

# *The Villager*

*A Magazine for Avening, Cherington and Nags Head*

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*March 2013*

*50p*



*[editors@acvillager.co.uk](mailto:editors@acvillager.co.uk)*

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*Avening Church Fete 2nd June*

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# Parish Priest: *The Reverend Celia Carter*

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Avening and Cherington**

Derrick Pierce

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01453 833 016

Stephanie Hamilton

01453 834 910

**PCC Secretary**

Ann Buxton

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01453833175

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**Organist**

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## **The Villager Magazine**

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**20th of each month**

# The Parish Letter

This month is the last four weeks I have in office.

Although I shall no longer be your vicar, I am an ordained Priest for life and will be here to help you in any way I can. It is twenty-four years since so many of you made the journey to Gloucester Cathedral to witness the first ordination of women in this Diocese, and gave me the most wonderful support anyone could possibly have had. Afterwards we came back to the first of many parties to celebrate together. The interregnum, when the last vicar left, started in 1993 and I was officially licensed as Priest-in-Charge in 1994. We had already been living in Avening for many years, as we moved down from Derbyshire in 1967, with our three children, a flock of black Welsh mountain sheep, three horses, a wolfhound and two terriers. We could not have been happier or more blessed.

If all goes according to plan, I hope to continue living here with my two sons and my grandchildren, for the rest of my life, as I cannot imagine wanting to live anywhere else. If I can help any of you, do please contact me directly on 01453 832716.

The morning services in the parish churches will continue as they are now, conducted by visiting priests, until a new Priest-in-Charge is appointed in Tetbury, and later, a part time Priest appointed to these parishes.

To say 'thank you' for being the most wonderful, supportive neighbours and friends that anyone could hope to have, must be the understatement of the year.....but thank you all the same. I do hope that every one of you will come and celebrate the great Easter Festival in church on March 31st ...and 'party' afterwards on the playing fields, as only Avening and Cherington can!

**Rev Celia**

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

On Easter Day, following Rev. Celia's last services as Priest-in-charge, celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, **EVERYONE** is invited to 'party' on the Playing Fields with a 'bring and share' lunch, Hog Roast with bar, music and magician and bouncy castle for the children

### **TRANSPORT FOR THE PARTY**

2 minibuses will be in the village (Sunground/High Street) to give lifts to and from the Church and/or the Party.

IF YOU NEED TO BE PICKED UP AT YOUR DOOR PLEASE CONTACT:  
01453 836390

## **DON'T FORGET NEW CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL**

Under the Church Representation Rules a new Church Electoral Roll is to be prepared this year. This means that everyone who wishes to have their name entered on the new Roll, whether their name is entered on the present Roll or not, is asked to apply for enrolment by 11th March 2013.

A notice about this has been put up in the Church porch. Application forms are in a folder at the back of the Church or alternatively they can be obtained from the Church Electoral Roll Officer:

**FRANCES CONWAY      Tel. 01453 832 177**

## **LENT EVENINGS**

7.30-9.30pm

With invited speakers – open to everyone, including members of the debating evenings, to come and challenge the speakers on their subject. There will be a light supper before the talks. Dates and venues shown below.

Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Avening Park Farm Hosted by Rev. Celia
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Church Farm Hosted by Frances and Dominic Conway
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	70 Sandford Leaze Hosted by Doreen and Derrick Pierce

If you have any enquiries, call Rev. Celia on 01453 832 716

### **PLEASE NOTE**

**After Rev. Celia's retirement, all services and activities concerning either Church will be the responsibility of the Churchwardens of Cherington and Avening, until our new priest is appointed. For contact details see page 3.**

## **Photographs in The Villager Magazine**

Many thanks to **Tony Slater** for this month's cover photo  
If you have a photo of Avening or Cherington which you would like to share with us, please feel free to send it to us. You never know, it might turn up on the front cover...!

**[editors@acvillager.co.uk](mailto:editors@acvillager.co.uk)**

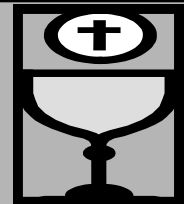
## *Services in Avening and Cherington February*

Friday 1st March	3.30pm	Avening	Evening Prayer BCP
Sunday 3rd March	08.00 09.30 11.00 3.00pm	Avening Cherington Avening Avening	Holy Communion BCW Holy Communion BCW Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School Baptism
Sunday 10th March <b>MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>	08.00 09.30 11.00 12.15pm	Avening Cherington Avening Avening	NO SERVICE Matins with dedication of window to IAN MITCHELL Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School Baptism
Sunday 17th March	08.00 09.30 11.00 12.15pm	Avening Cherington Avening Avening	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School Baptism
Friday 22nd March	3.30 pm	Avening	Evening prayer BCP
<b>HOLY WEEK</b>			
Sunday 24th March <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	08.00 09.30 11.00	Avening Cherington Avening	NO SERVICE Holy Communion BCW Distribution of Palm Crosses Procession from outside the Cross with donkey & palms. All children welcome. Procession followed by Holy Communion BCW
Tuesday 26th March	7.00pm	Cherington	Taize evening.-.music & prayer

# HOLY WEEK (Continued)

Maundy Thursday 28th March	7.00pm	Avening	Agape Supper (please write name on list in shop/church)
<b>Good Friday</b> 29th March	12-1.0pm 2-3.0pm	Cherington Avening	Meditation on the Cross Sung Meditation - with choir
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 31st March	09.30 11.00	Cherington Avening	Holy Communion BCW Holy Communion BCW (Easter Egg hunt in the Church)

## Church Duties in Avening



Date	Sides persons	Chalice	Sacristan
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Margaret / Piers	Stephen	Elizabeth
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Jeanie/Elizabeth	Paul	Marion
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Stephanie/Ann	Derrick	Ann
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Cas/Margaret	Hamish	Elizabeth
March 29 <sup>th</sup> Good Friday			Ann
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	George / Stephanie	P. D. & S	Ann
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Piers/Jeanie	Stephen	Marion

**THERE WILL BE COFFEE AFTER THE SERVICE IN AVENING ON  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> & April 7<sup>th</sup>**

**CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>**

You are invited to an

# Auction of Promises



Friday 8th March, 8pm

At Avening Social Club

Friends of Avening School (reg. charity no. 1055040)  
with Avening Social Club

In aid of Avening Primary School

£1 per person (light buffet included)

Auction lots include:

- Personal brain training
- Home cooked meal
- Meals out
- Greyhound racing
- Gardening hours
- Driving lessons

Auctioneer – Mr Edward Bagnall

Taylor & Fletcher

## Easter Egg Hunt

March 17th, 2pm - 4pm  
starting at Avening School  
All ages welcome  
Entry £3.00pp

*It's egg-sighting!*



Fundraising for Avening Playgroup. Charity No. 900618



# What's On In Avening and Cherington

Please let us know if we have forgotten any regular event or if there is something you would like to have included here.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Line Dancing	Monday	7.30 - 9.00pm	Social Club	
Cherington PC	4th Monday each month	6.30pm	Village Hall	Sam 01285 885334
Knit & Crochet group	Third Monday	8-00pm	Bell Inn	Elizabeth elizabetholiver540@btinternet.com
Book Club	First Monday	7.30pm	The Bell	Kristiana 01453 836515
Youth Club	Tuesday	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Memorial Hall	Cassie 01453 834182
Yoga	Wednesday	7.30pm - 9.00pm	Memorial Hall	Elles 0781 555 2952
Over 60s Lunch Club	1st Wednesday each month	12.30pm	Social Club	Christine 01453 833246
WI	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Maisie 01453 834679
Avening PC	3rd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Caroline 01285 380041
Folk Club	Thursday	8.15pm	Cross Inn	Chris 01453 450 010
Quiz Nights	1st /3rd Saturday each month	7.30pm	Cross Inn	Rob 08444 123 100
Almost Angels Choir	Sunday	12.15pm	Holy Cross Church	Derrick 01453 835090

# Avening Roll of Honour

**No. 52**

## **Donald Howarth White**

Private: Royal Army Service Corps.

Mabel Fletcher married George White, a serving soldier, at Wokingham in the Spring of 1918. Because he was serving at the time, Mabel returned to Avening and it was in our village that Donald was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1918. He was baptised in our church two months later on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. When the war was over, George took his family back home to Leeds and it was there that Don's younger brother, Gordon, was born in 1923.

Don joined the services a couple of months before the second World War broke out but let the report of his funeral tell his story:

Extract from the Stroud News and Gloucester County Advertiser 11 December 1942:

*"It is with regret that we report the death of Private Donald H White, which occurred on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November at Horton General Hospital, Banbury, after a short illness.*

*Private White was born in Avening 24 years ago, and when nine months old went with his parents to reside in Leeds. He joined the Army on July the 15<sup>th</sup> 1939. He was in the retreat through Belgium and the evacuation of Dunkirk. He was then in the Royal Artillery but three months ago he was transferred to the RASC.*

*Private White's mother is the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs George Fletcher of Leonards Brook, Avening, who lost their son Joe in the Middle East on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August (See Roll of Honour No. 43)*

*The funeral took place on Tuesday December the 1<sup>st</sup> at Holy Cross Church, Avening, the Rector, the Rev E Hayden officiating. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack and bore the inscription "935701 Donald Howarth White, RASC, aged 24 years. At Rest" He was borne by Albert Hayes (landlord of the Bell Inn), Mr George Edmunds, Mr Bert Lockett and Mr George Cox.*

*Present were:*

*Mr George and Mrs Mabel White – father and mother*

*Mr George and Mrs Lizzie Fletcher = grandparents*

*Mr and Mrs Alfred Fletcher – uncle and aunt*

*Mr and Mrs Frank Fletcher – uncle and aunt*

*Mr and Mrs Stanley Fletcher – uncle and aunt*

*Mr Horace Fletcher – uncle*

*Mr Gethyn Fletcher, Mr Sid Morley, Mr Brindley Fletcher, Mr Aubrey Fletcher, Miss Audrey Fletcher, Miss Louisa Coates, Miss H Clapton, Mr G Green, Mr Cecil Curtis, Mrs G Cox –cousins“*

Among the floral tributes was one from his brother Gordon, wireless unit, RAF Middle East.

We are unsure what illness Don suffered from. He was unmarried and his parents would have received his medals. We have been unable to locate a photograph.

Don is remembered with honour on our War Memorials and his headstone, erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, can be seen in the Churchyard.

***Fred Vening***

### **Avening's Roll of Honour**

The publication of Donald White's entry in this month's "Villager" sees the completion of Avening's Roll of Honour.

The Roll is kept in the church in four albums normally under lock and key but can be viewed during Family History days or at any time by appointment.

We have failed on only one name from our War Memorial tablets on the West wall of the church. That is of one William Freeman who appears at No. 23 on the WW1 stone. He doesn't appear in the village Census returns nor in the baptism or marriage registers. If any one can help with information on William, please let me know.

We set about the task four years ago after one Remembrance Day service in the church, I was left wondering who the men were, whose names had been read out.

It has been a superb journey and I have met some very friendly and interesting people. We hope that the readers have gained some clarification from it.

But, please remember, for each of our men who made the ultimate sacrifice, there were another four who received injuries which they carried for the rest of their lives.

Some of our villagers who were here during those conflicts will remember some of them. We are aware that many villagers are “new-comers” but their ancestors, who perhaps also may have given their lives, will be remembered on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November in other parts of the country. Someone else is looking after their memorial on your behalf.

At the same time as these investigations have been going on, we have been mounting small blue memorial plaques on those properties in the village where it is known that our fallen were born or lived during their short lives. In all we have mounted 16 plaques and I'm sure you will have noticed them around the village.

Again, if you can assist with the knowledge of where our men were born or lived, we may be able to add to our total.

If you have any queries on the work done on the Roll of Honour, please contact me and I will be pleased to assist.

Lest We Forget.

*Fred Vening*

## **A Very Big Thank You**

On behalf of the readers of The Villager and the inhabitants of Avening and Cherington, the editors would like to thank Fred for this fascinating series of articles. Not only for bringing these all these young men's stories to us, but as a timely reminder of the waste and futility of war.

### **COFFEE MORNING**

**IN AID OF THE COBALT UNIT**

**SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 10am. ONWARDS**

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# ROBERT SILLARS



When Shakespeare wrote “and one man in his life plays many parts” perhaps he had someone like father in mind. To us he was a brother, a husband, a father, a grandfather, an uncle, a neighbour, a friend. To the wider world he was an RAF pilot, a Commanding Officer, a Chairman, an organiser. But to everyone, he was a true gentleman.

Father was born in Kent in April 1923. The Sillars side of the family had moved south from Ayrshire in Scotland in the early years of the twentieth century bringing all their livestock on the train to start a new life farming in Kent. There his father, another Robert, met and married Margaret Bensted and had three sons, of whom my father was the eldest.

But the Scottish connection proved strong and at the beginning of the War, father and his mother and brothers were sent to Arran to be out of harm’s way in anticipation of a possible German invasion. My grandfather was involved in the euphemistically entitled job of ‘observation’ and it was thought his family would be one of the first targets.

But father was already set on joining the RAF as a pilot and now had to wait out his time impatiently until he was old enough to enlist. He filled his days working on the estate at Brodick Castle and occasionally supplementing the family’s rations with a stray stag. Not only had this to be kept from public view but a fast-flowing cold stream behind the house proved a very effective larder for keeping the meat fresh.

Although still officially too young to join up, father got his wish and joined the RAF and was sent by ship from Liverpool to South Africa to do his basic training. The journey itself proved somewhat eventful as they dodged into various ports down the African coast, harried by U-boats. In the end he completed his training in Rhodesia and that’s where his flying career took off.

The wartime pages of father’s log book are a gazetteer of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern missions as he delivered diverse things to various places. Sometimes it was aeroplanes that had to be relocated which involved a return journey by jeep across the desert. Despite the horrors of war and father’s experiences, there was a lighter side, if no less dangerous. In December 1944, he dropped hundreds of Christmas puddings in Western Crete. Also,

less successful, was the showering of the people of Greece with gold sovereigns in an effort to win their hearts and minds. Unfortunately the Germans got there first and melted them all down. Father's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday picture shows him grinning cheerfully on a donkey in Jerusalem.

It was while stationed up the road here at Aston Down that he was invited to Avening Court by his future father-in-law, as being a suitable young man to meet the Trimmell girls – Audrey and Doreen. The two sisters already had a circle of admirers, and Audrey's pale blue sports car was a legend in the locality, so it perhaps seemed safe to ask the charming officer to dinner. Wrong! Father and mother's courtship was swift and mostly conducted away from the eyes of her father once he realised that the 'nice young man' was quickly turning into something far more serious. My grandfather didn't see how a young lady brought up to a genteel life and riding to hounds would be happy living in a converted Nissan hut and moving every time her husband was posted.

Father's answer to this was to meet her in their usual secret place in Cherington woods, one day in October 1949, with a piece of paper – a Special Marriage Licence personally signed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Following a whirlwind of preparations they were married in Kent, from father's family home, just six days after he had 'proposed'. They are still married 63 years later.

My grandfather was right about the moving though. Before my father left the RAF in 1973 and they came to live in Avening, my parents lived in some 18 different homes. One was a wooden hut in Andover, one was a bungalow on the beach in Malaysia, one a three-storey Station Commander's residence in Shropshire. But once they reached The Dower House at Avening then roots were well and truly put down. Apart from buying a house, that is, in St Mawes: the house overlooking the sea in Cornwall was another impetuous act but provided many happy holidays for us all and which probably contributed directly to three of us four children now choosing to live by the sea.

Although father had retired from his distinguished career in the RAF as a Group Captain, he was still only 50 years old so after a year's course at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester he was looking for a new path. He found this in his role as Secretary to the newly-established Community Health Council in Swindon which he held for ten years before becoming Chairman of the Gloucester Community Health Council

Father's second retirement was partly prompted by ill health but he overcame this, and his ongoing diabetes, to take on roles with the Royal British Legion at both county and branch level, as well as various other committees and commitments. Certainly, his many years of co-ordinating the Remembrance Day service in Avening will be familiar to some of you.

After his retirement from aeroplanes, father was often to be seen on the ride-on mower keeping things together at The Dower House. Each year the lawn would encroach a little bit more into the adjoining field – and tidying up after the flock of white doves was an ongoing duty – but the beautiful gardens there were worth all the effort. And each year there would be a new project – a pond, a terrace, a piece of sculpture – to keep them busy.

And for a man who had enjoyed shooting, and been a regular on the Sandringham Estate when he was posted to nearby Bircham Newton, father now preferred going to Slimbridge to see the swans and ducks. Perhaps a clue to this was when he used to go wildfowling on the marshes of East Anglia: as the sun rose, hundreds of geese and ducks would fly right over his gun and he would just gaze in wonder at the spectacle and let them fly on. He was a very good shot though.

Although his love of flying does not seem to have been handed down in the genes, we have all benefited from the strong example he has set us children and his eight grandchildren. I have never seen father lose his temper. I have never heard him tell a lie. If he has been modest in his praise sometimes, then he is even-handed in his treatment of us all and overwhelmingly supportive when things have gone wrong.

But although we are here to say thanks for father's life, it is impossible to do so, without saying a special thank you to mother too. We all know that father had suffered from ill health for years and we would probably rather forget the number of times he has had to go into hospital. On those occasions, the relief team has mobilised and we siblings have attempted a relay of support. But that is not the same as mother's loving care and attention every single day.

If you ask anyone who knows them, whether a friend of many years or the district nurse, then they will say spontaneously, "what a team!" And this has been true for every day of their married life.

When father was waiting in the corridor of A & E to be admitted to hospital just before Christmas, a paramedic asked him the secret of still being married after 63 years. Father answered: love, respect, the support of your wife and then more love.

That seems like a recipe that has stood the test of time.

*Extract from the address given at the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of  
Robert Sillars*



## MALVINA ELIZABETH DODDS

It is always very special when someone who was born and brought up in Avening should be laid to rest here in the churchyard. Mauve was baptised, confirmed and married in this Church by Canon Richards. She was one of the Barratt family, born in the Cottage opposite the Bell, went to Avening School, and was very much part of the village community. As a young girl she was a member of the Girl's Friendly Society.

When she met and married Eric Dodds in 1970, they moved to Culkerton and they both worked at RAF Kemble. They were much admired and respected and proved to be such faithful members of the workforce that, when they retired, they were both awarded long service medals. Before that, she worked in the pie factory and then in the Coop here, in Avening, before it closed down. Both Mauve and Eric were essentially home lovers but on occasions, loved to drive off in their three wheeled car, to visit relations in the North of the Country.

Mauve's great passion in life was her knitting. She was wonderfully generous with all her work. She knitted colourful blankets and clothes for African children's charities. When there was a disaster anywhere in the World, she would start knitting and sent out bagfuls of warm clothing to help the victims. She was skilled enough to make her own knitting patterns so her work was always original and special. The other pastime she thoroughly enjoyed was playing skittles and she was a member of the Tetbury team for many years.

Sadly, six years ago, Eric was diagnosed with dementia but Mauve kept him at home and devotedly cared for him until it became too much for her and she had to allow him to go into a home. She found that their house was too big for her on her own and moved from Suffolk Close to St Mary's Road. She was happy there and loved the community life and the new friends she made.

Mauve and Eric never had any children of their own but Mauve's niece Jeannette became the daughter she always longed to have. Jeannette grew up with her grandmother and when she died, Jeannette and Mauve became very close.

Last October she had a slight heart attack but made a good recovery. She had a pacemaker fitted which made her feel she had regained the energy of a teenager.

She and her family had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and all seemed well until only a few weeks ago, when she developed septicemia from a stitch left over from the operation. She never recovered from this and died two weeks after her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

It was her wish to be laid to rest here in the Churchyard with her sister Sylvia, and other members of her family. We leave her in Gods' hands and give thanks for a life of generosity and kindness.

Cas Boddam-Whetham. MCSP RCT  
**Chartered Physiotherapist**  
**Craniosacral Therapist**

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SPRING  
CONCERT

**Saturday March 23rd 2013**  
**7.30pm Holy Trinity Church**  
**Trinity Road, Stroud, GL5 2HX**

Conductor: Jonathan Trim

Leader: John Woodward



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# Avening Village Store and Post Office

A huge thank you to all our customers who visited in January and February; it's been great to see all the new faces in the shop showing their support. We've still got a lot of work to do to, but we've been busy sourcing new suppliers and have some new products and services coming on line over the next few months.

Our selection of wines and spirits is growing every week and we have just taken delivery of a selection of real ales from the Award Winning Cotswold Spring Brewing Company. Based near Chipping Sodbury, their master brewer takes the finest malt, hops and yeast and blends it with Natural Spring water from right below our feet to produce such delights as Ambler, Stunner and Vixen - a rich dark winter Beer.

We're currently in discussion with local organic farms with the intention of acting as a local drop off point for your vegetables, fruit and meat boxes. If you're interested in finding out more, please pop in for a leaflet or to register your interest.

The Home Farm range has proven to be very popular so we'll be increasing the selection further to include their chutney and pickle; we'll also expand the very popular cooking sauce range. For those of you to haven't seen or tried the range, Home Farm are based in Banbury and produce Traditional Hand Made sauces and preserves which are all gluten free - a pleasant change from the mass produced brands and yet still reasonably priced.

And finally for those of you online shoppers, did you know you can get your parcels delivered to the shop? For a small fee we're happy to take delivery on your behalf to save you waiting in all day - pop into the shop for more details.

We're always glad to receive feedback, good or bad, so please pop in and let us know your thoughts on what you'd like to see in the shop or email us at [shop@crossinnavening.co.uk](mailto:shop@crossinnavening.co.uk) with your comments.

See you soon,

Karen, Jo & Graham

P.S. Hot food is back, a selection of savouries is available every morning.

# Made in Avening



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## Dying without a Will. Now that's a real tragedy.

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My name is David Martin. I live in Nailsworth and I'm the local consultant for *Steele Rose & Co* - one of the UK's Premier Professional Home Visit Will Writers. After 22 years serving my country in the RAF, I have spent the last 28 years of my life professionally advising my clients on all personal financial matters and specialising in Wills.

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David Martin

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# Avening Primary School

## WHAT MAKES A LIFE RICH?



The older children have collaborated on an exciting project as part of their Religious Education study. The Hawks and Owls classes (Years 3-6) have worked together to discuss and present ideas around 'how do believers care for the world and others?'; the parables of the Bible; and the story of the first book of the Bible and how God created the world in seven days.

The classrooms and hall were buzzing with children working on writing out their own versions of Genesis, drawing pictures to accompany the parables and sharing their own views in pairs on 'what makes your life rich?'.

The children gave some fantastic responses to the final question in this project, 'What can you do to help others have a rich life?':

"You could give them shelter, clean water, clean clothes and a house. Be someone's friend so they have golden feeling inside." (Oli, Y5)

"You could try to be their friend. Also you could help them through their challenges." (Matthew, Y4)

"Clean up litter, be a good friend and a pleasant person to work with and live with. Always be helpful and kind." (Phoebe, Y6)

## In February we also went 'sport mad' !

As part of the legacy of the 2012 Olympics, all the pupils took part in a day of sport. For Key Stage 2 children this was coaching in handball; and for the younger children a multi-skills session was laid on.

We took part in inter-school rugby and football tournaments and cross-country races. Organised by our club netball coach, Alison Winkfield, we also played St Mary's School at netball. They won but it was a close fought game!

Our School Council have had great fun organising activities for World Book Day which is on 7 March. Over the half term holiday all children were asked to complete a questionnaire about their favourite books and authors. The results will be posted on our website in the form of book reviews and recommendations for all.



And we are looking forward to having some fun for Red Nose Day, Comic Relief – thanks to our very own ‘masterchef’ and teaching assistant Kelly Wilkinson, we are holding a 'Big School Bake Off'.

As usual, an action-packed term!

***If you are interested in finding out more about our school please take a regular look at our website which is updated often. In particular take a look at the interesting introduction to all our staff – with pictures courtesy of the children!***

***Take a look at our website: [www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk)  
In term time please contact 01453 833191***

## **A BOOK REVIEW BY ONE OF OUR YOUNGER READERS**

### **Fright Forest by Marcus Sedgwick**

I really liked this book because it's funny and it's one of those books you feel you can't put down. The two characters in it are Raven Boy and Elf Girl. Raven Boy is my favourite character in the book because he is very comical. He says Eeep a lot and sometimes faints with fright. It sounds as though it might be a very scary book but the scary characters either turn out to not be so frightening or you just end up laughing at them. The witch is a really rubbish at being a witch and is scared of the dark. They say a monster guards her house but it is just a small, white, fluffy kitten (AWW!) even though it is more vicious than a swamp dog. The trolls aren't very clever and their dinner keeps escaping. I give this book 10 out of 10.

***By Evie***

# Village People

## Rev Celia Carter – Her Life and Times



Celia's ministry in Avening is about to come to an end. It has been a wonderful time for her and for her many friends in the village and beyond and I was very happy that she agreed to tell me a little about her remarkable life.

Celia was born in London in 1938. She had four siblings; two brothers and two sisters, and she was the fourth child. Her father, an international banker, was a figure regarded with awe by his children and seen by them relatively seldom in their daily lives. When not working, he enjoyed both shooting and playing golf. Their mother is remembered by Celia as both beautiful and clever. Before she was married she had studied at the Sorbonne, where she pursued her truly remarkable linguistic skills. Once married, she played her part overseeing and running the considerable household.

She was herself a Quaker, although her children, following their father's tradition, were all brought up as Anglicans. On Sundays her mother accompanied her children to church and then set off for her own Quaker Meeting afterwards. Celia always supposes that she must have thought that the serenity and peace of the Meeting would have been jeopardised by the introduction of five lively children. A strange coincidence was that her grandparents took Cherington Park for a couple of months in the summer, for their children to go on holiday and both her uncle and her mother would have attended Morning Service in St Nicholas Church during their stay; something she did not find out until after her ordination! Sadly, her mother was to die when Celia was only fourteen. From then on Celia and her sisters acted as hostesses for their father when he entertained.

At the start of the war Celia was still virtually a baby. It was decided that not only her own family, but the extended family, which included a number of cousins, should move from London to Devon where her great-grandmother had a large house, which could accommodate all these guests. Celia remembers this as a time of great happiness. All the children enjoyed considerable freedom; many of them, including Celia, becoming proficient and enthusiastic riders. They were free to ride out on the moor, and learnt at an early age to drive their mother's pony and trap. During this time, Celia's education started when she was a pupil



in the PNEU School that her mother ran for all the children in the house, including some evacuees.

Once the war was over and Celia was five years old, it was time to return to London and day school. By comparison with the freedom of the country, London was dull. Celia insisted on bringing her large collection of snails with her. They were not popular in a London house and were soon released into the gardens in the middle of Chester Square, where the family lived. Here they feasted with devastating effect. Fortunately the source of the mysterious plague was never discovered!

Celia's pony was left behind in Devon and the only riding she had was on the ponies of a riding school tucked in behind St George's hospital at Hyde Park Corner. They rode out sedately on Rotten Row. This was not to Celia's taste at all and one morning her frustration drove her to wickedly drive her heels into her pony's sides and take off across the grass, scattering nannies and their prams to left and right!

It was obvious that something must be done and the family bought a farm in Wiltshire, where they were able to spend holidays and enjoy once again the freedom they had known in Devon.

It was during a period of convalescence, following another wild spree on her pony, (leading to a ruptured appendix and subsequent peritonitis), that Celia met her future husband, Stewart, for the first time. Her father had taken her with him on one of his business trips to recuperate and after much journeying they arrived in Hong Kong. She was just sixteen years old. Stewart offered to show her Hong Kong, while her father was busy. When asked what she wanted to see, she said that she would like to see a real live Communist. To do so, Stewart took her on a long trek, through areas which were strictly off-limits. Her first glimpse of a real live Communist was, apparently, rather disappointing. On the return journey they saw Stewart's Brigadier, with a considerable entourage, driving towards them. Alarmed, Stewart told Celia to hide by lying on the floor of the car while he accelerated past. She was not spotted, and the friendship survived through her girlhood, with Stewart taking her out to his Club from school, and feeding her tea and cakes, whenever he had leave in England. What a glamorous experience these outings must have seemed to the young Celia.

At school Celia showed an aptitude for sciences and did Biology with Zoology, Physics and Chemistry at 'A' level. Her ambition was to train to be a doctor, but at that time, it was thought that this was no job for a woman and consequently she started training to be a physiotherapist, a suitable occupation for a 'lady'. She started her training at St Thomas Hospital in London, and loved it. Unfortunately, she was involved in a car crash, which resulted in a broken back and a long period of recuperation. To her huge disappointment, this put paid to her physiotherapy dreams. However, in true Celia fashion, she used her period of convalescence to good effect to study for and gain her 1<sup>st</sup>

MB. To her joy, she was accepted to study medicine at St Thomas, but her hopes were dashed once again when she failed her medical. It was discovered that she had TB.

More convalescence in Kenya followed and an opportunity to assist with some nursing in a local field hospital. After six months she was pronounced fit and returned to England. With her original dreams to enter the medical world destroyed, Celia was rather at a loss as to what to do next. Of all unlikely options, a spell at Constance Spry followed and the creation of a successful small business with a friend, doing wedding flowers. They ran this for just under a year, sold the business for a small profit and set off to work in a missionary hospital in Zululand. This was a fascinating period for Celia, where amongst other things she learnt to say the Lord's Prayer in Zulu. One of the more extraordinary things she witnessed was the use of Safari Ants in surgery. Supplies of everything were scarce and these ants, which were about two inches in length, had large pincers on their heads, which were used, rather like sutures, to close wounds. On her way out to South Africa, Celia jumped ship and flew to Arabia, in answer to an invitation from Stewart, and during her time there she and Stewart became engaged. By this time Celia was twenty.

Her father was resigned to the unusual behaviour of his daughter and despite the age difference agreed to the marriage, which took place when Celia was twenty-one. Stewart was still serving in Arabia and the newly married couple started married life living in a tent, as Stewart travelled around the desert. The position of women in that country at that time was still difficult. Stewart was determined that his wife should accompany him on this posting and reluctantly the army agreed for her to do so, on condition that she should be very discreet and keep a low profile. As a result she always dressed as a Bedouin soldier, riding camels and certainly not advertising the fact that she was a woman in a man's world. Of all the interesting things that she saw and did during this period, Celia is proud of having been instrumental in helping to set up the first women's hospital in Arabia. There had been very little medical help for local women up to that time, as it was unacceptable for an Arab woman to be attended by a male doctor, particularly during pregnancy and childbirth. However, Celia, as a woman could help and with her medical knowledge must have been a godsend. Gradually attitudes have changed and eventually it became acceptable for women to be treated by both men and women doctors. From this tiny beginning, a world class hospital for women was built and Celia feels proud to have played a part in its creation.

*To be continued in next month's edition: Celia and her family come to Avening*

**Frances Conway**

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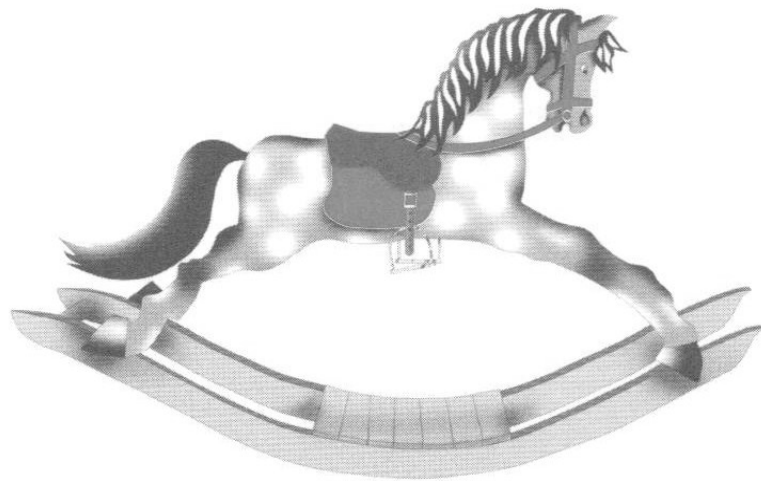
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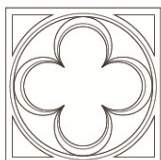
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# Going Solo

After fifty years of marriage and two years of courting I am sadly going solo. As I did not want to be at home for my first solo Christmas I decided to visit my son and his family in Australia where I could get some sun, rest and healing.

I set off on the 30<sup>th</sup>. November with a lot of encouragement from my family this end, to start on this journey.

The aircraft I travelled on for the first part of my trip to Singapore was the A380, the one I always said I did not want to go on as it was too big. What a beautiful plane it was, so comfortable, footrests that you could move up and down to keep the circulation going and attendants who were gorgeous in their colourful uniforms and were so very kind and helpful.

The first part was just over 12 hours and the second part to Brisbane another 8 hours.

Tim was waiting to meet a very relieved and emotional mother !! Then we headed for Sunshine Beach where they live, the sun was hot, the trees were in full bloom, some in red, some in yellows and purple.

Two very excited grandchildren were waiting with Mum for lots of hugs and kisses.

My first morning I had a rude awakening at 4.30 am by the kookaburras laughing and shrieking in the forest opposite the house which is situated on the edge of the national park. I quickly understood why they all go to bed early and get up very early, because of the wildlife, and heat, anything after 4am is the time to go walking and jogging.

My room had French windows out on to the pool, apart from the screen door to keep out the bugs it was always open to keep it cool. I did have a shock one day as I went to go into my room only to be greeted by a lizard who had walked in through the front door. It was about 18 inches long ,just a small one !!

I settled into the family routine but most days went for a walk on my own down to the village and along the beach, so peaceful and time to think.

Sunday morning we were all on the beach by 7.30am for Nippers. The children belong to this, it gets the children to learn about the dangers of rip tides and how to enjoy the sea and not be frightened of it. After classes there is a sausage sizzle and drinks then all the rest of the family have time enjoying the beautiful Noosa beach.

Tim and I had long walks through the forest and round the coastal paths never going without bottles of water .

A memorable day out was to Kondalilla Falls. On the way we stopped at a winery who were getting prepared for a wedding, a lovely setting. To get to the falls we walked down and down through the forest only to find because it

had been dry and hot for so long, the rains had not arrived then, there was hardly any water going over them. We did see a snake with a frog in its mouth, a water dragon, and iguana.

The second weekend we went camping to a lovely place called Borreen Point. It has a huge lake that goes on forever with a lovely beach. It was that first night I noticed smoke going up on the north shore, just small plumes, yes it was the start of a bush fire. The next day it was burning for miles, moving at terrifying speed and some of the ash was falling on the campsite, the smoke from it reaching as far as Brisbane which was about 80miles away, hard to believe but very true. At night it just lit up the sky. It did not spoil things for us, great fun was had in kayaks which I loved, swimming, and tennis also a skate park for the kids and sleeping under the stars.



Anne's sister came from Melbourne for Christmas so the weekend before we

went to Brisbane for the weekend. The service apartment we had was on the 69<sup>th</sup>. Floor and the view over the city was amazing. The carol singers were out, that made it feel a little more like Christmas but the city and shops were empty, I could not believe it but they had all left the city and headed for the coast for their summer breaks. On the Sunday morning we went to the service at St.Johns Cathedral, that was very moving and beautiful and packed out. The rest of the day was spent sight seeing before driving back.

Christmas eve and Christmas day was lovely with the children but sad for us too, only a little child can say that Boppy as they called him, was sitting on a cloud watching us, I like to think he was. A lovely dinner in the evening was had on the balcony with the geckos rushing up and down the walls while we ate.

We skyped with Sally and her family in the States, all together for a short while.

Lots of activities the following week then New Years Eve we walked down to the beach and sat on the dunes for the firework display, held safely over the water because of the huge fire risk with everything so tinder dry.

New beginnings for 2013. And so it went on, walking , cycling ,boats on the river, talking and healing. By the end of 6 weeks although it is so hard to say goodbye I was ready to come back and start again.

**Wendy Eldridge**

# Avening Playgroup



The children have been busy learning new fairy stories. A particular favourite has been Rapunzel. The children have enjoyed acting out the story with their friends by either being a character themselves or by using the play figures, and making long hair for the Rapunzels out of wool.

The children spent the week before half term learning about the festival of 'The Chinese New Year'. 2013 is the year of the snake so they made snakes from beads and snake collages from bottle tops. The children made a dragon from an old box and material, and enjoyed dancing under it to Chinese music. One of our mums taught us to say 'Happy New Year' in Chinese. It is pronounced 'Gung Hay Fa Tie'.

We would like to remind you that Easter is nearly here and that we will be holding an Easter egg hunt here in the village. It will start outside the school on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm.

If you would like to put your child's name down on our waiting list please phone Debbie any weekday morning from 9.15am-12.15pm on 01453 832695.

**Emma Silvey-Ratcliffe**

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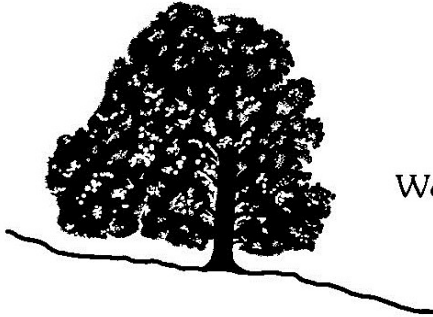
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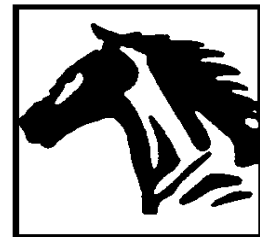
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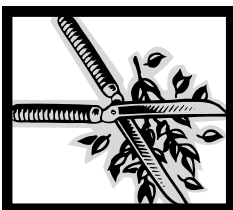
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We are getting ourselves into gear for a busy year. We are having a visit to the BBC studios in Bristol in early March. Apparently each visit is different so we are not quite sure what to expect but we are assured that it will be most interesting.

Hopefully, with Spring just around the corner we can enjoy some outdoor activities and we have planned a local walk around Cherington. We may still be in time to see the great banks of snowdrops above the lake.

We had a difficult moment at our February meeting when our speaker failed to arrive but one of our members Di Wall stepped into the breach to tell us some interesting stories about being a parish clerk including the story of Aston Down just prior to the 2nd World War. Apparently NIMBYism was alive and well in Minchinhampton in the 1930s and when the military wanted to secure the use of the Minchinhampton Aerodrome the locals were very unhappy about it as the presence of a military airfield adjacent to their town would reduce the value of their houses. There was sufficient pressure on the Parish Council for the name of the airfield to be changed to Aston Down so that it would not be associated with Minchinhampton.

We are holding another popular Fun Quiz at the Avening Social Club on 26th April so make a note in your diaries. Everyone is welcome so get a team of 4 together and come and have a great evening which will include refreshments.

*Gwyneth Simpson*

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# Avening Book Club

## The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet by David Mitchell

This is a rich and complex novel filled to the brim with themes and characters. It is difficult to find a starting point to discuss this novel as there is so much to talk about. This could also be viewed as the novel's weakness, it becomes unwieldy at certain points and at others, the reader feels they want to know more about a certain character or event. The themes and characters sometimes feel like they are clamouring for attention. It is however, a beautifully written, well researched and ambitious novel. Mitchell's intent was to create a bi-cultural novel and give equal sway to both cultures - Japanese and European. Mitchell lived in Japan and his wife is Japanese. I'm not sure I feel qualified to say whether he achieved this but it is an interesting challenge.

The protagonist, Jacob de Zoet, works for the Dutch East Indies Trading Company, and his aim is to return to the Netherlands with money and status enough to satisfy the father of his love interest, Anna. He is sent to tackle corruption on the island of Dejima in Nagasaki harbour during the period of Sakoku (the 19<sup>th</sup> Japanese foreign relations policy: no foreigner could enter Japan and no Japanese could leave). For two hundred years Dejima was the only place foreigners could come and trade goods. Jacob is very soon to learn that he is there to uncover low level corruption but turn a blind eye to his bosses' corruption. While he never veers from his conviction in honesty (to the detriment of his career ) he is unpopular and derided " *Mr. Oost, the company must make a profit. Its trading factories must keep books. Dejima's books for the last five years are a pig's dinner. It is Mr. Vorstenbosch's duty to order me to piece those books together. It is my duty to obey. Why must this make my name Iscariot?*"

Jacob soon falls in love with an intriguing Japanese midwife. Orito's story is fascinating and the part in the book where the book becomes impossible to put down. She is sold by her step-mother to a bizarre shrine where she gradually learns of the horrific fate that awaits her and the other Sisters. Orito is the victim of her gender and her poverty. This brings us onto the themes in the novel. We see politics, history, commerce, nationalism, colonialism and slavery ' *Master Fischer owns my body, then, but he does not own my mind. This I know, because of a test. When I shave Master Fischer, I imagine slitting open his throat. If he owned my mind, he would see this evil thought. But instead of punishing me, he just sits there with his eyes shut.*' We also see themes of fate, faith, belief and truth along with the

oppression of women and science. All of these themes are fascinating and pull together to show how imprisoned the characters are in their different ways. The only character who is fully satisfied and content with his lot is Dr Marinus. At first irascible and even cruel, the doctor becomes a respected and close friend of Jacob's.

Our book club would definitely recommend this novel. It is a bit of a tome and worth taking your time over but we all enjoyed it. If David Mitchell's name seems familiar to you, his complex novel Cloud Atlas has been recently released as a film.

*By Kristiane Maseyk*

**Meeting every first Monday of the month 7.30 The Bell**

March - To the End of the Land – David Grossman

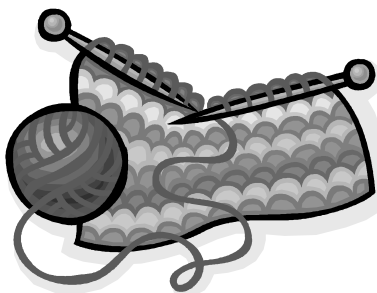
April – Jitterbug Perfume – Tom Robbins

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## Knit & Crochet Group at the Bell

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8pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March

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Then third Monday every month

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# Avening Parish Council

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## **New Planning Applications:**

### 13/00686/TPO

**1 Powis Lane, Avening, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, GL8 8PA**

Yew - reduce diameter of crown by 2m (1m of radius, 7m to 6M) reduce height from approximately 17m to 15m (2m off)

## **Decision Notices Received:**

### 12/04942/LBC

25 Point Road, Avening, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, GL8 8NA

Installation of solar panels to south-east roof slope and associated internal works

Response 9 January 2013

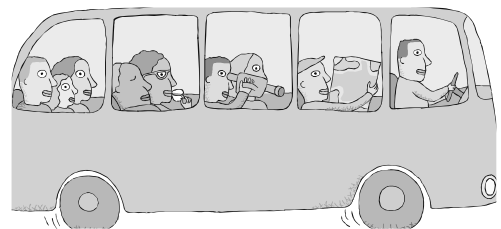
**Application Refused 30 January 2013**

## Off Street Parking Charges

CDC is currently consulting on revised Off Street parking charges. If you would like more information or the opportunity to comment (by 8 March 2013) please go to the website: <http://www.cotswold.gov.uk>

## Dial-a-Ride

Tetbury Dial-a-Ride bus comes to Avening on Thursday mornings and 'Bluebell' the adapted car, is available for passengers in a wheelchair going for appointments. The hospital car service is also available through the Cirencester office, for appointments further afield. A new service has recently been introduced going to Sainsbury's in Stroud on the last Thursday of the month and would pick up in Avening if anyone wants to go.



The Parish Council has supported the Dial-a-Ride service and would be interested to know if it is of any help to Villagers.

For more information on the service call Liz on 01666 502514 or email: [tetburybus@cotswoldvolunteers.org](mailto:tetburybus@cotswoldvolunteers.org) or Cirencester on 01285 658802

**The next meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on Thursday 21 March 2013, at 7.30pm, in the Memorial Hall. Parish Council meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month. All Are Welcome. Please note the PO Box has closed. The Parish Council address is below.**

**PLEASE NOTE: the Parish Council address has now changed to:  
77 Pheasant Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1BQ.**

The Locum Clerk, Caroline Braidwood, can be contacted on 01285 380041 or 07870 170823. The email address remains the same:  
**[parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk)**

## *Cherington Parish Council*

### **Annual Litter Pick**

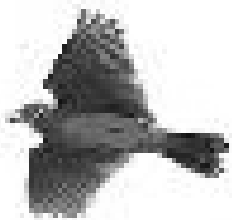
The Litter Pick is going to take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March. All welcome and we will meet at the Village Hall at 10 am . All equipment will be provided. For those kind people who cannot make it on the day but still wish to do a litter pick before, please can you let us know where you intend to pick on 01453 834805 so we do not miss anything With thanks in advance.

### **New Parish Clerk:-**

We are delighted to welcome Samantha Penney as our new Parish Clerk. She took up her position in January 2013. Sam lives in Cirencester and works for Cotswold District Council. Her contact details are :-

**Address:** 77B Golden Farm Road, Cirencester, GL7 1BZ  
**e-mail:-** [cheringtonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cheringtonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Phone:-** Tel: 01285 885334

**The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30 pm at Carters Barn. All Welcome**



## **Tetbury Bookkeeper**



**Philippa Lark**

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### **Local References**

**[www.tetburybookkeeper.co.uk](http://www.tetburybookkeeper.co.uk)**

**01666 505824 or 07771 914512**

## **The Mobile Police Station**



Will call at

Avening between **09.30** and **10.00**

Cherington between **10.15** and **10.45**

Both visits on **25th March**

## **The Mobile Library**

**THE MOBILE LIBRARY NO LONGER VISITS CHERINGTON IF THIS CAUSES MAJOR PROBLEMS OR FOR THE HOUSEBOUND SPEAK TO *Sue Killoran* on 01452 425048 THE LIBRARY SERVICE MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

\*\*\*\*\*

TETBURY LIBRARY IS OPEN AS FOLLOWS

Monday 10am - 1pm  
Tuesday 10am- 5pm  
Wednesday 10am - 5pm  
Thursday Closed  
Friday 10am - 6pm  
Saturday 10am - 1pm



# Useful Telephone Numbers

Avening Parish Council Clerk	Caroline Braidwood	01285 380041
Cherington Parish Council Clerk	Sam Penney	01285 885334
Cotswold District Councillor	Jim Parsons	01453 836596
Avening Sunday School	Debbie Brown	01453 835983
Avening Tower Captain	David Govier	01453 882914
Avening Primary School	Jane Rushton	01453 833191
Avening Playgroup	Debbie Brown	01453 832695 Home 835983
Avening Village Agent	Aileen Bendall	07810-630156
Avening Youth Club	Cassie Chesterman	01453 834182
A and C Cricket Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752
Over 60s Lunch Club	Christine Howell	01453 833246
Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
Friends of Avening School	Jo Missenden	01453 833688
Cherington Village Hall	Beryl Milsom	01285 841248
Avening Memorial Hall		07583 073604
Tennis @ Avening Park	Roger Lindley	01453 835115
Avening Group Oil Coordinator	Frances Lindley	01453 835115
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336
Avening History Project	Fred Vening fred@fvening.fsnet.co.uk	01285 850624
Stroud Hospital		01453 562200
Women's Institute	Maisie Stanton	01453 834679
The Cross Village Shop	Rob	01453 569756
Avening Book Club	Kristiana Maseyk	01453 836515

# Dates for your Diary

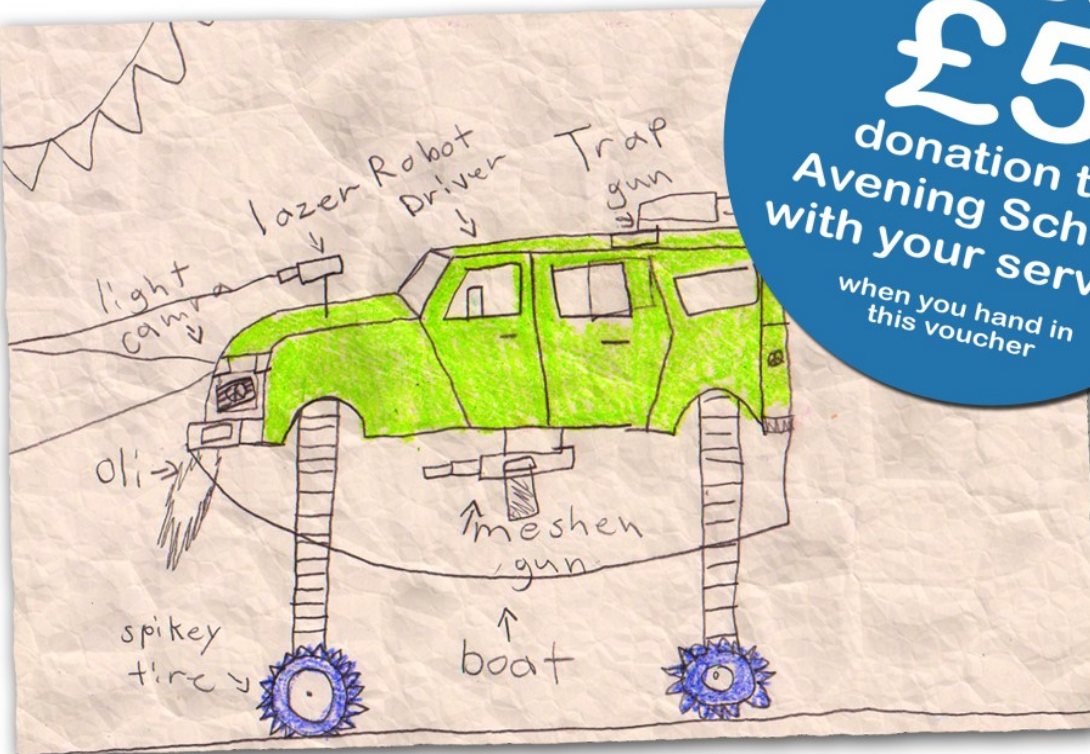
Thursday 28th February Tuesday 5th & 12th March	Lent Evening Meetings	Venues various. See earlier entry in Villager	7.30-9.30pm
Thursday 7th March	Cherington Parish Council Meeting	Carters Barn	6.30pm
Friday 8th March	Promises Auction in aid of Avening Primary School	Avening Social Club	8.00pm
Saturday 9th March	Cherington Litter Pick	Cherington Village Hall	10.00am
Saturday 9th March	Coffee Morning in aid of the Cobalt Unit	4 Cherington home of Mary Uzzell	10.00am
Friday 15th March	Irish Night in aid of Tetbury Hospital	St Michael's Church Hall, Tetbury	7.30pm
Sunday 17th March	Easter Egg Hunt	Avening School	2.00 - 4.00 pm
Friday 22nd March	End of Spring Term	Avening Primary School	
Saturday 23rd March	Spring Concert Stroud Symphony Orchestra	Holy Trinity Church Stroud	7.30pm
Saturday 23rd March	Quiz Night	Cherington Village Hall	7.30pm
Easter Sunday 31st March	Party celebrating Rev Celia's ministry in Avening	Playing Fields	From 12.30pm (following 11.00am service)
Friday 8th April	Return to school	Avening Primary School	

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# CROSS INN

**Sat 2nd March**  
**Graham's General Knowledge Quiz**

**Sat 16th March**  
**Tony's Music Quiz**

Please call 01453 56 97 56

OR

Email: [info@crossinnavening.co.uk](mailto:info@crossinnavening.co.uk)