

The Bluebell *is blooming*

One day in January, Nadine Bell went out for a trip to the garden centre with her husband and came back the proud owner of a tea room! Eight months on, Bluebell Tea Rooms in Danbury is a thriving business.



Nadine says: 'My mother and I both loved tea rooms. We were always visiting them together.' Sadly Nadine's mother died last year and left a big gap in her life. So taking over the café in the Spinney building just seemed to Nadine the right thing to do. 'My mother adored bluebells,' she says, 'so it had to be the Bluebell Tea Rooms.'

And, almost as a sign, the crockery Nadine fell in love with and bought for the tea rooms turned out to be called "Charming Bluebell'. Most appropriate for this charmingly bijou space. Pretty crockery and frilly aprons

set the style and Nadine and her team of five, including Ellie Marshall, pictured here with Nadine, serve breakfasts, lunches and, of course, a wide selection of delicious cakes and beverages.

Some cakes are made on the premises, such as the Victoria sandwich and chocolate cake. Others, such as the beautiful

cup cakes are supplied by Sweet Peas Cakes who are also in The Spinney. The Bluebell serves a good selection of gluten-free food too. This is important to Nadine who is gluten intolerant herself, so understands the difficulties.

There is a small selection of gifts available to buy including greeting cards, scented candles and some quirky vintage spoons.

For warmer weather there is seating on a balustraded terrace at the front of the tea rooms.

The Bluebell Tea Rooms also provides outside catering when customers want a party at home. Nadine says: 'We have recently catered afternoon tea for a 50th birthday party and a children's costume party where I dressed as The Mad Hatter! We cater for baby showers both in the tea rooms and in customers' homes.'

So no time to visit garden centres for Nadine – but she has got her Bluebell!

Bluebell Tea Rooms
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Closed Sundays