

RICHMOND COMMUNITY NEWS



Avebury House: 9 Eveleyn Couzins Avenue

Phone: 381-6615

Email: rcn@aveburyhouse.co.nz

Vol. No 23 No. 9

November 2025

Issue 202

Avebury the Halloween House!

It's always wonderful to have the house full of children and on Saturday October 25th we had a fabulously full Halloween House! A huge thank you to everyone who came along, with so many wonderful costumes too! We have to give all the credit to our incredible University of Canterbury intern Jenna Williamson. Jenna had free reign (and a limited budget!) to create a fun kids' Halloween event for Avebury House, and we think she outdid herself! Special thanks also to her friends and family who volunteered for glow-in-the-dark bowling, mystery boxes, crown-making, tattooing, giving out treats, and tidying up! Extra special thank yous to Debra Thompson for all the decorations (Slater St residents might have recognised a few!); to Matty and Mary for the cornhole toss; to The Warehouse Barrington for donating a bunch of chocolates; to Jenny the face painter; and to Marg's Little Cup of Joy! Our spooky cup runneth over!



Public Meeting - Vapes - Monday 10 Nov

Are you worried about so many vape shops opening in the area? Come hear the latest on vaping, targeting of children, changes to legislation and generally what we can do to mitigate harm. Vape-Free Kids NZ co-founder Anna Stewart will be speaking at Delta Community Support Trust at 101 North Avon Rd on Monday, 10 Nov, 7-8:30pm.

Tickets are free, but please book in so we know how many to expect!

<https://events.humanitix.com/vaping-awareness-talk>



Richmond Community News is brought to you by Avebury House Community Trust and the following people:

Editorial: Tanya Didham.
Layout: Kristine Spoor.

Many thanks to our volunteers who deliver the RCN to 2800 households and businesses throughout Richmond.

The RCN is now available online:
www.aveburyhouse.co.nz/newsletter.html

Contact us at: rcn@aveburyhouse.co.nz or ring Avebury House: **03 381 6615**.

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The Wit of Sam

I wanted to organise a game of hide and seek, but good players are hard to find.



You know you're getting old when you run into friends at the pharmacy, instead of the nightclub!



Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana.

Illustration by Stephane Terris

Tuition

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E: katharineabeaumont@gmail.com

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Teddy Bears' Picnic - Friday 21 Nov @ 10am

The ever-popular Teddy Bears' Picnic returns, complete with Natural Magic Pirates, puppets and parachute games! Staff will be handing out the usual honey sandwiches and home-made teddy cookies as stories and games go from 10am - 11am. After that, we encourage folk to hang out with a picnic, either on our lawn, or down in the Avebury playground. The paddling pool should be open by then too! Come down for this special little ones' event, and don't forget to bring your cuddliest friends!



Christmas at Avebury

It's been a big year of events, so for Christmas this year, instead of another market, we thought we'd keep it more casual and community. We'd love you to join us for some Christmassy carols, games and kai. Come get a Santa selfie and chill out with us as we take a breather during the Xmas chaos.



Avebury House, Friday December 5th, 3.30-7pm.

VINTAGE MARKET NOV 30

Avebury House Vintage Market is 5 years old! You can find them on the lawn for their last market this year on **Sunday November 30th, 10am - 2pm.**

Caring for Caregivers 1-day workshop

Date: Sunday 9th November 2025

Time: 11.00am – 4.30pm

Location: Cora Wilding Room, Avebury House, 9 Eveleyn Couzins Avenue, Richmond, Christchurch 8013

Workshop fee: \$50.00 NZD

Bring-a-friend (fee for a second person): \$35.00 NZD



Path of the Heart

Take a pause from caring for others and give yourself this day of care. Jin Shin Jyutsu (JSJ) offers simple, practical techniques that help restore your energy, release stress, and allow you to find calm, even in the middle of busy days. Together we'll practice gentle self-help that supports both you, and some simple gentle methods to use with those you care for.

To register, call Julie **027 635 2752** or email: julie@pathoftheheart.co.nz

For future events, email: julie@pathoftheheart.co.nz or visit website events: <https://www.pathoftheheart.co.nz/event-list>

Council Election Results

The final tally from Council's website, published on 16 Oct; these are our city councillors and their wards:

Mayor - Phil Mauger (returned)
Central - Jake McLellan (returned)
Innes - Pauline Cotter (new)
Fendalton - David Cartwright (new)
Papanui - Victoria Henstock (returned)
Riccarton - Tyla Harrison-Hunt (returned)
Burwood - Kelly Barber (returned)
Coastal - Celeste Donovan (returned)
Linwood - Yani Johanson (returned)
Heathcote - Nathaniel Herz Jardine (new)
Spreydon - Melanie Coker (returned)
Cashmere - Tim Scandrett (returned)
Banks Peninsula - Tyrone Fields (returned)
Waimairi - Sam MacDonald (unopposed)
Halswell - Andrei Moore (returned)
Hornby - Mark Peters (unopposed)
Harewood - Aaron Keown (unopposed)



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- clear your section
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- window-cleaning
- you name it!
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- Standard Rates - \$40/hr;
Pensioner Rates - \$30/hr

References available. Get a no obligation quote from Richard by calling him on

020 4134 8442 or email

boylerichard69@gmail.com



Meet Your Representatives

Jake McLellan

Re-elected as Central Ward councillor

What a privilege it is to be re-elected as your representative around the City Council table.

It's never easy putting yourself forward for election, and I'd like to thank all fellow candidates for City Council and Community Board. Alongside me, Sunita Gautam and John Miller were also elected as your community board representatives.

I've got a list of actions as long as my arm to tick off from the campaign, and I'm looking forward to getting back into the office and getting to work. In this new term of Council, as promised, I'll be focused on protecting city assets, saving the Phillipstown Hub, and supporting the creation of new green spaces and street tree planting as our inner-city suburbs continue to grow and intensify.

John Miller - Feeling Lucky!

Re-elected to the Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board

I feel lucky to live nearby and spend time in Richmond - to stroll the enclaves around Avebury House, catch up with friends at The Richmond Club, wander the riverside path between Fitzgerald Ave and Gloucester Street, and enjoy a good North Avon Fish Fry!

Our Community Board is proud to have supported local, community-led projects like the Petrie Park upgrade, and I'm keen to help progress the cycle connection from Richmond to the CBD, along with further street improvements.

Thanks to everyone who continues to care for and contribute to our neighbourhoods - I'll see you around!

Dr Sunita Gautam - Grateful to Continue Serving Our Central Ward

Re-elected to the Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board

I am deeply honoured to have been elected for a third term as a Community Board Member for Christchurch's Central Ward, alongside Councillor Jake McLellan and John Miller. My heartfelt thanks go to the residents of our ward for your trust, confidence, and continued support. Your belief in me strengthens my commitment to helping build a more inclusive, vibrant, and connected Ōtautahi

Christchurch.

Our Central Ward is the heart of the city — rich in history, diversity, and resilience. From our green spaces like the Avon Loop, Avebury Park and wider central ward to the dynamic central city, I'm proud to represent a community that values people, heritage, and progress.

In this new term, I'll continue listening, advocating, and working alongside residents to ensure every voice is heard and valued. Together, we can shape a safer, greener, and more connected future for all who call Christchurch Central home. Ngā mihi nui!

Were you at Spring Fair?

On Saturday October 18th, attendance records for our fabulous annual Spring Fair were blown out of the water! A massive cross-site event saw thousands of visitors coming to the river corridor to play, learn, eat, find or sell a bargain, be entertained, have a scone, and to generally have a great day hanging out with us! Richmond Community Garden, We Are Richmond, and Avebury House brought all their resources together to fill our collective space with everything from the Vintage Market on Avebury's lawn, to the carboot sale on Vogel St. In between were contributors like Riverlution Cafe and Market; Avon Ōtākaro Network; Repair Revolution; Precious Plastics; Terra Nova; Nourish Oraka; Riverlution Park Run; Bee Awesome; Ōtākaro Urban Trapping Network; RAD Bikes; Delta Community Trust; Ōtākaro Orchard; The White Room

Creative; Kitty Haven; Stitch-O-Mat; The Green Lab; CCC River Corridor Team; Eastern Community Sports; Gear Up Ōtautahi; Reuben Davidson MP; Sunrise Rotary; Neighbourhood Support; Te Oraka Community Pools; Sarah Wadsworth Disc Golf Champ; The Fairy Collective face painters; Shirley Library Van; Casa dei Bambini; Stables Montessori; Ferndale Te Ahu School; Envirohub & the Stormwater Superheroes; Canterbury Horticultural Society; Christchurch Archaeology Project; and the Richmond History Group display for Heritage Festival! Plus we had delicious kai vendors and entertainment from Josh Braden; Garden City Orchestra; DJ MojoRisin; DJ Captunes; and the Farandol Folkdancers. To the organisations who participated, to the vendors, visitors and especially to the volunteers - thank you for making it an incredible Spring Fair!



"A very successful afternoon with great community spirit."



"What an epic Fair!"



"The feel of the whole day was just so beautiful. Lovely to see families and their pets out. The Devonshire teas were amazing. I have never felt so welcome back into the area where I used to live. Keep up the good work and I'll be there next year."





The Shed Gallery Opens at Richmond Community Garden

By Briedi McCrostie

The White Room Creative Space is excited to announce the opening of our brand-new Shed Gallery at the Richmond Community Garden! This welcoming new space will showcase original works by artists from The White Room - a creative studio just across the river at the Climate Action Campus that supports people with disabilities to connect and express themselves through art.

The Shed Gallery is a dynamic 2x4 metre space with a wrap-around deck and wheelchair access via a ramp; an inclusive and inviting place for everyone to enjoy. In addition to hosting exhibitions, the Shed Gallery will be a space for community workshops and events, creating a vibrant hub for creativity and connection in the heart of Richmond.

The Shed Gallery is a space for the whole community. All are welcome to come along and celebrate our official opening on November 21st. Follow The White Room on social media for more details and event updates.

The White Room Shed Gallery is proudly supported by Cook Brothers Construction, Mitre10 Ferrymead, National Assistance Fund, Creative New Zealand, Christchurch City Council and Richmond Community Garden.

Visiting the Real Avebury

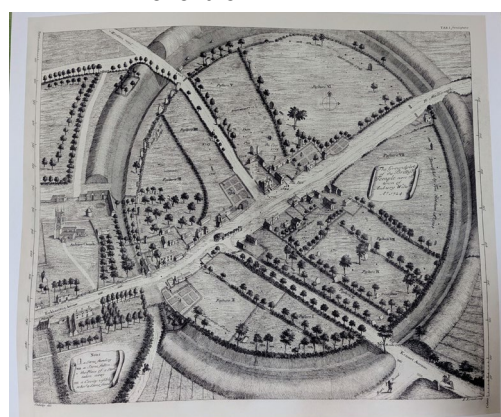
By Tanya Didham

Ever wondered how Avebury House got its name? Avebury is a small town in the county of Wiltshire, in South West England. The village itself is inside the largest known neolithic earthwork ring in Europe! A truly impressive structure that is best appreciated from the air, but entirely visible on the ground. All around are monolithic standing stones that once traced a path to nearby Stonehenge. Recently I travelled to the UK to see family, and Avebury was on my list, not just because of its rich stone age history, but because it is the namesake of our beloved community centre on Eveleyn Couzins Ave.



Tanya with one of Avebury's monoliths.

Wiltshire resident Dr John Seager Gundry bought 50 acres of Christchurch riverside land in 1852, and named it after Avebury, close to where he grew up. However his home and practice were in Christchurch city and a few years later he moved back to England, without ever having lived on the property. When he later sold up, William Flesher bought half the land to build his family home, and although William was a Yorkshire lad, he kept the Wiltshire name.



1724 rendering of Avebury by famed antiquarian, William Stukeley.

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Mind Yer Language: Hi Guys!

By Tanya Didham

The word 'guy' is now a generic term for either a man, in the singular, or as a plural it can refer to a group of people of any gender. But did you know the term comes from that very famous Guy who tried to blow up parliament back in 1605? Yes, Guy Fawkes is the original 'guy'.

Guy, short for Guido Fawkes, was the only Gunpowder Plot conspirator to be caught on November 5th. A devout converted Catholic, he and his peers chose November 5th because Protestant King James, his wife and their son, would be present for the opening of parliament. Guy was the only one in the group with arms experience, so he had been left in the cellar to light the fuses on 36 barrels of gunpowder. However, some were conflicted about blowing up any Catholics present and sent a warning to a parliamentarian, who went straight to the King. A search of the premises quickly found Guy who was tortured for a week, eventually giving up the names of his fellow plotters. They and Guy were hanged and quartered, with various parts of them being shipped off to the four corners of the kingdom as an example to any other disgruntled Catholics. So how did he get to be the 'guy'?



A year after the plot was foiled, on November 5th 1606, the country celebrated with a bonfire night following the 'Thanksgiving Act' which enshrined a day of thanks for the miraculous saving of the King's life. 'Bonfire' comes from the medieval 'bone fire', which literally described a funeral pyre, either for pets or people. But by the 1600s, it was a fire that celebrated any momentous event, in this case, the capture of the gunpowder plotters. Fireworks were added in the 1650s, and effigies were thrown on from the 1670s - usually the Pope! Yes, the commemorations were heartily anti-Catholic. It was not until the 1700s that a 'Guy' was added to the flames instead, in hopes of cooling religious tempers. Children dressed up wooden effigies in old clothes - 'a penny for the Guy' - and on the fire he would go.

By the 1800s, 'guy' had fallen into common English, describing someone who was dressed oddly - as if they'd been put together by street urchins! When the term reached the Americas, the pejorative aspect dropped away, and now anyone can be a 'guy'.



RICHMOND ROAD REPAIRS - MORE TO COME!

By David Duffy & Craig Given for We Are Richmond

We Are Richmond has learned of a new set of works proposed for North Richmond streets with consultation about to start in the next month. Affected streets are: Chancellor Street from Shirley Rd to Julius Terrace; Julius Terrace; Petrie Street between Averill St and Warden Street; and Stapletons Road from North Avon Rd to Randall St. This work will involve a full street renewal which includes road reconstruction, new kerbing and footpath, landscaping and potential for road narrowing and traffic control measures. City Council staff will be contacting residents shortly to hear their views about the proposed road renewal projects affecting these streets. Residents can also send feedback to We Are Richmond by contacting David Duffy and/or Craig Given at secretary@wearerichmond.co.nz or through the We Are Richmond website: wearerichmond.co.nz

Residents should take the opportunity during the consultation phase to make their views known about what would work best for them against the backdrop of other street renewals in the area and what they want their street to be like when the work is complete. We Are Richmond will continue to work closely with the Council Roding team during the programme planning and reconstruction work phases.

This package of work means that about 75% of the road renewal plan formulated by the Council (in consultation with the then Richmond Residents' and Business Association in 2018) will have been completed. We Are Richmond will continue to work with Council staff to address the road issues affecting Richmond residents and has already identified future priorities for the Council to consider in the years ahead. Watch for future updates through our website, the Richmond Community News and our social pages like Facebook.

www.facebook.com/wearerichmondchch

10 Years of Richmond Community Garden!

Hard to believe Richmond Community Garden has been going for 10 years! At the same time it's hard to imagine them not being there. Stay in touch with their wonderful mahi by signing up to their monthly e-newsletter - they have more going on than we can handle in the community news!



RICHMOND
COMMUNITY GARDEN

Riverlution Cafe, Repair Revolution, a weekly Farmers' Market, regular workshops and garden volunteer days, Community Composting, Fungi Whanau - flick an email to morgane@richmondcommunitygarden.co.nz and she will add you to their e-newsletter mailing list!

Walking the Lower Reaches

It was great to see so many of you at the Spring Fair and to celebrate 140 years of Avebury House. This community event always has something for everyone, and it's a real highlight to be part of it each year, thanks to everyone who stopped by our stand to say hello.

I hope you can join me at our next Walk the Talk event, on Saturday the 22nd of November at 10.30am, which takes us along the lower Ōtakāro-Avon near Blighs Garden – a special spot right on our doorstep in New Brighton. It's a chance to discover the diverse birdlife, including native spoonbills, kōtuku/white-faced herons, pūkeko, shags, and pāpango, and to learn about the saltmarsh's vital role in supporting aquatic life and protecting our environment. We'll be joined by three fantastic speakers: Nicholas Head (CCC Senior Ecologist), Andrew Crossland (CCC Park Ranger and bird expert), and Di Lucas (NZILA Landscape Architect). There will be a free sausage sizzle and cuppa afterwards. Check out the Facebook event on my page for updates.



Finally, congratulations to everyone elected - and re-elected - to our local community boards and Council. Your mahi plays a vital role in shaping our neighbourhoods and representing our diverse communities. Looking ahead to the 2026 national election, I'll be encouraging everyone to check their enrolment details- it's one of the simplest ways we can all stay engaged and have a say in our future.

Ngā mihi

Reuben Davidson | MP for Christchurch East
chcheast@parliament.govt.nz | 03 382 0288 | 0800 MP EAST (67 3278)
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What's on in Richmond



AVEBURY HOUSE,
9 Eveleyn Couzins Avenue.
Phone (03) 381-6615
The office is open Mon to Fri
from 9 am to 1 pm.

Monday

Men's Shed: Contact Ian at 027 555 8368.

Gentle Exercise: 10:30–11:30 a.m.

A tutor will guide you through a routine designed to keep those muscles moving! \$5/session.

Pilates: 10:30am \$10/session. Bookings required, contact **0272515475**.

Yoga: 6pm. \$10/session.

Tuesday

Yoga: 9:00–10:00 a.m. Join us for a good stretch! Beginners welcome. \$10/session.

Tai Chi: 10:30 a.m. \$10/session

Small White Teapot Group: Haiku group meets every 4th Tuesday of the month at 12pm. Contact Barbara at **021 171 8622**.

Pilates: 5:30pm \$10/session. Bookings required, contact **0272515475**.

Wednesday

Pilates: 10:30am, 5:30pm & 6:30pm. \$10/session. Bookings required, contact **0272515475**.

Write Your Own History: Every 2nd and 4th Wed of the month. 10 a.m. –12 noon. Please email to confirm at grahamandlois@xtra.co.nz.

grahamandlois@xtra.co.nz.

Hugs All Round Quilting Group:

1–3 p.m. We make quilts for children who need an extra hug. Join us to learn more about quilting.

Thursday

Pilates: 10:30a.m. \$10/session.

Bookings required, contact **0272515475**.

Sunday

Yoga: 9am, \$10/session.

Pilates: 10am, \$10/session.

SHIRLEY LIBRARY,

36 Marshland Road (by the Palms Mall).
Phone (03) 941-7923

Tuesday

Wā Kōrero: Storytimes: 10.30–11am

Suitable for ages 2–5. Free.

Dungeon Delvers: 3:45pm - 5:15pm. 10-16 years old. Registration required.

Wednesday

Wā Kōrero-Storytimes - 10:30 - 11am.

Suitable for 2-5 years old.

Craft Collective: 11am-12pm. Come along to our Craft Collective sessions and have a go at something new. Free.

Scrabble Club: 1:30pm–3:30pm

All materials are supplied. Free, no bookings required.

Dungeon Delvers: 3:45pm - 5:15pm. 10-16 years old. Registration required.

Sensory Craft for Pēpi:

11–11.30am. Suitable for ages 0–2. Free.

Thursday

JP Clinic: 10am–1pm.

Wā Pepi: Babytimes

10.30–11am. Suitable for ages 0–2. Free.

Me Kōrero Tatou (Te Reo Language Group):

1.30–2.30pm. Suitable for all ages. Free.

No bookings required. All skill levels welcome.

Code Club @ Shirley: 3:45pm - 5:15pm.

9-11 years old. Registrations required.

Friday

Cards at Shirley: 1.00–3.30pm. Free. No bookings required.

Saturday

Family History Help: 10.00am–Midday

1st and 3rd Saturday of the month

Ran by the Canterbury Genealogy Society.

Free. No bookings required.

Saturday Storytimes: 10:30am-11:30am.

Mahjong Club: 1.00–3.30pm

Free. No bookings required.

SHIRLEY COMMUNITY TRUST & SHIRLEY VILLAGE PROJECT

www.shirleycommunitytrust.org.nz
03 981 5521

www.shirleyvillage.org **021 157 7846**

TTO = Term time only

Neighbourhood Centre: 17 Acheson Ave

Community Hub & Barista Training:

Mon & Wed 10am - 2pm TTO

Employment & Services Support:

Weds, 11am - 1pm

Sewing Circle: Fortnightly Thursday

12-2pm. Shirley yellow bin weeks.

MacFarlanes on the Park Cafe:

Fridays, 9:30 - 12pm, TTO

Walking Group: Friday 10am, TTO.

Women's Group: Fortnightly Thursday

12.30pm, Shirley red bin weeks. TTO.

Park Centre: 19 Acheson Ave

Sparkling Stars: Mon, 9:30am, Music & movement for under 5s. \$3/family. TTO.

Nurse-led Foot Care Clinic: Approx monthly on Tuesday 9:45am.

Appointments essential.

Call 0226218269. \$15.

Knit & Knatter Group: Fortnightly

Wed, 10am. Shirley yellow bin weeks.

All Age Community Kapa Haka:

Wednesday 5.15-6.15pm, TTO.

Te Reo Māori Class: Wednesday 6.30-

7.30pm, TTO.

Groove & Move: Seated Exercise

Sessions. Fortnightly Wednesday,

Shirley red bin weeks & weekly

Thursday 10am. TTO.

MacFarlane Park Community Garden (off Jebson St)

Listening Post: Monday 2:30-4pm.

Afternoon tea. TTO.

Children's Gardening Club: Tuesday

3.15-4pm, TTO.

Gardening: Thursday 1pm (Term 2 &

3).

Shirley League Club 33 Briggs Rd.

Shirley Tool Shed: Saturday 9-11am.

\$30 annual membership.

RICHMOND COMMUNITY GARDEN

Riverlution EcoHub,
46A Vogel St



Garden Days: Monday -

Wednesday & 3rd Saturday of

the month from 10am. to 1pm.

We welcome volunteers to help create a beautiful veggie garden for our community to enjoy!

Riverlution Eco Hub: Mon-Fri,

9:30am-4pm & Sat, 10am-1pm.

Repair Revolution: Every

3rd Tuesday of the month at

5:30pm.

EASTERN COMMUNITY SPORT & RECREATION,

Email: Kate@easterncommunity.co.nz

Ph: 027 728 3005

Catchball: 10:30am – 12:00pm Tuesdays

term time only. First time free, **contact@**

canterburycatchball.nz

Free Football Dropin for Children: 3-4pm at

Avon Hub Tuesdays. Suitable for 8+ years.

Pickleball session: Tuesdays 9-10:30am \$7.

Use the book a class option at

www.pay2play.co.nz to save your spot.

Pickleball session Sunday mornings:

10-11:30am \$7

Dance Fitness: Tuesdays, 7pm, \$7/class

Eastern Chargers Junior Basketball League:

4:30-7pm, Fridays. For 5-8 years old. Term

time only.



DELTA COMMUNITY TRUST,
101 North Avon Road (Entrance
off Chrystal St)

Ph: (03) 389-0212, Free phone

0800233582.

www.deltatruster.org.nz

Monday Café: Every Monday except

public holidays. 10am-12.30pm \$2 Hot

Toasties, Tea & Coffee 20 cents

Friday Drop-Inn café: Every Friday except

public holidays. 10am-12.30pm. Choice of

2 mains only \$2, Dessert \$1, tea & Coffee

20 cents. Lunch served at 12noon.

Free Budgeting Advice and Advocacy:

Please ring for an appointment.

North Avon Community Centre

Filipino Playgroup: Every Wednesday

9:30am-12:30pm (Except Public & School

holidays) For more information contact Jo

jo@odt.org.nz or **021-1151657**