

# *The Villager*

*A magazine for Avening, Cherington and Nags Head*

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*March 2010*

*50p*

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## Who to Contact

**Parish Priest: The Reverend Celia Carter**  
**Tel: 01453 832716 Fax: 01453 834885**

**Lay Reader: Derrick Pierce 01453 835090**

### **AVENING:**

|                      |                    |              |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <b>CHURCHWARDENS</b> | George Buchanan    | 01453 833016 |
|                      | Stephanie Hamilton | 01453 834910 |

### **SACRISTAN**

|                      |                 |              |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>PCC SECRETARY</b> | Margaret Barton | 01453 835541 |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|

|                      |            |              |
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| <b>PCC TREASURER</b> | Peter Best | 01453 835287 |
|----------------------|------------|--------------|

|                 |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>ORGANIST</b> | Stuart Walkley | 01453 757784 |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|

|                    |              |              |
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| <b>FLOWER TEAM</b> | Gill Parsons | 01453 832247 |
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### **CHERINGTON:**

|                      |            |              |
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| <b>CHURCHWARDENS</b> | Roger Gegg | 01453 834805 |
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|  |                    |              |
|--|--------------------|--------------|
|  | John Bate-Williams | 01666 503544 |
|--|--------------------|--------------|

|                  |              |              |
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| <b>SACRISTAN</b> | Beryl Milsom | 01285 841248 |
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| <b>PCC SECRETARY</b> | Elizabeth Workman | 01285 841294 |
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| <b>PCC TREASURER</b> | Richard Lippiat | 01666 502238 |
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| <b>ORGANIST</b> | Elizabeth Workman | 01285 841294 |
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|  | Beryl Milsom | 01285 841248 |
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| <b>FLOWER TEAM</b> | Elizabeth Workman | 01285 841294 |
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## **VILLAGER MAGAZINE**

e mail [kathleen@lindesay.co.uk](mailto:kathleen@lindesay.co.uk)  
Tel:01285 643935

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

*If you would like to have a copy of the magazine delivered to your home each month, please contact: Cas Boddam-Whetham 01453 834834*

# *The Parish Letter*

No Parish Letter has been received this month.

## *Easter in Avening & Cherington*

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Wednesday March 30th           | Cherington Church 7.00pm<br>Taizé Meditation & music   |
| Thursday April 1st             | Avening Church Agape Supper 7 pm   |
| Good Friday April 2nd          | Meditation Cherington 12.00<br>Avening 2.00pm  |
| Sunday April 3rd<br>Easter Day | Avening Holy Communion 8 am<br>Cherington Holy Communion 9.30 am<br>Avening Holy Communion 11am<br>followed by Easter Egg Hunt |

*Further details of these and other Easter events  
can be obtained from  
the Parish Office or see noticeboards*



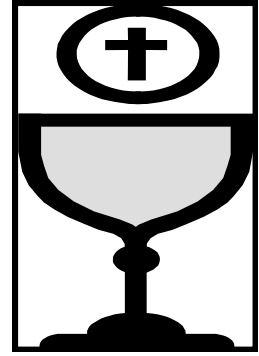
## SERVICES IN AVENING & CHERINGTON

| Day / Date                             | Time  | Church     | Event   |
|--|-------|------------|---|
| Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> March           | 0800  | Avening    | Holy Communion BCP  |
| <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>              | 09.30 | Cherington | Holy Communion BCW  |
|  | 1100  | Avening    | Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School (Coffee after service) |
| Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> March          | 0800  | Avening    | Holy Communion BCP  |
| <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i>              | 0930  | Cherington | Matins BCP  |
| <i>Mothering Sunday</i>                | 1100  | Avening    | Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School                        |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> March          | 0800  | Avening    | Holy Communion BCP  |
| <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>              | 0930  | Cherington | Holy Communion BCP  |
| <i>Passion Sunday</i>                  | 1100  | Avening    | Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School                        |
| Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> March          | 0800  | Avening    | Holy Communion BCP  |
| <i>6th Sunday in Lent</i>              | 0930  | Cherington | Holy Communion BCW  |
| <i>Palm Sunday</i>                     | 1100  | Avening    | Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School                        |
| Friday 2nd April<br><i>Good Friday</i> | *     | *          | *   |
| Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> April           | 0800  | Avening    | Holy Communion BCP  |
| <i>Easter Day</i>                      | 0930  | Cherington | Holy Communion BCW  |
|  | 1100  | Avening    | Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School                        |

**\* for further details of Holy Week & Easter services, please contact the Parish Office 01453 832716**

**BAPTISM in March**

# Church Duties in Avening



| Date                                | Sidespersons      | Chalice Assistant | Sacristan |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| March 7 <sup>th</sup>               | Hamish/ Piers     | Stephen           | Ann       |
| March 14 <sup>th</sup>              | Jeannie/George    | Paul              | Ann       |
| March 21 <sup>st</sup>              | Cas/ Diane        | Hamish            |           |
| March 28 <sup>th</sup>              | Frances/ Margaret | Derrick           | Marion    |
| April 4 <sup>th</sup><br>Easter Day | George/ Stephanie | Stephen<br>& Paul | Ann       |

Please join us for **Coffee at Avening Church**  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, after the 11 am service  
Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup>

## CHURCH FLOODLIGHTING

**Avening Church was floodlit as follows:**

3rd March      Remembering Dad, A.E.Stone, on his birthday.  
From Sylvia and Family

*If you would like to have the church floodlit in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special event, please contact:*

**Paul Brown    01453 835983**

*The cost is £5 for 2 hours*

## **Lent Meetings**

There will be two more Lent meetings in Evening on  
March 3rd & 17th at 7 pm

Venues to be announced.

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## **Coffee at Cherington**

On the second Sunday of each month, tea and coffee are provided  
(free !) after the 9.30 morning service at St. Nicholas Church,  
Cherington - we would love to welcome you ! If you have not come  
to the service, just come along at 10.20 !

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## **Lent Prayers each day in Cherington Church**

As has become customary we hope that there will be someone  
praying in our church each day.

Suggested Bible readings and prayers on the font for your use.

A Daily Prayer Rota also on the font.

## **SONGS OF PRAISE in CHERINGTON**

a date for your diaries -

**Saturday 26th June at 6 pm**

~ an evening service of favourite hymns ~

**followed by a shared picnic in The Gastons Field.**

*More details later.*



## Eric Moore

**A**s we journey through Life, there are certain people who we meet.....and for a time travel alongside, who we know to be special and that we have been privileged to be with them. Eric was one such for me.

I have known him for many years, but it was during the last few years of Lil's life that we got to know each other well. He was a man of great courtesy and hospitality, never failing to offer his visitor a cup of tea or a glass of sherry. He was also a man of tenderness and patience which was so apparent as he cared for his beloved Lil.

He was born in Warminster and came to Avening as a little boy of 5, during the First World War.....to be cared for by the Hinders, his mother's family, in the house where he lived all his life and where he died last week, having been there for 85 years. His father had been killed in the War and his mother had had to find work for a while, as a cook in London, before coming to Avening to work in the Rectory.

Eric went to Avening School and remembered how they used to have to walk to Nailsworth once a week for woodwork lessons.....it is hard to imagine that happening today. When he left school he went to work with Marshall May who, as you will remember, was the village baker. It was no doubt, during this time, that Eric grew to love horses, for he would travel with Mr May in a pony and trap doing the bread rounds. From early in the morning they would deliver bread stopping at several pubs on the way, when Mr May would have a drink and give Eric half a pint. By the time the deliveries were over Eric would return home quite merry. Eric went on to become an apprentice at Simmonds builders at Minchinhampton and later graduated as stonemason. There are many fine examples of his work around the area but the finest of all must be the Clock Tower at Nailsworth.

He and Lil met through their love of dancing, and for many years after they were married they regularly went to the Tetbury dances and sometimes as far away as Wotton under Edge. They had the happiest of marriages, blest with a birth of a son and a daughter, and lasting 71 years. When Lil's health began to fail Eric nursed her at home with the help of his family, and although devastated when she died, he faced his loneliness with great fortitude. He loved to talk of the years gone by.....the fun he had had with breeding his canaries and budgies and the prizes they won at the local shows. He remembered too, the holidays they had, and especially the ones when Tony and Barbara took them to the Seaside. One year, when spending a week in Paignton, the car got a puncture, and Eric offered to bowl the offending tyre down a steep hill to the Garage. He set off down the hill..... but how was he to know that around the corner a lady was coming along on her moped? Needless to say the wheel bowled her clean off but she got to her feet, brushed herself down and didn't

appear to be at all put out.....all due, I am sure, to Eric's charm. A little later, Eric got a Lambretta scooter himself upon which he took Lil off on many a happy trip and it became his pride and joy.

On retiring from Simmonds, Eric went to work on Woodhouse Farm with Mr Lickorish and he always remembered this as a very happy time in his life. As I mentioned, Eric's other great love was horses, and over the years he had several of his own in which he took a great pride. On the mantelshef and window sills of his cottage stood several magnificent china Shire horses which he had collected over the years. A true Countryman, Eric was very knowledgeable about Country Matters and took a lively interest when I was lambing my sheep.

Eric lost his sight soon after Lil died and became a little frail and no longer able to look after himself. His family stepped in and Barbara has asked me to thank not only Sam, Dave and Mark, but also the care given every night by the Prestige nurses and latterly, by Katherine, of Care Share. These last few months his care has been shared by David, Margaret, Tracy and Sam.

At these times it is the generosity of other members of the family that enables the 24 hour care that was required. Sam asked me to particularly thank Big Dave for his generosity in allowing her to spend many hours with her grandfather as does Barbara wish to thank Tony for his similar generosity.

During these last years of family care, several funny stories have come about. One of these being Eric's habit of fiddling with the Yale lock of his front door effectively locking himself in and everyone else out! It was Mark who was called upon time after time, to take a ladder along and climb into the bedroom window. Every time Eric strenuously denied that it had anything to do with him. Then there is Eric's five year old great granddaughter, Olivia, who took her share of caring for her Great Grandfather and would sit beside him as he ate his dinner pointing out what each bit of food that happened to be on the plate was called. Another of his unofficial carers was Bonny the little black dog who you see in Church this afternoon. He would sit with Eric every Sunday night.....and as a reward would share Eric's breakfast toast in the morning.

We will shortly be laying Eric to rest, together with his beloved Lil, united in death, as they were in life. Our Faith assures us that their love will live on, within the all enveloping love of God. In the words of the poem 'they are not far away, just around the corner....All is well'.

***Rev Celia***



**The Society of Bacchus and Orpheus**  
**Yale University**  
will sing at



**St Nicholas Church**  
**Cherington**

on  
Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2008  
7.30 pm

Followed by refreshments at the Village Hall



Founded in 1938 the Society of Bacchus and Orpheus is a male choir of students from Yale University which performs unaccompanied “*a cappella*” arrangements sung in close harmony. The Society boasts an eclectic repertoire with over 70 years worth of arrangements, making them the longest running non-senior a cappella group in the United States.

**Tickets are available from Liz Workman 01285 841 294 at £5 each**  
**Proceeds in aid of the church**

**Avening Roll of Honour No. 22**  
**George John Rowland Blackwell**  
**2nd Lt. 2nd/6th Battalion Manchester Regiment**

*"Kaiserschaft"* "The Imperial Battle" was how Ludendorf, the overall German commander described the coming offensive in Spring 1918. Ludendorf had good and bad news at the end of 1917. The good news was the Russian Revolution which resulted in a peace between Russia and Germany, thus releasing a huge number of men and supplies from the Eastern Front at a time when both sides in France were sadly lacking both equipment and energy to continue the war. Britain and its allies were suffering shortages of men and the numbers being recruited were less than those being lost. Morale was low but, at least, the men were given good basic food whereas the German enemy were not so lucky. Germany was hard pushed to feed their army as they had no support from an Empire which was so vital to the allied cause.

Ludendorf's bad news was the coming of the Americans. Promising a million men, untried but fresh, would no doubt have an influence on future events. The German High Command saw a weakness in the allied infrastructure and decided that the taking of the town of Amiens would cripple the communications between the northern and southern ends of the front. This would create huge supply difficulties for the allies and would allow the Germans to take the initiative and hopefully to put the allies in a position where they were forced to settle for peace.

Ludendorf had little time and set his offensive for late March 1918. Not only was his army invigorated by the sudden reinforcement of troops from the east but facing them on the route to Amiens was General Gough's 5th Army, tired and under strength following the Autumn offensives. Amongst Gough's Army was the 66th East Lancs Division, part of which was the 199th Manchester Brigade which included the 6th Battalion Manchesters and Avening's George Blackwell.

George was born at Barton End, Horsley in 1897, the son of John Howard Blackwell a farmer at Barton End, who married Mary Ann Rowland, an Avening girl born and baptised at Holy Cross Church in 1864. John and Mary married at Holy Cross on Thursday the 9th of April 1896. At the time of the 1901 census, George was living with his grandmother (Mary's mother) at Church Farm, Avening along with his

uncles and aunts.

We know little of his service career although he probably enlisted during 1916 as we know that he initially served with the Royal Field Artillery. However, he took a commission at the end of August 1917 and joined the Manchester Regiment. He became part of the 2nd/6th Battalion Manchesters and joined them in France at the early part of 1918.



He was facing Ludendorf's rejuvenated armies who launched their offensive (now known as "Operation Michael") at 4.40am on Thursday the 21st of March 1918. It was at this hour that the inevitable artillery barrage commenced and up and down the forty miles of front some 4,000 field guns, 2600 heavy guns and 3500 mortars were brought to bare, supplemented by two sorts of gas attacks. The barrage lasted for 5 hours and then 100 divisions of men advanced upon the stunned allies. All was confusion and the Allied troops were forced to retreat. At times, the enemy did not bother with the front line but sped past to wreak havoc in the supply trenches and rearward artillery. The Manchesters took part in the Battle of St. Quentin between the 21st and 23rd of March, the battle to try to stop the Somme crossings on the 24th and 25th and the battle for Rosieres on the 26th and 27th. The attacks went on for the best part of eight days, the German advance only stuttering when stores of Allied food were taken, the temptation to halt momentarily being too

great. However, halt it finally did on the 30th of March when the Germans outran their supplies and counterattacks became more organised and meaningful. Amiens was not taken. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission quotes George's date of death as Saturday the 30th of March and we know that the remaining men of the 2nd/6th Battalion Manchesters were withdrawn from the front on that day.

So few of the Battalion survived that it was withdrawn from the battlefield completely. He has no known grave but is remembered on the Pozieres memorial. His name is carved upon our Church Roll of Honour and he is also mentioned on his grandparent's headstone in Avening Churchyard and on Horsley War Memorial. He was 21 years old and was posthumously awarded the Victory Medal and the British Medal.

We are indebted to his nephew, Rowland Blackwell of Barton End for his assistance.

***Fred Vening***

### **The Villager Magazine**

This will be my last edition of the magazine. I have been editor for almost eleven years and I have enjoyed it all immensely.

I have made a lot of friends along the way, many of whom I only know through e mails and telephone conversations.

Since I started as editor, the universal use of the internet, e mail and digital photography have become commonplace. These tools have greatly facilitated production of the magazine. The need to type has reduced and use of the fax has become almost obsolete.

I would like to thank all those who have helped me over the years and wish my successor, and the Villager, good luck in the future.

***Kathleen Lindesay***

*Until the details of the new editor are known, contributors should send copy to my e mail address - [kathleen@lindesay.co.uk](mailto:kathleen@lindesay.co.uk) - and I will forward them.*

# **AVENING**

## **OPEN GARDENS 2010**

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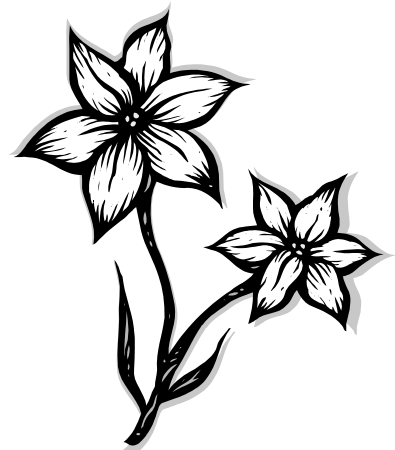
**A Date for your Diary  
4th July 2010 at 2pm**

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**Why not open  
your garden this time?**

**Interested in providing  
a garden to visit?**

**We would like to hear  
from you**



**Please phone Karen on  
01453 836403**

All proceeds will be in aid of the Holy Cross  
Church and the Avening Memorial Hall.

# *Cherington Parish Council*

**Proposed Road Closure.** Yew Tree Inn Lane from Cherington to Hampton Fields for surfacing, from 18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

The closure in February from Rodmarton to Yew Tree Cottages was cancelled at the last minute.

**TV Switchover in March.** I do have information packs. Should anyone wish to have one please let me know.

**Car Park.** Spaces now available please let me know should you wish to rent one.

**Spring Clean.** Litter Pick of verges on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 10am meet at the Village Hall, all help will be warmly welcomed.

## **Planning Permits**

10/00039/FUL Aston Farm, Cherington. Erection of two storey rear extension.

## **Planning New Details**

10/00415FUL & 10/00417/LBC Grove Farm, Cherington. Minor alterations to approved extension (09/02203FUL).

Plans can be seen on [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk) go to weekly planning list.

The next Parish Council meeting in on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 at 6.45pm in Cherington Village Hall, all residents welcome to attend.

## **Sue Russell**

Clerk to Cherington Parish Council

**The Cross Inn** will shortly be selling newspapers and other essential items. Copies of the Villager will also be on sale there for those who have previously bought their copy at the Corner Shop.

## **JESS TAKES THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY TITLE**

under 13 girls

On Saturday the 6th February Jess entered The Gloucestershire Cross Country Championships held at Pittville Park Cheltenham, for her Stroud Athletics Club. She finished 4th overall but 1st from Gloucestershire, she won a gold Medal, making her county champion for the under 13 girls. The Stroud and District Athletic Club won a silver medal for the team event , so she had a silver medal as well.



**WELL DONE JESS!**

# **Safe as Houses**

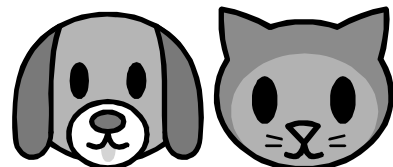
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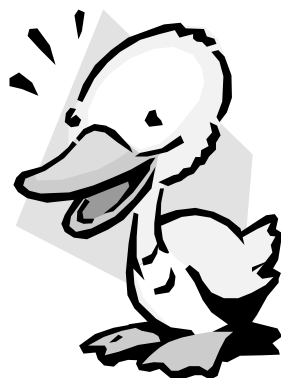


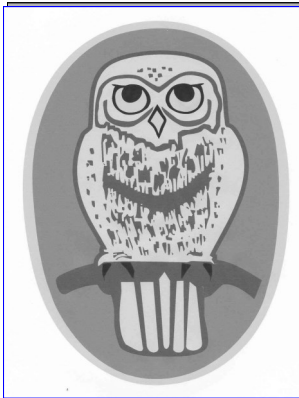


## **AVENING CHURCH FETE 2010**



**BOOK THIS IN YOUR DIARY NOW!  
THE CHURCH FETE WILL BE ON  
JUNE 6<sup>th</sup> at 2.00  
LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY  
MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH**





# *Avening School*

## **HERE IS THE NEWS ...**

### **SECOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER ESTABLISHED**

The children at Avening Primary School (and their families) now have two publications to keep them up to date with all the news.

The weekly 'Hoot' newsletter has been produced by the staff and headteacher Diana Boulton for many years. It goes out to all pupils' homes and ensures parents are up to date on key dates and information relating to school life.

Our second newspaper is 'The Warbler' which is produced by our roving reporters at newspaper club which is run by teaching assistant Clare Steele after school. The third issue came out just before the children broke up for the February holiday. It contained a wide range of interesting features and stories including:

- a report on the older children's exciting trip to see *Arabian Nights* at the theatre in Stratford
- an interview with school secretary Alison Sollis
- a review of a visit to a Court
- jokes
- film reviews
- Valentines Day facts and information about Haiti

### **HEARTS FOR HAITI**

The pupils have demonstrated their hearts go out to the victims of the Haiti earthquake by taking part in two fund-raisers, and donating over £400 to the Save the Children charity.

Just ahead of Valentines Day, some of the older pupils made heart-shaped cookies - 'Hearts for Haiti'. The biscuits were made and decorated as part of 'Let's Get Cooking' sessions run by teaching assistant Kelly Wilkinson, and sold to pupils and parents after school.

The second Haiti fund-raiser involved pupils paying for the privilege of 'dressing down' for a day of school. Children were asked to bring in a donation in return for opting out of uniform for the day.

## **PLAYING FOR SUCCESS**

Forest Green Rovers ground will be playing host to 15 of our Year 5 pupils as they take part in a six-week 'Playing for Success' initiative. The group will have great fun enjoying exercises aimed at team building and learning new skills – all of which will be a strong confidence boost.

**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE EXCITING NEWS OF THE ADVENTURES OF AVENING SCHOOL!.....**

[www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk) In term time please contact 01453 833191



*Adam and Sam making jammie-dodger style Hearts for Haiti*



*Emily and Emily cutting out the heart-shaped cookies*

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Women's  
Institute

## *Avening WI*

Our first meeting was My African adventure by Mrs Boulton, Headmistress of Avening School, we all found it quite an eye opener. She also brought items for us to look at. It was an enjoyable and informative meeting all round.

The craft group met on the 16th of February in Cherington Village Hall when only six ladies came. The craft club is open to anyone (not just W.I. members) Please come along and do your own thing, have a chat or learn a new skill, the next meeting is in Cherington Hall on 18th March from 2p.m. to 4p.m.

In the skittles at the Social Club on January 29th, Woodchester W.I. joined Avening and two teams of nine played against each other. The evening finished with a bring and share supper.

### **NEXT MEETING**

A talk on Animals in Show Business by Pam Weaver at the Memorial Hall Avening at 7-30p.m. on March 11th.

*Doreen Pierce*

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# FROM KEMBLE TO VLADIVOSTOK BY TRAIN.

*Nicholas and Margaret Barton*

In late August of 2009 we set off from Kemble to travel by train to Vladivostok in Eastern Russia. We wanted to make the whole journey by train, so we took the Inner Circle to St Pancras, where we boarded the Eurostar. Lunch was served under the Channel and an hour later we were in France and, in two hours, Brussels.

Here we changed to another fast train which took us to Cologne where we boarded a Polish sleeper train and arrived next morning in Warsaw. We were given a tour of the old city, which was almost completely destroyed during World War II: not during the fighting, but by the retreating Germans as punishment for the Poles who had resisted them. It has since been lovingly rebuilt in replica with the help of old pictures.

After an overnight stay we joined a long-distance Russian train to Moscow. This was rather less comfortable but there was an interesting experience as we entered Belarus (formerly the western part of the Soviet Union but now independent). Here the train changed to the Russian broad-gauge: not as broad as Brunel's but broader than the standard British and European gauge, which is still that chosen by George Stephenson. This change was made by lifting up each carriage (with the passengers still inside) using hydraulic jacks, detaching the old bogies and wheels, running new ones underneath and then lowering the carriage onto these, a process which took an hour and a half.

We spent two nights in Moscow and were taken on coach tours of the city. The Kremlin is a triangular mediaeval fortress, with sides half a mile long. Inside are three small Russian Orthodox cathedrals and a variety of later buildings including those from which Russia is governed. Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately, the mausoleum of Lenin was closed so we were unable to join the usual long queue for entrance. The trip we enjoyed most was our own exploration on foot, when we discovered a mediaeval house dating to the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century, once the home of the Romanovs, who later became the ruling Russian family. The house is now a museum but retains its original mica windows giving a strange rather gloomy atmosphere in which the men, on the lower floors, had to teach their sons with the aid of lamp-light whilst the women enjoyed the top floor with open shutters so they could see to stitch and embroider. The house was rich in original artefacts and made us feel as if we too had retreated almost five centuries in time.

Coming back to reality, we were given a tour of a Moscow cemetery in the rain. This does not sound appealing but we actually found it a very interesting experience, because the Russians erect statues or sculptures to their dead, some of which marked the graves of famous people and were often huge exotic pieces of work in their own right. Even in the rain they were well worth seeing.

Rather ambitiously, we were taken as a group on the famous Moscow underground whose stations are magnificent, decorated with sculptures and mosaic pictures on the walls and ceilings. Although we made several transfers between lines, this was only possible because we had all been issued with headphones from which we could hear our guide's instructions, even if in a different carriage. No-one was lost! This



*Central mall between platforms in a Moscow's underground station*

system, which we have occasionally seen in use by Japanese tourists in England, was used throughout our trip and proved to be extremely efficient. Most happily, this exercise took us from the station where we had arrived in the west to that, in the east, from which we later left, so we did indeed make the whole journey by train.

From here on we travelled in a special Trans-Siberian train for tourists, only built and introduced in 2007, with the advantages of comfort - indeed luxury - and stops to visit interesting places along the route, with English-speaking guides.

The first stop was at Kazan, where we were taken on a boat trip on the river Volga, here four miles wide (it has been dammed lower down). This city, though in Europe, has an oriental atmosphere because many of the inhabitants are Tartars, descendants of the Mongols.

Crossing the Ural Mountains, which at this latitude are no higher than the Cheviots, we entered Asia at Ekaterinburg. Here we visited the church built on the site of the house in which the last Tsar and his family were murdered in 1918. They have now been named Saints of the Russian Orthodox Church. Another point of interest was a visit to the nearby continental divide between Europe and Asia where we were able to stand with a foot in each continent.



*The Continental divide - left foot in Europe, right in*

We covered a lot of ground in the train each night and during two out of three days visited Novosibirsk and Irkutsk, large and flourishing cities. Novosibirsk is the home of an 'Academy town': a huge academic complex, specially built by the Russian government as a centre for education and research in Siberia. Irkutsk started life as a place of exile for dissidents and became a small outpost of culture (the Paris of Siberia) because of the fortitude of those men's wives, who joined their husbands once they were freed from jail but still exiled. They then set about building beautiful wooden homes embellished with delicate carving and in them re-created a rich life of culture in the wilderness, to the pattern they had enjoyed in Moscow or St Petersburg. There we enjoyed a splendid concert in the style of the times, in one of these lovely old homes.

Near Irkutsk is Lake Baikal: the largest, oldest and deepest lake in the world. It is the largest in volume of water because it is a mile deep and holds more water than all the five great lakes of North America put together. If all other sources of water



were cut off, Lake Baikal could supply every human being on the planet for forty years. It has its own unique fish and animals, including fresh-water seals which we saw in an aquarium. The lake was very beautiful and we felt that we could happily live beside it, but this was summer-time. It freezes every winter and they drive lorries across it!



*Sunrise over Lake Baikal*

In Ulan Ude, the capital of the Buryat Republic, we got used to the intermingled variety of faces: some Mongol, some Chinese, some almost Tibetan and some white Russian, and were introduced to the rich culture of the people. Later we visited a small village deep in the surrounding hills where the 'Old Believers' had settled. These resilient people had refused to accept changes which had been made in the Russian Orthodox Church. Persecuted for this, they had been exiled to Poland and much later sent to this remote spot, to which they walked with all their traditional tools and farming implements on carts. Their story is reminiscent of 'Fiddler on the Roof'. Here they scratched a living using the old methods, and where these have now been superseded, the local priest has collected the old wooden implements to create a museum in a local hall. We were invited to guess the use of some very odd pieces, one of which, a square frame of wood with wooden teeth projecting from it, proved to be a calf collar, designed to prevent a weaned calf from feeding from its mother. After viewing this fascinating collection we were invited to their church, full of ancient books and icons, many of which had been buried in times of danger and then dug up and restored. Finally they happily entertained us to lunch in their village hall, wearing their traditional highly coloured clothing, offering traditional food and vodka accompanied by boisterous songs.

Our train then left the Trans-Siberian route to take a side-trip into Mongolia, once part of China, then part of the Soviet Union and now independent. Going through both lots of border controls and the no-man's land between them took three hours, but it was worth it. The capital Ulaan Baatur (the spelling varies) is a large city with several statues of Genghis Kahn, whose Mongol empire extended from China to Austria. Here he is regarded as a hero, not a monster. Since the demise of communism, Buddhism has enjoyed a resurgence and we visited a monastery which could easily have been in Tibet.

Half the population of Mongolia are nomadic, moving with their horses (in the north) or their camels (in the south) and living in round felt tents called yurts in most of central Asia but gers here. We visited one such family, were invited inside their ger and offered food in the traditional way; unfortunately it was crawling with flies but it would have given offence to refuse and fortunately there were some wrapped sweets which we could safely take. They showed us how they milked their horses by tying the colts to a post, so attracting the mothers and keeping them still long enough to hand-milk them. It looked a precarious task.

.....

Rejoining the Trans-Siberian rail route, we travelled east for another three days. Three of the ten longest rivers in the world flow north through Siberia: the Ob, the Yenisei and the Lena. Who in England has even heard of these? A fourth, the Amur, flows east to the Pacific and forms the border with China. Our train ran parallel to this, through beautiful country of hills and forest, before turning south to Vladivostok, which is in the same latitude as the French Riviera. Its strategic position has made it a key Russian naval base and it was closed until 1992, even to other Russians. It was visited clandestinely by Lieutenant Arthur Lee, as a young 20-year-old, later Lord Lee of Fareham, who retired to Avening. His memorial and knightly banner are in Avening Church. Vladivostok is a bit like San Francisco, with steep hills running down to a fine harbour on the Pacific Ocean. (We could have called this article 'From Paddington to the Pacific'!) Although at the eastern extremity of Asia, the city has a curiously European feel.

Our thirteen-day journey on the Trans-Siberian Express was extremely comfortable, each couple occupying a compartment with its own shower and bathroom (eight compartments to each coach and five residential coaches in all). The seats converted to bunks by night, the transformation being made by our carriage stewards whilst we ate breakfast or dinner in the dining car. The food was excellent and generously lubricated with vodka, wines and on some occasions champagne. A



*Dinner on the Trans-Siberian Express*

memorable experience was watching the Chief Steward, in a fast-moving and rocking carriage, pouring at each table a steady stream of vodka from a bottle held some six inches above the glass. He spilt not a drop. Each carriage had two stewards to attend to our every need, with tea or coffee and biscuits available at any time we chose to have it. We will skirt over the complimentary bottles of vodka left in our carriages for use at any time, but we did bring one home with us!

Every time we returned to the train our smartly-dressed stewards, standing by the carriage door, welcomed us aboard again. Some meals were taken in restaurants in each town, serving local delicacies, some better than others but mostly of an excellent standard. During the long sections of rail travel, entertainments were offered in the bar lounge or the restaurant car. These included films of local interest, Russian language lessons and even our own residential pianist, as well as a visiting guitarist of renown. The bunks were very comfortable although some of us found it difficult to sleep until we had got used


to the rocking motion, but once we had, we all slept very well. There was some illness on board but the patients were well looked after by the resident doctor and the carriage attendants.

We flew home in two stages, but our long railway journey had taken us over 8000 miles: a third of the way round the world.

*Our trip was arranged by a company called 'Great Rail Journeys', using ordinary scheduled trains as far as Moscow and a special one from there onwards.*

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## New Planning Applications – January/February 2010

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <a href="#">10/00325</a><br><a href="#">/FUL</a> | <p>Boat House, Gatcombe Water, Avening</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> Change of use of existing boathouse to single dwelling including extension and sheltered parking area and workshop.</p> <p>The Parish Council had no objections to the application</p> |
|--|---|

## Decision Notices Received

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <a href="#">09/04365/</a><br><a href="#">FUL</a> | <p>41 Nags Head Lane, Avening, GL8 8NZ</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> Proposed new timber frame glazed canopy over part of south facing patio area to replace existing canopy</p> <p><b>Date decided:</b> 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> Application Permit</p>   |
| <a href="#">09/03924/</a><br><a href="#">FUL</a> | <p>Glebe House Cottage, 5 New Inn Lane, Avening, GL8 8NB</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> Alterations to existing buildings including: new dormer window, enlargement of an existing door opening and insertion of timber painted glazed doors at Glebe House Cottage, enlargement of an existing window opening and insertion of new timber painted glazed doors to Coach House; erection of new entrance gates.</p> <p><b>Date decided:</b> 26th January 2010</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> Application Permit</p>  |
| <a href="#">09/03925/</a><br><a href="#">LBC</a> | <p>Glebe House Cottage, 5 New Inn Lane, Avening, GL8 8NB</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> Alterations to existing buildings including: new dormer window, enlargement of existing door opening and insertion of timber painted glass doors at Glebe House Cottage; modifications to the internal arrangements, enlargement of existing window opening and insertion of new timber painted glazed doors at the Coach House; Erection of new entrance gates.</p> <p><b>Date decided:</b> 26th January 2010</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> Application Permit</p> |

[10/00136/FUL](#)

2 Pike House Mews, High Street, Avening, GL8 8NL

**Proposal:** Installation of a freesat dish

**Date decided:** 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010

**Decision:** Application Permit

### **Grit Bins and Icy Roads/Pavements**

The Parish Council reviewed the provision of grit bins in the village. By the time of our meeting Gloucestershire Highways had already replaced the grit bin at Nag's Head. No other sites were felt necessary at present.



### **Dog Fouling**

Unfortunately the Parish Council has received further complaints of dog fouling. Our own dog deposit survey highlighted a staggering 58 doggy deposits in the area from Old Hill to High Street.

The Council would like to thank all of those dog owners who do already clean up after their dogs.

Cotswold District Council imposed a Dog Control Order to control dog fouling across the District in 2008. If Council Officers witness a member of the public allowing their dog to foul and then that person does not dispose of the faeces appropriately, a fixed penalty notice can be served carrying a fine of £75.00 with penalties rising to up to £1,000.



Environmental Wardens from Cotswold District Council are expected to visit the village shortly to address the problem and speak to dog owners.

### **Councillor Vacancy**

The Parish Council would like to thank Christine Naish for all her work as a Parish Councillor over the last couple of years.

We have a vacancy arising for a Parish Councillor. For an informal discussion or for more details please contact the Parish Clerk.

### **Bus Service to Nailsworth**

Following the closure of the shop, the Parish Council is looking into the possibility of arranging a bus service to Nailsworth. In order to know if it is likely to be viable, we do need an indication of the likely number of



people who would use the service and also the times of day/days of the week it would be most beneficial. Please email, telephone (please leave a message) or write to the Clerk if you (or someone you know) are likely to use the service. Alternately, please let a Councillor know.

### **Antisocial Behaviour**

The Parish Council has sadly had reports of some antisocial behaviour in the village. The Police have asked that anyone witnessing or being subjected to incidents of antisocial behaviour should telephone them on 0845 0901234 (if it is an emergency then telephone 999).

You can remain anonymous if you choose. The Police need to know what is happening and when in order to address the problems.

The village and police (by working together) were successful in tackling the last bout of antisocial behaviour, so please do report any problems.

**The Next Meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010, at 7.30pm, in the Memorial Hall.**

*Deborah Cook, Parish Clerk, 28 Partridge Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1BQ Tel: 01285 656139*

*Email: [parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk)*

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| DATE     | EVENT  | PLACE                   | TIME     |
|----------|--|-------------------------|----------|
| Mar 1st  | Cherington Parish Council                    | Village Hall            | 6.45 pm  |
| Mar 10th | Concert - Society of Bacchus & Orpheus Choir | Cherington Church       | 7.30 pm  |
| Mar 11th | WI meeting                                   | Avening Village Hall    |          |
| Mar 13th | Cherington Litter Pick                       | Village Hall            | 10 am    |
| Mar 18th | Avening Parish Council                       | Village Hall            | 7.30 pm  |
| Mar 18th | WI Craft Group                               | Cherington Village Hall | 2 - 4 pm |
| June 6th | Avening Village fete                         |                         | 2 pm     |
| June 26  | Songs of Praise                              | Cherington Church       | 6 pm     |
| July 4th | Avening Open Gardens                         |                         | 2pm      |

### FIVE VALLEYS MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile Library operates in this area as follows:

**March 12th & 26th**

**The Green, Cherington**

**12.30 - 12.50**

### THE MOBILE POLICE STATION

will visit Avening & Cherington in March :

**March 7<sup>th</sup> Avening 1.30-2.30 pm: Cherington 2.45-3.30pm**

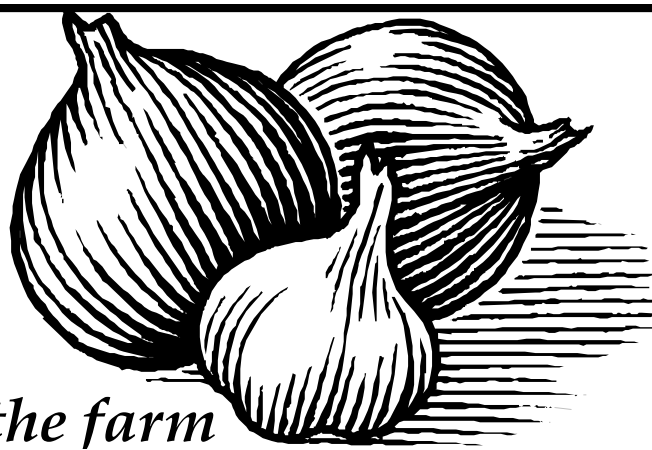
**March 24<sup>th</sup> Avening 8.30 - 9.30am: Cherington 9.45-10.30am**

## Useful Telephone Numbers

|                                  |                                   |                              |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Avening Parish Council Clerk     | 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            | David Govier                      | 01453 882914                 |
| Avening Primary School           | Diana Boulton                     | 01453 833191                 |
| Avening Playgroup                | Debbie Brown                      | 01453 832695<br>Home 835983  |
| Avening Village Agent            | Carolynn Dent                     | 0781 0630156                 |
| Avening Youth Club               | Cassie Chesterman                 | 01453 834182                 |
| A & C Cricket Club               | Derrick Ind                       | 01453 835752                 |
| Avening Silver Band              | Jim Hill                          | 01453 834438                 |
| Friends of Avening School        |                                   |                              |
| Cherington Village Hall          | B Milsom                          | 01285 841248                 |
| Memorial Hall                    | Simon Wheatley                    | 01453 833838                 |
| Tennis @ Avening Park            | Roger Lindley                     | 01453 835115                 |
| Avening Group Oil<br>Coordinator | Frances Lindley                   | 01453 835115                 |
| Tetbury Hospital                 |                                   | 01666 502336                 |
| Stroud Hospital                  |                                   | 01453 562200                 |
| Women's Institute                | Doreen Pierce<br>Christine Foster | 01453 835090<br>01453 884630 |

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