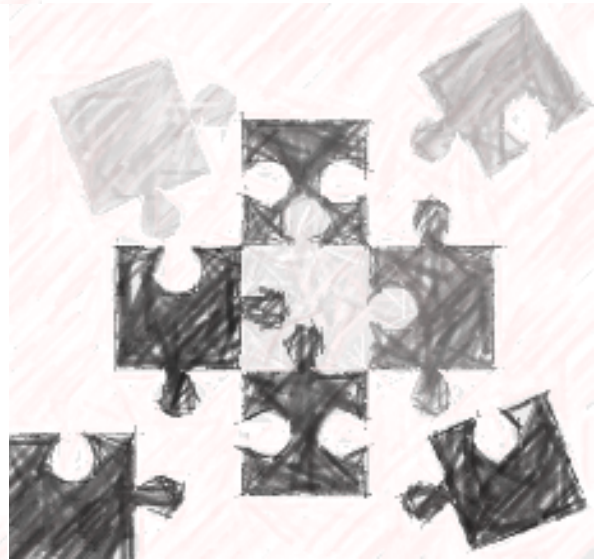


# The Story of Educafe and Newbury Library

## The Beginning..





During the winter of lockdown, two strangers met on a (socially distanced) bench by the local canal. One of the strangers was a baker and the other a teacher. Their names were Clare and Colline.

“So many people are sad”, lamented Clare.

“And so many people are lonely”, Colline replied.

“And so many people here speak different languages but want to learn English.”

“These people need a place to come together, to talk ...and eat cake.”

On that dark, wintery day, the two strangers became friends and together they formed an idea that would resolve these problems: they would launch the Educafe.





Clare and Colline shared their ideas with lots of different people and organisations, and many gave their support. The council, who wanted a diverse ethnic community support agency, offered funding to help Educafe get started. And community members kindly offered to help - not least Colin and Katy from the Globe pub who provided their magical Globe indoor garden as a home for Educafe.

After many months of various lockdowns, the people of Newbury were finally allowed to leave their homes in the summer of 2021, and so Educafe opened its doors to the local community.





Not only did people come for free tea and cake, but they also wanted to help and get involved. Together, these amazing people created wonderful spaces and activities in Educafe.

Margaret Neville created Chatty Corner for non-native speakers to practise their English.



Penny Lock created the Crafting, Knit and Natter table where a team of extremely talented people make blankets for the homeless and dolls for children in war torn countries.



Zara Preston created the Parents' Village, bringing new families together to help and support each other through the early years.



Janine Ford kept Educafe moving and mindful with chair yoga and health and well-being programmes.



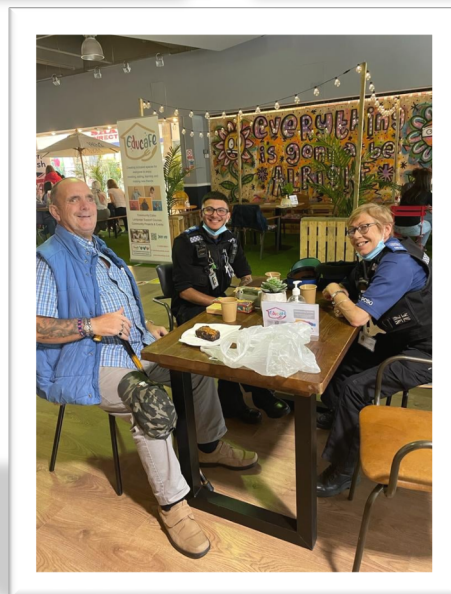
Charities and organisations came to offer services and to support the growing Educafe community.





The people kept on coming, they ate lots more cake, made many friends and learned new things about each other and their community. Some people even said Educafe saved their life by helping them feel less lonely.

The Educafe family kept growing, and soon it became too big for the Globe Indoor Garden. Word spread that it needed a new home.



What happened next was completely unexpected. Newbury Library offered their space to Educafe. “What crazy idea was this?”, they said. A space known for quiet reading and strict librarians who shush people welcoming hundreds of chattering, tea drinking, cake eaters along with crafters, knitters, game players, parents, babies and... buggies!

“We love this crazy idea”, the librarians said.



An incredible, yet incongruous relationship between Educafe and Newbury Library became reality in February 2022.



**West Berkshire LIBRARIES**

# Educafe Community Café

**Newbury Library**

**Every Wednesday, 11am-2pm.**

Everyone is welcome to drop in to our friendly community café to meet and make new friends, eat cake and learn new things. Free refreshments provided.

There's so much to do at Educafe!

For more information: 01635 936211  
info@educafeuk.co.uk

[www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries)





What more did the community need?

“We need more cake!” was the answer. And so, Julie joined the Educafe team to manage the Carnegie Cafe, tirelessly baking homemade savouries and cakes for the ever-increasing visitors and offering a warm welcome to everyone. (If you haven't tried her date cake, make sure you get there early!)



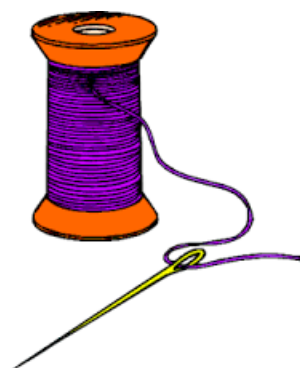
Under the guidance of the friendliest librarians in the world, Ben, Jacquie, and their incredible team of volunteers, the library embraced, accommodated, and supported the Educafe community to settle into their new home.

The library has become integral to the success of Educafe. Now welcoming around 150 visitors a week every Wednesday. Educafe continues to benefit the whole community by creating safe spaces for people to learn, make new friends - and eat cake.

“It’s true”, said Clare and Colline as they looked back on all they’d achieved with the help of the community. “Educafe and Newbury Library go together like coffee and cake, needles and thread and pieces of a puzzle...there should be more Educafes in more libraries.”

And so, the story continues...

*Educafe is at the Newbury library every Wednesday from 11-2, returning on January 11th. Please join us!*





Weekly Chair Yoga



Chatty Corner

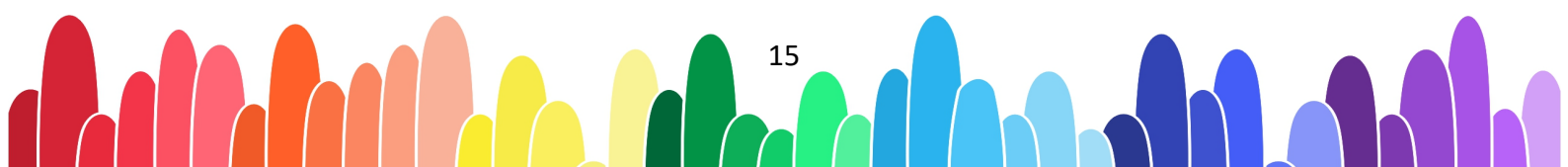




Parents' Village



Health & Wellbeing Event



To find out more about Educafe or to get involved, please contact us:

T: 01635 936211

E: [info@educafeuk.co.uk](mailto:info@educafeuk.co.uk)

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

Educafe relies on grants and donations. To donate to Educafe, please scan the code below.



Thank you so much for your support.

*Clare and Colline*



# Community Cafe

**Newbury Library every Wednesday!**

Everyone is welcome. Come in, meet new people and get to know your community.

11am – 2pm **FREE REFRESHMENTS**



Parents' Village  
English Conversation Practice  
Knitting and Nattering  
Arts and Crafts  
Local Service Providers

