

The Villager

**A Magazine for Avening, Cherington
and Nags Head**

December 2015

& January 2016



**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to all!**

editors@avillager.co.uk

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December/January 2015/16

This edition of the Villager sees the end of our first year in the new format with delivery to every home in the villages of Avening, Cherington and Nags Head. We hope that you have enjoyed reading it and found it informative. We are always looking for new and interesting content but that relies upon you the readers to let us know about things that are happening in your part of the parishes. You will see in this month's magazine at least one new contributor, and we love to hear from you. Please let us know if you think of ways to improve the magazine.

The Editors and all of those involved in the production, printing and distribution of the Villager would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year, and we look forward to catching up with you all in the February edition.

The Villager Editors

The Villager Magazine

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Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Roger Lindley** for our cover photo.

If you have a photo of Avening or Cherington which you would like to share with us, please feel free to send it to us. You never know, it might turn up on the front cover...!

editors@acvillager.co.uk

Goodbye 2015!



What's On In Avening and Cherington

Please let us know if we have forgotten any regular event or if there is something you would like to have included here.

Event	Day	Time	Where	Contact
Line Dancing	Monday	7.30 - 10.00pm	Social Club	Mel 01453 833760
Flamenco Dancing	Monday (excluding school and bank holidays)	7.00 - 8.00pm	Memorial Hall	Lina Wirths 07417451815
Cherington PC	4th Tuesday Bi-monthly	6.30pm	Village Hall	Frances 01453767384
Baby and Toddler Group	Tuesday	1.30 - 3.00pm	Avening Playgroup	
Youth Club	Tuesday	6.15 - 7.45pm	Memorial Hall	Cassie 01453 834182
Bell Ringing	Tuesday	7.30pm - 9.00pm	Church Bell Tower	Steve 07807 700004
Line Dancing	Tuesday	7.45 - 10.30pm	Social Club	Mel 01453 833760
Yoga	Wednesday	7.30pm - 9.00pm	Memorial Hall	Elles 0781 555 2952
Over 60s Lunch Club	1st Wednesday each month	12.30pm	Social Club	Christine 01453 833246
Dial-a-Ride	Thursday	9.30am		Liz Truman 01666 502514
WI	2nd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Maisie 01453 834679
Avening PC	3rd Thursday each month	7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Caroline 01285 380041
Avening Art and craft Group	Thursday	10.00am	Longmans Barn	Mick 01453 836318
Avening Angels Choir	Sunday	4-30pm	Various	Derrick 01453 835090

Contacts for the Villages

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

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

VILLAGE & AREA WEB SITES

Avening Parish Council WWW. avening-pc.gov

Avening Church www.aveningchurch.info

Cherington Village www.timeldridge.typepad.com

Cotswold District Council WWW. Cotswold.gov.uk

Message from the Bishop of Gloucester, the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek

The Light in the Darkness

In recent weeks I have been struck by how many events there are in local towns and villages involving the switching on of lights. And this month there will be numerous carol services at which will be read these words about Jesus Christ: "In him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1v. 4-5.)

In the physical darkness of December we are perhaps more aware of the deeper darkness in our world. It is not only about conflict and suffering in places far away, it is also about the communities in which we live and the lives of those we know, often in places of pain or struggle. It is also about those dark places deep within each of us where destructive thoughts and emotions lurk, such as fear, pride and shame.

In all of this we can easily be fooled into believing that the darkness is stronger than the light. Too often we fail to grasp the truth that the hope and light of Jesus Christ transforms the darkness.

In this month of Christmas lights and candles, may we each have the courage to expose the dark places within us to the light and love of Christ. And as we open ourselves to transformation may we grow to be more confident bearers of Christ's light and hope in who we are, and what we say and do among the people and places of our daily lives.

Have a considerate Christmas

This year, when you do your Christmas shopping, ask yourself these five simple questions: Do I need to buy this item? Can I buy it second-hand? It is ethically sourced? Is it locally made? How much packaging or waste has it created?

Our thanks to The Diocesan on-line magazine 'The Messenger for this letter

The Messenger is produced monthly by the diocesan Communications Office at Church House, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY. It is available on www.gloucester.anglican.org

Letter From Avening Parish Council Leader



We receive monthly crime statistics from the police, and if you have seen them on the Avening website, you will see they are thankfully very low. This will of course be of little comfort to those who have suffered a break in or an act of vandalism, but under the cover of dark nights and closed curtains, the likelihood is certainly higher. A neighbour who had recently experienced an attempted break in, called round to tell me he had seen some suspicious behaviour, which enabled me to step up my own security on our building site. We had only previously been nodding acquaintances, so what a great neighbourly thing to do. And that's the best way to beat the people whose consequences disrupt our lives – keep an eye out for anything out of the ordinary, make a note of registration numbers, and report it if appropriate.

We're lucky enough to be in an area that is still well covered by the fire service – a couple of recent domestic fires were dealt with effectively and quickly by teams from Nailsworth and Tetbury. There is a move to downgrade the fire station in Cirencester, which could have a knock on effect to us, especially with the housing growth in Tetbury. There is a public consultation open until early this month, so please take a few moments to make a comment.

At the November PC meeting, we had an update from the Playing Field Association. They have had to take some of the equipment out of service for a time while checks and repairs are completed, but we are working with the team to get the kit working as soon as possible, and to advise on some additional remedial work. They will then be able to focus on the strategy for long term improvements.

We also had an update from the playgroup, and after a difficult year they have some great plans for the future.

The hall continues to give us concerns, and we have completed a study covering fire protection, and general health and safety considerations. We are now prioritising a programme of works that will ultimately give us a safe and attractive facility for all. We have a meeting to appoint a new hall committee on 12th January in the Bell all welcome.

With all the great people running the various village organisations, I feel very positive for the future of Avening.

On behalf of the PC, I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Tony Slater.

CHERINGTON VILLAGE CHRISTMAS



SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER

5 pm Christingle Service at St Nicholas Church

Followed by the lighting of the Cherington Christmas Tree on the Green (approximately 5.45 pm)

And aftercarols, drinks and mince pies in the Village Hall

Do join us to start our village celebrations

We have made it early so our youngsters can come before bedtime and the grown ups before supper !



CHERINGTON CHRISTMAS 2015

DATES:-

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER:- Carol Service 5 p.m. St Nicholas Church followed by Drinks Village Hall.

THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER :- Christmas Eve Service 10 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY :- Family Service 9.30 a.m.

REMEMBER TOO :-

*CHERINGTON CHRISTMAS FAIR TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER TOAD HALL ,
TRULL FARM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.*

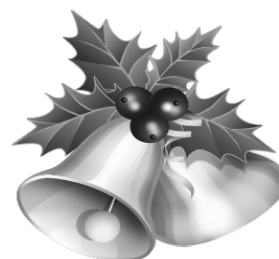
HOLY CROSS CHURCH, AVENING

Christmas Events and Services

- December 13th:** **Children's Christmas party 3-00 to 5-00pm**
(With entertainment and a visit by Father Christmas)
- December 20th** **Candlelit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 7-00 pm.**
- December 24th** **Crib Service 4-00 pm.**
Midnight mass 11-30 pm.
- December 25th** **Christmas Communion 11-00am**
- December 27th** **Joint Benefice service in St Mary's Church, Tetbury 10-30am**



THE ANNUAL CHURCH CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY



All village children aged up to 11 years
ON DECEMBER 13th from 3-00 to 5-00pm.

We are expecting a visit from Father Christmas
and have booked an entertainer as last year.

If your children would like to come please email names and ages to derrick.pierce@hotmail.com (please put PARTY in the subject line) we can then make sure that Father Christmas brings a gift for each child.

Please bring a plate of food to share

How long can a cat live up a tree....?

Some of you may know that we lost our cat, Smudge, a couple of weeks ago. We wanted to let everyone know that we found him - if you're not a big fan of cats, you might not want to read on as this is definitely a cat story. (If/when we get a dog I'll try and balance the storybooks.)



Typically, we found Smudge the same day I sent the email saying we'd lost him. Even more 'typical' - he was up the tree where we'd been told he was last seen! In our defence, the suggestion was that the dogs that chased him up there would have let us know if he had remained. Apparently they were sufficiently disinterested not to bother.

Knowing I would feel terrible if I didn't at least check I went out one night about 11pm. It was a still night and my chances of hearing him (and him me) seemed good so I set off with a familiar-sounding bag of treats in the direction of the aforementioned tree, rattling the bag as I went. It wasn't very long before I heard his cry and the rescue mission began...

Even two ladders (about 8m) weren't anywhere near to reaching the branch he was on. I was able to climb an extra metre or so into the tree and, while this encouraged him to come down to a lower limb, with one arm at full stretch I could still only just meet his paw. There was a bittersweet moment when we were both desperately trying to reach one another and our 'fingertips' touched!

We tried the local police (hoping for the fire brigade) and they suggested the RSPCA, who said they couldn't help an animal unless it was injured and suggested we call the police. Sensing a pattern we gave up. In the end we were glad as it felt like we would be wasting valuable resources on a much valued, but not so valuable, cat! So, we pressed on...

We grabbed his basket and set up a rudimentary rope system to keep the thing stable while I clambered about. I scaled the ladder and climbed back into the tree, threw some treats into his basket and thrust the thing as high up to him as I could muster with my free arm. After far less hesitation than was expected he gingerly stepped in and I was able to swing the door shut and lock it. With a bit of huffing and puffing and a modicum of rope work I was able to climb out of the tree and back down the ladder with one very happy puss.

And so to the question at hand... We suspect he was up there for around 8 days, at times in quite chilly conditions! He was very skinny and probably lost about a kilogram but he's looking pretty happy again now. So if you do lose yours then don't give up hope and do go and look, especially where he was last seen!

Conrad Goodenough

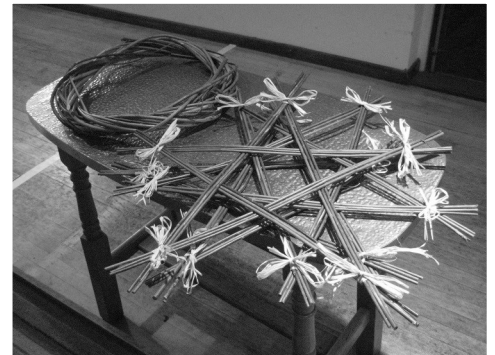
Avening W.I.



November is the time for our AGM when we reviewed a very successful year for our branch. It has been a particularly busy year with all the events celebrating the centenary of the W.I. We have involved ourselves in lots of activities. The recent craft session making woven willow Christmas decorations followed by a day making dresses out of pillowcases for girls in Africa were very popular. The dresses

made were delightful considering the material used.

The fun quiz was, as usual, well supported by members and the villagers of Avening. Some of the proceeds will be sent to the Shelter Box Charity. Thanks go to Shirley Hand and her family who not only set, ask and mark the questions but provide the delicious supper.



By the time readers have seen this we will have had our annual Christmas shopping trip. We returned to Cardiff this year by popular demand.

We reached the final of the County Plate skittles competition by a tiny margin when we played Marle Hill W.I. We are hoping our luck will hold for the last match.

Our speaker for our November meeting was Tim Mayo from Warmley, a keen participant of amateur dramatics. The title of his talk was 'there is nothing like a dame'. His talk was hilarious and throughout he was making up his face and dressing up as a pantomime dame. The members were so impressed that we might take a visit to watch Cinderella, his next production, in which he stars as well as being director.



Next on the agenda for the members are the Christmas Concert, Christmas lunch and party.

We always welcome new members and visitors so if you are interested in joining please just turn up to one of our meetings at 7.30 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Gwyneth Simpson



Avening School

Lights, Camera and - Action!

It's Christmas Showtime at Avening School and the corridors are alive with the sound of singing as rehearsals get under way and staff unearth the costume box from the loft. This year, the reception and KS1 children will be performing ***The Christmas Café*** while KS2 get to grips with many of Shakespeare's plays in ***Shakespeare Rocks***. Both performances will take place in the last week of term.

Rehearsals are taking place for the annual Young Voices concert in January. Performing at the Birmingham NEC, our Young Voices choir will perform a wide variety of songs, including a transport medley, a Madness medley, The Lightning Tree and, the children's favourite, pop medley. Another performance the whole school is looking forward to is this year's pantomime trip to Bristol Old Vic to watch Sleeping Beauty.

Last month saw the introduction of **Fledglings** to our school. **Fledglings** is an opportunity for pre-school children from 0-4 years old to come along with their parents/carers and take part in a range of activities, led and supported by members of our Early Years team. For more information on this please contact the School office on 01453 833191.

The weather may have been gloomy recently, but nothing dampens the spirits of our football and tag rugby players who have been taking part in tournaments over the past few weeks and representing the school brilliantly with their enthusiasm, fantastic attitudes and skill. We are also delighted to announce that we have a brand new football kit thanks to the generosity of **AutoBodytech/ Servicetech** in Nailsworth who have sponsored the team. The kit saw its first



outing in November, when the football team came third out of eighteen teams in the Cirencester district – an amazing result for our small school!

Last month, the school had a well-being week which covered everything from keeping safe on the internet- to- anti-bullying- to -healthy eating. As part of this special week, parents were invited in to have lunch with their children and got to

sample the delicious food served by the lunchtime staff.

We now have a 'Sports organising crew' in school known as SPOC which is made up of pupils from the Owls Class and is an opportunity to promote sports activities throughout the school as well as encourage children to get active.

As the end of term draws near, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the school throughout this year. Whether you have helped in school, attended one of our FOAS events, donated books to the library or even just read our articles, thank you whole heartedly for your support. We look forward to the year ahead.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Avening School.

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

Alex Adcock

If you are interested in finding out more about our school please take a regular look at our website (www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk) which is updated often. In particular take a look at the interesting introduction to all our staff – with pictures courtesy of the children!

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TOWN HALL NAILSWORTH

Avening Playing Fields - UPDATE

Work is ongoing to give a thorough overhaul to the playing fields and equipment. The existing timber play equipment is at the end of its serviceable life and the Parish Council and us have exciting plans for replacements. However we are slightly delayed due to funding and, although funds are out there, it is not that easy to extract the sums that we require.... The Parish Council has been very supportive and we are moving forwards in the correct manner with their guidance and encouragement. In the meantime, we are working to keep the existing play equipment safe, sometimes involving taking bits of it out of service for a time. Sorry - it will all be worth the wait when new equipment is installed.

If you have any queries, do please contact one of the committee: Jon Glover, Nicholas Winkfield, Paul Hancock, Chris Turner, Matt Withington, Steve Harris



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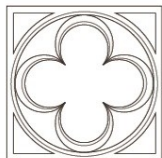
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AVENING PLAYGROUP'S



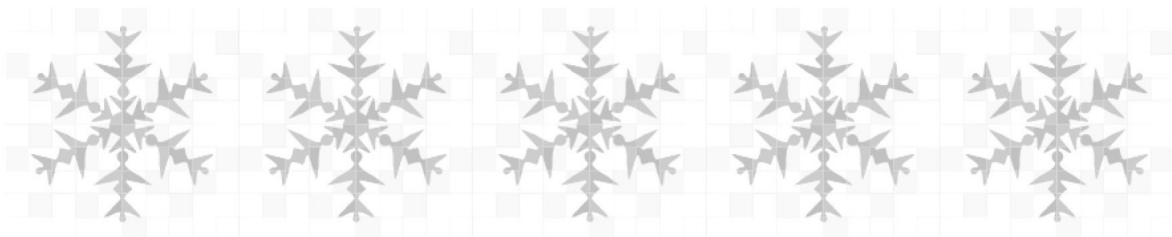
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

2 - 4PM

AVENING MEMORIAL HALL

**COME AND MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS, WIN FABULOUS
PRIZES, EAT MINCE PIES AND WARM UP WITH SOME
MULLED WINE....**



Avening Playgroup

The month of November has been a busy one for playgroup.

The children have enjoyed painting firework pictures and making 3-D rockets as part of learning about Bonfire Night. They have enjoyed activities based on the Hindu festival of Divali and particularly enjoyed making Divali sweets and dancing to Bollywood music. Our older children have been taking part in lots of early number activities and are practising counting slowly and carefully.

On 13th November we were all very excited to have Batman and Robin call to see



us from the BBC who were running from Malmesbury to Gloucester to raise money for Children in Need. The children came to playgroup dressed in fancy dress clothes to raise money. We were joined by some children from Avening School, some parents and a few villagers to cheer them on. They interviewed some adults and children during a live radio broadcast and Robin referred to one of our children as his favourite superhero of

the day on TV in the evening broadcast!

Our fantastic Committee are working really hard to make our two main Fund raising events in December a success.

The Christmas Bazaar is on December 5th between 2pm and 4pm in the village Hall. Father Christmas will be coming and also touring the village between 5pm and 7pm on Sunday 13th December. Proceeds from the float will be divided between playgroup and Cancer Research. Please support us if you can, we would really appreciate it and we would like to thank Autobodytech for providing the float.

Unfortunately, The Rag Bag scheme is no longer operating in our area. Thank you to everyone who donated clothing to the bank.

If you have pre-school child and would like to join us please phone Playgroup any morning or Tuesday or Thursday afternoon on 01453 832695.

We are open from 9.15 to 12.15 each day apart from a Thursday when we will be open from 9 to 3. We run a lunch club on some mornings until 1.15 depending on parent demand, and a parent and toddler group on a Tuesday afternoon from 1.30 to 3. Ring us on 01453 832695 for more details.

On behalf of everyone at playgroup we wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Debbie Brown

100 Years Ago

World War 1: Avening's War

October 1915

The Battle of Loos, (*pronounced "Loss"*) starting the 5th of October, claimed two of Avening's men in the first two days. This battle hoped to stop what seemed to have been an inevitable decline into Trench Warfare. Charles Fletcher and Charles Smith were lost in those two days, both declared "Missing" and neither having a positive grave.

It was ordered that a further final "Big Push" take place to remove the Germans from their new line but, again, the gas came back into our own lines and the artillery used to weaken the enemy's wire proved ineffectual.

The 10th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, having been rested a few days, was moved back into the front lines, having been reinforced, those reinforcements including Samuel Fletcher. On the first day of this second attack, the Battalion lost 150 men, killed, wounded or missing, one of whom was Sam. By nightfall the remainder of the Battalion was ordered to retreat to their original lines of the 1st of October, bearing huge casualties, including those from Avening. All three are remembered on the Loos Memorial as they have no known grave.

Samuel was born in Avening on the 17th of January 1889 and started at our village school at the age of five. He had six elder brothers and sisters and one of these brothers or sisters would have walked with him from their home at Longmans Barn Farm to his first day at school. The family had moved after 1901 to a cottage in Woodstock. On leaving school, (around 1903) after several employers he finally re-located to South Wales in 1911, working as a Coal Mine Timber Man.

His father died in 1912, still at Woodstock and his mother lived on until 1924. It may have been his father's death which encouraged his return to Avening. His mother would have received Samuel's three medals - the 1915 Star, Victory Medal and Peace Medal.

He was unmarried and we have been unable to find any living relative.

Fred Vening

There is still conjecture about the family living at Longmans Barn Farm. I will report later.

We must thank Ann Brick for "finding him" in the 1911 census for South Wales.

Avening Village Shop Steering Committee

We have held 4 meetings where we first laid out what the requirements for a village shop site, which included power, security and services. Then a number of possible sites were listed and a committee member contacted the person that may be concerned with the potential site to establish a possible interest. 6 sites were listed with ultimately 2 being considered as possibly viable.

By now we were into our third meeting and after taking advice from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council with a visit from Barbara Pond, their representative on forward planning, finance and staffing, we approached the two possibilities bearing in mind that we would have liked the shop sited centrally in the village. A meeting with Derek Ind at the Social Club proved to be reasonably positive with a possible area to place a shop with power being suggested there meeting most of the site requirements. A full discussion with the social club committee will have to be had to see if we can move forward.

Another point of discussion was the form the shop would take if we were successful in finding an acceptable site. A number of alternatives have been looked at in the temporary building area, all of which were constructed of wood, or alternatively some form of Portakabin, but this would be metal and not really suitable for our village. Added to this was the size of the building as it will need to incorporate a sales area, a store area and a trade counter. We have made an estimate of the minimum size building we would require which would fit into the proposed site and have looked at buildings that are available to meet the criteria.

Currently the position we are in is to discuss further with the Social Club what might be possible and start looking at funding which might entail costs in excess of £25,000 depending on availability of buildings and site work and this would not take into account items like stock, insurance and a security system. We have also looked at possible funding for this operation from various sources.

Finally we need a new secretary and possibly a further committee member so if you feel you could contribute in either capacity please contact me on 01453 833479.

David Bendall
Village Shop Steering Committee

Elsie's FGR Experience



On Halloween FGR played against Chester, a tough match. This was a very special game to me as some of the ambassadors got to walk out with the team. I was lucky enough to be one of them. When we were waiting I looked around the pitch and it looked completely different then all of a sudden out came the players. Jon Parkin was the captain and I walked out with number 24 Darren Carter. He asked me if they were going to win and of course I said yes. It must be like I'm a fortune teller because they did win. They won 2-1!

They have also recently qualified for and played in the first round of the FA cup where they won against Wimbledon away and are on their way to the second round of the FA cup where they will play either Braintree or Oxford. This is a great result and I hope many people are there to cheer them on through their FA Journey!

On Saturday 14th November they played against Dover Athletic a close game to call which was played at the New Lawn. Dover were starting strong but we managed to pull it back because our defence was powerful and didn't let a goal slip through their fingers for a long time even though all the ref's decisions were going Dover's side. What I find crazy is that Dover were basically playing the wrong game, yes they were playing rugby. All they were doing was rugby tackling FGR yet somehow the ref was saying it was Forest Green's fault. Crazy!

However, 38mins in Dover scored with what I thought was a lucky goal. Just slipped past the keeper. But after half time FGR were attacking more and James Jennings managed to score on 52mins and then Darren Carter managed to score another great goal on 57mins. Although, not everything was going as well as it seemed, Darren Jones got booked (yellow card) and then later got injured enough that Charlie Clough had to come on as a sub for him. But dark days can turn in to light when after 2 close shots, Elliot Frear scored to make it 3-1 on 70mins.

After that FGR made a couple of substitutions with Elliot Frear as man of the match. The brilliant score stayed the same and overall it was a great, thrilling and tense game to watch.

If you would like to come and watch the Rovers here are the upcoming games in December:

Saturday 5th away against Southport, Saturday 19th home against Boreham Wood, Saturday 26th against Torquay United Away and Monday 28th home against Kidderminster Harriers. I hope to see you there, cheering on the Rovers.

COME ON YOU ROVERS !!!!!

Elsie

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

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

My name is David Martin. I live in Nailsworth and I'm the local consultant for *Steele Rose & Co* - one of the UK's Premier Professional Home Visit Will Writers. After 22 years serving my country in the RAF, I have spent the last 28 years of my life professionally advising my clients on all personal financial matters and specialising in Wills.

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



David Martin

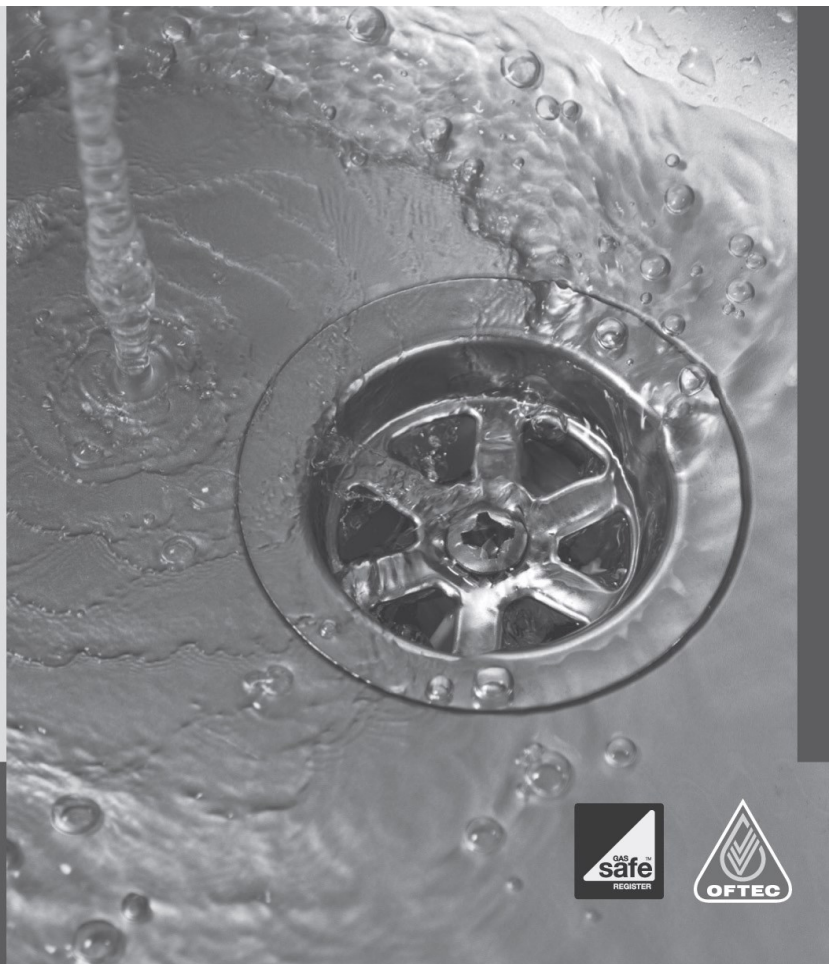
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A Farmer's Year on an Organic Farm

Farming has the ability to never produce the same thing 2 years on the trot. My farming year will start in October, as that is when we start planting crops for the following year. Having finished harvest we are aiming to plant the winter wheat before the end of the month. In a wet autumn it could well run into November but, with the good weather we seem to have in September in recent times, this has not been a problem.

This is not quite the same as a conventional farmer, who will be in a frantic rush during and after harvest to prepare land for new seeds. Having done this, he then has to add fertilizer and chemicals to maintain them through the winter. Oh, to be an organic farmer, where we plant the seed, and shut the gate until harvest the next year. Planning is done well in advance to give our crops their best chance, hopefully, but we are in the hands of the gods as to whether the crops grow well or not. With the winter crops in there is a chance to remember all the things that remain outstanding from the summer and we never found time to do.

Trull, where we farm, has about 100 acres of woodlands, which makes for a good pheasant shoot, which we have - on a large scale, but enjoyable for the people who come and take part. We are always working on the woodland to either thin out the young trees or take out some of the older trees, which are past their sell by date. These are converted into firewood, as there is no financial reward from woodlands. The main crop is Beech or Ash and there is no value to them as timber. It is also a good time to find out how many young or newly planted trees have survived the dry spring.

Late winter is the time we start doing the woodland work required. We aim to have this done early so that the regeneration has as much time to start growing as possible through the lighter months. We look to have warm woods for the wildlife by letting in light and creating good undergrowth. Hedge cutting will have been done by now. We like to cut our hedges each year to keep the hedge as thick as possible for the birds nesting. There is a view that hedges should only be cut every 3rd year as it is good for the birds, but I feel they become very open and do not give nesting birds much protection from the weather or the raptors.

We converted some time ago quite a few office units on the farm, and panic normally starts as soon as it gets cold as I have forgotten to have all the heat pumps checked over and someone is complaining about the cold. The heat pumps are great as they cope with the underfloor heating well and although the

electricity bills are not small, it is cheaper than oil and it makes me feel good about trying to be green.

Wintertime is also when I realise how much painting we have to do the following summer to all the office doors and windows. I am lucky that one of my tenants is a carpenter, who can replace timberwork that has gone too far. We normally have a policy of painting the doors and windows every 5 years but this is never easy, as some bright spark at the paint company has changed the paint colour a little, so it does not match.

I am also the snow warden for some of the roads around Cherington. This is a fun job if there is enough snow as you feel a real sense of achievement but... then there is the dilemma, if there are only a few inches. Do I go out and clear and leave an icy road or, leave it and hope it melts.

Come March we are drilling the spring crops, barley or oats. Some of the barley will be undersown to give us a well established grass ley for the winter. We have tried drilling grass seed in the late summer but it does not seem to have the same results as undersowing into an arable crop. There is also the stock fencing to be replaced or repaired. Some is done in the winter but to be honest, I don't enjoy standing in the open on a cold wet day, although it can be very satisfying on occasions, especially when I am sitting in front of the fire later in the day with my feet up.

During the spring and summer months, the grain is sold. We sell to a local flour company, which makes for better prices, as we save on the transport costs. Barley normally goes into the beer production system and oats goes to make biscuits. Having emptied the grain store it is time to clean it up before the next harvest but being organic, we can only use heat in the form of steam to kill off any bugs that might have been left behind, but this works well and does not contaminate the grain.

My neighbour's cattle are out in our fields again and it is a great sight to see the Angus cows with their calves at foot for the whole summer. They are also doing a great job on fertilising my arable fields, which are having a break for a few years while in grass.

Harvest is now approaching and as with the last few years the weather in August is not very reliable, starting so well and then the rain comes. This year we were trying to organise a charity clay shoot, which we always have at the end of August. It was not to be, as the rain kept coming, and a week before we had to cancel as crops were still standing in the fields we wanted for the shoot.

For once, it was the right decision as the combine arrived on the day of the shoot, to start combining. It was the first time we had cancelled the event in 16 years. A shame for all the people who had committed to supporting the charities and a lot of work trying to let them all know and returning their entry fees. The one good thing was, all bar one supplier for the clay shoot dropped any charges that could have been made, which was very supportive of them considering we were aiming to have 300 to lunch.

Now it is time to start all over again but next year will be different again with new challenges to get through. There will be people in power with no understanding of farming, who will tell us that we have to change our ways. Oh, the joys of living on the land. It is a great way to live and we normally find a way to all get on. I certainly would not want to do anything else, probably because I would not know how to.

Mike Mitchell

(thanks, Mike, for this interesting account - hope we hear more from you and the farming community! -Eds)

CONNECTING CARERS OFFERS FREE COMPUTER TUITION

Carers over the age of 50 living in Gloucestershire can now benefit from 8 hours of free one to one computer tuition in their own home or in a group setting, as part of a scheme set up by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council [GRCC]. The 'Connecting Carers' scheme which operates countywide, is also looking for people with computer experience who have a few hours to spare and would like to help with this one to one or group support.

There are an estimated 63,000 carers in Gloucestershire and many have little time for themselves. In some cases, they can feel isolated and socially excluded also. With the help of schemes like 'Connecting Carers', they will be able to access support, information and services from the comfort of their own homes, which may help to make them feel more connected, supported and in control.

If you would like more information about 'Connecting Carers', either to volunteer to provide training or to book a place on the scheme, call Matthew Keighley at GRCC on 01452 528491.

Laughter Yoga



It started when a girlfriend rang and said do you fancy doing some laughter yoga ? Yoga I know, Laughter I know, but laughter yoga ??

So there we were, a group of friends at our local village hall not knowing what to expect from this 4 week course, feeling slightly nervous, slightly embarrassed, but Caroline,

our Laughter Captain, was a wonderful teacher. She told us this type of yoga was made popular as an exercise routine by Indian physician Madan Kataria. In the mid-1990s, laughter yoga was practiced in the early mornings in open parks, primarily by groups of older people. Later, a more formal version was created and popularised as "Laughter Clubs". The concept rapidly spread worldwide, and now there are more than 8,000 Laughter Clubs in 100 countries.

We were told anyone can laugh without needing to rely on humour, jokes or comedy. Laughter is initially simulated as a physical exercise while maintaining eye contact with others in the group and promoting childlike playfulness. This soon leads to real and contagious laughter. It is the only technique to allow adults to achieve sustained hearty laughter without involving cognitive thought.

We started with gentle warm-up techniques which include stretching, chanting, clapping and body movements and then we started to practice laughing. I never knew there were so many types of laughter , and of course when we started we faked it butthen real laughter bubbled over. On our second session people reported back they had slept better after the session, had felt more cheerful generally, and had used it when feeling stressed.

We have one more session and we shall all be sad when it finishes but this was just a mini course and after this you can join a local laughter club. Trying to explain this is difficult and can appear to be a bit weird but if you have an opportunity to attend one have a go . You might enjoy it

Contact :- Caroline at www.CotswoldLaughterClub.co.uk

Kate Gegg

The Cherington Christmas Fair

Tuesday 8th December

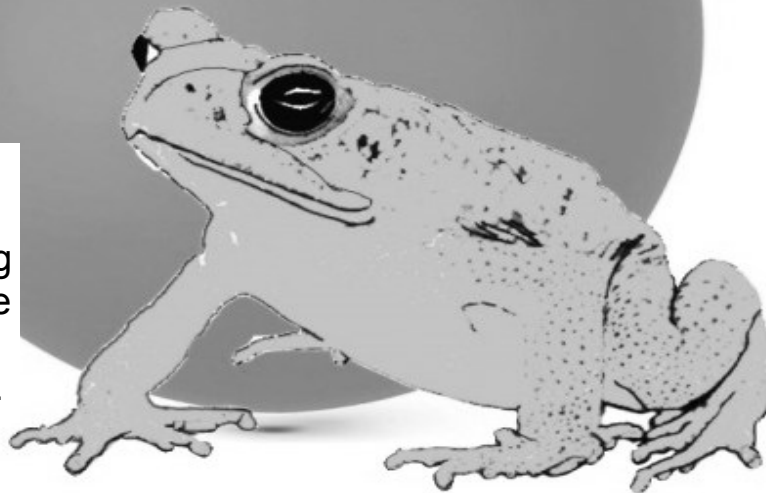
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Cinema Club

There will be no Cinema Club in December.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th January. Choices are still being made for the film which will be shown then

**SO COME ALONG ON THE 12TH AND ENJOY WHICHEVER FILM
CAPTURED MOST VOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS**

Dates for your diaries for the Film Club in 2016:

Tues 12th Jan; Tues 9th Feb; Tue 22nd Mar; Wed 20th Apr; Wed 18th May; Wed 15th June; Fri 15th July; Wed 21st Sept; Tues 11th Oct; Tues 8th Nov

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Avening Youth Club



Youth Club Team leaders presenting awards earlier this year

**The Youth Club meets
every Tuesday evening
in term time**

Avening Memorial Hall

6.15 to 7.45 pm

**Everyone aged 8—14
welcome!**

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Carol Singing in the Pubs

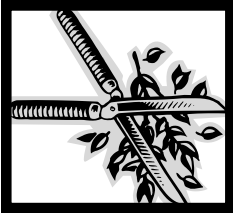


Joy to the World!

**Join Avening Angels for a Festive singalong on
Tuesday 22nd December**

7.45pm The Bell

8.45pm The Queen Matilda



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Down to Earth



Paper Whites

It's nice when a chance remark from a friend sets you on a journey. When my friend said: 'I was thinking of planting some Paper Whites at two weekly intervals,' my reaction revealed my ignorance. But I quickly remedied that and went home and ordered three bags of *narcissus papyraceus* (Paper Whites) from the online nursery, Crocus. These are bulbs that are not hardy outside in a British winter, hailing from the western Mediterranean. They can be planted up, in a pot, with tips at, or just below, the surface of the soil, kept moist in a cool, dark room for a couple of weeks, then brought into a lighter, warmer space, where they will go on to produce very fragrant flowers in around 6 -8 weeks. (Well, that's what I am hoping for!) Crocus gave me the

option of collecting my bulbs and as our planned autumn visit to Kew took us almost past the nursery, (between the M4 and M3, just south-east of Bracknell) I decided to call in. Despite being a mail order, online business, this is a real nursery which, since 2000 has built up a respectable clientele and reputation. My bulbs were waiting for me, in a simple brown cardboard box – no plastic wrapping or unnecessary packaging. The Crocus web-site is worth perusing. There is a great deal of gardening information there, presented in a very sensible, accessible manner. So, the gardener's task, when it's soggy and uninviting out of doors, is to follow up friends' tips – and learn, learn, learn, whether it be from books or – dare I say it – the (wretched) internet. There is so much information out there.

To walk around Kew Gardens on a rainy November day is to experience an intensity of light and colour that is exclusive to this season. We discovered new vistas and areas previously unfamiliar to us. As the leaves fall from the trees, one becomes aware of the extent of the buildings where all the scientific work at Kew takes place: the Jodrell building for research on plants of economic importance, genetic studies, medicinal applications including the discovery of anti-cancer and anti-diabetic properties; the herbarium for plant conservation, documentation and assessment; and education facilities. The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew is a world leader among botanic gardens and its wider work shouldn't be overlooked. There is also a very good shop, where I was able to do some Christmas shopping. All profits to conservation.

My Assistant Gardener took a liking to the new, Kew, Christmas tea-towel with a Poinsettia design; as he is the Head Dryer-Upper, we bought one. Poinsettias will soon be in the shops for Christmas.

Properly, the poinsettia is the *euphorbia pulcherrima* and the red parts are bracts, not flowers. These plants are not hardy; they resent draughts and low temperatures, nor do they like full-on sunshine. (In other words, *most* temperamental!) They would prefer you to keep them moist and misted rather than overwatered. Should you wish to keep these cheerful but fussy plants alive so that they perform for a second Christmas, the RHS web-site has detailed instructions on their care and requirements. (First requirement: skill!)



Lead urns and leaden skies at Powis Castle

I see that the BBC has a new series: The Secret History of the British Garden, presented by the ever-enthusiastic Monty Don. He communicates with passion and throws a new light on a familiar narrative in his inimitable style. Catch it on iplayer if you missed the broadcasts!

I am quite sure that Monty Don will include one of my favourite gardens in his 'secret history'. A visit to an elderly uncle in Wales took us so close to Powis Castle that we couldn't resist a quick walk on the terraces. I have seen this garden in all seasons but in the dying light of a mild November it is at its loveliest. Many flowers, still in bloom, were vying with the red, amber and golden leaves which were dancing through the air. If you haven't yet been to Powis, it should be on your list!

A merry *green* Christmas and a happy horticultural New Year to Everybody!

Marilyn Jones

AVENING MEMORIAL HALL

Launch of the new **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, 12 JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30 PM AT THE BELL

Come and tell us what you think of the improvements
and what you would like to see in the future !!

Avening Book Club



The next gathering of the book club will be on
Monday 7th December at 7.30 in The Bell.

The book to be discussed is **Elizabeth is Missing** by
Emma Healey.

All welcome.

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Diary of a Self-Build Part 12

As we approach the end of a whole year of building, there's no time to look back just yet. After two aspirational completion dates (August bank holiday, and Halloween) didn't quite materialise, we are now focussed on the prize – Shaun, James, Pav and Joe are all doing everything they can to get us over the finish line. We almost had to stop at the end of October as the money was running out fast pending the completion of our house sale, but thanks to a generous family, we have been able to keep going. This phase is very expensive (but the most fun), as we are receiving and installing all of the things that we have chosen over many months, that we will see and touch every day.

The last few weeks have been very busy – the first fix plumbing has been completed, and the huge hot water tank installed. We had a couple of exciting moments, but they were soon mopped up! Plastering is now almost complete, and a dehumidifier is helping to dry it more quickly in readiness for the painter to follow on. Another couple of days in December will finish it. Painting is all done on the top floor, and we have even been choosing carpets. Tiling in the bathrooms is all done, toilets installed, and showers ready to see some action.



Most importantly, we now have our stairs. They are fitted in the opposite direction to the temporary stairs, so Alfie is thoroughly confused! The first time using the open tread, cantilevered steps was a bit scary, but they let the light right through to the back of the house as we hoped.

We had one big problem – the chimney, built through our flat roof, is 3 inches from where it needs to be. This will mean cutting a new hole in the fibreglass, which we won't be able to properly seal until the spring - very disappointing, as we were looking forward to lighting our beautiful log burner now that winter has finally arrived.

The coming weeks will see the electrics go live (no more extension leads trailing everywhere); wood floor finished, and carpets laid; glass balustrades fitted; decoration finished; heat recovery system working, and (at last) a proper front door.

We are still planning to be in for Christmas!

Tony and Mandy Slater



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Congratulations!



Julie and Derek Vickery celebrated 50 years of marriage on the 20th November.

They have lived in the village for almost all of those years!! And they have raised 6 children here, and helped raise 15 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Julie and Derek have been very active over the years, and have put their hearts and souls into the community of Avening.

They celebrated this special occasion with a tea party held on Friday afternoon in the village hall, where tea, sandwiches and cakes were served to friends of Julie and Derek (lovingly) by their children and grandchildren. Music was playing, stories were being shared and old wedding pictures were being shown - we even popped the champagne for a toast.



On Saturday we held a disco in the Social Club. We danced, drank and partied till the early hours making sure Julie and Derek really did have a weekend to remember.

On behalf of all the Vickery 'clan' we would like to thank everyone who helped us celebrate.

On a more personal note, can we take this opportunity to say thank you to Mum and Dad. "We love you - and hope you enjoyed your weekend!"

"The Vickerys"

(Thanks to Grace Delnevo for the photos!)

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Cherington Parish Council

Chalara Dieback in Ash

Chalara dieback of ash has now been confirmed in at least 7 locations across the Cotswolds AONB and in several locations around the AONB. No exact location is given, but the interactive map on the Forestry Commission website identifies 10km squares where the disease has been confirmed: <http://chalaramap.fera.defra.gov.uk/>

Chalara dieback of ash is a disease of ash trees caused by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea*.

The disease causes loss of leaves, dieback of the crown of the tree and normally leads to tree death. Infection is via wind-blown spores from fruit bodies on fallen leaves and shoots, produced the year following infection between June and October.

The impact of Chalara dieback is likely to be considerable as ash is such a prevalent tree in the Cotswolds

Whilst the risk of spread by clothing and footwear is thought to be low, it is important that biosecurity measures are put in place to minimise the risk of spreading the disease.

- Do not remove any plant material (sticks, leaves or cuttings) from woodland / countryside
- Clean footwear, outerwear and tools and equipment regularly; ensure they are visually free from soil and organic debris, particularly when going to visit another part of the Cotswolds and especially if you have been to other areas of the country where the disease is present.

For further information, please visit the Forestry Commission's Chalara website: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara>

This page includes guides and videos to identify the disease and a link to reporting suspected cases of Chalara: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/treealert>

GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN – (2015-2031) Have your say!

The draft local transport plan sets out updated transport policies and priorities for the County Council's long term approach to managing transport across the county. Copies of the draft plan can be found on line, in public libraries and at county and district council offices. The consultation will take place from November 20th 2015 to February 5th 2016.

Cotswold District Council Local Plan

The second half of the draft local plan is now out to consultation. Please go to the District Council's website at www.cotswold.gov.uk to see the draft plan. If you'd like to comment you have until 21st December to respond. Any queries please ring 01285 623000 or email localplan@cotswold.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Tuesday January 12th 2016 at Toad Hall, Trull Farm, Trull.

All residents of the Parish are welcome to attend parish meetings. There is 15 minutes of public time at the start of each meeting where you can bring up any issues.

If you have any concerns, issues, queries or comments you would like to make relating to the Parish then please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk

Frances Ashfield on 01453 767384

or via email at cheringtonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

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Avening Parish Council



PLANNING

Decision Notices

15/02091/FUL 25 Tetbury Hill Avening Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8 8LT

Replacement of existing side extension with two storey extension to north-west elevation, erection of porch to south-east elevation, installation of dormer windows and landscaping works

Permitted 13 November 2015

Tree Works

15/04886/TCONR 11A High Street Avening Gloucestershire

Hazel – remove Permitted 5 November 2015

HAVE YOUR SAY! COTSWOLD DISTRICT – EMERGING LOCAL PLAN POLICIES

www.cotswold.gov.uk

6 November – 21 December 2015

FUNDED PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONSULTATION EVENING EVENTS

Stroud Subscription Rooms - Tuesday 1st December 18:30 – 20:30

Cirencester Bingham Gallery - Wednesday 2nd December 18:30 – 20:30

Proposals for Service 29 Stroud to Tetbury

Option 1 - No change on Monday to Friday but fewer buses on Saturdays, when there is less demand for transport.

Option 2 - Combine with 28 to ensure journeys for schools and workers are maintained along with journeys for essential shopping and GP surgeries. Fewer buses on Saturdays. All communities served now will still be served, though some less often.

If you would like to comment please email: consultations@gloucestershire.gov.uk or respond on the website: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Publication of the Report into the Independent Examination of the Submission Stroud District Local Plan www.stroud.gov.uk/localplanreport

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Will be held on Thursday, 17 December 2015 at 7.30 pm in the

Chamberlain Room at the Memorial Hall - **EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

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

The members of Avening Church Council and the Churchwardens would like to thank everyone who helped in any way at both the Ceilidh and the Coffee morning. A great time was had by all at both events



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Church Services in Avening & Cherington in December

6th December		Cherington	NO SERVICE
	11.00am	Avening	HOLY communion CW)
13th December	9.30am	Cherington	Holy Communion
	10.45	Avening	HOLY communion CW)
20th December	5.00pm	Cherington	Carol Service
	7.00pm	Avening	Carol Service
24th December	4.00pm	AVENING	Crib Service
	10.00pm	CHERINGTON	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.30pm	AVENING	Midnight Mass
25th December	9.30 am	Cherington	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.00am	Avening	Holy Communion (CW)
27th December	10.30am	St. Mary's TETBURY	Joint benefice Eucharist

January Services: Please see church newsletters and websites to confirm times

Everyone is welcome to the family service in Avening Church. This is normally held on the last Sunday of each month and is designed to be a family friendly non Communion service lasting about 45 minutes followed by tea, coffee, soft drinks and, of course, biscuits, giving a chance to meet together and still get away from church soon after 12 noon.

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Telephone 01453 350305 Website: queenmatildatavern.co.uk



Church Floodlighting

In November the church was floodlit to mark the following:
26th In loving memory of Mark Townsend from all his family

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

The cost is £5.00 for 2 hours

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Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 5th December	Avening Playgroup Christmas Bazaar	Memorial Hall	2.00- 4.00pm
Saturday 5th December	Christingle Service followed by Christmas Tree Lights on the Green, Cherington	St Nicholas Cherington	5.00pm 5.45pm
Tuesday 8th December	Cherington Christmas Fair	Toad Hall (Trull Farm)	10.00am- 4.00pm
Sunday 13th December	Church Children's Christmas Party	Holy Cross Avening	3.00- 5.00pm
Thursday 17th December	Avening Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 22nd December	Carol Singing	The Bell The Queen Matilda	7.45pm 8.45pm
Tuesday 12th January	Launch of new management committee Avening Memorial Hall	The Bell Avening	7.30pm
Tuesday 12th January	Cherington Parish Council Meeting	Toad Hall (Trull Farm)	6.30pm
Tuesday 12th January	Cinema Club	Social Club	7.30pm

Waste collection arrangements for the forthcoming Christmas and New Year period in Cotswold District:

Friday 25 December will move to Monday 28 December 2015

Friday 1 January will move Monday 4 January 2016

Friday 8 January will move to Saturday 9 January 2016

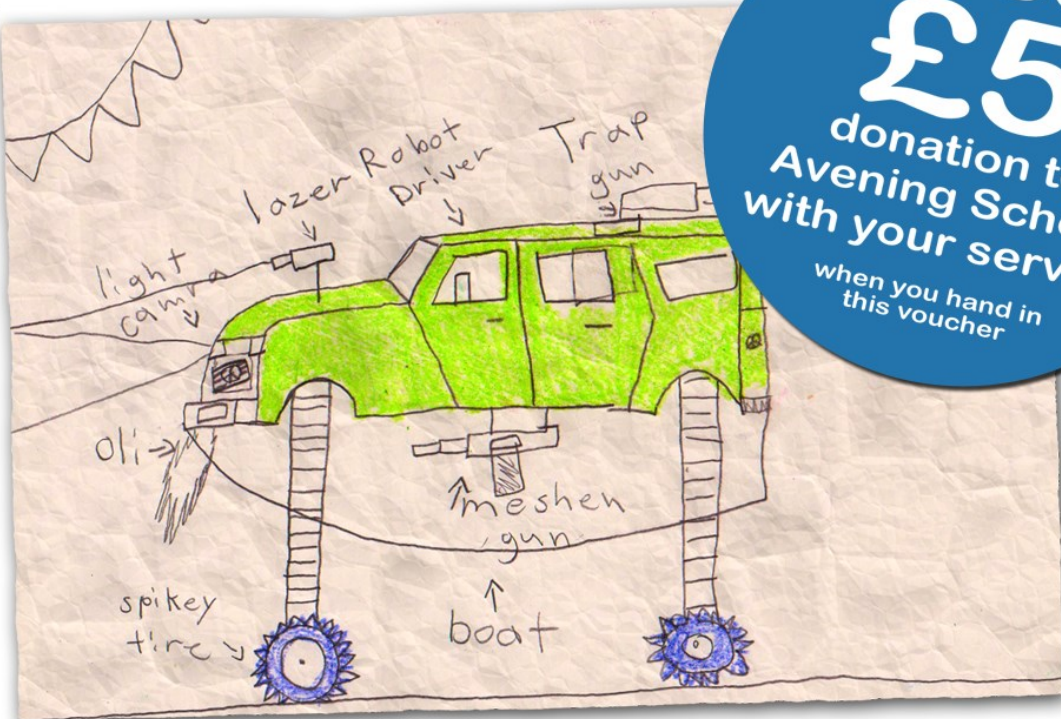


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