

A vibrant bouquet of flowers is the central focus, arranged in a silver, perforated metal vase. The bouquet features several tulips in shades of pink, red, and yellow, interspersed with clusters of bright yellow forsythia flowers and delicate white baby's breath. Green foliage and stems are visible throughout the arrangement. The background is a light-colored, textured wall with some shadows.

# The Villager

A Magazine for Avening,  
Cherington and Nags Head

**April 2024**

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



*Richard Murray*



*Liane Wheeler*



*Raph Arwas*



*Annabel Crapper*



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# April 2024

At last! Spring has arrived, blossom and flowers are dancing all around us, the clocks have gone forward - and as ever in these villages lots of events are being planned for us to enjoy over the next few months. These include regular quizzes like Tony's one in the Bell, or occasional ones run by the WI or FOAS; whoever runs them, they are open to all and are always a fun way to pass the time and meet old friends and make new ones, as well as raise much-needed money for local charities.

The high point of the summer in Cherington is the Cherington Show towards the end of July, a great opportunity for people to explore the village and the many events of offer. In Avening there is the Church Fete, which this year offers a whole weekend of fun, with not only the Fete itself with its famous Duck Races on the Sunday, but also the Art Exhibition (open to all - see details on page 9). And on the Friday before the Fete, the Avening Singers are hosting a 'Sounds of Summer' event in the Memorial Hall, celebrating the talent of the village through music and words. More details of this in next month's Villager.

You may also be interested in hearing about a new initiative for the villages; ethical trading, so you can shop ethically in a more affordable way (see page 13).

*The Villager Editors*

## The Villager Magazine

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## Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Gill Adams** for this photo of Easter flowers in Avening church. 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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Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
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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**

# Dates for your Diary

Come along and join in the fun at any of the events below - everyone is always welcome! Both the Memorial Hall & Social Club can also be hired for private functions

Date	Event	Location	Time
Wednesday 10th April	Avening Parish Council Meeting	Avening Memorial Hall	7.00pm
Friday 12th April	WI Quiz	Avening Social Club	7.30pm
Thursday 18th April	Singalong with Avening Singers	The Bell	8.00pm
Wednesday 24th April	Avening Cinema Club 'One Life'	Avening Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Sunday 28th April	Avening Jumble Trail	Avening Village	2- 4 pm
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Avening Parish Council AGM with Community Café	Avening Social Club	10 am
Friday 7th June	Sounds of Summer	Avening Memorial Hall	7.00pm tbc
Sunday 9th June	Avening Church Fete, Dog Show and Art Exhibition	Avening Church and Churchyard	tba

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# Avening and Cherington Churches

Last month we began to vary our Sunday services by adding, once a month, a Service of Worship in the Celtic tradition, based in the services of worship in the Iona Community—an Ecumenical group of men and women seeking newer ways of living the gospel in today's world.

These short services include readings, prayer and contemplation, trying to break down the barriers between the religious and the ordinary. Everyone is welcome at 10am on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

In March, representatives from Avening, Cherington and Amberley met with some of the priests in our area to interview candidates for the job of a priest for these three parishes. The selection process continues at this very exciting time. Watch this space!

*Elizabeth and Stephanie, Church Wardens*



## CELTIC MORNING PRAYER

*Holy Cross church Avening*

*As a change from our regular fortnightly service of Morning Prayer (from The Book of Common Prayer), after discussion with the congregation, for a trial period on the third Sunday of each month there will be a Celtic type service of Morning Prayer when we can give thanks for the things that we have, in line with the Celtic tradition.*

*You are invited to come and join us at 10.00am on Sunday 21st April. The service will last for about 30 minutes and will include prayer, songs, a Bible reading and reflection as well as time for meditation.*

## 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.

## Church Services

Date	Holy Cross, Avening	St. Nicholas, Cherington
7 <sup>th</sup> April 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
14 <sup>th</sup> April 10.00am	Holy Communion	NO SERVICE
21 <sup>st</sup> April 10.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
28 <sup>th</sup> April 10.00am	Holy Communion	NO SERVICE
5 <sup>th</sup> May 10.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion

## Annual Summer Art Exhibition Avening Church, Sunday 9th June

Notices to artists submitting pictures, crafts and works of art to the exhibition:



- The Church will be closed and cleared on Monday 3rd June.
- The setting up for the Exhibition will commence on Tuesday 4th June.
- Exhibits can be brought to the Church from 2pm on Thursday 6th June.
- From 2pm on Saturday 8th June, exhibits can again be brought to the Church.
- After 4pm no further exhibits will be accepted.
- Private view will be on the evening of 8th June.
- Exhibition opens to the public at 1.30pm on Sunday 9th June.

If you would like more information, please contact George Buchanan at [buchanan.pg@gmail.com](mailto:buchanan.pg@gmail.com).

There is no charge for submitting exhibits.

# Letter from Chairman of Avening Parish Council



Spring is in the air and the countryside is showing signs of coming to life. Hopefully over the coming weeks you will spot some signs that the village has some 'green shoots' of improvements; such as: -

**A Defibrillator:** has now been installed on the main entrance side of the Memorial Hall. At night it stands out like a yellow beacon so it should be an easy find if you are unfortunate enough to need its services. In the coming weeks we are going to provide a couple of Saturday mornings whereby villagers can turn up to receive free instructions by a trained professional on how and when to use it.

**Memorial Hall:** Work on a new heating system is scheduled to start on 27<sup>th</sup> March, during the school Easter break. I'm sure everyone who uses the hall on a regular basis will welcome this; I know from experience how cold it can be, especially if you are seated for a meeting, film show or similar.

Talks with the Athelstan Trust over the fine tuning of the school's lease for the use of the hall continue. The Hall Trustees are anxious that they fulfil their duty to protect the interests of the Memorial Hall, which is a registered charity and has to operate within designated regulations.

**Pavement Fouling:** Normally it's dog poo that causes complaints. However, recently I have had comments from parishioners that there have been instances of horse poo on the pavements. Being animals who are on the larger size, their deposits are correspondingly in proportion. The net result is that pedestrians may have to step into the road to bypass obstructions. I will admit that I'm very sympathetic to horses. Given the way that they have been treated over the centuries, and their natural beauty, I'm inclined to give them some 'slack' over minor indiscretions. Unlike dog poo, it is not practical to ask owners to 'pick up' after them. I think that practice disappeared with Steptoe's rag and bone cart. There may be a lucky rose grower who finds an unexpected present; but by and large the poo remains until rain and nature takes care of it. However, the blocking of pavements is a legitimate concern. I believe by law, horses should not be ridden on the pavements (I fully realise that it is unavoidable if traffic conditions dictate it to be the safest option). In the interests of everyone; can I ask all horse riders to try to stay on the road, increasing the chances that the 'back end' of your horse is most likely not over the pavement.

Dog owners – please continue to pick up after your animals.

**Nailsworth Bowls Club:** They have contacted me to help spread the word that they would welcome new members. Free taster evenings are available each Friday from the start of the season in April. Details are on their website.

**Avening Parish Council AGM:** Lastly, please note that we will be holding our Avening Parish Council public meeting, on the morning of Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May at the Social Club.

Start time of 10.00am.; scheduled for a minimum of 1 hour, the length of the meeting will depend on the attendance and matters discussed. This is an opportunity for villagers to hear a resume of the previous year's parish business and to direct any questions to the councillors on any appropriate subject or concerns.

I send you all my best wishes

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

## District Councillor's Report



There is no District Councillors report this month as Tony Slater has been on holiday and also busy helping his daughter Emma with her twin daughters, born in February. Congratulations Tony and family!

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Alison Hodges, BSC(Hons) MSc PGCE

# London Marathon

Dear Avening Villagers,

I will be running this year's London Marathon in aid of the WellChild Charity on the 21<sup>st</sup> April. WellChild makes it possible for children and young people with complex health needs to be cared for at home instead of hospital, and an organisation I am really proud to be raising money for.

Sticking to the long and strenuous training plan throughout the winter months has been very tough, but I'm nearly there! Now that that spring is arriving and the

sun is out more, the motivation to get my running shoes on is that little bit easier. I am really looking forward to the big day and raising as much money for the wonderful charity as I can.



Arthur  
Bury's  
JustGiving  
Page



To help me reach and exceed my aspirational target of £1,600, I am kindly asking if you can donate to my fundraising page. Your donation will be matched £ for £ by my employer, the St. James's Place Charitable Foundation, which will also go onto support other amazing charities. So your kind donation will add double the value, and reach further. Please use the QR code, or go to <https://rb.gy/dgd1cf> to donate.

Many thanks in advance,

*Arthur Bury*

## Ethical shopping at affordable prices - Delivered to Avening!

Do you want to join Avening's new Organic Essential Buying Group? Essential Trading is a workers' cooperative specialising in vegetarian & vegan wholefoods. Avening residents can now shop ethically in a more affordable way. Buying as a group reduces costs, cuts food miles and lessens wasteful packaging and processing. There's also the satisfaction of being involved in the local community! Orders will be placed monthly and delivered to Avening on a Tuesday.

If you would like to join our buying group, or are interested but want to find out more, email Angela at [angela.caroline.smith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela.caroline.smith@hotmail.co.uk)

<https://www.essential-trading.coop/services-deliveries/community-food-groups/>

# Puzzle Corner

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

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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 37*

## “Hugo is a godsend...”

As a 60-year-old with limited IT experience, I now have on-tap support. He is punctual, stays on point with careful easy focus to the task, and has a gift for explaining. He is a natural facilitator so that the learner takes control for themselves with simple steps. **Any laptop, computer, iPad or iPhone issue**, and synchronising of them, is a breeze for him. He can work face-to-face or remotely. Both are extremely effective. I cannot recommend him highly enough. Reliable, approachable, talented, and user-friendly.” - *Deborah from Box*

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# Gilian's Poem of the Month

Meridian (Merry) was a 16hh thoroughbred chestnut mare who spent most of her life as a fairly successful steeplechaser. When she retired from that in her early teens she went on to become a Pony Club all-rounder, enjoying eventing, hunting, rallies, showing and jumping with her teenage owner.

She came to me aged 20 for a quiet retirement, with gentle hacking in the countryside, and a peaceful ending to her days. This is her story.....

## Meridian Remembers

In the pearly mists of morning Merry dreams of days long gone,  
Sees again the fine-limbed horses silhouetted 'gainst the dawn.  
For she knew the joy of racing, heard the crowds roar in her ears,  
Remembers how she loved to gallop, in her youth, in bygone years.  
She hears the thudding hoof beats thunder, feels the straining sinews fly.  
Merry races with those horses streaming past her inward eye....

Merry lifts her wise old head now, pricks her ears at horn's loud cry,  
Sees the hounds across the valley, and the huntsman riding by.  
For when her racing days were over, and those early years long gone,  
Hunting, dressage, jumping, rallies Merry learned in her new home.  
So Merry too was once a hunter, flying hedges, ditches, walls,  
Knew the thrill of headlong gallop, and those memories still call.  
Now the sweet hound-music stirs her, sets her spirit bounding free,  
Fills her senses, leaves her yearning for those days that used to be.

Now in her final years she dreams on, happy with her new-made friends,  
Sweet hay, green fields, and cosy stable, kind soft words and gentle hands.

Merry's chestnut coat is burnished copper in the early sun,  
But her hunting days are over, and her last race long since won.

Merry's legs too stiff to gallop, old, she dreams her days away,  
But her eyes are bright and glow with mem'ries of those glory days.....

*Gilian Bulmer-Davison*

Join the Avening Singers for a  
'singalong' of popular songs

**The Bell**

**Thursday 18th April 8pm.**

All welcome!



## Geoff Trinder 1954 - 2024



*The following tribute to Geoff was read at his service and Mel has kindly given permission for this to be shared to everyone.*

Geoff was born in Cherington on 4 April 1954, the eighth child of a family of nine. With so many siblings, Geoff grew up in an environment where the children made their own fun – and lots of it - entertaining themselves by building racetracks in the garden and swings in the woods. This was a time when children were given much greater freedom and expected to look after themselves - usually outside and almost always with other kids. There was never a dull moment, and that continued when, in

1966, the family moved to Avening. Being part of a big family also had some downsides: Mel remembers Geoff telling her that he used to share a bed with brothers and very often fell out when they turned over. Although the second youngest, Geoff shouldered his part of family responsibility, especially for his youngest brother, Chris; Geoff taught him how to tie his shoelaces, how to tell the time and, so important for a lad in the 1960s, that special social skill - how to smoke. That close, shared upbringing developed a strong family bond. Although in adulthood, Geoff didn't see his siblings as often as they *all* would have liked, he spoke of them all often and with great fondness. Geoff especially held his sister, Margaret, very dear as she had looked after him when his first marriage failed. And his brother, Jim, the eldest brother, was regarded as something akin to the family's messiah; and whenever Geoff asked Mel to tell his family anything it was always 'ring our Jimmy.'

Indeed, it was Jim who got Geoff his first job in a mill. The only issue was that Geoff was still at school and although he asked his teachers all the time if he could leave as his brother had got him a job, the school's answer was NO. However, Geoff finally got his way and went to work. And he was dedicated and hardworking - he never had a day off sick - and he was a good provider for his family. Geoff also enjoyed his leisure time. There was always good community socialising in Avening in its pubs and social club. Geoff was also into motor cycling – and his interest extended to car races too. Neil recalls that on one occasion when he and Geoff and a friend, Jim Snell, went to Silverstone. They had bought a tent from Jock Hamilton, a friend of Geoff's so that they could camp there ready for the Formula One grand prix. However, when they arrived, they had forgotten how to erect the tent. Nonetheless, they got to work. A media crew arrived while they were doing so and asked them for an interview. Jim stepped up to talk to media crew while Geoff and Neil continued, laughing as they tried to put up the tent which was supposed to have an entry porch, a large flap of canvas. But by the time they got round to fixing the porch, they gave up and tied the flap of material in a bow instead. Three men in a tent with a large decorative bow! Neil recalls that it got some looks... people thinking no doubt that

this was putting the 'camp' into camping!

In the early 1980s Geoff met Sandra, a single mother who had a child from her previous relationship, a daughter Melanie Spraul, known as Mel. As a single parent, Sandra with baby Mel moved in with her brother, David, who supported them in those early days until Sandra met Geoff and they moved in together and set about establishing an enduring loving and supportive family unit. When Mel was 6 years old, Geoff and Sandra were married on 19th December 1987 in the Cirencester Registry Office. It was for both Geoff and Sandra, the most important day of their lives. Theirs was to be a very happy marriage, a marriage full of fun and laughter - they were always messing around and calling each other nicknames at home. It was a marriage that stood the test of time - almost 35 years – until Sandra's death in July 2022.

From the start of his relationship with Sandra, Geoff was a wonderfully loving stepfather to Mel, in her words, 'The Best.' Geoff didn't have his own children, but he loved Mel as his own and that love was reciprocated by Mel. When Mel was growing up at home, it was a standing joke that Geoff rarely used his knife. When Mel would ask Geoff '*why not*', he would simply reply, 'Now look, there was 9 of us kids at home. You were lucky if you had a knife *AND* a fork to use.' Mel loved that Geoff had such dry humour that always made Mel chuckle. Of course, with a father of her own, Ian Spraul, who is here today to support Mel, she called Geoff by his name. Although, as Mel grew into her teenage years, she often used the nickname, *Trin* (from his surname Trinder) and Geoff in turn used a nickname for Mel, *Sprook*, from her surname, Spaul. Mel has said she has been lucky to have loving and supporting parents and stepparents in her life. It is especially pleasing that, in recent times, her dad Ian and stepdad Geoff would sit in Mel's lounge watching sport and chatting when Ian came to visit – in Mel's words, '*it was just lovely.*'

After their marriage Geoff and Sandra would socialise on weekends with their best friends, Terry and Jenny Francis. All four were regulars at the Avening Social Club, but as Geoff and Sandra were known for being late, Terry's usual greeting as they entered was, '*What time do you call this?*' During these years, and indeed for the greater part of their lives, Geoff and Sandra had lived in Avening. However, in 2018, they relocated to Pathfinder Village, in Devon. Their decision had been influenced in part as they had holidayed many times in East Devon, not far from Exmouth, at a large seaside caravan resort on Sandy Bay, often with Mel, Neil and their grandchildren.

While they enjoyed the lifestyle at Pathfinder Village and had made many new friends, as time passed, they missed being away from family and long-time friends. So, in 2022, Geoff and Sandra moved back closer to their 'home' area to St John's Park at Lechlade. One of the big attractions of coming back to this part of the country was once again living closer to Mel – although not as close as they had been when they had lived in Avening in a close-knit community of family and friends. For example, when Mel married Neil, they settled down as near neighbours to Geoff and Sandra in Avening. Of course, they had been delighted when a first grandchild was born, a grandson, Alex, in 2005; and then their second grandchild, a granddaughter, Mia, in 2011. Both Geoff and Sandra just loved them to bits. Geoff worshipped his grandchildren. Even at Pathfinder Village, they were in constant contact with Mel and family. Alex bought Geoff and Sandra an *Alexa* and Sandra

would laugh as *Alexa* would *never* answer to Geoff. Sandra jokingly explained to Geoff that Alexa wouldn't reply to *him* because *he was just too gruff!*

Although this regular contact meant everything to Geoff and Sandra, it also underscored the fact that they were missing day-to-day contact with her family. So, it was that Geoff and Sandra made the move to Lechlade on 5th July 2022, somewhere almost equidistant between Mel, Neil, Alex and Mia at Evesham and their friends in Avening, Tetbury, Minchinhampton area. Sadly, Sandra suffered an aneurism just days after the move to Lechlade, and passed away in her new home on 9th July, the ambulance crew in attendance unable to save her.

Sandra's death was a huge shock to Geoff – and of course to the whole family. But Geoff had lost the love of his life, and in some ways, he began to give up on life. His property at Lechlade no longer had appeal or purpose. Of course, Mel and Neil took him into their home and then they converted their garage in Long Marsden into a self-contained room with ensuite for Geoff. Sadly, on 10 February, just after enjoying a roast dinner with Mel and the family, Geoff suffered a heart-attack and never regained consciousness. In many ways, Geoff's death just after that most sociable and regular of family events, the sharing of a meal together, was so appropriate for a man who loved his family and family life. Like his beloved, Sandra, Geoff's life ended unexpectedly and suddenly and at an age too soon – both passing in their 60s – and both now reunited in death.

## Pancake Day Race

The 2nd annual village pancake race welcomed a number of families, competing in both child and adult races. Winners of each round took home a medal and all finalists competed for the much-coveted golden frying pan! Well done to Joe Hawker Aged 10, this year's pancake race champion and huge thanks to all those who took part in races, made pancakes, or donated equipment to make this a fun tradition for all who came along.



**Angela Smith**



**Save the Date! Friday 7th June 2024**

**Avening Singers present:**

**'Sounds of Summer'**

**A celebration in music and words**

**Avening Memorial Hall**

We will be looking for performers of any age who would like to be involved—as well as plenty of audience participation

Further details in next months Villager and on social media



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# Avening School

## Books, Rivers and an Egg Hunt

As the spring term draws to a close, we can reflect on what a busy time we have had in the run up to Easter. One of the enrichment highlights each year here at Avening School is our



World Book Day celebrations. This year the school transformed into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for the day as we celebrated 'The Wonderful World of Magical Stories'. Children walked through the wall at platform 9 ¾ at the start of the day and were sorted into Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff houses. Each house then took part in four activities throughout the day, from Quidditch practise to Potions class to Quill Making. We were also joined by Clare from **Walks with Hawks** for the day who brought along three owls, which the children had the opportunity to hold as

well as learn about. The day concluded with a special assembly for parents, with each house talking about the day's events, ending with a whole school rendition of '**It's a Kind of Magic**' by **Queen**.

The Hawks class (y3/4) have been on the move this month, as they embarked on an exciting river expedition following the Aven stream from Cherington to where it reaches the River Severn at Upper Framilode. They completed field work along the route, travelling in minibuses driven by Mrs Amos and Mrs Carter, stopping at several locations on their way to the River Severn. After lunch, the children viewed the Severn from several locations including The Passage at Arlingham and at Eastington to observe the route of the river.

The last day of term began with an Easter service, followed by the annual Easter Egg Hunt around the school with chocolate eggs provided by FOAS. The days event culminated in another highlight our the school calendar: the annual School Talent Show run by the pupils, for the pupils, which this year featured a wide range of acts including street dancing, harp playing, gymnastics and comedy.

As we take a much-needed rest over Easter, we look forward to an action-packed summer term, with sports tournaments, school trips and a musical concert all in the calendar.

We would like to thank our wonderful fundraising committee, FOAS, for holding a fabulous Quiz Night last month, which raised much needed funds for the school as well as being a thoroughly enjoyable night out for all who attended.

Don't forget our Fledgling's pre-school sessions which are held in the school garden every Friday from 2-3pm for children 0-4 years old and their grown-ups. Contact the school office for more details.

**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)*

## APRIL HIGHLIGHTS AT TETBURY GOODS SHED

- April 7** **The Bubble Show:** Join Mr Bubbles and his extraordinary soap bubbles of all shapes and sizes for a programme of magic and storytelling. Ages 3+. Tickets £32 for family of 4 or £9 each. 2pm
- April 13** **Hells Bells AC/DC tribute band:** The Bristol based band is the best known AC/DC tribute band, covering four decades of their music. Tickets: £20. 7.30
- April 19** **My Mountain Life with Simon Yates:** This talk features spectacular images and film from some of the most remote and rarely visited mountain ranges of the world. Tickets: £18. 7.30pm
- April 20** **Kiki Dee and Carmelo Luggeri:** These two have been touring their amazing acoustic show for 25 years and feature original songs as well as cover songs by artists like Kate Bush. Tickets: £23. 7.30pm
- April 21** **Gardeners' Questions:** Join our panel of local experts to get all your horticultural hassles sorted in time for summer! Tickets £6.50. 2pm
- April 24** **Motorways of the Industrial Revolution: The pioneering Cotswold canals & their revival today.** Illustrated Talk by Louise Nicholson. Tickets £8.50. 7.30pm
- April 27** **Alice Neary and Viv Mclean:** A cello recital of sonatas by Beethoven, Faure and Debussy by cellist Alice and pianist Viv – two experts in their field. Tickets: £22. 7.30pm

For more details of our other events including film, talks, exhibitions, and afternoon tea concerts and to book tickets visit our website: [www.shed-arts.co.uk](http://www.shed-arts.co.uk)



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## I would like to write a book.....

**Avening resident and author, Tom Beardsell, discusses how he got started.**

I am an Avening resident of 35 years and decided on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 that I would write a book. In case this date is a distant memory, it was the day that Boris Johnson, our then Prime Minister, announced the "Covid lockdown" to us all. The next questions were, "Book about what, where is it set and what is the plot?" I didn't know where to start. Then I remembered past sayings in literary circles, *"If there is a book you want to read but it hasn't been written yet then you must write it"* (Toni Morrison 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019).

That was it, "Eureka" I thought, I know exactly what to write about. Now retired, I will write all about my fascination of the Atlantic Wall built by Adolf Hitler to stop the allies from invading Europe, which he was in the process of conquering. Also, I will add all my photos of trips to the areas in Northern France where I visited the said "Wall", plus my stories of 30 years of business driving in Europe especially from France to Italy. "My grandchildren will be excited to read this," I thought. Thus my first book "THE ATLANTIC WALL and EUROPEAN ADVENTURES (Up close and personal) was chosen and duly completed and printed for all to gaze upon and read.



*"Everyone has a book inside of them, which is exactly where it should, in most cases remain"* (Christopher Hitchens). What a very true statement I found out on my proud announcement to friends and family. Let's say, "A nice little book" covers the reception it received. However the bug had bitten me and then again another Eureka moment hit me and this is the moment that I now put to all "Wanna- be authors". Write a book based on what you are interested in and ignore all the other possibilities and above all write in the style that you find natural. So, I then took my "Nice little book" and turned it into a 536 page fictional novel using research on existing facts about the subject and included a fictional tale of hunting for gold hidden by Hitler during WW2. All based on

my personal travels in Europe.

THE FOURTH RISING TRILOGY emerged, and I got it published, (that is a story in itself). My book is now available to all on Amazon and book sellers. Now I had a hobby, writing books. A novel using the village of Avening as the epicentre was next. The story involves the GHQ STOP LINE, constructed in June 1940 around Bristol as a possible defence line if Hitler invaded Britain. It went directly through Avening Village, up Star Lane and across Star Lane fields. Use the facts by research, add a little treachery from the corridors of power and there was STOP LINE TREACHERY, which has now just been completed and printed.

Take it from me "There is a book in everyone, you just need a little imagination," and a very patient wife!

**Tom Beardsell**



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### **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 meal.

**For prices and any further details :**  
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[lizknowles@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizknowles@hotmail.co.uk)



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# Avening Playgroup

To start with I must say a very big thank you to everyone who came along to our Easter Egg Hunt. Luckily the weather was on our side, for once, which made it all the more enjoyable. We very much appreciate all the help from staff, committee and the parents, whether that was helping on the day, donating cakes, sourcing Easter eggs or bringing items along for the toy stall and tombola. Many thanks also go out to Stephanie for the brilliant facepainting and to Lola for the Easter keychains she had made. It was a lovely afternoon and a great success!



Over the last few weeks, we have been looking at the following topics:

- Shapes: making shapes on the light panel, making a rocket collage out of shapes, talking about shapes and describing them as well as building using the magnetic shapes.
- Spring: talking a lot about the four seasons and how they are different, tree blossom finger painting, drawing daffodils and looking at animals and their babies.
- The story of 'The 3 Little Pigs': retelling the story with visuals, acting out the story, building Lego houses for the little pigs and colouring pictures from the story.



We have also been busy making cards for Mother's Day and are currently making lots of things for Easter – cards, threading and painting Easter eggs, toilet roll chicks, counting eggs, making an egg collage out of pasta, lamb collages and having our own Easter egg hunt at the playgroup.

We are trying to plan for the next school year (24/25), so if you are interested in sending your child to our playgroup, please call us on 01453 832695 or email [aveningplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:aveningplaygroup@gmail.com) in order to put their name on our waiting list. We are open weekdays during term time.

if you are looking for a playgroup place for your child for the 2024/25 school year and would like to have a look around, please call 01453 832695 (term time only) or email

[aveningplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:aveningplaygroup@gmail.com)

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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

The second half of February and into early March was especially busy for our members.

Our 'Bite to Eat' team catered for a wake and members took their turn running the Community Café.

Our book group met at Amalfi in Minchinhampton to discuss 'High Wages' by Dorothy Whipple, a book set in the early twentieth century, describing one woman's struggle to escape poverty and establish her own business.

Our theatre group went to see 'Sherlock Holmes and the Whitechapel Fiend' at the Barn Theatre and most of us enjoyed it. The cast of 4 very talented actors took turns playing Sherlock, Dr. Watson and Mrs. Hudson; Sherlock was tasked with identifying Jack the Ripper. It was described by one critic as 'a very funny, high energy, rollicking romp through the mean streets of late Victorian London'.

A group of ten members took part in a clay modelling workshop led by Charlie of Little Earthquake Pots. Charlie guided them through making decorated fruit bowls, which will be on show at our next meeting. We look forward to seeing the results.



We entered two teams in the GFWI County Quiz. One team had the highest score of the evening and will compete in the final later in the year. For the other team it was the taking part that was the most important thing!!

At our March meeting we welcomed William Reddaway, a very good speaker who entertained us with the story of his 2,700 mile ride around England on his horse Strider. (A horse that knew his own mind!) This was a massive undertaking by William, supported by many people who hosted horse and rider as they travelled the country. They visited 30 cathedrals and made lots of friends. To date William has raised £98,000 for two charities for disadvantaged children: the Wormwood Scrubs Pony Association and The Family Holiday Association.

At our April meeting the speaker will be Dorothy Cook on "Tales of a midwife, never a dull moment'.

The meeting is on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall and visitors and

prospective members are welcome to attend.

In the weeks ahead our skittlers will be practising for the county competition; our book group will be discussing 'Klara and the Sun' by Kazuo Ishiguro; our walkers will be enjoying the views from Selsley Common (weather permitting!) followed by lunch at The Old Fleece.

We hope to see many of you at our Village Quiz on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 in the Social Club. Tables of four and pay on the night £5pp. There will be a bar and a ploughman's supper is included.

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

**Bridget Seward**



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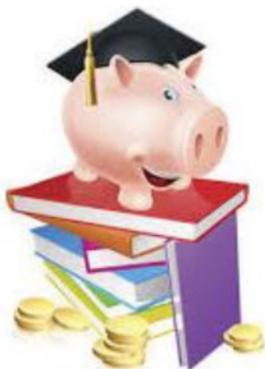
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### **Avening Church of England Education Fund (ACEEF)**



The trustees of ACEEF have limited funds available to assist Avening residents under 25 with their education. These grants are intended to help ensure that young people in the village are not deprived of the opportunity to receive good education suiting their aptitudes and abilities. This may mean financial help towards travel costs, books and equipment or uniform and work wear.

If you or your children are in need of such support, please request an application form by phoning 01453 833016 or emailing [buchanan.el@gmail.com](mailto:buchanan.el@gmail.com).

## Royal Visits

(Wing Commander (Ret'd) Roger Lindley confesses all)

When I first joined the RAF, over fifty years ago, Royal visits were taken so seriously that flying operations would come to a grinding halt for days. The focus then was on tarding up the station and numerous parade rehearsals. Fortunately, as years went by a visit by a royal personage would become much less formal.

My first experience was the visit of Princess Margaret to RAF Linton-on-Ouse, a flying training station, in 1971. As the most junior officer on an all-male unit, I was selected to play the part of the Commander-in-Chief's wife at the rehearsals. This meant touring the station with a large sign saying 'Lady Mavor' on my chest. Naturally, the name stuck for the rest of my tour there.

I was indebted to Prince Philip when he visited the maintenance unit at Chilmark in 1975. As the ADC to the Commander-in-Chief, I had already heard the Station Commander's long and boring briefing on the role of the station at the rehearsal, so when Prince Philip responded with *"So you just store bombs here?"* I was struggling not to laugh.

But my come-uppance came when I was running the Administrative Wing at RAF Honington, a Tornado unit, in 1991 at the height of the Gulf War. At a time when the Duchess of York was being criticised for failing to show support for the Gulf effort, I received a call to say that she was coming to visit us in two days' time. Many of our personnel were deployed on operations, so I devised a programme that predominantly featured the families of those away from home. I did, however, arrange for her to visit one of the squadrons, where they planned to show her around and sit her in a Tornado cockpit.

Unfortunately the Duchess arrived wearing a rather short skirt, so when she clambered into the cockpit all the press cameras went off and *'Fergie's thighs'* were featured in a number of newspapers the next day. We were mortified, but we heard no more about it, and hopefully the Duchess didn't mind too much as it had given her some welcome publicity.

My final meeting with royalty was while serving at the Joint Headquarters at Northwood in 1997.

The then Prince Charles simply came around the offices and had a friendly chat with us all: no parades, no Guards of Honour, no rehearsals. That was more like it!



*Wg Cdr Lindley greeting the Duchess of York.*



100  
years

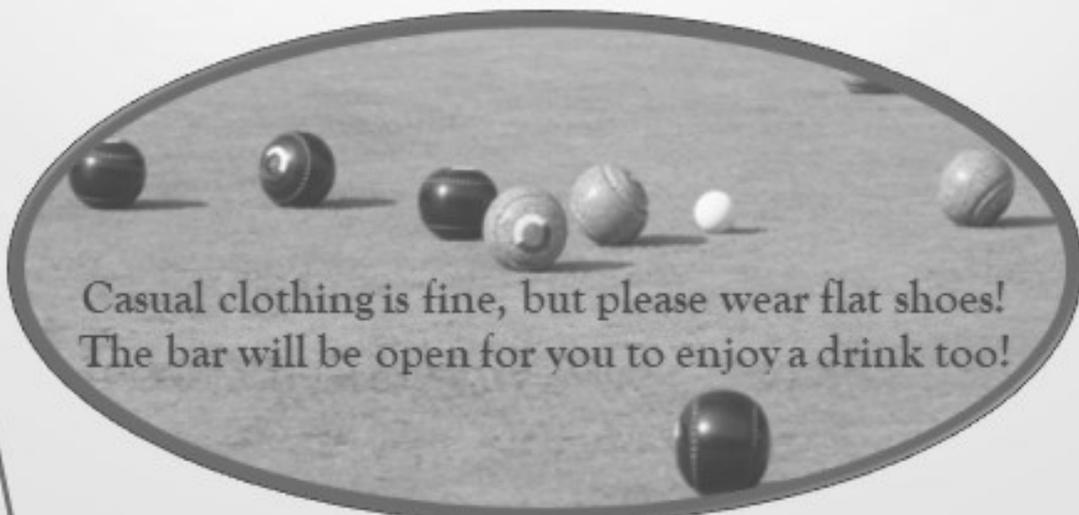
Nailsworth Mills Bowling Club  
**NEW SEASON!**

**The wait is almost over – Our  
new season starts on  
19<sup>th</sup> April at 6:30pm**

This season is very special as it marks 100 years at our Nailsworth Mills site, and to mark the event new members can join ½ price at just £50!

Join us on any Friday evening 6:30-9:30 for a taster session, and you'll receive a warm welcome

Any age, any skill level – training and qualified coaching will be available. Bowls is fun and sociable!



Casual clothing is fine, but please wear flat shoes!  
The bar will be open for you to enjoy a drink too!

# 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.

The Café held its Annual General Meeting on Monday 11 March when we reviewed the past year and discussed some ideas for the future. We will consult Café members soon on which local charities to support in 2024; the Café has raised funds for a number of charities over the years, including Mark Townsend Trust, Stroud Womens Refuge, Longfield, The Door and Long Table. A 'bucket' can be found on the counter for any donations.

In its support to help the environment, the Café plans to hold its biannual litter pick in May (watch for further details). For our keen artists, please note that "Art with Mark" in April will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> and not the 16<sup>th</sup>. The Café is delighted to welcome back Tom Fryer and friends for a lively music morning on 2 April.

A date for your diary – Saturday Café to be held on 18 May from 10 to 12:30 which will also host the Annual Parish Meeting at 11am. Please come along to meet members of the Parish Council and share ideas for the village whilst enjoying coffee and cake!

## April Highlights / Café themes

2<sup>nd</sup> Music with Tom Fryer and friends in the lounge. Also Easter Raffle.

9<sup>th</sup> Grand National sweep stake.

16<sup>th</sup> Coffee and cake.

23<sup>rd</sup> **Art with Mark** (£3 each, all materials supplied). St Georges Day theme. Join us for bacon rolls this week.

30<sup>th</sup> Plant and Seed swop.

*John Hetterley, for Avening Community Cafe*



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

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The film club is a not for profit community event. Any profit made after screening/licence costs will be donated to local charities



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Did you know Longfield is a charity and that 85% of our funding comes from donations? So, if you would like to get involved and help us be there for more people then why not organise your own fundraising event or take part in one of these two events coming up over the next few months? Contact the fundraising team to find out more on 01453 886868.

**Walk for Longfield 2024** – Celebrate the summer solstice by walking 5k or 10k on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 5.30pm -9pm at Minchinhampton. Sign up at [www.longfield.org.uk/walk-for-longfield](http://www.longfield.org.uk/walk-for-longfield)

**Run the Rainbow 2024** – enjoy our summer colourful favourite on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at Frampton Court. Sign up at [www.longfield.org.uk/run-the-rainbow](http://www.longfield.org.uk/run-the-rainbow)

We are also looking for volunteers who can help across a range of roles from our shops to community activities to volunteering at the hospice. Want to know more? Then phone or email [volunteering@longfield.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@longfield.org.uk) to find out more.

# Avening Parish Council



## Planning Applications & Tree Works Since the Last Issue and Parish Councils Decision

### New Planning Applications

24/00466/FUL: Old Nags Head Nags Head Lane. Demolition of existing shed and erection of replacement shed – No Comment

24/00460/FUL: 44 Sandford Leaze - Conversion of existing garage and insertion of replacement dormer windows to the front and rear- No Comment

24/00336/FUL: Quietways West End - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) to increase the width of rear first floor gable of planning permission 23/02645/FUL - Erection of a two storey side extension – No Comment

24/00290/FUL: 4 Sandford Leaze - Conversion of loft with veluxes, additional obscure side window – No Comment

24/00122/FUL: 6 Old Hill - Replacement of six wooden windows, two metal windows and front door. -Support

### Decisions Notices

24/00350/TCONR: 7 Pike House Mews High Street Willow (T1) - re-pollard to 4m above ground level - No objection

### **Police Report**

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) election Gloucestershire Police area May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024.

### **Remember — you need photo ID to vote**

Neighbourhood policing team: PC Chris Pritchard; PCSO Edmund Maina

[101@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:101@gloucestershire.police.uk)

### **Potholes**

Report the potholes directly to Highways on 08000 514514 or at the GCC Report It website. <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

*The Agenda and Minutes of the last parish council can be viewed at [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk) The Parish Clerk can be contacted via email at: [parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk)*

## Church Floodlighting



The church looks beautiful at night when floodlit.

The church will be floodlit on:

15<sup>th</sup> April for **Terry Francis**, on his birthday.

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.

# Puzzle Answers

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

## 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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# Regular Activities in the Villages

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

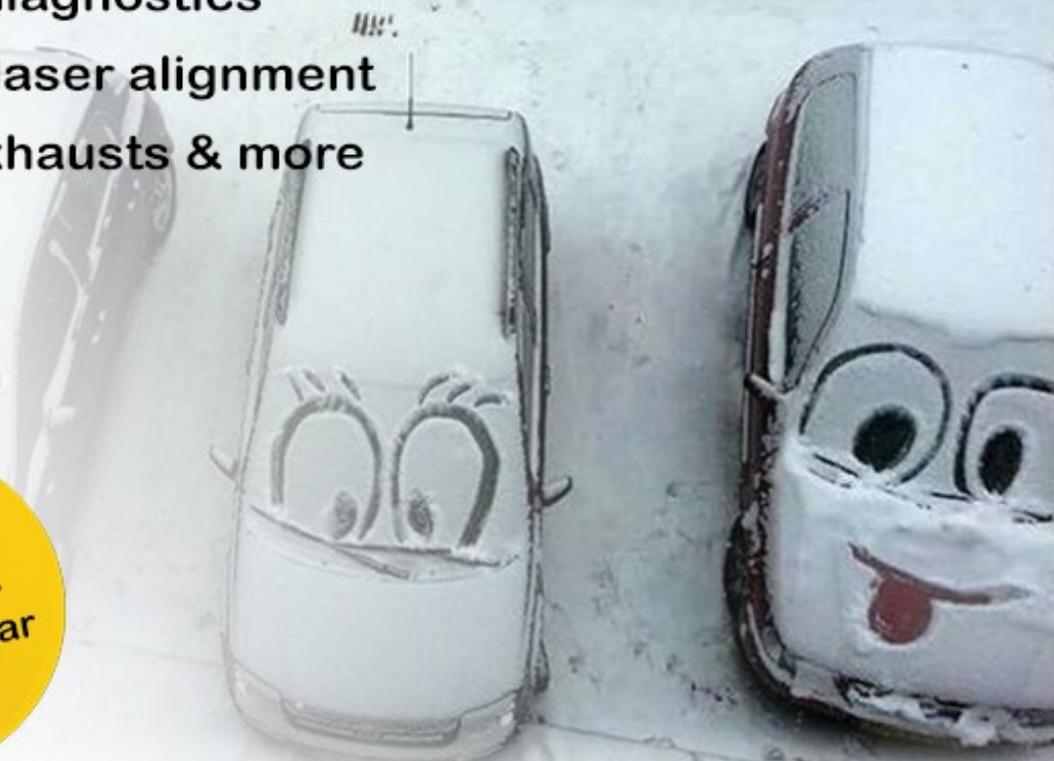
Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Community Café	Tuesday	9.00am - 12.00pm	Social Club	Gill Adams 07826 291759
Mobile Post Office	Tuesday	9.30am - 11.30pm	Social Club car park	
Cherington PC	Tuesday bi-monthly	6.00pm	Cherington Village hall	Richard Smith 07884 265117
Line Dancing	Tuesday	8.00 - 9.30 pm	Social 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 Lelliott Aslelliott37@gmail.com
Avening W.I.	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Social Club/ Memorial Hall	Liz 01453 833803
Fledglings for pre-schoolers	Fridays during term time	2.00 - 3.00pm	School Garden	Avening School
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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## Day Centre & Social Club

- Home cooked lunch plus teas/ coffees
- Group activities, craft sessions and companionship

## Home Care Services

- Help with Personal & Domestic tasks, Sitting Service
- Meals on Wheels locally

## Nursing Home

- General & Specialist Dementia Nursing
- Registered Nurses on duty 24 hours a day
- Free and Pre-arranged Respite Care available all year round



# Horsfall House

For more information please contact us on **01453 731 227** for an Information Pack or go to: [www.horsfallhouse.co.uk](http://www.horsfallhouse.co.uk)

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal, Minchinhampton Centre for the Elderly, Registered Charity No: 287479

# The Bell at Avening

a traditional British pub serving a great selection of real ales and authentic Indian food



**OPENING TIMES:**  
**MONDAY: CLOSED**  
**TUESDAY-THURSDAY: 5.00PM-CLOSE**  
**FRIDAY: 4PM-CLOSE**  
**SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 3PM-CLOSE**  
**FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH IS TONY'S QUIZ NIGHT**

*Little*  
**INDIA**  
at THE BELL

Little India @ The Bell, serving food from Tues-Sun 5.30pm-close  
Call **01453 836453** for great food to takeaway  
Visit our website for full menu



Call us on: **01453 836422** or e-mail us at [info@agpubs.co.uk](mailto:info@agpubs.co.uk)

[www.thebellavening.co.uk](http://www.thebellavening.co.uk)

Find us on Facebook  
by simply searching  
"Bell at Avening"

