

# *The Villager*

*A magazine for Avening, Cherington and Nags Head*

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*August 2006*

*50p*

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**VILLAGER MAGAZINE**

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**DEADLINE FOR COPY 20th of each month**

# *The Parish Letter*

## ***An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth***

**L**ebanon, Israel, Palestine. The focus of the three world religions is in countries where, for centuries, there has been conflict. The names that are daily reported can be found in both the Old and the New Testament..... those Scriptures that are shared, in part, by Jews, Christians, and Moslems, for they are the collective revelations of God by the ancient Semitic peoples, all of whom claim to be descended from the children of Abraham.

Many of the books of the Old Testament make harsh and violent reading. The battling of Tribal groups one with another, in the struggle for land, and for the dominance of one faith over another. Not so very different from what we see today. The same land...the same towns and villages, still being fought over by the descendants of the same people.....and yet, through it all, we hear the Voice of God.....pleading to His people to live in peace.

### *An eye for a eye and a tooth for a tooth.....*

This is something to which the Jewish people hold dear....but it was not intended as Divine licence to retaliate. It was a command to inflict no greater pain than that which has been inflicted on you.....to restrain the human tendency to escalate violence and feed the spiral of hate. For hatred feeds further hatred just as fear fuels conflict.

Only love and forgiveness are able to put out the flame. The teaching in the Old Testament sounds harsh to our ears and the laws, which it contains, are bleak and uncompromising. Yet Jews pride themselves on observing the law....the Torah..... as closely as they are able, and distance themselves from those not willing to do so. Yet the command so often quoted in times of conflict.....an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth is blatantly disregarded. The Israelis show little restraint. Their strategy is to respond to random terrorism with overpowering military strength, precision and ruthlessness, disregarding the Divine Law of restraint. They may defend their action with the claim that their tactics are effective but universal

experience shows that the effectiveness is only short term. Their military action, so overwhelmingly catastrophic to the people of Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, will sew further seeds of hatred that will, in time, germinate into another cycle of violence and terrorism.

How can the attitude of Nations ever be changed? How can fear be replaced by trust?.....hatred by tolerance?

Only through the concerted effort and will of the people. When the hearts of people are changed, communities change, and the policies of Nations change too.

Jesus came to fulfil and redefine the law. He defined the first and second commandments...that first commandment....'to love God' ....and the second, 'to love your neighbour as yourself.' Both sides of the current conflict in the Middle East declare their love for God and yet go no further:

*An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*

The law of restraint that both Jews, Moslems, and Christians should observe. Christians are asked to do more:

Jesus told us to 'turn the other cheek'.....

Not only to restrain from inflicting pain but also to think only good of one another.

**Rev Celia**

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□ □

### **The Royal British Legion – Laying Up of Standards**

On Friday July 7th a short service was held for members of the Royal British Legion and Women's Section for Avening and District (Cherington). This marked the closure of the Branch and the Standards have been laid up in Holy Cross Church.

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**CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION FUND  
HOLY CROSS CHURCH, AVENING**

**Take Notice** that the Trustees of the Church of England education fund, Holy Cross Church, Avening, will, at their September meeting, be giving consideration to the allocation of monies under the above Charitable Trust.

Those wishing to apply should be aware that the qualifying criteria apply and that these fall without the Trustees' discretion, namely:

- 1 Applicants must be under the age of 25
- 2 Applicants must be normally and permanently resident within the Parish of Avening in the County of Gloucestershire
- 3 Applications must be for educationally oriented purposes.
- 4 The closing date for applications is 31st August 2006. Other criteria that apply are within the absolute discretion of the Trustees.

Those wishing to apply should do so in writing to:  
Mr Paul Brown, 24 Point Road, Avening. GL8 8ND

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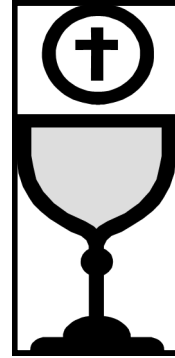
***Saturday 9th September 2006***

Sponsorship Forms are available from  
Peter Lindesay 01453 834402  
or in the church



# Church Duties:

## AVENING



Date	Sidespersons	Chalice Assistant
6th August	H Graham-Munro/ J.Pargetter	R.Coates
13th August	C.Boddam-Whetham/ M.Barton	P.Brown
20th August	G.Buchanan/ R.Evershed	S.Uzzell
27th August	K.Lindesay/ S.Hamilton	P.Lindesay
3rd September	H.Graham-Munro/P.Brown	D.Pierce

### CHURCH FLOODLIGHTING

**Avening Church was floodlit in July as follows:**

2nd July      In loving memory of Joyce Maclachlan who died on this day in 2000. From Dick.

***If you would like to have the church floodlit please contact:***

***Paul Brown 01453 835983***

***The cost is £2.50 for 2 hours***

<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>
SUNDAY 6th August	Avening	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>8th after Trinity</i>	Cherington	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCW)
	Avening	11am	Holy Communion (BCW) & Sunday School
Saturday 12th August	Avening	3.30pm	Wedding of Kelvin Carpenter & Ellie Mellors
SUNDAY 13th August	Avening	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>9th after Trinity</i>	Cherington	9.30 am	Matins
	Avening	11 am	Holy Communion (BCW) & Sunday School
SUNDAY 20th August	Avening	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>10th after Trinity</i>	Cherington	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	Avening	11 am	Holy Communion (BCW) & Sunday School
Saturday 26th August	Avening	1.00pm	Wedding of Robin Keyte & Jenny Hartley
SUNDAY 27th August	Avening	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>11th after Trinity</i>	Cherington	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCW)
	Avening	11am	Holy Communion (BCW)
SUNDAY 3rd September	Avening	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>12th after Trinity</i>	Cherington	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	Avening	11 am	Holy Communion (BCW) & Sunday School



## **PIG FACE DAY ~ SEPTEMBER 17th**

The plans are formulated to celebrate HM the Queen's 80th birthday on our traditional day of celebration, Holy Cross Day

***Don't miss this!!***

There will be....

- ◆ barrel races along the Avening Brook
- ◆ a tug-of-war and other games
- ◆ tea in the school garden for the over sixties and under fives with entertainment

And later ....

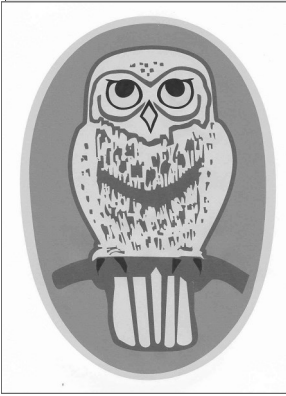
- ◆ a medieval church service
- ◆ a torch procession from the church to the Pig Face (Hog Roast) party,  
with music and further revels for all ages!

Holy Cross Day was the day on which it is believed that the Church was consecrated in 1080 AD. Queen Matilda presented the villagers on that day with wild boar to roast in celebration. Over the years it has come to be known as Pig Face Day, as the Boar's head was paraded from the Church down through the village.

This event is being organised by the agencies in the village and details will be on flyers and advertised elsewhere later in the month.

***Rev Celia and Jon Green***





# *Avening School*

## *Artsmark at Avening*

Pupils and Staff at Avening School have been celebrating their success in achieving the Artsmark. This award is given to schools that show their commitment to the Arts, providing varied and diverse opportunities for the pupils.

'None of us are experts but we do all feel that creative experiences are essential to the children's education. We work hard to give the pupils plenty of opportunities to explore the arts both every day and through whole school projects and visits,' explained head teacher Diana Boulton.

This term has culminated in a two weeks art project- 'Living and Growing'- including work with Westonbirt artist Creeping Toad and work for the Cotswold View Cluster exhibition at Woodchester Park.



All pupils from ages 4 to 11 have taken part in a rich variety of workshops including felting, batik, paper-making, 3D sculptures and dance workshops.

'It was really good going to get the Artsmark in Bristol with Brandon because we got to see more art from other schools,' said Kirsten. 'It was very special- like once in a lifetime!'



*Kirsten and Brandon display the Artsmark award*



**CHERINGTON'S 62<sup>nd</sup>  
FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW  
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# *Avening Playgroup*

**A**ugust – time for a rest for our hard-working Playgroup staff and for our Rising 5s children who have finished with Playgroup and are getting ready to move on to school.

But it's not a time of rest for our Toddler Group. Mums with pre-school children will be pleased to know that we are continuing with the Toddlers' sessions from 1.15 to 3.15 on Wednesday afternoons.

Come along, let the children have some fun with the huge range of inside and outside toys we have, have a chat and some refreshments. And if it carries on being hot, remember that we have our lovely covered outside area where the children can still play, safe in the knowledge that the sun (and rain!) are being kept out.

Playgroup and Toddler children have much to get excited about come the start of next term:

- During the summer holidays we are having safety surfacing laid on one area of the playground – this will enable us to get back into use our much missed climbing frame. Our thanks go to Avening Parish Council and Awards for All (Lottery Grants for Local Groups) who gave us substantial grants to cover the costs of this surfacing.
- A visit from a real princess – we are very (very!) excited that the Princess Royal will be coming to Playgroup to officially open our new playground and covered area. Look out for more information about this event and the date of course!

Fundraising update:

- Don't forget to hand in your old mobile phones to the shop or Playgroup itself – through the Fones4schools scheme, for every 50 phones collected we get £75 for Playgroup. Thanks very much!

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks as always to all of you for your continued support - your help is always appreciated. See you in September!



Women's  
Institute

## *Avening WI*

**F**or July we decided to have an open meeting. Our speaker was Mr. Brian Woolaston, who came to talk to us on

Woodchester Mansion, which is classed as an unfinished masterpiece. The Mansion, situated in Woodchester Park, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It belongs to The National Trust.

This hidden Cotswold valley offers many walks through unspoilt woodland around tranquil lakes and parkland. In 1873 after many years of building the workers stopped leaving 79 rooms unfinished. ladders and tools left against exposed walls, doors leading to nowhere etc.

The aims of the Trust are to repair and preserve the building for the future generations but never to finish it. It will continue to be used as a training medium for apprentice craftsmen. The evening ended very pleasantly with cheese and wine.

*Wendy Eldridge*

## **Country Quality Meat** **HIGH CLASS BUTCHERS**

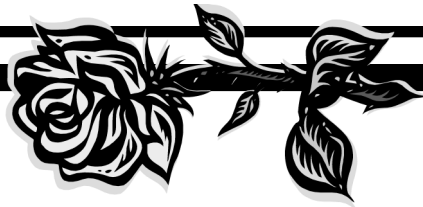
10 Old Market, Nailsworth, Glos GL6 0DU  
Tel: 01453 835058

In the May Villager a notice was placed advertising Lunch for the over 60s. Commencing in June this monthly event has been held at the Social Club on the first Wednesday of the month. A 2-course lunch followed by tea or coffee costing £5.00 per person has been greatly appreciated. Maureen Stone sent the following message:

The last two months Roy and I have enjoyed the over 60s meal at Avening Social Club, cooked and very well planned by Christine Howell. Jean and Karen are also doing a grand job waiting on table and behind the scenes. Well done ladies, long may it last! Maureen Stone

If you would like further information please phone 01453 833246. Transport can be provided.

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# OCESTACAD

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SENIOR TRAINER of the AVENING CHURCH FETE ANNUAL DUCKRACE (2006)

The Avening Church Annual Fete Duckrace.

*I*t is with the greatest humility that, as Chairman and Chief Executive of the Avening Church Fete Annual Duckrace, (a post of infinite responsibility and duty) I submit this modest account of our heroic series of epic Duckraces. Mrs. Lindesay has kindly asked for a full report for her little magazine and I thought (bearing in mind the busy schedule and full diary of the Chief Executive and Chairman of the Duckrace Betting Board) that it would be expeditious and economical to paraphrase my report submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, ( DUCKOFF as it is known in abbreviated form) on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, inst. In the interests of full disclosure, several parts of this confidential report - those relating to character assessment, promotion and disciplinary matters - have been excised.

The 2006 series of races was a unmitigated triumph. The Duckrace raised more money than ever before, the ducks completed their races in record time (helped by a full stream and a disciplined and rigorous training schedule), and for the first time, inspired by our new commentator Mr. Ian Peters, the crowds were whipped into a frenzy of excitement. Thanks to his infectious enthusiasm, we experienced the amazing (and I should add, moving) spectacle of the spectators cheering the racing ducks as they swam for the finish line. Cheltenham Grandstand on Festival day has heard nothing to equal it. The sun shone, the crowds poured in, betting was feverish; it was a perfect day.

And now an accolade, and it goes to the brilliant Mr. Robert Naismith, soon to be able to add the prestigious MBS (grade 4) to his name. What a great honour!

Last year the smooth running of the Avening Church Fete Duckrace was hampered by an excess of water. Heavy rainfall blotted the carefully printed race cards. Writing dripped into illegibility. The sharpest of you undoubtedly realise that fortunes can be lost and gained at the Avening Church Fete Duckrace. Legibility is vital! We are, after all, only the custodians of other people's money. Never should we forget that important fact!

So, it is with the greatest pleasure that I announce that Mr. Robert Naismith is to be awarded the coveted Duckrace MBS (grade 5) for his brilliant solution to the problem of smudging. He is clearly a man with a philosophical bent. Having pondered the matter for eleven and a half months, he approached me with a suggestion of pure genius. In simple words which displayed his complete grasp of the complex issues at stake, he said 'Sir...instead of laser printing why don't you photocopy them? They might be less liable to run in the rain.'

I must confess that I was taken aback. What was he talking about I wondered? Who was running, and where? Could he be referring to the ducks or perhaps to



Mr. Major's hideous purple T shirt which certainly ran in the rain last year?

'Racecards,' prompted the Brilliant Mr. Naismith, 'Photocopy the racecards.'

I think a 'Sir' might have been appropriate at that point, but we will overlook the omission; such was the electricity of the moment. Instantly, an executive decision was made to *run off* (as the photocopiers call it) some sample racecards, and hot from the press they were handed to our gallant Duckrace Staff.

And Mr. Bob Naismith was proved right! Never have I been accused of sentimentality, or an exaggerated belief in an interventionist Higher Power, but during that important Sunday afternoon on June 4<sup>th</sup> 2006, Providence scattered rain over the Duckrace Booth. Just a little; not enough to drive away the crowds, but enough to test the brainchild of the brilliant Mr. Naismith.

I can therefore announce the adoption of photocopied racecards, as of June 2006. The lengthy process of amending Volume III, p. 578, of the The Duckrace Procedures, has reached initiation phase, and the change will become STANDARD practice backdated to June 2006. I know that some of our hardworking staff will find it difficult to adjust to this change, but at the Duckrace we never loose sight of the fact that CHANGE with IMPROVEMENT equals PROGRESS.

In recognition of his outstanding service to the Avening Church Fete Duckrace Board, Mr. Naismith is to be awarded the MBS (grade 6). The presentation of the award will be made by the Prime Minister himself. Demands of National Security prevent the release of further details, but a Duckrace charabanc is being



organised to take those sponsors and staff who wish to support Mr. Naismith to London, and those wishing to attend should queue outside the Post Office at 6.30am.

On a different note, it gives me some pain to mention once again that Mr. Major, our Junior sub assistant trainer and starting steward, has not yet come to grips with the issue of appropriate footwear. Last year, he came to his job with a hole in his Wellington boot. The leak, you will recall, rapidly turned from nuisance to crisis, and the Chief Executive of the Duck Race had to intervene to prevent a catastrophe.

I must confess I find this all a little trying. I shall do my best to review the sequence of events without allowing my frustration to show. Modern Human Resources Management Psychology, teaches us to focus on the positive in people - to

encourage with supporting words. Criticism destroys, we should cherish the best efforts, (we are told) and understand failure. Well, enough is {.....}

However, having been enjoined to wear suitable, waterproof footwear, Mr. Major turned up this year with boots which were too short. Ankle Boots might be *de rigour*, as the Italians say, but when the water is more than one or two Newtons (to use an appropriate continental measure) deep, boots with high waterproof sides are essential. It is absolutely no good for our Junior sub-assistant to say, by way of excuse, that the stream was deeper than he thought. The stream hasn't got any deeper. The bottom of the stream is exactly where it was last year, and where it was eight years ago when Mr. Major first joined the Duckrace Team on a probationary basis. Perhaps next year, if his probationary period is to be extended *yet* again, Mr. Major will come equipped with something more suitable than ankle boots. Perhaps he might find an example in our new and charismatic commentator Mr. Peters. Heavens above, one doesn't need to be a rocket scien {.....}

Here, we should extend a huge welcome to Mr. Ian Peters, our new Duckrace Commentator. Mr. Peters provided us with a sparkling commentary and showed - and I do not say this lightly - promise. Even his footwear has to be commended. Mr. Peters wore waders, which reached up to his armpits. Not a drop of water entered his waterproof shell, and I must admit that none got out either, for when

he took them off, his trousers underneath were drenched. Was the task so stressful, I asked myself? Is it fair to ask him to repeat his effusions (commentary I mean) next year? I put this to him, and the stalwart man made light of his difficulties and (Fortune favours us) has agreed to commentate next year. The 'moisture', he assured me, was not stress induced but the natural result of wearing rubber overalls on an extremely hot day. What dedication and what style! We are blessed indeed to have such a man at the microphone.



A successful series of duckraces can, in no small part, be attributed

to the care and well-being of our talented and dedicated team of racing Ducks, and it is the tradition here at the race headquarters that the ducks, with their trainer and Chief Executive take a three and a half week holiday immediately following the race Day.

This year arrangements were delegated to our Junior assistant trainer, Mr. Major,

and the secret location for R and R which he chose was Biri-an-Swalili, in Southern Tunisia. Sadly, due to pressure of work, the Chief Executive was unable to join them. This turned out to be a most unfortunate circumstance and, as a result, our probationary Junior Starting Steward Mr. Major, was left with sole responsibility, or as I pointed out to him, was in Loco parentis.

That was our first misunderstanding. Being of a younger generation, Mr. Major's Latin is not as well rounded as we would like. Following his arrival in Tunisia, Mr. Major with his team of racing ducks, and with his thirty porters following behind him, scoured the marshalling yards and engine sheds of Chott Djerid for the Loco parentis which he thought was to take them to their destination. Not finding the train, and not being completely familiar with the terrain or the climate, Mr. Major embarked for Biri-an Swilili on foot. It took Mr. Major and his team of ducks and his thirty porters eight days of hard walking to reach camp. For the last 150 miles of the journey across the Grand Erg Oriental, Mr. Major had to be carried. How the 26 ducks carried the junior sub assistant starting steward across the sun baked rocks and mountain passes of the Grand Erg Oriental, we will never know, but doesn't it speak volumes for their fitness, their training, and their team spirit. Well Done the Duckrace Team!

Memo. Disciplinary proceedings sched. Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Admiralty House, London. Mr. \*\*\*\*\*

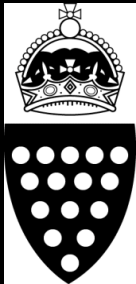
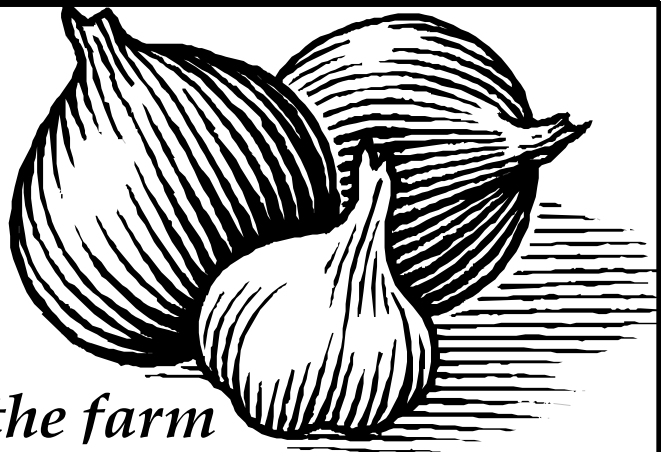
It is part of the valued tradition of the Duck Race Board that we welcome international co-operation. Mr. Major tells me that on making a full recovery, he met some exciting new sporting friends. He has, rather rashly I must confess, invited them to join us here in Avening for the 2007 Duckrace Series. With the ten Sub-Saharan Racing Ducks will come a close-knit support team of 520 Sub-Saharan trainers, psychologists, dieticians and their wives. We must apply for visas, and accommodation has to be arranged. I am pleased to announce that Mr. Joe Lockwood, has volunteered to accommodate 312 of the support team, and their wives, and that Mr. Peter Best has offered accommodation for a further 420 *as well as the racing ducks!* There only remains a modest total of 112 (including spouses) to be accommodated. Sadly, Mrs. Duff, on being approached, had to be rushed to Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary in order to recover her composure. Happily she is at home now, and I will visit her within the week to renew our request. Sport is truly international, and we should welcome the chance to extend the hand of friendship and competition to our sport-loving friends in the Sahara. Sadly, Mr. Major tells me he has a cousin staying that weekend, and that much as he would like to help, he has, unfortunately, no room.

We are, I must admit, still a little unsure as to the exact nature of Sub Saharan Racing Ducks. Mr. Major tells me he did not actually see any of them, as they were all on R and R leave during his stay at Biri-an-Swalili, but I understand that the Sub-Saharan prefix alludes to their ability to race through or under the sand dunes of the Sahara at incredible speed. No doubt they have enormous beaks and long, strong legs. How they will cope with the challenging conditions of the Avening Stream, which of course has water in it, remains to be seen. A list of the names of the 10 new ducks has been issued to Mr. Peters, and the Duckrace Board has arranged a special ten month course of oral yoga to help him with his



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## *Gap Year Travels*

I have to admit, I am a great fan of gap year travelling – for parents! Otherwise, how would I have found myself crammed into the back of a very ramshackle minibus along with son, husband, 16 adults, 7 children, sundry parcels and a guitar, somewhere on a rural road in Ghana, while the driver had a very animated discussion with a man wielding a large machete. “Oh, don’t worry,” said my 19 year old son, Paul, a veteran of 3 months in Ghana, “Ghanaians are very excitable, it doesn’t mean anything, they’re probably just discussing the weather!” A trip to foreign parts by a young pre-University teenager is a wonderful excuse for the parent to visit, just to make sure that he or she is coping and healthy and to bring out much needed supplies of deodorants, chocolate and magazines, without which the young Gapper cannot survive.

I have to admit that Ghana had never been on the top of our list of tourist destinations, but after a visit of only a week, we would love to return. The people are delightful, very laid back, friendly and helpful, and we had less hassle (of the “you like to buy watch / souvenir / my sister” variety) than we have experienced in many more developed countries. Surrounded as it is by troubled places like Cote d’Ivoire and Nigeria, Ghana is a haven of safety and tranquillity, possibly because of the strong Christian tradition found in the south of the country. This is also interestingly evident in the unique business names, most of which are biblical. ‘Praise the Lord Refrigeration Units’ and ‘Peace Be With You Coffin Makers’ were among my favourites!

We only managed to travel in the coastal area, from the capital Accra westwards toward the border with Cote d’Ivoire, but that was fascinating enough. Accra is not particularly interesting, but is a typical vibrant sprawling African city, with occasional patches of tree lined relative opulence surrounded by large areas of poverty, and with frequent open sewers, which in 40°C temperatures make for an interesting nasal experience.

One of the more remarkable sides of visiting a Gapper is that you are on their territory, so you travel their way. Hence the interesting journey in the aforementioned minibus or ‘tro-tro’, an un-airconditioned death trap with no suspension and dubious brakes.

But very cheap, a major plus feature to the Gapper. Sometimes we took taxis, wilting in the heat while Paul negotiated what he considered the right price. “I know it’s only 20p, but it’s the principle!”

We spent a delightful morning in Kakum National Park, a preserved remnant of rainforest in an area that has been logged and farmed for centuries. Not many animals can be seen here but the giant butterflies and 6” diameter spiders are amazing. Highpoint of the park (literally) is the Forest Canopy Walkway, a series of planks suspended on rope between the trees at the top of the forest canopy, about 40m from the ground. A wonderful experience, but not advisable for anyone suffering from vertigo! Back on firm ground, we were thrilled to see weaver birds nest-building, bright flashes of yellow shooting



*Kieran looking relatively relaxed on the 40m. high canopy walkway!*

around their wonderful, delicate constructions.

More sobering visits were to the slave forts on the coast. Built by the Dutch, English or French and the frequent scene of fighting



*Paul in hi-tech classroom at Diabene Secondary School, Takoradi*

between these nations, they were originally constructed to control the trade in gold but rapidly became central to the slave trade. Huge numbers of men, women and children were held in appalling conditions in these forts before being shipped to America. Horrifically, less than 20% survived the whole experience. A brief tour of the airless dungeons

with open drains where these unfortunate people were kept for months at a time is a telling reminder that man's inhumanity to man is not a modern phenomenon.

We were always supportive of Paul taking a gap year but only if he funded it by working beforehand and if there was an element of usefulness about it, not being enthusiastic about the 'bungee-jumping round Australia' idea.



*Paul & student*

Paul's 5 months in Ghana have been spent teaching at a secondary school in Takoradi, 200 miles west of Accra, which has proved to be a rewarding, though challenging, experience. He discovered that some of his pupils are aged up to 25, having taken time out of their studies to fund the final years of secondary school. He

also has to teach A level science, somewhat daunting as he has only just completed A levels himself. Even more demanding are the conditions in which he is teaching: two pupils at each desk, 80 pupils in a class and high temperatures and humidity with no air-conditioning or even fans. English is the language of education, but the Ghanaian accent is strong, so communication problems abound. He has been very impressed by the desire to learn and discipline in his pupils, a sobering experience for a young man who, if he gave it any thought at all, considered education a right, not a privilege.

Paul went to Ghana with the charity Gap, which finds the placements and hosts for the volunteers. They have in-country reps who help out when needed but mostly the young volunteers sort everything out themselves, from arranging how to explore Ghana during the school holidays to escorting each other to hospital when the ever present malaria strikes.

Paul has been staying with a lovely family in Takoradi who have



made him very welcome and also insisted we ate with them during our visit. I nearly took home the gorgeous 4 month old baby, Crispin, who had huge black eyes as big as soup plates! The food was good as well!



*Paul and baby Crispin  
on the brakes!*

We ended our short visit with a couple of days in a little hotel set on a breezy headland above a delightful palm fringed beach, surfing in the astonishingly strong waves and generally enjoying the amazingly relaxed atmosphere of the country. Then we headed back to Accra in a tro-tro with 'In God we trust' written across the back window. Probably safer than relying

***Jane Archer***



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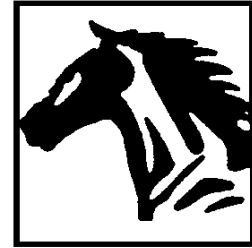
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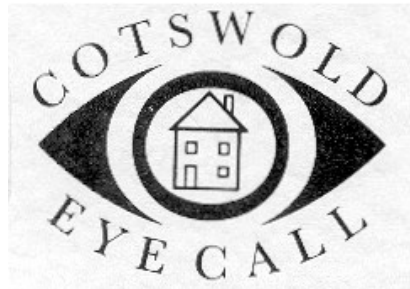
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## *Daily Life in Zimbabwe*

*Readers may remember reading in the Villager last year an account of the experiences of everyday life in this troubled country contributed by Nicholas Winkfield's mother. Various people commented on how interesting that letter was. Nicholas has contributed an update, another letter written by his mother to a relative in Ireland.*

Richard (*Nicholas' father*) had a very interesting and good time in Burkina Faso. He went on a week's consultancy to look at a possible site for a big Jatropha project. The jatropha tree seeds can be crushed for oil for biofuel and apparently the EU have said that by 2010 (?) all diesel sold in the EU must have at least 5% biofuel. So it will be valuable stuff. Richard went with two others from Europe, and it was a most fascinating trip. He was most impressed with the country, poor but not grinding poor as it is here in Zimbabwe, and so many people on motor scooters and TV everywhere with hordes of people glued to the World Cup and cheering for Ghana. He took a lovely photo of his two mates at a sort of cafe in a market place, piccanins and goats and rubbish and shanties with people selling things, and in the middle of this at a dented tin table sit these two Europeans with cell phones to their ears, talking to Paris and Prague via satellite.

We have had a lot of visitors lately including a visit from our safari friend from Abercrombie and Kent, who was here last night - Gavin and Eileen are living in Victoria Falls these days and they say it is a pretty quiet place with only a few tourists who fly in direct from Johannesburg and then straight out again to Botswana or Zambia and not into the rest of Zimbabwe. We never see a tourist in Harare. Actually it is a wonderful time to be a tourist, you certainly won't be overcrowded and people would go out of their way to look after you well.

The problems of power shortage and water shortage and phone cut-offs and the price of things in the supermarket would not bother you much. Anyone who can, now has a generator - ours is petrol driven and we just put it on in the evening when necessary, which it usually is. We usually get four to six hours power off from about 7 am, and then again for two or three hours in the evening, which is manageable if you are home-based, but if you live alone in a flat and

go out to work, you are cold and hungry a lot of the time and you use a lot of candles. A gas cylinder with a cooking top or light costs forty million dollars these days and it's difficult to get gas. On the other hand, the de luxe South African cat pellets which Benjamin (the family cat) loves are freely available - only freely is quite the wrong word. He is sitting by the computer now, purring away, quite unaware of the vast cost of his maintenance.

We also have a big water tank to switch on to whenever the city water supply is cut off, which it is for 24 hours, then on for 24 hours, then off 24 and so on permanently.

I was in the bank last week queuing behind an Indian with two school tin trunks and a large weekend bag, all stuffed with money done up in 'bricks' with rubber bands. Plenty of time for me to do mental arithmetic and he must have paid in about ten billion dollars. The poor bank clerk with her counting machine was quite philosophic and I'm sure she gets this every day. Our highest bank note is a hundred thousand dollars, less than 20 cents in Euro currency, and lots of tens and twenty thousands around. It's not even a proper bank note We don't use those any more. It's just a 'bearer cheque', a kind of bank note printed on ordinary paper with an expiry date of about two years ago, quite likely, but they always extend the date so that doesn't matter. Don't give your husband a wallet for Christmas; a dozen eggs can cost over a million dollars. Zimbabweans all now have big shopping bags slung over their shoulders, or a cardboard box if going to deposit at the bank. The baddies don't steal those shoulder bags, not really worth their while unless very bulging, so life is much safer in a funny sort of way.

Richard is watching Gulliver's Travels on television, and we are just going to light our lovely bamboo fire which cheers us up vastly every evening - from our own bamboo grove in the garden. We found some sugar at the supermarket a couple of days ago and I have lemon marmalade bubbling on the stove and the power is on and it is already 6.15 pm so it probably will stay on all evening. We are having an excellent Sunday. It's the day for municipal water on, too. Really, things are looking up!

# *Cherington Parish Council*

## Planning Decision

Westrip Farmhouse – 2 gazebos CT.6135/R – permission granted

The Coach House, Cherington – 3 bay shelter CT.6835/H – permission refused.

Cherington Parish Council will meet on  
Tuesday 3rd October 2006 at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall  
Members of the public are welcome to attend

*Sue Russell, Parsh Clerk*  
31 Charlton Road, Tetbury GL8 8DX  
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## Events in & around Tetbury in August

- Aug 2-15** Giffords Circus, Minchinhampton Common.  
[www.giffordscircus.com](http://www.giffordscircus.com)
- Aug 3** History of Tetbury Society – Annual Walkabout. A must for all newcomers! Assemble Chipping Car Park 6-45 p.m.
- Aug 3-6** Westonbirt School Gardens near Tetbury open 11am – 4.30pm  
Adults £3.50 Children School age £2 under 5s Free. Tel: 01666 880333
- Aug 4-6** Gatcombe Horse Trials [www.gatcombe-horse.co.uk](http://www.gatcombe-horse.co.uk)
- Aug 5-6** Westonbirt Arboretum – Holford Carriage Rides, Admission Charge  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt) Tel: 01666 880220
- Aug 12-13** Westonbirt Arboretum – Holford Carriage Rides, Admission Charge  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt) Tel: 01666 880220
- Aug 13** Balloon Race in aid of Tetbury Hospital – Name tags will be sold at the Friend's stall on Woolsack Day, balloons will be released at the Tetbury Flower Show 01666 504993
- Aug 13** Tetbury Flower Show at The Recreation Ground, gates open 12 noon  
marquee opens 1pm. Ferris wheel, children's rides, car boot sale, classic motorbike display. Refreshments available. Admission Adult £2, Child 12-16years £1 Under 12's Free Tel: 01666 503552
- Aug 20** Westonbirt Arboretum Open Day – see behind the scenes  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt) Tel: 01666 880220
- Aug 21-28** Westonbirt Arboretum - Sculptree Admission Charge  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt) Tel: 01666 880220
- Aug 25-28** Westonbirt Arboretum Festival of Wood (William Woodworm returns) European Pole Climbing Championships Admission Charge  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt) Tel: 01666 880220
- Aug 26-27** Westonbirt Arboretum – Holford Carriage Rides, Admission Charge  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt) Tel: 01666 880220
- Aug 27-28** Art Exhibition in the Market House, Tetbury by Nick Watton. Free admission more details Tel: 01225 835771
- Aug 27-28** Music at Westonbirt School – Bampton Classical Concert, Mozart's "The Jewel Box" an opera compilation by Paul Griffiths 5pm Tel: 01666 880333
- Aug 28** Tetbury Art Society - Exhibition under Market House, Tetbury

*Information supplied by Tetbury Tourist Information Centre*

# *Avening Parish Council*

## **June/July Meeting**

### **Planning Applications June 2006**

CT6881/C **Hollyhocks 45 Nags Head Lane, Avening** – demolition of existing porch and construction of new entrance porch - **No objections**

CT8550/A **Quietways West End Avening** – demolition of garage and erection of new detached garage. Resiting greenhouse. Alterations to access. Members do not object to the size of the garage or materials but they objected for reasons of road safety because cars would not be able to see properly when exiting the property. Reinstating the boundary wall would alleviate the problem.

CT 3216/G **Picket House Avening** Revised doorway to general store, door on east elevation, windows added to general store, no objections

### **Decision Notices Received From CDC**

CT2590/V Octagonal Greenhouse and shed at 5 Pike House Mews, High Street, Avening -PERMITTED

CT0064/1/S Retrospective Conservatory and part conversion of garage to walkway at 78 Sandford Leaze Avening – PERMITTED

### **Overhanging Trees and Grass Verges**

The Parish Council wish to express their thanks to those residents who take the time to cut grass verges near their homes to keep the village looking tidy.

If you own trees or bushes overhanging the road or public pathways would you please cut them back so as not to cause obstructions.

**Website** [www.avening-pc.gov.uk](http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk)

If you are interested in placing a link to your organisation or business please contact the parish clerk for further information.

### **Grants to Village Organisations**

If you are planning a project for the benefit of the community and require grant funding in the next financial year please contact the



parish clerk for an application form.

### **Volunteer Recruitment**

**Parish Councillor Vacancy** - If you would like to put something back into your community we have a vacancy for a parish councillor.

**Memorial Hall** – Volunteers are needed to look after and run the village hall.

**Playing Fields** – volunteers are needed to ensure the success of the new project to renew the play equipment.

For all of the above please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

**The Next Meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006 In Avening Memorial Hall at 7.45pm (Planning at 7pm)**

*Deborah Cook, Parish Clerk, 18 Martin Close, Cirencester,  
Gloucestershire GL7 1XY Tel: 01285 656139  
Email: parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk*

*Paul Nelson*  
***Gardener***

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
July 30th	Cherington Flower Show		2.00 pm
September 9th	Sponsored Ride/Walk for Historic Churches		
September 14th	Avening Parish Council	Memorial Hall	7.45 pm
September 17th	Queen's Birthday Celebration		
October 3rd	Cherington Parish Council	Village Hall	6.30 pm

**THE MOBILE POLICE STATION  
will visit Avening & Cherington on  
August 16th & 29th**

### FIVE VALLEYS MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile Library operates in this area on alternate Fridays. The dates in August are:  
Friday 4th & 18th

The Green, Cherington                      11.55 - 12.15

Please note that the Mobile Library service to  
Avening and Hampton Fields has been discontinued



## Useful Telephone Numbers

Avening Parish Council	Deborah Cook	01285 656139
Cherington Parish Council	Sue Russell	01666 503370
Cotswold District Councillor	Jim Parsons	01453 836596
Avening Sunday School	Debbie Brown	01453 835983
Avening Tower Captain	Andrew Lelliott	01453 835783
Avening Primary School	Diana Boulton	01453 833191
Avening Playgroup	Debbie Brown	01453 832695 Home 835983
Avening Players	Julie Sharpe	01453 835565
A & C Cricket Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752
Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
Friends of Avening School	Nicola John	01453 833375
Cherington Reading Room	G Davies	01285 841318
Memorial Hall	Jon Green	01453 833048
Tennis @ Avening Park	Roger Lindley	01453 835115
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336
Stroud Hospital		01453 562200
Avening Post Office		01453 832008
Women's Institute	Maisie Stanton	01453 834679
	Pat Taylor	01453 833408

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