

# The Villager

A Magazine for Avening, Cherington  
and Nags Head

March 2016



Spring is Here!

*editors@acvillager.co.uk*



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# March 2016

In this month's magazine there seems to be a lot of looking forward. On the next page you will see an advertisement for the summer fete which begins "looking forward to summer"; Reverend Poppy's letter begins "are you ready for Mothering Sunday; Avening School are getting ready to go outside to prepare for spring; and of course Elsie is looking forward to watching her favourite football team, Forest Green Rovers, play their next matches.

Your editors have also been looking forward, as for some time we have been trying to find someone to take on the regular Village People slot in the Mag and we hope that by next month we will be able to announce that we have found someone and that their first report will be included in the April magazine.

If you have any ideas for items for inclusion in The Villager, then please let us know. It may be something that you have done yourself or an idea that perhaps we can get our 'teeth into'; just contact us at the usual address [editors@acvillager.co.uk](mailto:editors@acvillager.co.uk). Don't be surprised if you don't get an immediate response as we are not continually monitoring this address but we do about once a week and then almost hourly as we get towards publication date.

We wish you all a happy and, let us hope, sunny summer.

*The Villager Editors*

## The Villager Magazine

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<b>Deadline</b>	<b>18th of each month</b>

## Photographs in The Villager Magazine

Many thanks to **Tony Slater** 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](mailto:editors@acvillager.co.uk)**



## Come and learn to play Golf with us

Following the hugely successful Golf Taster Programme last year, Minchinhampton Golf Club is once again offering Free Golf Taster Lessons and informal introductions to golf for budding golfers both male and female.

Starting in March, lessons will take place in groups of 6 with PGA Professional Rob Ralph, who is excellent at encouraging players to achieve their full potential.

Contact William Lee on 01453 833866 or [w.lee@mgcnew.co.uk](mailto:w.lee@mgcnew.co.uk) for more details and to book your place for 2016. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Minchinhampton Golf Club, Minchinhampton, Stroud, Glos. GL6 9BE  
[www.minchinhamptongolfclub.co.uk](http://www.minchinhamptongolfclub.co.uk)

## Looking Forward to Summer?



Don't forget Avening Fete, Arts & Craft show, famous Avening Duck Races, Dog show, etc. etc.  
it all happens on June 12<sup>th</sup> this year

For details of stalls and offers of help contact Stephanie email [stephanie2432@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stephanie2432@hotmail.co.uk)

To book a table for arts and crafts contact Doreen 01453 835090 or email [derrick.pierce@hotmail.com](mailto:derrick.pierce@hotmail.com)





# 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 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](http://avening-pc.gov)**

**Avening Church [www.aveningchurch.info](http://www.aveningchurch.info)**

**Cherington Village [www.timeldridge.typepad.com](http://www.timeldridge.typepad.com)**

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

# Letter From Avening Parish Council Leader



We have had a pleasing amount of interest on the vacancy for a new Parish Clerk – if you have been thinking about applying, don't delay, as the closing date for applicants is 15<sup>th</sup> March. Full details are available from our current clerk, or on the website.

During half term week, there has been a lot of activity in the hall to ensure it remains a safe environment for users – two decayed lintels have been replaced in the Chamberlain room, and Gloucestershire County Council (who are responsible for this area), have removed some asbestos from the school kitchen. The newly elected hall committee will now take back responsibility for day to day management, improvements, and maintenance from the Parish Council which has been looking after the hall for the last year or so.

Crime in Avening is historically pretty low – we still have a steady rate of niggling issues such as break-ins to out-buildings and sheds, and a small number of petty crimes, but there are also hidden issues that tend to be technology related. I have a simple rule for emails, especially those that purport to come from businesses, if it doesn't address me by name and have other personal details it is unlikely to be genuine. NEVER click on any link or attachment that you are not entirely happy is genuine – it is always better to go directly to a website, and navigate from there. That said, I recently received an email from a friend referring me to a document, but something about it didn't seem right – it wasn't his usual language or tone, so I replied asking for clarification. I had a reply, but it still didn't seem right, and it was eventually confirmed that he had been the victim of an email hack! Much work was then needed to change passwords to avoid further problems.

Just as you need to be aware of risks to physical property and secure your possessions, it is equally important (but perhaps more difficult) to secure your virtual world – be careful; and be suspicious of anyone who wants to know your business. These data crimes don't appear on the police statistics for the village, but I am sure there will be many more victims here than physical crime – and they can be much more difficult and sometimes costly to resolve.

***Tony Slater, Chairman,  
Avening Parish Council***



# Letter from the Parish Priest



Are you ready for Mothering Sunday?

It's a wonderful opportunity to say thank you ... to our mothers and for everyone who has helped "mother" us over the years. Speaking personally, I have a wonderful mum who has been a great role model and given me unconditional love. She's always believed in me too ... although perhaps not quite as much as Picasso's mum? He once wrote: "My mother said to me, 'If you are a soldier, you will become a general. If you are a monk, you will become the Pope. Instead I was a painter, and became Picasso.'"

We'll have our special Mothering Sunday services at 9.30am at St Nicholas, Cherington, and then 11am at Holy Cross here in Avening, with posies and a piece of Simnel cake to collect for your mum. Do come and join us.

At the end of March we come to Holy Week leading to Easter, and we take this chance to share in services across our six parishes. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (20<sup>th</sup> March), with our usual services in Cherington and Avening. Then, each evening, our 7pm services go from village to village in our benefices, providing times of quiet reflection and prayer: on Sunday in Long Newnton with Stations of the Cross; Monday in Beverston with lessons and carols for Holy week; Stations of the Cross again on Tuesday in Avening; and on Wednesday in Cherington with a Taizé service. Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March is Maundy Thursday, when we remember the Last Supper at a special service together at 7pm at St Marys' Tetbury. Then on Good Friday, we follow Jesus' journey to his death and burial. We join as Churches Together in the Tetbury Area for the Procession of Witness at 11am, starting at the Gospel Hall in Hampton Street in Tetbury, followed by our Tenebrae Service at Holy Cross at 2pm. Finally, at St John the Baptist in Shipton Moyne that evening (7pm), we share in a service specially written for us by The Right Revd Michael Perham, former Bishop of Gloucester, to mark the burial of Jesus.

What a joy it will be to then celebrate Easter, and Jesus rising again. We start as we light our "Easter Fire" outside St Marys' Tetbury on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 9pm. This is followed by a wonderful Easter service which moves from darkness to light ... and finishing up outside again with lots of bells and fireworks. So do join us then – or for our services on Easter morning in Cherington at 9.30am and Avening at 11am followed by our riotous Easter Egg Hunt all around the church. Not to be missed!

By the way, Mothering Sunday is Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March – don't forget now.

With love and prayers,

**Poppy, Parish Priest**

# Jeannie Pargeter

## 1929 — 2016

Many glowing tributes have been paid to Jeanne Pargeter, a popular cornerstone of village life, who died at her home, Longmans Barn Farm, Avening, on 8<sup>th</sup> January, at the age of 86.

She was born in Gloucester on October 13<sup>th</sup> 1929 and grew up in the city. However she found her calling in life, and her husband, John, at agricultural college in Usk. John hailed from Tump in Edge, near Painswick, but after their marriage they made their home in Avening in 1954.

With a farm, a thriving haulage business to run and three daughters to bring up, time was precious for them both. However after John died in 2004 Jeanne's life as his wife was over, and she threw herself into local clubs and societies, where she was loved and valued for her contributions and warm personality.

The church always played a vital role in her life and she was a regular and devoted member of the congregation at Holy Cross Church in Avening, where she served as sides person, sacristan and member of the flower team for many years.

On hearing that Avening Art Group needed a venue she offered to host the group at Longmans. Encouraged to have a go, in spite of her protestations that she couldn't paint, right from her first attempt, Jeanne proceeded to produce beautiful, meticulously executed pastel pictures. Whatever the subject, her versatile work was characterised by her excellent eye, incredible attention to detail and her constant quest for perfection. But she was also a wonderful hostess, and all comers were welcomed with open arms by Jeanne and her little dog, Millie. The Art Group will really miss her warm and lively presence.

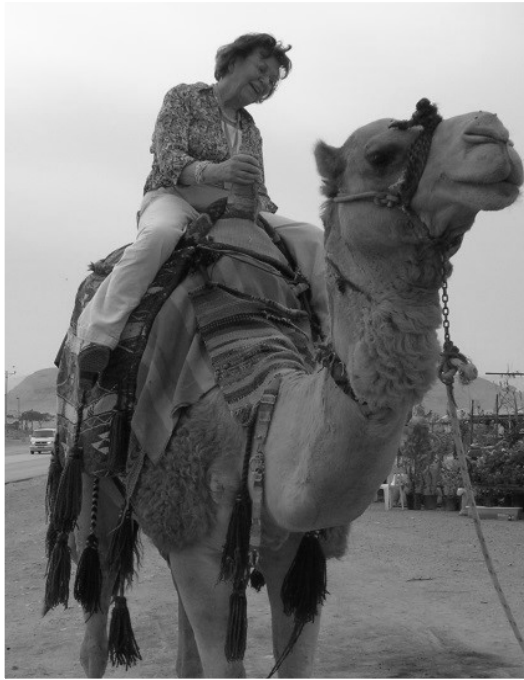
John and Pat Bingle from the Minchinhampton Garden club also paid tribute to their friend of 50 years saying "Jeanne loved socialising and entertaining, and often invited the members to her home, with bluebell walks through Hazel Wood, then back to Longmans for tea and cake. We have all lost a wonderful friend."

Yvonne Crew of the farmwomen's guild said "Jeanne loved being very involved and regularly hosted meetings at her home, where her warmth and hospitality were much appreciated. She was a dear friend for 55 years."

Jeanne was also an accomplished ballroom dancer, attending classes at the Britannia Dance Studio in Cainscross, where she won many medals and awards.

A few years ago Jeanne's wish to share her beautiful home and garden, in its glorious setting, led to her launching her popular Musical Garden Parties,





*Whilst on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2009 Jeanne could not resist a paddle in the Sea of Galilee and a ride on a camel.*

where a picnic lunch was followed by an afternoon of entertainment by the Avening Angels Choir and other local musicians. These also raised good sums for local charities as well as being most enjoyable.

Jeanne loved her family above all and leaves three daughters, Ruth, Sarah and Priscilla, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

“She loved people and entertaining them,” said Sarah, “Mum and Dad spent their lives together, and when he died it was very hard for her, not having him there, but, after some difficult years, she made the most of her life again.”

Priscilla added, “She made so many friends, and her faith and her family were so important to her.”

The packed church at her memorial service on February 6<sup>th</sup> bore witness to her immense popularity, as relatives and friends from far and wide gathered to celebrate her life.

Jeanne had a wonderful capacity to make everyone feel so welcome and at home at Longmans. Her vibrant personality was a light shining on all and she illuminated so many lives with her love, warmth and enthusiasm.

She will be sadly missed by so many people, especially those who were lucky enough to be her friends.

***Gillian Bulmer-Davison***

# THANK YOU AVENING

Just a little note from us all to say a sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to the thanksgiving service for the life of our mum, Jeannie Pargeter, on February the 6th. There are too many people to mention by name and we are sorry that we did not manage to speak to everyone individually but it was truly inspiring to see so many people, from Avening and from near and far, paying tribute to Mum's life in Avening.

Thank you also to all Avening people, past and present, who knew Mum (and Dad) over the 62 years that they lived at Longmans. We hope, like us, that you will have happy memories of Mum and that you, like she, will enjoy and support future friendships in the Avening community which she loved.

THANK YOU!

*With best wishes Ruth, Sarah, Priscilla and our families.*

## **A Bite to Eat?**

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

Avening WI 'Bite to Eat' scheme may be able to assist with your catering needs.

We can provide and serve a selection of freshly prepared sandwiches, scones, cakes etc; a fork or finger buffet; or a two course meal.

**For prices and any further details :**  
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TH

# Coffee Shop

## MARY'S COFFEE MORNING

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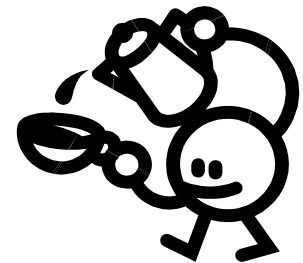
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**Cherington Village Hall  
Wednesday 6th April**



# Avening School

## Ready to get outdoors and welcome Spring!

Half term started on a very happy note last month as we had a very special visitor in School just days before breaking up. HMI on behalf of Ofsted spent the day in School, giving us the opportunity to showcase everything that makes our School special. Although we have to wait a few weeks for the details of the inspection, the initial response was extremely positive. One child summed up our School perfectly when she announced to the inspector that **'Avening is a small school with a big welcome.'**

As the weather starts to change and the learning garden shows signs of Spring, our Forest School sessions begin again in this second half of term with Fireside Forest School encouraging our pupils to explore and get creative outdoors.

Our School Council decided that the last day of school before half term break should be a non-uniform day to raise money to pay for a mosaic to hang outside the school. As a Council they decided to have a pyjama and bad hair



theme which would explain why there were lots of dishevelled looking children walking into to school that day! The teachers didn't disappoint and joined in with the fun with Ms McKenzie sporting a very fetching pink wig! We raised £75 on the day towards the mosaic which the children are helping to design.



The half term also ended with a fantastic presentation from the Kestrels class (Y1/2), who performed highlights from their class topic 'I like to move it'. Parents gathered to watch a fabulous medley of dance, storytelling and music provided by the children on various instruments and left knowing a lot more about healthy living and science than they did when they arrived!

World Book Day plans are taking shape with children voting for their favourite author to be announced at a special assembly during World- Book -Day week. There will also be bedtime story-time, library share and learn sessions, a parents coffee morning and book swap and many other ideas in the pipeline.

FOAS have had their first meeting of the year and are looking forward to hosting their own Music Night in May with a highly anticipated performance by The Grey Earls. They are also planning a Village Bear hunt in June. Watch this space for more details.

*If you are interested in finding out more about our school please take a regular look at our website ([www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk](http://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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## Avening W.I.

We had a very good attendance at our February meeting where we also welcomed some new members.

Our speaker was Liz O'Dell who is a volunteer from the Shelter Box Charity. Liz brought along one of the shelter boxes, a green plastic trunk which contains everything a family of five would need in a disaster where they have lost their home. There would normally be a tent inside but as that weighs an extra 55kg Liz wisely left that out. The box was very heavy even without the tent and was filled with pots, pans, plates, utensils, torches, blankets, water containers and purification systems. Liz had been through an intensive training programme and had been sent at extremely short notice by the charity to disasters in Brazil, Columbia, Nepal and 4 in the Philippines. They can get the boxes to families within days. Liz was sent to Nepal 3 days after the recent earthquake and experienced numerous aftershocks herself. She had some very moving stories and photographs of the devastation. The charity works in conjunction with other organisations such as Red Cross and Save the Children so that all needs can be covered. We presented a cheque to Liz for the charity which was some of the proceeds of the Fun Quiz held in October.

We put our monthly walk on hold until March as it has been so wet, so instead in February we took a group of 14 members to the Highfield Garden Centre for lunch and a spot of retail therapy. We will go on our first walk on 1<sup>st</sup> March around Avening hopefully avoiding too much mud. Shirley Hand will provide lunch for the walkers.

We will be entering the county skittles competition again this year and to get some practice in and have a sociable evening we are having a friendly match against Sandhurst W.I. on 17<sup>th</sup> March, followed the next day by another of Shirley Hand's popular fun quizzes.

We have also decided on our summer outing this year which will be in June to Dyffryn House and Gardens near Cardiff. This is a recent addition to the National Trust's properties and is very beautiful and should be at its very best in June.

At our next meeting we are going to have a demonstration and hopefully a go at felt-making with Penny Prince. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

*Gwyneth Simpson*

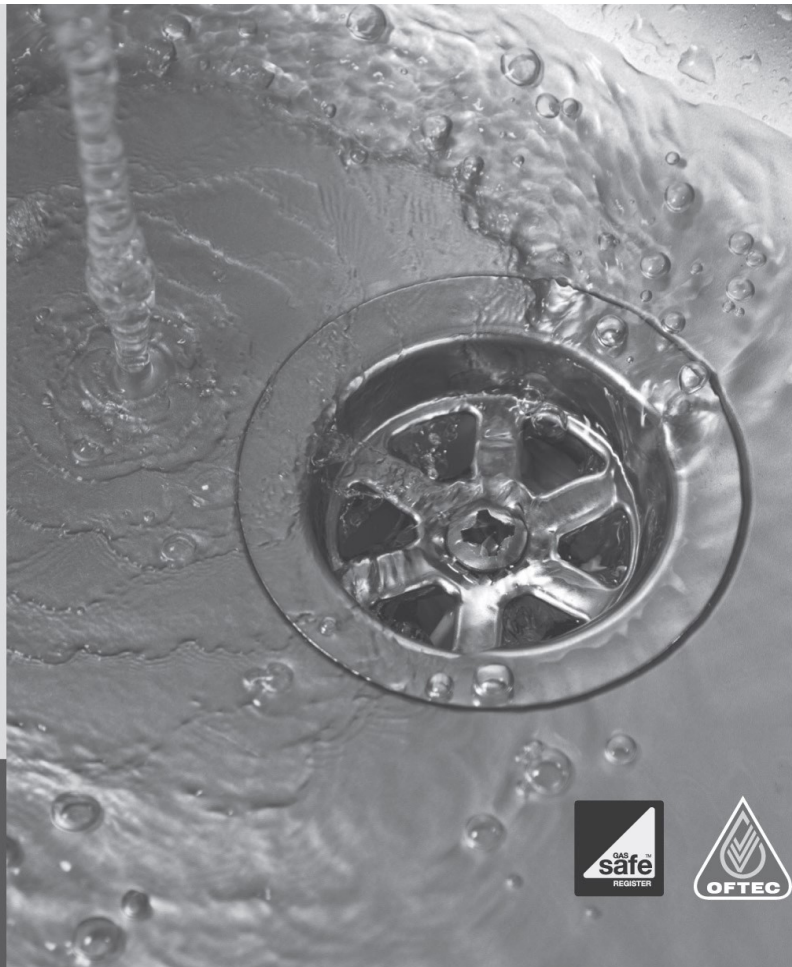




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## Dying without a Will. Now that's a real tragedy.

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*

**David Martin, local consultant,  
Steele Rose & Co**  
(Nailsworth & surrounding areas)  
01453 836699 (M) 07973 405997  
Email: **dcmartin@hotmail.co.uk**  
**www.steelerose.co.uk**  
Members of the Society of Will Writers





## Elsie's FGR Experience

On Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January Forest Green Rovers played against Braintree. Since the last time I went to watch the Rovers they have signed a couple of new players who were selected to play.

In the first half the football was going back and forth for the first five minutes until there was a very close shot from Forest Green. After that Braintree had at least 5 throw ins in a row when it was clearly them who kicked the ball out of play. Except for one time when I think it was the Rovers: Whoops! Later on Braintree were coming up the pitch and had a few chances to score but thankfully they either got blocked or saved. Whilst defending, the ball rapidly went into the crowd accidentally hitting someone in the face, but the paramedics were straight there to check that she was okay: which she was.

Carrying on with the game, FGR had a couple of really close chances to score but didn't quite manage to get it in the goal and at the other end Charlie Clough managed to do a great block against a Braintree attack. However, the away stand were starting to chant, but what I don't understand is that they were chanting 'green army' when they were obviously playing in bright neon orange? FGR are the green army so I guess they were technically chanting for us.

Half time was approaching and FGR had the opportunity to score with a free kick but they missed even though they had a couple of tries to score. There was a lot of tension on the pitch but then the half time whistle blew and it was a good time for the players to calm down.

Half time went swiftly and the players were back on. Fifty-two minutes in FGR scored a magnificent goal by Jon Parkin! After that Forest Green had quite a few close shots and 2 substitutions but the game ended 1-0 to FGR with man of the match going to Keiffer Moore.

Overall it was a great game to go and watch despite the chilly weather and a good game to win leaving all of the Forest Green Rover supporters very proud once again! Since then they have also won 1-0 at Southport, 2-1 against Macclesfield and just last week, away against Halifax we won 2-0. Hope to see you at the up and coming fixtures:

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> home against Grimsby, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> away against Gateshead, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> away against Tranmere Rovers, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> home against Aldershot Town and Monday 28<sup>th</sup> away against Bromley.

COME ON YOU ROVERS!!!!!!!

*Elsie*

# Baby and Toddler Group!

Tuesdays  
1:30-3:00pm

**NOTE: Changes to Wednesdays after Easter**

At Avening Playgroup  
The Sunground  
Avening  
GLOS GL8 8NW

For more information phone  
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aveningplaygroup@gmail.com (term time only)  
Alternatively call 07867 855512

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## **AVENING SOCIAL CLUB LTD**

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Function Rooms are available for hire for a family party, celebration or other event at reasonable rates. The Pool table can be used by a minimum of 4 people free of charge.

Look out for details of events including Music, Quiz Nights and Bingo sessions. The Rural Cinema shows a film here every month.

To become a member will cost you just £4.00 a year.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

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**‘Mr Holmes’ raises funds for Tetbury Hospital**

The Tetbury Film Society will be showing the 2015 film ‘Mr Holmes’ starring Sir Ian McKellen this March with all proceeds going to the Friends of Tetbury Hospital. The film stars Sir Ian McKellen as Sherlock Holmes. Set primarily during his retirement, the film follows a 93-year-old Holmes who struggles to recall the details of his final case while his mind begins to deteriorate.

The film will be shown on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March (7pm start) at the Dolphins Hall in Tetbury. Tickets cost £10 per person to include a glass of wine and can be purchased from Tetbury Hospital reception (tel: 01666 502336) or by calling 01666 504039.



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## Cinema Club

The film to be shown on Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30pm at the Social Club, Avening is the much acclaimed

### Brooklyn

Starring Saoirse Ronan, Emory Cohen, Domhnall Gleeson, Jim Broadbent, Julie Walters

**Dates for your diaries for the Film Club in 2016:**



Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar; Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Apr; Wed 18<sup>th</sup> May; Wed 15<sup>th</sup> June; Fri 15<sup>th</sup> July; Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Sept; Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Oct; Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Nov

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# Avening Youth Club

Avening Youth Club is a vibrant friendly group who meet every Tuesday evening during the school term between 18.15 and 19.45 at the Avening Memorial Hall.

The Youth Club welcomes young people aged between 8 and 14 and offers instructive fun and lively activities presented to them by a trained and caring group of instructors. It is led by Cassie Vickery who has been the stalwart of Avening Youth Club for many years and assisted by Simon Sveder-Cain on most Tuesdays, who provides fun and fitness sessions.

For details contact [cherstermancassie@googlemail.com](mailto:cherstermancassie@googlemail.com)



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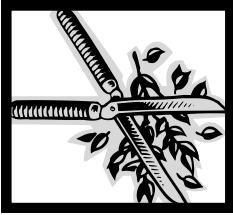
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# Down to Earth

'Royal poo!' said the Kew gardener as she shovelled a from a cartload of Kew compost beside the order beds.



'That's the secret ingredient.' Twenty tonnes a week delivered from the royal stables at Knightsbridge and mixed in with the hundred tonnes a week of collected plant waste at the Kew compost compound; watered with collected rainwater and turned regularly. I gazed in admiration and envy at this horticultural gold. Later,

in our winter wander around Kew Gardens, we climbed the viewing platform, from which the above photo was taken. (Not easy to find; we circumnavigated the compound before discovering a pathway through the shrubs). Then I reflected: with so many horses around us here in Avening, **our** gardens should be flourishing. No excuses!

It is 300 years since the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, an occasion to celebrate or curse. Brown, visionary or vandal? is the question posed by Caroline Holmes, garden historian, and that sums it up. From Stowe in 1741, where he contributed the Grecian valley to the work of William Kent, Bridgeman and Vanbrugh, to Berrington Hall, one of his final works in 1780, he transformed around 170 estates formerly comprising parkland and formal gardens. We admire, today, his artfully composed landscapes with serpentine lakes, fine bridges, precisely placed clumps of trees, grouped cedars of Lebanon, sheep and cattle grazing, thanks to the ha-ha, seemingly in unfettered proximity to the splendid house. But we regret the loss of most of the formal gardens created by George London and Henry Wise around 1700 and graphically recorded in 'Britannia Illustrata' by Kip and



*Blenheim Palace - "the finest view in England"*

Knyff. Brownian examples in the vicinity include Bowood, in Wiltshire, and Croome Court, in Worcestershire, begun in 1751, though, personally, I find this



one somewhat bleak. At Blenheim Palace Brown enhanced the existing landscape by creating a broad serpentine lake, partially submerging Vanbrugh's bridge. Henceforth, 'the finest view in England' was gained on entering the estate via the Woodstock gate. Indeed, George III remarked, on visiting Blenheim in 1786, 'We have nothing to equal this.'



*Pulmonaria, 'Sissinghurst White'*

On one of the coldest days of our short burst of winter in early February I noticed that my pulmonaria, 'Sissinghurst White', was flowering in joyful response to the bright sunlight and clear blue skies. This is early for the lungwort species, or Jacob's Coat, so-called because the colours of the flowers change from pink to blue, such that the two colours appear together. It is a hardy plant, preferring shade and good drainage, so ideal in a woodland or shrub border. It colonises willingly, but never so much as to be a nuisance. I love it.

I used to sow cucumber and tomato seeds in January, but was then faced with the problem of giving them sufficient light and protection from the cold. Experience taught me (slowly) that later sowings invariably catch up, so I wait now until early March. Broad beans are tough enough to withstand some winter chill; indeed, some varieties may be autumn-sown. What they dislike is summer heat, which is why they are the earliest legume crop. I sow mine under glass, in large cream or yoghurt pots, and plant out when about 10cm tall and strong enough to withstand the onslaught of slugs or pigeons – or, at least, put up a jolly good fight!

This year I intend to allocate some space in a sunny spot for a cutting garden, hardy annuals providing flowers for the house. *Centaurea cyanus* (blue cornflower) are on my list, as are *gypsophila* and, of course, sweet peas, *lathyrus odoratus*, which can grow on a frame of hazel sticks.

As the mercury rises and the daylight hours lengthen, it will soon be 'full steam ahead'. With everything to play for and all things possible at the start of the season, one is easily overwhelmed. This year I shall try to combat the chaos resulting from my disorganised mind with a note-pad and pencil: a list of reasonably achievable target jobs at the start of the day, things that require attention noted during the course of the day, and plants or issues to look up when back indoors. Happy list-writing!

**Marilyn Jones**

# Avening Playgroup

February was a very enjoyable month at playgroup.

Despite cold and rainy days the children were able to wrap up warmly and enjoy playing outside, experiencing the different types of weather that we have in this country, including the strong winds. Our covered area enables the children to play outside for a while even when it is raining.

We are lucky to have lots of dressing up clothes at playgroup. This month the children have been having fun wearing animal costumes outside. These consist of furry hats in the colour and shape of different animals, furry tails and matching tabards, which all fit over their coats and keep them warm at this time of year.

The Chinese New Year is always an interesting topic for the children to learn about in February. This year is the year of the monkey. The children made collage monkey masks using lots of different craft resources, painted a dragon head that we attached to a material tail and then danced underneath to Chinese music, and played with lots of toy diggers with rice in the builders tray.

The children enjoyed eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday both at playgroup and toddlers and laughed a lot as they tried to throw and catch kitchen towel pancakes with their plastic plates.

We are once again collecting Sainsbury's vouchers and would be very grateful to receive any in our post box outside playgroup. We are also collecting old clothes and shoes in our clothes bank and would be very grateful for these too.

If you have a baby or toddler do come along to our toddler group which is held at playgroup on a Tuesday from 1.30 until 3.00. until the Easter holidays. After Easter it will be on a Wednesday afternoon from 1.30 until 3.00. You will be very welcome.

If you have a young child who you are considering sending to playgroup, you are very welcome to come and visit. Either telephone us on 01453 832695 or email us at [aveningplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:aveningplaygroup@gmail.com).

***Debbie Brown***



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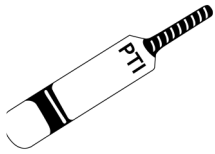
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# Avening and Cherington Cricket Club



The AGM of the Cricket Club was held recently. A fairly successful season was reported and if it had not been for a “blip” in form at the latter end of the season then the Club could well have come top of the first division of the Cotswold and District Cricket League, following promotion the previous season. Although losing to Haresfield in the final of the Stroud Evening cup plate competition this was a very creditable performance.

A satisfactory financial position was reported by Treasurer Dave Thomas and thanks were expressed to those players and officers who participated in helping at the Cherington Show again this year, in the worst weather conditions for many years. The Club were grateful to receive a generous donation from the Cherington Show Committee.

With Jay Richings taking a well earned break from captaincy, Tom Redpath and Andy Smith will now be sharing these duties.

This season looks likely to be a very challenging one as the Club, like many other local sides, struggle for players. This appears to be a very worrying trend due to reasons of travelling and location and the increase in university and college commitments. So if there is anyone who would like to join the Club you will be warmly welcomed. Indoor nets are being arranged with further outdoor nets as the season approaches. Please contact Jay on 07765 999 294 or Tom on 07816 900 402 for further details.

Lastly but by no means least the meeting expressed grateful thanks to our tea ladies – this is one aspect where we are definitely “top of the league”. However we still need help in this respect and if anyone can assist please contact Derrick on 01453 835752.

*Derrick Ind*

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# Diary of a Self-Build Part 14 – THE END!

Our much anticipated stairs finally arrived (after 14 excuses of varying credibility!), and the treads were fitted. The glass was offered up, and... it didn't fit. The bolt holes to attach the treads were too far apart – out of 5 pieces of glass, only one fitted, so they will all need to be re-made. But at least we can use the stairs now, and see what they will look like. We also have the internal doors in place – Bliss!



So, in this 2 year process, with a 13 month build, what have we learned?

1 - Primarily, it is (as most people say) MUCH more expensive than you anticipate. The sheer quantity of materials and labour were far more than we ever imagined. It is very difficult to specify anything even slightly out of the ordinary – despite having a great team, any component or fitting that was not in their standard vocabulary inevitably caused a lot of huffing, puffing, and head scratching. We have included a lot of features that while not necessarily being cutting edge, still aren't considered mainstream – this adds significant time and cost to the installation.

2 - Despite a great deal of planning, it took longer. We had aspired to have the house warming party at August bank holiday... then Halloween; but a combination of earlier delays to the timber frame, and consequential ongoing cashflow problems meant it took us 12 months to be habitable.

3 - The supply chain in the building industry is (with only a few exceptions) completely inept. Suppliers that tend to deal with consumers were great, but most of the others took far too long to deliver, even those that did understand what we wanted.

Will we do it again? Mandy says definitely NO! I say maybe (although it's a no at the moment), but it would be a shame to waste all the knowledge we have gained during this process. So, perhaps in a couple of years...??

I hope you have enjoyed our diaries over the last year, but it's now time to take a well-earned rest and get to know our new home. Hopefully we will have a nice summer, as we can't wait to be out on our top deck with a G&T and some pistachios.

*Tony and Mandy Slater*



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## LENT HOUSE GROUPS

IN LINE WITH THE TETBURY BENEFICE THERE WILL BE A SERIES OF  
LENT HOUSE GROUP MEETINGS IN EVENING

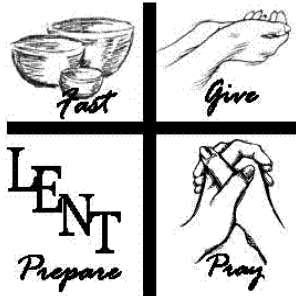
ON THE FIVE MONDAYS IN LENT

AT 70 SANDFORD LEAZE AVENING, 7-00pm

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**Dvorak**  
Cello concerto  
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# The Mark Townsend Charitable Trust

c/o Strada View, High Street, Avening, Tetbury,  
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01453 832799

**The Mark Townsend Charitable Trust was set up by the family and close friends of Mark as a positive way to continue on with Mark's memory. The Trust will raise funds to help people who need it most.**

**If you, or someone you know, need our help, then drop us a line at the above address or message us on Facebook or the website. We will consider requests for anything that might be needed from petrol costs to school trips from parking costs to counselling.**

To help us make the above possible we need your support. We have set up a 200 Club to raise funds for the charity and would like to invite you to join. You can buy a number at an annual cost of £12.00. Numbers will be issued from 1 to 200 and there will be a monthly draw which will consist of a first prize of £20.00 and a second prize of £10.00. There will be a special draw in May each year to remember Mark's Birthday.

To each and every person who has already joined the 200 Club or made a donation to the Trust – thank you very much for helping us to help others and to remember Mark.

**Save the date for this year's big event**

**Saturday 21st May 2016**

**more details to follow**

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/themarktownsendcharitabletrust](http://www.facebook.com/themarktownsendcharitabletrust)

# Cherington Parish Council

## Green Waste Scheme - April 2016

The District Council is urging residents to sign up again for the Green Waste Scheme which is now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year of operation. This is a weekly collection of garden and food waste for an annual licence fee of £30.00. If you can't accommodate a green wheeled bin then you can buy 50 compostable brown paper sacks for £30.00 available from Trinity Road offices. Ring 01285 62123 or visit [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk)

## Local Training Courses:

**Orchard Training:** 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Introduction to pruning and maintenance of trees takes place at Barton House Orchard, Cirencester. Cost is £10.00. For more details contact the Cotswold Tree Wardens on [twgcotswold@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:twgcotswold@yahoo.co.uk)

**Public Rights of Way volunteers training day:** Find out about legal aspects of working on a PROW and practice some basic manual handling techniques. 23rd March 9.30am – 4.00pm – FREE. Contact [Michael.Barton@amey.co.uk](mailto:Michael.Barton@amey.co.uk)

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Look out for the many celebratory events planned to take place this year so everyone can discover more about this beautiful landscape. Art exhibitions and classes, photography competition, 1960's themed tea parties and online archives capturing Cotswolds past and present are but a few of the events planned. Visit [www.cotswoldaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldaonb.org.uk) for further information.

## Dates for your diaries:

- **Annual Litter Pick** on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March** at 10.00am – meet at the village hall. All litter picking equipment provided. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear!
- **Light a Beacon** event to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Evening of Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Venue in Cherington to be arranged. Look out for further details!
- **Annual Parish Meeting** - Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10.00am – an opportunity to let the Parish Council know what you'd like to see happening in the village and hear what the PC has been doing over the past year



## **Parish Council meetings:**

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be **Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2016** at 6.00pm at The Village Hall. Future meeting dates for parish council meetings: Annual Parish Meeting Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 10.00am, Tuesdays May 3rd, July 12th, September 13th and November 8th at 6pm – Village Hall. All residents of the Parish are welcome to attend parish meetings. There's 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](mailto:cheringtonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk)

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](mailto:cheringtonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk).

# **Avening Parish Council**



## **PLANNING**

### **New Planning Applications**

**15/05024/FUL**

**The Queen Matilda Tavern Star Lane Avening Tetbury Gloucestershire GL8 8NT**

Insertion of 2 rooflights, removal of tin cladding and replace with horizontal timber cladding and formation of two holiday let units.

### **The Parish Council is looking for a new clerk**

Avening Parish Council is looking to recruit a Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer from 1 April 2016.

The role of the Clerk is to assist and advise the Council, attend monthly Parish Council meetings, produce Agendas and Minutes, carry out any actions following meetings and to act as Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). There are 12 monthly meetings plus approx. 2 Finance meetings each year.

Ideally, you will have some experience of local government but training is available. You will need to be able to work from home and have a computer, internet access and a telephone as well as transport. The Clerk is supported by a Project Manager and, therefore, the hours currently average approx. 7 per week. The salary is based on national pay scales and dependent upon experience. Expenses are also paid.

This is a very interesting and challenging role for the right person who will be an organised administrator with good communication and IT skills together with an interest in local communities.

For further information and an application form please contact the Parish Clerk on 01285 380041 or email: [parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk) **Closing date for applications 14 March 2016.**

### **Memorial Hall Committee**

The next meeting will be on **Monday, 14 March at 7.30 pm at the Memorial Hall**

If you are interested in the Hall, please come and join us !

### **Clean for the Queen – and win £1,000 for your community!**

In the run up to The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 21 April 2016, Keep Britain Tidy is urging millions of people to pick up litter and improve the appearance of the places where they live. Cotswold District Council wants to take this initiative one step further and - thanks to the generosity of its waste service provider Ubico Ltd - is offering a prize of £1,000 to the community that does the best job.

For more information email [cdc@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:cdc@cotswold.gov.uk) or call 01285 623123

### **THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Will be held on Thursday, 17 March 2016 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](mailto:parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk) or by phone: 01285 380041 or 07870 170823



## Church Floodlighting

**Maurice Wagstaff**

For Dad 20th December 2012

3 years Dad and you are still so badly missed  
Lots of love Kim, Bob, Darren, Beckie, Tam and Phoebe

**June Jellyman**

21st January

Your first birthday without you, miss our chats  
Sadly missed Love Bob and Kim

**Kathleen (Kitty) Kington,**

3rd February

Two years ago God took you ,Mum  
He took my closest friend  
And left me with a broken heart  
I know will never mend  
Remembering you Always  
Margaret

19th February in loving memory of **Michael Powell** from Thelma, Kevin and Columba

*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

## The Avening Church Electoral Roll is being revised.

You can be on this Roll if you:

- 1) are baptised and over 16 years old
- 2) have filled in an application form – on table at entrance to church
- 3) are a member of the Church of England or other church which is in communion with the C of E and have attended worship in the church in the last 6 months.



This enables you to have a say in the affairs of the church.

If you would like to have your name added please fill in an application form. These are available in a folder at the back of the church until 20th March 2016, or contact Cas (01453 834834)

# Church Services in Avening &

Sunday March 6th Mothering Sunday	9.30	Cherington	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday March 13th	9.30	Cherington	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion (CW)
March 20th Palm Sunday	9.30	Cherington	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion (CW)
Tuesday March 22nd	7.00pm	Avening	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday March 23rd	7.00pm	Cherington	Taize service for Holy Week
Good Friday March 25th	2.00pm	Avening	Tenebrae
Sunday March 27th	9.30	Cherington	Morning Prayer (BCP)
	11.00	Avening	Family Service (CW)
Sunday April 3rd	9.30	Cherington	Holy Communion (CW)
	11.00	Avening	Holy Communion (CW)

FOR OTHER SERVICES IN THE TETBURY BENEFICE PLEASE SEE NOTICES IN  
THE CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS

## LEE ABBEY TRIP

We are considering taking a group to Lee Abbey again in the spring of 2017  
(yes 2017 - they are just about fully booked for this year)

If you might be interested or for more details please contact Derrick Pierce  
on 01453 835090 or email [derrick.pierce@hotmail.com](mailto:derrick.pierce@hotmail.com)



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### NEW SPRING MENU

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Sunday lunches available from 12 noon

Two for one pizza Tuesday

Two for one fish and chips now Wednesday and Thursday

'Dead Dog Cider' playing on the 19th March

Star Lane, Avening, Glos, GL8 8NT

Telephone 01453 350305 Website: [queenmatildatavern.co.uk](http://queenmatildatavern.co.uk)

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- \* Errands
- \* Cooking
- \* Key Collect/Drop



# Louise

**Tel: 0782 595 1852**

**eMail: [info.squeakyclean@gmail.com](mailto:info.squeakyclean@gmail.com)**

**CRB Certificate and Public Liability Insurance**

## Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 1st March	Cherington Parish Council meeting	Cherington Village Hall	6.00pm
Saturday 5th- March	Coffee morning in aid of Cobalt unit	4 Cherington	10.00am
Saturday 5th March	Annual Litter pick, Cherington	Meet at Village Hall	10.00am
Monday 14th March	Memorial Hall Committee Meeting	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Thursday 17th March	Avening Parish Council meeting	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Friday 18th March	WI Quiz	Memorial Hall	
Tuesday 22nd March	Cinema Club	Avening Social Club	7.30pm
Sunday 27th March	Easter Egg hunt	Avening Church	Following the 11.00 service
Wednesday 6th April	Howden Jones music evening	Cherington Hall Tickets £8.00 from Beryl Milsom	6.30 for 7.00 pm.
Thursday 21st April	Queen's 90th Birthday Light a beacon	Cherington tbc	
Saturday 23rd April	Cherington Annual Parish meeting	Village Hall	10.00am
Tuesday 3rd May	Cherington Parish Council meeting	Cherington Village Hall	6.00pm
Saturday 21st May	Mark Townsend Charitable Trust	tbc	
Sunday June 12th	Avening Church Fete	Around Avening School And Church	2.00pm

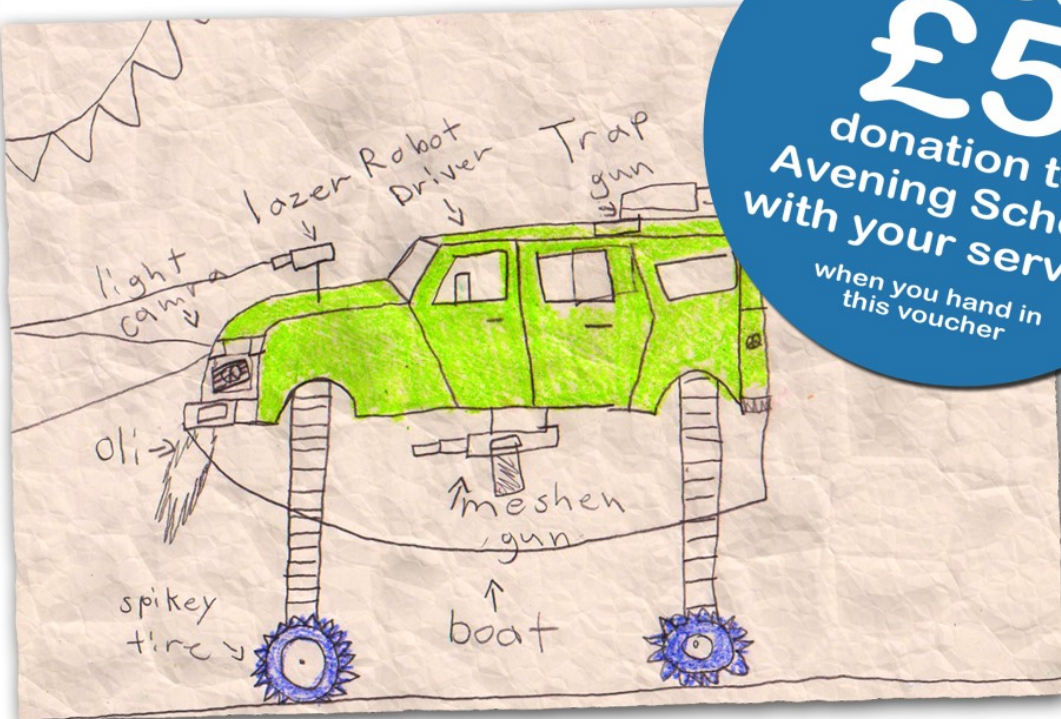


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