

# The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,  
Cherington and Nags Head

**February 2024**

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# February 2024

We hope it's not too late to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and the very best for 2024. We hope you all enjoyed your Christmas celebrations and had a good break and also that you enjoyed some fun village events with your neighbours. We have a few pictures of some Christmas activities in the magazine - please keep sending in your photos.

We would like to congratulate Avening resident Thelma Schoonemaker, who was recently nominated for an Oscar for her work on Martin Scorsese's 'Killers of the Flower Moon'. Considered by many to be the best film editor in the world, this is Thelma's ninth nomination, and she has already won Best Editor three times.

We would like to apologise to all you puzzle buffs out there for the lack of a crossword in this issue; we plan that the feature will return very soon.

Sam Powell's 'Farm Life' series of fascinating articles, which we know many people enjoyed, makes a welcome return. Thank you Sam, we all really appreciate hearing about the agricultural life we are surrounded by in this area, despite few of us working in it.

We would love to have more recipes for our 'Cookery Corner'; if you have a favourite family recipe or just some useful tips, do let us know. Also, would anyone be interested in writing a regular or occasional gardening column? We would love to hear from you on this or any other topic.

**The Villager Editors**

## The Villager Magazine

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Read online at [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)

## Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Jane Archer** for this photo of the stream coming out of Cherington Lake. Please keep sending us your photographs, especially since all the images will be in colour in the downloadable version of the Magazine.

[editors@villagemag.online](mailto:editors@villagemag.online)

*The Editors do not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in this publication or accept responsibility for errors or omissions or their consequences. Opinions expressed by contributors to this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors.*

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## **VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES**

**Avening Parish Council: [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)**

**Cherington Parish Council: [cheringtonpc.org.uk](http://cheringtonpc.org.uk).**

**Cherington Village: [www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk](http://www.cheringtonvillage.co.uk)**

**Cotswold District Council: [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk)**

**Facebook: Avening    Instagram: #aveningvillage**

# Avening and Cherington Events

Come along and join in the fun at any of the regular or special events below - everyone is always welcome!

*Both the Memorial Hall & Social Club can also be hired for private functions*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
Friday 2nd February	Winter Fun Skittles	Avening Social Club	7.30om
Saturday 3ed Febrary	Quiz Night	The Bell	8.00pm
Tuesday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th	Youth Club	Avening Memorial Hall	6.30—8.00pm
Tuesday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th	Community Café	Avening Social Club	9am—12 noon
Wednesday 28th February	Avening Cinema Club 'The Great Escaper'	Avening Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Monday 11th March	Community Café AGM	Avening Social Club	7.00pm
Sunday 9th June	Avening Church Fete, Dog Show and Art Exhibition	Avening Church and Churchyard	tba

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# Avening and Cherington Churches

As we move into February, we can actually see the days getting longer, approaching Spring. The word 'Lent' is derived from the word lengthen, and the season of Lent as a preparation for Easter will begin on February 14th this year.

We will be holding 5 discussion groups throughout the Lent Season, starting on Wednesday, February 21st. These casual meetings will begin at 6:30 with a simple supper of bread and soup as we talk about 'Becoming Disciples,' based on a book by former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. Please consider joining us—no one needs to have studied the subject, and we will explore the theme together. A simple email or text message (to Buchanan.el@gmail.com or 077797 99945) will reserve your place at the table.

*Elizabeth and Stephanie, Church Wardens*

## Church Services

Date	Holy Cross, Avening	St. Nicholas, Cherington
4 <sup>th</sup> February 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
11 February 10.00am	Holy Communion	NO SERVICE
18 <sup>th</sup> February 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
25 <sup>th</sup> February 10.00am	Holy Communion	NO SERVICE
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion

### Donations to Avening Church



We have set up a QR code which if scanned with your smart phone will enable you to make a donation to Avening Church of any amount that you are able to. You then just feed into your phone your card details and the money will be transferred to our bank account. If you are an income tax payer you will also be given the opportunity to gift aid your donation.



## SAVE THE DATE

AVENING CHURCH FETE / DOG SHOW / ART EXHIBITION  
WILL BE BACK AGAIN THIS YEAR ON

SUNDAY 9th JUNE

## Church Floodlighting

Over the past couple of months the church has been lit on:

### 3rd December

In memory of **Joan Newman**. We miss you and love you Brian, Mary, Molly & family.

### 6th December

Thinking of you **Dick (Richard Chapman)** on your birthday and always.  
You are missed so very much but you are never ever forgotten. Keep looking down on us all and look after Mum. Love always Kris, Rob, Kane, Eloise and Ralph.

### 28th December

Wishing the happiest of heavenly birthdays to **Angela Kerry**.  
You are missed more than any words can ever say and our love for you is as strong as it ever was. Life is so very different without you. Love you chicken – Kris, Rob, Kane, Eloise, Ralph and sister Margaret.

### 18<sup>th</sup> January

In loving memory of our loving, caring Mum (**Della Robins**) on her birthday (18<sup>th</sup> January 1947). Happy Birthday Mum, Nan and Great Nan. Lots of love, Claire, Nigel, Mark, Fiona, Jessica, Evie, James, Zac, Esme and Gabby and your beloved Oscar xxx

The church will be floodlit on :

### 9<sup>th</sup> February

In memory of Joan Newman, Happy Birthday, love from all the family.

### 17<sup>th</sup> February

In memory of Gay Powell, miss you very much, love from all the family.

### 19th February

in memory of Michael Powell who captured England's green and pleasant land on celluloid. We celebrate the humanity in his films. Thelma, Kevin and Columba.

The church looks beautiful at night when floodlit. If you would like to have this in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special event, contact **Piers Hansen** on **07770 745642**. The cost is £10 for 2 hours.



# Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



It's that time again – a New Year begins, full of hope and new resolutions. As 2023 recedes into history it's perhaps a time to reflect on events in the last year, both on a personal level and as a member of what I think of as a special Avening community.

My deepest thanks go out to my fellow Parish Councillors for their individual contributions and their collective support during the past year. We are fortunate to have a team who work together in harmony and have the best interests of Avening and Avening residents at the heart of their decisions. I look forward to 2024 being a year when we can continue to achieve on behalf of Avening. Timely also to remind anyone who is interested, that we still have a vacancy for a new parish councillor – if you are interested then please phone myself or any of the councillors for advice on the next steps to take.

Additionally, there have been many members of the community who have contributed their time and expertise to village events during 2023 and I hope that we will see the same community energy during 2024 – thank you to everyone.

**Memorial Hall:** We are progressing improvements within the hall such as plumbing upgrades in the toilets; other works are planned but depend on the availability of trades people; primarily plumbers and electricians.

**Affordable Housing:** The 14 new houses currently being built are due to be available by April 2024 and anyone who is interested should register their interest as soon as possible with Home Seekers. Plus, if you wish to rent any of the 3 Two Bed or 6 One Bed houses and for the option to buy one of the 4 x Two Bed or 1 x Three Bed houses then register on [www.helptobuyagent3.org.uk](http://www.helptobuyagent3.org.uk). Full details are available on the Cotswold District Council website.

**Parish Meeting:** December's meeting was very brief and so it was thought best to combine the Parish Clerk's notes with the next report which will be for the February meeting.

Wishing you all the very best for 2024. Keep safe

*Patrick Mulligan (Mob: 07713 068436)  
Chairman of Avening Parish Council*

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# District Councillor's Report



**CDC:** At both the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) and full council meetings we reviewed the intention of CDC to break up the joint company (Publica) owned by them and three other district councils, with a view to bringing the staff and processes back under the direct control of each council. This is a highly complex piece of work for which the councils don't have the experience or capacity, and means they will have to employ external expertise to provide the project management, pensions transfers, HR and legal implications.

When I challenged the council Leaders and Financial controllers on the likely costs, they said they didn't have enough information to be able to provide even a high level estimate. Despite this lack of detail (which for a project of this magnitude, in my experience would easily cost £2-3m!), and a motion by O&S recommending a review when costs were known, the council voted to proceed with haste on the work. This is very concerning, and I consider it reckless because it effectively amounts to a blank cheque where the project costs, long term financial implications, and benefits of proceeding are not even known! There are also differing opinions on which council is actually driving the change.

**Visit to AIS:** I was lucky to be invited to a tour of Air Salvage International – a highly successful private company operating out of Cotswold (Kemble) Airport. The company specialises in breaking redundant aircraft for spares (the value of which are invariably higher than the original intact aeroplane), and recovery of crashed planes around the world. The owner gave a fascinating presentation and personally took our group around their various facilities at the airport. It's pleasing that a company such as this can thrive in the south Cotswolds, an area which is primarily known for the beautiful landscape and not for a highly skilled industry such as ASI.

The **Public Conveniences Review Group** has completed its review and made recommendations to the CDC Cabinet. Public toilets are not a statutory service but are very important in the Cotswolds, being a tourist area. A balance has to be achieved between costs and availability, and as a result two units are likely to close, including the small convenience at the Chipping in Tetbury. This will still leave the main (award winning) block available at the main car park. All units in the district will be refurbished, but those that are free presently will incur a charge in the future. The report will be presented so that the Cabinet can decide on the future of the services and make appropriate budget provision.

**Roads:** I am pleased to say that GCC now have a much better system for reporting potholes, and it is linked to the 'FIX My Street' app, so it's never been easier to report road issues. That said, I did have to have two attempts to get a gaping hole fixed outside Cherington, and some other obvious defects have been rejected! I have written to Highways, the responsible Cabinet member at GCC, and our two MPs to highlight that relying on a cursory annual inspection of roads as required under the

Highways Act 1980 is not acceptable due to the perilous state of our disintegrating roads.

**Solar Panels Fitted to CDC Offices:** At long last photovoltaic solar panels are to be installed at the CDC Cirencester council offices. The new solar panels will contribute to environmental sustainability, they are expected to reduce the Council's CO2 emissions by approximately 43 tonnes each year, which is equivalent to the emissions from driving the average petrol powered car about 160,000 miles. The project is funded through the Cotswold Climate Investment, launched in 2022, which allowed residents and others to invest as little as £5 in local green initiatives.

**Avening & Cherington:** You may have seen my piece in the December Villager about the recent showing of two Michael Powell films in the Memorial Hall, and that we were honoured by a Q&A session by Michael's widow Thelma Schoonmaker, herself a multi-Oscar® winner in the field of editing, who still resides in Avening.

On the roads we still have faulty traffic lights at Longford's Mill and the 30mph VAS sign in Avening to be fixed!

Just before Christmas two of my PC colleagues were invited to a meeting at Aston Farm to discuss the new dam and associated works. There were positive discussions, and I have contacted the Environment Agency to get their help in suggesting ways to rectify the current issues and other improvements to the stream through Avening.

My thanks go to Mike Mitchell for his hospitality for hosting the Cherington PC meeting at Toad Hall recently because the Reading Room was out of commission while it was being refurbished. This work is now largely complete, and the hall has been given a new lease of life, with excellent new heating, lighting, and lots of insulation. Well done to all involved.

*Tony Slater, CDC District Councillor,  
representing Grumbold's Ash with Avening*  
email: [Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk) Tel: 07793669930



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# Puzzle Corner

6	4			3			1	2
1		3	6		4			8
	5					6		
		7	8		1	4	6	
		5				8		
	1	6	7		5	2		
		1					2	
9			2		6	5		7
5	8			7			9	6

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## Sudoku

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 - 9. If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

*Answers on page 35*

# Down Memory Lane



**Avening Band 1947**

Many thanks to Ian Smith and the Old Avening and Cherington Facebook page for this photo. Can you give us any names?

# Gilian's Poem of the Month

I had fun with this one using the letters of the month to start each line of the poem.

## February

Fresh breezes blow, cold raindrops fall, bringing the new year's birth,  
while fitful sunshine shyly beams across the wakening earth;  
Early lambs with curly coats bleat out a plaintive cry, and the first skylark  
spills his notes, high in a windy sky;  
Blackthorn blossoms in the hedge where catkins dangle free, but pussy  
willow's downy buds cling close on twig and tree;  
Robin, my little winter friend, with blackbird, sparrow, thrush, is busy  
gath'ring moss and grass for nests hid in the bush;  
Under the leaf mould in the wood small spears of green push through,  
and, in the churchyard, snowdrops flood beneath the spreading yew;  
A few bright primroses appear, a daffodil is seen, sweet violets dot the  
hedgerow banks, hidden 'neath cloaks of green:  
Remember, when February comes, after cold days of rain, it won't be so  
much longer before Springtime is here again.  
Your heart can fill with hope and joy that each young new year brings,  
so rejoice, put gloomy days behind, for Winter is on the wing!

*Gilian Bulmer-Davison*

Cas Boddam-Whetham MCSP RCT SIRPA Practitioner

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# Avening School

## Flying into February

We have taken a leap into the New Year at Avening School this term with new topics, concerts, sports events and visits all taking place over the next few weeks.

Our Young Voices choir are singing their way to Birmingham NEC at the end of January for this year's concert. Joining 6,000 other schoolchildren from across the counties, our musical superstars will delight audiences made up of parents and family members as

they sing a medley of chart-topping hits from across the decades, as well as traditional folk songs and songs from the musicals



Meanwhile, back at school, each class is learning about a new topic with a mixture of history and geography in this term's selections. The Eagles class (reception) are reading and enjoying traditional fairy tales, with their role-play area being turned into a castle, while the Kestrels class (Y1/2) are delving

into the past with their focus on Knights and Castles. Up in KS2, the Hawks (Y3/4) are becoming geographers as they learn about rivers and the Owls (Y5/6) are travelling back in time to study the ancient civilisation of the Mayans.

Our sporting events this term include a gymnastics session for the Hawks class at Sir William Romney's School as well as dodgeball and cross-country competitions. Pupils also have the choice of a wide variety of after school clubs this term, including drama, recorder, cross-country, netball, STEM and art club amongst others.

Our pupils in Y5 are taking part in the Mini Police initiative, which will see the children being given uniforms and opportunities to support around the school. They will be learning about the role of the police, including about crime prevention, road safety and





internet safety in a series of eight workshops run by police officers between now and the end of the summer term.

We would like to give an enormous thank you to FOAS and The Avening Church Education Fund for donating funds to purchase iPads for the children to use in class to support their learning. The iPads have been set up and are now being used daily in lessons. This would not have been possible without the generosity of our wonderful local community and we can guarantee that this resource will make a huge amount of difference to all our pupils.

As we get closer to half term, we are getting excited about our World Book Day celebrations, which will take place at the beginning of March. Our plans and theme are still being decided upon but watch this space for more details on this in next month's article.

**Alex Adcock**

*For more information about this busy place of learning, please see our school website: [www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk)*

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# Farm Life



January always seems like an extra-long month in the farming calendar, with spring seeming almost in reach but there again just out of it.

We turn our minds to farm maintenance jobs at the moment, with hedge-cutting taking the forefront. As I've written in The Villager before, we are very lucky to have a fair number of hedgerows at Court Farm. These provide that all-important 'wildlife corridor' for small mammals to cross the landscape in the safety of the hedges. Dry stone walls and hedgerows make up the majority of field boundaries here, creating the stereotypical look of a Cotswold farm.

January and February are a good time to get on top of the field boundaries as most of the all-important berries have been plucked by birds from the hedgerows, which can now be cut without disturbing nests. In today's world of farming we lean on mechanisation to help out with this task, mainly in the form of a hedge flail. The finish left on the hedgerow can be rather harsh and is somewhat commercial in the natural setting, but it does ensure that the hedge keeps its shape and thickens out at the bottom which also helps not only the hedge, but also allows the wildlife to prosper. However, such machinery is vital in the maintenance of the farm and I could not undertake the task of cutting all the farms hedges by hand like my grandfather. This would take weeks and I am running a larger farm now on my own – I would just not have the time.

Where we can, we do try our best to maintain hedgerows in the traditional sense, by hedge laying. This method is to take a rather sparse hedge and cut nearly all the way through the individual hedge stems to allow them to be pushed over or 'laid' at an angle, whilst still allowing the hedge to grow. This provides a much better livestock boundary and a better habitat for the fact that the hedge is much denser and small creatures cannot be seen by their prey.



Dry stone walls also make up a large proportion of the farm's field boundaries. We always try our best to look after these and repair them when they fall.

The winter months causes the 'freeze-thaw' effect on walls, where water enters and expands when frozen, resulting in the wall being made unstable.

I'm very lucky here with my dad (John) being skilled in dry-stone walling (something that I'm still trying to get to grips with). The comment of "turn that stone upside down and it will sit better" is frequently made to me, often resulting in a better outcome!

Apart from hedge cutting and dry-stone walling, the farm is also due its annual Red Tractor audit. By the

time you read this, we will have had the results of this. The Red Tractor audit makes sure that all farming practices are to a desired industry standard. This takes into consideration a variety of different areas. These range from animal welfare, to feed storage and bookkeeping. It's important to us that our farm is of the high standard expected. My grandfather, Archie, first joined the assurance scheme back in 2001 and as a result is always at the forefront of what we do. We hope that it gives our customers the reassurance that all aspects of our farming business either reaches or exceeds the desired criteria.

Lastly, the recent cold snap in January has meant that the ground has dried up and the cattle are more comfortable.

Cattle struggle with mild wet conditions, often resulting in pneumonia in the young stock, of which we have had a few cases this year. Our native breed cattle can cope well outside in the cold but do not favour it being continually wet.

Our re-homed ex-caged hens are still very much enjoying their new life on pasture and are providing our honesty shed with eggs daily.

Let's hope the weather stays dry!

***Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!***

***Also subscribe to our YouTube Channel for farm diary videos: @flpowellandsons***



## **Longfield's Annual Ale Amble Fundraiser Returns 24<sup>th</sup> February, 11am – 3pm**

Here's a lovely opportunity to take a bracing walk with friends, family and four-legged buddies, whilst raising funds for your local hospice.

It's a gentle four mile circular walk, starting and finishing at Stroud Brewery, with optional refreshment breaks at the Bowbridge Arms and Crown & Sceptre along the route. Taking in the hilly Heavens around the Golden Valley, at the end of the walk, you'll be greeted with a free pint or soft drink and the chance to watch a Six Nations rugby match on the big screen. £15 for adults, £10 for children, which includes a free Longfield T shirt.

Book online at: <https://longfield.org.uk/event/ale-amble/>



## Thelma Schoonmaker

Thelma Schoonmaker is an amazing person - and she has a house in Avening.

She is the most awarded Movie Editor of all time, has broken every glass ceiling for being female in the editing world of Hollywood and worked with Martin Scorsese since 1967.

As we reported in the December issue of *The Villager*, Thelma was in the UK recently, during which time she did a Q&A session in Avening Memorial Hall. She was promoting her latest movie with Scorsese, 'Killers of the Flower Moon'; an epic true story which was given a nine-minute standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival and for which she has now been nominated for an Oscar in the Best Editor category.



Thelma met Michael Powell when she and a young Martin Scorsese came to visit him in Avening, as Michael was Martin's hero. They fell in love and married in Holy Cross Church in 1984. (She showed a movie of the event in the Hall for us all to see during the Diamond Jubilee year). Michael and Emric Pressburger had together written, produced and directed a series of classic British films, notably *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* (1943), *A Canterbury Tale* (1944), *I Know Where I'm Going!* (1945), *A Matter of Life and Death* (1946, also called *Stairway to Heaven*), *Black Narcissus* (1947), *The Red Shoes* (1948), and *The Tales of Hoffmann* (1951), but their controversial film *Peeping Tom* (1960), today considered a classic, was so vilified on first release that Michael's career was seriously damaged. Nevertheless, the legacy that Michael Powell left to the movie world is unprecedented.

Thelma has lovingly preserved and promoted her husband Michael Powell's extraordinary achievements in the history of Cinema from the moment she married him. Powell dictated to Thelma two autobiographies that are well-worth reading: 'A Life in Movies' and 'Million-Dollar Movie'. For many years she has organised a celebration of the Powell-Pressburger Movies at the British Film Institute.

With the support of Scorsese, she has restored his films and has continued to dedicate her life to ensuring her husband's influence and memory will never be lost. At the same time, she has edited movies with Martin Scorsese for five decades, as well as other documentaries and TV work, in a glittering, award winning and unbelievably hard-working career, which continues. She is working on a documentary of the Powell-Pressburger partnership right now.

And she really loves Avening!

**Click Mitchell**

# TETBURY GOODS SHED

ARTS CENTRE

## FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS AT THE GOODS SHED

- Feb 4** **Voodoo Room:** Join us to celebrate the music of Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and Cream with the Voodoo Room trio. Tickets £18 in advance. 6pm
- Feb 7** **Playtime:** Join Ratty and her friends for an introduction to theatre for pre-schoolers and their families. You can all enjoy story-telling, music and puppetry. £5 a child. 10-11
- Feb 9** **Miss Sasha Blaze:** Join our favourite drag queen for a night of comedy and cabaret. You can sing along to songs from Abba to Shirley Bassey. Tickets £14 in advance. 8pm
- Feb 17** **The Ben Holder Quartet:** One of the most exciting jazz violinists in the UK and his quartet will be playing music from the jazz hits of the 20s and 30s. Tickets £15.50 in advance. 7.30 £15
- Feb 24** **The Big Brunch Band:** Based in Ashton Keynes the band are a 20+ mix of big band, Latin, film themes and pop. Tickets £15 in advance. 7.30

**To buy tickets and for more information about other events such as talks, cinema and exhibitions please visit our website: [www.shed-arts.co.uk](http://www.shed-arts.co.uk)**



Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester is a local charity which provides friendship, practical and emotional support to families with young children within our communities. Parenting is not always easy, and to have the support from a trained volunteer is invaluable to many



experiencing a difficult time in their lives.

Our next free volunteer training course starts in February 2024, so if you would like to start the New Year in a positive way, have 2-3 hours a week or even a month to spare, and could share with someone else your parenting experiences please get in touch.

A parent says: "Home-Start is a fantastic charity, was really there for me at times of need. The volunteers are well trained and are really handy to have around especially when your child has extra needs, sometimes that different face makes all the difference. Thank you very much!"

**For more details and to apply, please see our website [www.homestartsd.org](http://www.homestartsd.org) or email: [Enquiries@homestartsd.org](mailto:Enquiries@homestartsd.org) or call the office 01453 297470.**



# Avening Playgroup

It has been lovely to welcome the children back after the Christmas holiday as well as say a big welcome to those children who are just starting at Avening Playgroup.

We have spent the first week settling all the children back into the playgroup routine. During a morning session the children will arrive at playgroup and come into the playroom to engage in a couple of activities that have been laid out. At around 9.20 we have a quick circle time to do the register, check the weather, sing our days of the week song and do physi-gym. After that the children decide what activity to have on the carpet and then they enjoy free play. After about an hour we tidy up and come back to circle time where we do some letters and sounds activities. This is followed by snack time. Once the children have taken their plates and cups to the kitchen and put any leftovers into the recycling bin, the younger children go outside with Louise and the older children stay inside with Angie to complete a quick mark-making activity. They then join the others outside. At midday we tidy up and come inside for story time and some singing. Some children then leave to go home while others stay for lunch club and go home at 1.15 pm.



So far this term we have also looked at the weather – in particular ‘winter’. The children had lots of fun with the animals in the ‘shaving foam’ snow and frozen in ice. It took a lot of hammering to free the animals in the ice. The children have made a big snowman collage and have enjoyed sticking the carrot nose on to it whilst being blindfolded. They have also been practicing their pencil control by following the lines on winter pictures. The children have been matching items of clothing to the numerals 1 to 5 and have made a weather chart, as well.

We are closed week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> February for half term and are back again on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

If you would like your child to attend our lovely playgroup, please email Angie on [aveningplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:aveningplaygroup@gmail.com) or phone us on 01453 832695, mornings during term time to arrange a visit.

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## Avening Youth Club



**AVENING YOUTH CLUB  
 NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!**



**CONTACT [INFO@THEDOOR.ORG.UK](mailto:info@thedor.org.uk) TO FIND OUT MORE**

The Youth Club is held every Tuesday in term time **6.30-8pm** in the Memorial Hall.

All children aged 8 to 14 are welcome and there is **NO CHARGE!**

# Avening WI

We begin the New Year looking forward to a varied programme for 2024 - but firstly a brief look back to our Christmas party, when Rosa Barratt from Allsorts, Gloucestershire, a charity that supports the whole family of children with disabilities or additional needs, was presented with a donation of £300 by our president Liz Knowles. The money was raised at our well-supported November Village Quiz, so thank you to all who attended.



In January our team took its turn to run the Community Café, while the Book Group enjoyed a New Year lunch at The Olive Tree. Our speaker at January's monthly meeting was Virginia Wright, who gave a very enthusiastic and informative talk about 'New generations of compost'. By the time you read this 20 members will have been on a conducted tour of The Javelin Park Incinerator, near Stonehouse. We have been on a waiting list for a long time for what promises to be a most interesting visit.

Looking ahead, we shall be arranging all our usual events: monthly meetings; walks with lunch; book group; workshops; 'Bite to eat' service; garden visits and visits further afield; County Skittles Competition and County Quiz; (Our skittlers are particularly keen to compete this year having narrowly missed out by one point in last year's plate final.) We hope to add a Theatre Group this year. Our small group of members walking the Cotswold Way completed the first half in November and will be off again in March, aiming to get to Bath by late autumn (in six stages!)

Our walk planned for February will start at Pike Lock on the Stroudwater canal and finish at The Badger, Eastington for lunch. Our speaker for February will be Sue Davies, her talk entitled 'In the Wake of Scott and Shackleton'. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome to join us.

For further information please contact our secretary Helen at [aveningwi@gmail.com](mailto:aveningwi@gmail.com) or president Liz on 01453 833803

**Bridget Seward**

## The Village Notice Board

The village notice board, on the side of the Memorial Hall, is a good way of publicising village events and items of local information. Posters, ideally size A4 or A5, can be put up for you on this board. They can be delivered to John and Sandra Hetterley, 2, Orchard Field or given to them directly. They will be taken down once they are out of date. Other posters may be removed and recycled once they are faded or to make space for others.





## Do You Like Singing?

Avening Singers is a friendly, fun and informal choir, at present rehearsing for 2024 events, including singing at village occasions like the summer fete, at weddings, in Avening church for occasional services and hopefully a summer concert. We sing a range of classical, traditional and contemporary music and would love to welcome more members. Male or female, any age – all are welcome, no experience necessary and no auditions. Just come along and give it a try. We practice Sunday afternoons at 4pm in Avening.

Contact [aveningsingers@gmail.com](mailto:aveningsingers@gmail.com) or call Jane 07812137161 for more information

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The first step is to **collect all the information you have about your debts**, this might include contracts, bills and statements.

**Next, make a list of your debts and write down the details of each.** This could include who you owe money to, when you first missed a payment, and how much you now owe. You’ll also need to make a note of your account or reference number and what steps the person or company has taken to get the money back, eg. sending you letters.

If you are behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if there are any manageable steps you can take to start reducing your debt.

Once you’ve got these debts under control, you should look at any other debts like credit card or store card debts, payday loans or missed Buy Now Pay Later payments.

**You can find further advice** on dealing with debts, as well as support for energy and living costs, and possible benefit entitlement, on the Citizens Advice website – [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

There is also emergency support that you may be able to access, such as a food bank or fuel vouchers.

If you cannot access the website or need further help you can contact Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Thursday, or Email us using the form on our website ([www.citizensadvice-](http://www.citizensadvice-)



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# AVENINGCINEMA CLUB



**WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2024**

**Doors open 7pm. Film starts 7.30pm. Interval halfway  
Please feel free to bring refreshments**

**AVENING MEMORIAL HALL**

**Admission £5**

The film club runs on the last Wednesday of every month.

Contact us at [aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com](mailto:aveningcinemaclub@gmail.com)

The film club is a not for profit community event. Any profit made after screening/  
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# Avening Community Café

Enjoy good company, home made cakes and a drink at your Community Café.  
Every Tuesday morning in the Social Club from 9 – 12 am.  
Mobile Post Office on site from 9:30 – 11:30.

Happy New Year to you all!

Congratulations to Richard King for winning the Christmas Hamper raffle - the proceeds of £150 plus £50 donations were gratefully received by our charity The Long Table in Stroud.

It was lovely to see so many Café friends turn out for the start of the new year with a wee dram in their coffee to keep out the cold. We look forward to another successful year in 2024.

## Café Crafts

Craft activity at the Café continues to attract interest. The fourth rag rug depicting the Café is now complete and a new one portraying Avening Church is underway. We have also started patchwork sessions. If you have any spare material or wool, we'll put them to good use! Our monthly art class with Mark Kelland is subsidised by the Café and continues to be very popular – the latest artwork in January was a pen & ink and watercolour of a harbour scene. Everyone is welcome to join in with any of these activities.

## February Highlights

- 6<sup>th</sup> **Chinese New Year** – “Year of the Dragon”
- 13<sup>th</sup> **Valentines Day** (Half Term)
- 20<sup>th</sup> **Art with Mark** (£3 each, all materials supplied)
- 27<sup>th</sup> **Enjoy a Bacon Roll today**

**Date for your diary – Monday 11th March – Café AGM at 7pm in Social Club lounge with free glass of bubbly on arrival.**

*John Hetterley, for Avening Community Cafe*



## Avening Art Group

The Avening Art Group is an informal friendly group that meets weekly at Avening Park Farm (Celia's) on Wednesdays from 10 to 12. All budding artists are welcome to attend – further information available from the Community Cafe. There is also fortnightly tuition from Mark Kelland. We look forward to seeing you.



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## Some Christmas Events in Avening



*A shepherd, and angel and a king arrive for Avening Nativity*



*Fun and games at the FOAS and Playgroup Christmas Fair*



*Top: Avening Silver Band at the Christmas Fair. Middle: Avening Singers prepare to sing at the Christmas Carol Service. Bottom: Carol Singing at the Bell*



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## Preparing for the inevitable: new group launched at Longfield

Facing the final chapter of life can feel daunting, and many of us might prefer not to think about it.



Longfield Community Hospice believes that no one should face this alone, so they're launching a ten-week group session to guide people with life-limiting illnesses and their carers and families through any challenges. You'll be able to think about what's most important to you and gain reassurance that your wishes will be honoured.

Specialists will offer sessions on legal matters, such as will writing and Lasting Power of Attorney, as well as managing symptoms, funeral planning and dealing with grief. There'll also be an opportunity to gather treasured objects and create a comforting memory box.

Sessions will be held from 17<sup>th</sup> January from 10.30 to 12.30pm, with an optional lunch. To book a place, call the Wellbeing Team on 01453 733 706 or email [wellbeing@longfield.org.uk](mailto:wellbeing@longfield.org.uk)

### Lunch with Longfield

Join Longfield for lunch at Egypt Mill in Nailsworth on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. For £25pp, you'll be greeted with bubbles on arrival, followed by a delicious two-course lunch and coffee. You'll hear the latest news from Longfield and find out you can take part in fun fund raising opportunities. All proceeds to Longfield Community Hospice.

Book your place at [www.longfield.org.uk/event/egypt-mill-lunch](http://www.longfield.org.uk/event/egypt-mill-lunch) or call 01453 886868

## A Bite to Eat?

### Arranging a Group Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Christening Party or other social event ?

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 and cakes; a fork or finger buffet; or a two course r

### For prices and any further details :

Please telephone Liz on **01453 833803** or e-mail [lizknowles@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizknowles@hotmail.co.uk)





# Puzzle Answers

6	4	8	5	3	9	7	1	2
1	7	3	6	2	4	9	5	8
2	5	9	1	8	7	6	4	3
3	2	7	8	9	1	4	6	5
4	9	5	3	6	2	8	7	1
8	1	6	7	4	5	2	3	9
7	6	1	9	5	8	3	2	4
9	3	4	2	1	6	5	8	7
5	8	2	4	7	3	1	9	6



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# Regular Activities in the Villages

Would organisers please let us know if there are any changes or additions to these events

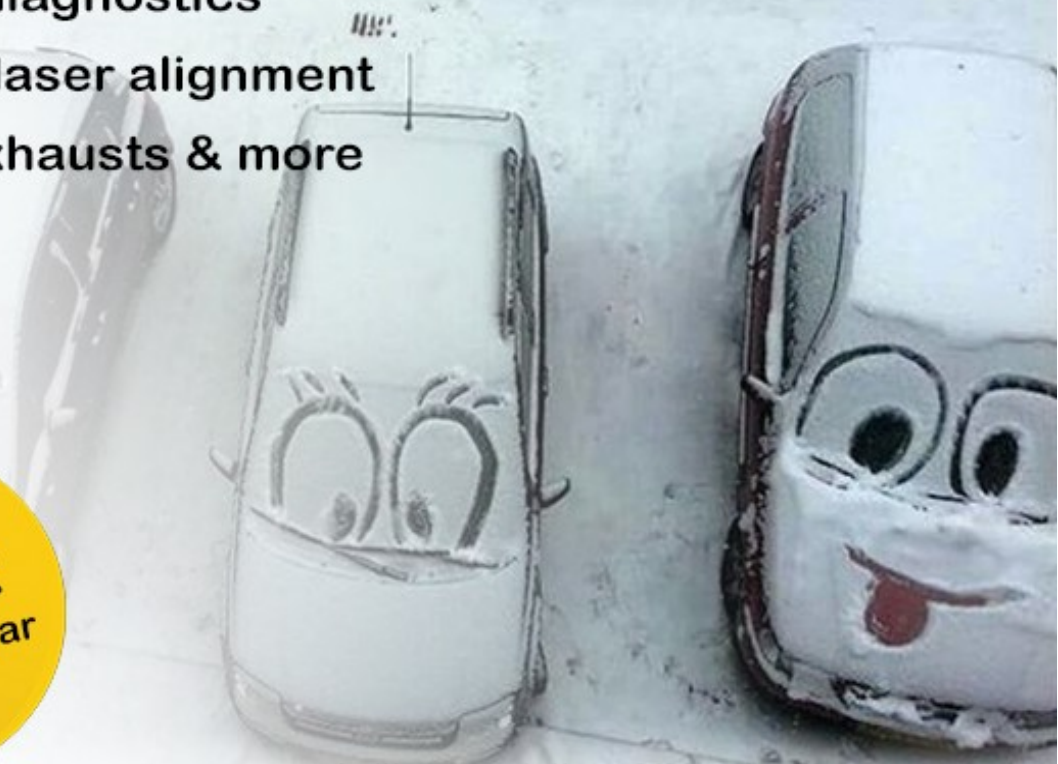
Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Community Café	Tuesday	9.00am - 12.00pm	Social Club	Gill Adams 07826 291759
Mobile Post Office	Tuesday	9.30am - 11.30pm	Social Club car park	
Cherington PC	Tuesday bi-monthly	6.00pm	Cherington Village hall	Richard Smith 07884 265117
Line Dancing	Tuesday	8.00 - 9.30 pm	Social Club	Social Club 01453 833760
Avening Youth Club	Every Tuesday in term time	6.30 – 8.00pm	Avening Memorial Hall	01453 756745
Avening Churchyard tidy up	Wednesday	6.00 - 7.00pm	Holy Cross churchyard	Churchwardens
Avening Art Group	Wednesday	10.00 – 12.00	Avening Park Farm	Community Café
Avening PC	2nd Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Shani Baker 07415 039234
Avening Cinema Club	Last Wednesday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	avening Cinemaclub@gmail.com
Avening church bell ringing	Wednesday	8.00-9.00pm	Church bell tower	Andrew Lelliot Aslelliott37@gmail.com
Avening W.I.	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Social Club/ Memorial Hall	Liz 01453 833803
Winter Fun Skittles	Friday	7.30	Social Club	
Charity Quiz	1st Saturday each month	8.00pm	The Bell	
Avening Singers	Sunday	4.00pm	tba	Derrick Pierce 01453 835090

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