



# A Conversation with **MICHELLE OLDFIELD**

about Un-valed

By Mike Beckett

On a beautiful sunny October day, I called to see Michelle Oldfield at her home in Nottinghamshire. The reason for my visit was to hear all about a fundraising project supporting two charities, Prostate Cancer UK and Breast Cancer Now, that was masterminded by Michelle. The fundraising came in the form of a cheeky, charity calendar that captures the stunning beauty of the picturesque Vale of Belvoir - with a playful twist!

**S**o, who is Michelle Oldfield? Michelle describes herself as just a normal person, with two kids, a cat, a dog and a husband. She told me: "I was born in Kent and came to study at the University of Nottingham when I was 18 and have been here ever since. I am a teacher and have taught in the village primary school for years. I love working with children." Following treatment for cancer herself, the idea for a calendar was 'born'. "Fifty-per-cent of us

will develop cancer in our lifetimes, yet we still delay going to the doctor. We think we are invincible and that these things only happen to the person next door, but we are that person next door. I was the girl next door. The calendar is a direct nag to check yourself each month as you turn the page, and to ring the doctor as soon as you have a concern. The aim is to remind everyone to take responsibility for their own health. If we get one person

checked, then our job is done," said Michelle.

"It has taken two years to put the calendar together," continued Michelle. "I invited friends from the Vale of Belvoir Cycle Club to participate. Some thought it was a joke - a set-up just for a laugh - but I told them that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to shine! I did contact a number of sports clubs, community music groups, wine tasting groups, and so on, to include as many