

The Villager

A Magazine for Avening, Cherington
and Nags Head

April 2016



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**UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP BUT STILL THE
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April 2016

The editors would like to thank Avening Parish Council and Cherington Parish Council for renewing their support for The Villager, meaning that it can continue to be distributed to every household in the villages of Avening, Cherington and Nags Head. We, as editors, really appreciate this and we hope that everyone one who receives this magazine free through their letterbox feels the same.

We are very pleased to have been able to renew our 'Village People' column, and would like to thank Kate Gegg for taking on this task. Her first 'victim', Peter Rowland, tells his story on page 10. If you would like to put forward suggestions for people for Kate to interview, please let us know, using the phone numbers or email address below.

The Cinema Club continues to prove popular - so what about a film critic's column? Any volunteers? You don't have to always go to or comment on the film being shown in the Social Club, there are plenty of films worth a mention and it is always interested to hear what other people think of the latest releases - or of time honoured favourites. As before, just contact us using the details below if you are interested.

The Villager Editors

The Villager Magazine

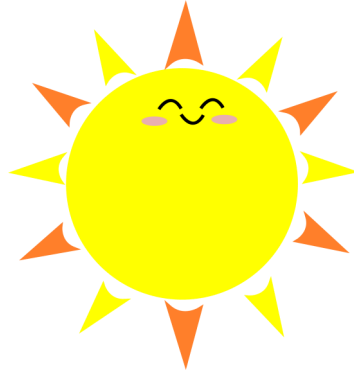
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Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Kieran Archer** for our 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



Looking Forward to Summer?



Don't forget Avening Fete,
Arts & Craft show, famous
Avening Duck Races, Dog
show, etc. etc.

It all happens on June 12th this year

For details of stalls and offers of help contact
Stephanie email
stephanie2432@hotmail.co.uk

To book a table for arts and crafts
contact Doreen 01453 835090 or
email derrick.pierce@hotmail.com



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.

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Line Dancing	Monday	7.30 - 10.00pm	Social Club	Mel 01453 833760
Flamenco Dancing	Monday (excluding school and bank holidays)	7.00 - 8.00pm	Memorial Hall	Lina Wirths 07417451815
Cherington PC	4th Tuesday Bi-monthly	6.30pm	Village Hall	Frances 01453767384
Baby and Toddler Group	Tuesday	1.30 - 3.00pm	Avening Playgroup	
Youth Club	Tuesday	6.15 - 7.45pm	Memorial Hall	Cassie 01453 834182
Bell Ringing	Tuesday	7.30pm - 9.00pm	Church Bell Tower	Steve 07807 700004
Line Dancing	Tuesday	7.45 - 10.30pm	Social Club	Mel 01453 833760
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
Dial-a-Ride	Thursday	9.30am		Liz Truman 01666 502514
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
Avening Angels Choir	Sunday	4-30pm	Various	Derrick 01453 835090

Contacts for the Villages

A and C Cricket Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752
Avening Angels	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Art Group	Mick Williamson	01453 836318
Avening Oil Coordinator	Frances Lindley	01453 835115
Avening History Project	Fred Venning	01285 850624
Avening & Cherington Rector	Rev. Poppy Hughes	01666 502333
Avening and Cherington Churches Reader	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Church Churchwardens	Stephanie Hamilton Stephen Uzzell	01453 834910 07807 700004
Avening Church Flower Team	Doreen Pierce	01453 835090
Avening Church Organist	Colin Chambers	01666 880026
Avening Church PCC Treasurer	Peter Best	01453 835287
Avening Parish Council Clerk	Caroline Braidwood	01285 380041
Avening Book Club	Kristiane Worsdell	01453 836515
Avening Film Club	Kristiane Worsdell	01453 836515
Avening Playgroup	Debbie Brown	01453 832695
Avening Primary School	Jane Rushton	01453 833191
Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
Avening Bell Tower Captain	Steve Uzzell	07807 700004
Avening Village Agent	Aileen Bendall	07810-630156
Avening Youth Club	Cassie Vickery	01453 834182

Avening Memorial Hall		07583 073604
Cherington Village Hall	Beryl Milsom	01285 841248
Cherington Parish Council Clerk	Frances Ashfield	01453 767384
Cherington Church Churchwardens	Roger Gegg John Bate-Williams	01453 834805 01666 503544
Cherington Church Flower Team	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church Organist	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church PCC Secretary	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
Cherington Church Sacristan	Beryl Milsom	01285 841248
Cherington Church PCC Treasurer	Paul Cable	cabes50@yahoo.co.uk
Cotswold District Councillor	Jim Parsons	01453 836596
Friends of Avening School	Lucie Hawkins	01453 833191
Over 60s Lunch Club	Christine Howell	01453 833246
Stroud Hospital	Reception	0300 421 8080
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336
Women's Institute	Gwyneth Simpson	01453 836556

VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES

Avening Parish Council WWW. avening-pc.gov

Avening Church www.aveningchurch.info

Cherington Village www.timeldridge.typepad.com

Cotswold District Council WWW. Cotswold.gov.uk

Letter From Avening Parish Council Leader



Avening will be joining in with Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, and a number of events are planned. Confirmed so far:

- Thursday 21st April – Beacon lighting at Avening Park.
- Sunday 5th June – Tea party in the street/in the village hall.

Thanks to Click Mitchell, who is leading the organisation – watch out for more details in due course.

Another date for your diary is the Annual Village Meeting on Saturday 7th May – this is your chance to meet the Parish Council, and also many of the other organisations in the village. It's a great opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, or just to chat to local people.

The annual meeting is also where we acknowledge people who have made a special contribution to village life – they can be volunteers, or paid, and we just need you to tell us why they deserve to be recognised. Please send your nominations to the Parish Clerk by 22nd April at the latest.

One of last year's winners was the editorial team of this magazine – following the amazing success of the new format, I am very pleased to confirm that Avening Parish Council has renewed its financial support for the coming year. I understand Cherington PC has also continued its support, so everyone should continue to receive their monthly copy. I know the editors are always looking for interesting features, so do tell them about your travels, events, and people.

A big thank you to everyone who expressed an interest or applied for the position of Parish Clerk – we had a very strong list of applicants, and have selected a short list for interview in early April. If you were unsuccessful, it is still possible to get involved with us, as we have a lot of active or pending projects that need support, and this may lead to other opportunities with us - Contact the clerk to discuss options.

***Tony Slater, Chairman,
Avening Parish Council***

Letter from the Parish Priest



Bishop Rachel is coming to visit!

On Sunday 10th April, The Right Reverend Rachel Treweek will be taking a service for our Benefice for the first time. Our special Benefice service will be held at St Marys' Tetbury, and will bring together all our church families from Avening, Cherington, Long Newnton, Shipton Moyne, Beverston and Tetbury. So do please join us on Sunday 10th April at 10am.

Bishop Rachel is, of course, our new Bishop of Gloucester – with her welcoming service held in Gloucester Cathedral in September last year. Although there were two female bishops appointed previously, she is the first woman to be appointed as Bishop of a diocese, rather than as a suffragan bishop. You will have seen her in the news, too, as the first female Bishop to sit in the House of Lords. It will be great to have a chance for everyone to meet her.

And Happy Easter!

Happy Easter? No really. One of the things I love about our Easter celebrations is that they last 50 days. That's ten days more than Lent, which always feels right. More time for rejoicing and lots of Alleluias!

I always remember a friend of mine – not a church goer – asking why Christians are so “crazy happy” at Easter. She could understand Christmas ... but not Easter. I explained it like this. All of us – at some time in our lives – will be like Mary Magdalen standing by Jesus's grave before sunrise. We will all stand by the grave and weep. We will weep for people we have lost, for dreams and hopes that are shattered, and for relationships that seem broken beyond repair. But then Mary Magdalen turns, and finds Jesus is alive. And in that moment she knows – and we know – that fear, darkness and death will never have the last word. She knows – and we know - that in Christ love and life and light are unconquerable. And that HAS to be good news!

Do come and join us as we continue our Easter celebrations, Sunday by Sunday at The Holy Cross and St Nicholas.

With love and prayers, Poppy

The Revd Poppy Hughes
Rector

***The Benefices of Avening with Cherington, Tetbury, Beverston, Long
Newnton and Shipton Moyne***



Village People

Peter Rowland and the 14-18 Legacy Project



Peter and his wife Alison have lived in Cherington since 1990 raising both their sons there.

They both worked in education, Peter in the last 12 years of his career as Head Teacher of Severn Vale School in Gloucester. When he left, he had completely transformed what was a failing school into one of the most improved schools in the country, with the percentage of pupils gaining 5 good GCSEs going from 11% to 89%. For this work Peter was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014. The Pearson Teaching Awards, attracting over 20,000 nominees, are an annual celebration of exceptional teachers and teaching, founded in

1999 by Lord Puttnam.

Fortunately for education he has not retired - but now has set up his own Educational Consultancy where he works nationally offering these skills and expertise to others working in education.

So how did he get into education? Well this was a rather circuitous route. He really did not enjoy school, preferring the outdoors and so left as soon as he could, joining the Merchant Navy. It was while at sea that he was encouraged to read, and very soon began to devour books, developing a love of literature. He was advised to leave the sea, take A Levels and apply for University. This he did, working as a hospital porter during the day and studying for his A Levels at College in the evenings, before going on to university as a mature student. It was while he was there that he decided to become a teacher, not only a teacher, he wanted to be a Headmaster.

It was interesting talking to Peter about working with young people. We often misjudge youngsters, but Peter's philosophy is to encourage young people to

believe they can do anything. Yes, it requires hard work but it can be done. Inspire them to be aspirational and build their self-belief.

I think all of us can look back on our school days and remember a teacher who inspired us.

What is the 14-18 Legacy? In 2011, Gloucestershire students in a project spearheaded by Peter worked with the Royal British Legion, to raise funds for



the Legion's 90 Year Anniversary. Their target was £90,000. They raised over £75,000 which was an incredible result. But this project was not only about raising money, it was also about helping young people deepen their historical knowledge of war and the sacrifices made for future generations

Peter's next brainchild was to build on this initial work; he called it the 14-18 Legacy. This, now national project, commemorates 100 years since the start of World War 1 and urges schools and young people to get involved in fund raising events to raise £1 million for the British Legion between 2014 -2018. The money raised will help support vital welfare projects such as "Poppy Breaks" for Service children and the British Legion's Battle Back Centre, providing courses to help wounded and injured service members.

The project identifies special dates to remember as it is also about education.

The next important date is the 1st of July 2016, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Schools nationally will be encouraged to mark the occasion and 14-18 Legacy will certainly be planning some key events.

An A – Z of fundraising, both adventurous and enterprising, helps young people develop ways of raising this money. Peter decided that he should support this work and lead by example by taking on these sponsorship

challenges himself. He is now working his way through 26 adventurous activities, one for every letter of the alphabet. He has already completed a triathlon, a half and a full iron man, the Tour de Gloucestershire bike ride as well as a River Dart swim. He has on his list, but is working up the nerve to do them, both a sky dive and wing walking! Looking at the list of 26 potential activities is extremely daunting, but we shall enjoy reviewing his successes over the next couple of years – watch this space for photographic evidence.

If you would like to sponsor Peter for any of his challenges go to: virginmoneygiving/Peter Rowland

For more information on the British Legion and to view a specially made video about 14-18 Legacy go to: branches.britishlegion.org.uk/projects or just google 14-18 Legacy. Cheques (made payable to The Royal British Legion 14-18 Legacy) can be sent direct to the RBL, 199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA

And finally Peter

Favourite Book

Love in the Time of Cholera

Why ? Such a powerful story of enduring love. Sheer coincidence that I read it just after meeting Alison

Favourite Location

Can I have two favourites? In Autumn looking down the Toadsmoor Valley on the Stroud 5 Valleys Walk. In the summer looking out to sea from a beach in Salcombe, Devon, reminiscent of so many family holidays

Guest most like to have to Dinner

Winston Churchill! Such an interesting man with so many facets to his life. I remember the day of his funeral, watching it at school and turning around and seeing the Headmaster with tears streaming down his face.

'Wonderful songs, gentle anecdotes and delicious leg-pulling..a gem of an evening!'

'No Halls Barred' 2016

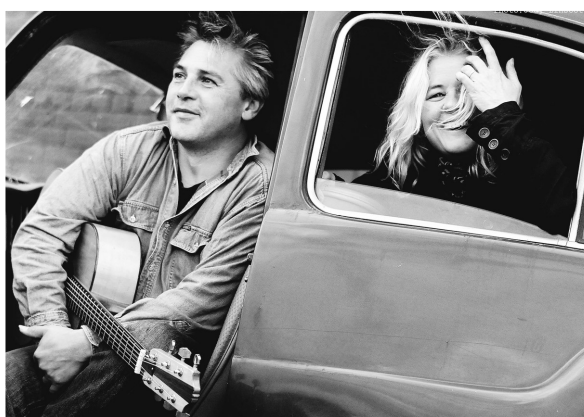
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Bring and Share Supper



Kate Howden and Paul Jones are singer-songwriters, based in the north west of England, who have that special magic that captivates the audience in a unique, intimate atmosphere. Stripped back, gritty, often poignant, sometimes humorous, observations that reflect life's ups and downs, their show is a family friendly mixture of songs, tunes and stories that has the audience joining in,

singing along, and laughing as they share their travelling experiences through their music and northern-tinged banter. They celebrate England in all its guises good and bad, particularly rural village life, including nature and the seasons. With powerful harmony, skilled musicianship and beautiful arrangements, they write all their own material and between them play, guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo and bodhran.

Kate and Paul continue travelling all over the country playing at Village Halls Churches and Community Venues. In the past 5 years they created their 'beautiful music in beautiful places' Tour, and have been sharing their music and stories, often meeting friendly and fascinating people and visiting some wonderful, unusual venues in sometimes remote and always beautiful areas along the way. The 2016 Tour is called 'No Halls Barred', so whether your venue is a Nissan Hut, a Methodist Chapel or a Reading Room howdenjones' versatility will adapt to any space . As contemporary musicians they enjoy exploring the acoustic sound of each unique venue and use no effects. Their show has been described as, 'relaxed and enchanting' and 'an absolute delight', 'their joy, talent and good humour were infectious'. 'music for all ages'.

You can find out more information, see an up-to-date list of tour dates and hear examples of their music by visiting, www.howdenjones.co.uk



Avening School

Avening Primary School — on a ‘journey to outstanding’

It’s official! After our recent Ofsted inspection, our school has received a glowing report, which states that ‘the school continues at pace on its journey to outstanding.’

We are so proud of everyone connected to our school: our ‘strong and committed teaching team’ who ‘have the same high expectations of all pupils irrespective of their starting points or background’; our ‘inspiring leadership’ with ‘passion and drive’; our governing body who are ‘highly skilled and astute’; our parents who are ‘effusive in their praise of the school’; and, most of all our happy pupils who make ‘impressive progress’.

One of our pupils eloquently summed up our school during the inspection, stating this ‘a really small school with a really big welcome’.

During the inspection, we were able to share with the inspector the areas on which we are working – particularly this year in mathematics. The inspector recognised ‘the effective action to rapidly bring about improvement’ that we are currently taking. While standards in maths are good at our school, we are striving to ensure that more children make outstanding progress in this area. It was noted that we are ‘never complacent, always striving to improve the education’ for our pupils. Our strengths will ensure that we will continue to move forwards as a school, improving the outcomes and experiences of the children who are in our care. We now look forward to the next chapter of our exciting adventures in learning!

World Book Day this year had a mathematical twist with a ‘Charlie and the Chocolate Factory’ themed day which saw our school transformed from a normal primary school into Willy Wonka’s factory overnight! On the day itself, there was not an Avening School pupil in sight, but instead gaggles of Oompa Loompas, a small army of Veruca Salts, many wonderful Willy Wonka’s, as well as Mike Teevees, Augustus Gloops, Charlie Buckets and a very purple faced gang of Violet Beauregards! The children completed a maths trail for Mr Wonka in the Learning Garden, had toasted marshmallows and stories around the fire pit, and completed maths challenges to earn golden tickets and ultimately win a very tasty Wonka Bar!

Somehow, during all of this activity, our sporting superstars and their unstoppable coach Mr Wilkinson, have found time to participate in matches and tournaments over the past few weeks, in football, tag rugby and cross country. Our tag rugby team made it to the regional finals and came a fantastic third place, as did our cross country runners with Annie winning a 3rd place medal,



and Henry making it through to the County finals. The school is bursting with pride for their efforts and achievements. The sporty fun continued on Friday 18th March with the whole school participating in a mile- long run, walk, skip or hop to raise money for Sports Relief 2016.

As spring has well and truly arrived, what better time to take part in a nature quiz? Avening School played host to the Rosary School who paid us a visit for an afternoon during the end of term. Four pupils from the Hawks Class (Y3/4) and members of the school nature club performed amazingly, answering challenging questions and being beaten by only 1.5 points by the other team. There is still a chance that our team could make it through to the next round of the competition, fingers crossed and well done to them for their tremendous efforts.

As always, the last week of term was packed with activity with the Hawks class (Y3/4) displaying all their knowledge from this terms topic – rivers and mountains, in their class assembly. Through the mediums of dance, rap and power-point presentations, they delighted their audience of parents and the whole school with their enthusiastic performance. There was also the annual Avening School Easter Egg Hunt held in and around the learning garden and outdoor areas. With summer term just around the corner, the school looks forward to the holidays and wishes everyone a very Happy Easter.

If you are interested in finding out more about our school please take a regular look at our website (www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk) which is updated often.



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Avening W.I.

We had another attempt at a group walk but were foiled again by the weather. However we did not cancel the whole event and had a large group having a delicious lunch at Shirley Hand's house. Fingers crossed for the next walk for both good weather and a good show of fritillaries as we are including the famous Cricklade meadow in our walk.

Our speaker at the last meeting was Penny Prince giving a demonstration of felt making. She had brought along a lovely selection of coloured wools so that we could all have a go. Some of the tables had more soap suds than wool as our members tackled the task with enthusiasm! One member made a good attempt at a felt picture of a kingfisher or was it a parrot? It was a very enjoyable evening as most of our members enjoy a challenge.

We had our friendly skittles and the fun quiz on consecutive evenings. We won the skittles on this occasion having being beaten by Sandhurst at our last meeting. We had a very sociable evening with an excellent bring and share supper.

The fun quiz was extremely well supported. Every table was occupied. As usual Shirley Hand had prepared a good variety of questions and a really good ploughman's supper. With so many participants all the food disappeared in a very short time.

The next events for our W.I. are the annual county meeting in Cheltenham where they always have at least one really good speaker. The main speaker this year is Mandy Hickson who was the only female pilot flying in an R.A.F. Tornado Squadron. In April some members are also going to the mosque in Gloucester where we will have a guided tour and talk about Islam.

At our next meeting on April 14th our speaker will be a member of the Queen's bodyguard. As usual visitors are very welcome. Our meetings always start at 7.30 p.m.

Gwyneth Simpson



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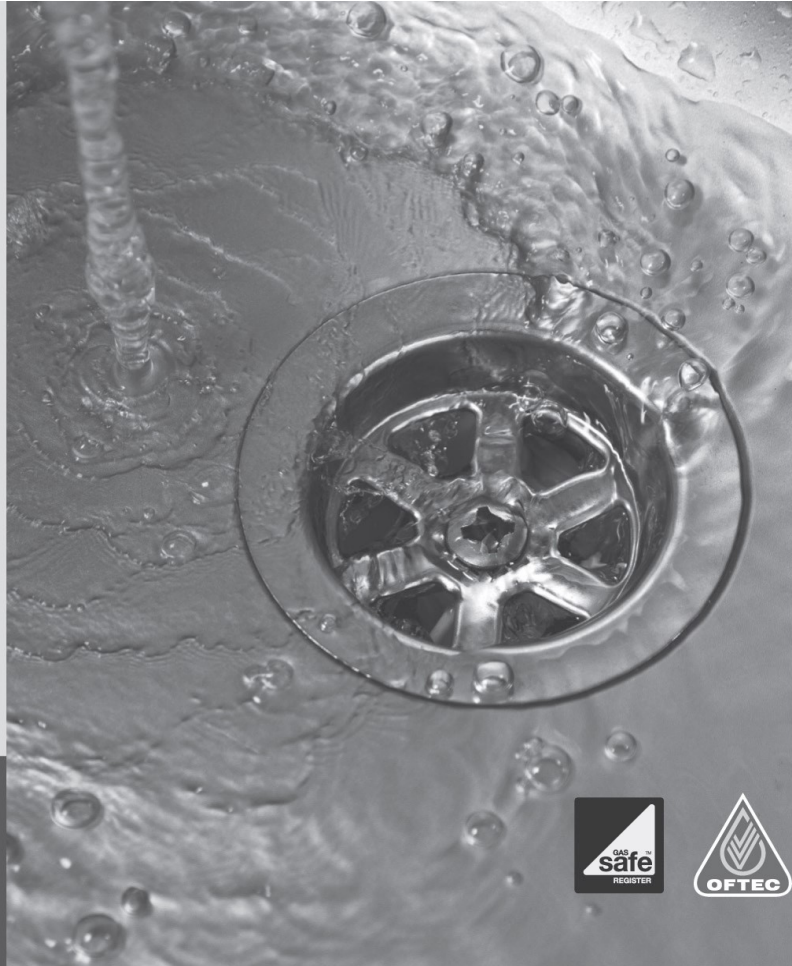
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Dying without a Will. Now that's a real tragedy.

No-one likes the thought of dying, so it's hardly surprising that almost 3 out of 5 UK adults don't have a valid Will (*source: www.unbiased.co.uk 2010*). Yet having one is one of the most important arrangements you can make during your lifetime.

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.

Writing a Will is easier and cheaper than you think. It also ensures that your wishes are carried out simply and efficiently - causing the minimum of anguish for those you leave behind. If you would like to discuss your Will arrangements, redraft an existing Will, Lasting Powers of Attorney, or other associated legal services, at a mutually convenient time in the comfort and privacy of your own home, please contact me:



David Martin

David Martin, local consultant,
Steele Rose & Co
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Email: dcmartin@hotmail.co.uk
www.steelerose.co.uk
Members of the Society of Will Writers



Down Memory Lane



Anyone recognise the little Brownies or their leaders in this photo?
If so, let us know their names - just drop a line to
editors@acvillager.co.uk

MARY'S COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to everyone who supported Mary's Coffee Morning



In aid of the Cobalt unit at Cheltenham

We managed to raise £375 which we were very
pleased with

Thank you to everyone
Mary and Sue



Thanks to the support of Tetbury Town Council, from the 6 April, local charity Citizens Advice Cotswold District will be providing advice from the Town Council offices on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 -12.

Citizens Advice provide free, confidential information and advice to resolve people's problems. The most common enquires are money, family, employment, housing or welfare benefit problems. Citizens Advice service is free, confidential, independent and non-judgemental.

Citizens Advice provide online advice including fact sheets, template letters and budgeting tools. <http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/> . You can also ring Citizens Advice on 0800 800 0511or get advice by email.

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TOWN HALL NAILSWORTH



Elsie's FGR Experience

On Friday the 4th of March BT sport came to watch and film FGR who played a very tough match against Grimsby. We walked into the stadium to see both the away stand and the FGR fans wave around lots of inflatables. It was a crazy sight to see!

The game started and it didn't really go anywhere for 15 minutes until FGR had a great opportunity to score but it was blocked by Grimsby's defence. However, later on, one of the Grimsby players got hit in the face with the football which was slightly funny.

After a while, Steve Arnold made a great save which led to one of the Grimsby midfielders being skilled by Jon Parkin. During the first half the ball hit the ref accidentally which hit the ball to us when Grimsby had originally had the ball; although, it didn't really help that much. Thanks ref! And in the 44th minute it looked like we were going to score but we just couldn't get it in time. Never mind.

Onto the second half now where it looked like we came back even stronger creating a lot more opportunities to score than in the first half but our confidence had been set back when Grimsby scored on the break in the 70th minute. After that, we made a few substitutions but just couldn't quite pull it back in time. The game ended 1-0 to Grimsby with man of the match going to Aarran Racine.

Overall it was a great game to watch despite the fact that we lost but it was a fun game to go to. Here are the up and coming fixtures:

Home against Wrexham on the 2nd of April, away vs Braintree on the 9th of April, home against Woking on the 16th of April, home against Halifax town on the 23rd of April and away vs Dover Athletic on the 30th of April!



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NOTE: Changed to Wednesdays after Easter

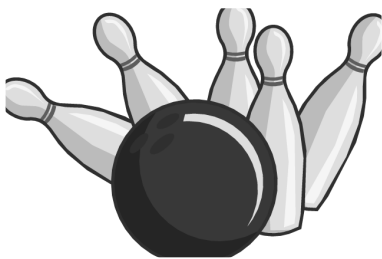
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SUMMER SKITTLE LEAGUE

We are inviting entries for our 5 a side Skittle League.

Matches last approx. 1 hour and take place on Thursday or Friday evenings commencing in early May.

A Good Fun Night Out.

For further details contact Derrick on 01453 835752 or
07909562270.

HELEN VALERIE HALLAND

1930-2016

Surely a first tribute to Valerie must be that she has brought us together today and that you have travelled to attend this service. Valerie's time amongst us must have triggered a desire to respond to her obvious search for attention. Perhaps her cultured voice also invited the thought that here was a very extraordinary lady!

Valerie was staunchly independent, to such extremes as walking the considerable hills to Nailsworth or Avening and back to Minch! Indeed, in 2007 she swapped Avening for Minch, because she was an enthusiastic member of the Dramatic Society and was finding the rehearsals tough to walk to and from.

When she did attract positive attention we were rewarded by a glorious smile and words of gratitude and when on those few occasions that did not meet her expectations, she did make it very clear that all was not well, but she came round eventually when the situation was made more understandable to her.

When one tries to fathom what Valerie had done during her life there are numerous anecdotes: Could she be one of the missing Russian Princesses? Might she have been related to a Maharajah? Was she presented at court as a debutante? Did she work at the Foreign Office? Had she contacts at GCHQ or Bletchley Park? Was someone interested in writing her memoirs? Was MI5 following her?

And was she ever an Avon Lady?

Perhaps a few words about 'on the record' facts concerning Valerie might help.

Her father, Col. Gordon Halland, was a distinguished army officer, who served in India, after WW2 re-established civil policing in West Germany, and was an inspector of the Metropolitan police and DLL of Lincolnshire. He married Helen Claudine Blanche Walter, the daughter of a Major General, in India in 1916. Their first child Claudine was born in 1917 in Simla. Sadly she was severely disabled mentally but lived until 2009.

Helen, Valerie's mother, returned to England in 1927, and died suddenly at St Helier, Jersey in 1946, when Valerie was just 16. Gordon remarried in 1947, his second wife being the Baroness Sigrid von der Recke from Latvia. Both Gordon and Sigrid are buried in in Minch churchyard. Sigrid was a German speaker and possibly spoke Russian as well.

Valerie was born in 1930 and her birth was registered in Portsmouth. In 1940

she was evacuated to Winnipeg, Canada, at the age of 10 and attended Rupert's Land School for Girls, lodging with a family named McDonald, who were friendly with the Hallands. Valerie returned to the UK in 1944. It is said these were the happiest years of her life. She is credited as having been a very good horsewoman and ice skater, perhaps as a result of having been in Canada.

Her family's UK address was in Hampstead and they had celebrated neighbours, including Vita Sackville-West. Thereafter we know nothing of her further education. There is a photo of her taken in 1946 and three postcards from Geneva, Grenoble and Casablanca dated 1958/9, all addressed to Darling Siggy and Daddy, who were then living in Haslemere, Surrey. It is thought she was fluent in French and German and her few belongings included an English/Spanish pocket dictionary. Our verger Colin Brookes worked for her at her livery stable at Benbow Cottage near the Ragged Cot when he was a teenager, probably in the 1960s. It is also known that she was PA to Michael Powell, the world famous film producer, who lived in and is buried in Avening, and she typed up the script for one his most famous films, "Red Shoes".

Valerie attended a Rupert's Land school reunion tea party in London in 2006 and her passport indicates she visited Australia, the USA and Canada in 2002.

Valerie was a great character in Avening where she lived for many years. One day she announced the children of a local charity should learn to swim, so she wanted to build a pool in front of her house. When it was gently pointed out that it might not be very practical, she promptly did a sponsored swim, insisting that Click Mitchell, one of the Trustees, watched and checked every length. She swam for three and a half hours. She would spontaneously cut flowers in her garden, and give them to someone whom she thought unhappy. Her great friends Brian and Molly Woolett emphasise her heart of gold.

Many folk will recall her participation in Minchinhampton Drama Society performances, often swaying in a dance routine out of step with the rest. Also in the library, battling with the computers; driving various cars including an MG, and walking up and down the town wearing those white unlaced trainers beneath a bright red coat. A number of kind friends hosted her 80th birthday party at the Kitchen. She was fortunate that many folk looked after her at times such as Christmas, and local shops and especially the Crown treated her kindly in various ways.

Sadly, there was an incident when she lived at George Pearce Home when she misguidedly dried her wet anorak in the microwave, resulting in charred remains of the garment and fire engines in attendance! Following a short spell at Gloucester Royal Hospital she was assessed, leading to a court protection order that secured her a place at Brookethorpe Hall Care Home in 2012. After a short period of readjustment she was really quite happy there

We enter the world with nothing, and dear Valerie is leaving it with just a hand luggage case, containing a bible given her when she was 16 which we now lay upon her coffin, a prayer book, a book of children's poems bought in Simla, India, a few thrillers; also 'Minchinhampton and Nailsworth Voices' and two old school magazines, a few greeting cards, three soft toys, expired passport and driving licence and a necklace.

Paul Boon.



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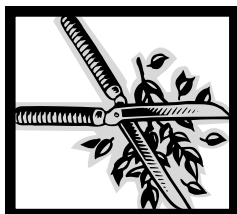
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Down to Earth

Right now, in the centre of London (at the RA in Piccadilly to be exact,), with only the green escape to Hyde Park in sight, is an exhibition: 'Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse'. This has been justly acclaimed – and is popular. (Tickets are best booked in advance.) Starting with, and focussing largely on, the Impressionists, the exhibition charts the growing *visual appreciation of the garden from the mid nineteenth century onwards with paintings in which flowers shine out like jewels. Check out the little-known German expressionist painter Emil Nolde for his boldly exuberant floral images. I hadn't realised that Monet and fellow-artist, Gustave Caillebotte, were keen and very knowledgeable gardeners, who exchanged information, built their own greenhouses and bred hybrids. The exhibition includes three of the original twelve large panels of Water Lilies, the Agapanthus triptych, on loan from American museums and specially reunited here. Worth a visit, if only to see the poignant willow fronds, Japanese inspired bridge and – ah – those water lilies.*



A curiosity in the exhibition was Sir William Nicholson's wonderfully evocative painting of 'Miss Jekyll's Gardening Boots', on loan from the Tate. I always think this says so much about the hard-working, down-to-earth homeliness of Gertrude Jekyll's character. Compare them with the riding boots worn by Vita Sackville West when photographed in her garden. Surely she didn't garden in those? A pose, then. A

statement. Poor Vita ... Dispossessed of her beloved Knole, disorientated in love, yet she transcended loss and confusion to become a distinguished gardener.

I should have known better. Two of the plants I bought most recently were seriously pot-bound. You can lift up the pot, before buying, to see whether roots have escaped from the drainage hole and formed a mat beneath the pot. (Some people do actually turn the plant upside down to check the state of the roots before buying.) With the pulmonaria, it was relatively easy to tease the main roots free from the mat of finer, secondary roots. The lamium, however, presented a dense mat of fine roots. So I did what I once saw a nurseryman do when he took out a pocket-knife and slashed the sides of the root-ball. Sounds brutal, but if you don't, there is the chance that the roots will never venture



outside their own woven cocoon. Now, I am not suggesting that you start slashing roots indiscriminately, but if a plant is pot-bound, you need to do something to *encourage those roots to venture outwards and bed down in the planting hole which you have prepared for it.*

At last, I have planted a hellebore. As Vita noted in one of her articles for the Observer (1947 - 1961), hellebores, 'are humble, and make few demands. They will put up with a considerable amount of shade, and they do not mind lime.' Perfect, then, for the location I had reserved for it. They are not cheap – but you do not grow rich by running a nursery. And they are very beautiful. Choose between the *helleborus niger* (or *Christmas rose*), the *helleborus orientalis* (or *Lenten rose*) or one of the many bred cultivars.

Why, when I am walking in cities, do I see plastic plants in basement areas and shady courtyards? (Too, too ghastly, especially the more realistic ones that seem to smirk and say: 'Nearly fooled you, didn't I!') We had some here, false ivy, trailing down the wall that looks into our kitchen. Real ivies and ferns, in their wide varieties, can do the job too. The Victorians even brought ferns into their living rooms and parlours in special Wardian cases. So many to choose from (mostly with unpronounceable names), so why don't you investigate some ivies and become a fern fancier today and brighten up a shady corner!



Now, calling all gardeners, professional or amateur, keen, reluctant or challenged: there will be a plant stall at the Avening Summer Fête on June 12th. Can you all nurture some extra seedlings, cuttings or divisions, pot them up, label them and bring along for us sell? All products will be locally grown and prices will be modest.

Marilyn Jones

Avening Playgroup

The children have the opportunity to make friends and play with a variety of equipment inside and outside at Avening Playgroup. There is always a painting, sticking and playdough activity to do and the children can choose to play with whatever they want – the cars and garage seem to be very popular at the moment.

We are looking forward to some warmer summer months so that we can take full advantage of our fantastic outdoor area. We will be playing with sand and water as well as on the bikes, swings and climbing frame.

Towards the end of the session we play the musical instruments and sing the children's favourite songs and rhymes. It is lovely to see them banging the drums so enthusiastically.

This is a great social experience for both the children and their parents/carers who get a chance to meet and chat with other adults and make friends within the local community.

For more information about the Baby and Toddler Group please call the playgroup on 01453 832695 any morning during term time.

If you have a child who will be 3 years of age between September 2016 and August 2017, and you would like them to attend Avening Playgroup, please call the above number to arrange a visit or put your child's name down on the waiting list.

Our Baby and Toddler Group will be meeting on Wednesday afternoons between 1.30 and 3.00pm during the summer term.

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Avening Youth Club

Avening Youth Club is a vibrant friendly group who meet every Tuesday evening during the school term between 18.15 and 19.45 at the Avening Memorial Hall.

The Youth Club welcomes young people aged between 8 and 14 and offers instructive fun and lively activities presented to them by a trained and caring group of instructors. It is led by Cassie Vickery who has been the stalwart of Avening Youth Club for many years and assisted by Simon Sveder-Cain on most Tuesdays, who provides fun and fitness sessions.

For details contact cherstermancassie@googlemail.com



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Cinema Club

The film to be shown on Tuesday 20th April at 7.30pm at the Social Club, Avening is the much acclaimed

THE LADY IN THE VAN

The Lady in the Van is a 2015 British comedy-drama film directed by Nicholas Hytner, written by Alan Bennett, and starring Maggie Smith and Alex Jennings.

Dates for your diaries for the Film Club in 2016:

Tue :Wed 18th May; Wed 15th June; Fri 15th July; Wed 21st Sept; Tues 11th Oct; Tues 8th Nov



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Avening WI 'Bite to Eat' scheme may be able to assist with your catering needs.

We can provide and serve a selection of freshly prepared sandwiches, scones, cakes etc; a fork or finger buffet; or a two course meal.

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01453 832799

The Mark Townsend Charitable Trust was set up by the family and close friends of Mark as a positive way to continue on with Mark's memory. The Trust will raise funds to help people who need it most.

If you, or someone you know, need our help, then drop us a line at the above address or message us on Facebook or the website. We will consider requests for anything that might be needed from petrol costs to school trips from parking costs to counselling.

To help us make the above possible we need your support. We have set up a 200 Club to raise funds for the charity and would like to invite you to join. You can buy a number at an annual cost of £12.00. Numbers will be issued from 1 to 200 and there will be a monthly draw which will consist of a first prize of £20.00 and a second prize of £10.00. There will be a special draw in May each year to remember Mark's Birthday.

To each and every person who has already joined the 200 Club or made a donation to the Trust – thank you very much for helping us to help others and to remember Mark.

Save the date for this year's big event

Saturday 21st May 2016

more details to follow

Facebook - www.facebook.com/themarktownsendcharitabletrust

Cherington Parish Council

Cotswold Unitary Bid

Central government is looking to make new devolution deals which should give more power and funding to local government, providing a boost to local economies and communities and giving them more say on how public services are delivered.

On 25th February Cotswold District Council revealed its proposal to consider creating a new unitary authority based on existing boundaries of Cotswold and West Oxfordshire District Councils which would form part of Oxfordshire's reorganisation and devolution deal. This is part of the plan called 'Oxfordshire Vision'. (CDC is keen to point out this would not mean that the current CDC area within Gloucestershire would form part of the county of Oxfordshire). The 'Leadership Gloucestershire' group, with the exception of Cotswold District Council, is opposing this plan and is disappointed that CDC has chosen to be part of the Oxfordshire devolution proposal. Leadership Gloucestershire has put forward a joint bid for a county-wide devolution deal.

Any proposals have to be given time for the public to comment and a public consultation is likely to take place this summer. Cotswold District Council is planning on engaging consultants to carry out a feasibility study in April on the new proposals.

For more information please visit www.weareglos.com and www.oxfordshire.vision

Annual Litter Pick - March 2016

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who gave up their time to help pick litter from around the parish both at the 5th March event and at other times during the month. Yet another great result for the village and surrounding area.

Dates for your diaries:

Light a Beacon event to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Evening of Thursday **21st April** at Westrip Farm, Cherington. Time to be arranged. Look out for further details!

Annual Parish Meeting - Saturday April 23rd at 10.30am

An opportunity to let the Parish Council know what you'd like to see happening in the village and hear what the PC has been doing over the past year. Come along and find out what's happening with **broadband** in the

Cotswolds area. The Parish Council is about to purchase a bench for the village, using the grant received last year and donations, and would like feedback on what type of bench should be purchased and where it should be sited. Come along and let us know what you think. Refreshments will be available.

Parish Council meetings: The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Saturday 23rd April at 10.30am 2016** at the Village Hall. Future meeting dates for parish council meetings: Tuesdays May 3rd, July 12th, September 13th and November 8th at 6pm – Village Hall. All residents of the Parish are welcome to attend parish meetings. There's 15 minutes of public time at the start of each meeting where you can bring up any issues. If you have any concerns, issues, queries or comments you would like to make relating to the Parish then please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk – Frances Ashfield on 01453 767384 or via email at cheringtonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

If you have any concerns, issues, queries or comments you would like to make relating to the Parish then please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk – Frances Ashfield on 01453 767384 or via email at cheringtonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk.



Church Floodlighting

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Don Don Merritt

love you more

From Josie, Neil, Elsie, and Jo Jo Hawker.

*If you would like to have this in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special event, contact **Paul Brown 01453 835 983***

The cost is £5.00 for 2 hours

Avening Parish Council



PLANNING

New Planning Applications

16/00891/FUL

11A High Street Avening Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8 8LU

Erection of a live/work unit (Variation of conditions 2, 12 and 13 of appeal decision APP/F1610/A/14/2211813 (13/03106/FUL) to allow for the substitution of revised plans and to enable parking and manoeuvring to be provided within the application site)

Appeal Notification

15/02544/FUL

Avening Mill Mill Lane Avening Tetbury

Description of development: Insertion of UPVC double-glazed window to replace defective existing windows (retrospective)

Application Reference: 15/02544/FUL

Appellant's name: Abbey Trust (UK) LLP

Appeal Reference: APP/F1610/W/16/3145382

Appeal start date: 1st March 2016

For more information about current and past planning applications see CDC's website: www.cotswold.gov.uk

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PRECEPT

For yet another year the Parish Council has maintained the Precept with a ZERO % increase !!

AVENING PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

Will be holding its **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** on **Thursday, 28 April 2016** at 7pm in the Memorial Hall (prior to the Parish Council Meeting). We would love

to have your support and input on the development of the children's play area and future maintenance of the playing field.

Or maybe you would like to join the Committee ?

Whatever your interest, please come and join us !

FUTURE DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING will take place on Saturday, 7 May 2016 at 10.30 am in the Memorial Hall.

COME and see what your Village has to offer !

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Will be held on Thursday, 28 April 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Chamberlain Room at the Memorial Hall.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

The Parish Clerk can be contacted via email: parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk
or by phone: 01285 380041 or 07870 170823

Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors,

With reference to the February edition of the Villager, Mr. Tony Slater, Chairman of the Avening Parish Council, was asking what other Villagers thought of the Council refuse collection service. My wife and I find that we have no problems concerning our refuse collection. In the contrary, we find that they are in fact very good. We do not have problems like some towns and other areas have from time to time - if we did, we would have something to complain about.

The blue bags are not a problem if the cardboard is folded down and any large items which do not fit are still collected if placed tidily by the bins - at least we can say that from our experience in the past. As for the food refuse buckets, the food which goes into the biodegradable bags inside these when full can be transferred to the garden waste bins as per their instructions.

These are our views of how we see the refuse services and trust they are helpful.

Yours truly
Mr B D Carter

Church Services in Avening & Cherington in April

Sunday April 3rd	9.30	Cherington	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday April 10th	10.00	St. Marys Tetbury	Holy Communion (CW) With Bishop Rachel
		Avening & Cherington	NO SERVICE
Sunday April 17th	9.30	Joint Benefice service Cherington	Holy Communion (CW)
		Avening	NO SERVICE, JOIN WITH CHERINGTON IN CHERINGTON CHURCH
Sunday April 24th	9.30	Cherington	Morning Prayer (BCP)
	11.00	Avening	Family Service (CW)
Sunday May 1st	9.30	Cherington	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion (CW)

The Annual Meetings of our Parish churches will be -
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about 12-00 noon
and Cherington on April 4th at 6-30pm in Church



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Dates For Your Diary

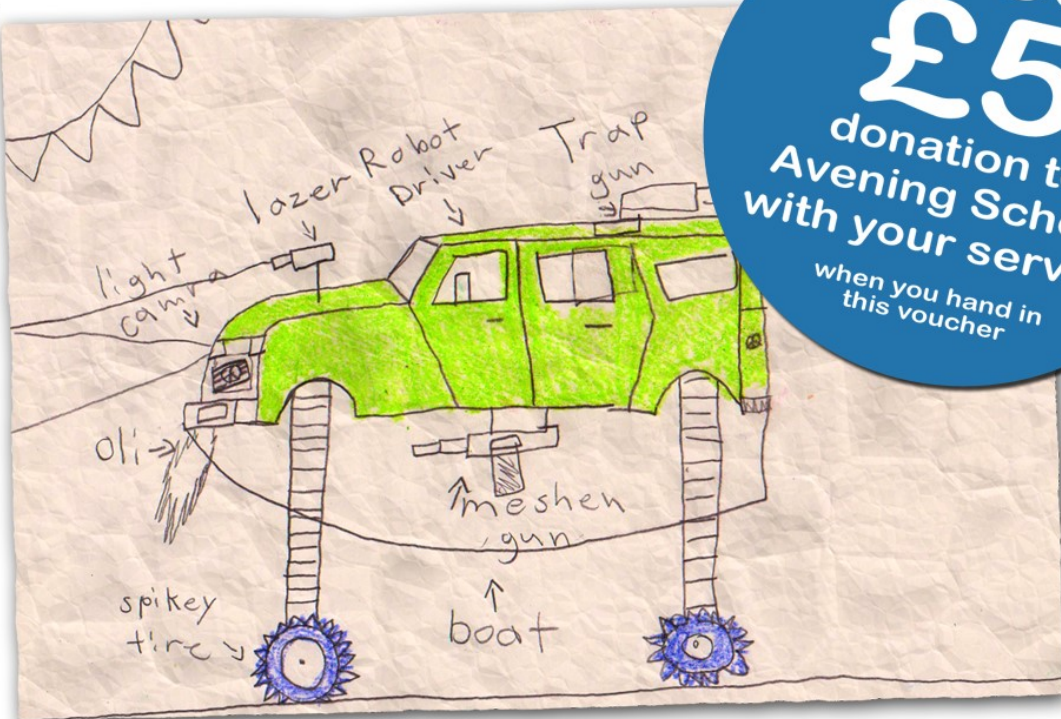
Wednesday 6th April	'No Halls Barred' Concert and Bring and Share Supper	Cherington Village Hall	6.30 for 7.00pm
Wednesday 6th April	1st new CAB Advice Session	Tetbury Town Council Offices	9.30am - 12.00pm
Monday 11th April	Start of term	Avening School	
Tuesday 20th April	Film Club Lady in the Van	Avening Social Club	7.30pm
Thursday 21st April	Lighting of Beacons	Avening Park and Westrip Farm	tba
Saturday 23rd April	Cherington Annual Parish Meeting	Cherington Village Hall	10.30pm
Thursday 28th April	Avening Parish Council Meeting	Avening Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 7th May	Avening Annual Village Meeting	Avening Memorial Hall	10.30am
Sunday 5th June	Tea Party	Street/Memorial Hall	tba
Sunday 12th June	Avening Fete, Duck races and art and craft exhibition	Village Hall School Garden and Church	2.00pm

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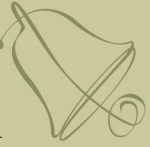
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