

necessary, take a huge flask of real coffee and drive to a high point like Coaley Peak; fly a kite, throw a Frisbee and try not to be too far away from a toilet. Having five boys would be much easier.

**8** On a wet day, get some cardboard boxes from supermarket and make a castle, shop or den; or don wellies on mass and go in search of the biggest, muddiest puddles. Welly Boot Land at Slimbridge is a must for that.

**9** Little Bennets decide a theme day, like last year's Eeyore day. He ended up having a party, got taken out for trip in car for tea and cake as children announced

Welly fun

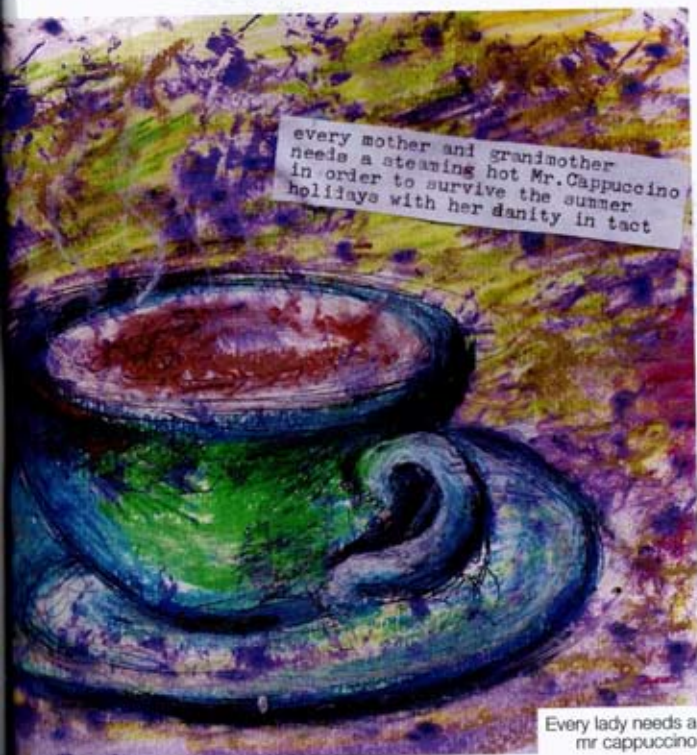


it was his birthday. Funny thing was it was one of the few days they didn't moan like Eeyore.

**10** Take a family bike trip in the Forest of Dean, near Beechenhurst. It's safe, fun and I know the little Bennets will feel good having achieved it. Might mean a twin attached to mine and Mr Bennet's bike but we'll just have to work a bit harder to deserve our ice-cream.

**11** Make a sculpture like those seen in the Forest. A Giant's Chair would look good in back garden. Get children to make their own. Might need to junk model and fish out cardboard from recycle box, but good fun.

**12** Just survive. Maintain humour at all times, ask for help and don't feel guilty when a break or scream is needed. And book a date with Mr Cappuccino every day – oh and mustn't forget Mr Bennet. Must get him out of the shed and dust him down. Anyone want five girls for an evening? ■



Every lady needs a mr cappuccino