gratitude that we all owe our armed forces, and their families, during conflicts and in peacetime, including their support for all communities during the unusual and challenging times of the coronavirus pandemic.

Bob Bailey, Town Clerk

Carnforth Business Network

The doors are open again for most of the members of Carnforth Business Network (formerly Carnforth & District Chamber of Trade), bringing a bit of a buzz back to the town centre. It feels like a momentous re-boot, both for the shops and businesses which have recently re-opened and for those whose service was never interrupted; and while they accept that it's not quite 'business as usual', they're delighted that at least it's 'open for business' and they appreciate the local support.

In accordance with government guidelines, each has put measures in place to safeguard staff and customers, from the use of visors/facemasks, perspex screens and quarantined stock areas, to providing hand-sanitisers and enabling social distancing. And, of course, when the rules are relaxed or adjusted, they will all make any necessary changes.

A list of local businesses and their current opening times is available on our website: <https://carnforthtowncouncil.org/carnforth-businesses-reopen/>

As lockdown restrictions are subject to change at relatively short notice, for the latest information on changes to opening hours of businesses in Carnforth, please check the Town Council's website or social media pages. **Philip Charnley, Carnforth Business Network**

Impact of Covid-19 on non-Covid related health

Dr Wrigley from Ashtrees Surgery writes: During the past few months we have seen numbers of patients coming for routine immunisations drop. This is very worrying given that immunisations prevent very serious diseases like measles in children. Recent studies have shown MMR (measles, mumps & rubella) immunisation rates have fallen by 20% in the last few months. I would urge all those who are due immunisations to contact the surgery and book an appointment. We can safely offer you these injections as we have implemented measures at the surgery to keep you safe.

We see a huge demand on our telephone system on Mondays. The number of patients our doctors and nurses have to deal with on a Monday can be double what we see on other days making it a real challenge for us. If you have an urgent problem, then we would still ask you to call on a Monday but if your query or problem can wait then please do consider phoning between Tuesday to Friday when the phones lines are quieter.

Age UK Lancashire: Older People are our Priority



Age UK Lancashire retail team is delighted to announce the reopening of the Carnforth charity shop. Chief Executive, Teri Stephenson said, *"We are grateful for the support and dedication of our staff and volunteers that have enabled us to reopen in line with all NHS and Government guidelines. Thank you to those who have already donated, visited and*

made purchases. This income is more vital than ever as we continue to adapt our services to meet the challenges of this ever-changing world."

During the Coronavirus pandemic, Age UK Lancashire have been on the front line providing vital support for many local older people through their Hospital Aftercare Service. This service includes taking people home from hospital and helping them to settle back at home, safely and comfortably.



They are also providing an enhanced Support at Home service to ensure individuals receive the support that they need during their period of recovery, which includes help with shopping, prescription collection and other social support.

In direct response to the isolation and loneliness caused by lockdown, Age UK Lancashire now offer Good Day welfare calls to older people who are shielding and/or living alone. These daily calls provide reassurance, information and a friendly chat for those who are feeling particularly vulnerable.

Community Engagement Manager, Anne Oliver said *"These services also provide peace of mind for family members unable to visit. One daughter emailed us to say 'from the first call your team have been immensely supportive to my mum. By calling regularly and arranging shopping deliveries, the support has been invaluable.'"*

As well as supporting people in their homes the charity has launched a fortnightly Zoom Dementia Support Group, in place of the local Dementia Hub. This sociable group meets on alternative Fridays at 2pm.

Carers share experiences and the updates on services are provided by local agencies and guest speakers who provide information on topics as diverse as hydration, falls, activities and financial support. Even as lock down eases many people are still unable to visit family members. To help people see each other face to face Age UK Lancashire is able to offer Tablets on a loan basis. These are easy to use and provide access to social media channels including Zoom, Facebook and Teams.

For those looking for things to do, Age UK Lancashire has launched an Art of Isolation section on their website which shares ideas for activities, exercise sessions and music videos.



They are also supporting Lancaster charity Escape2Make which has launched a Pen Pal scheme and is looking for secondary school age and older individuals who would like to share experiences of the lock down, local knowledge, interests and general chat.

For further information any of these services please call 0300 303 1234 or email: advice@ageuklancs.org.uk or visit www.ageuklancs.org.uk. For shop donations please call 01524 733990 in advance to arrange pick up of larger quantities. Please ensure any donations are in sealed bags or boxes. Age UK Lancashire desperately needs financial help to be able to continue to deliver their welfare calls and support services during this difficult time and beyond. If you are able to make a donation to their Coronavirus Isolation Appeal please visit: www.justgiving.com/campaign/corona-isolation



Good Day Calls: A daily call providing reassurance, security and support provided by Age UK Lancashire. The Good Day Call service is a daily reassurance call provided by a trained member of Age UK Lancashire team to check on the welfare of you or an older relative or friend. We

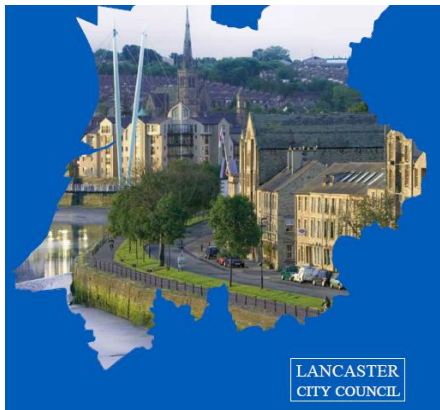
know that if you live alone it can be difficult not to have someone to talk to, especially if you do not have regular contact with family members. This can be an extremely anxious time for people and we know you may worry that no one will notice if you become ill or are without the practical assistance and emotional support you need.

In addition to providing reassurance and practical support we will also chat about interests and how you are keeping busy at home. Our service also brings reassurance to family members who may live at a distance and be unable to visit and keep in close contact owing to their own commitments.

Our daily call helps tackle these issues by making sure the person is up and well and provides an opportunity for a friendly chat. We may be the only person you or they get to speak to all day. To sign yourself up please call: **0300 303 1234** (charged at local rate) or email: gooddaycalls@ageuklancs.org.uk. Find out more at: www.ageuk.org.uk/lancashire/our-services/good-day-calls

Dates of weekly refuse collection 2020/2021:

You may already be aware that Lancaster City Council has decided not to distribute hard copies of its calendar of weekly refuse collection dates for 2020 - 2021. Instead, householders are asked to visit the City Council website and go to www.lancaster.gov.uk/bins where they can type in their postcode and then print off their own calendar of collection dates. If you or any of your neighbours don't have access to the internet but would like a copy of the calendar for your address, Carnforth Town Council will do its best to help. Please let us have your contact details and postcode by writing to Town Clerk, Carnforth Town Council, 46-48 Market Street, Carnforth, LA5 9LB or by calling 07846 256 006. Alternatively, you can contact Lancaster City Council directly by calling 01524 582491.



Lancaster City Council Local Plan – Concerns for Carnforth

Under the terms of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act of 2004, district and other planning authorities are each obliged to produce a Local Plan that sets out their vision for development for the future. In the process, each authority (in our case Lancaster City Council) is meant to consult with all interested parties including developers, businesses and residents, when setting out its plans. Before it can adopt the Plan, the Council must seek official

approval from the national Planning Inspectorate.

Lancaster City Council began work on its latest Local Plan several years ago.

Following extensive public consultation, the draft Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for approval last year. The City Council has just issued an update on progress and this is an extract from this news update:

Back in April 2019, the local hearing sessions of the independent examination of Lancaster City Council's Local Plan took place. Since then we have been waiting for the government to provide us with a report from the Inspector who carried out the examination. On 15 June the Inspector let the Council know that the plan was sound, and that Council can adopt it, providing that it takes full account of his recommendations. We expect to report the Inspector's findings to Full Council this summer

Unfortunately for Carnforth, during the examination phase of the process, the Planning Inspector who carried out the examination recommended the removal from the Plan of a key piece of land. The land in question stretches from Lundsfield Quarry behind the Highfield estate up to Back Lane.

However, its recommended removal from the Plan was not based on any environmental or safety issues but because the land stands on important mineral reserves that may need to be extracted in future.

Mineral deposits are of strategic national importance and therefore Lancaster City Council has little choice but to accept the Inspector's recommendation. But what are the implications for Carnforth of the removal of this land from the Local Plan?

A recent article in the Westmorland Gazette reported that Carnforth stands to lose 500 new homes, many of them “affordable” starter homes, as well as a sports hub and a new home for Carnforth Rangers FC because of this decision.

The newspaper quotes a potential developer of the land, H2O Urban LLP, based in London, as saying: *‘We have worked closely with the local community to design a scheme [for this site] which includes 500 homes, comprising 200 affordable and 300 market homes, a new primary school, a community sports hub and a new home for Carnforth Rangers FC, plus a new park and green network. Carnforth now risks losing out on these benefits affecting the future generation of young people in particular’.*

And, referring to possible mineral extraction from the site, H2O Urban LLP said: *The inspector seems to have decided the land south of Windermere Road should be safeguarded for future blasting and quarrying, even though it is right next to existing residential homes.*

They went on to add: *There is no evidence land south of Windermere Road is technically suitable or viable for minerals extraction. We think local [residents] would be very concerned if proposals came forward for more quarrying in Carnforth, which is what the inspector seems to be suggesting.*

As the City Council has expended considerable amounts of time and effort, not to mention public funding, on producing a Local Plan which is now likely to be adopted in its modified form later this summer, it is highly unlikely it will alter its provisions. Yet it is important for YOU as residents of Carnforth to understand what the trade-off is - namely, significant development now for more quarrying in the future. **Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite**

**Be
Water
Wise.**



Be Water Wise

It's a challenging time for everyone right now and we are all focused on looking after ourselves, our loved ones and our communities. Life for everyone has changed so much and the way we are using water has changed a lot too. Many families are now at home all week and water plays a critical role in combating Coronavirus through more hand washing and cleaning. Along with the hot dry weather and the use of water in gardens, we are using far more water than normal.

The challenge faced is that in some places water is being used in homes and gardens faster than it can be physically provided down the pipes. We aren't alone in this in the North West – the same high demand is being experienced across the country.

We can all play our part to reduce demand for water by doing some simple things such as:

- **Top up the paddling pool instead of refilling it every day.** When you're finished, use the water on your plants so none goes to waste
- **Water your pots and hanging baskets either early in the morning or late in the evening** to reduce evaporation in the midday sun
- **Brown lawns bounce back once it rains.** Sprinklers can use up to 1,000 litres of water an hour – that's as much as a family of 6 uses in a day
- **Whilst we are all at home creating more dirty dishes only put the dishwasher on when it's full** – it will save water and reduce your energy costs too.
- **If you can, please let the car get dirty – safety items such as lights and registration plates should be kept clean.**

You can also help by reporting leaks where you find them. Do this via the United Utilities website or on their Android and iPhone App.

There is also lots of support available for anyone who may be struggling financially as well as a free Priority Service scheme to provide additional support for customers due to age, disability or illness. Please do get in touch with UU if you think you or a loved one could benefit from support.

Carnforth Integrated Care Community



Due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic the planned activities for Carnforth ICC in 2020 have not been able to be undertaken. These included supporting Carnforth Rotary's Health & Fun Day which was planned for 4 July 2020 and has now been cancelled. It will go ahead in 2021.

Ensuring that our Mental Health is looked after has never been more important during these uncertain times. Carnforth ICC have signed up to Lancashire MIND's Community Wellbeing Challenge, which will work with others to produce a project to support the wellbeing of our local communities. Do you have any ideas about projects that would support our local community or want to be involved with the project? Please contact carnforth.icc@mbht.nhs.uk with any project ideas, or to sign up to the Community Wellbeing Challenge, please contact ruth.whitmore@lancashiremind.org.uk or call 07885 459504

Big White Wall is an online service providing access to millions with anxiety, depression and other common mental health issues.

Offering;

- ✓ Community: Share thoughts, get creative & receive support. The community is safe, anonymous & monitored 24/7 by trained professionals.
- ✓ Courses: Work through a selection of courses relevant to you, with professional support on hand.
- ✓ Resources: Complete tests, access tools & content and receive helpful techniques to help manage your mental health.

REGISTER ONLINE: www.bigwhitewall.com



#OK2ASK
Explore



How a Vital Service continued during the Crisis

One of the more positive outcomes of the Coronavirus lockdown has been witnessing the determined and innovative ways in which individuals and businesses have met the challenge. We have already written about the Carnforth Citizen of Merit Award which acknowledges the efforts of individuals in the community who have helped others. Several of our local businesses have also risen to the challenge to continue to provide essential services. One such example is provided by Carnforth Optometrist, Philip Jones.

Thanks to the work of optometrist and owner, Philip Jones, and Dispensing Optician Margaret Spence, the local independent practice has continued to run a reduced level of service, supporting the community with vital eye care needs throughout the lockdown.

Philip explains *"At the beginning of the pandemic the government guidelines and that of the optical professional bodies were clear – we could only provide essential, emergency and urgent eyecare. We have followed the guidelines to ensure the continued safety of our patients and the rest of our staff when they return."*

A Government statement was released on 27th May widening the definition of essential care; *"this includes but is not limited to appointments for patients who would not normally be considered to be emergencies, but where, in the practitioner's professional judgement, a delay in an examination may be detrimental to a patient's sight or wellbeing. This may include where patients have broken or lost their glasses or contact lenses and need a replacement pair to function."*

Since late March if a patient had an eye health emergency, eye examinations have still been provided by the Carnforth business following a triage system via telephone or video consultation. *"We continue to ensure that those who urgently need care are still able to access it and people can be reassured that we are using PPE in accordance with our professional guidelines"* said Philip. He added *"I have seen patients that have been triaged through NHS111 as well as been able to treat patients with red and painful eyes through the local Minor Eye Conditions Service"* The fact that Mr Jones is additionally qualified as an Independent Prescriber means he can prescribe prescription-only medication for eye conditions and so can start treating conditions immediately, often removing the need for onward referral.

Anyone with a non-urgent eyecare request can phone the practice for advice which can be given remotely. In addition, the practice has just invested in a non-invasive measuring device for dispensing glasses. It works with facial recognition and HD cameras enabling measurements to be taken at a distance"

It is hoped that routine eyecare will be available shortly.

For further details please contact:

Melissa Holden, Dispensing Optician, Philip Jones Opticians

Telephone: 01524 730055; Email: melissa@philipjonesopticians.co.uk



Paige's short story was 'Simply brie-lliant' says our Judge!



We recently set our younger residents a challenge to write a short story for what we hope to be an annual competition. We asked that the story be set in and around Carnforth and had to be imaginative; have intriguing characters and 'an exciting plot that would leave the reader wanting more!'

Our judge for this competition was a young man who is a regular volunteer around our town - Alex Smith. We know that this may sound cheesy, but we think that the story he chose as our first Annual Winner is 'Grate'! The story is entitled '*Not just another cheesy story*' and is by Paige Billington aged 10 – pictured here with her winners' certificate. Paige also received a £20 voucher to spend in a

local shop of her choice and some chocolates, courtesy of Town Mayor, Councillor Kath Bromilow. Here is Paige's story in full!

"Not just another cheesy story" by Paige Billington Aged 10

On a cobbled backstreet in the heart of Carnforth just a short walk away from the canal, lived a chubby man with ginger hair and a white beard, named Stanley Stilton. Stanley owned an old-fashioned cheese shop, although this was no ordinary cheese shop, it had a secret - he had some furry friends to help him...Mice! Mad Max from Mexico makes the spicy cheese, and plump Sully Sumo, who makes a distinguished creamy cheese. All the mice had lots to offer. They all worked and lived in a box room at the very back of the shop. Hung on the door was a sign. Written on it in capital letters '**KEEP OUT. STAFF ONLY**'. Nobody should dare go inside. Rodent-o-cheese was the most renowned, made by Doodlebottom. He was the smallest and sweetest of all the mice. Some were very competitive about their cheeses and kept their recipes to themselves. Although Doodlebottom was very protective of his cheese, he would still share any leftovers with the others.

People came from far and wide for the cheese - Royalty, celebrities, Presidents - everyone wanted to have their cheese and eat it.

You could say everything was going cheesetastic until...KNOCK KNOCK. Stanley opened the creaky wooden door. There stood the grim reaper himself – the Health Inspector! '*Move out of the way, I'll be checking your shop today!*' he remarked immediately. Stanley replied; '*Well just go ahead, like you said.*'

The Inspector sauntered up towards the immaculate marble counter, which gleamed and sparkled when the sun hit through the windows. Next he examined the tiled floor that was as white as snow. He was determined to spot something. Then whilst peering at the rigid red brick walls he observed....'*A mouse hole that's no good, I'll shut this shop down now like any inspector would*'.

Disaster struck all over the world. America's President was heartbroken; he couldn't feast on his ultimate cheeseburger. Celebrities were furious when they weren't able to devour their cheese soufflé. The most devastated of all was the Queen. She was distraught there was now no way she could sprinkle Rodent-o-cheese over her cornflakes in the morning! '*Goodness gracious this madness must stop, contact the Health Inspector and re-open this shop!*' proclaimed the Queen.

The morning after the tragedy, Stanley was on his saggy sofa in his 'Horrid Henry' pyjamas (he was a big fan!). The mice were on his lap feeling sorrowful. At 10 o'clock he heard a noise and looked out of his narrow window to check what it was.

Stanley noticed a golden carriage with magnificent wheels and on the top it had a crown embedded with rubies and emeralds. The handles decorated with sapphires and diamonds. Stanley was astounded!

Putting Doodlebottom in his pocket, he ran as fast as he could towards the door with a grin on his face. A gentleman in a uniform who had a grey curly moustache and red rosy cheeks stood there looking very proud. The man raised his eyebrows as if to say, go on Stanley hop in - his journey to the royal palace had begun.

Once they arrived at Buckingham Palace, Stanley had noticed he was still wearing his pyjamas. Did it matter? Not a bit! He marched through the grand hallway and acknowledged the majestic portraits of the previous kings and queens from the past that were placed with precision on the walls. Once he arrived at the Queen's sitting room, the butler opened the regal door and announced Stanley to her majesty who sat on her chair in her elegant attire. Staring sternly at Stanley for a little while, she instructed '**Now you tell me, the recipe**'.

Stanley did as he was told. He took Doodlebottom out of his pocket. 'AAHHHHH!', she shrieked. '*Ma'am please, she is the maker of the extraordinary cheese!*', stated Stanley bringing her up to the Queens face.

The Queen calmed down. '*I'll believe what you say if she shows me today*' she said as she folded her arms as if to say '*Prove it!*'.

Soon after, Doodlebottom gave the Rodent-o-cheese to the Queen who was flabbergasted. '*It's true! Bend on your knees, I'll knight you King and Queen of Cheese,*'. Stanley deservedly got knighted King and Doodlebottom Queen of Cheese and from that day Stanley became the most famous cheesemaker in history.

Soon after Stanley became so popular that television and newspaper journalists came to his shop to launch this amazing unique story. With cameras flashing and newspaper men chanting '**DOODLEBOTTOM! DOODLEBOTTOM**', Stanley hurriedly ran to the box room to fetch him. His smile soon faded as the mouse was nowhere to be seen. Mad Max looked at Stanley with discerning eyes. **Doodlebottom had GONE!**

A tear ran down Stanley's cheek. '*How can this be. Doodlebottom meant the world to me*' he cried. '*Whoever this thief may be, I will find you, trust me*' he raged.

The cameramen overheard and came sprinting towards him in astonishment.

The news of Doodlebottom's disappearance hit the news channels all over the world. This outrage was in all the newspapers and no one could believe it.

In the next few days, he noticed he was getting less and less customers everyday. That night, Stanley was sat on his sofa once again listening to the thunder and lightning, with Sully Sumo and Mad Max by his side. He started to remember the last time he saw Doodlebottom, just before the interview. She was sleeping with the others in a dog bed that Stanley had bought when he just started the business. He did his interviews and went to fetch Doodlebottom that's when he knew she wasn't there.

Who could have got her and how? Stanley clicked his chubby fingers. He may have figured it out! The only people that could have taken her were the media people. Stanley jumped up and ran towards the door, leaving Mad Max and Sully Sumo alone.

He did recall one suspicious man with a long straggly beard and a top hat. Could he be the culprit? The only way to find out was to go to the newspaper office Stanley thought. Without hesitation he leaped into his red Fiat car and took off.

Once he arrived at the newspaper offices, he went through the revolving doors towards reception to then see a bunch of men and women idly chatting with one another. Stanley recognised one of the men as he was wearing a hat and had a very messy beard.

Stanley started sprinting towards him gritting his teeth as he ran. '*It's him*' he cried to himself. The man watched Stanley as he ran towards him and he immediately knew Stanley was after him.

The man raced towards his office with Stanley making pace and following him. As soon as he approached his desk, he launched for Doodlebottom who had been kept in his desk drawer! Then the mouse spotted Stanley racing behind and she reached towards him, grabbing hold of Stanley's buttons as a matter of life or death!

The man dived for Stanley, but moments before he got to him, a security man arrived, noticed the threat and grappled the man to the floor. It was all over!

Doodlebottom loved being back with his friends again and from that day forward Rodent-o-cheese remained the most recognised and popular cheese ever made.

Judge Alex said: *'Well Paige, thank you very much for your cheesetastic story.*

When I first read it, I thought, "ee-dam this is a gouda!"

I really liked the plot and the happy ending really cheered me up. Thank goodness that the Queen intervened and saved the day – but she is very good at that of course.

I thought it was very well written with a great use of language and the story kept me riveted all the way through, particularly when Doodlebottom went missing!

But all's well that ends well – however, I was left feeling 'if only we had a cheese shop like that in Carnforth'.

*So finally: **Your story really was a cheese-fest, so how could I not judge it best? Paige thank you for your cheesy story, now enjoy your time of glory, but here is a riddle just for you, I hope that you can solve it too. What is the best cheese to catch a bear?***

Well obviously, it's Come-On-Bear!



We are changing! Over the coming weeks you will see big changes to our website as we make essential improvements to comply with accessibility regulations but also to make it more vibrant and interesting, containing lots of useful information about the activities of the Town Council, our local community and the district. You can also follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/CarnforthTC> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/carnforthtowncouncil>

