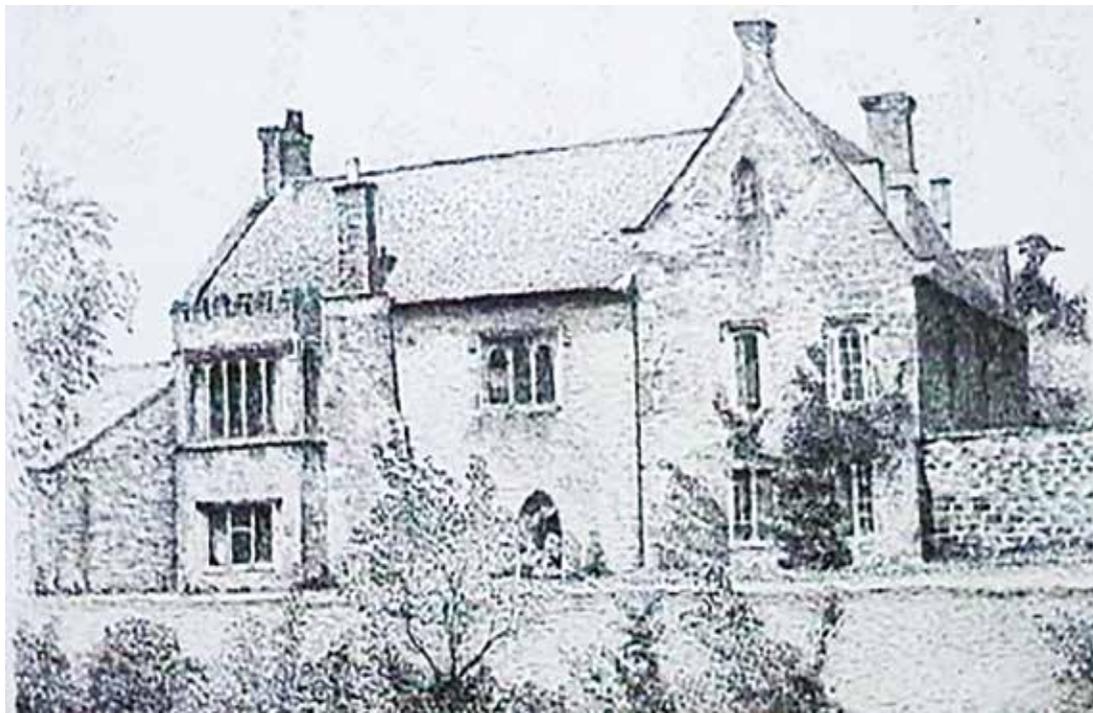
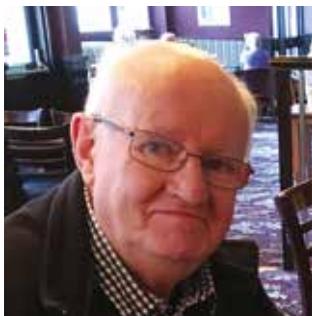




## Young People Create Warsop Old Hall Horrible Histories

Warsop Old Hall Project Team launched a competition back in November, to encourage young people to learn a little more about The Old Hall and their local history. The team wanted to give young people an opportunity to use what they had discovered to produce a piece of creative writing, with the theme Horrible History.



*"I have some really good poems and some 'Oh dear!' ones too."*

Peter Birchenall, an academic, who published a lot of articles and upon retirement took up creative writing and became immersed in the world of short stories and poetry where he has had some success in writing competitions.

The judging panel was also made up of Vibrant Warsop's Mike Payne who has a background in developing creative projects and solutions for not-for-profit organisations. He also creates and writes for enjoyment and has had some articles published.

Local Scriptwriter, Drama Practitioner and Lecturer in Writing for Performance at The University of Derby, Stacey Moon-Tracy was also part of the judging panel.

It was so difficult to choose winners, as the quality of the stories, was so good, and because of this the team decided to give every entrant a prize of a certificate, a notebook and pens as well as offering them some feedback.

Some competition entrants may not yet have received these due to Covid, and not being in school, however they are all waiting for you.

Mary said that

*"I hope that this short story competition encourages the participants and those who read their stories to engage more with their creative side and carry on writing."*



The winner of the Age 8-10 category: Amy Cary

Without further ado, we would like to announce the winners of the competition and to share with you their work.

They are three very talented and worthy winners. The project team will be publishing the runner up stories over the coming months, which were also very impressive. They would encourage everyone to keep writing and to get involved in future events run by the Warsop Old Hall Project Team.

**The winner of the Age 7 and under category: Sienna Savva from Birklands School**

### THE EIGHT FEET AT THE OLD HALL

The judges were riveted by this gruesome and terrifying tale. They enjoyed the mystery and the unique idea of bringing in the TV crew to bring it into the present. Well done Sienna!

**The winner of the Age 8-10 category: Amy Cary from King Edwin Primary School Edwinstowe.**

### THE GHOST OF WARSOP HALL

Congratulations Amy, the judges really did enjoy your story. The story is very imaginative but it was underpinned with facts. The dialogue and vivid descriptions made this story live off the page.

**The winner of the Age 11+ category was: Phoebe Gale from Meden School**

### THE HORROR OF WARSOP

The judges were very impressed with Phoebe's evident passion for writing and felt that this horror kept them on the edge of their seat

wanting to read more. The twist at the end was really interesting and the use of dialogue and descriptions really brought this story to life. Well done Phoebe!

A group of local judges were called upon to deliberate and to decide upon the winners. The team were amazed at the quality of the stories created and with the imaginative use of the Old Hall as a setting.

One of the judges, Peter Birchenall said

"It was a privilege to be invited to join the judging panel, which uncovered a pleasing array of talent which hopefully, for some, will be taken further."

Included in the judging panel were:

Connie May, a local young poet and author, with two published poetry collections. She recently graduated from university with a Masters degree in creative writing and plans to release her first fiction novel in the future, alongside other poetry collections.

Mary Birchenall, a retired Senior Lecturer from the University of Leeds where she taught Sociology in the Department of Healthcare.

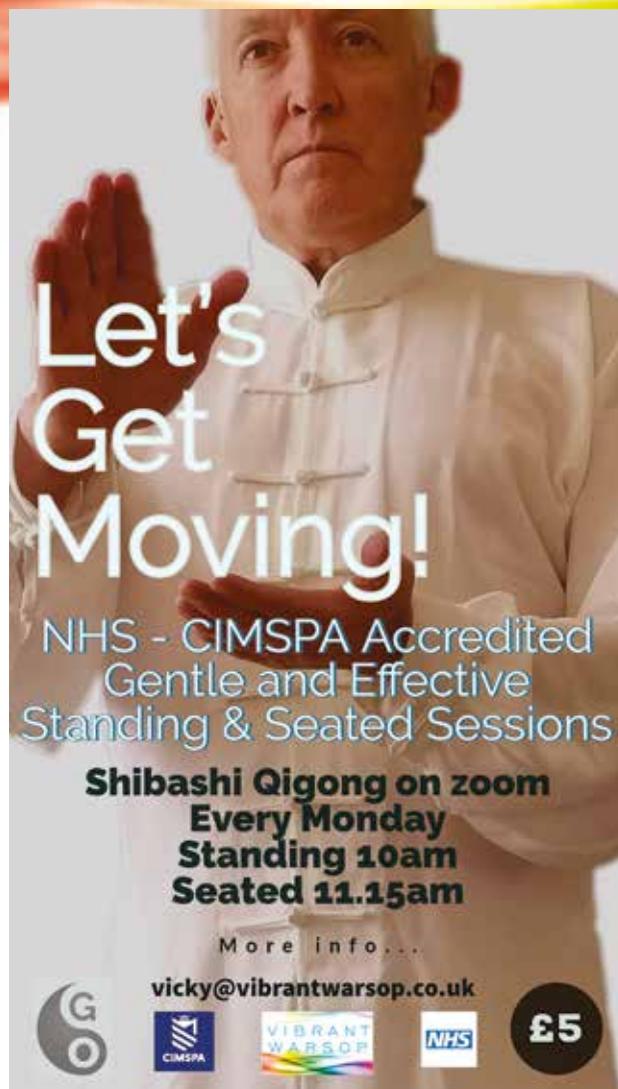
Mary missed the stimulus of academic writing, a part of her role that she had really enjoyed. Having no need to write for professional publication she found that writing could be personal and emotional.

So she wrote stories for her grandchildren and then moved into poetry. Mary said,

Pictured above (from top), Connie May, Mary Birchenall, Peter Birchenall, Mike Payne and Stacey Moon-Tracy.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact Maddy on:  
11 Tel: 07984 367153 • Email: [maddy@vibrantwarsop.org](mailto:maddy@vibrantwarsop.org)

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



**Let's Get Moving!**

NHS - CIMSPA Accredited  
Gentle and Effective  
Standing & Seated Sessions

**Shibashi Qigong on zoom**  
Every Monday  
Standing 10am  
Seated 11.15am

More info...  
vicky@vibrantwarsop.co.uk

Logos: CIMSPA, VIBRANT WARSOP, NHS, £5

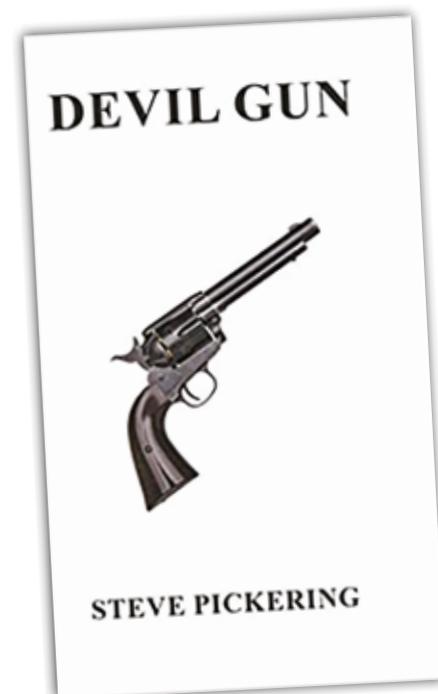
# Warsop Wordsmiths

The ability to evoke our imagination through the written word is a gift indeed and we are so very pleased to bring news on local people who have had the courage to put pen to paper and share their creative imaginations with us.

Congratulation to our entrants and winners of the horrible histories competition and to Steve and Connie for sharing their stories.

## Warsop Author Publishing Success

We are excited to announce a debut novel by Warsopian, Steve Pickering which has recently been published by New Generation Publishing.



The book is about a boy who is kidnapped by press-gangs in Victorian England and imprisoned on a Man o' war ship. After years of slaving on the ship, where he witnesses torture and killings, he incites a mutiny. Escaping into the Americas he has to adapt to another brutal way of life.

Notts Lit have short listed it as one of the best books with a Nottinghamshire connection of 2020, saying 'never predictable, this debut novel is a good old fashioned adventure story.'

Steve has always been fascinated by stories of pirates and the wild-west and was influenced from an early age by many famous writers including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his creation of Sherlock Holmes and Ian Fleming's James Bond. Steve didn't write as a profession, until he retired.

Steve was born in 1947 and was educated at Birklands Secondary Modern School for Boys. He went onto become an electrician and later a British Telecom engineer. Recently Steve moved to Lincolnshire with his wife to be closer to family, although he does miss Warsop. He continues to write and develop new material usually early in a morning as he is a light sleeper. When asked of his writing routine he said 'Some authors write a number of plots and several descriptions of characters before processing their story. In my case I just started writing. As weeks go by different ideas come to mind and the script accumulates. Over the months time is spent polishing the story and making sure all the time dates are correct.'

Steve's family are extremely proud of his achievement and were very excited when the book was published. His two sons and daughter, and all seven grandchildren along with his four sisters have each received a first edition signed copy of the book and have enjoyed the novel immensely, which he feels shows that Adventure Westerns are not just for men.

Steve would encourage others that are interested in writing to give it a go. He suggests that it is important to write about something that you have some knowledge of or that you are passionate about, but that you should always be prepared to undertake research for your book.

When asked what next Steve said 'Those that have read 'Devil Gun', are prompting me to write a sequel. Meanwhile, in the summer of 2021 two children's books that I have written will go into print.'

We will watch out for future work written by Steve and bring you further news of his success. Devil Gun is available to purchase in different formats on Amazon and in major book stores it is £12.99 for the Hardback, £8.99 for the Paperback and £4.99 for the Kindle Edition.




**WE'RE JAMMIN!**

**Do you play an instrument?**  
**Would you be interested in having a jam with others?**  
**Do you want to learn to play an instrument but not sure where to start?**

We welcome everyone to come to these sessions starting in the new year.

If you want to learn more then please contact Maddy on: 07984 367153 or email: Maddy@vibrantwarsop.org

funded through East Midlands people's health trust



**Sing for the Joy of Singing!**

**Are you interested in joining a singing group?**

No previous experience needed and everyone welcome.

As soon as restrictions allow, we will meet face to face, but in the meantime we will meet online via Zoom.

If you do not know how to use Zoom then we can help you with that too.

Contact Maddy on: 07984367153 or email: Maddy@vibrantwarsop.org

funded through East Midlands people's health trust



## From Connie's Column to Publishing Poetry

**Local writer Connie May Searson always had ambitions to become a writer, from the moment she was gifted a note pad aged eight, which she filled with her writings and named Connie's big book of small stories.**

Connie continued to write throughout her teenage years and you may remember reading Connie's Column in The Warsop and District News in the past. Living in a pub has provided Connie with lots of inspiration as she has met many different people, and she credits Warsop and particularly The Carrs as having a huge influence on her writing.

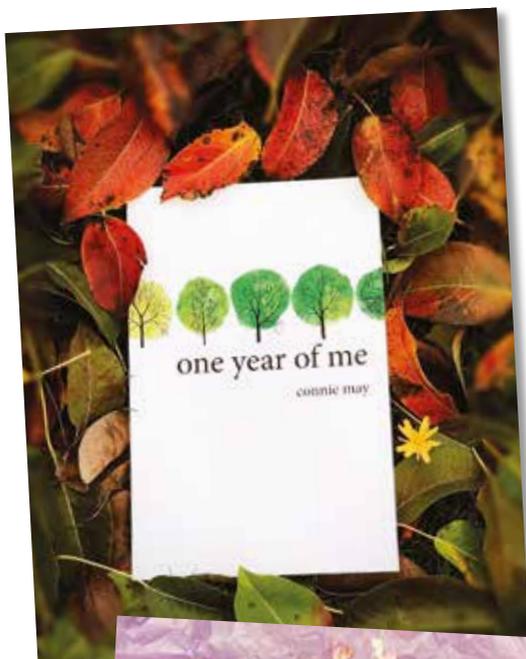


Connie enjoyed having full control over her work from its content to its design, which is why she decided to open her own Etsy shop to distribute and market her books. She also has ambitions to design her own home ware which will feature her poetry on it. The Etsy shop has allowed her to connect with the people who have bought her work and so far she has received some wonderful reviews including inspiring others to write. Connie's books have been sold to customers in Japan, Madagascar, Germany, USA and beyond.

Writing is a therapy for Connie and she would like to encourage others to pick up a pen. Her advice is to write for you and to never stop. Building a reputation as a writer takes time as does developing your craft, but for some people you may not ever want to share your work with others and that is okay too.

If you would like to buy your own copy of Connie's poetry then please visit: poetry collections and prints by [conniemaypoetry](https://www.conniemaypoetry.com) on Etsy or you can purchase through Amazon.

You can follow Connie May on Instagram: [@connie.may](https://www.instagram.com/connie.may)



It was, whilst studying towards a BA in Film and Television at Sheffield Hallam University, where a tutor advised Connie that her film scripts were poetic, and as a result she began to read poetry and fell in love with it. Connie went onto further her studies but this time she focused on poetry as she studied towards an MA in Creative Writing. It was through that course that she began to see poetry in everything and she realised that she needed to put her life into her work and that her work was her life.

Connie has since gone on to self publish two poetry books. The first entitled One Year of Me was published in 2018 and it is a set of poems which present a year in the life of the central character but told through the depiction of the four seasons. Connie reflects on this book as being the one which cemented her love of writing but she felt that it wasn't until the second book that she really discovered her style of writing and her true voice.

The second book was published in 2020 and it is something Connie feels very proud of. Named The Stars That Make Us this book contains Connie's own illustrations and designs, and is written in a font specifically designed for her also. It tells the life of a girl who is trying to figure out who she is. It takes the reader through her experiences of discovering herself and coming to terms with who she is, realising that she is at the centre of her own universe. Some of this book was written during the pandemic and some of that year is reflected in the book.



## On Line Pilates via Zoom

**Every Friday Morning**

11am • £3.50 per class

**COMING SOON! Tuesday Evenings - 6pm**

Pilates is a method of exercise that consists of low-impact flexibility and muscular strength and endurance movements. Pilates emphasizes proper postural alignment, core strength and muscle balance.

**Everyone welcome**

For more information email:

Email [vicky@vibrantwarsop.org](mailto:vicky@vibrantwarsop.org)

**VIBRANT WARSOP**

### DO YOU ENJOY CRAFTING?

Are you missing chatting and meeting with people? Then why not join our online crafting sessions

At 7pm every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month  
Chat, share ideas, make new friends and have a cuppa!

All abilities welcome and if you are interested in learning a new craft pop on and see what others are doing.

All you need is a laptop, tablet or mobile device and the Zoom app.

For more information please contact: [Vicky@vibrantwarsop.org](mailto:Vicky@vibrantwarsop.org)

**VIBRANT WARSOP**

### Are you missing meeting up with friends and having a good old chat?

Why not grab a cuppa and join us for our **virtual coffee mornings Tuesdays 10am – 11am**

All you need is a laptop, tablet or smart phone and the Zoom app.

Everyone is welcome and its easy to join in.

If you would like more information please call Vicky on 07817478521 or email [vicky@vibrantwarsop.org](mailto:vicky@vibrantwarsop.org)



## Alternative Gardening Gaggle

**Are you interested in gardening, nature, our countryside and wildlife or just like getting your hands muddy planting seeds?**

While we cannot currently meet and natter and do this together (you might have noticed!), we are still going to plan and gather through conversations and videos until it is ok to meet in person again.

If you want to learn skills towards an accredited qualification, we can help with that too. Ecologic, in partnership with Vibrant Warsop, are working with Inspire Learning to develop a range of short courses through the Miner 2 Major programme; for example: Wildlife Gardening, Nature walks, Rights of Way maintenance, Hedgerow surveys and plant propagation.

Miner 2 Major is a five year Landscape Partnership scheme that will help promote and safeguard the natural, built and cultural heritage at the historic core of Sherwood Forest.

We would therefore love to hear about any nature, conservation or horticulture-based training or experiences that you would like us to provide.

We know not everybody wants to undertake training and sometimes a walk and a chat with like-minded people is all that we need to raise our spirits, or just want to potter around gardening. We can also advise on developing your own spaces or you can help out at one of our community spaces (when we can meet up again).

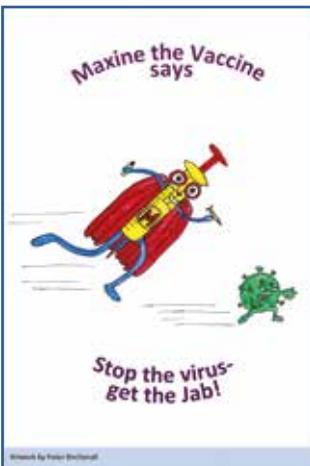
We are passionate about nature, horticulture and the countryside and we want to encourage others to engage with the environment in positive ways.

If you would like to develop your skills and knowledge or if you just want to improve your health by undertaking some light physical activities, then please let us know. We simply want to work together to create a better Warsop for us all.

So, what would lift your nature or gardening spirits?

Please let Andy Hollis know on:

**07708 875094 or [ecologic@ahollis.co.uk](mailto:ecologic@ahollis.co.uk)**



# WARSOP INFOTECH

**Warsop Infotech are still available to help you with any computer or mobile device issues you may have.**

Would you like to learn how to do on-line shopping or connect via video message to your family and friends?

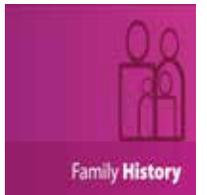
Maybe pay a bill or do some online shopping?

If there is anything you are struggling with or even just need a chat, please give us a call on: **07817 478 521** or email: [warsopinfotech@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:warsopinfotech@yahoo.co.uk)

## The census

**Infotech will be supporting Mansfield CVS with the Census 2021. Please see advertisement below.**

**More information regarding the census will be shared on our facebook page and website to keep you informed.**



The census is here  
Sunday 21 March

By taking part, you will help inform decisions about the things that matter to you and your community. If you need help to fill in your census form, we've got it covered. Visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) to find out more.

it's about us  
census 2021

Office for National Statistics