

PRESS RELEASE



Local author to celebrate publication of new Children's book

- *'Brave Cat Millie' is a heart-warming tale that makes a perfect Christmas gift*

Bristol, UK, 17th October 2023 – Bristol-born author Freddie Hillberg will be celebrating the publication of his new Children's picture book, **'Brave Cat Millie'** on Thursday 26th October. Aimed at children aged 4 to 7, the new hard-back book is, according to its publisher **Carraway**, an endearing, gentle and touching story accompanied by delicate and beautifully drawn illustrations that will be popular with younger readers and also with parents and grandparents.

Freddie Hillberg, who is retired and lives in Bradley Stoke with his wife Maureen, commented on the experience of becoming an author, "I'm absolutely thrilled with the book and to become a published author is something very special. Brave Cat Millie is a joyful, everyday story about an average, ordinary family and their extraordinary, adorable and courageous cat. I got real pleasure in writing it and it feels like a real achievement to have the story in print and be available in bookshops. I'm thoroughly delighted."

Freddie began his writing journey telling stories to his two grand daughters when they were younger. “They always wanted me to read them a bedtime story and they knew their favourite books word for word. Eventually I got a bit bored telling them the same tales so started making up my own which they really enjoyed.” It was just three years ago that Freddie was inspired to write the stories down. The character of Brave Cat Millie is based on his own cat, Millie.

Freddie is an active figure in his local community and has been involved with the conservation of nearby Splatts Abbey Wood for the last twenty years and is currently its vice-chairman and treasurer. He retired from a long career in the construction industry in 1998 to care for his wife Maureen who suffers with MS. The couple first met when they were both just 18 on a youth exchange programme to Germany. They have a daughter and two grandchildren. When not writing down new ideas for stories, Freddie’s pastimes include gardening (where he often finds inspiration for his stories), photography, coin & stamp collecting and reading historical biographies.

The Perfect Christmas gift

Jane Shergold, founder at Carraway Publishing commented, “Brave Cat Millie is the first in a series of picture books following the adventures of a fearless and loveable black and white cat. With its playful storyline and charming watercolour illustrations, the book offers a cosy bedtime read that tells the story of an unlikely feline heroine who singlehandedly outwits unwelcome intruders into the family home.

The early feedback from children, parents, grandparents and local booksellers has been really positive. It's a book that can be enjoyed across the generations and is a perfect Christmas gift, especially for youngsters who are fond of animals.”

Priced at £12.99 (RRP) the hardback version of Brave Cat Millie (ISBN: 978-1-9160950-6-9) is published by Carraway Publishing and will be available from all good bookshops from the 26th October. To order and/or to read the full story online visit www.carrawaypublishing.co.uk/brave-cat-millie

The book's vivid watercolour drawings are by acclaimed commercial artist, **Ellie Hooi** (<https://www.elliehooiillustrations.com/>), who is based in Cardiff. The second book in the 'Millie' series by Freddie Hillberg, 'Curious Cat Millie' is due to be published next year.

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Editor's notes:

About Carraway

Carraway is an independent British publisher based in the West Country, between Bristol and Bath.

Named and inspired by the character Nick Carraway in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Carraway was established to assist new and emerging talented writers to get their books into print.

Specialising primarily in books covering adult and children's fiction, travel, business, wellbeing, philosophy and biography, Carraway is an ideal starting point for new writers and established authors who are looking for a publisher that offers a more personalised level of attention and support.

For more information visit:
www.carrawaypublishing.co.uk

For more book information visit:
www.carrawaypublishing.co.uk/brave-cat-millie

For more information on the illustrator, Ellie Hooi visit:
<https://www.elliehooiillustrations.com/>

PHOTOGRAPHY:-

A range of high resolution photos are available on request direct from the publisher or use the download links of high res images below

Freddie Hillberg with his new book, Brave Cat Millie <https://mbf.cc/cEstT7>

Alternative shot (as above) but in the garden <https://mbf.cc/ttugTG>

Freddie Hillberg with his own cat Millie - <https://mbf.cc/z4IRfw>

Illustration from 'Brave Cat Millie' - Millie and her family <https://mbf.cc/MDehHI>

Illustration from 'Brave Cat Millie' – Millie chasing neighbouring cat
<https://mbf.cc/rFc9J0>

Illustration from 'Brave Cat Millie' – Millie being hugged by Megan
<https://mbf.cc/LZSGwv>

Front Cover of 'Brave Cat Millie' - <https://mbf.cc/gzujoS>

If any of the links expire (valid 15th November) please email
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