

the indie

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life are

FREE

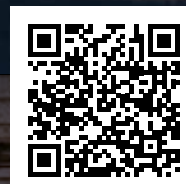
Issue 17 • Autumn/Winter 2025

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IT COUNTS**

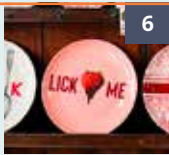


**GROW YOUR BUSINESS WITH
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Don't let the corporates steal Christmas!

Forget the chains, buy your gifts with love locally this year with our fabulous indie high street shops and online retailers. So, grab your tote and tick off your present list in true indie style!



A fresh era for Cambridge's favourite indie road

Packed from one end to the other with independent traders, Mill Road has always stood for 'town' and local residents. It may not have been celebrated as much as other parts of the city, but that's all about to change.



Theatrical return to the city's cultural landscape

It's been a tough time for the creative side of Cambridge this year, but, after a major redevelopment project, one of the city's best-loved institutions – The Arts Theatre Cambridge – has reopened just in time for panto season.



The best of
Cambridge.
In your pocket.

indie

Cheerily brought to you by Indie Cambridge

Indie Cambridge

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Welcome

to the Autumn/Winter '25 Indie

Time once again to grab yourself a coffee and take a moment to immerse yourself in the wonderfully unique world of the indies. Whether it's shopping, eating, staying, learning or working with them – there's something for everyone to enjoy by keeping things local.

Here at Indie Cambridge, we work full-time to wave the flag for small businesses – recognising their important place in our lives and our local communities. So, enjoy the read and join us in showing your love for the wonderful, hard working local business owners who make our daily lives that bit better.

And you can discover even more great stuff happening on the local scene with the CambridgeLife app – consider it the best of Cambridge in your pocket!

Anne Beamish
Anne Beamish | Founder and Editor



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Indie Cambridge



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Meet the indie team



Anne Beamish
Founder and Editor



Steve Linford
Creative Director



Louise Cummings
Indie Writer



Louise Martin
Indie Writer



Sarah Ingram
Indie Writer



Julian Eales
Indie Photographer



Ian Olsson
Indie Photographer



Pina Broccoli Anaia
Membership
Communications



Sue Walden
Membership Development



Tiny House Retreats

Behind Tiny House Retreats is Jane, a highly experienced therapist with an instinct for calm and restoring balance. Our in-home treatments bring the essence of a spa to you.

From soothing massages and rejuvenating facials to pregnancy treatments for some gentle relaxation. All delivered in your favourite place: your home.

Tiny House Retreats also has its own range of handmade, seasonal aromatherapy products carefully curated in small batches.



Discover the art of wellbeing at www.tinyhouseretreats.co.uk

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DON'T LET THE CORPORATES STEAL CHRISTMAS



In the wonderful world of high street retail, Christmas is crucial. For many independent traders, the sales they make over the festive period will help them through the leaner first couple of months of the next year. Many more people are now shopping online with the big corporates, but did you know that means less money going back in the local economy? Around 60p of each £1 spent locally, stays locally, compared to a measly 5p if you spend it online (unless that business is a local one of course).

And how about getting in the yuletide spirit, shopping via a screen doesn't really hit the spot does it? The effort independent shop owners put in to making their stores look and feel wonderfully Christmassy is worth stepping through the door for just in itself.

It's also so much more fun to shop indie. For the past few years, we at Indie Cambridge have set ourselves an 'Indie-Christmas Shopping Challenge' where we aim to buy our presents, food and drink from local independents. And we have to say, it's been really enjoyable, to us it feels like Christmas shopping used to be. So, opposite are some top indie picks to tempt you back to the high street and join in our Indie shopping challenge!



Magdalene Street Cyclists.

Photograph above by kind permission of Martin Bond.

Discover his amazing work at www.cambridgebooks.co.uk

A unique series of photography books celebrating and challenging the city's timeless beauty with the candid realities of everyday life.

Fantastic gift idea!



GIFTS



40 Green Street
40 Green Street, Cambridge CB2 3JX



Cuckoo Burwash Manor
New Road, Barton, Cambridge CB23 7EY



Freda and Bert Burwash Manor
New Road, Barton, Cambridge CB23 7EY



Harriet Kelsall Bespoke Jewellery
6/7 Green Street, Cambridge CB2 3JU



Innerlather
www.innerlather.co.uk



Lilac Rose
71 Bridge Street, Cambridge CB2 1UR



Nomads
5 King's Parade, Cambridge CB2 1SJ



Podarok
12 Bene't Street, Cambridge CB2 3PT



Small and Green
82 Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 2AS

FOOD & DRINK



Bacchanalia
79 Victoria Road, Cambridge CB4 3BS



Burwash Larder Burwash Manor
New Road, Barton, Cambridge CB23 7EY



Chocolat Chocolat
www.chocolatchocolat.co.uk



Café au Chocolat
16-17 Green Street, Cambridge, CB2 3JU



The Cambridge Cheese Company
4a All Saints Passage, Cambridge CB2 3LS



Dulcedo Patisserie
4 Eddington Square, Cambridge CB3 1TT

A fresh era for Cambridge's favourite indie road

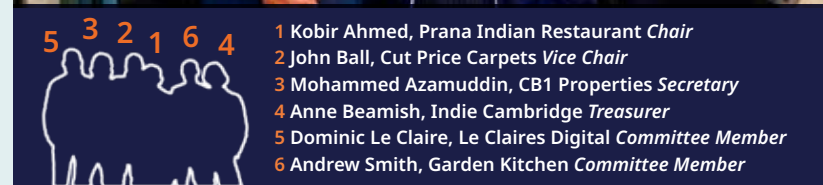
There's a renewed buzz on Mill Road – and it's not just coming from the cafés, restaurants, and indie shops that give the area its unmistakable charm. The Mill Road Traders Association (MRTA) is back with new leadership, growing membership, and a big vision for the future.

Their motto says it all: "Working together for a thriving Mill Road – supporting local traders, welcoming visitors, and creating a vibrant community for everyone who calls this place home." It's not just a slogan; it's a promise to make Mill Road the best version of itself.

Who are the MRTA?

The MRTA is a collective of local traders, business owners, and community partners who all share one thing in common: a deep love for Mill Road. Stretching through one of Cambridge's most diverse and dynamic neighbourhoods, Mill Road has long been home to an incredible variety of independent businesses – from long-standing family shops to exciting new ventures.

The association exists to bring those businesses together, amplify their voices, and foster collaboration that benefits everyone – traders, residents, and visitors alike.



- 1 Kobir Ahmed, Prana Indian Restaurant Chair
- 2 John Ball, Cut Price Carpets Vice Chair
- 3 Mohammed Azamuddin, CB1 Properties Secretary
- 4 Anne Beamish, Indie Cambridge Treasurer
- 5 Dominic Le Claire, Le Claires Digital Committee Member
- 6 Andrew Smith, Garden Kitchen Committee Member

What they aim to do

At its heart, the MRTA is about strengthening community and supporting the local economy. Their goals are clear:

- Support each other and grow together – because when one business succeeds, the whole street benefits.
- Boost footfall and attract new visitors – showing off everything Mill Road has to offer.

- Campaign for a welcoming, well-kept environment – one that reflects the pride of the people who live and work there.
- Celebrate Mill Road's unique character – all while moving forward with fresh ideas and energy.

A new chapter with fresh leadership

The last Annual General Meeting, held earlier this year in September, marked a big moment for the association. A brand-new committee was elected with overwhelming support – and it's already making waves.

It's a diverse team with a shared passion for the street and a strong mix of experience in hospitality, retail, property, and creative industries.

And they're not wasting any time. Since the AGM, the MRTA has welcomed over 35 new members – a surge that reflects growing excitement and unity among local traders.

Looking ahead

Chair Kobir Ahmed puts it simply:

"Our mission is to work together for a thriving Mill Road – support the local traders, welcome visitors, and create a vibrant community for everyone who calls this place home."

That community-first mindset is shaping every move the MRTA makes. Plans are already underway to launch a brand-new website to showcase the street's fantastic businesses; build a stronger social media presence to help boost visibility and attract more visitors; forge new partnerships with local groups and recruit community ambassadors in both Petersfield and Romsey.

More than just business

What makes Mill Road special isn't just the businesses (though they're brilliant!). It's the sense of belonging. Whether you've lived here your whole life or are just popping in for a visit, you're part of the story. The MRTA is working to ensure that Mill Road continues to thrive – not by turning it into something it's not, but by protecting what makes it unique while embracing positive change.

So next time you're on Mill Road, take a look around. Meet the people behind the shops. Grab a coffee, pick up something unexpected, and know that you're part of something pretty special.

It's been a tough year on the arts front for Cambridge this year with many events, including the Cambridge Folk Festival taken off the cultural menu. And in a city that often appears to focus attention more towards the science and tech frontiers, for fans of more creative pursuits, this has been quite a blow. So, thank goodness, after its nine-month redevelopment project, The Arts Theatre Cambridge is reopening and here's a round-up of what's coming our way!

If you've visited the city centre this year, you'll probably know that, since January 2025, The Arts Theatre Cambridge has been undergoing a transformation redevelopment project. It's been made possible by a generous £16 million gift from Lord David and Dame Susie Sainsbury via the Gatsby Charitable Trust Foundation. Designed by architect Ian Chalk, the redevelopment includes a total refurbishment of the current 666 seat auditorium, upgraded audience facilities, improved technical services, sight lines and acoustic performance.

Opening in style

In true theatre celebratory style, the reopening is being marked with The Arts Theatre Cambridge's homegrown Christmas pantomime, **Sleeping Beauty** (27 Nov 2025 – 4 Jan 2026). Fittingly, Cambridge's favourite panto dame Matt Crosby is celebrating his twentieth year on The Arts Theatre stage and will be joined in the limelight by UK Pantomime Award-winning actor Steven Roberts. The cast is completed by a whole host of West End performers including Tricia Adele-Turner (Stranger Things: The First Shadow), Matt Harrop (The Phantom of the Opera), Tanisha Butterfield (Mamma Mia!), Joseph Hewlett (Madagascar the Musical) and Daisy Twells (Heathers).

The season continues with two particular highlights as Sir Derek Jacobi and Trevor Nunn, who both have special connections to The Arts Theatre

Cambridge, pay the city a visit. Sir Derek Jacobi in **Conversation with Richard Clifford** (29 Jan) will be a one-night-only opportunity of incredible insight and joy of Shakespeare, and Trevor Nunn's production of Noël Coward's glitteringly risqué comedy **Easy Virtue** (19 Feb – 7 Mar) will brim with Coward's mischievous charm and wit.

Music, drama and comedy

Looking through the 'What's On' on the theatre's website, you can't help but think – what isn't on! From musical theatre and operas to star-studded dramas and concerts, the breadth of creative endeavour is just what Cambridge folks have been sorely missing. So, here are just some of the events coming our way in 2026 that the Indie Cambridge team have picked out. **Operation Mincemeat** (19-24 Oct) dubbed the best-reviewed show in West End history, and for musical fans – **Guys and Dolls** (14-17 Jan) and **Blood Brothers** (15-19 Sep). Family-friendly favourites include **There's A Snake in my School** (4-5 May) and **The Gruffalo** (17-21 Jun). Star-studded dramas include **The Rivals** (3-7 Feb) starring Robert Bathurst and Patricia Hodge, **Single White Female** (10-14 Mar) starring Kym Marsh and **Death on the Nile** starring Mark Hadfield. Finally, comedy lovers amongst us can look forward to **Cambridge Footlights** (1 and 8 Feb) and the return of the hugely popular comedian **Stewart Lee** (14-16 Jun).

As the people of Cambridge rejoice and the theatre prepares to welcome us all back, Rachel Tackley and Victoria Beechey, Co-Chief Executives of The Arts Theatre Cambridge said: "This season feels like a true awakening... the Theatre is not only waking up its stage but stepping confidently into a new chapter."

To see all the events coming up at The Arts Theatre Cambridge, visit their website here: www.artstheatre.co.uk



... and a new chapter for The Arts Theatre Cambridge

Ian Chalks Architects

Shop Indie

Show your individuality and style, head off the beaten track for a bit of indie shopping



Featured image: Cuckoo



Cambridge
The best of local  **Life**

Around 60p of each £1 spent locally goes back into the local economy compared with a measly 5p if you spend it online or out-of-town

THE ...

theemail@thedotdotdot.co.uk

www.thedotdotdot.co.uk

With a lifelong love of knitwear, Steph Trickett has launched THE ... – a new clothing brand focused on timeless, sustainable essentials. Made in Scotland from luxurious wool, each piece is designed to complement your existing wardrobe and be worn again and again.

Steph studied fashion at Winchester School of Art and built a career in Buying and Product Development with brands like Paul Smith and Cath Kidston. Now, combining her industry experience and personal vision, she's created THE ... to deliver knitwear with care, purpose, and integrity.

The debut collection features five styles: The Cable Knit Jumper, Cable Knit Cardigan, Contrast Cardigan, Crew Neck, and Merino Crew – in soft lambswool and Merino, with colours including olive green, cobalt blue and soft pink. Two unisex styles add versatility.

To reduce waste, pieces are available via pre-order at thedotdotdot.co.uk, with delivery set for November 2025.



The Manor Florist

Unit 9, Burwash Manor Barns, New Road, Cambridge CB23 7EY

Telephone 01223 260049

www.flowerscambridge.co.uk

Tucked away in the first courtyard at Burwash Manor, The Manor Florist is a vibrant spot, with colourful displays of fresh flowers, cheerful pots, and seasonal plants that are hard to miss.

Part of the Burwash community for over 15 years, this independent florist is led by Dawn Hookway and her passionate team. Whether you're after a spontaneous bunch, a bespoke bouquet, or event flowers, they'll create something just right for you. They specialise in hand-tied bouquets, wedding florals, and made-to-order arrangements. Choose from ready-made bunches, jam jars filled with seasonal blooms or pick your own stems at the flower stand.

You'll also find a lovely selection of house and outdoor plants, plus pots, vases, and unique gift ideas. Not sure what you need? The friendly team is always happy to help. Open Monday–Saturday 9–5, Sunday 10–4. Local delivery available six days a week.

IOLLA Cambridge

36 Green Street, Cambridge CB2 3JX

Telephone 0330 1246525

www.iolla.com/cambridge

Step inside IOLLA's new Green Street showroom and discover a fresh, friendly approach to eyewear. This bright, design-led space pairs clean lines and bold colour with a warm welcome from showroom manager Indu, who makes finding the perfect frames fun and effortless.

Founded in Scotland, IOLLA's mission is simple: make beautifully designed, high-quality glasses and sunglasses accessible – without confusing mark-ups. All frames are priced transparently at £85, including prescription lenses, coatings, and thinning. In-store, customers can try on as many styles as they like, get honest advice from Indu, and explore custom lens tints at IOLLA's unique lens bar. Whether it's your first pair of varifocals or a bold new shape, the experience is relaxed and pressure-free.

Since opening in summer 2025, IOLLA Cambridge has become a local favourite, drawing students, locals, and visitors alike. Glasses can be fitted in-store or delivered – modern eyewear shopping, reimagined around you.



Laird Hatters

4 Green Street, Cambridge CB2 3JU

Telephone 01223 356820

www.lairdhatters.com

Located on one of our prettiest thoroughfare's, Green street, amid a host of independents, Laird is a hat lover's paradise, with a collection ranging from sophisticated Sinatra trilbies and casual Brooklyn tweed caps to dainty woollen cloches and cool Panamas.

With a friendly and enthusiastic team, it'd be almost impossible not to find a statement piece to suit. All hats are handmade in England using traditional methods. Shapes are traditional but aimed at a unisex market. Bestsellers are the Hunter woollen fedora, the all-American Brooklyn flat cap, the Crushable range and, come the summer, Panamas.

True old-fashioned customer service remains key, there's even a decanter of whisky by the till, so once you've selected your dashing titfer, you can celebrate with a wee dram. Now that's customer service – and some!



Harriet Kelsall Bespoke Jewellery

6/7 Green Street Cambridge CB2 3JU

Telephone 01223 461333

www.hkjewellery.co.uk

Gaze at the illuminated window of Harriet Kelsall Bespoke Jewellery and you can't help but be enchanted by the extraordinary ring designs, dazzling pendants and exquisite earrings. Trailblazer Harriet has been crowned UK Bespoke Jeweller of the Year 2024 and Ethical/Sustainable Jewellery Business of the Year 2024.

Clearly, this is no ordinary jewellers! Indeed, the Green Street studio and shop has changed the UK jewellery industry with its innovative bespoke service and designer-led ethos. Here, customers can browse the stunning ready-to-wear collection, which can be customised or engraved, or bring in heirloom jewellery to be remodelled using sentimental gemstones and gold.

But the speciality of talented designers, Amy, Alec, Georgia, Abigail and Niru, is creating one-of-a-kind pieces using ethically-sourced gems and precious metals. So, if you are yearning for a meaningful piece of jewellery, pop in for a chat with the friendly talented team!



Kingsway Cycles

8 City Road, Cambridge CB1 1DP

Telephone 01223 355852

www.kingswaycycles.com

Kingsway Cycles tackles two major issues – global sustainability and local traffic – by helping Cambridge residents adopt greener transport. Tucked away on City Road near Paradise Street and the Grafton Centre, this independent bike shop offers a wide range of traditional bikes, e-bikes, and cargo bikes. Their popular Tern e-bikes are perfect for commuting or school runs, offering a cost-effective, eco-friendly alternative to car travel.

Kingsway also supports the Cycle to Work Scheme, helping employees spread the cost of new bikes while saving on tax. They also hire out bikes equipped with lights and locks, stock second-hand models, accessories, and clothing, and provide expert repairs with same-day turnaround when possible. Opening early at 8 a.m., they cater to busy schedules.

A local fixture since 1978, Kingsway Cycles remains family-owned, now run by founder David Ouzman's son, Steve, with support from Colin Barnard and Andrew Lander, all dedicated to keeping Cambridge cycling.



Freda and Bert

Unit 10, Burwash Manor Barns, New Road, Cambridge CB23 7EY
Telephone 01223 260049
www.fredaandbert.co.uk

Nestled among the indie shops at Burwash Manor, Freda and Bert is a small but mighty gift shop with a big heart. Part of the Burwash community for over seven years, it's known for its beautifully curated selection of gifts, handpicked by owner Dawn Hookway with a love for all things unique and indie. The shop celebrates finding something a little different – from independent brands, local makers, and creative minds. You'll find a brilliant mix of gifts for babies, kids, tweens, women, and men, plus a growing range of stylish home accessories.

The stock is ever-changing, so there's always something new to discover – even mid-unpacking! From thoughtful cards and quirky books to chocolate, puzzles, jewellery, and fragrances, there's something for everyone. They also stock over 20 brilliant card and wrap brands – and yes, they'll wrap your gift for you too. Freda and Bert is a must-visit next time you're at Burwash Manor.



SHOP INDIE



Cuckoo

Burwash Manor, New Road, Barton, Cambridge CB23 7EY
Telephone 01223 262123
www.cuckooclothing.co.uk

Owners Michelle Veenman and Kate Bols are inspired by art, design, colour and texture, and Cuckoo's customers have come to expect the clothing to reflect this passion. Their range is designed to appeal to the woman of any age who is looking for clothes that combine unusual prints and beautiful textiles, with longevity, wearability and a mixture of price points. And because they buy in relatively small numbers you can be sure that what you get will be special and unique. There's also a gorgeous collection of tasteful gifts and accessories.

With the global challenges we are all experiencing, Michelle and Kate are increasingly keen to put sustainability at the heart of everything they do and they love to support smaller UK brands where possible.

Cuckoo looks forward to welcoming you at the Burwash farm site, where there is free parking, a café and a wealth of other independent businesses to explore.

Providence

Burwash Manor, New Road, Barton, Cambridge CB23 7EY
Telephone 01223 264666
www.providenceuk.com

Located at Burwash Manor, Providence is filled with beautiful and practical Shaker-influenced furniture and other finishing items for the home.

Providence started out as cabinetmakers, producing pieces in oak and pine including freestanding kitchen dressers, larder cupboards, linen presses and wardrobes. They also build stunning bespoke fitted furniture, from kitchens and wardrobes to bookcases and alcove units.

To finish their pieces, owners Kathy and Tim Ritchie developed their own Providence Paint and stock this along with other quality ranges from Farrow and Ball, Earthborn Claypaint and Myland.

Providence can also mix colours, including RAL and NCS. As well as larger furniture items, this lovely indie is home to a selection of gorgeous accessories including Shaker rails, shelves, handles, hooks, brooms and traditional braided rugs.



Lilac Rose

71 Bridge Street, Cambridge CB2 1UR
Telephone 01223 363330
www.lilacrose.co.uk

If you've got an eye for colourful clothes, quirky accessories, or gifts with a twist then Lilac Rose is a shopping must.

Owners Mark and Amanda Sinclair aimed to bring theatre to the high street and with their range of British clothing featuring fantastic fabrics and a fabulous fit, and their inspired collection of glamorous, quirky jewellery and accessories, it's easy to get caught up in the fun. Although pricing is consciously 'high street', Mark and Amanda only stock a small number of each item so you won't get lost in the crowd.

Lilac Rose is a brilliant place to find presents as well, from books and bags to cards and wrapping paper. Enjoy a personal experience with the very helpful team, or buy from their easy-to-use online shop which offers a handy 'click and collect' service too.



Small and Green

82 Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 2AS
Telephone 01223 474368 or 07902 208195
www.smallandgreen.com

Janet Fox of Small and Green has been part of Cambridge's vibrant indie scene for over five years, trading at the central market and various pop-up venues. In 2021, she opened the first Small and Green shop at 82 Mill Road, on the Petersfield side of the bridge. The shop offers a wide range of beautiful houseplants, handmade terrariums, and a curated selection of plant-themed gifts and homeware – including pots, planters, cards, and products from local artists.

With over 20 years of experience as a professional gardener, Janet shares expert advice and tips to help keep your plants thriving. Whether you're after easy-care greenery or something more unique, there's plenty to explore – especially their stunning, low-maintenance terrariums, made by hand in-store. Small and Green also hosts regular workshops on plant care and terrarium making, perfect for gifts or personal enjoyment. Visit the shop or website to book.



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- creative tips for living your best life locally and supporting indie businesses

We're putting independent brands firmly in the spotlight – your favourite cafés, shops, and experiences and soon, you'll have the whole Indie Cambridge scene in your pocket!

Are you an Indie business? Find out what CambridgeLife can do for your business, visit www.indiecambridge.com and click 'Join us'.

indie

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Eat & Drink

The stuff of life, made with indie love



Featured image: Market House



Cambridge
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De Luca Cucina & Bar

83 Regent Street, Cambridge CB2 1AW

Telephone 01223 356666

www.delucacucina.co.uk

Italians are renowned for their passion for fine food and warm hospitality and you'll discover a joyful fusion of both at De Luca Cucina & Bar in Cambridge. The stylish independent restaurant, launched by Paul De Luca in 2006 – inspired by his love of people and proud Italian heritage – specialises in modern Italian cuisine, cooked from scratch, using locally-sourced ingredients.

Bestsellers include the lasagne, Melanzane Parmigiana, Linguine Al Frutti Di Mare, crispy squid and Neapolitan-style pizzas, hand stretched using speciality Italian OO Caputo flour – plus artisan gelato.

Aside from its stunning Skylight Restaurant and Bar, De Luca boasts a first-floor Vespa Function Room and a New York loft-style cocktail bar, home to its 'world-famous Piano Bar' where professional singer-pianist entertainers – including founder Robin P-iano – lead request-driven sing-alongs.



Burwash Larder

Burwash Manor, New Road, Barton, Cambridge CB23 7EY

Telephone 01223 264600

www.burwashlarder.com

Burwash Larder began life in 1985 as a roadside table selling farm-grown asparagus and sweetcorn alongside an honesty box. Now the product line numbers a dizzying 3000 items – including founder Mike Radford's legendary asparagus – and occupies a magnificent barn packed to the rafters with organic fruit and veg, fresh bread and cakes, and locally sourced meats. It is truly one of the region's finest delicatessens; the cheese counter alone stocks over 70 British and European cheeses.

Manager Clare Rosier explains the philosophy: to buy 'as good as we can, as close as we can.' Suppliers include Les Ward Greengrocers, Grain Culture, BrewBoard and Wood Street Coffee.

The Larder also houses family butcher Leech & Sons, who supply the deli as well as selling local meats, including beef from Burwash cows; it doesn't get more local than that!

The Orator

Round Church Street Cambridge CB5 8AD

Telephone 01223 417142

www.theoratorcambridge.co.uk

The Orator is the stylish bar and restaurant within the historic Cambridge Union Society on Round Church Street. Following a major refurbishment, The Orator opened in May 2021 and is the perfect place to enjoy a delicious meal or custom cocktail.

The Society's rooms are available for hire throughout the year around the debates and speaker events timetable, which take place during the Cambridge University term. The historical rooms provide a special setting for birthday or anniversary celebrations and make an inspiring space for networking or teambuilding events. There are also a variety of Christmas offerings available.

Members of the public can join the Society's Open Membership. Priced £350 a year, the membership includes access to selected debates and speaker events at The Union and online, as well as 20 per cent discount on food and drink in The Orator.



Chocolat Chocolat

Telephone 01223 778982

info@chocolatchocolat.co.uk www.chocolatchocolat.co.uk

Isabelle Chappell's journey to becoming an award-winning chocolatier began in childhood, inspired by her French mother's love of dark chocolate. While running a fashion brand in Paris, she bought a chocolate shop to transform into a boutique – igniting a passion for chocolate-making. She later trained with top chocolatiers in France and Belgium, mentored by the late Peter Thornton. In 2006, Isabelle launched Chocolat Chocolat with her husband, opening a Cambridge shop in 2009. Her signature chocolate bouquets – rippled sheets in flavours like sea salt, praline, and caramel – became bestsellers. She was even commissioned to create a dark chocolate lemon meringue for the BBC.

Now based in Hatley St George, Isabelle runs a thriving online store and wholesale business, with popular products like her globally-inspired chocolate shards. She also hosts chocolate-making classes and sells at local markets and fairs. Stockists include The Gog Farm Shop – proof that handcrafted chocolate still has a devoted audience.



Amelie Restaurant, Café & Bakeshop

Ben's Yard, Stuntney Estate, Ely CB7 5TR

Telephone 01353 524015 www.amelierestaurants.co.uk

Alex and Regis Crepy, the dynamic son-father duo behind Amelie at Ben's Yard, bring a relaxed, family-friendly dining experience with a passion for quality food. Their signature dish is the flammekuech – an ultra-thin, yeast-free flatbread from Alsace, France – baked quickly at high heat for a crisp, flavour-packed result. Topped with crème fraîche or tomato sauce and creative seasonal ingredients, it's a must-try.

With a background in fine dining and award-winning restaurants across East Anglia, the Crepys focus on warm hospitality and bold, contemporary flavours. Head chef Rory Landells uses top local produce for inventive dishes that change with the seasons.

Open all day, Amelie serves breakfast, small and large plates, afternoon tea, and a classic Sunday roast. The restaurant has earned two AA Rosettes and multiple regional awards for culinary excellence. Don't miss Amelie Café & Bakeshop – perfect for coffee, fresh breads, French patisseries, quiches, and light takeaway options.

Market House

12/12A Market Hill, Cambridge, CB2 3NJ

Telephone 01223 455560 www.markethouse.co.uk

A one-of-a-kind dining experience awaits at Market House, where modern British and Asian cuisine come together in elegant surroundings. Overlooking Cambridge's Market Square, this five-storey Grade II listed building houses a stylish first-floor restaurant, alfresco terrace, candle-lit wine cellar, innovative Food Lab, and flexible private spaces.

Launched in 2022 by partners Bill Brogan and Jinzhao Li, Market House blends fine food, warm hospitality, and striking interiors. Bill, once the youngest Michelin-starred chef in the UK, and Jinzhao, formerly a senior manager in China's largest education group, met while working at St John's College. The menu features standout dishes like 28-day dry-aged steak, Korean fried chicken, and prawn and kimchi sushi, using local, seasonal ingredients with vegan and gluten-free options. A drinks list of 80+ world wines, craft gins, and locally-roasted coffee complements the offering.

With its magpie bridge-inspired ceiling and East-meets-West aesthetic, Market House is perfect for any occasion.



Hot Numbers

Unit 6 Dale's Brewery, Gwydir Street, Cambridge, CB1 2LJ

Telephone 01223 612209

www.hotnumberscoffee.co.uk

Hot Numbers is an independent speciality coffee shop and roastery with a vision focused firmly on excellent coffee and food, served with a smile, and all to a soundtrack of jazz/blues music. This local business, Cambridge-grown by its founder Simon Fraser, is named after a former record shop he frequented in his youth, found on Kingston Street close to their very first coffee shop in Gwydir Street.

Hot Numbers roast and serve ever-changing seasonal single origin coffee to the highest standard possible, alongside delicious brunch and cake menu offerings – made both in-house and by a host of friendly local suppliers. Live music at Gwydir Street sees a monthly jazz gig, and with plans to expand their repertoire to weekly sessions, do keep an eye out for what's on!

The Hot Numbers team also supply all types of coffee outlets, office coffee solutions and businesses with coffee, cakes and more!



The Station House, Histon

118 Station Road, Histon, Cambridge CB24 9LF

Telephone 01223 234381

www.histonstationhouse.com

Once a haven for railway commuters, Histon Station has been reimaged as a vibrant brunch, lunch, and afternoon tea spot by entrepreneur David Harrison. Beautifully restored, The Station House opened in July 2021, offering wholesome meals, decadent waffles, smoothies, milkshakes, cakes, and ethically sourced coffee – all set beside the Guided Busway.

With its stylish interior, quirky original features, and spacious outdoor terrace, the café is a favourite among locals, school-run parents, dog walkers, and cyclists. The menu brims with creative dishes, including the bestselling Smoked Salmon, Avocado, Poached Egg, Halloumi and Waffle, and the colourful Salmon and Beetroot Benedict. Indoor tables can be booked online, while outdoor seating operates on a first-come basis. Health-conscious diners can enjoy energising smoothies, indulgent waffles, and homemade cakes, complemented by eco-friendly Reforest Tea, Hot Numbers Coffee, and local produce – plus new additions like Mimosas and craft beers.

Cambridge Cookery

School House, Homerton Gardens, Cambridge CB2 8EB

Telephone 01223 247620

www.cambridgecookery.com

Cambridge independents know how to excel, and Cambridge Cookery does just that. Now in its eighth year as a café and fifteenth as the Cookery School, the superb quality of its offering, as well as its beautiful setting, makes it a beacon for those who appreciate great food.

The café, closed recently for a well-earned facelift, has now reopened with a welcome return to its much-loved Scandinavian and Italian culinary roots, plus some exciting new additions such as a new menu of homemade dishes to order and take away and the launch of evening dining events and wine and food tastings. Next door at the Cookery School, corporate events and classes inspire the would-be chefs amongst us – bringing people together to learn new skills within the stunning backdrop of the School's state-of-the-art kitchen.

If you appreciate good food, and all within carefully designed and beautiful surroundings, Cambridge Cookery is a must for you.



The Cambridge Cheese Company

4a All Saints Passage, Cambridge CB2 3LS

Telephone 01223 328672

www.cambridgecheese.com

Jacky and Paul Sutton-Adam conceived the idea of The Cambridge Cheese Company after failing to find some festive fromage back in 1993. Nearly 30 years later, their glorious emporium, occupying a Grade II listed building in the heart of Cambridge, boasts over 200 phenomenal farmhouse and artisan cheeses sourced from small suppliers in Britain and Europe who share their passion for quality, sustainability and animal welfare.

The delectable cheeses include Baron Bigod from Suffolk, Colston Bassett Stilton, and rare farmhouse cheeses from Bavaria and The Netherlands, nurtured to peak ripeness in the basement maturing rooms. It's not just cheese. There are fiery chilli sauces, artisan charcuterie, locally-sourced pork pies, and a smorgasboard of other specialities from hand-picked European suppliers. Festive fromage failure is definitely a thing of the past in Cambridge!



Pint Shop

10 Peas Hill, Cambridge CB2 3PN

cambridge@pintshop.co.uk

www.pintshop.co.uk

Pint Shop epitomises the pleasure to be had from eating and drinking in an intimate, friendly and warm atmosphere, whether it's just a few beers, a light lunch, or a full-blown feast featuring delicious food cooked on the coals.

Owners Richard Holmes and Benny Peverelli took their inspiration from the Victorian beer houses or 'Tom and Jerry Shops' that proliferated after the passing of the Beer Act in 1830. Before the Act, beer was considered a rich man's drink because it was heavily taxed, so the poorer classes drank rot-gut gin in illegal gin shops. The Beer Act allowed anyone who paid a small fee to brew their own beer and sell it in their own houses and thus was a new generation of beer drinkers born.

Cheers to the beer, the food and good company!

Bridges Café

20 Bridge Street, Cambridge CB2 1UF

Telephone 01223 300800

www.bridgescambridge.co.uk

A zesty aroma of freshly-squeezed citrus fruit greets you at Bridges café. Owners Meggy and Chan Yip, juicing at home for over 20 years, offer revitalizing juices and smoothies made to order. Ingredients like cucumber, ginger, and apple come from local suppliers like Cambridge Organic Food Company and the sustainable Cambridge Food Hub.

The café also serves homemade cakes such as Earl-grey lemon poppyseed, vegan banana, and chocolate fudge cake. Popular savoury options include the Homity Pie, Spanish tortilla, and a new hot smoked salmon tart and vegetarian Gruyère potato tart, plus homemade curry paninis.

With dishes like Korean-style garlic beef or tofu, Bridges balances comfort and health. Their corporate catering includes options with oriental twist. The recent new recipe of gluten free meat skewers and vegan grilled vegetables skewers are very popular for evening buffet menu, showing how Meggy and Chan continue to innovate healthy dining in Cambridge.



The Cambucha

hello@thecambucha.com
Instagram @thecambucha

Lukas and Kasia, the dynamic husband and wife team behind The Cambucha – who handcraft premium kombucha – have been fermenting food since their childhood in Poland.

During lockdown, food science consultant Lukas and PhD researcher Kasia began brewing drinks to find an energising, gut-friendly and grown-up alternative to alcohol. The result was their delicious, lightly fizzy, small batch kombucha, made from fermented teas and lush whole fruits (with no nasties).

The Cambucha comes in three flavours. There's Original, for kombucha aficionados, and their Raspberry and Lemon and Ginger flavours have both achieved Great Taste Awards.

The Cambucha launched in 2023, and customers are loving the 'surprising rich and refreshing flavour' so much that production has moved from home to a business unit at the Yard in Knapwell. They'll also be releasing seasonal editions after the success of their 2024 Summer Cup flavour.



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Featured image: Kyle Chater Acoustic



Cambridge
The best of local  Life

The more indies we have, the more character our City
has – who wants to live in a clone-town full of sheep
who buy what the big chains tell them to?

Cambridge Music Festival

info@cambridgemusicfestival.co.uk

www.cambridgemusicfestival.co.uk

Since taking over as director of Cambridge Music Festival in 2012, Justin Lee has brought world-class musicians to the city and reimagined classical music for new audiences. Under his leadership, CMF now runs seasonal programmes, replacing its former two-week format with year-round concerts.

The Autumn season is now on sale, offering a vibrant mix of music across Cambridge's chapels and concert halls. Audiences can enjoy monumental choral works, Renaissance polyphony, Indian classical traditions, and solo piano recitals. Featured artists include Britten Sinfonia with cellist Guy Johnston, The Tallis Scholars, the BBC Singers with the men of King's College Choir and the BBC Concert Orchestra, santoor-player Kaviraj Singh, pianist Angela Hewitt, and the Quatuor Danel.

Looking ahead, the Festival returns in Spring 2026 with another standout line-up, including pianists Boris Giltburg and Danny Driver, the Choir of King's College, Ute Lemper, the Takács Quartet and the Colin Currie Group. Full details arrive early next year.



Fen Ditton Gallery

23 High Street, Fen Ditton, Cambridge CB5 8ST

www.fendittongallery.com

Fen Ditton Gallery is a leading destination for contemporary art in Cambridge, run by artist/photographer Lotte Attwood and her daughter Hannah Munby. Located in the village of Fen Ditton (a short bike ride from central Cambridge), the gallery is housed in Lotte's home, and offers a welcoming and inspiring space to discover, acquire and engage with extraordinary works of art.

Since opening in May 2018, the gallery has developed a diverse programme of exhibitions, artist residencies and events featuring established artists and makers alongside carefully selected emerging talent. Key areas of focus include original print, art and the natural world, and celebrating the chromatic spectrum through originality and craftsmanship.

As well as holding exhibitions, the gallery supports new and emerging collectors through a Young Collectors Club and has worked with private and corporate clients to curate bespoke collections.

Waresley Park Estate

Gamlingay Road, Waresley, Sandy SG19 3DD

Telephone 01223 491396

www.waresleyparkestate.co.uk

Nestled in the heart of the Cambridgeshire countryside is the beautiful Waresley Park Estate. Spanning 120 acres of open space, the stunning destination has evolved throughout its history from its early days as a family home to the charming venue for bespoke weddings and parties it is today.

Director Ben Griggs is always striving to diversify the estate's offering to make it a destination in which to enjoy a range of experiences. Visitors can book paddleboarding and wild swimming sessions at the Estate's lake as well as live performances in the outdoor amphitheatre, or simply relax at the Bean Theory café. And it doesn't stop there! Later in the year comes Christmas festive foodie workshops, silent discos and Santa's Grotto.

With so much on offer now and in the coming months this special place is well worth a visit.



The Arts Theatre Cambridge

6 St. Edwards Passage, Cambridge CB2 3PJ

Box Office 01223 503333

www.cambridgeartstheatre.com

Behind the scenes at The Arts Theatre Cambridge, the Cambridge Arts Theatre Trust is helping to inspire a love of the performing arts and secure the Theatre's future for generations to come. With over 20 staff and more than 70 casual members and volunteers, the Theatre thrives at the heart of Cambridge's cultural life. Thanks to a transformative gift from Lord David and Dame Susie Sainsbury via the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, the Theatre is undergoing a major redevelopment – reimagining its space and deepening connections with audiences, artists and the community.

The grand reopening will be marked by the homegrown pantomime *Sleeping Beauty* (27 Nov 2025 – 4 Jan 2026), featuring Matt Crosby in his twentieth year and a star-studded cast. The packed season continues throughout the new year with highlights including Sir Derek Jacobi in *Conversation* and Trevor Nunn's production of Noël Coward's *Easy Virtue*, promising a dazzling celebration of theatre in Cambridge.



Cambridge Modern Jazz

Telephone 07827 012875

info@cambridgejazz.org

www.cambridgejazz.org

For over 50 years, Cambridge Modern Jazz (CMJ) has been a launchpad for incredible musical talent, showcasing the best national and international jazz artists. Run entirely by volunteers, CMJ has hosted many "you heard them here first" moments, featuring future stars like Sultan Stevenson, Tom Ollendorff, Emma Rawicz and the Vein Trio.

Since 2010, gigs have taken place at Hidden Rooms – an intimate, underground venue with a New York jazz bar vibe. CMJ was founded in 1972 by Joan Morrell, a passionate advocate for emerging musicians from all backgrounds. Early performances included the South African Township Comets and saxophonist Iain Ballamy.

After Joan's passing in 2011, current chairman David Gower and booker John Blandford took up the reins, continuing her legacy. CMJ also partners with the Cambridge Jazz Festival each November.

Cambridge Literary Festival

Telephone 01223 515335

hello@cambridgeliteraryfestival.com

www.cambridgeliteraryfestival.com

Launched in 2003 as Cambridge Wordfest, the festival has gone from strength to strength. Now in its 21st year it attracts a global audience and has a growing reputation as a leading UK literary festival.

The thoughtfully curated programme features a tantalising mix of literary luminaries, including Nobel Laureates, debut writers, journalists, politicians, scientists, artists and poets. Now a twice-yearly event with fresh digital content on CLF Player, the festival also offers unrivalled access to beautiful Cambridge venues, from St John's Old Divinity School to the Cambridge Union Debating Chamber.

The festival is a registered charity with a core vision to deliver an inclusive, diverse, and accessible festival. The small team work behind the scenes all year round to deliver some amazing events but what makes the festival really tick is the trusted band of volunteers, whose energy and commitment, make it such a beloved community run event.



Tiny House Retreats

Telephone 07738 533502

hello@tinyhouseretreats.co.uk

www.tinyhouseretreats.co.uk

In our fast-paced lives, it can be difficult to carve out time to nurture body, mind and soul. If only there was a way to magic a caring professional to our doorstep! As it happens, such a holistic heroine does exist in highly-trained therapist Jane Spence, founder of Cambridge-based Tiny House Retreats. With 15-plus years' experience in spa treatments and massage therapy, Jane brings the serene spa experience directly to your home.

This modern-day Mary Poppins, arrives with an assortment of spa luxuries, including a heated massage bed, fluffy towels, blankets, music and candles. Jane offers deeply relaxing massages, from hot stone to Indian head massage, pregnancy to oncology, as well as calming facials, using her own-blend organic products.

Whoever the client is, Jane says she loves to create a calm, safe space where people can feel relaxed, rejuvenated and rebalanced by the incredible power of touch.



Helen Handmade Books

helen@helenhandmadebooks.com

www.helenhandmadebooks.com

If there's one word that captures Helen Perry's work, it's alchemy – the transformation of simple materials like paper, cardboard, and glue into exquisite handmade books. After a career in social work and adult education, Helen discovered bookbinding through a course led by Edel Hopkin. Captivated by the process, she soon began assisting and eventually took over the business in 2019.

Helen now teaches a variety of bookbinding and box-making courses, sharing her skills with beginners and enthusiasts alike. Her core offering, Beginning Bookbinding, is a comprehensive weekend course covering styles such as case bound, quarter bound, concertina, and stab stitch. She also offers themed long weekend courses – The Wrap and The Artist's Collection – alongside shorter, one-day sessions exploring techniques like loop binding and Japanese-style album binding. Box-making classes introduce further decorative techniques, using beautiful materials to create keepsake-quality pieces. All materials and tools are provided, making each course fully accessible.

Floatwell

6 Salisbury Villas, Station Road, Cambridge CB1 2JF

01223 297872

www.floatwell.co.uk

Amid the buzz of the CB1 business district is a new approach to wellbeing. A stone's throw from Cambridge Station, Floatwell offers treatments and experiences to help clients relax and prioritise their self-care. Launched by James and Freya Cope-Brown in 2022 with a clear goal; 'wellbeing that works', Floatwell embraces a science-based approach to wellbeing.

Core treatments include top-of-the-range floatation pods, containing 12-inches of body temperature, Epsom salt-saturated water, which allows you to float effortlessly. There are also two infrared saunas delivering heat deeply and efficiently at a comfortable 55 to 60 degrees, and Floatwell's state-of-the-art AI massage chair, which scans your back before producing a tailored massage geared to your specific needs. There's also a light, airy studio for wellbeing-themed classes and workshops, and for those seeking a more hands-on approach there is a large treatment room for therapies including various styles of massage and skincare.



PAUS.

Toft Road, Cambridge CB23 2TT

Telephone 07828 978811

www.paus.life

Follow a lantern-lit path up the hillside and discover PAUS., a serene outdoor retreat in Bourn inspired by Scandinavian wellness. Nestled among wildflower meadows and colourful deckchairs, PAUS. offers a unique bathing and breathing space with wood-fired red cedar hot tubs, authentic Finnish saunas, cool plunge pools, sensory barefoot trails, and invigorating hot and cold showers. The Hilltop Bistro serves wholesome, seasonal dishes featuring fresh vegetables and edible flowers from their 'no dig' garden.

Founders Alexandra and Bart began renting hot tubs in 2010, growing the business after a Wilderness Festival booking. Inventing and perfecting new features each year, by 2014 they'd launched the world's first Double Decker Hot Tub Bus. PAUS. opened in 2018 as their permanent wellness haven, offering the restorative power of hot and cold bathing.

Whether soaking, dining, or strolling barefoot through the mud, PAUS. invites guests to slow down and reconnect with nature – whatever the weather.



DISCOVER



Emma Kenny

19 The Courtyard, Sturton Street, Cambridge CB1 2SN

info@emmakennytherapies.com

www.emmakennytherapies.com

In a quiet courtyard off Sturton Street you'll find a peaceful studio, where clients enjoy an array of tailor-made massage therapies. Here owner Emma Kenny and a team of high calibre therapists specialise in treatments including deep tissue massage, maternity therapies, reflexology, Indian head massage, hot stone therapies and facial rejuvenation massage.

It's very much an inclusive space, where any 'body', regardless of size, age, gender or ability can benefit from soothing, uplifting and rejuvenating treatments. Emma, works alongside 11 hand-picked independent associate therapists, trained by the best in the industry, who offer a spectrum of touch-based therapies and share her vision of supporting people with skill, compassion and efficiency. Passionate about the science and the art of massage, Emma and her fellow practitioners offer bespoke therapies that feel luxurious but are also incredibly effective at achieving goals, be that relaxation or easing health conditions.

Cambridge Tarot

Telephone 07769 670578

cambridgetarotsiobhan@gmail.com

www.cambridgetarot.com

It's a rare gift to help others change their lives for the better – to shift mindsets, overcome challenges, and find clarity. For Siobhan Kelly, founder of Cambridge Tarot, it's all in a day's work. A professionally trained tarot reader, clairvoyant, wellness coach, and angel healer, Siobhan works with clients worldwide – from entrepreneurs to psychiatrists – using tarot, intuition, and coaching to inspire growth in love, life, and career.

Specialising in relationships, business, and health, she offers both online and in-person readings. Her clients' successes range from an aristocrat who overcame lifelong trauma to a professional who launched her own practice within months of their session.

Originally from Limerick, Siobhan discovered tarot at 12 and later realised her intuitive gifts. After moving to Cambridge in 2019, she pursued tarot alongside wellbeing coaching. Today, she welcomes clients to her serene, candle-lit space and offers event readings and local collaborations.



Paula Armstrong Ceramics

5 Rookery Place, Fenstanton, Huntingdon PE28 9LZ

Telephone 01480 700280

www.parmstrongceramics.co.uk

The tactile pleasure of moulding clay can be incredibly therapeutic, as you disconnect from life's drama and ground yourself in the moment. Paula Armstrong discovered the infinite joy of clay aged 13, experimenting in her school's ceramics studio. Going on to gain a Design Crafts degree, Paula launched her ceramics business from a home studio, investing in her first kiln, which she still uses today.

The ceramicist moved to her current spacious premises in a leafy corner of Fenstanton in 2019. Paula's distinctive one-off sculptures inspired by the natural world have pride of place in the windows. Paula offers studio memberships, termly courses and in-studio and online workshops – the most popular of these is the spectacular Japanese firing method Raku.

Corporate events are also a hit, and she sells her ceramics through gallery exhibitions and via her website, where you'll also find her quirky self-designed potters' merchandise, from hoodies to aprons.



Karen Jinks Design

Studio 3, Stapleford Granary, Bury Road, Stapleford

Cambridge CB22 5BP www.karenjinksdesign.co.uk

With over 20 years' experience as a graphic designer working with indie start-ups, creatives, and community organisations, Karen Jinks now brings her skills together in one vibrant space at Stapleford Granary. Her studio is a calm, creative haven where she paints and teaches expressive, joyful art classes that go far beyond technique.

Karen's workshops aren't just about painting – they're about breaking through creative blocks and rediscovering joy. Whether you're a complete beginner, returning to art after a break, or feeling stuck, Karen creates a welcoming space to experiment, play, and grow. She provides everything you need – from materials to mindset – and helps you reconnect with your creative voice. Each student receives personal guidance and encouragement to explore their unique path. It all begins with a single mark on paper.

Visitors are welcome to explore the studio, or you can find full details of classes and workshops on her website.

Emily Jolley

art@emilyjolley.co.uk

www.emilyjolley.co.uk

Abstract artist Emily Jolley creates beautiful and impactful artwork. Working to both small and large scale, Emily's signature material is emulsion paint though she works in a variety of media. In the midst of her studio is an old office chair with the words 'artwork is work' painted on its back; a reminder to Emily that the creative space is where she is meant to be.

Emily also works as a business development professional and combines her art and project management skills, something she demonstrated with the launch of Huntingdon Art Gallery in 2022. Emily also organises exhibitions on behalf of other art groups, collaborates with businesses such as fellow indie member Providence, and has been shortlisted for the Visual Artists Association Professional Artist of the year award 2023. She has been supporting the charity Cambridge Community Arts as CEO since May 2024.

Emily's art is available to buy, and commissions are welcomed.



Clarendon Street Veterinary Surgery

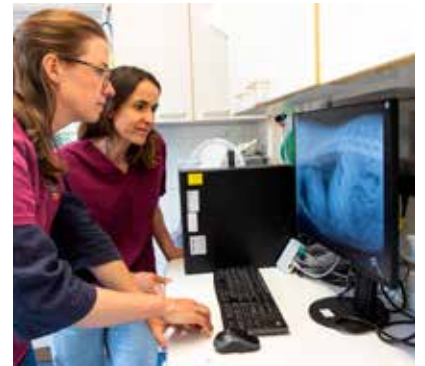
28 Clarendon Street, Cambridge CB1 1JX

Telephone 01223 359021

www.clarendonstreetvets.co.uk

With 60 years' experience to its name, owners and their pets are in very safe hands at Clarendon Street Veterinary Centre. The small community practice in the centre of Cambridge has been run by Patrick von Heimendahl for the past 25 years, providing services including vaccinations, neutering, surgery, travel certificates, microchipping and home visits, caring for a variety of pets including cats, dogs, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, and even the occasional chicken!

Known for being a friendly, family-run practice, Patrick has been joined by his niece and fellow vet Harriet O'Roidan. Alongside them are vet Maria, client care team Sue, Anna, Nancy and Alaina, and RVN's Sarah and Amber plus surgery cat Samba, a rescued stray who spends her time happily lounging around in the warmest, sunniest spots – and clearly Samba has fallen on her feet/paws to snare this fine surgery as her forever home!



DISCOVER



Kyle Chater Acoustic Singer and Guitarist

kyle_chater@hotmail.com

www.kylechateracoustic.co.uk

www.thesnapchaps.co.uk

Whether performing solo at a private party or as frontman of his unplugged, strolling band at a beautiful wedding venue, Kyle Chater promises to play feel-good music that will get you on your feet. The Cambridge-based singer and acoustic guitarist has been performing for almost 20 years and in 2020 formed The Snap Chaps – Strolling Band. The all-singing four-piece specialise in weddings and corporate parties and are known for their quirky, unplugged and interactive style, performing amongst their audience.

Alongside the band Kyle is a popular solo performer and, if you're looking to add an additional sound, offers a selection of duo options, including percussion, sax/flute, double bass, second guitarist and ukulele.

With over 450 tracks in his repertoire and a community of experienced musicians to call upon to join him, you can trust Kyle to provide the perfect entertainment for your next party.

Cambridge Design Rooms

Unit 2, 23-25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge, CB1 2LG

Telephone 07976 578329

www.cambridgedesignrooms.com

Asked to describe Cambridge Design Rooms, co-owner Janet Scotcher replies, 'If 'The Repair Shop' and 'The Great British Sewing Bee' had a baby ...'. Janet and husband and co-owner, David Scotcher aim to make people think more carefully about their lifestyle choices, by upcycling their interior and wardrobe pieces, and in the process, upskilling themselves too.

Classes suit everybody, from the beginner who doesn't know one end of a sewing machine from the other, to the expert who wants to learn new skills or refresh old ones. There's also open studio times, when people can rent a bench, effectively 'hot desking' with a sewing machine. Cambridge Design Rooms is a lovingly renovated space with the vast library of gorgeous fabrics and leathers that David has collected over many years running his own upholstery and soft furnishings business. With the wealth of expertise at the Scotchers' disposal, they may have trouble encouraging people to go home.



Home & Garden

The place we love, eat, sleep & play



Featured image: Sylvia Newman Garden Design



Cambridge
The best of local  Life

A friendlier way of doing things, it feels good to talk to local people who love what they do and know what they're talking about

Sawston Carpet & Flooring

32 Eastern Counties Leather Site, London Road, Pampisford CB22 3EE

Telephone 01223 837005

sawstoncarpetsandflooring.co.uk

Whether you need flooring for a dance studio, wet room, office or your first home, Sawston Carpet & Flooring has the perfect solution. This family-run independent business has helped over 8,000 happy customers in just three years, earning national award nominations and glowing reviews for its friendly, expert service and high-quality work.

Run by Jackie Sharp and husband Nigel, along with a trusted team of fitters, the company brings decades of industry knowledge. Jackie, a former carpet and flooring rep, launched the business in 2004 and now operates from a stunning two-floor showroom at Eastern Counties Leather Site. The showroom features a wide range of top-quality carpets, wood flooring, luxury vinyl and laminates from brands like Karndean, Cormar, and Penthouse Carpets. Serving both domestic and commercial clients, the team offers options for all budgets and champions British wool carpets and unique lines like Fired Earth.



Willow Joinery

Telephone 01223 662244

sales@willow-joinery.com

www.willow-joinery.com

Sash windows are part of the fabric of Cambridge, from the neo-classical Senate House to the Victorian terraced homes flanking Mill Road. A good percentage of these have been produced by master craftsmen at Willow Joinery who specialise in timber sash windows and bespoke wooden doors.

Not only do the joiners meticulously craft windows and doors which are visually stunning, but their superior design process means each product excels in thermal insulation and weather resistance. Willow Joinery also possess a unique ability to replicate original details, meaning windows and doors fit seamlessly into their environment. Founded in 2015, Willow manufacture the sash windows, doors and casement windows in their Carmarthenshire workshop, whilst in Cambridge, friendly sales manager Katie Benson – who has lived in the city for 25 years – visits customers to talk through bespoke options, from glazing to ironmongery, before Willow's professional team of fitters begin installing.

Sylvia Newman Garden Design

Green End Farm, Over Road, Longstanton,

Cambridge CB24 3DW

Telephone 01954 583239

www.sngardendesign.co.uk

From residential gardens to presidential palaces, Sylvia Newman has the vision to create exquisite outdoor spaces. She set up Sylvia Newman Garden Design after training at Writtle College, and 10 years ago, was joined by son Ed, who brought fresh ideas such as CGI for visualising designs.

Having a dedicated team of employees, rather than relying on contractors, sets the company apart, giving a more fluid nature to the process of design, build and maintenance.

Sylvia and Ed have created stunning show gardens at the company's headquarters in Longstanton. Here clients can see herbaceous borders in bloom, enjoy the tranquillity of ponds and water features and choose specific pieces of garden furniture and hard-landscaping. It's a fantastic way to visualise how Sylvia and her team can transform your outdoor space.



CDC Studio

Studio 17, Comberton Road, Barton, Cambridge CB23 7BA

Telephone 01223 262413

www.cdcstudio.co.uk

Nestled within leafy grounds in Barton you'll find CDC Studio, a hub of innovation, where grand designs are brought to life by a thriving team of creatives. Headed up by directors, Robin and Delphine Dryer, the architectural design studio has a varied portfolio, ranging from individual houses, historic renovations, interior design to office planning and educational buildings, across Cambridgeshire and London.

Amongst their striking designs is a sports and learning building with rooftop games area for the Stephen Perse Foundation; The Rising Path, a dramatic 96-metre elevated walkway at Cambridge University Botanic Garden; and recently the studio has secured approval for two thoughtfully designed new build homes in south Cambridge, and has a number of ongoing heritage building and full renovation / interior design projects.

The team love to work on a variety of projects so if you've been dreaming of a stunning new build or a wow-factor office, give them a call!



Rebecca Orde Ltd

ALLIA Future Business Centre

King's Hedges Road, Cambridge CB4 2HY

Telephone 01223 782125 or 07981 666326

www.rebeccaorde.com

Getting started on a renovation or refurbishment project can be daunting. That is when you need the help of an experienced and trusted project manager – and we know just the person.

Rebecca Orde has, in some shape or form, been managing projects most of her life, and for the past ten years overseeing residential refurbishments in and around Cambridge. Her strengths lie in how she communicates, builds relationships, and guides her clients through the whole process.

As well as normal house renovations, Rebecca is particularly interested in renewable energy and sustainable building materials. She helps people who want to give their homes an 'eco makeover', and works with independent energy consultants, who can identify the best solutions for each property and budget. She then helps to select the most appropriate products and identify the best people to supply and install.

Henry Rose Interiors

208 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge CB1 7AW

Telephone 01223 213231

www.henryroseinteriors.com

If you're looking for a bespoke kitchen, bedroom or bathroom, Henry Rose Interiors have the expertise to manage your project, from initial idea through to completion.

Owners Gabi and Lee (who has over 25 years' experience as an installer), welcome projects of all sizes. Offering both contemporary and traditional designs, customers can choose from a range of products, appliances and finishes and a selection of superior brands – all of which Lee has worked with throughout his career.

Though Henry Rose Interiors, which is based on Cherry Hinton Road, is a small, family-owned company, they have a big environmental agenda, using sustainable goods, and carbon-neutral suppliers. They also favour methods which reuse water or materials, and for every kitchen and bathroom they sell, they plant trees to help offset their carbon footprint.



Cut Price Carpets

175 Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 3AN

Telephone 01223 210337

www.cutpricecarpets.co.uk

John Ball is passionate about selling carpets, seeing Mill Road thrive, and delivering top-notch customer service – and he gets to do all three through his family-run business, Cut Price Carpets & Decorating. Alongside his wife Irene, John specialises in affordable carpets, vinyl, and luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) from trusted brands such as Karndean, Camaro, and Victoria Carpets. A former painter, he also offers professional decorating services, helping customers pair new flooring with freshly painted walls.

Founded in 1974 by John and his late father-in-law Cliff Summers, the business has deep roots in a family tradition of carpet selling spanning more than a century. Drawn to Mill Road's welcoming community, John made it his permanent base – and nearly 30 years later, business is thriving. Loyal customers praise his 'genuine care' and 'excellent service,' and locals love Sybil, his three-year-old mare who occasionally helps deliver carpets by horse and cart over the Mill Road bridge!



The CambridgeLife app is here!
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Small business?
Find out what CambridgeLife can do for you, visit www.indiecambridge.com and click 'Join us'.



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Indies mean business



Featured image: Studio 24



Cambridge
The best of local  **Life**

Helping other businesses to flourish –
indies are the real power behind the local economy

Blue House Technology

info@bluehouse-technology.co.uk

www.bluehouse-technology.co.uk

Ever wondered how your phone or broadband service stays reliable under heavy demand? It might be thanks to software built by Sharmila Pillai and Chandru Mullaparthi, a Cambridge-based husband and wife team behind Bluehouse Technology. With over 30 years' experience each, they lead a 30-strong team across India and Prague, creating mission-critical software for telecom and betting companies across Europe and the US.

Sharmila and Chandru have been passionate about tech since university in India. Sharmila has worked in telecoms, bioinformatics, and consulting, while Chandru has developed systems worldwide for companies like Siemens, HP, Ericsson, EE and bet365. Bluehouse Technology launched in 2014, and by 2018 had evolved into a permanent team delivering high-performance, scalable software. Focused on long-term client relationships and robust solutions, they now aim to support local indie businesses and build a Cambridge-based team.

Their journey is a great example of global impact starting from local roots.



Limeflower Bookkeeping

Telephone 07854 498564

domini@limeflower.co.uk www.limeflower.co.uk

Accurate bookkeeping is the backbone of any business – saving time, reducing stress, and driving growth when handled by a professional. Domini Atkin, founder of Limeflower Bookkeeping, embodies excellence in her field: time-efficient, methodical, and highly organised. Since launching her business in 2005 after 15 years working for others, Domini has built an impressive client portfolio through referrals and recommendations, supported by her accounts assistant Tracey.

Offering a full range of financial services – from credit control, VAT returns, and management accounts to payroll – Domini works with clients across the UK, including a luxury travel PR firm in London and local independents such as architects, designers, salons, engineers, recruiters, and restaurants. Known for her upbeat and empowering approach, Domini inspires those around her with the '40 per cent rule' – pushing beyond comfort zones to achieve great things. It's an ethos that fuels her adventurous spirit and helps every client "find their power."

Curve Cambridge

me@johnmonks.co.uk

www.johnmonks.co.uk/curvecambridge

You may work with a great team, yet find your role leaves little room for real change. That's where Curve Cambridge steps in. Through dynamic workshops and coaching, they energise businesses and unlock employee potential.

Run by experienced facilitators and coaches John Monks and Alison Booth, Curve brings people together in engaging, music-filled sessions – no boring PowerPoints, just creativity, laughter, and ideas on Post-it notes.

John, a mindset expert, founded Curve as a global consultancy in London and New York before partnering with Alison in 2022 to focus on Cambridge. The duo previously co-founded CambridgeSpace and Cambridge Hack. Alison brings a strong background in business transformation and consulting. Clients range from indie businesses to Cambridge City Council and nutrition brand Zoe, which turned a Curve workshop idea into an M&S product in six months. Curve's in-person and online sessions aim to spark lasting, meaningful change in organisations across the region.



Studio 24

Allia Future Business Centre, Guildhall, Market Square
Cambridge CB2 3QJ | Telephone 01223 328017 | www.studio24.net

Independent businesses often bring both cultural and commercial value to the places they call home – something global corporates rarely do well. Cambridge-based Studio 24 is a great example: a digital design and technology agency creating accessible, sustainable websites and web apps for clients across the public, arts, and non-profit sectors. Their portfolio includes Crossrail, UK Parliament, RNIB, and the W3C.

Locally, they've worked with Cambridge University Botanic Garden, The Fitzwilliam Museum, and sponsor the Cambridge Film Festival. Founder and MD Simon Jones is a passionate advocate for Cambridge's cultural and digital future – he's a trustee of the Cambridge Film Trust and sits on the BIMA Sustainability Council.

Studio 24 also supports the next generation of talent through internships and work experience, reflecting a deep, long-term commitment to the city. Whether working on major infrastructure or modest local projects, they help clients of all sizes navigate their digital needs from the ground up.



Form the future

Future Business Centre, King's Hedges Road, Cambridge CB4 2HY
Telephone 01223 781296 www.formthefuture.org.uk

How many of us can say we're doing something that truly makes a difference for the next generation? That's what Form the Future CIC is all about. This passionate team – alongside hundreds of volunteers, employers and educators – helps young people explore careers, gain skills, and take confident next steps.

In the last decade, they've delivered over 200,000 impactful career interactions, working with 120+ schools in 2024–2025 alone. Their 500+ volunteer Ambassadors – from engineers to entrepreneurs – visit schools to share insights and inspire students. One-to-one guidance from Careers Development Professionals, plus project days, site visits and work placements, give young people real-world experience. They also run bite-sized webinars for parents and carers, covering everything from apprenticeships to exam results. Form the Future is bridging the gap between school and the workplace. If you want to give back and help shape future talent, now's the time to get involved.

Cambition IT Services

Unit 7, Church Meadows, Haslingfield Road, Barrington CB22 7RG
Telephone 01223 656156
www.cambition.co.uk

Cambition solve information technology challenges with a supportive, plainly spoken and effective style. A professional team of technical experts, headed by Jamie Stuart, they specialise in IT Services, hardware, software, cloud solutions, broadband and VoIP telecoms, advanced website design and development services, plus hosting and digital security.

Based in Fowlmere, Cambition is renowned for the speed in which it resolves problems, and the friendly team will talk you through the issue, rather than putting you in a waiting line, through an impersonal online portal.

They also offer a full business IT audit service to address areas of enhancements and cost savings, with one such review saving a customer £16k per year! Unlike bigger IT Consultants, who often charge extortionate fees, Cambition is committed to providing the best possible IT services at an affordable price.



Quite Great PR

ask@quitegreat.co.uk

www.quitegreat.co.uk

With over 30 years' experience understanding what makes businesses tick and how to maximise their media exposure, Pete Bassett is a master at creating PR that resonates. He heads up Quite Great PR, based in Cambridge with teams in Canada and Australia and clients around the world.

Launched in 1996 as a music PR company, Quite Great soon expanded into art, food and drink, charity and book PR. Pete's flair for bold ideas – from driving a tank down Regent Street for Guns N' Roses to touring the UK with Terry Christian and Paul Gallagher – has helped countless clients shine.

Locally, the agency has supported Cambridge Rock Festival, Cuckoo Clothing, Cambridge City Football Club, and Raleigh Chopper designer Tom Karen, alongside global names like Mick Jagger, Russell Crowe, Sophie Allport and Emeli Sandé. Pete's success lies in his personal, creative approach – crafting unique stories that put every brand in the spotlight.



JACKsBACK Media

01763 788771

info@jacksbackmedia.co.uk

www.jacksbackmedia.co.uk

Many things inspire a person to start a business and for Joseph Howard, a family tragedy was a powerful motivator. Joseph lost his beloved brother Jack to suicide in 2022 and has channelled his grief into an incredible new venture. Jack, 26, was a huge movie buff, who aspired to be a producer, so Joseph decided to 'live his dream for him' by launching JACKsBACK Media in 2023.

JACKsBACK Media, which consists of cinematographer Joseph, social media expert Michelle Chamberlain and highly skilled sound engineer and music producer John Riris, offer top-tier photography and videography services to create breathtaking visuals. These include captivating commercials, engaging documentaries, event coverage and brand photography, shot using high quality professional equipment. Two state-of-the-art cinematic drones mean that stories can also be captured from the sky.



Welcome to the November update from CambridgeLife!

It's certainly another busy month on the local scene, so my advice is to have your diaries at the ready. Book fans have been eagerly awaiting the Cambridge Literary Festival, music lovers can choose everything from jazz to classical, and everyone can enjoy the fabulous food offering at the Burwash Manor Christmas Market. Thanks as always to Pina Broccoli Anala for her help in compiling.

Indies in your inbox

Keep up-to-date all year round with news and offers from the Indie Cambridge community

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CambridgeLife here >>>



Ian Olsson Photography

Telephone 07731 379727

www.ianolsson.com

A childhood growing up abroad inspired a spirit of wanderlust in Ian Olsson. With phenomenal scenery on his doorstep, he began shooting on his faithful Minolta. And so began a love affair with photography, which has seen him carve out a successful career and earn a reputation for his creativity, friendliness and professionalism.

Qualified by the British Institute of Professional Photography, Ian's talent has taken him on a multitude of interesting assignments. He is one of our go-to photographers here at Indie Cambridge, but that's not all. From capturing corporate events to weddings and taking professional headshots to shooting live performances – Ian's enthusiasm is a constant feature. Ian also shares his knowledge by offering a series of phone photography workshops. So, whether you're a small business owner looking to improve your photography for social media, or someone who just wants to learn how to take better photos – Ian can help.



Julian Eales Photography

Telephone 01954 201818 or 07527 476 531

www.ealesphotography.co.uk

Julian Eales has an incredible talent for capturing life's special moments and places on camera. Whilst photography was a creative outlet during his 30-year career in the public sector, it turned into a day job when he retired 10 years ago, and launched Eales Photography.

As a freelance photographer, Julian's extensive portfolio spans various genres, including landscapes, portraits, news, property, music, corporate, events, travel and video. His images have also been featured in national newspapers and scooped prestigious awards.

Since the pandemic, his work has shifted towards commercial endeavours, and he's been busy shooting shops, restaurants, shopping malls, art galleries and local independents for The Indie! Though he loves being outside, capturing a dramatic landscape, Julian enjoys working with people, and instantly puts his subjects at ease to create truly brilliant imagery.

Langham Press

Unit 5, Station Road East, Whittlesford, Cambridgeshire CB22 4WL

Telephone 01223 870266

www.langhampress.co.uk

Though 'online' is the buzzword these days, trying to get your message through on increasingly congested digital timelines can be an issue. That's when a more traditional form of marketing and promotion – print – may be the perfect way to get yourself heard.

Based in Whittlesford, printers Langham Press have just the right mix of old-fashioned friendly service and state-of-the-art printing presses and equipment, to produce an incredible range of creative printed work for UK-wide clients, including University of Cambridge departments and colleges.

A family-owned business headed up by Cambridge-born and bred David Arnold, the 12-strong Langham team are happy to chat through ideas or invite you to watch your product running on the press! Eco-conscious, Langham use technology, with vegetable-based and cobalt free inks, and recycle waste paper, plastic and cardboard.



Krishna Solanki Designs

hello@krishnasolankidesigns.com

www.krishnasolankidesigns.com

With so much for small business owners to juggle, strategic branding and communications can slip through the cracks. That's where Krishna Solanki, founder of Cambridge-based Krishna Solanki Designs, comes in. Her award-winning agency specialises in creative, results-driven Squarespace websites and visual brand identities tailored to independent businesses, startups, and SME's.

With nearly 20 years' experience in design and development, Krishna blends creativity with technical expertise to deliver bespoke, on-brand, functional and beautiful websites. Using Squarespace, she builds sites that clients can easily manage, with added tools for blogging, e-commerce, social media, Mailchimp integration, and member areas for courses or communities. Her strengths lie not only in design but in her clear communication – from initial brief to final handover and beyond. She also shares her insights as a speaker at events across the UK and internationally, supporting businesses to thrive through effective design and strategy.



Photo by Elodie Giuge



Ellie Senior Freelance Copywriting

Telephone 07890 988443

Email ellie@ellieseniorcopywriting.co.uk

www.ellieseniorcopywriting.co.uk

Finding the right words to market your business – particularly when words aren't your business – can be challenging. That's where Freelance Copywriter Ellie Senior can help.

Whether you're looking to update your website, reach out to existing customers with informative leaflets and brochures or put together a magazine advert, Ellie's clear and engaging writing style will get your message across. Ellie works with a range of independent businesses on a regular and one-off basis offering a portfolio of writing services. She also offers a write-and-design service for content such as email campaigns and adverts providing you with a complete package that takes content marketing off your to-do list.

If you think it might be time to take a look at how you reach out to customers, or you have stacks of marketing ideas but no time to put pen to paper, why not let Ellie help you tell your story?

The Blooming People Partnership

www.thebloomingpeoplepartnership.com

sarah@thebloomingpeoplepartnership.com

When you have an all-encompassing job, it's hard to step back and see the bigger picture. But to truly flourish, whether a sole trader or high-flying executive, it's important to take time to talk, consider your focus and recalibrate. We'd recommend a chat with leadership and organisational development consultant, Sarah Massie, founder of The Blooming People Partnership in Cambridge.

With almost 30 years' experience in the NHS (from pharmacist to Director of People and Culture), Sarah has joined forces with executive coach, Chris Birbeck, and gathered 12 associates, with an array of coaching, leadership and education skills.

Described as 'organisational ecologists', the team work predominantly in the public sector including NHS trusts, schools, and primary care, providing people, teams and organisations with the tools and techniques to thrive.



Indie Cambridge Members

November 2025

Artists & galleries

Charlotte do Blois
Emily Jolley
Fen Ditton Gallery
Karen Jinks Design
Paula Armstrong Ceramics
The Artists' Marquee
Wysing Arts Centre

Food & Drink

Amelie Restaurant, Café & Bakeshop
Bacchanalia
Bean Theory
Bridges Café
Burwash Larder
Café au Chocolat
Cambridge Cookery
Cambridge Fruit Company
Cambridge Juice Company
Cambridge Luxury Bakes
Chocolat Chocolat
De Luca Cucina & Bar
Dulcedo Patisserie
Garden Kitchen @ Kettle's Yard
Hidden Rooms
Hot Numbers
Market House
Pint Shop
Scott's All Day
The Cambridge Cheese Company
The Cambucha
The Lodge, Duxford
The Orator
The Plough Shepreth
The Station House, Histon
Tradizioni

Health & Wellness

Cambridge Tarot
Clinica Aesthetics & Wellbeing
Emma Kenny Massage Therapies
EveryWoman Health
Floatwell
Hair Repair Club Cambridge
Innerlather
PAUS.
Tiny House Retreats
Trumpington Physiotherapy
Well:O dental wellness

Homes & Gardens

Art Of Flooring
Bluntas Bespoke
Bush & Co
Byard Art Bespoke Framing
CDC Studio
Cooke Curtis & Co
Cut Price Carpets
Eadonstone Kitchens
Eve Waldron Design
Go Glass
Gray & Toynbee
Henry Rose Interiors
KCP Furniture & Finishing
MOOi Architecture
Peter Harrison Furniture
Providence
Radcliffe & Rust
Rebecca Orde Ltd – Property Project Management
Sawston Carpet and Flooring
Sylvia Newman Garden Design
Tim Jennings Landscape & Garden Design
Willow Joinery

Learning & Leisure

Cambridge Design Rooms
Cambridge Literary Festival
Cambridge Music Festival
Cambridge Modern Jazz
CB Travel Guide
Form The Future
Fullers Hill Cottages
Helen Handmade Books
House of Luchini
Museum of Cambridge
Rutherford's Punting
The Arts Theatre Cambridge
The Collaboration Choir
Together Culture
Waresley Park Estate

Professional & Business Services

Ann Hawkins – Business Advisor
Bluehouse Technology
Cambition IT Services
Cambridge Cat Sitting Company
Cambridge Chronicles
Camel Projects Ltd

Clarendon Street Veterinary Surgery
Curve Cambridge
Ellie Senior Freelance Copywriting
Georgia Rose Photography
Green and Purple
Ian Olsson Photography
JACKsBACK Media
Julian Eales Photography
Krishna Solanki Designs
Kyle Chater Acoustic
Langham Press
Le Claires Digital
Limeflower Bookkeeping
Postscript
Quite Great PR
Seb Antoniou
SkyTech Cambridge
Studio 24
The Blooming People Partnership
Trinity Harper Cleaning
Well I Never
Woodland Wishes Funeral Services

Retail & Shopping

40 Green Street
Clare Kenward Flowers
Cuckoo Clothing
Drinkstuff
Freda and Bert
Harriet Kelsall Bespoke Jewellery
IOLLA Cambridge
Kingsway Cycles
Laird Hatters
Lilac Rose
Modish
Nomads
Podarok
Sew Knit Craft
Small and Green
THE...
The Manor Florist





A Neighbourhood Joint

“Cambridge is a great place for food right now, says Scott, and there are amazing suppliers in the countryside all around, but I reckon there’s something more. Mill Road is our greatest food asset - tremendous ingredients from all over the world, a cosmopolitan crowd and a particular attitude I really recognise - a kind of feisty community pride”.

Open 6 days a week for brunch, lunch & award winning pizza

BRUNCH



DINNER



Make a booking Tuesday - Thursday and quote,
“Indie 20” to receive 20% off the bill

Scott's All Day, 111-113 Mill Road, CB1 2AZ | www.scottsallday.com